Sanitation in the Philippines

Prepared by Cris Rollo
UN-HABITAT Philippines
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The country’s sewerage goes to open water bodies contributing heavily to pollution of water sources.

58% of country’s groundwater is contaminated.

About 64% of rivers exceeded drinking water criterion.

Only 10% of the population have access to piped sewerage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOD/DO</th>
<th>TDS</th>
<th>COLIFORM</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>▲</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marginal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
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• 20 million Filipinos have no access to improved sanitation facilities. About 9% still defecate in the open

• Only 77% of Filipinos have sanitary toilets (2007 FHSIS data). 23% of the Filipinos do not have sanitary toilets (1 in every 5 households!). 15.1 million share toilets

• There are about 38 million diarrhea cases/year; 11,338 deaths/year due to acute watery diarrhea

• Sanitation crisis in emergency situations
Current national sanitation situation

Figure 5.2 Percentage Access to Sanitary Toilets

Source: Philippines Progress Report on the Millennium Development Goals 2010

Table 5.3 Estimated Coverage for Sanitation: 1990-2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>URBAN AREAS (in %)</th>
<th>RURAL AREAS (in %)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved</td>
<td>Open Defecation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Source: WB/UNDP JMP 2010 Report
1. Weak Sanitation Governance
   • Many institutions are armed with sanitation-related mandates, but no one is in charge for the sanitation sector.

2. Inequitable Access to Basic Sanitation Facilities and Sewerage and Septage Management Services
   • Access to sanitation is much lower in rural areas compared to urban areas.

3. Low Investment and Financing
   • Only 3 percent of public investments in water supply are used for sanitation.
   • Private sector investments are limited because sanitation, sewerage and septage are perceived to be nonrevenue services.
4. Lack of Awareness of the Value of Sanitation and its Services
   • Most LGUs accord the lowest priority and allot only minimal budgets for sanitation, septage and sewerage services.

Sanitation is not POPULAR

• Low awareness/low priority given to sanitation
• Cost considerations
  • P60,000/hh for sewerage
  • P10,000/hh for septage management
• Institutional mechanisms (WD’s or LGUs or both?)
• Technology options
• Monitoring and evaluation

5. Improper, inadequate, ill-maintained facilities
   • Improperly constructed sanitation facilities. Inadequate school based facilities. Poor maintenance of existing facilities
1. Develop effective national leadership and sanitation governance.

2. Develop a regulatory framework

3. Rationalize investments and financing to provide infrastructure in strategic areas

4. Mainstream sanitation in emergency/disaster response

5. Improve service delivery through vigorous communication
Potential areas for technology exchange

1. Sewerage management support

  - Few investments in proper sewage collection and treatment, especially outside Metro Manila. Selected highly urbanized cities (HUCs) outside Metro Manila provide services to less than 3 percent of their respective area populations (WB 2005).

2. Septage and waste water treatment

  - Final treatment for septage and septic tank effluents is needed before wastewater is released to the environment.
Case examples of successful sanitation-related projects

1. Bayawan City Sanitation Strategy
   - Decentralized wastewater treatment using constructed wetlands in peri-urban areas.

2. Xavier University Study on Public Health Safety of Using Human Excreta from UDDT for Agriculture
   - Conclusion: Microorganisms do not pose a public health threat if human excreta is used in agriculture. However, *ascaris ova* may still be infective after 6 months.

3. Ilocos Innovative Floating Sanitary Toilet Project
   - For use in bodies of water like coastal communities and marshlands. Also applicable for flooded areas.
Examples from UN-HABITAT work in the Philippines

1. Implementation of Ecosan toilet facilities in Bacon District, Sorsogon City
2. Conduct of water and sanitation assessments and community education in 5 waterless (less than 50% water access) municipalities in Caraga and Bicol Region in the Philippines