

SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS AS APPROPRIATE SANITATION INTERVENTION TO ADDRESS PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS IN URBAN AREAS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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SITUATION

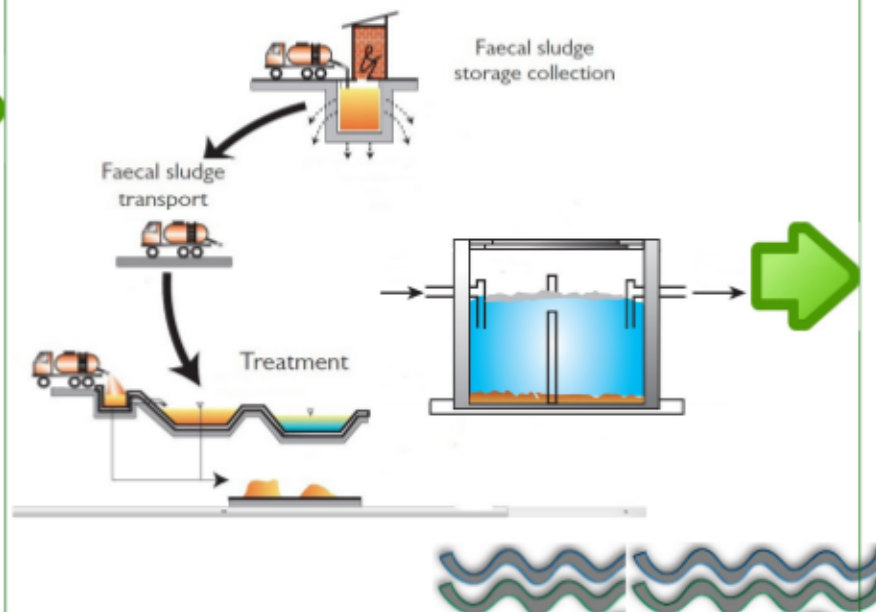
- In the Philippines, significant gains made in water supply provision may have been negated with inadequate sanitation/wastewater infrastructure
- Septic Tanks are the dominant means of treatment of household wastewater
- Majority of these STs have not been properly constructed and are inadequately maintained so much so that they have become ineffective in reducing contamination
- Inadequately treated Septic Tank effluents find their way into the drainage system – comes into contact with population when it rains and floods, which are normal events in the country
- Groundwater resources have also been impacted with the seepage of contaminated water from the STs



INTERVENTION

A Typical Septage Management Program consists of:

- Information and Educational Campaign; awareness raising
- Improvement/Reconstruction of HH Septic Tanks according to standards
- Enabling Ordinances; financing arrangements/fund sourcing; site acquisition/allocation, tapping the private sector; revenue generation mechanisms
- Viable Institutional arrangement and collaboration among the Local Government Units and Water Districts/Utilities; Memoranda of Agreement; PPP arrangements
- Periodic Desludging of STs; Proper transport and handling of desludged material; Treatment of septage to appropriate discharge effluent standards



SATISFACTION

Septage Management Programs are seen as mid to long term interventions to bring about significant decrease in contamination due to Household wastewater discharged, thereby improving quality of receiving waters – ultimately leading to improved public health!

