

## Private Sector and CBO Participation in Human Waste Issues – Enhancing the Achievements

After the many failures in sanitation, the agenda has changed !

adapted from WSSCC publication for Kyoto WWF, 2003

### Achievements are behind!

Sanitation achievements are below the expectations of the sector agencies. About 2.4 billion people or 40% of the world's population lack adequate excreta disposal system. This is one of the greatest failures of the last decades. Despite all the ideas and 'pilot' projects, approaches were not replicable. Investments remained mainly external and limited, and local subsidies were not sustainable. Many organisations and governments are looking for new, innovative approaches to turn the negative trend of non-achieving. In this project IRC aims to show that the small-scale private sector and CBOs effectively contribute to the scaling up of the human excreta handling in rural and small town communities and to contribute 'scaling-up' knowledge and information, and evidence-based advocacy.



Faecal sludge emptying machine- VacuTug Nairobi - Photo: Jo Smet IRC

### Towards the Sanitation Millennium Development Goal

The goal for 2015 is to halve the number of people without adequate sanitation facilities. That means every day some 350,000 people<sup>1</sup> have to get an improved sanitation facility and use that. For this huge task new strategies are needed.

### Most promising directions

Not one approach but taking the best out of the mix of approaches is the solution. Households, CBOs, private sector, NGOs, public sector, all have to contribute. The emphasis needs to change from the public and NGO sector to public-private partnership!

Sanitation is not a dirty business. Improving human excreta handling is key to good health, well-being, human dignity and increased productivity. And for many small entrepreneurs sanitation is then business. Correctly, most promotion approaches focus on the health and dignity aspect.

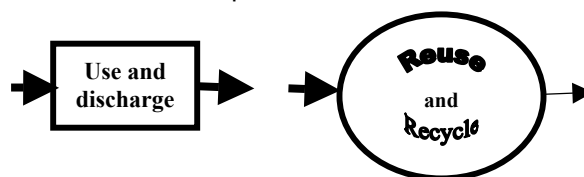
### Household-Centred environmental sanitation approaches

IRC fully underwrites the Bellagio Principles<sup>2</sup> that emphasise household-centred environmental sanitation.

#### Summary of the Bellagio Principles for sanitation:

- human dignity and environmental security are central issues;
- decision-making involves all stakeholders, especially consumers (men and women from all socio-economic groups) and providers of services;
- waste should be considered as a resource, important in the nutrient flow and waste management process;
- waste should be managed as close as possible to its source (zonal approach).

The focus is on use and re-use of waste products whenever possible in the zone of 'production', that means as close as possible to the household.



#### Linear Model

Because IRC's focus is on rural communities and small towns, it is the small-scale provider, the local entrepreneur and the Community-based Organisation, who play a pivotal role in this model. Small entrepreneurs and CBOs do not work in isolation; therefore the roles and responsibilities of the local government, town mayor and council, and NGOs for support and regulation are important. For instance in training entrepreneurs on new technologies and on marketing, including gender and poverty sensitive demand raising

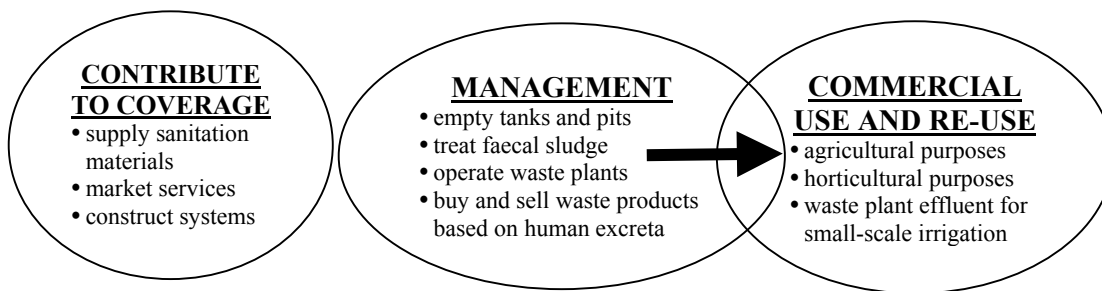
#### Circular Model

#### Participation of private sector and CBOs

The household-centred environmental sanitation approach promotes decentralised, small-scale systems and operations. In these community- and neighbourhood-based initiatives the small private sector plays a key role. The same applies for the commercial-oriented CBOs.

<sup>1</sup>. Apart from the 2.4 billion lacking adequate sanitation now, the population growth is to be included as well

<sup>2</sup> SANDEC-WSSCC (2000) Summary Report of Bellagio Consultation, Dübendorf, Switzerland [www.sandec.ch](http://www.sandec.ch)



**Areas of participation of private sector and CBOs**

These local masons, artisans, small scale manufacturers, local entrepreneurs, small scale private operators provide products.



Photo: UNICEF- India

They provide building materials, construct the sanitation systems, empty the pits, manage the collection, compost and use and re-use the sanitation products. And they market these locally often in a direct client-contact approach. See figure above.

**IRC’s Knowledge Development and Advocacy activities**

Together with partners in the South and the North, IRC aims to develop new knowledge to tackle existing challenges in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector, particularly for the world’s poorest people, building on principles like equity, gender and poverty reduction. IRC promotes the location-specific adaptation and use of new and existing knowledge to bridge the gap between the present situation and where people want to be in the medium term (<5 years).

**Activities envisaged for 2003 and after**

Best practices need to be documented and scattered information compiled. Therefore, a thematic group around this subject will be formed. The group will exist of knowledge developers from the South and the North who are interesting and have field and/or research experience in the subject. This thematic group will identify the needs and demands for information, new knowledge and research. The knowledge development load will be shared among the thematic group members. Present documented experiences will be compiled

in a paper; relevant and successful new field experiences will be documented and also compiled in a paper. Research will be encouraged with international organisations including NGOs active in this area. All produced information will be made available through the IRC website.

**Planned outputs**

- Position paper (state-of-the-art)
- desk research report
- overview of effective practices from the regions (expected 6 case studies)
- involvement in field research and missions
- presentations and articles
- regularly maintained website

**IRC is working with partners**

The need for better household-level sanitation systems is highest in Asia. Therefore, strong participation is sought with Asian resource centres and knowledge institutes. Also collaboration with Africa institutions is needed as there participation of the private sector and CBOs may not be that strong yet. From Latin America we expect good cases that have potential for local adaptation. This project will link up with the informal WSSCC Environmental Sanitation Working Group (co-ordinated by SANDEC) and initiatives in “Streams of Knowledge”.

**Links with other IRC projects on Environmental Sanitation**

Together with seven partners from South Asia and Europe, IRC implements a 3-year, EU-funded research project on Women, Well-being, Work, Waste and Sanitation.

If you are interested in hearing more about this IRC project, please contact Jo Smet [smet@irc.nl](mailto:smet@irc.nl) and visit [www.irc.nl](http://www.irc.nl)