



Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) for Septic Tank Emptiers

The majority of households in urban areas own on-site sanitation technologies (80%): septic tanks and pit latrines. Those requires to be regularly emptied, which involves a large number of manual and mechanical emptiers. However, the whole Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) process carries health and safety concerns for them. For this reason, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) measures are fundamental rights for them by ensuring safer working conditions, which principal employer or hiring authority must be accountable for it.

Under the Urban Sanitation programme in several cities (Khulna, Jhenaidah, Kushtia, Jashore, Benapole and Gazipur), SNV Netherlands Development Organisation aims to further strengthen, professionalize and scale up the FSM services in urban centres in Bangladesh, by establishing Khulna as a model city and capacity development for replication at different levels. Improving OHS of the emptiers has been one of the core concerns of the project.

What We Do



Emptiers database development



Training on OHS to emptiers



Monitoring of PPE use



Introduce health insurance



Create linkage with finance institutions for business



ToT to relevant government authority



Provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Licensing to the trained emptiers



Mechanical emptying entrepreneurship training

Our Achievements



Evidence based advocacy

of SNV through FSM Network resulted on the circulation of OHS instructions to all City Corporations and Paurashavas directed by Local Government Division (LGD).



National Training Module

on OHS is developed by Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) encouraged by SNV's OHS training module.



OHS Guideline developed and revised by Paurashavas. Continuous advocacy is going on to adopt the guidelines by DPHE and LGD.



OHS training provided among 350 emptiers from Khulna, Jhenaidah, Kushtia, Jashore and Benapole, along with a pool of 45 trainers created and a database of the emptiers developed.



Personal protective equipments (PPE)

as example helmet, aprons, gloves, safety vest, musk, gamboot are distributed to the trained emptiers.



Entrepreneurship training

initiated among 26 emptiers on sanitation business led to create income opportunity.

National Emptiers Conventions

organised by SNV under the flagship of FSM Network since 2016, for septic tank and pit emptiers with the following annual themes: 'Dignity for the Septic Tank Emptiers', 'Occupational Health and Safety', 'Emptiers to Entrepreneurs' and latest on 'Health Coverage for emptiers'.

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