Sanitation in Developing Countries

Proceedings of a workshop on sanitation held in Lobatse, Botswana, 12 August 1980
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Proceedings of a workshop on training held in Lobatse, Botswana, 14–20 August 1980

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The institutions that are involved in sanitation services within Ethiopia and their areas of responsibility are as follows:

The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing is responsible for the provision of septic tanks for its housing projects. It also requires cooperatives and individuals to include sanitary collection facilities in their housing construction.

The Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority provides vacuum trucks for emptying septic tanks and pit latrines and the Municipality of Addis Ababa provides trucks for solid-waste disposal.

The Municipality of Asmara is responsible for managing the sewer system of the city as well as providing for solid-waste disposal. Other municipalities are legally responsible for their own sanitation services, however, they are not capable of providing full service.

The Ministry of Health provides public health education, gives advice on the construction of pit latrines, and inspects existing sanitary facilities in rural areas.

Training

The training of sanitary technicians and other sanitation-related professionals is carried out by the Ministry of Health and the university. The courses offered by the Department of Civil Engineering of Addis Ababa University include water supply and sewerage in the third year and sewerage and sewage treatment in the fourth year of the civil engineering program. The courses offered by the Department of Building Technology of Addis Ababa University include water supply and sanitation in the diploma course and the Municipal Technical College includes water and sanitation in its courses. Sanitation activities, in general, are being strengthened by the recent introduction of the “community health agent.”

Reorganization

The institutional setup of the water sector is being reorganized. Within the framework of this reorganization, a proposal has been made for the establishment of an Ethiopian Water Supply Authority. If the proposal is implemented, this authority would be responsible for water supply and sanitation.

With regard to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, the National Action Committee will be responsible for the coordination and supervision of decade activities.