

Sanitation Guide (Manual) for Local Authorities in Sri Lanka

“A tailor-made & user friendly practitioner guide to enhance the sanitation management practices in local authorities in Sri Lanka”

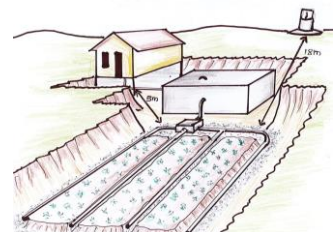
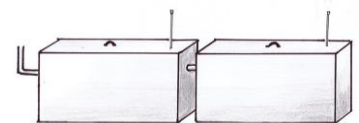
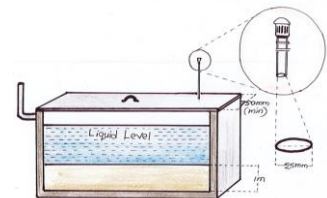
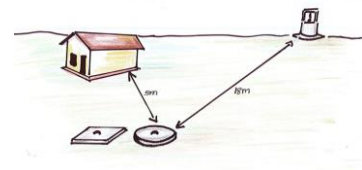
Need of sanitation manuals for local authorities in Sri Lanka...

Sanitation Management is a crucial issue on most of countries. Improper management of sanitation sector influences the nation health directly and indirectly. Even in Sri Lanka, there is no proper inspection method for sanitation management. The building approval process of Sri Lanka does not consider the dimensions of the septic tank and the feasibility of its location. Through the Certificate of Conformity, discharge of the effluent is tested and understood. In Sri Lanka, a Public Health Inspector is the main person who has the knowledge in handling the sanitation. In contrast they are not included in the building approval procedure,

Thus the technical officers who are visiting the houses and approving the building plans in the local authorities(LAs) have low knowledge in sanitary aspects, where as the general public are less accessible for technical documentation related to better sanitation practices. Hence there is a timely need for providing supporting materials which can provide proper guidance for these officers to improve their practice.

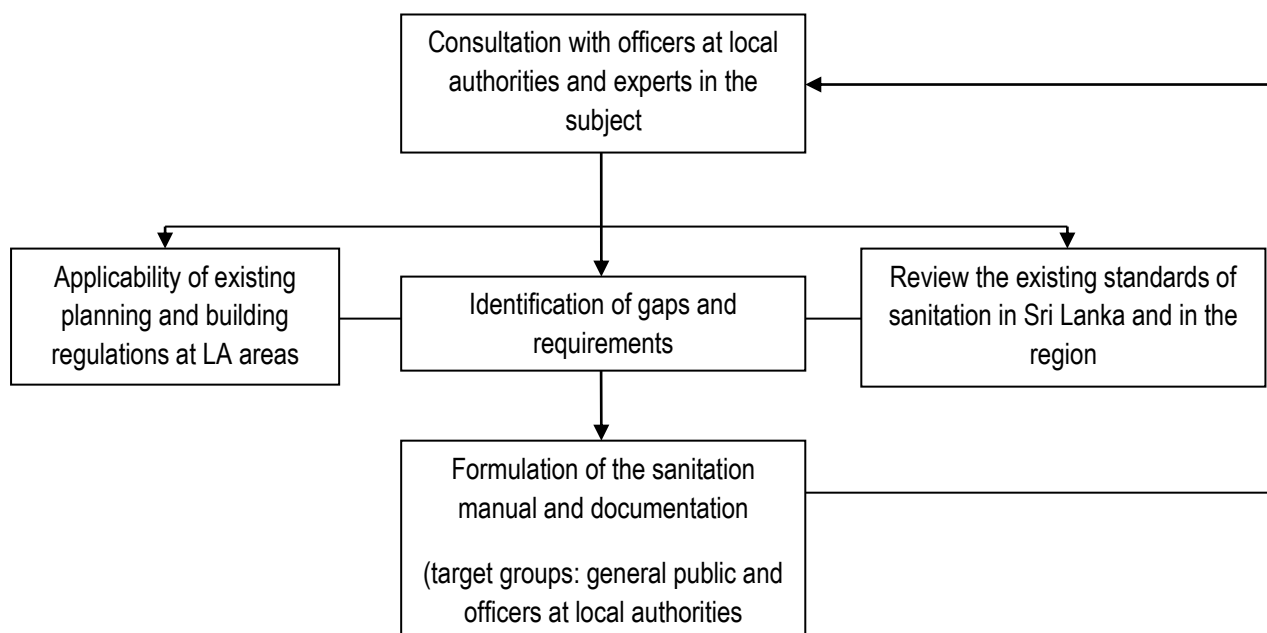
Key Policy Messages

1. Use of sanitation manual **to enhance the awareness and inform on practices and measures to ensure sanitation management**
2. **To promote active participation of citizens** (with good practices at domestic level) to support the sanitation management at local authority level



How it was developed...

This manual was developed in several stages. Initially a consultation session was conducted with 20 officers who directly engage with sanitation management matters at Gampaha and Moratuwa Municipal Councils. This session focused on three main areas – domestic solid waste management, Maintenance of household soakage pits and septic tanks& surface runoff. On above areas the prevailing practices of local authorities in Sanitation Management Practices in Sri Lanka and existing rules and regulations related to sanitation management in Sri Lanka were discussed. As the second step in the process, the existing sanitation related the expert in the subject area in consultation with the practitioners at local authorities reviewed guidelines. The reviewed documents include the sanitation guidelines formulated by Sri Lanka Association for Standards (SLAS). As the third step in the process, the existing guidelines were changes, alerted, andadjusted to suit the prevailing needs of the practitioners at local authority areas. Finally, the documentation was done to suit the practitioners at local authorities. Accordingly, graphics, tables, and illustrations were included in the manual for better understanding of the users.



How to use the manual....

Information presented in the manual are illustrated with graphics and tables for the better understanding of the users. Areas covered in the manual include:

1. Review of concepts related to domestic waste management
2. Summary of good and bad practices of waste management at domestic level (illustrated with implications)
3. Common health problems associated with poor waste and sanitation management at domestic level
4. Septic tanks, technical designs, common problems and measures to ensure the smooth functioning of tanks without damaging the environment (including ways to recognize the mal functioning septic tanks)
5. Proper methods for constructing septic tanks at domestic level
6. Standards on per capita daily flows for different user categories, waste water flows (all waste/black water/gray water for different types of developments and design working capacity of the septic tank)
7. Computational methods (basic) for domestic waste water flow with examples
8. Locational considerations and technical measures to avoid the environmental pollution due to septic tanks

Way Forward?

This manual will be accessible through the K Hub project website. To ensure the continuous improvement and validation of the manual, several actions are suggested.

1. **Periodical monitoring sessions** will be carried out with the local officers at Gampaha and Moratuwa municipal councils to obtain feedback about the use of manual and identify the areas that need to be improved in the present manual.
2. **A national level steering committee** will be set up to review the gaps, challenges, and institutional bottlenecks in mainstreaming the manual in other local authorities. This committee will be comprised of representatives of the local governments, provincial governments and aligned ministries on housing and sanitation.

South Asia Knowledge Hub Project

The ESMIS is a project of the Sri Lanka national center of the South Asia Urban Knowledge Hub (K-Hub), a regional capacity development technical assistance (TA) supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The TA responds to country partnership strategies with a strong emphasis on knowledge management and solutions, results orientation, and regional cooperation. It also reflects the general recognition that solutions for increasingly complex urban environments require bold action guided by knowledge. <http://khub.niua.org>

View the demonstration system: <http://www.tcp.mrt.ac.lk/khub/> .