



Risking everything for your safety and protection

Sanitation workers on the frontline



WELCOME!

As people are joining, please get started with the items below

Please use the **Chat space** and social media to interaction with presenters and other participants **#SantationWorkers**

Having Technical issues? Please do not disturb the meeting. Instead , please ask for TechSupport in the Chapt

Please note This meeting is being recorded.

SESSION GUIDE

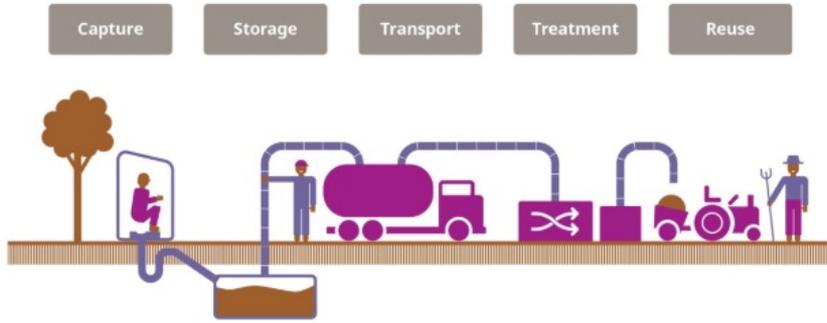
- **Presenters:** Please keep to 10 minutes and say 'next' to have slide advanced.
- **Participants:** Kindly post your comments and questions in the Chat; let's get the conversation started even during the presentation
- **For the plenary discussion**
 - Moderator will feed questions to Presenters
 - Please stay on 'mute' unless you are a Presenter
 - Contact TechSupport if you need help in the Chat or email

Session schedule

Time	Topics	Speakers	Organisation
17:05	Introduction to status of sanitation workers	Rajeev Munankami	SNV
17:15	Research on the impact of COVID-19 on waste and sanitation frontliners in Bangladesh	Uttam K Saha	Practical Action Bangladesh
17:25	Table reflections status of sanitation workers on their own contexts		
17:40	Presentation 1: Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for sanitation workers, Indonesia	Lena Ganda Saptalena	SNV in Indonesia
17:50	Presentation 2: National advocacy for sanitation workers, Bangladesh	Shahidul Islam	FSM Network Bangladesh
18:00	Presentation 3: Improving safety of sanitation workers in Wai Municipal in India	Aasim Mansuri	CWAS, CEPT University
18:10	Presentation 4: Global advocacy for health, safety and dignity of workers in sanitation	Kanika Singh	WaterAid
18:20	Plenary Discussions and Closing	Antoinette Kome	SNV

Who is your sanitation worker?

‘The moment an individual’s waste is outsourced to another, it becomes sanitation work.’



A sanitation worker (or sanitary worker) is a person responsible for cleaning, maintaining, operating, or emptying the equipment or technology at any step of the sanitation chain.

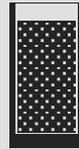


Dynamics in which sanitation workers operate

Social dynamics Pressure from customers



Construction of toilet



Cleaning of containment

Payment modality



**Sewerage,
On-site
or Decentralized
systems**

Institutional dynamics Pressure from employers & agreed working protocols



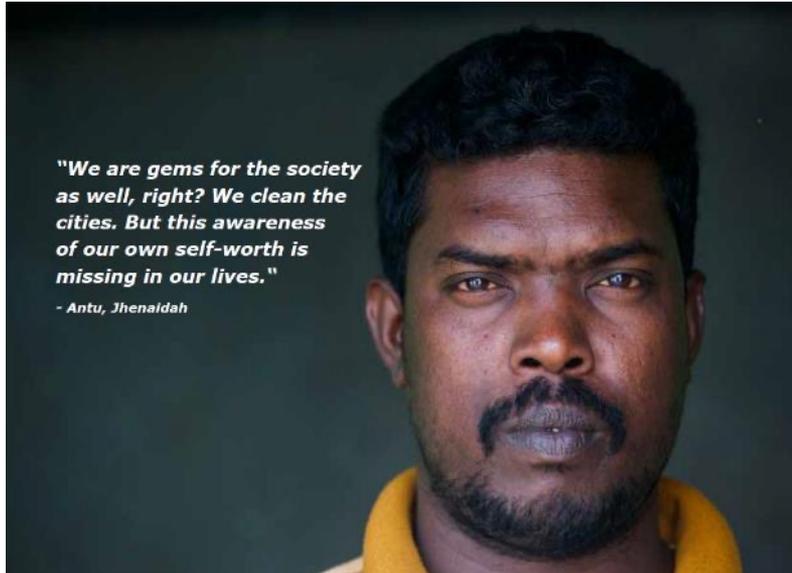
Quality of equipment/material
Preventive maintenance
Quality of protective clothing
Capacities and mindset workers



Level of oversight by authority

Policy and Advocacy Considerations

Restore dignity



Reality: Many suffer social stigma.

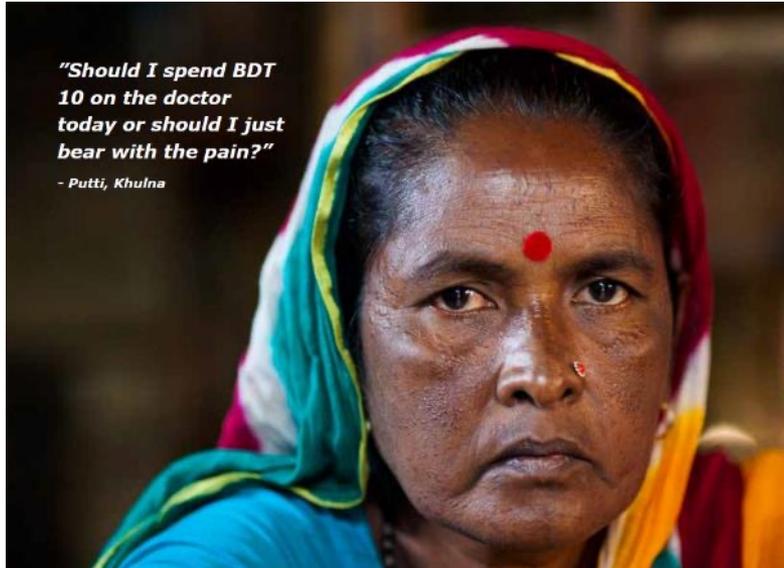
Offer fair wages/income



Reality: Sanitation workers are considered unskilled labourers & among the lowest-paid of workers.

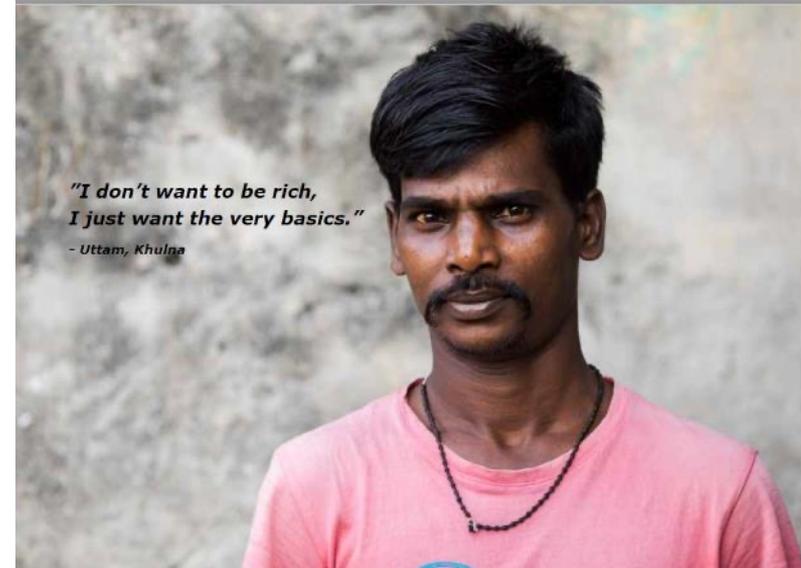
Policy and Advocacy Considerations

Secure safe work conditions



Reality: There's poor understanding of potential health and safety risks.

Ensure equality



Reality: Many do not have access to basic social services and safety nets.



Sanitation workers provide an essential public service.

Despite this they continue to work in hazardous and stigmatising conditions – violating both their dignity and basic human rights.





COVID-19 has deepened existing vulnerabilities.

50% not recognised formally/officially as service providers

26% follow basic emptying procedure | 15% with basic OHS training

All with basic payment arrangements | 35% with no suitable equipment (WASH SDG Programme Baseline Report 2018)





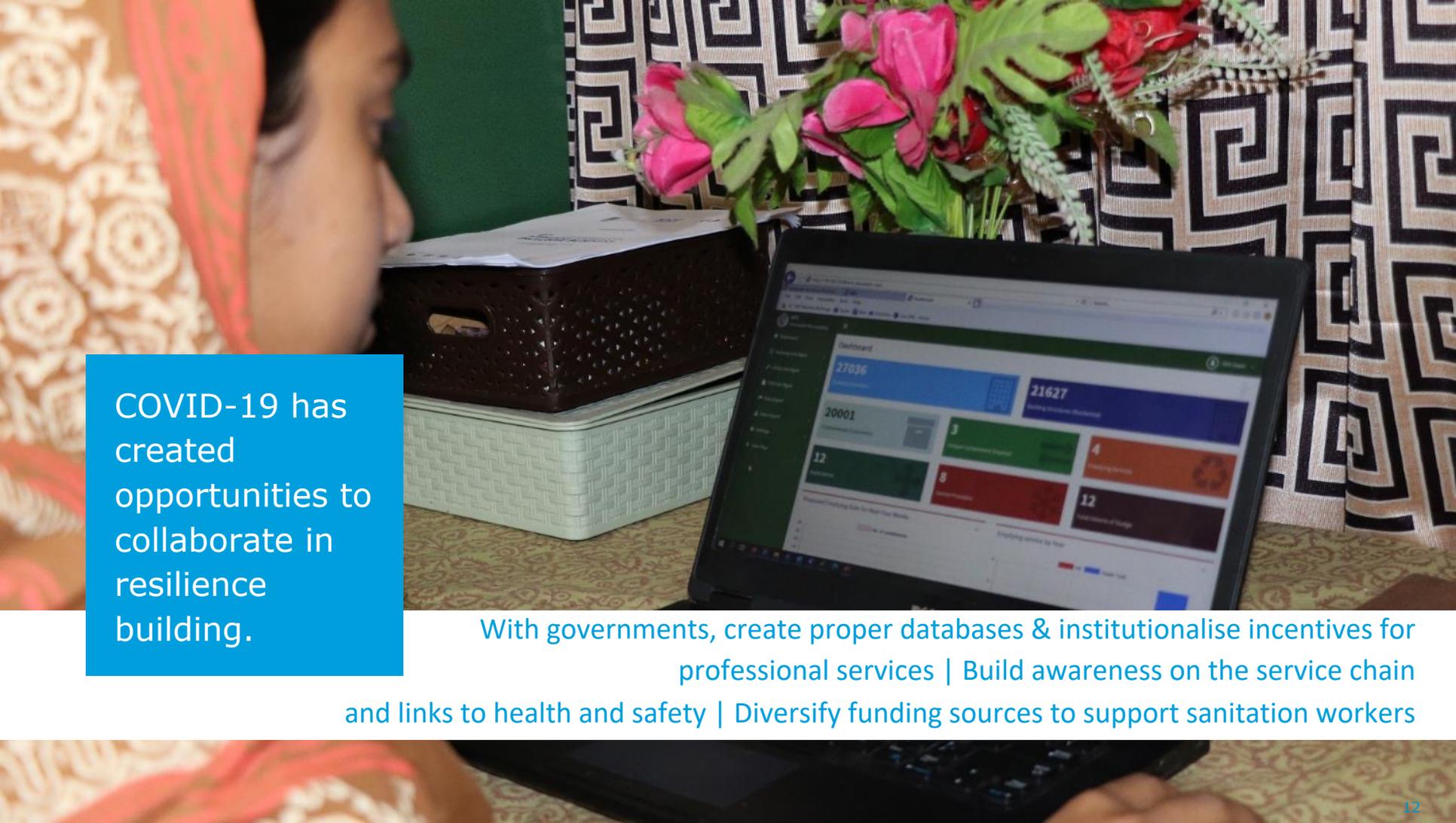
COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of sanitation services & workers' safety.

BEYOND PPE DISTRIBUTION: Train and increase awareness on PPE use

Add PPE clause in contracts and work orders

Ensure adequate PPE supply (and replacement) | Monitor systematically PPE use



A woman wearing a red headscarf is seen in profile, looking at a laptop. The laptop screen displays a dashboard with several data points: 27036, 21627, 20001, 3, 4, 12, 8, and 12. The dashboard is titled 'Dashboard' and has a green header. The background features a patterned curtain and a vase of pink flowers.

COVID-19 has created opportunities to collaborate in resilience building.

With governments, create proper databases & institutionalise incentives for professional services | Build awareness on the service chain and links to health and safety | Diversify funding sources to support sanitation workers

In summary

Acknowledge that safety of sanitation workers is important.

Change attitude towards sanitation workers. Consider them as assets, acknowledge their work, and treat them with dignity.

Introduce long term structural measures with stronger actions and increased accountability of stakeholders at all levels.



***"All we can do is let you know.
What can you do to help us
now?"***

- Sharma, Jhenaidah

SNV

**WATER
& WASH
FUTURES 2021**

WASH & the COVID-19 Pandemic:
Responses for Recovery and Resilience

