



## Transcript: Module 1- Prepare for SSP

Welcome to Module 1 of the sanitation safety planning methodology. This is called “Prepare for Sanitation Safety Planning”. My name is Kate Medlicott, and I will guide you while we define the foundation elements of SSP, which respond to the questions:

- Where should SSP be done? and
- Who should be involved and what are their roles?

Therefore, we will:

- Define the SSP area and lead organization
- Assemble the team
- Establish priorities

First, we need to define the SSP area. This helps to drive and sustain the process and ensures that the scope is manageable and understood by all stakeholders.

When SSP is initiated in a municipality, district, or other administrative unit, the area is determined by the area administered by the local authority.

Here you can see a typical example, in which three types of sanitation systems are used. The first system is in the blue area. It has flush toilets with sewerage and offsite wastewater treatment which serves the old city center.

The second system, marked in yellow, uses flush toilets with septic tanks, infiltration of liquid effluent, and offsite fecal sludge disposal – it serves new residential complexes and peri-urban areas.

And the final system, marked in green, covers the rural areas with dry or flush toilets with onsite disposal.

All the sanitation systems should be considered while preparing the SSP and the lead organization should be the local authority with the mandate for oversight of sanitation service provision. Also, a team leader should be appointed to drive the SSP process.

Another scenario is when SSP is implemented by sanitation service providers, such as utilities and other private operators. In this case, the objective is that the sanitation systems under their responsibility are safely operated, and their outputs do not pose health risks during disposal or use. The area is determined by the service provider’s operations, and the team leader is identified within its organizational structure.

In some cases, part of the sanitation activities might fall outside the administrative area, or the mandate of a service provider. For example, a wastewater treatment plant in an urban area could be coupled with effluent reuse on agricultural lands located in a different administrative area and overseen by a different authority. In this case, a coordination team composed of the most relevant authorities should be formed to lead the process.

Now, we will start with Step 1.2, assemble the team. The purpose of assembling the team is to ensure broad stakeholder commitment to design and implement the process.

This is particularly important in sanitation systems because responsibility along the sanitation chain is seldom the responsibility of one organization.

Often the SSP process is initiated by one or several interested individuals or an organization. However, they might not have all the skills needed. Therefore, the initiators will need the support of all relevant organizations.

A team leader should be identified and appointed at the outset who will play a critical role in:

- communicating the objectives;
- mobilizing stakeholders; and
- leading development, implementation and updates of the SSP.



The team leader should have the authority, the organizational and interpersonal skills, and sufficient time and resources to ensure that the process can be implemented effectively.

To make SSP successful, the team leader will need the support of people who represent the whole system and who have skills to identify hazards, understand how the risks can be controlled and drive improvements in their respective area. You should make sure that the team is formed by organizations and individuals in charge of all relevant sanitation steps, representatives of exposure groups and also public health experts. For climate aspects specialists in climatology and hydrology can help to identify climate risks.

Large or complex SSP areas may benefit from a stakeholder analysis to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are engaged and motivated. You can use this tool 1.2 in the manual to map and understand the actors that should be part of your initiative.

Also, for large or complex SSPs, it might be helpful to establish a SSP Steering Committee with senior representatives from relevant authorities and implementation partners. Steering Committees and provide:

- leadership and oversight of the entire process;
- agreed priority areas;
- engagement with, and commitment of, senior management, and
- secured financial and resource commitment;
- policy dialogue and change needed to improve the enabling environment.

The SSP effort will require an in-kind commitment of time and some direct costs during the preparation phase, for instance for sampling and testing, and also data collection and field investigations. Funds will also be needed to implement improvement measures. It is important to secure management support to allocate staff time and any start-up funding for the process.

Once the area, the team and the leader are decided, it is time to establish priorities. This is particularly relevant for teams in charge of multiple sanitation systems within an administrative area or teams with highly constrained funding and capacities. Establishing priorities makes the SSP process manageable. You can use risk-based tools, such as Excreta Flow Diagrams and Sanipath, to identify and reach agreement on priorities. These tools may have been already applied in the area.

Excreta Flow Diagrams, or SFDs, are an excellent tool to identify priority areas to be covered with SSP. An SFD presents a clear picture of how wastewater and fecal sludge management services are delivered in a city, and major risk areas. The flows marked in red indicate they are not safely managed and are an area where priority needs to be given.

Also, you should consider:

- areas with high reported or suspected sanitation-related diseases
- areas of high population density
- vulnerable populations
- areas with no or intermittent water supply service which have self-supply from potentially unsafe water sources
- areas with high formal or informal wastewater reuse activities

Furthermore, you should consider climate-related exacerbating factors, including:

- areas where climate is known to affect sanitation infrastructure or performance. This can include drought or flood prone areas, areas with high groundwater tables, coastal systems affected by storm surges or high tides, or areas at risk of landslides.
- or areas not currently affected by climate-related hazards but are likely to experience them under climate change scenarios.
- or sanitation systems or services that have high susceptibility to climate-related hazards, for instance sewer overflows.

Great! So, we have now completed Module 1 of the SSP methodology: Prepare for SSP.

You have learnt how to:



- Define the SSP area and lead organization
- Assemble the team
- Establish SSP priorities

I recommend downloading the WHO Guidelines and learn more about sanitation planning in chapter 4. You also should download your SSP manual and revise Module 1.

In the following lecture, we will continue with the SSP methodology, in particular Module 2: describe the sanitation system.

Thanks for watching!