Wastewater Production, Treatment, and Use in Somalia

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Wastewater production and treatment

- No wastewater treatment facilities in Somalia.
- No available data on wastewater production.
- Main forms of wastewater – surface runoff and human effluent (from septic tanks & pit latrines).
Wastewater use and/or disposal

- No ‘formal’ wastewater irrigation
- UNICEF estimate 31,200m$^3$ of IDP pit latrine sludge requires urgent desludging and disposal.
- In Hargeisa river irrigation occurs but no data on water quality.
- Surface waters drain through urban water systems into main rivers and coastal waters.
Regulations and implementation of guidelines
Challenges

- No wastewater treatment facilities/infrastructure.
- No public awareness on wastewater and health.
- No laboratory facilities for testing of crops, soils and water quality.
- Lack of data on all aspects of wastewater.
- Groundwater contamination in urban areas.
- Weak government with very limited capacity.
- No United Nations coordination or support in wastewater management.
Government’s approach to wastewater management

- In the Banadir Regional Administration (Mogadishu city) there are 2 departments that work in areas related to wastewater management
  - Drainage and Roads Department – includes urban runoff and drainage systems
  - Sanitation Department – includes solid waste management and waste dumps
- Desludging services provided by private sector but no monitoring of their activities so informal dumping occurs as there is no sludge disposal site
Possible solutions

• Sludge recovery and reuse for agricultural inputs and energy production.
• Biogas production for energy production.
• Co-composting of faecal sludge and organic waste
• Rehabilitation of urban drainage systems.

First require baseline surveys to plan and formalise a national wastewater strategy and then require guidelines and policies to implement it.