

Step 2

Agree on the basics



There are some basic decisions that need to be agreed upon by related parties which will drive the preparation process. These basics may include the targeted areas and level of coverage, development stages, timeline and financial costing principles. It is important to involve representatives from other agencies who later will be involved in the preparation or the implementation of the scheduled desludging. This step will only be effective if all parties have the same perception about the scheduled desludging scheme.

2.1 ESTABLISH COMMON PERCEPTION

Preparation of a scheduled desludging scheme in the city must involve representatives from various agencies who inevitably, directly or indirectly, will be involved in the operations and supervision of the scheme. This includes agencies of urban planning, infrastructure provision, building control, housing and settlements, sanitation, public health, and environmental management.

A workshop must be held to ensure all parties have the same understanding and perception of a scheduled desludging scheme. A few examples of topics to discuss in the workshop include:

- Scheduled desludging includes a mandatory septic tank emptying to be conducted periodically as required by law to all septic tanks.
- Scheduled desludging is conducted in a period and time set by the municipalities (with input from service provider).
- Scheduled desludging only handles septage which is defined as all mixtures of solids and liquids including human waste that accumulates in the septic tank.
- Scheduled desludging service consists of septage desludging and transportation activities while septage treatment is a different service which may be conducted by another service provider.
- Scheduled desludging does not eliminate the existing on-demand desludging service (see [Figure 2.1](#)).
- The service provider assigned to manage scheduled desludging operations is not automatically assigned to regulate on-demand desludging service operations unless the regulation orders it.



Figure 2.1 On-call or on-demand services will not be eliminated due to the establishment of a scheduled desludging scheme in the city. Both will be complementary to each other because many households may require more services than the time period set for scheduled desludging. <https://sedot-wc-bandung-juara.business.site/>.

2.2 DEFINE OUTCOMES

We can start this step by defining the outcomes of the scheduled desludging scheme in the city. An outcome is a long-term result due to the existence of the scheduled desludging scheme. For each outcome, it is important to understand the implications and to set corresponding indicators (see the following table).

Examples of outcomes.

Outcomes	Indicators
Improved overall sanitation behavior and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The level of use of septic tanks Amount of fecal sludge received by septage treatment plant
Improved quality of the environment	Percentage of groundwater samples contaminated with <i>Escherichia coli</i>
Improved level of public health	Number of cases of illness due to poor sanitation conditions
Improved image of the city	Number of acknowledgments or awards from other parties

2.3 SET AREA AND TIME

Two basic things that need to be agreed on from the beginning of the initial step of scheduled desludging preparation are (a) the area where scheduled desludging will be applied and (b) the time when the scheduled desludging will start. A master plan for the development of domestic wastewater system or a city sanitation strategy may contain information relating to both (see Figure 2.2). In cases where a city does not have such documents, the team can seek input and recommendations from urban planning and environmental management planning agencies.

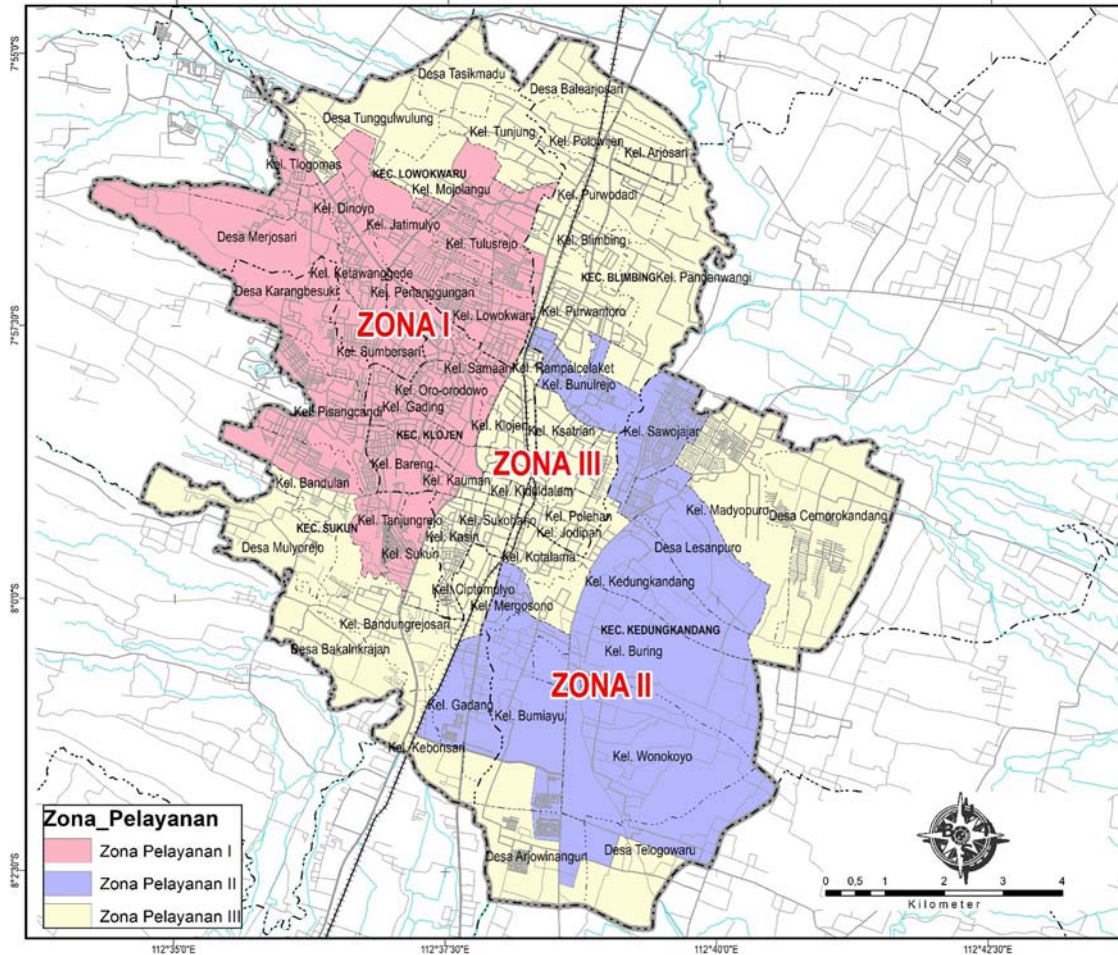


Figure 2.2 The master plan for domestic wastewater management of a city needs to be considered in determining scheduled desludging target areas. The map above is taken from the Malang city wastewater master plan (Indonesia) which shows three wastewater service zones to be developed in the city. Zones I and II are planned to have a wastewater sewerage system while zone III will rely on an on-site system. The scheduled desludging will be the main service in zone III.

Scheduled desludging will be required for all septic tanks in the city. However, there are certain conditions where a scheduled desludging scheme is not suitable for some parts of the city. These conditions may include (a) areas with high open defecation rates, (b) areas with unclear soil status, or (c) areas with existing and future sewerage systems. A scheduled desludging scheme can start at any time according to decision of the city government. However, it is important to ensure the scheduled desludging scheme is started when the infrastructure is ready, and the gap has been resolved (see the section in **Step 1: Identify local strengths**). Depending on the level of preparedness of the scheduled desludging aspects, it may be an advantage to introduce a pilot trial phase in the first year of introduction.

2.4 PROPOSE INSTITUTIONS

Scheduled desludging schemes require the involvement of at least two types of institutions, that is (a) the regulator and (b) the service provider(s). Some cities may already have institutions able to carry out these roles. However, the scheduled desludging scheme may be the first city-wide service that the city will have. Existing institutions may not have sufficient authority or capacity to carry out such large-scale services. The gap analysis conducted in the previous step will provide us with information regarding the capacity of the existing institutions in the city (see **Step 1: Identify local strengths**).

The team can identify and propose an institutional setup for the scheduled desludging scheme, but it will be the city government who will make the final decision. However, it is very important to indicate which institutions or organizations will play the roles of regulator and service provider from the start (see [Figure 2.3](#)). They must be involved in the preparation of the scheduled desludging scheme. They can provide input and suggestions about their future roles, as well as the required capacity building activities.



Figure 2.3 The role of regulators and service providers cannot be held by one institution. There are regulatory and control functions that need to be carried out by the regulatory body, while service providers do require supervision so that operations can proceed according to standard procedures.

2.5 RECOMMEND FINANCIAL PRINCIPLE

The financial principles of STP operations should be agreed in this step. This is needed to calculate the amount of costs that will be borne by households (conducted in the next step). One choice is to burden households with sufficient costs to recover all operational and maintenance costs (or, an operational cost recovery structure). Another option, burden households with all costs and investment fund of future infrastructure (or, a full cost recovery structure). If scheduled desludging is expected to be profitable, of course the burden of costs to households will be even higher. However, there is a possibility that the local government will need to provide subsidies to ease the burden on the households in the service area.