

Step 4

Get the green light



Once the team presents the initial concept of the scheduled desludging to the city government and other decision makers and convinces them that the scheduled desludging is needed and will bring benefits to the city, then the City government needs to give a green light for the preparation plan of the scheduled desludging scheme to move forward. Scheduled desludging is a new type of service for many cities. Whether it will be carried out or not depends on the decision of the city government and other city leaders.

4.1 PERMISSION TO CONTINUE

Cities are not always required to have scheduled desludging schemes in their area. They have the option to introduce other sanitation services, including on-demand desludging and off-site or sewerage systems. The choice to have a scheduled desludging scheme may be based purely on the will of the city to provide better and safer sanitation service for households. Therefore, permission from the city government and other city leaders is very important for the process (see [Figure 4.1](#)). If the city government does not give permission, the team must immediately stop preparations to avoid wasting more resources. If the city government gives the green light for the plan, the team can move forward. If allowed, more city agents will be involved in the preparation and additional budget may be provided.

It is also very important for us to know the expectation and concern of the city government on the development and operation of the scheduled desludging scheme.

4.2 PRESENT PERSUASIVELY

The team should meet with the city government to present and discuss our plan to prepare the scheduled desludging scheme in the city. Prepare the presentation material, along with the handouts and other supporting materials. The presentation materials must be short, attractive and readable with limited words. Use consistent fonts, colors and backgrounds to maintain the clarity of the presentation



Figure 4.1 The city government and/or responsible city leaders must believe that scheduled desludging services are very important for the area. The city leaders must have a general understanding of the benefits as well as the various risks that come with the preparation and implementation of the scheme.

(see [Figure 4.2](#)). We must use good quality images that reinforce and complement the message. Things that should be covered in our presentation material at least are:

- Existing condition of wastewater management in the city includes information about level of access to latrine, use of septic tanks, availability of offsite system as well as availability of desludging and septage treatment service.
- Environmental and public health conditions include information about the condition of groundwater and river water in urban areas, along with the level of disease generation associated with poor sanitation conditions.
- Driving factors for cities to have scheduled desludging includes laws and regulations requiring sanitation services, benefits of sanitation services, sanitation services in other cities, support available from other parties.
- Basic understanding of scheduled desludging; includes information about its definitions, differences with other services, nature of scheduled desludging services, aspects and benefits of scheduled desludging.
- Scheduled desludging scheme to be developed: includes scheduled desludging illustrative diagrams showing service coverage, scale of operations, infrastructure needs, institutional framework and the year scheduled desludging is expected to start.
- Financial aspects of scheduled desludging: includes basic tariff and estimated revenue and expenditure within a certain time frame.

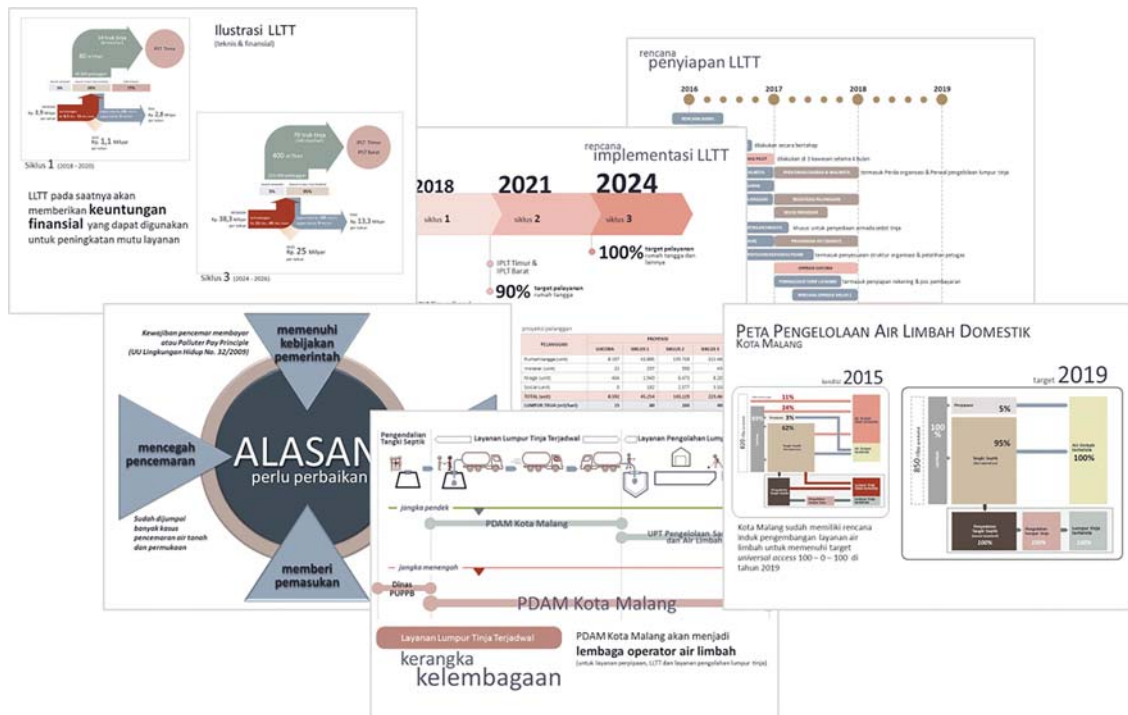


Figure 4.2 Presentation material for the city government must be short and easy to understand, as well as an attractive layout design. The example above is the PowerPoint slides used by IUWASH program in Indonesia when presenting the initial concept of scheduled desludging scheme before the mayor of Solo (Central Java, Indonesia).

- Readiness of the city to prepare a scheduled desludging scheme: includes number of households with septic tanks, regulatory and institutional framework, availability of desludging trucks and septage treatment plant, other public services.
- Risk of scheduled desludging application: covers various technical, social, financial, and political risks that might occur if scheduled desludging is developed and implemented in a city.
- Workplan of scheduled desludging preparation: includes an outline of the work steps for the preparation and the duration of its implementation.

Convince the city government that the scheduled desludging is really needed in the city. Although there are risks in their development and application, the impacts of not having a scheduled desludging scheme in place will cause even greater losses, including environmental conditions, public health and welfare, financial and on the image of the city.

4.3 SHOW IT GRAPHICALLY

Use graphical diagrams to show the scheduled desludging concept. Try to include all information in one diagram (see Figure 4.3). Starting from the number of customers to the septage treatment capacity, as

Preparing Scheduled Desludging

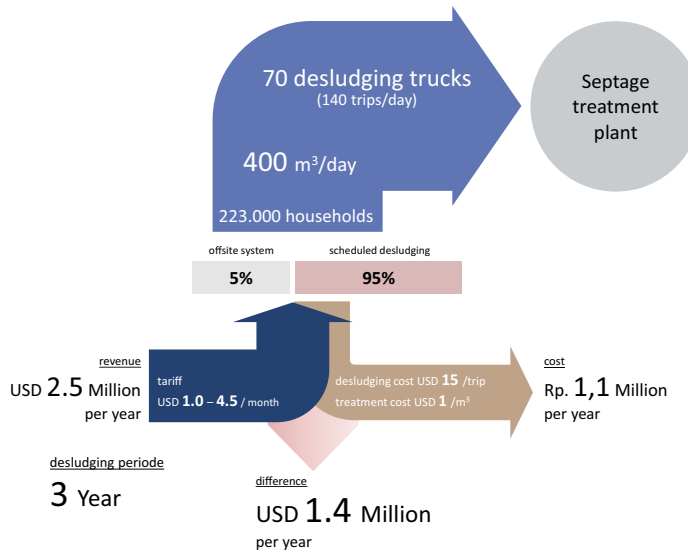


Figure 4.3 The initial concept can be displayed in a diagram showing various information of the scheduled desludging scheme to be developed in a city. It contains information on the number of households to serve, desludging period, number of desludging trucks and septage treatment plant needed. In addition, this diagram also needs to include the basic tariff, operating cost and revenue projections.

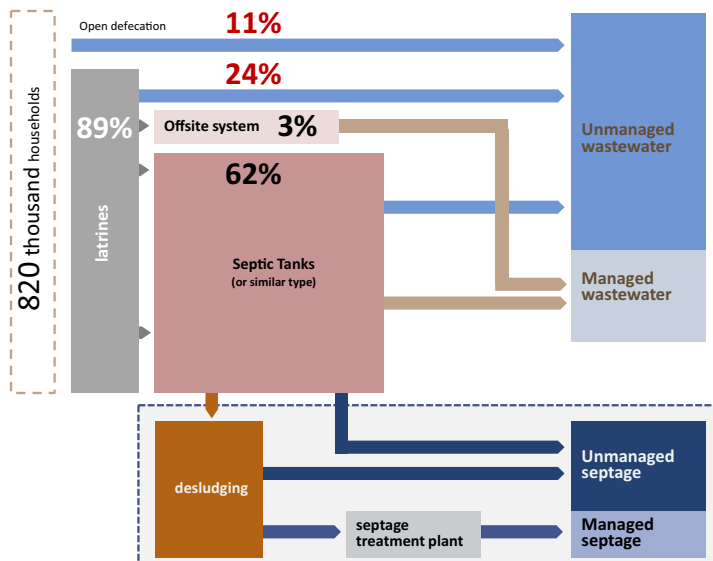


Figure 4.4 The diagram shows the flow of wastewater produced by the entire population of the city. Some wastewater will be managed well, some will pollute the environment. Likewise, with the septage taken from septic tanks, some will go to the environment untreated. This flow diagram is developed by the World Bank and has been used in various cities in Indonesia and other countries.

well as financial information. Indicate the proportion of scheduled desludging components in the domestic wastewater management system.

In addition to the initial scheduled desludging scheme, provide another diagram that shows the overall wastewater management framework in a city (see [Figure 4.4](#)). This becomes more important in a city that has or will have an offsite system. In the wastewater management framework diagram, the context of the availability and contribution of scheduled desludging will be clearer.

4.4 RECORD THE DECISION

The city government's approval must be stated and recorded in writing. Particularly, if his or her permission is accompanied by promises to provide more technical, policy and financial supports. Prepare meeting minutes describing all the inputs and decisions made in the meeting. Send the meeting minutes to the attendees and other interested parties to ensure everybody will move forward from the same point.