

# Standard Operating Procedure

Standard Operating Procedure for Faecal Sludge Management in Rohingya Refugee Camp in compliance with Sphere Standards



Photo Credit:

## **1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to provide clear guidelines for the safe and effective management of faecal sludge in the Green Hill/CPI catchment Rohingya refugee camp in compliance with Sphere Standards, UNHCR handbooks and Cox's Bazar WASH sector guidelines. The SOP aims to ensure that the dislodging and management of faecal sludge is carried out in a manner that is safe for the volunteers and the environment and that meets the required standards for sanitation.

## **2. Scope:**

This SOP applies to all staff, volunteers, and stakeholders involved in the management of faecal sludge in the Rohingya refugee camp associated with Green Hill/CPI. The scope of this SOP covers the dislodging schedule, dislodging process, safety procedures, waste disposal, and monitoring and evaluation.

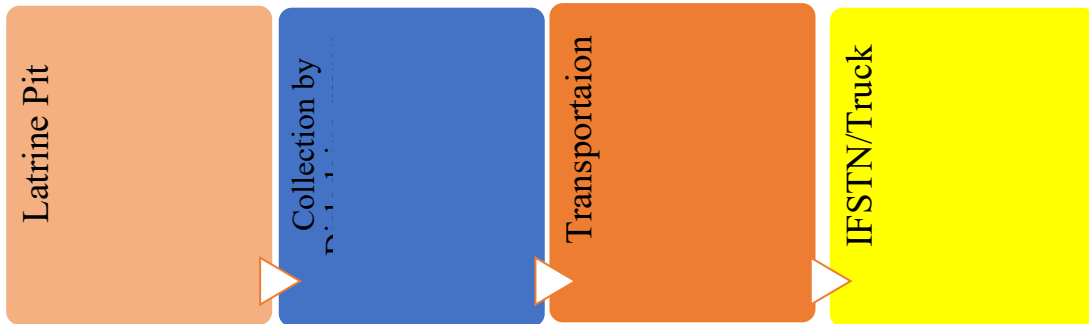
## **3. Definitions:**

Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) refers to the collection, transportation, treatment, and disposal of faecal sludge in a safe and hygienic manner. Faecal sludge is the mixture of human excreta, water, and solid waste that accumulates in pit latrines, septic tanks, and other onsite sanitation facilities. FSM is an essential aspect of sanitation, particularly in areas where onsite sanitation facilities are the primary means of disposing of human waste. The safe and effective management of faecal sludge is crucial to protecting public health and the environment, reducing the spread of disease, and promoting sustainable development.

## **4. Responsibilities:**

- The WASH and Clean Energy Program Manager is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this SOP and ensuring compliance with relevant regulations and standards.
- The WASH and Clean Energy Program Coordinator is responsible for technical supervision of the faecal sludge management system and ensuring that it meets the needs of the camp.
- The WASH Engineer is responsible for supervising the dislodging volunteers and ensuring that they have the necessary equipment and training to perform their duties safely and effectively.
- The Dislodging Volunteers are responsible for collecting, transporting the sludge in the camp.
- The Green Hill Implementing Agency is responsible for providing the necessary resources and support to implement the faecal sludge management system.
- The Community Partners International (CPI) Funding Agency is responsible for providing the necessary funds to support the faecal sludge management system.

#### 4. Procedure



#### 5. Dislodging Schedule:

- Latrine pits will be dislodged twice a month, or as per the filling level.
- The schedule will be determined by the WASH engineer and communicated to the dislodging volunteers.

#### 6. Dislodging Process:

- Dislodging volunteers will wear personal protective equipment (PPE), including gumboots, gloves, masks, and heal mate, before entering the latrine pit.
- The dislodging pump will be used to collect the sludge from the pit and transport it to the nearest internal faecal sludge transport network (IFSTN) or faecal sludge transporting truck.
- The hose pipe will be used to transport the sludge to the IFSTN.
- The daily dislodging volume will be recorded in a specified format and reported to the WASH and Clean energy program coordinator.

#### 7. Safety Procedures:

- All volunteers will receive training on safe dislodging practices, including the use of PPE and proper handling of the dislodging pump.
- All PPE will be inspected for damage before each use.
- Volunteers will not enter the pit if the gas levels are unsafe.
- The dislodging area will be properly ventilated before and during the dislodging process.

## **8. Waste Disposal:**

- The collected sludge will be transported to the nearest IFSTN or faecal sludge transporting truck.
- The disposal location will be determined by the IFSTN or the transport truck operators.
- The WASH and Clean energy program coordinator will ensure that the disposal site is safe and meets environmental standards.

## **9. Reporting and Monitoring:**

- Daily reports will be prepared and submitted to the WASH & Clean Energy Coordinator on the amount and of sludge collected and transferred, in accordance with Sphere Standards.
- The progress and effectiveness of the faecal sludge management program will be monitored, and corrective actions will be taken as necessary to improve the program's efficiency.

## **10. Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- The WASH engineer and WASH community mobiliser will conduct regular monitoring of the dislodging process to ensure that it is carried out safely and effectively.
- The WASH and Clean energy program coordinator will track the volume of sludge collected and disposed of, and ensure that records are kept in a specified format.

## **11. Training and Awareness:**

- All staff, volunteers, and stakeholders involved in faecal sludge management activities will receive appropriate training on the procedures outlined in this SOP, as well as relevant safety and health regulations and Sphere Standards.

## **12. References**

- Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response
- UNHCR Handbook for Emergencies

This SOP provides clear guidelines for the safe and effective management of faecal sludge in the Rohingya refugee camp. It outlines the dislodging schedule, dislodging process, safety procedures, waste disposal, and monitoring and evaluation procedures. The objective of this SOP is to ensure that the dislodging and management of faecal sludge is carried out in a safe and effective manner, and that the environment and the volunteers are protected.