
Open Desludging Ponds Decommissioning SOP v1

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

22nd April 2019

The following SOP provides steps on how to decommission Open Desludging Ponds (ODPs):

- 1) Confirm which existing Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) will be able to replace ODP capacity. Community should be engaged to ensure they understand what is happening, where the new FSTP is and how the closure of this site will improve living conditions.
- 2) Leave ODP unused for one week to allow for infiltration.
- 3) If after one week if the volume is unchanged leave for a second week.
- 4) Ensure adequate site safety including barriers, image based signboards and Communication with Communities (CwC) including support to site safety through proactive community engagement with a focus on children.
- 5) Ensure adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used by all staff as per Annex D of the Faecal Sludge Management chapter of the WASH Strategy. Chlorine should be made available for staff to clean tools and disinfect PPE after use.
- 6) Prepare a spill kit including lime.
- 7) Estimate remaining volume.
- 8) Mix lime into a bucket of water at a rate of approx. 1kg per 50L of the volume of the ODP. Always add lime to the water and never pour water onto hydrated lime as it can cause an explosive reaction.
- 9) Add buckets of water and lime to the ODP, mix and check sludge has reached pH12 and leave until pH returns to approx. pH9.
- 10) Whilst in place, spray all of the infrastructure with 0.5% chlorine before dismantling. Remove superstructure from site and burn in a controlled, safe manner at least 30m away from houses or other infrastructure.
- 11) Dig an overflow trench 1ft deep and 1ft wide around the ODP where the inside of the trench is 2ft from the outside of the ODP with four connecting trenches into the ODP.

- 12) Without incurring cost or affecting the environment backfill using rocks, aggregate or similar materials.
- 13) When backfilled to half a meter below ground level, add a layer of lime to the surface of the ODP.
- 14) Backfill the remainder with earth ensuring sludge remains within the trench.
- 15) If sludge has overflowed into the trench add a layer of lime on the top of the trench.
- 16) Backfill trench including a 6in mound of earth.
- 17) Cover ODP with a 2ft mound of earth such that 50% of the total area is to this height.
- 18) Leave in place barriers and site demarcation including CwC engagement to avoid use and excavation for one year due to the presence of helminth eggs.