

## LATRINE CLEANERS AS CONSTRUCTION TRADESMEN

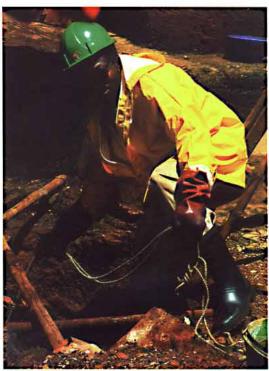
Conakry - GUINEE

Conakry: population 1,200,000 - 1,000 FG = US\$ 0.80

## SANITATION IN CONAKRY

- · Eight percent of households are connected to a piped sewerage system.
- Most households use on-site traditional waste disposal systems: traditional latrines (60 percent) or septic tanks (32 percent).

Most households use on-site sanitation facilities constructed by masons specializing in this work. In unplanned settlements and those built on difficult terrain, these facilities are cleaned by hand, either by family members or by professional cleaners.



Budge disposal by bunal on-site



Construction of toilet block



Sanitation is a major problem for unserved households in the low-incom



Teams of two to six cleaners do the job with minimal equipment, pick and shove, wheelbarrow, buckets

## A SPECIALIZED SANITATION CREW

Since 1995, a construction crew leader has been leading a multidisciplinary team of six construction tradesmen (cleaners, masons, carpenters, and welders). They take on many different kinds of work, including construction and manual cleaning of sanitation facilities.

They started out with:

- UNICEF training in the construction of latrines and the manual cleaning of drainage canals and of septic tanks, in 1994,
- an initial contract to build latrine blocks in 1995.

They have received no financial assistance.

- Their customers pay cash for cleaning services: GF 50,000 per septic tank and GF 30,000 per latrine.
- The team's average annual sales volume: GF 6 million (150 cleaning jobs a year).

## RESPONDING TO RISING DEMAND

Despite lively competition, manual septic cleaning remains in heavy demand. The market for the construction of latrines and septic tanks is booming in this rapidly expanding city.