



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.



Sludge disposal by burial on-site



Sanitation is a major problem for unserved households in the low-income areas and in peri-urban settlements



Teams of two to six cleaners do the job with minimal equipment: pick and shovel, wheelbarrow, buckets, rope, wearing rubber boots, helmets, and possibly gloves and goggles

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).



Construction of toilet blocks

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.