

HOW TO MAINSTREAM CONTAINER-BASED SANITATION

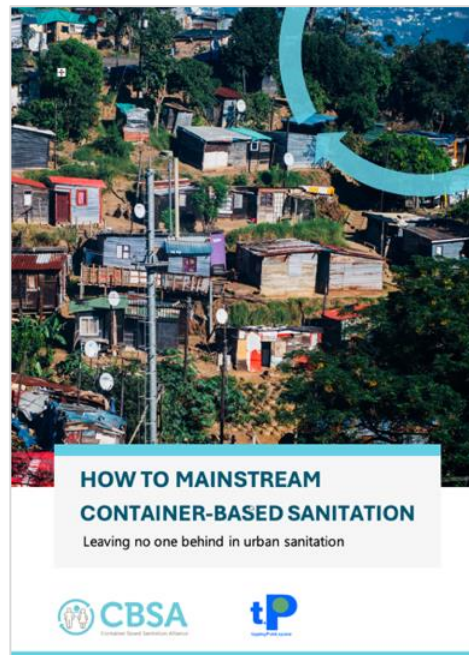
Leaving no one behind in urban sanitation

How to mainstream container-based sanitation is a CBSA / Tipping Point resource that provides strategic insights, case studies and tactics to inspire and guide sanitation authorities and others to adopt CBS.

With the right support, investment, and innovative thinking, CBS has the potential to support city-wide sanitation worldwide, improve public health, protect the environment, and enhance the quality of life for millions of people.

By embracing CBS as a key component of urban sanitation strategies, utilities and municipalities can tackle the pressing sanitation crisis head-on, supporting efforts to leave no one behind.

Download at: cbsa.global/mainstreaming



What is container-based sanitation?

Container-based sanitation (CBS) is a sustained sanitation service, featuring toilets with containers that are frequently sealed and collected, so that the waste can be safely treated, reused or disposed of.

CBS provides a practical, flexible, and climate-smart solution that can be rapidly deployed, adapted to various contexts, and scaled to meet the needs of diverse populations.

Key messages

CBS systems can be deployed rapidly and reliably, acting as a transitional option as needs be. Yet they also hold a critical place in the urban fabric of long-term sanitation provision – as a versatile and scalable solution that can adapt to various urban contexts.

CBS can support water and sanitation authorities' ambitions to:

➤ **Make Leave No One Behind a reality**

CBS can help to make Leave No One Behind a reality by providing sanitation to marginalised communities and vulnerable populations. It is particularly suited to providing services in informal settlements and is an approach particularly valued by women, children, older people and people with disabilities.

➤ **Complement existing options**

CBS can complement other sanitation approaches, making it an invaluable component of a comprehensive sanitation strategy. It can provide an interim solution while more extensive sanitation infrastructure is being developed, whether sewers or other forms of non-sewered sanitation, and its modular nature allows for quick deployment in dense urban areas and informal settlements.

➤ **Address the funding gap**

CBS offers cost efficiencies across the sanitation chain and has proven to be as cost effective as other approaches. Innovations by CBS providers have introduced new efficiencies in collection and transport, and revenue streams from treatment and reuse which utilities can leverage to address funding gaps.

➤ **Support action on the climate crisis**

CBS is capable of withstanding extreme weather events and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, thanks to quick treatment. It is also water-wise, using little or no water. Thanks to this, by integrating CBS into broader sanitation strategies, cities can enhance their resilience to climate impacts, contribute to global efforts to mitigate climate change and potentially access new sources of climate funding.



Examples of the CBS chain, including: a Sanima toilet, container collection by SOIL, composting of waste collected by Clean Team and briquettes made by Sanivation.

Tactics for mainstreaming CBS

By approaching CBS as an incremental step in the sanitation journey, leveraging existing expertise, engaging communities in co-creation, and harnessing its modular potential, stakeholders can enhance its acceptance and integration.

➤ **Position CBS as part of a sanitation continuum**

CBS can be seen as a stepping stone rather than an end goal to encourage adoption and integration of CBS into broader sanitation strategies – and attract donor funding.

➤ **Ensure services are co-created with communities**

Co-creation ensures that sanitation services enjoy good uptake, user satisfaction, and sustainability – as most current CBS operators have done.

➤ **Integrate CBS in current sanitation operations through a modular approach**

Many CBS operators offer full-chain services, but specialisation in specific elements of the sanitation service chain can reduce cost, encourage scale, and fit with public procurement.

➤ **Harness the experience and creativity of CBS providers**

CBS providers have valuable experience across a range of topics relating to low-cost sanitation and can be engaged through consultancy and technical assistance.

Work with the Container Based Sanitation Alliance

The Container Based Sanitation Alliance works on regulations, standards, procurement and incentives to enable CBS. If you are an authority, financier or regulator, we want to work with you to help you leave no one behind. Operators are welcome to [join the Alliance](#). Contact us at contact@cbsa.global to discuss how we can support your work.

Further resources in the pipeline for next year include:

- A CBS sector report to showcase trends
- Global CBS quality standards, to ensure efficiency and safety.
- Guidance for contracting CBS operators in informal settlements.

“ [The CBS provider] Sanima is a highly significant unconventional technology experience. It has enormous potential to scale up to other localities in Lima and nationwide, and we believe they will be a crucial partner in the Ministry of Housing’s policy to ensure that no Peruvian is without access to water and sanitation nationwide.”

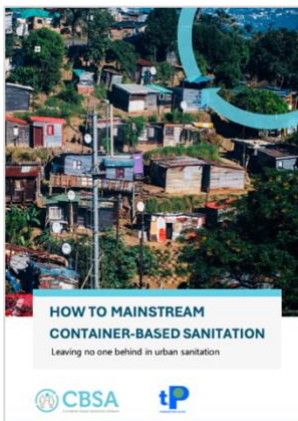
**Max Carbajal,
General Director of
the Ministry of
Housing,
Construction, and
Sanitation, Peru**

“Since rolling out container-based sanitation with Fresh Life, we have managed to reduce outbreaks of waterborne disease and reach out to a bigger proportion of people who otherwise were not having toilets.”

**Jason Ochola, Head
of Commercial
Services at Kisumu
Water and Sanitation
Company, Kenya**

“The CBS pilot in DR Congo demonstrated that the approach is culturally acceptable and revealed an untapped sanitation market. I am convinced CBS has a bright future, particularly in densely populated areas that lack urban planning, and at the very least as transitional measure.”

**Lucas Cornet, Water
& Sanitation
Specialist**



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