

SFD Leh, India

Leh is the joint capital and the largest town of the Union Territory of Ladakh. Leh lies in the Trans-Himalayan region of India at an elevation 3500m above mean sea level. The resident population of Leh as per Census 2011 is 30,870.

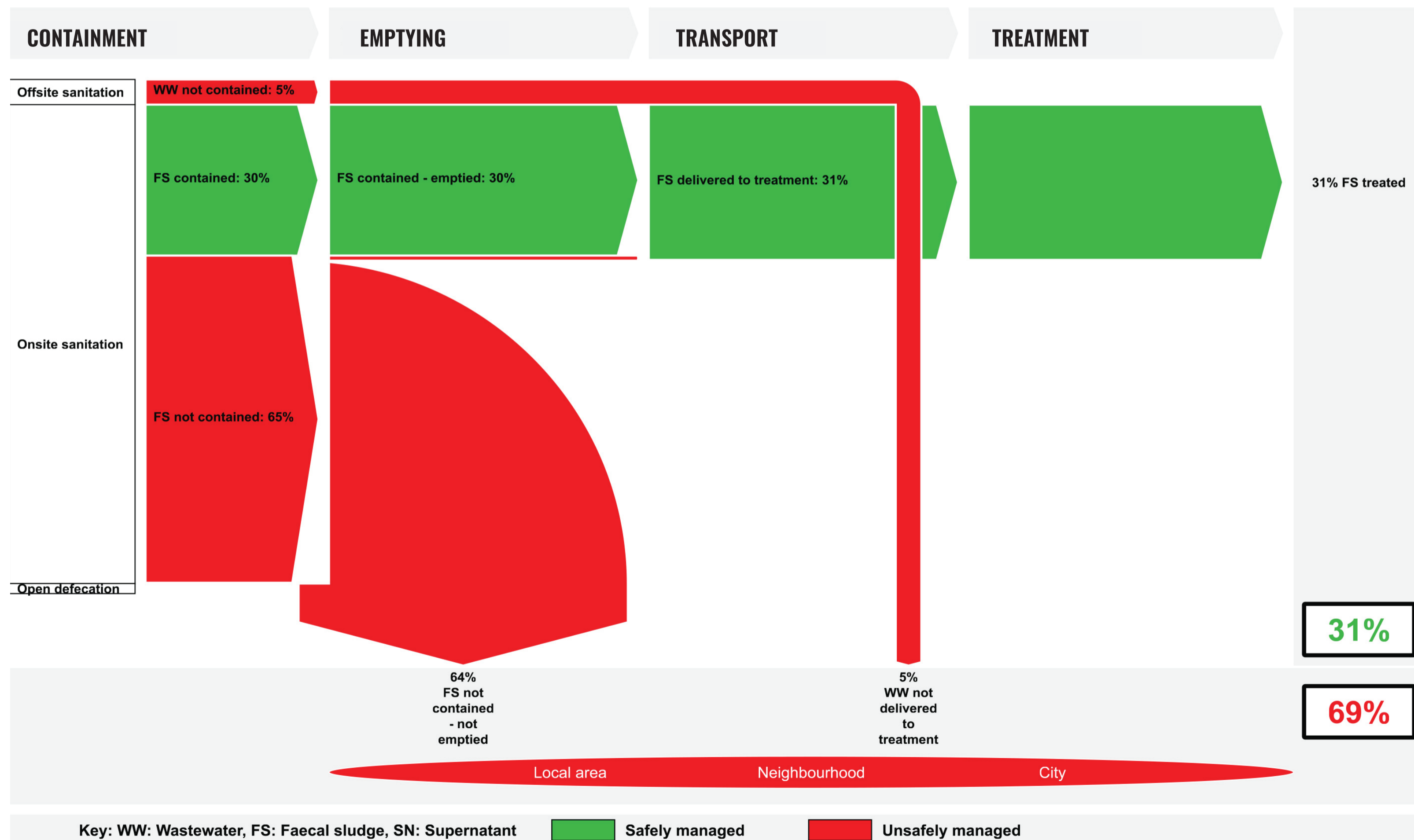
SFD GRAPHIC

Leh, Ladakh, India

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The town mainly depends on on-site sanitation systems (OSS). Currently, parts of the town have sewerage lines which are not operational as the sewage treatment plant (STP) is under construction. The most prevalent OSS in Leh is lined pit with semi-permeable walls and open bottom, with no outlet and overflow, with a significant risk of ground water pollution (65%) in Leh. The other one is fully lined tanks (sealed) which are mostly the containment unit for hotels and guest houses (30%). The toilets in parts of housing colony and old town are either connected to the drain or the not operational sewerage system. This has been accounted as 5% in the SFD as toilet directly discharged into open drains or storm sewers. Also, in Leh people use the traditional dry toilets which are not accounted in the preparation of the SFD.

The city is dependent on Municipal committee Leh (MCL) owned desludging tankers for services for emptying of faecal sludge (FS). City has narrow and congested roads and some household can be inaccessible. Emptying of containments in Leh is done on demand and most the demand is from hotels and guest houses which are using fully lined tanks (sealed). The frequency of emptying varies from 5 to 15 years. Hence, the percentage of containment emptied for fully lined tanks is assumed to be 100%. The households which use lined pits with semipermeable walls and open bottom do not empty their tanks as they soak away into the ground, becoming a major threat to groundwater. Therefore, only 2% of such systems are considered to be emptied for the SFD.

MCL has an FSTP of 12 KLD capacity and is planning for another 20 KLD FSTP. The treated solids are used as soil conditioner. The FSTP is not functional in winter (November to March) due to the sub-zero temperature.

MCL has issued a notice, stating that every household at least needs to have a fully lined tank to prevent risk to groundwater, which is the main source for water supply in Leh. So, in the SFD matrix the lined tanks with semipermeable walls and open bottom as significance risk to ground water.

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The SFD Promotion Initiative recommends preparation of a report on the city context, the analysis carried out and data sources used to produce this graphic. Full details on how to create an SFD Report are available at: sfd.susana.org