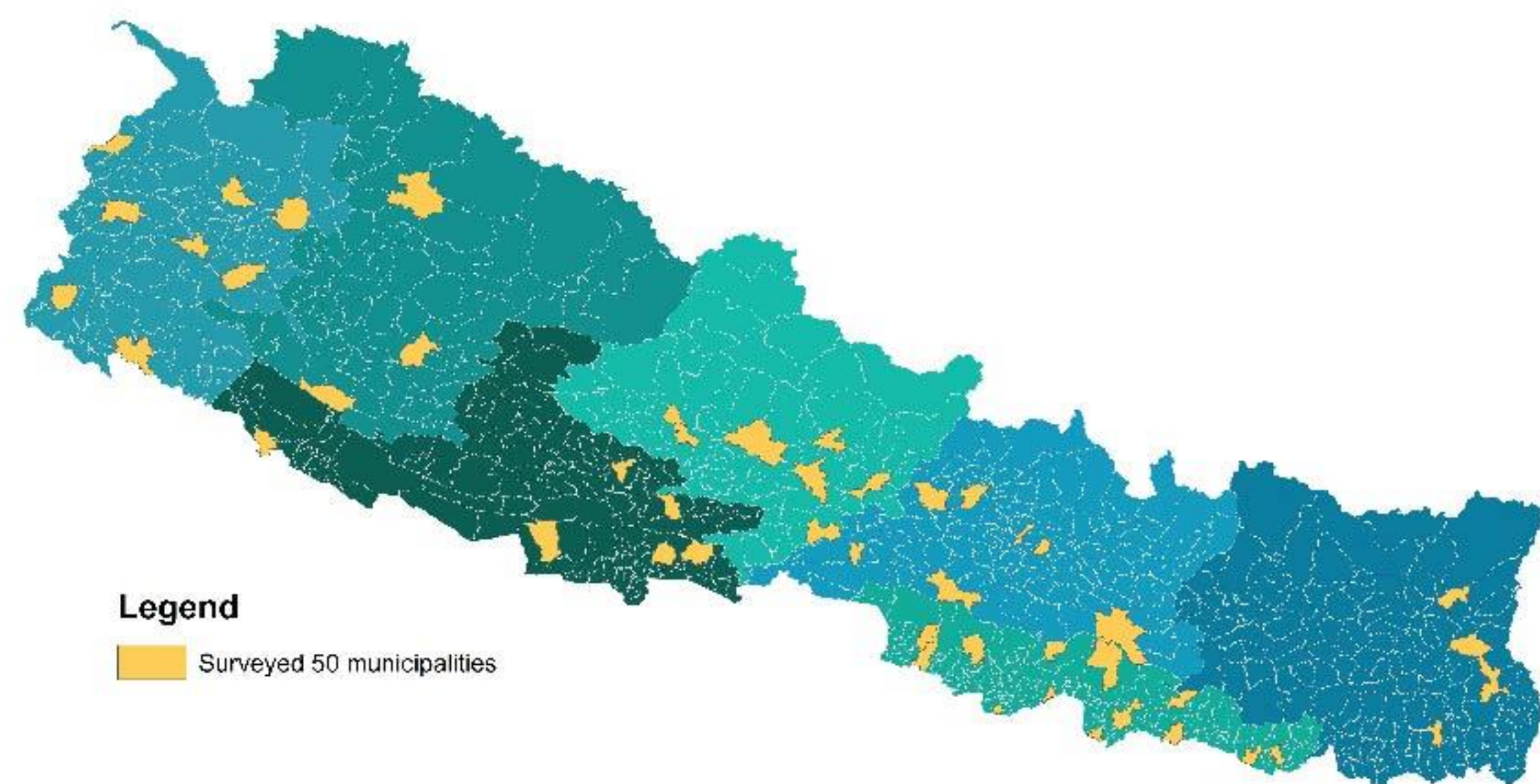


Assessing Urban Sanitation Practices in municipalities of Nepal: A Cross-Sectional Analysis of Policy Implementation, its gaps and Challenges

Buddha Bajracharya*, Bhawana Sharma**, Rajendra Shrestha**, Sabuna Gamal**, Asmita Shrestha**, Rupak Shrestha**, Anita Bhuju** - ENPHO



Brief Overview

Nepal faces challenges in municipal sanitation despite recent policy endorsements. Collaboration among federal, provincial, and municipal levels is hindered, with sanitation often a low priority. Many municipalities lack dedicated units, focusing primarily on Solid Waste Management (SWM), neglecting critical aspects like Faecal Sludge Management (FSM). The study emphasizes the need for enhanced collaboration and prioritization.

Objective

- Assess municipal-level sanitation policies, with a focus on SWM and FSM.
- Identify existing practices, gaps, and formulate collaboration recommendations.

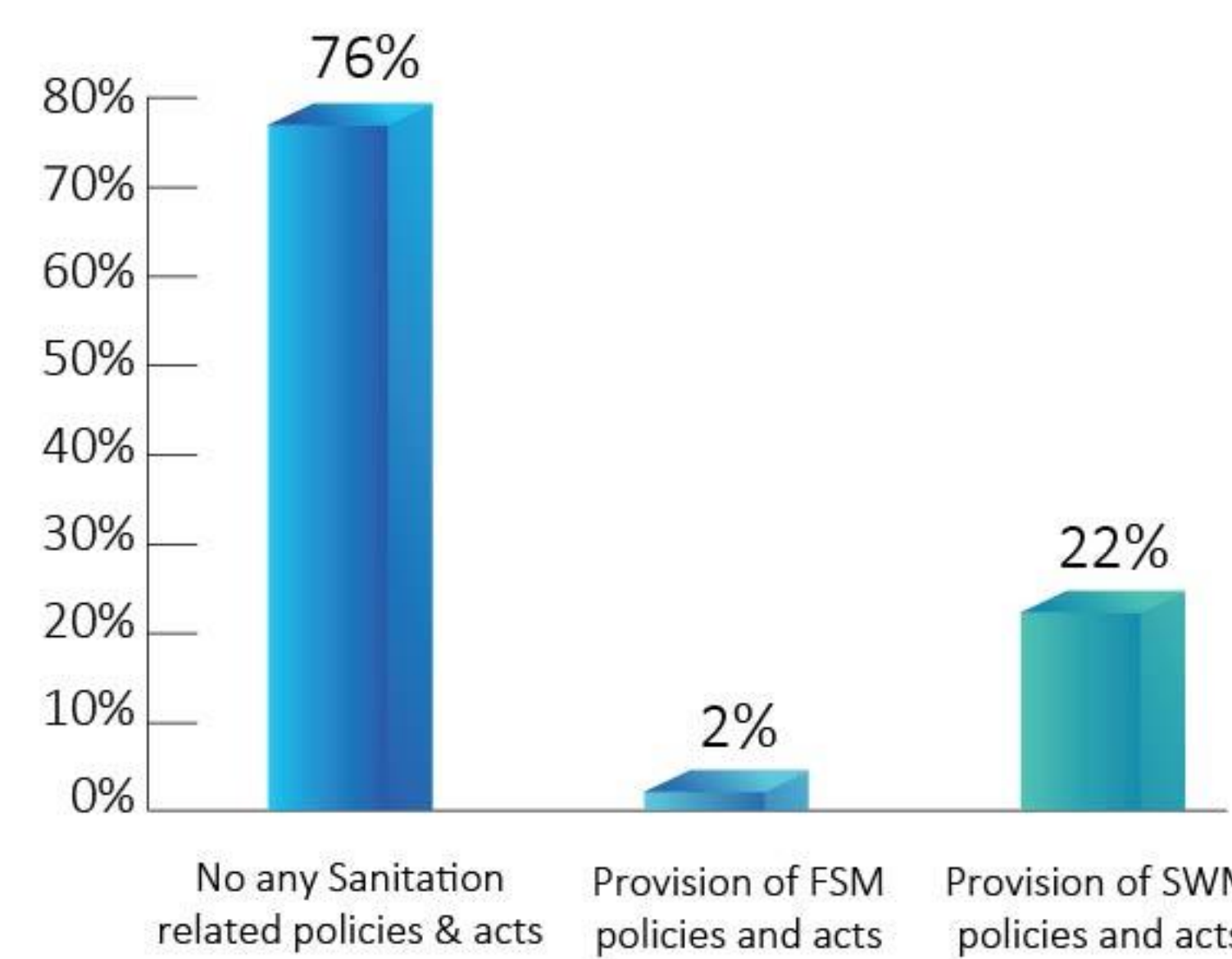
Methodology

- Utilized a qualitative cross-sectional approach.
- Conducted in 50 urban municipalities with convenience sampling.
- Employed Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and desk review.
- Analyzed collected qualitative data for insights and findings.



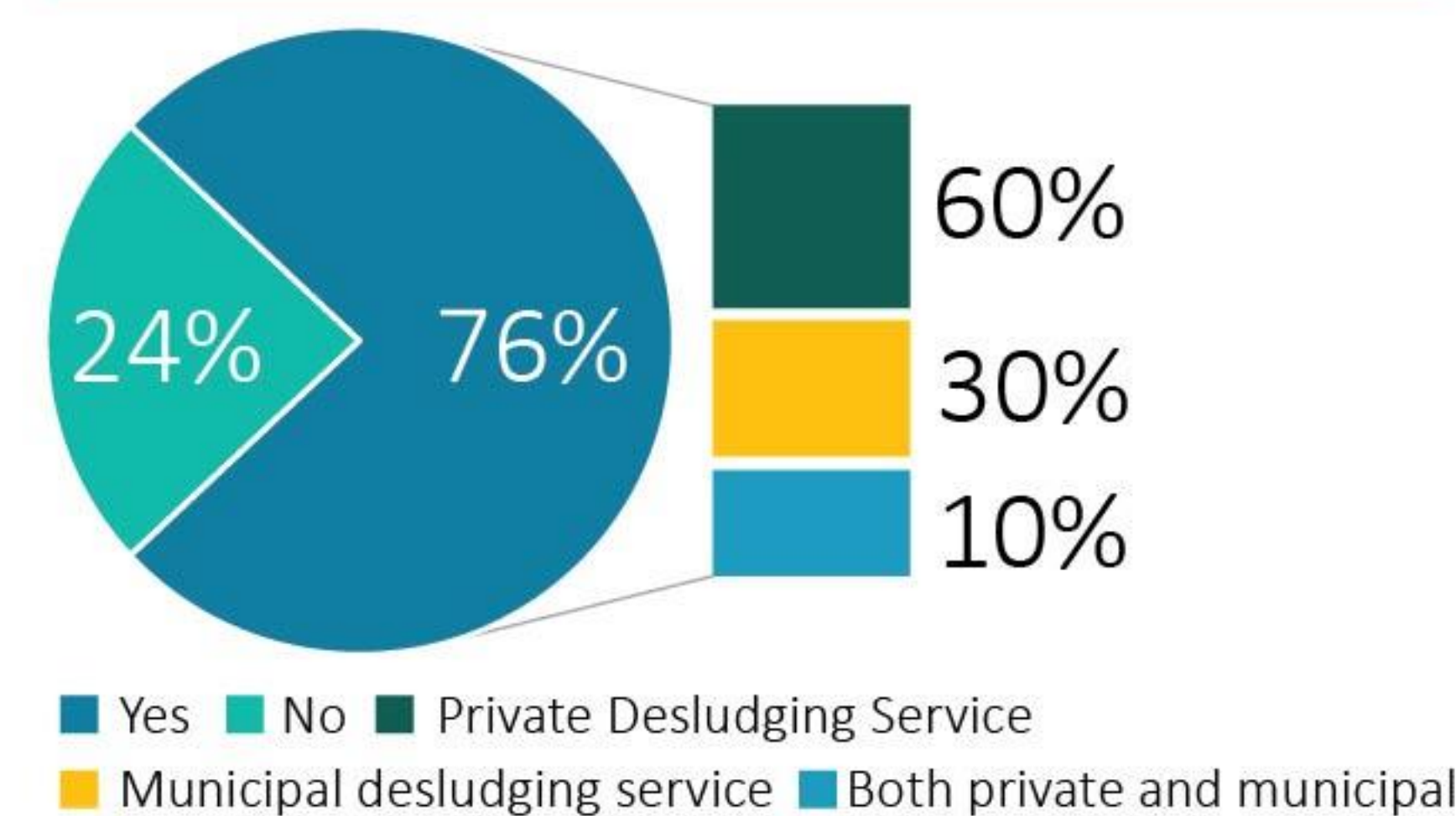
Findings

Provision of policies and acts related to SWM and FSM in selected 50 municipalities of Nepal



- Most municipalities lack sanitation policies.
- Municipalities are unaware of national-level WASH policies and Acts

Desludging service in Municipalities



- The services are informal or unregulated
- No registration provision in the municipalities

Availability of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants and its Functionality



- Highlighting predominant lack of concern for health and safety.
- Least priority towards functionality of treatment plant, posing a direct threat to the environment and public health.

Municipalities with Sanitation units or sections for SWM and FSM



Functionality of sanitation units is limited, often falling under various divisions, indicating low priority and recognition of sanitation as a crucial agenda.

Allocation of Budget for SWM and FSM



Impact of research & application

Sanitation lacks prioritization compared to other developmental agendas



Imbalance in SWM and FSM allocation requires reevaluation

- Private desludgers operate informally
- Necessity of policies to formalize services for accountability and safety



Disparity between national WASH policies and municipal integration

Conclusion & recommendation

The notable policy gap in sanitation, specifically in FSM, is evident in the existing institutional setup primarily dedicated to SWM. This results in insufficient budgets allocated to FSM, exacerbating challenges. Furthermore, a majority of the existing treatment plants are non-functional, and desludging and transportation services operate informally and without regulation. The presence of coordination gaps between local and national policies indicates a lack of priority on urban sanitation. Addressing these issues is crucial for establishing an effective and comprehensive approach to sanitation, particularly in the realm of FSM.

Initiating a targeted sensitization campaign for municipal representatives, emphasizing the critical role of faecal management in public health. Encourage active engagement and advocacy for proactive sanitation initiatives within communities.