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Title	Complexities of Implementing Dry Sanitation in Cities –Case Study of Leon, Mexico
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Complexities of Implementing Dry Sanitation in Cities –Case Study of Leon, Mexico

In the mid-nineties, the City Government of León, México developed an innovative strategy to relocate people who had settled illegally in a riverbed of the city. The strategy consisted of building a new housing development in the outskirts of the city with the investment of three sectors: City Government, local private sector and the relocated residents (beneficiaries of the development). Because the new development was in the outskirts of the city, the connection to the local sewage system had been considered to be too expensive. Due to this, the houses in the development were constructed with grey-water management systems and dry toilets (double-chambered, desiccating toilets). With a total of 600 homes, the León case is the largest urban dry sanitation experience in Mexico to date.

This paper describes the history of this case over approximately 10 years, from its inception through its transformations, until the current date. It presents perspectives of the program implementers, the residents of the development, as well as local planners. It analyzes the progressive transformations based on a conceptual model of barriers and opportunities of large-scale, urban implementation of dry sanitation (Cordova 2003*). Finally it identifies lessons learned and suggests a series of recommendations for other experiences of large-scale implementation of dry sanitation in cities.

This paper is based on the doctoral field research of the author in 1999-2000 and a 2004-2005 revisit to the site and local actors. It relates to Conference Theme A: Optimising choices for urban and rural settings –by inclusion of aspects such as design, promotion, education, finance, O&M, etc.

*Cordova, A. 2003. Factors Affecting the Viability of Large Scale and Urban Dry Sanitation Programs: An Assessment Based on Mexican Experiences. Doctoral Dissertation. Department of Natural Resources. Cornell University. Ithaca, NY. USA: 296.