

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



Second Joint Sector Review (Technical Report)



Ministry of Urban Development
Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit
March 2014

Nepal has achieved coverage of 85% of people having access to basic water supply services and 62% having a usable toilet (Census 2011)). National wide sanitation campaign guided by NSHMP is going on and 13 Districts, 13 Municipalities and more than 1200 VDCs have been declared ODF so far. There are still holds in rural areas and periphery of towns that do not have basic drinking water and sanitation services. Effective outreach program are needed that take foster poor and vulnerable community. Our target is to achieve universal coverage in basic water supply and sanitation by 2017 with gradual improvement in qualities and service levels.

Sustainability has been a major challenge. Climate change is also emerging as a key challenge. So is the social challenge. Gender and issue of marginalized are other big social challenges.

Urban population is in increasing trend and as a result we have challenges to find technical managerial and social solutions for the improved water supply and environmental sanitation.

We have still challenges related to holistic sector policies, robust institution setup, coordination and harmonization avoiding duplications of effort among sector, delineation of responsibilities for rural and urban. Common financial policies and proper monitoring system are the most important challenges.

Active participation by every body's in the JSR II process has encouraged. Past initiatives and shortcomings has been evaluated and set of recommendation under various themes have been prepared. These recommendations will guide the sector for future initiatives on thematic areas

Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit of Ministry will carry forward action on recommendations and formulated by the thematic groups and make sector interactive to move towards sector wide approach through One WASH Plan and harmonized sector.

Civil society through CSO and FEDWASUN need to be very vocal on all the issues raised in the communities. DPs and INGOs need to provide financial and technical support and harmonize their institution and strategy, philosophy and ideas in line with Government strategy. Our common agenda is to serve the people of Nepal.

Unique about our sector is that we are now converged. Resolutions and recommendations are the lively milestone documents. Now, it is important to make proper action plans and address challenges.

This document will be guiding documents till next full JSR in 2016.



Ministry of Urban Development

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Background

Main purpose of the Joint Sector Review was to assess sector performance, and constraints in regard to policy and its operational ground on promoting WASH sector with the concept of sector wide approach. Based on the objective, the review has set a slogan "Sector Harmonization and One WASH Plan" in the country for achieving the set goal "Universal Access of Water and Sanitation by 2017".

Second Joint Sector review started from Joint Planning meeting (21 Feb) which principally agreed on time line, guideline for eight Thematic Working Groups and five Learning Visit Team and time line for the process.

About fifty agencies including Governments, Development Partners, International Non Governmental Organizations, and National Non Governmental Organizations & Civil Societies participated in the process. Joint Sector Review process culminated in two days conference on 31st March and 1st April 2014 Conference was participated by 200 persons including 20 percent women and 30% with experience of previous JSR organized in 2011.

The TWG discussed on various issues through Brainstorming session (26&28 Feb) and various meetings and studied various documents. Team prepared checklist for learning Visit for information collection from the field, and got information from LVT through exchange meeting (14 March). Team shared their draft position papers through a sharing meeting (18 March), prepared position paper and summary and presented in the conference. Team finalized recommendation and action plan during group work in the conference sessions.

Learning visit team with guideline and checklist visited in respective regions. The team commenced its visit from 3-9 March and visited about four districts covering both Terai and Hills and discussed with V/M/D/R WASH CCs .Users committees and communities people. Finally, regional workshop was organized inviting various stakeholders active in the region and nearby districts to share findings and making consensual on regional prospective or various themes.

According to the National Population and Housing Census 2011(Central Bureau of Statistics, 2012) access to improved water and sanitation in Nepal is respectively 85% and 62%

The situation in rural areas may be worse than indicated above, as surveys conducted by the National Management Information Project (NMIP) show that 44% of existing rural water systems are in need of repairs or rehabilitation for a number of reasons, including: (i) community capacity constraints to raise revenue for O&M; (ii) water source issues; and (iii) Water Supply and Sanitation User Groups' (WSUGs) inability to undertake major repairs.

Sector is in need of policy review revision with consolidation of all policies in line with current needs. Sector need to develop one WASH Plan and work in coordination with one monitoring system. There is need for common policy for sector finance avoiding gaps and overlaps meeting all need. Action is required for sustainability and functionality for the existing facilities with appropriate support system. Sanitation movement needs to be continued with wider consideration for continuity and sustainability in both rural and urban. Water Quality improvement need workable program with provision of WQ monitoring and surveillance system. Gender equity and

social inclusion issues indicating that straight path does not work. All policies and programs need revisit and to address and solve social issues existing in the society. Existing systems are threatened by disasters and possible impact of climate change. Each districts and community need to know about problems and necessary action and preparedness plan in their own.

WASH-JSR II recommendations are coming as way forwards in views of current situation and future targets. It is expected that Sector will move in right direction if all recommendations are taken seriously and action taken by the sector itself.

This technical report comprise of resolution passed by conference on various themes, Summary paper of eight TWG and Five LVT. Summary report of TWG contains introduction, situation analysis, recommendations and action plan. Similarly summary report of LVT contains regional situation, thematic findings, and three to four case studies as best practices or lesson learned and way forwards. Finally there is action plan for SEIU for keep moving the spirit of JSR process and for coordinating implementation of all recommendations keeping TWG alive.

Resolution

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A. Institutional Framework and Capacity Building :

1. Transform existing NSHSC and NSHCC to NWASHSC and NWASH CC respectively with full WASH accountability;
2. Establish legal identity of WASH Coordination Committees (WASH-CCs) at all levels by synchronizing with Local Self Governance Act, 2055 and upcoming Water Supply, Sewerage and Sanitation Act;
3. Formulate a common WASH Operation Directive for harmonized intervention in rural and urban sub sectors;
4. Promote WUSCs and their federation a legitimate and capable organization by maintaining strong linkages with WASH-CCs for ensuring transparent, accountable and effective service delivery;
5. Develop CHRDU as a Center of Excellence for WASH related capacity building intervention and standardize benchmarks, capacity development modules/packages of the wider WASH sector.

B. Sector Financing:

1. Formulate WASH sector financing strategy as an integral component of the WASH Sector Development Plan which enables implementation of district and sub district WASH plans with due focus on unreached and un-served population;
2. Allocate up to 20 percent budget for functionality component from the total WASH budget through Annual Development Plan;
3. Obtain additional financial resources to improve and provide safe water to the selected DHs/emerging town as per Nepal Drinking Water standard, 2005;
4. Develop policy provision to obtain grants and loans from development/ commercial/financing banks institutions for increasing service level as outlined in the co-financing directive of the WASH sector;

C. Monitoring and Evaluation:

1. Strengthen and strongly implement web-based monitoring and evaluation system for the entire sector. Promote result-based fast track methods of collection and generation of sectoral data and information under the leadership of WASH-CCs.
2. Assess periodic performance of the WASH sector as per agreed sector monitoring indicators;
3. Reinforce WASH sector M&E issues with the Minimum Condition Performance Measures (MCPM) of MoFALD and regular monitoring frameworks of health and education sector to evaluate the performance accordingly.

D. Functionality and Sustainability:

1. Critically review and revise existing "Coverage and Functionality Survey Guideline" and collect, compile, disseminate and utilize M&E information for future planning purpose under the strong leadership and guidance of DWASHCC;
2. Mandatorily implement minimum water tariff system to recover at least operational costs for rural utility/operators with special attention to GESI aspects;
3. Introduce appropriate/alternative technological options and multiple use of water for livelihood;

4. Empower and strengthen utility operators and introduce business plans in close collaboration with V/MWASHCC in line with Water Supply Service Operation Directive, 2012;
 5. Encourage and promote rehabilitation and reconstruction of existing water supply and sanitation projects with an aim to improve higher services and discourage investment in the name of new projects;
- E. Sanitation and Hygiene
1. Prohibit open defecation through legal provision in the upcoming WASH Act. Introduce and enforce local norms, rules and regulations through local authority;
 2. Promote and sustain ODF and hygiene behaviours through consistently implementing post-ODF/total sanitation interventions.
 3. Prepare an evidence-based comprehensive “The State of Sanitation” to systematically showcase social sanitation movement and to promote knowledge management
 4. Mainstream health, education and other institutions and professionals, academia, political leaders, WSUCs, youth and women, media, child clubs, civil society networks to accelerate ongoing sanitation social movement;
 5. Formulate a complete urban sanitation strategic framework to complement the Clean City Programme;
- F. Water Quality:
1. Intensify implementation of National Drinking Water Quality Standards, 2005
 2. Mainstream and scale up Water Safety Plan as integral component of water supply and sanitation projects;
 3. Introduce and implement water quality improvement interventions in outbreak- prone districts with priority, and effectively utilize available regional WQ testing labs;
 4. Collect water quality data from water service providers, and share with surveillance agencies;
- G. Gender Equity and Social Inclusion:
1. Implement GESI Operational Guideline 2013 (MoUD) of the WASH sector and allocate adequate budget;
 2. Promote GESI responsive technological options, promotional packages and service delivery mechanisms.
- H. Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
1. Mainstream CCA/DRR in upcoming Water Supply, Sewerage and Sanitation Policy and Act;
 2. Introduce CC and DR-resilient actions as integral component in ongoing WASH interventions;
 3. Allocate up to 5% budget of the WASH sector for CCA and DRR for disaster mitigation and to timely reinstate projects affected by disasters;

Thematic Work Group Report:

Institutional Framework and Capacity Building

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Introduction

Institution frame works defines how decisions are taken, program formulated and implemented and monitored. Effectiveness of WASH sector for fulfilling sector needs depends on good institution and its capacity. The scope of the institutional framework is quite demanding in the sense that the WASH sector is a vibrant sector in which many agencies and projects operate. While the sector initially concentrated on developing water supply



services, in recent years the importance of proper sanitation is recognized and a total sanitation movement currently creating ever more Open-Defecation Free (ODF) VDCs, municipalities and districts.

Demographic changes and economic development is making many towns into urban settings, while earlier small-scale trading centers are now rapidly growing into emerging towns.

The changing society and the aspirations of the people require Government to revise and update its policies and design acts and strategies that will make the Sector more cost effective, meeting service delivery aspirations guidelines, while becoming ever more sustainable through water source protection, regular O&M and asset management, and discharge of treated waste water.

While Nepal has achieved good coverage with 85% of people having access to basic water supply services and 62% having a usable toilet (Nepal Census 2011), there remain a good number of households and hamlets in rural areas and clusters in the periphery of towns that go without service. To serve the unserved, effective outreach programmes are needed that take into the account the socio-economic conditions, be sensitive to discrimination and foster inclusion, provide support to vulnerable households, elderly and the chronically ill, and provide alternative technical solutions such as rainwater harvesting, fog water collection, eco-and dry sanitation when regular solutions are not feasible.

The Water Supply and Sanitation sector is guided by a series of policies, plan, guidelines, strategies, acts and regulations. There are however several gaps in terms of holistic policies, sector harmonization, responsibility delineation, regulation

One WASH Development plan has been initiated with one act, one policy, one implementation modalities and one monitoring and information system.

Situational analysis

The Ministry of Urban Development is the lead WASH sector Ministry, covering service delivery in the country including Kathmandu Valley, the major cities, municipalities and emerging towns. The Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development plays a complementary role and takes care of settlements below 1000 inhabitants. The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Population and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment complement the Sector through investment and regulatory functions.

Substantial support to the sector is provided by development banks and donor agencies. A good number of INGOs is active in support of a wide range of activities in the sector such as developing district WASH planning and management capacity, testing good practice in functionality enhancement and water conservation through local water use management planning. The development partners, INGOs, national NGOs and CSOs, together with the private sector complement the capacity of the Government at national level (DWSS, DUDBC, DoLIDAR), regional level (DWSS RMSO), district level (WSSDO and DTO) in providing WASH delivery services at VDC and municipal level. The engagement of the private sector needs strengthening especially for rural WASH. At district level and below, capacity building and promotion is needed to encourage small contractors, hardware shops and artisans to engage in upgrading and repair of existing water supply schemes, post-ODF and post construction support.

The sector objective is to “create a transparent, accountable, service-oriented and responsive WASH Sector”. To achieve this the Sector aims to move towards a Sector-wide Approach (SWAp) in which the resources and capacities of all agencies can be utilized in an effective manner, addressing critical issues in equity, functionality and sustainability, using a medium-term investment planning instrument. It is recognized that the center of gravity of the Sector has been placed at the district level. It is here that planning, mapping of requirements, design, execution and monitoring needs to be centered. Capacity for post construction support, for post-ODF and assistance for upgrading, expansion or serious repair will also need to be placed here. Regional and national capacities will need to be mandated with supervision, capacity building and training, and regulation, as appropriate.

This will require strengthening the District WASHCC, by changing its name: DWASH Management Council, by acknowledging its mandate through the Government Gazette and clarifying and promoting its set of tasks within the WASH sector in the district.

SEIU of MOUD with financial and technical support of JICA and in coordination with CHRDU completed a comprehensive study on training needs assessment in March 2014. Based on the gap analysis the study has identified key pertinent target groups and training modules at various levels from central to communities. A sector wide capacity building plan based on institutional, organizational, operational and technical requirements for future performance and capacity of all key stakeholders in the sector will be developed, aligned with the long term vision and goals of the WASH sector in Nepal. The necessary conditions will be created for CHRDU to move into this challenging, but critical sector support function.

Recommendations:

1. The National WASH steering committee oversees and guides sector development and implementation. It is supported by the National WASH Coordination committee. GoN needs to recognize the set-up and division of tasks through notification in the Government Gazette.
2. SEIU will play an important role as the Secretariat to the NWASH Steering Committee and the NWASH Coordination Committee. SEIU will also create the environment for the institution of Sector-wide Approach and complete national WASH Plan.
3. Sector coordination and planning to move towards a Sector-wide Approach are important tasks of the lead sector Ministry. In support of sector coordination and to keep all stakeholders engaged and informed, an annual cycle of interaction is proposed.
4. The Ministry of Urban Development undertakes planning and coordination of development tasks like water supply, sanitation and urban development. In that respect it may be better to reflect these focal areas in the name of the Ministry and **rename it as "Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Urban Development"**.
5. The recent Training Needs Assessment implemented recently, clearly identifies substantial training and capacity building needs in the WASH. A plan will need to be formulated on the basis of the TNA to provide CHRDU with the capacity to become a well-known and appreciated center of excellence in the WASH sector.

Action Plan

SN	Action area (Short name)	Responsible agency (Main and Supporting)	Proposed Time Frame	Priority
1	Institutionalize N/R/D/V/M WASH CC as effective planning and coordinating entities;	MoUD, together with MoFALD/MoH/MoE and sector agencies	By 31 August 2014, compliance enhancement during 2014/15	Very High
2	SEIU to Play role of secretariat of NWASHSC /NWASHCC and complete national WASH Plan	MoUD	By 30 June 2014	Very High
3	Sector harmonization and annual cycle of interaction	MOUD/SEIU	By 30 June 2014	High
4	Rename the Ministry as "Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Urban Development"	MoUD	By 30 June 2014	Very High
5	Develop CHRDU as an autonomous and sector-wide, Capacity Building institution	CHRDU/DWSS with SEIU supporting	May 15 - 31 July 2014	Very High

Sector Finance

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Introduction

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is linked to health, social dignity and start of development. It is linked to right to live in clean environment. Realization of such values is possible through appropriate financing policy and allocating funds for all needs for efficient use without gaps and overlaps.



Data analysis for sector financing was difficult without having updated or latest information. A broad picture on the sector has been drawn based on the information available. The group focused on identifying key issues on the Sector Financing, and assessed resource requirement to meet national targets.

On the issue of local bodies allocating 20% of the total budget for sanitation and 20% for functionality information on actual amount allocated and expenditure has not been received. From the program documents reviewed, it was also not clear if the programs are making such specific allocations as required by the policy.

For the last four years, community fund mobilization for Small Town and other including for rural sector have increased tremendously. The sector financing gap may not be as big as expected however the accurate information is still lacking on this line that needs to be verified.

In order to the target of universal coverage and resource required for rehabilitation, reconstruction and expansion of the services there would be substantial financing required. Additionally, the policies on rehabilitation and expansion of services are not clear and in particular to how such works would be financed.

There is need for a common financing policy for WASH activities. While a convergence is seen in some areas such as co-financing for small towns and community contribution for rural water, there is still no clarity in terms of specifics in many areas of WASH activities when it comes to implementation of sector policies.

Situational analysis

A review of the budget and expenditure during 2009-13 shows that the actual expenditure in the sector, have remain more or less constant.

WASH Sector Expenditure 2011-14

(in NRs '000)

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14 (budget)
MoUD	5,144,444	4,853,141	6,436,184	5,338,560	11,015,494
MoFALD	294,216	275,661	533,131	180,817	580,320
MoF Policy	981,500	939,034	1,297,226	642,687	1,459,432
Total	6,420,160	6,067,836	8,266,541	6,162,064	13,055,246

Melamchi	923,218	1,062,393	937,118	2,121,837	5,241,300
Exc. Melamchi	5,496,942	5,005,443	7,329,423	4,040,227	7,813,946

Apart from the core sector agencies, other ministries and departments also spend considerable amount on water supply and sanitation. For example, Department of Education allocated NRs. 2.4 billion for the construction of 11,500 girl's toilets and 3.2 billion rupees for the external environment, improvement of 14,800 community schools in last four years. By their own estimates, NRs. 6.6 billion per year is required to construct girl friendly toilets in community schools to meet one toilet for 50 students (1:50) for all by 2017- trend of four years shows an average of only NRs. 450 million allocated per year by DoE.

In order to meet universal coverage of basic water and sanitation by 2017, an additional NRs 8.4 billion per annum is required for the district level programs. Total cost required for 2014 – 2017 is NRs. 35.92 billion, i.e. NRs. 11.97 billion per year. Current trend is only NRs. 3.6 billion per year. This does not include additional funds required for higher level of water supply service, rehabilitation/ repair of existing systems, and sanitation systems and excludes reform programs, institutional strengthening, system supports and capacity building needs. According to the World Bank study on “Reducing Poverty by Closing South Asia’s Infrastructure Gap” Nepal needs to invest at least 1.5% of to meet the water supply and sanitation investment needs.

If the same assumption of per capita cost is used to derive the coverage estimates, based on the expenditure made till 2014 in the water supply and sanitation sector, the coverage should have been 90% and 79% in the water supply and sanitation, respectively. This shows that at one hand the financing coming to the sector is significant and should have resulted in higher coverage rates, while on the other hand, funding/ expenditure is not sufficient for specific target activities, thereby constraining the achievement of the sector targets.

The learning visit teams also identified some key issues such as long time taken to complete the water supply systems due to inadequate allocation of budget, insufficient maintenance fund mainly in community taps, variance in connection charges (4 to 5 digits), and tariff rates (2 to 3 digits), non systematic recording of NRW and penalty for irregularity, etc. that have a direct relationship with the efficiency of funds within the sector. Further, increasing demand and willingness to pay for private connection creates opportunity to generate/ raise more funds to improve the sector service level. Issues of insignificant budget allocation for WASH by local bodies, lack of implementing policy provision to allocate 20% budget for functionality and 20% for sanitation have created a provisioning issue in the water supply and sanitation sector

Recommendations

1. Map the resource available at the district level and allocate funds for district level programs. Resource mapping of the funds available at the district is necessary to resolve the “mystery of non-budgetary funds”. In order to do this, make DWASH CC/ VWASH CC the sole planning agency at the DDC/VDC level. In order to achieve the universal sanitation, additional NRs. 8.4 billion per year needs to be *spent at the district level as per the district/ village plan*.
2. Common policy for financing WASH activities. Develop the common financing policies for all areas of WASH- new construction, rehabilitation, reconstruction and expansion, higher level water supply, and sanitation service structures such as sewerage, and for unserved population in hard-to-reach locations.
3. Investment for Sanitation. A separate budget line for Sanitation (including waste water and solid waste) is recommended. Also, all agencies need to clearly indicate the separation of budget for sanitation in all the programs. There should be a common policy/ approach in practice to trigger ODF and a benchmarking of “costs” for activities related to ODF, and beyond ODF.
4. Ensure policy compliance on allocating funds. Without this the functionality and sustainability of the sector investments cannot be ensured. All agencies to conform policy provision to allocate 20% budget for functionality and 20% for sanitation, 40% be earmarked for upgrading and improving service level given that the basic coverage figures have crossed 80%.
5. System/ Process Improvement. The overall financing system in the sector needs to be improved to make sector financing efficient. Developing a reporting format with details-disaggregated data on water supply, sanitation and capacity building and linking it with the Line Ministry Budget System (LMBS). Similarly ensuring that there is no resource gap or resources overlap.

Action Plan

SN	Recommendations (Short name)	Responsible agency (Main and Supporting)	Proposed Time Frame	Priority
1	Resource mapping and allocate funds for district level programs	Main: NPC/MOF/SEIU NGOs Support: SSG Members	Start from FY 2071/72	Very High
2	Common policy for financing WASH activities	Main:MoUD. Support: NPC/ MoF/ All sector agencies	(FY 2014/15)	Very High
3	Investment for Sanitation	Main: DWSS/MoUD. Support: WASH CCs, DPS, I/NGOs	Before 2071/72	High
4	Ensure policy compliance on allocating funds	Main: DWSS/MoUD Support: WASH CCs, DPS, I/NGOs	Before 2071/72	High
5	System/ Process Improvement	Main: NPC, MoUD, MoFALD Support: DDC, VDC, DWSS, MoF	July 2014	High

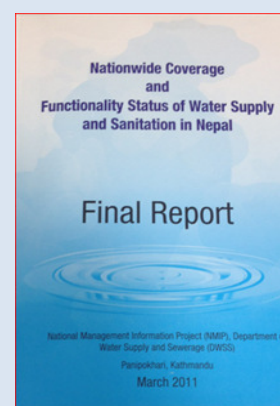
Monitoring and Evaluation

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Introduction:

Drinking water and sanitation are most essential facilities for human being for their survival, growth and development. Access to safe and sustainable water supply and sanitation is a prerequisite for overall social and economic development of any community or a country.

Appropriate M&E system is essential to Sector development and performance monitoring and effectiveness of planning and implementation. Appropriate indicators, monitoring with dedicated system and information system are the key for functional M&E. Various sector agencies have conducted surveys and studies on water supply and sanitation situation in Nepal over the last 20 years. However, these surveys were limited in nature/scope with limited samples, methods, procedures and therefore the findings of surveys have been quite variable, making it difficult to access trends over time as well as provide reliable information on progress for the entire country as a whole.



A nationwide survey on coverage and functionality was initiated by DWSS with ADB and UNICEF support in 2007 which resulted in the first M&E document of the sector that provides a clear picture of water and sanitation status of the entire country. The report was produced in 2010 and disseminated widely to the sector stakeholders.

The WASH Sector in Nepal is currently in transitional phase and stepping up slowly. Planning, implementation and operation of the WSS systems are agency specific and M&E is mostly confined to project level rather than sector or programme performance. A single joint M&E (process as well as result/outcome based) system is not well established. Sector agencies are generally using their own M&E system.

However, process monitoring is also equally important for capturing the events followed during planning, designing, implementing and operating the system to maintain the appropriateness of system design, technology used and quality of work done.

Some documents including National Monitoring & Evaluation Guideline 2013 of the National Planning Commission (NPC) mention M&E to be linked with the sector performance. The guideline published by the NPC with the objective of improving and systematizing the monitoring and evaluation process is mainly focused on result based M&E. Process monitoring which is considered equally important for maintaining quality of structures, reliability and sustainability of the water supply and sanitation system is not considered.

Situational analysis:

Sector Policy Documents (Sanitation Policy, RWSS policy, Sanitation Master Plan) emphasize on the necessity of effective monitoring & evaluation of program interventions. The M&E requirement will be highlighted in the overarching umbrella act which MoUD/SEIU is presently developing on the basis of the functionality of the existing policies.

The 2011 JSR formulated nine - Clear, Reliable, Economic, Adequate and Measurable- **CREAM** Indicators on ‘access to water supply, water quality, water quantity, functionality, per capita investment, equity, sanitation coverage, gender and community-based management’. It appears that their application has been practiced to some extent. However, there is a need of reviewing and fine tuning to make them more clear and realistic.

In order to tackle the lack of valid statistics of water supply and sanitation facilities, the DWSS launched a nation-wise survey on coverage and functionality of service through National Management of Information Project (NMIP) of DWSS in 2007. The main objective of the survey was to collect and publish sector update on “coverage and functionality” information in the Management Information system (MIS). This was the first nationwide survey covered all of Nepal’s 36,038 wards in 58 municipalities and 3,815 Village Development Committees (VDCs) and report was published in 2010. Meanwhile, NMIP section of DWSS most recently completed updating of coverage and functionality status of water and sanitation services based on data collected in 2011/2012. The data showed that water supply coverage has fallen somewhat from 81.3 percent to 80.4 percent, whereas sanitation coverage increased from 43 percent to 55.76 percent.

In order to improve sector performance and efficiency, then MPPW established the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) unit under the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division in 2009/10. The major objective of the M&E unit was to monitor overall sector performance, establish a realistic picture of the sector for future investment and disseminate best practices in the delivery of cost- effective and sustainable rural water supply and sanitation services. The M&E infrastructure is in place but it is not yet functioning and able to produce a solid sector report lacking manpower.

During the JSR, M&E sub theme was created and maintained under cross cutting thematic working group. The group made intensive discussion and reviewed eight CREAM indicators and recommended them to gradually be adopted for sector performance monitoring on a regular basis.

JSR-I was mainly focused on performance monitoring and agreed upon development and use of NMIP as the primary sector data source.

Recommendation:

1. Review, harmonize and make functional existing WASH web based MIS/DSS system established at MoUD and DWSS and use for evidence based planning and resource allocation mechanism.
2. Agree and implement common sector indicators (attached) both for urban and rural sub sectors
3. Carry out coverage and functionality survey in consultation with CBS and sectoral agencies collaboration under the DWASHCC leadership as outlined in the revised procedure guideline;
4. Develop a sector calendar of planning, monitoring and reviewing (in line with Participatory Planning Process as per LSGA) that is fully followed and applied by all sector stakeholders upto the district level
5. The MWASHCC/DWASHHCC/RWASHCC secretariat nominate a responsible and accountable human resource for regular sector monitoring & evaluation, documentation, reporting and dissemination system

Action Plan:

SN	Recommendations (Short name)	Responsible agency	Proposed Time Frame	Priority
1	Review and update national M&E information system(Web Based)	Lead ministry/DWSS/DWASHCC	Bhadra to Jestha every year	Very High
2	Agree and implement common sector indicators	JSR management committee	JSR 2 closing date	Very High
3	Carry out coverage and functionality survey	All level WASH CCs	From Shravan to Falgun 2071	High
4	Develop sectoral monitoring and evaluation calendar	All level WASH CCs	From Shravan to Falgun 2071	High
5	Nominate a responsible and accountable human resource for regular sector M&E	Concerned Ministries/ Departments	From Shravan to Falgun 2071	High

Functionality and Sustainability

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Introduction:



Functionality and Sustainability of Water Supply and Sanitation system can realized in terms of continuity of intended services at affordable cost. Institutional, technical and financial capacity of the users committee with clear vision for target and results supported by indicators are vital for sustainability. Operators need to know the standard operating procedures and preventive maintenance approach and tariff should be set considering all cost and government need to support considering economic, environmental

and social factors of the community. NMIP data indicates that Water Supply System in the Nepal is mostly in need of improvement mainly due to negligence and technical and financial capacity of the users committee.

Although numbers of efforts made were observed by individual districts, NGO/INGOs, donors, civil society organizations, etc. to improve the functional status of the schemes, no significant changes on the functional status of schemes were observed. The 18 % functional status of schemes out of 38,000 schemes (NMIP, 2011) built throughout the country was not observed going up although some good efforts were noticed happening in the districts particularly some districts of MWR.

During the last three years major changes in policies and strategies guiding the WASH sector have not taken place. It appears that compliance with existing policies and strategies is a larger constraint to Functionality of Water Supply Services than the quality of the policies and strategies themselves. If policies and strategies had been better complied with and adhered to by key stakeholders involved, the number of dysfunctional and poorly functioning schemes would have been considerably lower.

Roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders are fairly well defined and described in existing policies. What appears to be generally lacking is leadership, courage to make decisions, clear delegation of responsibilities and result focused management.

One significant problem has not been solved yet; the institutional separation of responsibilities for schemes serving less than 1000 water users and those serving more than 1000 water users.

Situational analysis:

Similar to the situation analyzed by the TWG Functionality in preparation of the First Joint Sector Review in May 2011, more than half of the approximately 38,000 existing water supply schemes in the country continue to partly or totally malfunction. This leaves a considerable part of the population without access to the most basic drinking water supply services in terms of quantity, reliability, accessibility and quality, of which the women and vulnerable groups are bearing the consequences.

As far as the TWG team could assess within the limited time available, overall performance of water supply service providers (regulators, donors/funders, implementers, operators and users) has not significantly improved.

The various factors and causes leading to the dismal state of water supply schemes are fully described in the Functionality Position Paper of December 2010. They are mostly systemic in nature, often related to flaws and weaknesses in governance, participation, accountability and transparency. The situation analysis of 2010/2011 (including contributing factors, issues and a set of recommendations) is still valid.

It is strongly recommended to first address the systemic causes of under-performance of water supply services providers, prior to investing in major repair and rehabilitation of failing schemes.

Without taking effective measures to solve systemic flaws in the provision of water supply services, newly repaired and rehabilitated schemes would soon become dysfunctional again.

Simultaneously it is crucial to prevent the same problems happening at new schemes, by ensuring compliance with rules, regulations and guidelines regarding e.g. decision making, participatory planning, designing, construction, supervision, local capacity building and quality assurance.

Naturally, poor functionality of water supply and insufficient and unsafe drinking water poses risks in sustaining results in improved sanitation & hygiene, in terms of keeping toilets clean and hand washing practices, thus undermining potential health benefits.

SNV Nepal has started WASH mapping exercises in few districts of MWR which provides the information of individual schemes thereby a functional plan can be made based on evidences and budget allocation is possible to improve the functional status of those schemes. However, the situation does not improve there after too unless an institutional set up is made in the districts itself to look after to all those schemes when they need help and support particularly in technical aspect, social aspect and financial aspect which become beyond the capacity of WUSCs. Therefore, SNV has supported to establish post construction support unit in those districts to provide the 'institutional support home' to WUSCs.

In the similar way, HELVETAS Nepal has initiated many good practices in the district to improve the functional status and FEDWASUN has expanded its network to 56 of 75 districts of Nepal and strengthened the capacity of WUSCs.

Recommendation:

1. Ensure that the basics are in place. Provide clarity on standards and regulations. Ensure compliance with regulations and standards. Build minimum capacities. Enforcement by authority in case of poor performance.
2. Formulating District WASH plan integrating district sanitation plan with district functionality plan (scheme improvement plan)
3. Establishment of Post Construction Support (PCS) Unit in all districts of Nepal to establish it as an institutional home for all the actors
4. Develop criteria for decision(DC) making on investments for making non-functional schemes functional based on the district functionality (scheme improvement) plan in the districts/region
5. Formulate and implement FS guideline and to use 20% of WASH funding on improving the functional status of existing schemes.
6. Provide alternative technological options & promote house connections.

Action Plan:

SN	Recommendations (Short name)	Responsible Agency (Main and Supporting)	Proposed Time Frame	Priority
1	Ensure that all basics are in place	DWSS (Lead) and TWG member to support	2014	High
2	Develop WASH Plan based on the functionality status by the districts	DWSS (Lead) and TWG member to support	2014 (at least in 10 districts)	High
3	Establish PCS Unit as an institutional home for WUSCs	DWSS (Lead) and TWG member to support	2014 (at least in 10 districts)	High
4	Development and implementation of CD plans	DWSS (Lead) and TWG member to support	2014 (plan preparation)	High
5	Create FS fund	DWSS (Lead) and TWG member to support	Established in 2014 and Operational from 2015	High
6	Alternative technology options	DWSS (Lead) and TWG member to support	2014	Normal

Sanitation and Hygiene

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Introduction:

Sanitation is basis of life. Safe life is only possible in improved sanitation. But too many people miss out this basic human need. Lack of access to safe proper sanitation has a major effect on people's health. Poor health constrains development and poverty alleviation. Sanitation is the hygienic means of promoting health through prevention of human contact with the hazards of wastes

The purpose of the position paper is to outline trend of sanitation coverage, disparities, the ongoing sanitation movement, school sanitation, urban sanitation and summarize the key pertinent issues and best innovations in the sanitation and hygiene sector in Nepal. The other purpose of the position paper is also to give quick policy review with identification of gaps. This position paper has also summarized the critical observations and learning done by thematic working group members during learning visits in all the five development regions.



Nepal has set the target of universal access to sanitation by 2017. The Government of Nepal has a plan of achieving 80% improved sanitation coverage by 2015 and 100% by 2017. Sanitation coverage in Nepal has increased significantly between 2000 and 2011. Access to national sanitation coverage has increased significantly from 30% to 62% over the period of 11 years. Although there has been good achievement in the sanitation and hygiene situation due to massive scaling up of Open Defecation Free (ODF) campaigns in the country, the main challenge remains to maintain and accelerate the present trend of achievement nationwide, across districts, ecological belts, rural and urban communities and all segments of people. However, an encouraging environment has been created on the front of localization of the Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011, launching of national and district sanitation conferences for wider advocacy and publicity, strengthening different level coordination committees and expanding ODF initiatives.

The key policies on rural sanitation are “Rural Water Supply and Sanitation National Policy, Strategies and Strategic Action Plan-2004, Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan-2011, MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF): Improving Access to Sanitation-2013. Majority of local bodies and WASH Coordination Committees (WASH-CCs) at the district and Village Development Committee (VDC)/municipality have limited information about the sectoral policies. Despite different policies, strategies and action plans are in place, there is a need to further enhance its regulatory role in the sector and check the agencies' adherence and compliance to national policies, strategies. Weaker regulation obviously provides room for negligence in meeting up the requirements of these national policies and strategies in implementation of the sanitation and hygiene projects.

Situational analysis:

In 2011, the JSR I had made five resolutions on sanitation and hygiene. Among the JSR I resolutions, the development of Master Plan played the pivotal roles to mobilize all the development partners, local bodies, civil societies and others to enable 25% of the people to live in ODF environment after the JSR I. The ODF strategies were developed by most of the districts, VDCs and municipalities. The post ODF strategies are being developed in most of the districts and municipalities which were declared ODF.

The 5th South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) held in Nepal in 2013 has sought commitments of the member countries in mainstreaming all segments of society, formulation and implementation of adequately resourced national and sub national plans and maintenance of sustainable sanitation and hygiene services and facilities in rural and urban areas. Nepal has developed a detailed action plan to meet the commitments during the SACOSAN V requiring commitment with adequate budget, human resource and institutional setup and coordination by the government, development partners and civil societies and NGOs.

While Nepal has made a good progress in improving sanitation coverage in recent years, it looks difficult to achieve 80% target by 2015, if the present trend continues. Besides, there lies big disparities in access to sanitation among different social groups and geographical regions, rural and urban set up. There are still eight densely populated districts in the central Terai where sanitation coverage is less than 30 per cent—far below the national average.

After promulgation of the Master Plan in 2011, 13 districts, about 1200 VDCs and 14 municipalities and about 3,000 schools' catchments were declared ODF so far (in two years time) by February 2014. A feeling of positive competition among VDCs, municipalities and districts is growing visibly for achieving ODF status. It is estimated that about 25% of the population lived in ODF environment between 2011 and 2013.

The specific urban related sanitation issues are lack of appropriate technology to address the urban poor needs including slums and squatters. Similarly inadequate public toilet facilities and its operation and maintenance is another emerging issue. Due to haphazard disposal of untreated faecal sludge and solid and liquid waste management issues, achieving ODF status in urban areas is still a key challenge. Another crucial challenge is lack of local level rules and norms for sustaining ODF and also poor monitoring and enforcement mechanism.

Sector triggering, sanitation marketing strategies, cross boarder sanitation, sanitation conference at the national, regional, district and VDC levels, Sanitation model district approach, aligning for action, SLTS, PPP, are some of the most innovative interventions in Nepal in the recent years. The learning visit teams that made visit of five development regions captured a number of key sectoral learning. The most important ones are that only sanitation planning available but planning for water supply development is largely lacking in all the districts; social norms and rules are effective in ODF movement but less/no effective norms and rules for post ODF campaign; urban solid, liquid and industrial waste management are challenged by limiting only to ODF campaign; Post ODF strategy and plan are lacking in ODF districts and VDCs, etc. In the mid and far western regions, mostly women cannot use latrines during their menstrual period (*Chaupadi*). This has weakened ODF status of their villages

Recommendation:

1. Establish ODF practice as social norms focusing in low coverage districts;
2. Foster multi-sectoral collaboration to strengthen stakeholders involvement in WASH sector with priority on health sector;
3. Institutionalization of WASHCCs with focus on Urban Sanitation & Hygiene and formulation of Sanitation/WASH strategic plan;
4. Reinforce WASH in schools focusing on life-skill based software components and by mobilizing children as change agents
5. Strengthen proper documentation and knowledge management
6. Strengthen and intensify Post ODF (Total Sanitation) Campaigns from the beginning
7. Build capacity of local stakeholders/WASHCCs and institutionalize to formulate Sanitation/WASH strategic plan

Action Plan:

SN	Recommendations	Main Responsible agency	Proposed time frame	Priority
1	Establish ODF practice as social norms focusing in low coverage districts	Communities/ Schools, WASHCCs,	By 2014	High
2	Foster multi-sectoral collaboration to strengthen stakeholders involvement	MOH, DPHO, WASHCCs	2014-15	Very High
3	Institutionalization of WASH CC with focus on Urban Sanitation & Hygiene and strategic plan	MOUD/DWSS, MOFALD, M/WASHCCs	By 2014	Very High
4	Reinforce school WASH in schools	MOE, DOE, UNICEF, Plan, SNV, schools	2014-2016	Very High
5	Strengthen proper documentation and knowledge management	WASHCCs, DP, I/NGOs,	2014-2017	Normal
6	Strengthen and intensify Post ODF (Total Sanitation) Campaigns from the beginning	WASHCCs	2014-2017	High
7	Build capacity of local stakeholders/WASH CC to formulate Sanitation/WASH strategic plan	Government, DP, I/NGOS	2014-2017	Very High

Note: VH-Very High, H-High and N-Normal, DP- Development partner

Water Quality

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Introduction:

Access to safe drinking water is important as a health and development issue at national, regional, and local levels. The large burden of diarrhoeal diseases continues to drain important resources from developing countries.

Approximately 88% of diarrheal deaths worldwide are attributable to unsafe water, inadequate sanitation, or insufficient hygiene.

These cases result in 1.9 million deaths each year, the majority of which are preventable, mostly among children under the age of five.

After pneumonia, diarrhoea is the second leading cause of death among children under five. Drinking water contaminated by the bacterial, viral, or protozoan pathogens is one transmission route for diarrhoeal diseases. Hence access to safe drinking water has become an essential to health, a basic human rights and a component of effective policy for health promotion.



In the last decade, access to drinking water in Nepal has significantly increased; however the quality of the supplied water and sustainability of the system is still a big challenge. The water is not always safe even when it is supplied through systematic piped water systems. Many of improved or even treated / safe water may be contaminated during transmission or distribution. This is the main reason why incidences of diarrheal diseases have not decreased significantly even though accessibility to improved water supply coverage increased. Studies also show contamination at the household level due to improper handling and storage of drinking water. As per information provided by, Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS), only 12-15 % of people have access of treated water. However, the status of the existing water treatment plants has not been studied in detail. Some studies done in urban systems showed that most of the treatment plants are in poorly maintained; the treated water is not of the desired level. Besides, the operational data are not properly recorded and disseminated. The treated water quality deteriorates more in rainy season and does not appear to be suitable for drinking purpose.

Water Safety Plans (WSP), WQ surveillance system, Regular WQ monitoring facilities and support for treatment system and WQ improvement are the key elements for WQ improvement and maintaining continuous safety of system. Awareness at people's level and capacity of users committee are essentials. Position papers analyzed situation around these issued and prepared recommendations and action plan for implementation.

Situational analysis:

In the National Drinking water quality Standards (NDWQS) implementation directive all service providers should meet the national standard and deliver water through urban water supply

projects and small town projects exceeding 10,000 population within five years (i.e, by the end of 2010). This time period has already been passed, but no progress or even monitoring mechanism has been established to review the compliance of the standard. Furthermore, the NDWQS has directed to improve the water quality of all new and existing urban water supply projects with a population less than 10,000 having high risk of water/sanitation diseases. In addition, the Standard also indicated that service providers of all projects providing water supply in district headquarters should develop the water quality improvement programme (WQIM) for ensuring safe water. Formulation of WQ Surveillance Guideline is under preparation by the MoHP, but no significance progress has been achieved yet.

After the endorsement of the NDWQS 2006, initiation towards the improvement of water quality can be seen; however it is not very encouraging. Since then Government of Nepal (GoN), DWSS has supported to construct 65 water treatment plants. Currently 57 water quality improvement project are under construction by the DWSS. Additionally, the completed and undergoing small town water supply and sanitation projects have envisaged for providing water conforming to WHO Water Quality Guidelines using various treatment technology and methods, as deemed necessary. Unless the treated water is monitored regularly no one can say the treated water is safe enough to use or not.

As seated in Nepal Demographic Health Survey (NDHS-2011), 82.2 % households are using water without any kind of treatment. The households, who are using treatment, filter (ceramic/sand) and boiling are the mostly used methods of point of use treatment methods. If one compares the percentage of treated water using households in rural area with urban, it is very low. For example 6.5 % rural households use boiled water in comparison to 20.9 % urban and only 6.3% rural households use filter in comparison to 34.3 % of urban use.

In recent years, consumption of packaged / bottled drinking water or tanker water in Kathmandu and many other urban cities has been increasing. As reported by Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC) on an average 15 % of the samples of the bottled/ jar water don't comply the existing Government standard. The quality of container, use of unsafe raw material, longer storage time, the treatment methods, use of additives, chemical constituents and microbial activity are the major identified causes of poor quality of processed drinking water. But, no one has reported the use pattern and the quality of water supplied by tankers.

Although commitments were shown by DWSS since 2012, embedment of the WSP in project cycle is not materialized yet. As DWSS committed, all new and rehab projects should integrate WSP as part of the project implementation. Only, some rehab projects tried WSP but, no any exciting result could be achieved. However, there is a very good advocacy of WSP among partners: GoN is allocating regular budget for WSPs application. UNICEF is also supporting DWSS to implement WSP in number of urban and rural projects since last couple of years. Many DPs, NGO, INGOs like FINIDA Supported Projects (RWSSP & RVWRMP), Water Aid, ENPHO, NEWAH have started the application of Nepal model of WSP.

Recommendation:

1. Incorporate Water safety plan in the WASH Act the NDWQS for the water quality improvement plan.
2. Certain percentage of the project budget should be allocated in comprehensive awareness program on the importance of water quality and its impact on health and well-being of the population.
3. Designate WQ section of the DWSS as water quality information Centre aligning with the existing NMIP and promote reward system to the best utility for maintaining safe water meeting standard.
4. Develop/finalize WQ surveillance procedure guidance document and initiate a systematic surveillance program for enforcing WSP providing feedback to the service providers and authorities.
5. The arsenic contaminated area need to be monitored regularly and update the water use pattern of the affected people to better understand arsenic dynamic in the ground water and performance of existing mitigation options.
6. Government should provide emphasis to improve the water quality of the existing water supply schemes by allocating adequate resources to promote the treatment facilities as required to control the outbreaks of the diseases and its trend of yearly repetition.
7. Upgrade and improve the proper functionality of all the regional WQ laboratories as per the assessment report to provide water quality testing access to WUSCs in the districts.
8. Establish functional water quality unit at district level with the existing manpower and build its capacity gradually for scale up district base laboratory and easy access to WUSCs for improvement of water quality and monitoring system.

Action Plan:

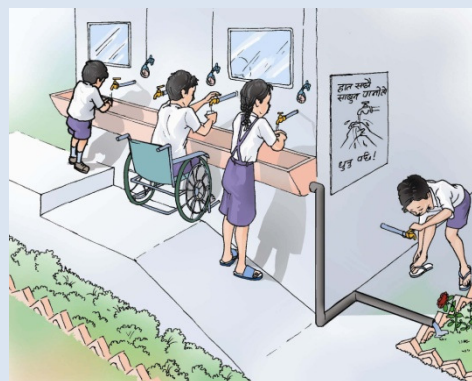
SN	Action area (Short name)	Responsible agency (Main and Supporting)	Proposed Time Frame	Priority
1	Mainstreaming of the WSP	DWSS and others	July, 2014	Very High
2	Awareness Raising and Capacity Building	All stakeholders	Dec, 2014	Very High
3	Improve the information management system and initiate reward mechanism	DWSS, DoLIDAR and RWSSFDB	Dec, 2014	High
4	Instantiate Water Quality Surveillance system	MoHP/ EDCD	Oct, 2014	High
5	Arsenic mitigation	All Stakeholders	Immediately	High
6	Promote treatment facilities	MoUD/DWSS	July, 2015	Very High
7	Strengthening the laboratories	MoUD/DWSS	July, 2014	Very High
8	Dedicated Water Quality Unit at District	MoUD/DWSS	Dec 2014	Normal

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

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Introduction:

Gender inequality and social exclusion (GESI) is one of the key development challenges for Nepal and it highly matters in WASH sector interventions both in urban and rural areas. The country's existing social and economic disparities, stemming from patriarchal and geographic and regional differences, a hierarchical caste-based and social structure, have affected the equitable access and use of infrastructure services, facilities and resources by the disadvantaged and marginalized groups, particularly women, poor and excluded (WPE) groups. The socio-cultural and regional differences have created barriers to these groups to access to services and participate in decision making processes. The inclusion issues in WASH services are generally related to poor, women, dalit, indigenous people/janajati, physically challenged people, children, PLHIV/AIDS, and disadvantaged people living in remote areas.



Exclusion based barriers in relation to WASH sector intervention need to be addressed while moving towards more inclusive approach to service delivery. The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Policy 2004, and the Urban Water Policy 2009 include provision for 50% women representation in WUSCs and emphasize the participation of women and marginalized caste and ethnic groups in decision making processes. But the policies and plans are not clear on how the poor and landless can access to WASH services. There has been improvement in policies and plans for social inclusion but they still require review in order to address unattended issues of exclusion. Therefore the policy reform and the plans for its effective implementation is necessary to ensure equity in WASH services and to meet national targets and international commitments of the government. The WASH sector master plan which is under preparation provides an opportunity to have better inclusive measures for women, poor and the excluded. The master plan itself would be the effective means to address the issues of inclusion. The large number of stakeholders involved in the sector also needs to adapt a harmonized approach for gender and social inclusion, and a mechanism for monitoring and disaggregated data collection is must. In this regards, the WASH sector guidelines under GESI Operational Guidelines of MoUD 2013 will be a useful tool for all. The Guideline would be a leading document for making gender and social inclusion a pragmatic approach in WASH sector and if made mandatory to apply by all stakeholders.

Situational analysis:

Despite 81% population in Nepal have access to drinking water (NLSS 2011) the social-cultural discrimination still do persist in accessing water supply. Data shows there are disparities in access to sanitation among different social and economic groups and ecological and development regions, rural and urban set up. The sanitation coverage is lowest among madhesi dalit (5%) and terai janajati (19%). The poor from slums and squatters in semi-urban and urban areas do not have access to safe drinking water while they also do not get adequate sanitation facilities. The children's right to water, sanitation, and hygiene mainly in schools has also remained a major challenge in Nepal. Although the slow progress has been made to safeguard the health and hygiene of school children, almost one third of community schools in country lack WASH facilities. Only 80% of the community schools (out of 29335) have toilets, and of these, only 65% of the school toilets have separate toilets for girls (GoN, 2011b).

Further to this, some socio-cultural practices against girls and women exacerbate negative impacts on them by denying access to water and sanitation facilities. Such as the practice of *Chhaupadi* in western Nepal, which is a tradition to keep girls and women away from home during menstruation and now allowing using toilets at home and touching water taps. This practice has posed challenges in achieving ODF goal of the government in this region and has long term health impacts on girls and women. The *untouchability* practiced against dalit community is a form of caste discrimination that prevents dalit to equally access water in the community. It prevails mainly in the rural areas of the country where dalits are still not allowed to collect water from the same tap used by so called upper caste groups. Women's representation in WUSCs is improving as general members as well as key executive members but their meaningful participation in decisions remains a challenge. But, there are also many evidences of women's active role in water scheme management that needs to be sustained through women's capacity building to take leadership positions. The other technical issues are related to remoteness, hardship and affordability of services, and design standards of water taps and toilets to be women, children and disable friendly.

Most of the organizations involved in WASH sector have applied GESI approaches in their programs and shown best practices. Their program focuses children, women, physically challenged, dalit, physically challenged, senior citizens, PLHIV/AIDS, and other excluded groups. The awareness raising, empowerment and livelihood support activities associated with WASH programs have been found instrumental in sustaining access to services by the poor, women and marginalized. It has to be made a mandatory component. Similarly the subsidy support to the poor and marginalized in toilet construction and water connection has been an effective model. **The** recently adopted MUD's GESI Operational guideline 2013 has helped create an environment for harmonization of GESI approaches in the WASH sector. This calls for a collective effort by all stakeholders in strengthening GESI mainstreaming in WASH sector program planning, design and implementation..

Recommendation:

1. The MoUD GESI operational guideline, 2013 is a leading document to institutionalize GESI mainstreaming in WASH sector. It is suggested to use by it to harmonize GESI mainstreaming process in the sector.
2. Coordination among organizations on GESI is required to promote and institutionalize GESI mainstreaming in the sector. The Community Mobilization Section within DWSS to take lead role to coordinate and enhance Knowledge management through regular consultations and thematic group meetings.
3. Review of existing sector policies should be carried out to make them better inclusive and to address discriminatory socio-cultural practices against women and marginalized groups.
4. Skilled human resources for GESI in WASH sector are necessary to facilitate the GESI within MoUD, and related agencies and organizations. Develop team of master trainers and training packages at different levels and organizations, and utilize their knowledge and skills.
5. GESI disaggregated data system with MIS is highly recommended at MoUD and other agencies. Outcome assessment and report publication should be supported.
6. Make Gender Responsive Budgeting process effective. Annual sectoral fiscal budget to allocate for GESI.

Action Plan

SN	Recommendations	Responsible Agency (Main and Supporting)	Proposed Time Frame	Priority
1	Apply GESI Operational Guideline	Main: GESI Section (MoUD), CMS (DWSS) Supporting: Partners	Effective from July 2014	Very High
2	Coordination and Knowledge Management	Main: GESI Section (MoUD), CMS (DWSS) Supporting: Partners	Effective from August 2014	High
3	Review and revision of Sector Policies from GESI perspective	Main: GESI Section (MoUD), CMS(DWSS) Supporting: Partners	Ongoing	High
4	Skilled human resources for GESI (ToT of Master Trainers and Training Packages)	Main: GESI Section/MoUD and DWSS Support: NGOs/INGOs, COs and DPs	July-December 2014	High
5	Review and streamline WASH related GESI monitoring indicators	Main: GESI Section/MoUD Support: All	Commence in August 2014	Very high
6	Strengthen GRB process and ensure resource allocation for GESI	NPC/MoF/MoUD, DWSS NGO/INGOs	2015	Very High

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

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Introduction



In the context of climate change, Nepal is among the top 5 countries vulnerable to impact of climate change (Climate Change Vulnerability Index 2011). It has been highlighted of having the potentially dangerous consequences of climate change on its fragile environments and economy. Water will inevitably be the medium through which the effects of climate change will impact other sectors such as health, food security and nutrition, energy and education directly undermining the achievement of development gains in these

sectors. More than 60% of climate induced disasters are said to be the cause of water- either with very little water, more water, and wrong type of water or wrong timing of water. (NAPA 2011).In Nepal,it is suggested that more than 1.9 million people are highly climate vulnerable and 10 million are increasingly at risk with climate change likely to increase this number significantly in the future. Nepal also falls under the high earthquake intensity belt. With earthquake measuring to 8 rector scale, in cities like Kathmandu 95% of the water supply could be disrupted due to breakage of pipes, sanitation will be a major concern due to seepage of latrines, drainage and septic tanks threatening health of the population especially those vulnerable like children, women and old citizens. This degradation and damage of WASH facilities will create conditions that can result into major risks such as outbreak of water borne diseases. Therefore, the aim of integrating Disaster Risk Management in WASH is to reduce the impact of hazards on WASH services, ensures rapid service recovery after disaster and ensure WASH facilities have minimal impact on society.

Initial steps towards addressing disasters and climate change into Nepal's national planning have taken between 1982 and2013. Based on the review of existing policies and thorough discussion the thematic group has made following observations that there are enough policies in and outside of the WASH sector to initiate implementation in the country, however there are issue of its effective implementation;

Situational analysis

Every year Nepal faces water induced disasters such as flood, landslides, flashfloods followed by waterborne disease outbreaks affecting large population and WASH infrastructures. In 2013 only, the WASH sector faced a major challenge to address 204 water supply schemes that was fully or partially damaged by floods costing to Rs 14, 32, 72,000 (MoUD,2013). Similarly the sector actors responded to WASH needs of 15000 households that were directly affected by flood through various interventions (hygiene kits, water purification tablets, hygiene promotion, mass media campaign etc.) (WASH Cluster Update 2013). Similarly, while sanitation movement is speeding up in the country, the 2013 flood also affected three VDCs in Dang and Kanchanpur

that were already declared ODF. This case further challenges the regular development program and gives a clear indication of the need to have a risk sensitive WASH plans and programs for its sustainability and resilient community.

Looking at the climate investment made so far it also brings concerns on the minimal priority given to WASH sector. According to a study conducted by Oxfam and CEN on Climate Change Adaptation financing in Nepal, out of USD 237 million spend from 2009-2012 on CCA, about 12.9% is spend for Water and Energy. However with major contribution on energy and water resources there is still unclear on how much is really spend on WASH service delivery related intervention. Looking also at the WASH sector investment, CC/DRR are under-funded with minimal consideration on preparedness, response with late recovery supports and very little investment on DRR. Similarly there are very limited interventions in NAPA under the components on Public Health and infrastructure, which is also a clear indication of minimal priority on the public health issues such as WASH.

Until 2011, the Government's efforts was focused on post disaster response and recovery with minimal consideration on preparedness and minimal or no interventions in disaster risk reduction which includes prevention, mitigation and adaptation initiative. Similarly, the climate change topic has been very much talked about issues but hardly being implemented at the ground, also because of lack of clear guidance on modalities of implementation. Currently the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage have Climate Change and Rain Water Harvesting section, DRM section, Rehabilitation section that is working to address the issues of Climate Change and Disaster Risks. With Cluster transition in place since 2013, MoUD is now leading the WASH Cluster for emergency preparedness and response where there are about 20 Government and Non-Government agencies contributing towards it further contributing to sector. A side from these achievements, the sector has also benefitted from key activities of the multi-sector initiatives such as development District Disaster Risk Management Plans (DDRMP) lead by DDC with all sectors with 4 districts already initiating the development of DDRMP. The Kathmandu Valley Water Supply Management Board (KVWSMB) initiated an inventory of ground and surface water of KTM valley that would further be used to identify water sources that maybe needed during emergencies. Year 2013, was also significant for the sector when MoUD formulated a Climate Change steering Committee with the aim to bring all the stockholders in one place for a coordinated effort to make resilient WASH development interventions.

Recommendation:

1. Initiation for updating of existing sector policies with reference to CCA/DRR. WASH related policies are formulated long back and CC/DRR issues came later on. Therefore, CC/DDR is not or well reflected in previous WASH policies. It is now required to update WASH policies incorporating CC and DRR issues.
2. Development of CC strategy and DRM guideline for the WASH sector- with the formation of WASH Climate Change Coordination Committee in leadership of MoUD. , Development of Climate Change adaptation strategy and DRM guideline need to be participated by all sector actors
3. Initiate detail assessment on the impact of CC on WASH. There is a general perception that CC has been affecting in WASH service delivery. However, there is gross lack of solid evidences and documentation. A detail assessment is thus required so that it can be integrated in planning and designing of WASH service delivery.
4. Capacity building of Local bodies and Coordination. It is also reported by LVTs that local bodies users group and key working groups like the WASHCCs are not aware/concerned or keen about CC/DRR and its possible implication in WASH sector. Local level capacity building on CC/DRR is now indispensable for its local adaptation
5. Allocation of 10%(Min) of WASH development program budget on CCA/DRR. Such mandatory provision will ensure immediate support in need of preparedness and response together with integration process.

Action Plan

SN	Recommendations (Short name)	Responsible agency (Main and Supporting)	Proposed Time Frame	Priority
1	Updating of existing sector policies with reference to CCA/DRR	MoUD with CC Coordination Committee	2014- 2016	Normal
2	Development of DRR/CC strategy and guideline for the WASH sector	MoUD together MOSTE, CC Coordination Committee and CC/DRR TWG, WASH Cluster	2014-2016	Very high
3	Assessment on the impact of CC on WASH.	MoUD, MOSTE Sector stakeholders	2014-2015	Very High
4	Capacity building of Local bodies and coordination	MoUD/DWSS/MoFALD/DOLIDAR together sector stakeholders	2014-2016	High
5	Allocation of 10%(Min) of WASH development program budget on CCA/DRR	MoUD and CC Coordination Committee	2014-2016	High

Learning Visit Team Report

Learning Visit: Eastern Region

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Introduction:

As part of the Joint Sector Review-2, a team comprising of 13 members from various Government and Non-Government agencies (visited 5 districts(Dhankutta, Terhathum, Morang, Sunsari and Saptari) of Eastern Region to observe the progress as well as the current situation of the various thematic areas defined by JSR. Based on observation, discussion/interaction and field observation, the findings were shared in the Regional de-briefing and consultative meeting and JSR Field Visit sharing meeting which is further developed into this report for wider sharing and understanding.



The coverage of basic water supply facility was increased from 76.4 % in 2010 to 77.11% (NMIP-2013 unpublished), which is still lower (about-9%) than national coverage of 85%,. Among them seven districts: Dhankuta, Khotang, Jhapa, Sankhuwasabha, Okholdunga, Morong and Sunsari are reported coverage of water supply from 81 to 88%. The water supply facilities in Saptari, Udaypur, Bhojpur, Terhathum, Taplejung, Solukhumbu, Panchthar, Ilam and Siraha are ranged from 61 to 73%.

The sanitation coverage indicates the facility of household toilet i. e. faecal waste management in household level. Its coverage was increased from 42.2% in 2010 to 49% in 2012. It is still lower than national coverage of 62% (census 2011). The availability of sanitation facilities are ranged 43 to 70% in Okhaldunga, Solukhumbu, Sankhuwasabha, Taplejung, Pachthar, Terahathum and Dhankuta districts. According to census 2011, the sanitation facilities are available from 14 to 38 % in Saptari, Siraha, Udayapur, Khotang and Bhojpur districts.

Visit Highlights:

DWASHCC Morang: Morang has DWASHCC which is active and regularly meeting and involvement of various sector members. It has Sanitation Strategy developed by DWASHCCbut it is focused on sanitation and ODF target. Unlike Sanitation Strategy there is no plans /strategy for water supply, water quality and other areas of WASH. Sanitation coordination is good but not in water and other areas may be due to limited knowledge of the bigger picture. Joint monitoring is practiced but limited; recording and reporting needs to be strengthened. Urban – SWM,LWM more challenged by limiting with ODF . Slum area has challenges on how to build



toilets in slums as there is no plan and ownership of land. Women in the lower belt of Morang still do not come forward

Shreedale Water Supply Scheme, Terhathum

Shreedale Water Supply System was initiated in 2038 and completed in 2042. It has been providing water to ward number 1 to 9 in Myanglung VDC. But there is conflict on use of water with Myanglung and Shreedale village which is affecting the service delivery. It has a slow sand filtration system that could treat 100,000 ltr of water, however this was never used since the start of the project thus questioning the plan, investment and functionality of this system, also in similar kind of system in other places



Public Toilet of Dhankuta Municipality

The Public Toilet in Dhakuta Bus station is unique facilities that has been addressing the people coming in the bus station. This public toilet was constructed in 2067 in a conscious effort make the bus station free of open toilet system. While searching for this private sector, the taxi association was found to be ideal partner The public toilet was constructed in 2067 with contribution of Rs 38,60,000 by municipality and Rs 40,000 by Taxi association. The additional feature of this toilet was the Biogas plant that was technically supported by BSP and United. This toilet consists of separate chambers for male and female with additional facilities of bathing space, changing room and sanitary napkin disposal bins and a store room. This toilet has been maintained by one person who collects Rs 2 and Rs 5 for urination and defecation. The person pays Rs.9000 per month to Municipality and Rs.3000 to taxi Association. The person earn about Rs 1000 per day. The person with his saving has also bought a washing machine and now provides laundry service as well charging Rs 20 per cloth.



Ma Kankalini Water Supply Project , Saptari

Active community in providing water. Women technical support service- provides seed money for livelihood and capacity enhancement. Sanitation Revolving fund has helped to attain better sanitation status in village. Toilet coverage was 5% 2 year ago, now 75%. Since it has just started , concerns of sustainability as there is still need for proper management plan needed including O&M funds. Training needed for user committee and technical people for pump operations and maintenance



Thematic Findings:

Institutional Framework and Capacity Building: DWASHCCs of the districts are active and regularly meeting with involvement of various sector members. DWASHCC has developed Sanitation Strategy for focused on sanitation and ODF target. But this strategy does not cover or

have plan for related issues like water supply. The MWASHCC seems to be comparatively inactive in many of the districts.

Finance: The financial contribution towards WASH is mixed in different districts. One of the key observation is that there is a good allocation of funds by various district on sanitation. In case of water supply services there are good examples of well-defined tariffs such as of Dhankuta Water Supply Scheme and Itahari Water Supply Project, where they have good financial mechanism like tariff collection, debt services, pro-poor consideration for connection charges.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The overall monitoring and evaluation of the various interventions made in the region seems to be limited. There seems to be vertical type of monitoring without indicators and are considered less effective to achieve target goal for the further improvement. There are very limited cohesion and collaboration for improved data base on monitoring and evaluation.

Functionality and Sustainability: The functionality of the system is very much linked with the operation and maintenance fund and staff designation for such task by the user committee. Some of the best practices could be seen in schemes like Haraicha Water Supply User Committee where they have the WASH MIP project and Water Safety Plan implemented in the system that is helping the entire community to have full service of the system.

Sanitation and Hygiene : The Easter region is moving towards greater sanitation achievement contributing toward the national sanitation goals. Most of DWASHCCs now have Sanitation Plan/ Strategy developed and sanitation coordination is good but such planning is not there for water services, maybe due to limited knowledge of the bigger picture.

Water Quality : Water Quality is still least prioritized intervention when supplying water. Even for the Water user Committee who is providing water to people, the excuse has been no complain by the consumer as water quantity has always been the focus for them , though it is understood that most of the water becomes turbid during rainy season and there are waterborne disease cases in the communities.

Gender and Social Inclusion : Based on the interaction at various level of institutions and there seems to be greater consideration and involvement of women and socially excluded communities in official posts of the various WASHCCs. However it was also felt that during the interactions, whether these positions are being kept for keeps shake only.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change: There very little knowledge and actions in the context of DRR and climate change. Region is also facing lower discharge of water from spring sources as the sources are drying up.

Learning Visit : Center Region

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Introduction

As part of the Joint Sector Review (JSR) of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector in Nepal, a team consisting of representatives of major stakeholders visited seven districts (Dhading, Chitwan, Makwanpur, Parsa, Bara, Sarlahi and Kathmandu) of the Central Region from 3 to 10 March 2014 to learn about the WASH practices in the region and listen to the voices and concerns of local stakeholders. Over this period, the team visited 15 different sites and participated in 25 different meetings.

The Central Region consists of 19 districts, 1199 VDCs and 20 municipalities. According to the 2011 census, the region has a population of 9,713,702, which is 36.5% of the total population of the country. The census also indicates that this is the region with the highest population growth. It is estimated that 84.24% of the households in the region have access to improved water supply and 62% have access to sanitation. As of 25th Falgun 2070 (9 March 2014), two districts, 171 VDCs and 5 Municipalities in the region have been declared as open defecation free (ODF). This means that only 10.5% of the districts, 14.26% of the VDCs and 25% of the municipalities have so far been declared as ODF. This indicates that although there has been some progress, the region still has a long way to go making the region as a whole ODF. Furthermore, the data indicates there is a wide gap between sanitation coverage in different districts of the region. While Chitwan and Makwanpur have achieved 100% sanitation coverage, in the neighbouring districts of Bara and Rautahat, the coverage is only 28 and 25 percent respectively. Besides access to toilets, urban water and sanitation is a key issue for this region because it consists of major cities such as Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Birgunj, Bharatpur and Hetauda.

Visit Highlights

Water Supply Arubastar Darimtar Dhading -
This small community of 56 households has implemented an improved water supply system, with yard connection in each house and extra water and wastewater is also used for vegetable farming. The tariff rate is kept low but it is enough to sustain the system and many houses also have biogas plants, which together with vegetable farming benefit women.



Total Sanitation in Bagbazar informal settlement, Chitwan

The squatter settlement of Bagbazar has demonstrated that even a poor community in informal settlements can move towards total sanitation. All 80 houses in the community have toilets, point of use water treatment systems, improved stoves, as well as systems for washing and drying dishes. The community is regularly cleaned and many houses also have improved cow sheds. The local Tole Sudhar Samiti is lead by a physically challenged person and remaining members are women thus demonstrating the power of differently-abled people and women in improving their community.



Solid waste management in Hetauda

While many cities struggle to manage their waste, Hetauda has introduced innovations such as source separated collection in partnership with private sector, compost plant for organic waste management, and separate medical waste collection and management system. Although the city still has improve on its overall performance, it seems to be on the right track.



D-WASH-CC Parsa

With a well managed and active D-WASH-CC, the sanitation campaign in Parsa, is now gaining momentum with active participation of all sectors. All VM-WASH-CCs have been formed and now Ward-WASH-CCs are also being formed. Sanitation is regularly discussed in the meetings of all agency heads and the networks of all agencies along with politician, police and media have been mobilized for this purpose. Three VDCs have been declared as ODF and two are in the pipelines, thus indicating that with good leadership and well organized D-WASH-CC, sanitation campaign can flourish in the Terai as well.



Thematic Findings

Institution - In general, D-WASH-CCs are doing a good job on sanitation issues but they also need to focus on water supply related issues. D-WASH-CCs need better coordination with WSSUCs and M-WASH-CC. In urban areas, Water Supply Boards seem to be providing better services and some municipalities have also done some innovative work on waste management.

Finance - In most cases, water supply with community taps do not have sufficient funds for operation and maintenance. There seems to be willingness to pay for private connections and for the poor provisions of payment in installments or grants by VDCs are available. There is a need more progressive tariff structure to increase revenue and social justice. In sanitation campaigns, there is a need for funding software programmes and regular monitoring by D/M/V-WASH-CCs.

M&E - Regular M&E of WASH projects is often inadequate although some WSSUCs and D-WASH-CCs are putting some efforts on this. Overall, there is a need to establish effective M&E systems with clear indicators and methodologies and responsibilities and the M&E findings should be disseminated to all stakeholders.

Functionality - As functionality is better in schemes with private taps and good operation and maintenance systems, FEDWASUN can play an important role in strengthening the WSSUCs. In urban areas, Water Supply Management Boards have been successful improving functionality but the functioning of wastewater management systems is a concern.

Sanitation - The sanitation movement is going well except in some districts where D-WASH-CCs are not very active. Many VDCs are still providing blanket subsidies to avoid controversies and under the pressure of local politicians. There is a need to focus on post ODF and urban sanitation, including public toilets, wastewater and solid waste management. There is also a need for hand washing corner in every health and education facilities.

Water Quality - As calcination, turbidity and microbial contamination are key issues related to water quality, water treatment should be made an essential part of water supply projects. There is a need to raise awareness on water quality, NDWQS, water safety plans and point of use water treatment. Furthermore, water quality tests need to be done regularly and the results should be disseminated to the users.

GESI - In most projects, women are involved but only at the minimum level. Therefore there is a need to expand the role of women in WASH, particularly in the Terai. Women's participation can be enhanced by incorporating their special needs such as income generation through vegetable farming and biogas. The poor and people from informal settlements can also play an important role in WASH campaigns. Needs of differently-abled people need special consideration, particularly in public buildings.

DRR & CC - Although natural disaster and climate change impacts do not seem to a major problem, there have been incidents of landslides and floods and drying up of water sources. As most D/M/V-WASH-CCs have not seriously considered these issues, there is a need to raise awareness on DRR and CC in the context of WASH and incorporate these in the WASH plans.

Learning Visit: Western Region

Team Members: Manoj Ghimire (WRMSO), Sanna-Leena Rautanen (RWSSP WN) Prem Nidhi K.C. (DWSS), Chandra Bahadur. K.C. (WRMSO), Diwakar Ghimire (DWSS), Antti Rautavaara (UNICEF), Dhruba Karki (Suaahara/Save the Children), Bhupendra Aryal (RWSSFDB), Mohandatta Bhatta (NWSC), Than Prasad Gaire (FeDWaSUN), Prem Disho (RWSSP-WN) and Thakur Pandit (ICEM).

Introduction

There was 10 members team under leadership of Regional Director, Regional Monitoring and Supervision Office of Western Region Pokhara, which conducted the learning visit in western region. The team conducted learning visit in different water supply and sanitation user committees, VWASHCCs and DWASHCCs of Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Syngja and Parbat districts and conducted a regional interaction workshop among regional and district level officials of partner agencies and stakeholders. Major finding of the visit is briefly presented below in this report.



Regional interaction workshop was held in Pokhara on 9th March, 2014 for sharing field findings and collecting wider inputs with detail sectoral information and knowledge of the region. In total 56 participants were participated in the workshop representing all development partners of the region, few local development officers, district education officer, water supply and sanitation division chiefs, engineers from district technical office, NGOs, media and academic institutions. The workshop was so fruitful to dig out deep rooted issues, constraints, thinking of people, current service status and future thought for enhancing the sector.

The latest regional data shows that the percentage of water and sanitation coverage has reached 87.19 % and 86.40 % respectively. Now, all districts have their own sanitation strategy plan and few of them have WASH strategy plan. Out of the 16 districts in the region, 6 districts: Kaski, Tanahu, Parbat Myagdi, Mustang and Baglung are declared ODF including all four districts of Dhaulagiri zone.

Visit Highlights:

Meeting with VWASHCC of Shankar Nagar VDC, Rupandehi:

The VWASHCC was formed in 2068. The committee did a joint agreement among the VDC, DDC with joint commitment to contributing Rs. 1000 from each signatory agencies to provide support poor and socially excluded families. This support enabled them to be the first ODF VDC in the district. After the ODF VDC is planning to construct public toilets in needy areas of the market places and thinking to declare the VDC as plastic free VDC.

The VWASHCC is working closely with water supply user group and providing taps to each household as demand. It has very good management and very good trust with community. The water user committee has saving fund worth Rs. 30



million and they are interested to invest it for establishing another water supply system which motivated government to formulate joint investment policy. They are trying to be a model of sustainable management in water service management in Nepal.

Field Observation and Interaction with water user group Kopawa:



Team conducted an observation visit in Kopawa water supply system. The system was newly established with new model of metal reserve tank and metal frame structure. User committee has distributed tap in each households of the users and now facing a problem of increasing demand of water service from its neighboring families. It has 9 members' user committee comprising 5 male, 4 female and 3 ethnic peoples'. The committee has collected Rs. 100 from its user family as water tariff for a month and collecting Rs. 8800 per month as operation and maintenance fund but they are hardly saving 800 rupees per

month after expending the collected fund to the caretakers, which is very nominal saving and challenging for sustaining the system.

Interaction with DWASHCC Syangja:

Key members of the DWASHCC such as District Education Officer, Women and Children Officer, Local Development Officer, Water Supply and Sanitation Division office in-charge, NGO representatives and Development partners' representatives were presence in the interaction meeting. Only two programs: The district has reached 80 per cent water access and 100 per cent sanitation coverage. Now all VDCs and both municipalities are already declared ODF but still 6 per cent households are using temporary toilets, the district is now working on its upgrading process for the temporary toilets. Now water demand has rapidly increased along with the ongoing sanitation awareness campaigning in the society.



Water system observation visit and user group interaction Karkineta, Parbat: An observation visit



and interaction session with drinking water supply user committee in Karkineta VDC, Parbat was conducted as last event of community level interaction at the trip. It was a gravity flow water supply system, which has covered water inhabitant of the VDC. Earlier, the system was designed with the concept of community water tap provision but later the supply system was transformed into private tap connection. So far, 290 private taps are connected to the households those who were interested and having with affordable capacity. The remaining beneficiaries are taking facility from 32 community taps.

Thematic Findings

Institution and Capacity Building: D/M/V-WASH-CCs are active and functioning well as expected by the master plan; Joint sector annual plan system not started; Very good cooperation and program collaboration among development partners; Most of the user committees are dependent and seeking support from government and development partners.

Sector Finance : Gradually increased desire for private tap connection and paying tariff; Very low budget for water functionality; So far no practice of private sector engagement for production and supplying water in semi urban and rural areas but felt a need of such services.

Monitoring and Evaluation: No clear monitoring indicators and monitoring and evaluation; Joint monitoring system is on practice for ODF process; Upper level coordination committee takes role for monitoring and allowing ODF; No practice for WASH information management at VDC; Information management for the purpose of NMIP is in place at district level but no system for wider stakeholders' sharing and validation.

Functionality and Sustainability: Most of the user committees are registered but only few of them are with FedWaSUN ; There is no clear cut WASH indicators for operation in district and VDCs; The existing practice of long time taking WS projects are itself a problem for sustainability and management; Parbat district has initiated resource mapping.

Water Quality: Major district focus is on water access -- no awareness on water quality; Few agencies has initiated water sample testing; Few initiative on household level water treatment is started at community level; Most of the people has a feeling of reduction trend of water borne disease in the community but no data has generated for evidence.

Sanitation: DWASHCCs are active with sanitation strategic plan; VWASHCCs are active up to declaring their VDCs as ODF zone than after passive for sustainable management; no clarity on further steps of action after declaring ODF; Tremendous demand for public toilet but there is funding gap and operational strategy; Two fold demand increased on drinking water after ODF campaign ; Media played good role in social campaign ; no concrete plan but increasing thinking for solid and liquid waste management in urban areas.

Gender Equity and Social Inclusion: 33% women representation maintained in water and sanitation user groups; Women leadership is gradually increasing; Dalit and ethnic representation is maintained in UGs; Due priority to make gender-friendly public toilets.

DRR and Climate Change: DRR component has not been captured in district and VDC WASH strategy document; Water source are gradually decreasing and affecting water services system; Disaster events are increasing and affecting water supply systems and its structures and there is need of plantation above water source and recharge pond construction at top of hills.

Way Forwards: Water should be on priority with addressing functionality and safety plan and CC; Shift paradigm from community tap to private connection in service delivery; Strong strategy with clear guiding frame for sustaining the ODF status and total sanitation; Wider awareness with technical options to utilize waste: urine, excreta, solid waste etc.

Learning Visit: Mid Western Region

Team members: Binod Kumar Agrawal (RMSO), Madan Bhatta & Rubika Shrestha (HELVETAS), Mr. Kedar Prajapati (MoUD), Uttam Regmi (MoUD), Kulmani Devkota (FEDWASUN), Shanker Pathak & Anup Regmi (SNV), Shova Adhikari (UNICEF), Harishchandra Neupane (RWSSFDB), Deependra Chaudhari (NRCS), Nabin Kumar Shahi (KIRDARC) Nepal, Suman K. Shakya, ENPHO

Introduction:

The learning visit of the JSR-II in Mid-West Region was started on 3rd March 2014 and was ended on 9 March 2014 followed by the consultative workshop at Surkhet on 10 March 2014. The learning visit team was gathered at Nepalgunj airport. Upon arrival, all team members shared the checklist and clarified the points and agreed to follow the methodology prescribed in the checklist which was based on SEIU guidelines. The learning visit team has visited the Rolpa, Pyuthan, Bardia, Surkhet and Dailekh districts during the period.



Rain water harvesting jar, Seri Dailekh

In Midwestern region, the access to improved drinking water is generally high but disparities exist within the context. According to NIMP data, the water supply coverage of Mid-western Region is about 76%. However functionality of the scheme is very poor in the region. There is significant progress on sanitation in the region since 2010; it was about 30% at that time. According to Census data 2011, sanitation coverage was about 53%. Recent estimate shows that the coverage of sanitation in Midwestern region is more than 70%. Out of 581 total VDCs and municipalities a total of 294 VDCs, about 50% VDCs have been declared as ODF VDC. The two districts: Pyuthan and Kalikot have been declared as ODF district out of 15 districts in the region.

Mid-western region is the first region which formed RWASH-CC before launching of Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011. DWASH-CC has been formed in all 15 districts of the region and strategic plan in place. The major WASH actors in the region other than government agencies are: SNV, CARE, RVWRMP and Helvetas among INGOs and Nepal Red Cross Society, NEWAH, ENPHO and KIRDARC Nepal among NGOs. FEDWASUN is also active in few districts.

Visit Highlights:

Dhanbang village of Swargadwari VDC, Pyuthan District:

The visited site is famous for a total behavior change (TBC). The best practices and learning observed in the community are:

- The community respects the norms of cleanliness and clean street twice in a week;
- Each HHs has two functional waste pits for degradable and non- degradable waste in their yard;
- The community people using water filter in each HHs
- The community is moving towards integrated long term development planning including tourism
- The village could be taken as learning sport for total sanitation.



TBC village at Dhanbang, Swargadwari

D-WASH-CC, Bardia District

The learning visit team organized meeting and integration with D-WASH-CC of Bardia. The best practices and observations of the district are as below:

- Meaningful coordination among key stakeholders, the DWASHCC meets in regular basis
- The DWASHCC has districts sanitation strategic plan
- Almost all VWASHCC have VDC ODF strategic plan
- The DWASHCC has developed VDC wise master triggers who are actively involved in the sanitation campaign
- Despite Terai district, good progress on ODF campaign
- Community level forums and structures such Ward citizen Forum ,child clubs/ youth clubs/women groups, Red Cross volunteers are mobilized in ODF campaign
- Lack of Post ODF strategy Plan at district and VDC level/Municipality level



D-WASH-CC meeting in Bardia

V-WASH-CC of Nepa VDC, Dailekh

Nepa VDC is one of the VDC which formulated Water Use Master Plan, a comprehensive WASH development plan in 2011. The major observations and best practices of the VDC are:

- WUMP is good tool for development of WASH activities in integrated way. Eg. water supply, sanitation and hygiene etc. It reduces water disputes and improves functionality of schemes
- After declaration of ODF, the VDC planned to achieve total sanitation and 100 % water supply coverage. The access to improved water supply has been increased from 36 % in 2011 to 61 % in 2013.
- V-WASH-CC is very active, the institutional aspect of V-WASH-CC strengthened by formulation of its regulation (by laws) which was approved by VDC council meeting.
- Private connection in rural area , source conservation activities, girls toilet with provision of disposal for sanitary are other good initiatives in the VDC



Private connection, Nepa VDC Dailekh

Jhupra Brihat Drinking Water Supply Scheme, Surkhet

Observations and good practices of Jhupra Brihat Water Supply Scheme are:

- Jhupra DWS operated by Users, improved governance (participation and accountability) in operation of scheme
- Treatment plant functioning properly. However no regular water quality test, only periodic water quality test
- Facing challenge of compound interest rate, about NRs 5.25 corer paid out of 9 corer loan. But 8 corer is still reaming



Treatment plant Jhupra DWS, Surkhet

Thematic Findings:

Institutional Framework and Capacity building: DWASHCCs & VWASHCCs established in all districts; in some districts & VDCs; WASH sector coordination can be further improved; DWASH-CC and VWASH-CC Capacity gaps observed (technical; leadership and coordination); WASH-CC has focus on ODF only; Few V-WASH-CC observed less active after ODF declaration

Sector Finance: Local bodies allocates little budget for WASH. No revision of water tariff; few schemes face compound interest of loan taken from TDF (Jhupra WS, Surkhet); 20% budget allocation (JSR1 recommendation) for repair & maintenance not implemented; No involvement of private sector in WASH sector

Monitoring and Evaluation: M&E systems for water and sanitation not integrated; Lack of periodic Vertical Monitoring & Reporting ; Joint monitoring is carried out for sanitation but not for drinking water supply; no follow up and monitoring by DWASHCC after ODF campaign; WASH database recording system has been introduced in RMSO Resource Center but nonfunctioning now

Functionality and sustainability: Focus on new schemes (little investment on repair and rehabilitation of old schemes); Challenge in collecting users fees, managing O&M fund and proper fund use; migration of trained care taker; Adequate post construction support; WSUCs have no access to institutional support; Private connection seems effective for the functionality

Hygiene and Sanitation: Large disparity between rural and urban sanitation coverage, urban sanitation is more challenging; Districts have developed ODF strategies to achieve ODF; however post ODF plans and activities found inadequate; Insufficient toilets in public places & institutions (e.g. health posts and markets); school toilets not properly functioning; Lack of VDC level wash master plan and strategies

Water Quality: No regular WQ testing practices, testing conducted only during construction of WSS project; Regional level WQ unit – established but not well known by district stakeholders; Lack of awareness regarding safe use of water (from source to mouth); Lack of knowledge of NDWQS

Gender Equity and Social Inclusion: Despite women significant contribution in ODF, they are under-represented in different committees (WSUCs, V-WASH-CC) and have little influence on decision making ; Significant disparities in access to WASH services (geographically, income wise, and ethnically; Lack of people with disable friendly toilet construction ; The practice of ‘chaupadi ’ affects sustained ODF

DRR/Climate Change: Drinking water and sanitation interventions do not take Disaster Risk Reduction into account ; DDCs have trained Quick Response Team members on emergency WASH in most disaster prone districts; District DDR plans do not indicate purchase and storing sufficient essential life saving supplies; Lack of attention regarding water sources conservation

Way forward: Reform NSHMP, Formulate Water Use Master Plan, Establishment of WQ monitoring system and data bank with functional regional lab, Adequate post construction support and capacity building , Focus on GESI friendly WASH services and appropriate action for source conservation to cope with DRR/climate change

Learning Visit: Far Western Region

Team Members: Uma Shankar Joshi (DWSS/FWR), Kari Lapanen (RVWRMP), Padam Kunwar (DWSS), Pragya Shrestha (USAID), Madav Pahari (UNICEF), BB Thapa (SEBAC-Nepal), Yagya Raj Joshi (FEDWASUN), Dibya Khadgi (RWSS Fund Dev. Board), Ananta Bajracharya (Lumanti), Parikshit Shresth, (RVWRMP), Jagannath Purbe and Purna Jwarchan, (DWSS),

Introduction:

The learning visit team headed by Mr. Uma Shankar Joshi, RD and Mr. Kari Lapanen, CTA, RVWRMP has visited Kanchanpur, Bhajang, Doti, Achham and Kailali districts in sequential order to learn on the approaches and modalities of WASH intervention in the district. The learning team also has very good insight on the Terai vs. hill sanitation campaign and drinking water supply situation; gravity water supply



vs. ground water including distribution of water supply through over head tank and Multiple Use of Water (MUS) system. Similarly, the LVT has gained extensive knowledge and experiences on learning urban and rural context. The overall water and sanitation is improving in the last few years. According to 2011 CENSUS survey, sanitation coverage in the FWR was 47.71 per cent which has improved over 60.37% in the year 2012. Till date, over 166 VDCs (total of 384 VDCs in the region have already declared ODF. For water supply, 85.59 per cent of the population in the region has access to improved water supply facilities. There are approximately 4,000 gravity fed water supply schemes, 5 surface pumping schemes and over 15 projects with overhead tanks providing water supply access to the population residing in the region.

Functionality situation of installed water supply projects seems quite alarming. Of the total projects, only 48.56 per cent projects supply water whole year, 19.97 per cent projects are well functioning, 38.34 per cent projects requires minor repair, 18.33 percent projects would require major repair, 12.45 per cent projects will have to be rehabilitated to provide regular service (Source: NMIP/DWSS- 2010). It is also noted that 10.92 per cent projects are not functioning at all or defunct status. With regards to capacity of managing water supply systems, only 47.10 percent projects have been registered in the DDC as provisioned by Water Resource Act. Furthermore, only 29.96 per cent schemes have dedicated person (VMW) for regular repair and maintenance. There is no repair and maintenance fund and limited tools required to ensure functioning and operation of the project.

WASH coordination structure are functional in general but weak in documentation of progress and resource utilization information. There are some districts with great DDC/VDC leadership (Bhajang, Achham) with operational coordination mechanism but many more functioning on an ad-hoc basic. Performance and functionality of MWASHCC seem to be relatively poor. Solid and liquid waste (sewer and OD) are becoming major problem of cities and emerging towns and causing and contributing for unhealthy environment. Poor management of displaced people (freed bonded labor and displaced people by natural disasters) causing several social problems including sustaining WASH services and ODF status particularly in two Terai districts.

Visit Highlights:

Women WSUC in Musepani, Kanchanpur initiated to restore water project.

The Water Supply Project which was initiated in the year 2052 B.S (1995) suddenly stopped functioning. But, the Water and Sanitation Users Committee (WSUC) formed then which was headed by male did not initiate to revive the project. Muna Paswan, a woman from the community then initiated for the reformation of WSUC with all the women as the members. The former WSUC also agreed and formed a new 9 member Women WSUC in president ship of Muna Paswan. With the support from the division office and the effort from the women WSUC, the Musepani Water Project was revised and is now providing easy access to water for 115 households through 17 public tap stands.



Radha Badhu & Nanda Bohara showing Water Tap in their community

ODF declaration - matter of pride and dignity.

Declaration of Open Defecation Free Zone in the Bajhang district of Far West is not the easy job.

Generating awareness to discourage open defecation is still a great challenge in the area. However, the status of sanitation coverage of the district is not worse enough. The data shows that the sanitation coverage of the district is 75 percent. Out of 47 VDCs in the district 16 VDCs are in the status of ODF and 10 more are nearly prepared for the ODF declaration. The action from the local journalists in Bajhang is even more interesting and commendable. The 5 points resolution of district Journalist association boycotting tea and snacks in hotels that does maintain toilet facilities is the another replicate act which has definitely put pressure for the construction of toilet facilities in the local restaurants and hotel. The stakeholders in the district have considered ODF declaration as the matter of pride and dignity and celebrating as community festival which itself is the ownership shown by the people



News clipping of 5 points as resolution of district Journalist association

as community festival which itself is the ownership shown by the people

Helping the poor for noble cause.

An exemplary support has been provided to the identified poor of Siddheswor VDC of Achham district by the well off families from the same VDCs. After the massive sanitation campaign to discourage open defecation practice 886 families constructed their toilets but 26 could not manage due to their low economic status. With the material support from internal sources remaining 26 poor families completed the toilet which resulted 100 percent of toilet coverage in Siddheswor VDC. "Though every household in the VDC has constructed toilet, it was indeed not easy to convince, especially elderly people, to use the latrine. Massive door to door monitoring along with sanitation awareness in participation of all stakeholders made the VDC an Open Defecation Zone." Sharmila recalled the campaign. The VDC was declared an ODF zone on 27th of Magh 2069 (9th Feb 2013).



View of a house in a community with toilet in Siddheswar VDC.

Thematic Findings:

Institutional framework and capacity Building: Downward and upward information flow between WASH-CCs (VWASHCC-MWASHCC- DWASHCC-RWASHCC-NWASHCC)

hasn't started yet; Possibility of duplication of scarce resources; WASH programs are not properly endorsed and documented and shared in the DDC plan before implementation;

Finance: The water supply projects are not completed in time due to fund gap and takes 4-5 years time to complete.; Lack of resource gap for really needed communities; There is low program budget on W/S and Sanitation; There is low practice on water tariff in completed projects.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The DWASHCC are not aware on WASH Sector Indicators; More focus was given on output not in process monitoring; Third party monitoring process has been introduced by mobilizing civil society organization and district journalist which needs scaling up; No established culture of review and monitoring practice in majority of districts. Vertical reporting culture is still prominent.

Functionality: No defined indicators and different modalities are followed on their own; The role of VWASHCC and DWASHCC for sustainability are not clear; Federation of Water and Sanitation User Committee are not functional in the region; Communities are not trained effectively on importance of sustainability; Dispute on water sources and lack of maintenance funds.

Sanitation and Hygiene: Sustainability of ODF status questioned due to unavailability of water supply facilities and use of latrine during menstruation period; Poor and unhealthy environment due to unmanaged waste disposal in urban/emerging towns; Minimum coverage of public and child and gender friendly school toilets; Strong commitment from political parties and other stakeholders to accelerate WASH activities limited action in public places.

Water Quality: Water bodies contaminated due to open defecation practices and cattle grazing; Poor awareness on water quality/safety among population and ignorance of service providers; Lack of water quality test kit at the district and VDC level and Regional water quality lab mechanism not effective in use; No water resource mapping with quality initiated.

Gender and Social Inclusion: Low sanitation coverage among Dalit communities which has delayed in ODF campaign; The caste discrimination on water tap distribution is still in practice; Low and no meaningful participation of women in WASH facility management: Chaupadi is still in practice.

Disaster Risk Management/Climate Change: High probability of natural calamities like flooding and erosion due to geographical condition and soil nature within the region resulting destruction of infrastructures; Poor hand washing practice with soap and use of toilet makes it possible for epidemics like cholera; Water source yield is decreasing day by day

Way Forwards: Share WASH program, allocate fund for really unreached, Create joint monitoring culture and continue independent monitoring, follow common modalities and think about sustainability, Think about public toilets and SWM, Initiate WQ monitoring, Take action for Chaupadi issue, think about source protection and HW with soap.

Action Plan for SEIU

During JSRII process eight TWGs worked intensively on their theme in line with achieving sector targets and gaps in the process. TWGs analyzed the respective thematic area on various issues with evident based learning from the five regions brought by learning visit team. Groups have come out with set of recommendations with action plans for 2014-16 till next full JSR. SEIU needs to work as the accountable center for coordination for all activities towards efficient and effective achievement of the sector goals. The action plan for SEIU based on the JSR-II will be guided by the following principles

1. Government led efficient and effective sector to achieve and sustain the universal goal of water sanitation and hygiene in Nepal
2. Sector will have one WASH Plan in which all agencies work for common goal but shared responsibilities and working area fulfilling all gaps in common
3. Lead agency of the sector (DWSS) will play leadership role in the implementation and regulation of Sector Programs and other players should support and compliment
4. Sector partners including GOs, DPs, INGOs, NGO/CSO/CBPs, private sectors and academia need to respect Government initiatives and work in harmony in and align their institutions and strategy and ideas in line with policy and institution and strategy of the government.
5. All member partners need to continue the TWG work and SEIU as coordinator is accountable to SSG and JSR for TWG functionality

Action plans

SN	Activities	Responsibilities	Timeline
1	Develop WASH Development Plan, Policy and coordination mechanism in view of recommendations of TWG	SEIU in coordination with SSG	6M+
2	Plan for regular interaction among SSG and TWG for implementing recommendations.	SEIU, TWG core team	6M+12M
3	Select areas for research, assessment and study to fulfill the gap in information indicated by TWGs	SEIU, TWG and Partners	6M+18 Month
4	Prepare stakeholder mapping and merge existing activities and expertise of partners with main stream through collaborative.	SEIU, leaders(GO, DP, INGO, NGO/CSO)	6M+
5	Carry out special study for evident based decision making and planning	SEIU, Selected partners	6M+
6	Develop WASH Sector Financing Strategy together with sector stakeholders	SEIU, Selected partners	12 M+
7	Prepare systematic program for interaction and action of TWGs	SEIU, TWGs	6M+

Thematic Working Group

Thematic Working Group formed for JSR II process remains active for regular interaction on respective them and materializing its recommendations. Member secretary representing focal units of the Government will take key initiates and co-lead representing partners will play supporting roles. Team of lead, co-lead and member secretary remains same unless changed by SSG for better composition. Members representing the different agencies will remain as long as they are attached to the same agencies. SEIU will play coordinating role among TWSs and prepare systematic program from interaction and action on recommendations.

SN	Thematic Group	Leader	/Co-Leader	M. Secretary
1	Institutional Framework and Capacity building	MOUD/ WSED: Abadh Kishore Mishra	ADB: Laxmi Sharma,	SEIU: Kabindra Bikram Karki,
2	Functionality and sustainability	DWSS/DDG: Ram Lakhan Mandal, DDG	SNV: Kabir Das Raj Bhandari	DWSS/Rehab: Srawan K. Upadhyay
3	Water Quality	DWSS/DDG: Ram Chandra Devkota	WHO/EH: Sudan Raj Panthi	DWSS/WQ: Sudanshan Bhandari
4	Sector Finance	NPC: Gopi Nath Mainali	WB: Silva Shrestha	DWSS/Planning: Deepak Puri
5	Hygiene and Sanitation	DWSS/DDG: Khom Bahadur Subedi	UNICEF: Namaste Lal Shrestha	DWSS/ESS: Ram Chandra Sah
6	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion	MOUD/GESI: Posta Raj Dhungana	ADB: Suman Subba	DWSS/NGO: Prem Nidhi KC
7	Monitoring and Evaluation	MOUD/Monitoring: Kabindra Bikram Karki	UNICEF: Madhab Pahadi	DWSS/M&E: Ujjwal Prajapati
8	DRR/Climate Change	DWSS/DRR/CC: Jyoti Kumar Shrestha	UNICEF: Arinita Maskey	MOUD/WESD: Bal Mukunda Shrestha