

SECTOR EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT UNIT (SEIU)



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Urban Development
Water Supply and Environment Division
Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit (SEIU)

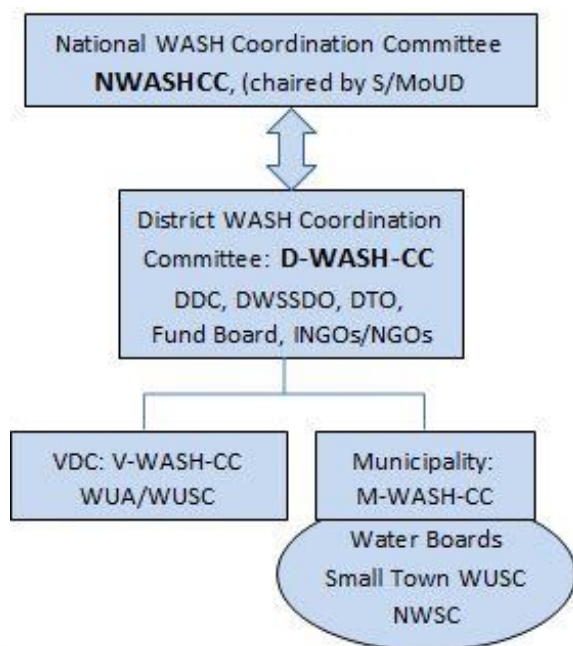
The Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit (SEIU) was established on 31 July 2009 with the objective to arrive at a transparent, accountable, service-oriented and responsive WASH Sector. The Government has institutionalized SEIU on June 2012 as a permanent unit of the Ministry of Urban Development, where it acts as the Secretariat to Sector-wide coordination, planning and monitoring of the water supply and sanitation programmes of the Government of Nepal. The Government of Nepal provides comprehensive support to the sector efficiency improvement processes by ensuring policy harmonization, adequate monitoring and performance assessment, targeted financing and capacity building, and by creating a regulatory framework that protects and encourages good practices in the delivery of WASH services.

SEIU is working on various aspects of sector improvement working closely with all WASH sector partners through a consultative and participatory process. Together, SEIU and sector partners will develop a platform for harmonizing stakeholders' approaches to improve the quality and sustainability of services. It support reviews of (programme) policies and priorities, institutional structures, subsidy arrangements and implementation modalities and increasingly manage learning processes to enhance sector knowledge.

Since mid-2014 MoUD is designing longer term capacity and investment planning through the formulation of the **WASH Sector Development Plan**. The Plan will emphasize government leadership and ownership; a clear division between policy-making and regulation, and implementation; propose measures to improve sector coherence under government leadership and institutions; consolidation, strengthening and retention of technical capacity at all levels; strategy and plans to build decentralized capacity for management and sustained delivery of services; and structured monitoring and reporting. As the 2015 earthquakes have disrupted the planning process somewhat, the SDP is now expected to be in place as of early 2016.



Institutional Development:



The JSRII recommended that the Sector rebalance the WASH coordination committees at various levels to include water supply, sanitation, hygiene and waste water. During the successful national total sanitation movement, the Sector has used the D-WASH-CC mechanism very effectively and learned a lot in the process. The experience can be used to strengthen the D-WASH-CC in its coordination and planning roles, and also provide it with a stronger management and monitoring capacity so that it will pursue local implementation by stakeholders more effectively. In addition, the management capacity of the D-WASH-CC needs to be used to raise functionality and service delivery in all schemes in the district. The Operational Directives 2012, which have started to be rolled out since the beginning of 2015 and other regulatory processes will support this task. DWSS will play an important role by providing technical competence and follow-up, also through its Regional Monitoring and Support Offices.

The relation between the National WASH-CC and the District WASH-CC is quite close, with plenty of interaction through the SEIU as the Secretariat. In turn the D-WASH-CC supports and monitors the VDC and Municipal WASH CC and assists and encourages them in their tasks.

Formulation of a comprehensive WASH Act and Policy for the Sector

SEIU has drafted an umbrella act and policy for the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. The draft policy and act will apply to all government sector agencies, local bodies, government enterprises, non-government organizations, service providers, community based organizations, and private sector. In the draft, Government's sovereign right over natural water sources is recognized and traditional rights of the individual and community protected. The new policy rolls the urban and rural sub-sector policies into a single policy document. The draft umbrella act is available on SEIU's website <http://seiu.gov.np/index.php/new-act>

Human resource development and capacity building strategy

The Training Need Assessment completed in March 2014 by SEIU, with JICA support, showed the gap in training and capacity building in the Sector. Encouraged by strong recommendations during the JSR II, SEIU initiated the formulation of a HRD and capacity building strategy.

The strategy puts forward a pragmatic vision for human resources development for the WASH sector on critical aspects and challenges to ensure sustained capacity building efforts at national and district level, for rural water supply and sanitation schemes and for urban WASH service providers, in line with current government policies.

It lays out strategic recommendations to the MoUD, DWSS, SEIU and National Water Supply and Sanitation Training Centre (NWSSTC, earlier named CHRDU) on how to facilitate access by all stakeholders to effective, relevant and well-designed training and capacity building resources and programs.

The HRD and capacity building strategy has been shared with the NWSSTC management is currently being integrated in the business plan of the Centre.



Benchmarking exercise for Small Town Water Supply Systems



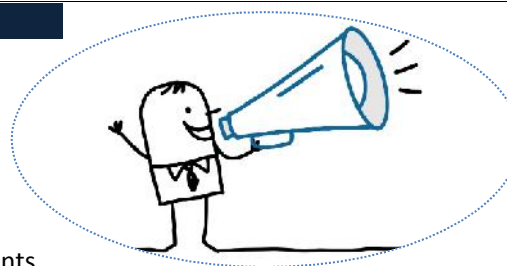
Benchmarking and Performance Assessment of Water Service Providers (WSPs) was started in early 2013 to develop capacity for monitoring functionality and performance of Nepal's water supply service providers as an instrument for improving the service delivery and performance of the urban water supply sector. Three rounds of orientation workshops for WSPs have been conducted so far involving 102 WSPs. In April 2014, a data book was produced with the results on the 32 participating WSPs. A Performance Improvement Planning workshop was conducted for the WSPs included in data book 2012/2013. MIS is under preparation to support the Benchmarking process. This process has been found very useful and effective for the performance improvement planning of WSPs. A next data book will be published in April 2015.

Communication strategy for the sector



Communication is an essential dimension of the sector development plan. A communication strategy, developed, agreed and operationalized by relevant sector stakeholders, is important to inform and get feedback on sector developments and achievements.

Effective communication within the sector is important for greater harmonization and cost-effective resource utilization. Regular communication will contribute to the achievement of broad sectoral goals, objectives and policy agenda. SEIU is currently drafting a communication strategy for the sector through a consultative process. The strategy will support the realization of the approaches, objectives, priority streams and the organizational arrangements in the sector.



SEIU is available on twitter and internet



<https://twitter.com/Nepalwash>



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