

## Report

On

### Learning –Sharing on Policy Influencing Meeting for Achievement of SDG 6 under NVF project

#### Background

Learning and sharing on Policy Influencing meeting for achievement of SDG 6 under NVF project was organized by Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA) on May 30, 2022 through virtual platform. The key agendas of the meeting was to share;

- the learnings on policy influencing for achievement of SDG 6 under NVF project,
- the key findings from the review of SACOSAN VII commitment.

Total 41 national convener participated the meeting representing from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka.

#### Meeting Details

The meeting was facilitated by **Ms. Snehelatha Mekala, the Regional Coordinator of FANSA**. Similarly, **the Regional Convener of FANSA, Ms. Lajana Manandhar** formally started the meeting with her welcome remarks highlighting the meeting agenda.

#### Brief on the presentation given by national conveners',

##### 1. Mr. Joseph Halder, Bangladesh

#### Policy Influencing Meeting for Achieving the SDG-6

- Conducted the meeting in three tiers particularly at upazila, district level and national level based on the outcome.
- Participants at Upazila Level: Local Administration, DPHE, CSO, WASH Actors, Community Leaders, Union Parishad Chairman and other government department.
- Proposal level meeting was conducted at **Char and Flood Region**; the outcomes are
  - Considering the challenges in the Char and Floor zone, it has become difficult to maintain the safe WASH facilities. People don't really know how they can adapt with the challenges concerning safe WASH facilities.
  - Govt. especially DPHE has some initiatives, DPHE installs some Tube-wells and latrines at the affected areas but it is so poor considering the real needs.
  - The local and national NGOs take some actions during flood and river erosion based on partnership with INGOs and the donors in a few cases.
  - Government and other stakeholders are also talking about the responsibilities to achieve the progress of the country. It has established a collaboration between

- government and CSOs as well as FANSA-BD members to work jointly for achieving the SDG-6.
- Assurance is given by the service providers to ensure water and sanitation facilities for the marginalized and LNOBs, but finally no special drive relating to the progress of DG-6 becoming visible.
  - There's a gap in program implementation and policies and strategies. It's time to look into the effective implementation of resilient WASH services. A regular monitoring of those to reach the SDG indicators 6.1 and 6.2 is needed.
- Conducted meeting covering the **Coastal belt** and participant at district level were deputy director-LGED, Executive Engineer-DPHE, UNO, Community Leaders, CBO Leaders, Service Providers, School Teachers & SMC, WASH Champions, Sanitation Workers, LGIs and Religious Leaders and Journalists. The outcomes are;
- Due to its geographical location, natural disasters and the effects of climate change, the south-western part of Bangladesh is always under threats. Water sources and sanitation systems get damaged or washed out by cyclones and tidal surges.
  - Due to unplanned abstraction of groundwater, the water level goes down and drinking water is not available in many areas of the coastal areas in summer.
  - The people of the area sometimes become bound to drink salty water as there is no water treatment plant at the union or upazila level. With one or two water treatment plants. It's not possible to cover the whole district and especially the people in remote areas. This's a health risk.
  - Due to the lack of legal and awareness initiatives and lack of initiative on the part of the government or civil society, the availability of portable water may be further challenged.
  - WATSAN Committees are not functional at LGIs. Budget allocation by UP is not enough for WASH promotion. Sanitary latrine has been withdrawn from safety net program.
  - The demand for portable water in the coastal areas will never be met if large scale score projects area officially adopted. Which will hinder the achievement of DG-6.
- Conducted meeting at central level and the participants were Joint Secretary-LGD, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative, Additional Chief Engineer, Planning-DPHE, Service Providers, FANSA Members, WASH Actors, Local and National NGOs. The outcomes were;
- Climate-induced calamities i.e. flood, river erosion, cyclones, and salinity intrusion are being seen as a great threat to the achievement of SDG-6. Natural calamities are occurring often and destroying the WASH facilities.
  - A gap between policy- making and mass people's sensitizing on policy remains. As a result mass people are not aware of the WASH policy and its purpose.
  - The person with disability, more vulnerable people are facing challenges in availing the WASH utilities as the utilities are not inclusive. Customized service is needed for persons with disabilities.
  - The WASH budget is rolled out as a bundle including water, sanitation, and hygiene together. That needs to be separated and allocated according to zone-specific needs.

Furthermore, there is a disparity in allocating the WASH budget in rural and urban areas.

- Although the local government is increasing the WASH budget, on contrary, the shrinking of the external fund is barring the poor people from getting adequate support for resilient WASH facilities. To meet the SDG-6 additional financing is needed.

### Key Learning

- Due to the lack of a sewerage system, most urban toilets are being directly linked to the canal/rivers. This's polluting freshwater making the scarcity of safe water.
- Less engagement of private sectors and disinclination of micro-credit and loan disbursement in the WASH sector are slowing down the progress.
- The coordination or integration of all relevant departments related to WASH is needed to work holistically for achieving the SDG-6.

### SACOSAN Commitment

S.N	Commitments	Achievement
1.	Establish baseline and WASH target for SDG 6.1 & 6.2 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elimination of open defecation-</li> <li>- Progress towards universal and safely managed sanitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)</b> conducted by Govt. Last one took place in 2019 respectively. The National Hygiene Survey completed in 2018, Report published in 2020.</li> <li>• The survey on toilets in different communities is done but the communities are not that aware about the result of the survey.</li> <li>• Most of the community people do not know about Bangladesh has become an ODF country in 2015.</li> <li>• Hardcore poor people are not position to demand and avail the government's sanitation services and not getting the benefits of the <b>Pro-Poor Strategy 2020</b>.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
2.	Align data collection tools, processes & approach of National survey to track progress on SDG	SDGs' tracker is managed at the central level for gathering WASH-related data from various ministries and agencies. The community people normally do not know the purpose of data collection.
3.	Ensuring no one left behind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understand inequalities</li> <li>- Strengthening partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Around 50% of the community people think that the poor and hardcore poor are not getting WASH facilities in line with the Pro-poor strategy 2020.</li> <li>• The Local Government Act (Union Parishad-2009/10) has mandate that the yearly budget</li> </ul>

		has to be framed in consultation with the people of the union. But Maximum Unions are not following the Act.
4.	Conduct structured HR capacity assessment HR development for stakeholder in WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are few WASH-related HR-development institutions; that is not adequate.</li> <li>• A few NGOs are working at the grassroots on WASH promotion. They are mainly focusing on raising awareness of the community people.</li> <li>• The community has no idea about the respective HR Capacity Assessment.</li> </ul>
5.	Introduce essential sectoral reforms - Based on comprehensive legislative reviews. - Special focus on regulatory framework & institutional arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government has many WASH- related policies and strategies followed in program implementation. However, the community people are not that aware about the existence and reforms of the policies, strategies and laws.</li> <li>• <b>Institutional and Regulatory Framework for Fecal Sludge Management (IRF-FSM)</b> has been developed for municipalities. But the municipalities are not in place to carry out its mandate to manage Fecal Sludge due to lack of finance, place and modern equipment.</li> </ul>
6.	Develop effective financial planning and reporting on investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The community people are not well aware of this financial planning and budget allocation on water, sanitation and hygiene. The unserved communities feel that the budget allocation is not enough to cover their need.</li> <li>• The communities also believe there is a gap in planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of WASH facilities.</li> </ul>
7.	Develop national & sub-national level advocacy, strategies & campaigns that promote sustainability	The NGOs and LGIs at the grassroots have continued the process of sensitizing and making people aware of the sanitation services and needs.
8.	Prioritize WASH in Institutions - School - Health care facilities - Public Places - Sensitization on MHM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community reflection indicates that still now around 50% of the school girls don't know about menstruation before their menstruation.</li> <li>• They get Menstruation Hygiene Management (MHM) informally from their female teachers.</li> <li>• Toilets in public places are hardly marked/indicated as female toilets and remain unhygienic.</li> </ul>

9.	Collaborate to strengthen Knowledge Management & Learning on Sanitation & hygiene	There are no specialized training centers or institutes at the community level to uphold practicing Sanitation and hygiene knowledge. Community health workers are working on promoting knowledge dissemination
10.	Support Climate change adaptation - Explore financing to promote climate resilient sanitation technologies & behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bangladesh has created Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund to promote climate-resilient technologies for adaptation.</li> <li>• The community people are not aware of the climate-resilient sanitation and hygiene technology.</li> <li>• Further, the community people do not know whether there is a budget allocation or not on it.</li> </ul>

## 2. Mr. Ugyen Lhendup, Bhutan

### Policy Influencing Meeting for Achieving the SDG-6

- Initially planned program with parliamentarian could not happen due to their busy schedule
- Plan B – A policy brief activity is underway for submission to the parliamentarian. The policy brief will have
  - Status on the SDG progress
  - Gaps and challenges
  - Recommendations

### SACOSAN Commitment

S.N	Commitments	Achievement
1.	Establish baseline and target for: - Elimination of open defecation- - Progress towards universal and safely managed sanitation	More than 95% baseline on elimination of open defecation established The Joint Monitoring Program established a progress of 2021 – 65% 2020 – 74% on safely managed sanitation
2.	Align data collection tools, processes & approach of National survey to track progress on SDG	System on data collection tool to track progress on SDG is available and in use
3.	Ensuring no one left behind - Understand inequalities - Strengthening partnership	In order to achieve the LNOB, the following policies and programs in place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ LNOB strategy</li> <li>✓ Post ODF guidelines</li> <li>✓ Last mile program</li> <li>✓ Disable friendly toilet/WASH facilities promoted</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ B-WASH as one platform</li> <li>✓ NVF program for CSOs and sanitation workers</li> </ul>
4.	Conduct structured HR capacity assessment HR development for stakeholder in WASH	Activities underway. Data not available to ascertain the assessment
5.	Introduce essential sectoral reforms - Based on comprehensive legislative reviews. - Special focus on regulatory framework & institutional arrangements	Activities underway. Data not available to ascertain the assessment
6.	Develop effective financial planning and reporting on investments	Activities underway. Data not available to ascertain the assessment
7.	Develop national & sub-national level advocacy, strategies & campaigns that promote sustainability	<p>Different programs at national and sub-national levels initiated to promote sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Menstrual Hygiene Day</li> <li>• Red Dot</li> <li>• B-WASH cluster</li> <li>• District level sanitation Day (in local language)</li> </ul>
8.	Prioritize WASH in Institutions - School - Health care facilities - Public Places - Sensitization on MHM	<p>Numerous guidelines and programs initiated to prioritize WASH at various levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Public Toilet guidelines</li> <li>• Strategy on Health Care facilities</li> <li>• Red Dot campaign</li> <li>• Knowledge booklet on Menstrual Hygiene</li> <li>• Observation of annual Menstrual Hygiene Day</li> <li>• HRH Princess as the Patron on Menstrual Hygiene</li> <li>• Numerous facilities and program on WASH for schools and Monastic institutions (handwashing, cleaning campaign, water source cleaning, Sanitation and Hygiene talk by experts, among others)</li> </ul>
9.	Collaborate to strengthen Knowledge Management & Learning on Sanitation & hygiene	<p>B-WASH is a platform where all related government agencies, CSOs and donors collaborate to promote WASH program in Bhutan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numerous program completed</li> <li>• Knowledge and learning events on health care facilities</li> <li>• School Health Coordinators training</li> </ul>
10.	Support Climate change adaptation - Explore financing to promote climate resilient sanitation technologies & behavior	<p>Government and CSOs initiated some climate adaptation projects such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sato pan where there is less water and for extreme cold places</li> <li>• Rain water harvest projects in water stress areas for WASH</li> </ul>

### 3. Mr. Purna Chandra Mishra, India

#### Policy Influencing Meeting for Achieving the SDG-6

Conducted all three dialogue in one platform and invited directorates of the government both state government, municipality cooperation mayor, implementing CSOs, representing vulnerable groups like deprived women, transgender, sanitation workers, UNICEF and WATER AID centered for advocacy and research.

On 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May organized national level learning and sharing event centered for advocacy and research jointly by FANSA India on cost sharing basis and experience sharing. Total 35 participants from 10 states participated on inclusive approach for achieving SDG-6 focused on 3 components i.e. **Access to Safe water, Access to Safe Sanitation and Gender and Social Inclusion.**

Field experience and observation were shared in plenary with the policy makers, implementing organization and community leaders. FANSA shared its experience on human right on water-theory to practice participatory tools and how LNOBs' are included.

#### Highlighted;

- For urban model can be replicated to the rural area and vice versa,
- Human rights on water works on bridging gaps in WASH sector,
- How to integrate WASH with other sectors,
- Gender Inclusion

Mainstreaming of PWD, transgender, women and categories of LNOB were very much integrated to the system, creating a platform to the voice to be heard. Created mechanism to sustain the activities that are in operation, innovative ideas to different states to experiment to localize SDG-6

#### SACOSAN Commitment

S.N	Commitments	Achievement
1.	Establish baseline and target for: - Elimination of open defecation- - Progress towards universal and safely managed sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The targets have been setup and indicators have been developed.</li><li>• Extensive baseline data has been created.</li></ul>
2.	Align data collection tools, processes & approach of National survey to track progress on SDG	Country following come data collection system. The data collection system is aligned and uniform across the country. <b>Jal Jeevan Mission</b> for Water <b>Swachh Bharat Mission</b> for Sanitation
3.	Ensuring no one left behind - Understand inequalities - Strengthening partnership	In terms of sanitation, <b>The Swachh Bharat Mission</b> had made clear financial provision to reach out the sanitation services to those who are left behind.
4.	Conduct structured HR capacity assessment HR development for stakeholder in WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Government of India under <b>Jal Jeevan Mission</b> established training management</li></ul>

		<p>unit at national, sub-national and district level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the capacity assessment on sanitation can be done is not clear.</li> </ul>
5.	<p>Introduce essential sectoral reforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Based on comprehensive legislative reviews.</li> <li>- Special focus on regulatory framework &amp; institutional arrangements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inter-ministerial coordination mechanism has been set up for water and sanitation.</li> <li>• Not much progress on sectoral reforms</li> </ul>
6.	<p>Develop effective financial planning and reporting on investments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial planning have been effectively improved for water and sanitation</li> <li>• There is a national level financial commission which allocate the financial resources for local bodies</li> <li>• 60% of allocation made for addressing Water and Sanitation sector</li> <li>• National Rural Guarantee Scheme developed to meet water and sanitation needs at local level.</li> </ul>
7.	<p>Develop national &amp; sub-national level advocacy, strategies &amp; campaigns that promote sustainability</p>	<p>New IEC developed both for water and sanitation</p>
8.	<p>Prioritize WASH in Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School</li> <li>- Health care facilities</li> <li>- Public Places</li> <li>- Sensitization on MHM</li> </ul>	<p>Good progress when it comes to WASH facilities of schools and Health centers</p>
9.	<p>Collaborate to strengthen Knowledge Management &amp; Learning on Sanitation &amp; hygiene</p>	<p>Under the Jal Jeewan Mission, government of India has identified mostly premier academic institutions appointed and strengthen knowledge and sanitation and hygiene.</p>
10.	<p>Support Climate change adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore financing to promote climate resilient sanitation technologies &amp; behavior</li> </ul>	<p>Have National level action plan on climate change but WASH on climate change and adaption, climate change mitigation strategies are missing.</p>

#### 4. Mr. Rasheed Bari, Maldives

1. Capacity enhancement of CSOs & VCs focusing on three topics **Climate resilience and WASH solutions, Raising Voices of the marginalized, Building women leadership**

##### Key Learnings

- The concept is undermined by infrastructure development and influence of politics. Lack of research mechanisms and evidence constraints CSOs' ability to support its demands.
- Concept of WASH rights and its implications are not known to rights providers as well as recipient communities.
- Awareness to relevant concepts of SDG-6 given to support WASH trainers of (29 islands under Green Climate Fund).

## Recommendation

- Initiate CSO research mechanism, information sharing via seminars, conferences at local and regional levels.
- Creative mechanisms for information sharing and behavior change required.
- WASH concepts of IWRM, water use efficiency, water allocation based on quality, use of groundwater, flood water, land use planning unfamiliar to policy and professionals.

### 2. Policy influencing meetings of SDG-6

#### At Ministry level

- Individual discussions with state minister followed by departmental level meeting prior to SMM.
- Currently continuous discussion with ministry officials.

#### At Local Government Level

- Started dialogue with Male City Council
- Meeting under preparation with participation of LGA and some local councils.

### SACOSAN 7 Assessment report

	Validation	Dissemination	Learnings
Dissemination	Shared soft copy among CSO network and multi stakeholder agencies	Discussion among network partners  Publicizing in conferences and seminars	Lack of supporting data, poor information sharing on operation and service provided, research and survey data training only at operation level. Lack of multi stakeholder platforms, lack of CSO engagement. MECCT positive.
Preparation for SACOSAN 8		<b>Multi stakeholder event 8<sup>th</sup> June 22</b>	

## 5. Ms. Bhawana Sharma, Nepal

### Policy Influencing Meeting for Achieving the SDG-6

Conducted policy influencing meeting at

- National level with target audience national stakeholders including house of representatives, Federal Parliament of Nepal, DWSS, Commission National Planning, UNICEF and WAYER AID Nepal. There were total 94 participants in the meeting.

- Provincial level with target audience stakeholders including province WASH Minister and others. There were total 35 participants.
- Municipal level targeting municipal level stakeholders and the total participants were 37.

### **Key Challenges**

- Lack of commitment
- Inequity/ Health Risk WASH behavior
- Unaccountable
- Unsustainable
- Inadequate budget allocation
- Improper implementation of Plan/Policies

### **Issues to achieve SDG-6 from National Level Meeting**

- Adequate Trained Human resources in local governments' in operations, repairs and maintenance of WASH projects.
- Adequate Private funding and investment in WASH
- Lack of coordination between the tier of the government and others agencies and, more than 20% projects in WASH are overlapping.
- WASH Coordination committees and communities remained less active for sanitation promotion especially after ODF declaration
- Although there has been considerable progress in drinking water supply, the water quality part is hugely neglected. Nearly 65% people drink water contaminated with either E-coli or Arsenic.
- Nepal has made considerable progress in case of basic sanitation services with 79.2% households using improved sanitation services which are not shared. However, around 93% households are with an improved sanitation facility that does not flush to a sewer and ever emptied (faecal sludge management is likely to become great challenge )
- Unavailability of users and gender friendly toilet in the office
- Lack of local cooperatives impede access to HHs to seek accessible financing to sanitation

### **Recommendation for action**

- Private sector should be given the responsibility of sewerage management or the capacity of the local and federal government should be built for it.
- Monitoring mechanism for all the 25 indicators is needed for sustainable achievement of SDG-6
- Though Nepal has been declared as ODF country safely managed slippage should be focused to maintain the ODF status
- The NWASH data should focus on GESI aspect
- Plans and policies should be evidence based and periodic review should be done to ensure it

- Local government should be supported in establishing a WASH section to ensure smooth policy formation and implementation
- To meet the goal of SDG-6, the budget in WASH sector should increase by 29% every year, but it is increasing by 1.3% only.
- Developing and enhancing the capacity of the WSUC's through FEDWASUN can be a good opportunity to achieve the SDG-6 and generate authentic data for NWASH.
- Capacitating and empowering the Local Government to assume leadership role for achieving the SDG-6 goal should be prioritized by agencies working in WASH sector.
- Coordination between government, inter-government, non-government and agencies should be more aligned and organized. Unwanted coordination mechanism should be done away with to ensure effective coordination and planning.
- Research on WASH local market business opportunities and dissemination of results to local stakeholders

#### **Issues with recommendations from province level meeting**

- The situation of SDG-6 achievement in province-1 is not very promising. Efforts and local CBOs /network need to mobilize for collective effort to achieve the goal by 2030. (In process to develop WASH Act of Province)
- WASH is considered from technical aspect only but there is need to consider WASH from Socio-economic and Socio-cultural perspective also.
- Cost effective technology should be promoted considering most of the HHs who are aloof from WASH services belong to the ultra-poor and poor households. Promoting cost effective technology will ensure to fulfil the objective of LNOB.
- To achieve the goal of SDG-6, sensitization and awareness raising programs, training to community people and users committee on technical and environmental gender aspect should be provided.
- Adequate trained human resources for safety managed sanitation (CWIS,FSM).Trained, mentors the WASH actors of province ,demonstrate successful approach or technology in province
- Community contribution should be reconsidered to ensure LNOB in WASH. Poor households are unable to contribute.
- Filled toilet containments, random disposal of faecal waste in forest and marginal lands posing a threat to public health and environment pollution -Prepare and approve sanitation policy and by-laws to ensure and regulate safely managed sanitation services, (2) Prepare plans and implement locally appropriate sanitation systems (3) embrace PPP model at least for de-sludging and transportation services

#### **Issues with recommendations from municipal level meeting**

- Non-Communicable diseases are increasing in the municipality. Municipality and political parties need to bring the agenda for safe drinking and invest for it in the municipality
- After the flood in the Koshi river, the landless people are increasing and poverty is also increasing, it is being a challenge
- Municipality level Water supply schemes/municipality need to ensure safe drinking water before distribution in the municipality.
- Water Supply Projects should be managed in a way of sustainability ,safely and continuity
- Women and excluded groups participation in WASH committee need to ensure for the key position
- Awareness campaigns and training on WASH at community
- Develop an Inclusive WASH plan and budget allocation for most needy communities to improve WASH rather than for the political access and rich community.
- Lack of gender-friendly and differently-abled friendly water and sanitation service stations at the public places -Demonstration of innovative, social enterprise water and sanitation service stations at public places.

### Key Learning

- Assessment report on SACOSAN VII commitment supported to reflect the ground WASH issues to policy makers so these kinds of community assessment need to be conduct frequently as advocacy tool.
- Public service delivery of the local and province government as they are initial phase of development so frequent meeting/interaction at local and province level government supports to address WASH issues in the plan and policies.
- Regular interaction with local and province government support them to update themselves on WASH new approaches technologies as well as realization on status and motivate for further steps as well.

### SACOSAN commitment

Commitment	Achievement
<b>Achieving SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2</b>	<b>1. Establish baselines and WASH targets for SDG-6.1 and 6.2</b> - The national planning commission has formulated indicators and targets for SDG 6.1 and 6.2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Also set baseline value for year 2015 and separate targets set for 2019, 2022, 2025 and 2030</li> <li>- Prepared monitoring framework with sources of data, level of disaggregation, frequency and responsible agency</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Elimination of open defecation</b></p> <p>Nepal has been declared an ODF nation on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.</p> <p>According to the Master Plan, the following basic indicators should be established so as to declare a designated area as ODF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is no open defecation in the designated area at any given time,</li> <li>- All households have access to improved sanitation facilities (toilets) with full use, operation and maintenance, and</li> <li>- All the schools, institutions or offices within the designated areas must have toilet facilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Reviewing and aligning the national and sub national policies/ strategies with safely managed sanitation services and hygiene as outlined in SDGs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WASH Policy-draft</li> <li>- SEIU business plan-draft</li> <li>- DWSSM business plan-approved</li> <li>- Hand hygiene for all-UNICEF</li> <li>- WASH Bill-tabled</li> </ul>
<b>Leave no one behind</b>	<p><b>Current Status and issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unreached population is being tagged through N-WASH</li> <li>- In order to mitigate the risk of financial barrier WASH Plan is being prepared with detail cost estimates</li> <li>- Indicators prepared are people with disability friendly</li> <li>- Functionality of water supply needs to be monitored</li> <li>- Strong monitoring mechanism needs to be prepared to ensure the access of people with disability in public places.</li> </ul>
<b>Sectoral reforms and human resource development</b>	<p><b>Current status</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity Development Master Plan – Ongoing</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Water and Sanitation Training Centre – Business plan</li> <li>- Governance Assessment</li> <li>- Introduction of N-WASH system to collect information on different WASH dimensions (Inventory, sustainability, HHs, WASH in institutions, LNOB etc.)</li> <li>- Training of N-WASH to all Local government's technical manpower</li> <li>- WASH plan being formulated through N-WASH with the investment of local government and technical support from development agencies</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges and Gaps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insufficient human resource in Local government for enrollment of N-WASH and formulation of WASH plan</li> <li>- Lack of proper data base to track experts on the basis of expertise</li> <li>- Mushrooming of different tools especially mobile applications from different organizations</li> <li>- Finalizations of policy documents such as WASH bill and sector development plan</li> </ul>
<p><b>Advocacy and Knowledge Management</b></p>	<p><b>Current Status</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Video platform for using N-WASH dashboard and applications</li> <li>- LG module development with the support from MUAN and NARMIN</li> <li>- Tools like Sustainable Service Initiatives WASH governance, Asset management, IMIS, etc. are being piloted in different LG by development agencies</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges and Gaps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Media campaign and research in WASH has decreased in compare to during ODF campaign</li> <li>- Decrease in overall WASH budget especially from development agencies</li> <li>- Learning and sharing events are being organized in less numbers both from government and development agencies</li> <li>- Lack of official and meaningful advocacy collateral for evidence based advocacy</li> </ul>
<p><b>WASH in institutions</b></p>	<p><b>Current Status</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data on WASH in institutions being collected through N-WASH</li> <li>- UN-Water Glass Track Fin initiative – WHO</li> <li>- WASH in Schools and WASH in HCF – guidelines</li> <li>- Application of tools like three star tools for WASH in Schools and WASH FIT in HCFs</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges and Gaps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Status of sanitation in schools and HCFs are still very poor in many places</li> <li>- Student-toilet ratio and universal accessibility of toilets huge concern</li> <li>- The built-in WASH infrastructure not aligned with standard technical designs and operations</li> <li>- The budget allocation for WASH in Institutions often on the basis of accessibility rather than necessity</li> </ul>
<p><b>WASH and Climate change</b></p>	<p><b>Current Status</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Second Nationally Determined Contribution – Nepal for 2021-30 published by Government of Nepal on 2020 with separate thematic area on Health, Drinking Water and Sanitation</li> <li>-</li> <li>- National Adaptation Plan, 2021-2050 published by Ministry of Forest and Environment – estimates minimum USD 1.7B budget requirement for national adaptation plan on WASH until 2030</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges and Gaps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate change initiatives are yet to be materialized as currently is limited till slogans only</li> <li>- Lack of economically viable Innovative technology</li> <li>- Cost difference for climate change friendly projects is huge</li> <li>- Accessibility for those who are worst hit by climate change especially in remote areas is challenging</li> </ul>

## Recommendation

- Alignment of SDG indicators with review of national indicators and consistency on the use of indicators from all development partners.
- Special attention needs to be provided to identify the scattered population who are still deprived of basic WASH services to ensure no one is left behind.
- N-WASH application needs to be rolled out in all local government unit and water users committee. N-WASH application needs to be upgraded based on the used case scenario.
- All the draft laws, policies and guidelines needs to be finalized and implement as soon as possible.
- Proper plans and advocacy needs to be carried out to increase WASH budget.

### 6. Mr. Gerad Fernando, Sri Lanka

#### Policy Influencing Meeting for Achieving the SDG-6

Due to political unstable situation in Sri Lanka, not able to organize the policy influencing meeting.

#### Brief on WASH sector in Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, water and sanitation is decentralized among many agencies while central government provide certain services, provincial council as well as local authorities are playing a key role in WASH sector. Government is committed to achieve SDG especially in Water and Sanitation, they have mentioned this in recent policy document even in other forum they are giving consideration for improving water and sanitation services. Water service is provided by three sector – national, maintain water supply schemes (44%), local authorities maintain their own water supply scheme (1% water supply to population), small scale rural water supply system maintain by WSUCs (13%) basically about 55% people have access to pipeline water supply system rest is depend on some domestic sources, tube wells, dug wells and other sources. Though government are investing in water supply system there is no clear cut policies on water supply system. To improve the Water supply system, government develop Master plan.

Sanitation sector- the pipe sewage system are available at few cities. The major people are depend upon onsite sanitation many of them have proper latrine but fecal pollution is main problem, waste from the septic tank are leak into the environment. For improvement of sanitation, government have prepared Sanitation Master Plan.

#### SACOSAN commitment

S.N	Commitments	Achievement
1.	Establish baseline and target for: - Elimination of open defecation- - Progress towards universal and safely managed sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sri Lanka was able to achieve MDGs on water and sanitation on time.</li><li>• Now, the country is focusing on changing its policies and strategies towards achieving SDGs.</li><li>• Many actions are being taken</li></ul>

2.	Align data collection tools, processes & approach of National survey to track progress on SDG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dep. Of Census &amp; Sta. is the official authority</li> <li>• Next data collection will be in 2022, with National Census</li> <li>• Sustainable Development Council &amp; line agencies also involve</li> <li>• National &amp; regional level data collection will be strengthened under NPS</li> </ul>
3.	Ensuring no one left behind - Understand inequalities - Strengthening partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NWSDB in its corporate plan, identifies such groups &amp; improving WS.</li> <li>• WaSSIP also active &amp; during the period 135,000 families in 760 nw/rehabilitated RWSS, are benefitted.</li> <li>• PCs, Las, PT and NGOs are also involved</li> <li>• NPS will improve collaboration</li> </ul>
4.	Conduct structured HR capacity assessment HR development for stakeholder in WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fortunate to have well trained &amp; capable force of field health staff</li> <li>• PCs, Las, CSO are also involved</li> <li>• NWSDB and DCWS arranged many training &amp; capacity development programmes</li> <li>• Will be a major task under NPS</li> </ul>
5.	Introduce essential sectoral reforms - Based on comprehensive legislative reviews. - Special focus on regulatory framework & institutional arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lagging area for many decades</li> <li>• NPS was developed to address this</li> <li>• SMP also developed covering entire country</li> <li>• Implementing them will fulfil the need</li> <li>• Necessary amendments for NWSDB Act also introduced.</li> </ul>
6.	Develop effective financial planning and reporting on investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gray area for a long time</li> <li>• Funds are wasted due to poor coordination.</li> <li>• This was a prime objective of NSP</li> <li>• National and Provincial level coordination through NCC and PCC will ensure effective coordination</li> </ul>
7.	Develop national & sub-national level advocacy, strategies & campaigns that promote sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long felt need</li> <li>• Stakeholders are implementing their own plans without any coordination</li> <li>• NPS identified and will assure preparation of regional &amp; national plans</li> <li>• All stakeholders are bound to follow them</li> <li>• PCC &amp; NCC will strictly monitor</li> </ul>

8.	Prioritize WASH in Institutions - School - Health care facilities - Public Places - Sensitization on MHM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education department are active in school, UNICEF also providing facilities at schools as well as health centers. In addition to that WaSSIP project also actively involved in this area because of there are intervention in the last four year we are able to cover number of schools and health care facilities</li> </ul>
9.	Collaborate to strengthen Knowledge Management & Learning on Sanitation & hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MWS, with NWSDB established Joint Research &amp; Development Center at Kandy to undertake research, training &amp; capacity building in water sector.</li> <li>• Modern training center for NWSDB was provided with ADB assistance.</li> <li>• Existing training center of NWSDB provided capacity development for various persons from the sector (LA, CBO, RWS, Private Sector, NGO)</li> <li>• Plumber training for unemployed youth and distribution of tool sets</li> </ul>
10.	Support Climate change adaptation - Explore financing to promote climate resilient sanitation technologies & behavior	Following effects of Climate Change have been identifies with reasons and remedial measures are to be taken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rise in temperature</li> <li>• Rise in sea water level</li> <li>• Flash Floods</li> <li>• Long Spelled Droughts</li> <li>• Increased pollution in water bodies due to less flows</li> </ul>

### Reflection from Mr. Tanvir Ahmed (Resource person)

COVID-19 has hampered the progress towards SDG in all country. For Bangladesh to achieve the SDG was modest. We achieved 3% on safe water from 56% to 59 similarly, on sanitation achieve 5% from 34% to 39%. In general global achievement was not very satisfied, this has highlighted the need for increase steps of initiative take to achieve SDG-6.1 and 6.2. The government has taken several initiatives on sanitation policies to align it along with SDG-6. The national government has also increased it's WASH budget to achieve SDG. But analysis showed that increment in budget is not enough to tackle the requirements and specific challenges. More funds are need to achieve the requirement of SDG.

### Challenges on WASH sector

- Microbial (E.coli) and arsenic contamination is still challenge in Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh being a climate change prone area and other natural disaster has threaten the water supplies.
- Investment on WASH with respect to Wealth Quintiles are not so promising.

### **Way forward**

- Implementation of Water Safety Plan, protect water sources, reach unreached people, adopt climate resilient water technologies as well as think about sustainability of water resources
- Reduce inequality as most of the government investment goes to urban areas.
- Government has to increase technical capacity in delivering the services.

### **Reflection from Mr. Siddhartha Das, SWA (Resource Person)**

Highlighted important actions presented by each country;

**Bangladesh:** He appreciated how Bangladesh had linked WASH with Climate. He requested to influence the modification of NDC in such a way that WASH become important component.

**Bhutan:** He emphasized the analysis done by Bhutan on the progress of the commitments. He further adds, the presented future plans were significant.

**India:** He highlighted the multi-stakeholder approach India has taken in their actions.

**Nepal:** He highlighted N-WASH data, MIS which Nepal has developed. He also urged other countries look on N-WASH data.

**Sri Lanka:** He highlighted the sector coordination mechanism done by Sri-Lanka.

Further, he highlighted inter-sectorial collaboration in the sector meeting where out of 54 ministers 27 non-WASH ministers i.e. health minister, environment minister and economy ministers were also invited.

### **Outcomes from global meeting**

- Need for prioritization on WASH in national, regional and global agendas as well as across the sector.
- WASH as foundational and indispensable for delivering on the entire sustainable development agenda.
- Need for transparent and participatory processes to secure sustainable development that values the contribution of diverse voices as a foundation for achieving progress that benefits all.
- Enabling environment which encompass regulatory structures, good governance and appropriate laws, policies and strategies as well as institutional arrangements of planning, implementing, monitoring and review indispensable for the realization on human rights on WASH.

### **Reflection from Mr. Partha Hefaz Shaikh (Resource Person)**

On December, with the support of FANSA, discussed all the SACOSAN commitments with the stakeholders and government entities. He shared that the guidelines from the SACOSAN secretary India has been sent and indicators need to be re-arranged as it was seen to be clumped.

### **Closing remarks**

**Ms. Lajana Manandhar, Regional Convenor FANSA**, delivered the closing remarks saying she was very pleased to listen to all the country presentation on policy influence as well as on the process of the assessment of SACOSAN commitments. She also emphasize the hard work done by all the conveners' to achieve the progresses despite of the challenges. Further, she express her gratitude to the inputs delivered by all the resource persons.

The workshop was concluded with the vote of thanks from **Dr. Snehalata Mekala, Regional Coordinator of FANSA**.