

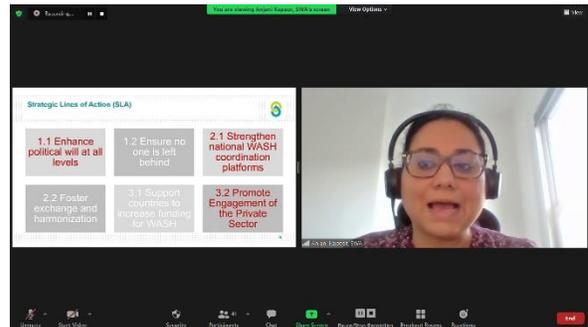
Virtual orientation training on SWA South Asia Road Map to the Regional Steering Committee members of FANSA

A virtual orientation training on SWA South Asia Road Map was conducted for the Regional Steering Committee members of FANSA on 25th of October 2021, Monday. Around 40 participants from different countries along with the National Convenors from eight member countries and representatives from SWA attended the training session.

Delivering the welcome remarks, the Regional Convenor of FANSA Ms Lajana Manandhar highlighted the objectives of the training program. She said, the training program for the trainer is to raise the understanding and awareness on SWA strategic objectives and its workplan to achieve the objective which would help to walk towards the goal of SWA. She added, as FANSA is working with the government agencies and other WASH stakeholders at regional, national and global level for policy influencing, mobilize the communities and raise their voices, the road map of the SWA comes as the guiding steps for all the FANSA chapters to work together. On her address, she also urged all the National convenors to organize national level orientation and training program to aware the member organization.



Ms. Anjani Kapoor, CSO Engagement Coordinator of SWA, on her session, presented the brief introduction on the SWA Asia-Pacific Roadmap. She highlighted the three elements in SWA Strategy and mentioned about the essentiality of the regional road maps. On her presentation, she also put light on the process of developing the roadmap and highlighted the work done in collaboration by the partners in building the roadmap through consultation forming regional roadmap development committee where all the SWA constituencies including FANSA will be represented. Aligning with the Strategic objectives, she also talked about the regional focus and aspirations. She stressed the need of strengthening the impact of SWA high level meeting that is the sector ministers' meeting and finance ministers' meeting which have tangible outcome in the form of implementing SWA mutual accountability mechanism, commitments. She also highlighted the essentiality of promoting linkage between WASH and other cross sectorial issues like climate change, environment degradation, public health, emergencies, disaster risk reduction, corruption and transparency. Her presentation has also detailed about the challenges and



opportunities during the consultancy that happened for the preparation of regional roadmaps. Finally, she ended her presentation with the Asia-Pacific strategic line of action per three strategic objectives of SWA.

Ms. Siddartha Das, Regional Coordinator of Asia and Pacific SWA talking about operationalization of the regional roadmap, mentioned the six strategic lines of action under three strategic objectives. Amongst the six lines of actions, he recommended to prioritize three which are enhancing political will at all level, strengthening national WASH coordination platforms and promoting engagement of the private sector, not ignoring other three lines of action, like ensuring no one is left behind, fostering exchange and harmonization, support countries funding for WASH, as all are cross-cutting and has to be inbuilt into the national processes.



For the discussion in the network, he emphasized to prioritize enhancing the political will at all level as sectorial minister's meeting is happening next year and it would be the good opportunity to accomplish lots of things in the next six months while initiating the preparatory process. He suggested to work on strengthening national WASH platforms as SWA has been trying to piloting the strengthening of MSP aspects in few countries in Asia and Pacific. As private sector, like CSOs, is another important constituency which is the integral part of SWA partnership and also is actively exclusively come out from Asia-Pacific, its involvement really needs to be increased in entire region to increase the financing for WASH, this need to be highly prioritized, he added. He also highlighted the creation of mutual accountability dash board which was suggested by the CSOs during the Regional Strategy meeting held in Kathmandu for brainstorming.

The presentation from Ms Anjani Kapoor and Mr. Siddartha Das was followed by a round of open floor. Following are the key points from the discussion:

- The role of CSOs for advocacy to increase the financing and prioritizing for the WASH sector is emphasized and stressed the technical support from SWA to its partners to equipped them with tools on integrity.
- Highlighted the need of case studies from the countries and the CSOs on what is the kind of investment that is required to include leave no one behind groups. CSOs need to develop principles for budget allocation at the higher level for donor and the government to follow.

- The SWA strategy focuses how we can have the political will in the sector to mobilize action on the ground and how SWA mutual accountability mechanism can act as the extra push in the sector for the already existing national plans and policies.
- SWA result framework provides an opportunity to all the countries including national and regional. At the national level, it has provided the opportunity to all the country partners to provide a narrative reporting of the sector. It takes into account the global figures from GMP and class but then it gives partners an opportunity to talk in the multi-stakeholder's manner on each SWA Strategic objectives and digging in more on a qualitative aspect.
- We have been mainly reactive towards the mutual accountability mechanism whenever the high-level meeting happening. But it needs to be the integral part of the national process. Even the high-level meeting doesn't happen, we would encourage countries to go ahead and properly implement the mutual accountability mechanism.
- Overall WASH funding has been affected because of the COVID. In few countries in Asia Pacific, WASH budget got decreased after COVID, inversely health budget got increased. It's the time to advocate for enhancing the allocation of the budget as it is so much linked to the SDG target.
- SWA Regional Roadmap should be led by different partners. We have to be very energetic and self-driven that how we can take forward the SWA regional strategy. Thus, focal person for each country's presence and their involvement is very important. The orientation on SWA regional road map needs to be carried out in country level.
- Working with LNOG groups is also very essential. FANSA is also focusing on the LNOB issues and in this coming SACOSAN, FANSA is highlighting the issues of LNOB, bringing their voices and working with them. Thus, out of six, instead of highlighting 3 strategic lines of action, is it possible to make it 3+1 including the LNOG groups?
- The issues of LNOB groups can be taken forward as a separate activity. FANSA could be one of the partners leading on the LNOB issue as the coordinating body with the support of other partners.
- Issues related to refugees and humanitarian context in Afghanistan is also the important thematic for SWA. As the new SWA strategy has a kind of mandated not just to focus on the vertical mobilization but also focus on the horizontal linkage with climate, humanitarian health, nutrition and so on, these will be the cross-cutting across the three SWA objectives.

- There has to be an engagement of Academia in the private sector engagement strategy and it can definitely act as the evidence of entire partnership to be providing data and case studies.
- Connectivity of WASH platform from national to regional and from regional to global need to be developed to make the advocacy effort much more strengthened and to ensure the continuation of the linkage.
- The specific role for all the partners in those highlighted lines of action has to be defined; creating second level of working groups.

Mr. Murali Ramisetty, Regional Steering Committee member of FANSA, delivering his remarks, appreciated the FANSA team for the initiation to organize the training program on SWA South Asia Roadmap. He said that the discussion during the training program would help all the civil society partners to be able to engage in the implementation process of the roadmap. He also thanked Ms. Anjani and Siddhartha for their presentation.



Focusing his remarks on the significance of FANSA to get engage in the implementation process of the regional roadmap of Asia-pacific region, he said, the SWA roadmap has given an opportunity for FANSA to strengthen itself as CSO. Talking about the roadmap he said, we should not be looking for things which are totally new in terms of content. He further said, nobody can write something all together new but what is more important is the structure that we want to build and the processes we want to go through so that we can make a faster progress. The regional roadmap is very much focuses on securing high level political commitments for achieving progress in WASH sector which is very much important, he added. Recalling the FANSA's engagement from SACOSAN 3, he said, we have been trying to secure political commitment. Without political leadership and political prioritization in WASH, it is definitely very challenging of make a solid progress in the sector, we may have some super surficial intervention but to be able to make a very solid progress political prioritization is very important.

Talking about FANSA's engagement in LNOB issues, he said, FANSA has been doing lot of work in LNOB issues and as it is the part of regional roadmap, it gives the opportunity to further strengthen our work. He also stressed the need of linkage between sub-national, national, regional and global platform and said, that SWA has been providing FANSA the opportunity for high level meetings to engage and collaborate with the processes in the higher level which would not have been so easily possible for FANSA as an individual CSO.

He also spoke about FANSA members engagement in various aspects of climate change sector and said that the member organizations can consolidate their learnings and experiences in the implementation of the regional roadmap. Towards the FANSA engagement for the accountability and transparency, he said, it is not just enough to secure high level of budget for addressing WASH need for the communities but it is also equally important to make secure that the budget is spent in proper way without corrupt practice. He added, in terms of transparency in South Asia region there is a big concern and since SWA regional roadmap is very much focusing on the transparency, it gives us opportunity to advance the work related to it.

Capacity development for FANSA leadership and FANSA members is another important aspect that he has highlighted. He said, it is important to understand what is happening in the sector and how to address the issues that we are facing in local level. SWA can provide support in this aspect, he added. He also stressed the need to carry out the national and sub-national level training on SWA roadmap to provide better understanding.

During his remarks, he also talked about the work plan and stressed the need to strategically focus on the use of time, energy and resources. In regards to the LNOB issues, accountability and transparency, he said the learnings of the member organization from the local level should be well documented and case studies should be produced so that such initiatives can be scaled up. He also stressed the need to explore the enough financial resources. Lastly, he also pointed out the need of own periodical review and critical reflection processes to understand improvement required.

Dr Seetharam Mysore, CSO representative of SWA Steering Committee, South Asia delivering his presentation on his learnings and experiences briefly explained about plan-act-check-respond sequence. He said, learning is a continuous process that occurs throughout, write from the time of planning. Sharing his idea on more about the learning process he briefed explained on documentation process. He emphasized the need on documentation of a journey from proposal making to impact. We need to look at what works as well as what does not and also, we can get lots of lesson from the failures, he added. He also talked on the need to questioning during the documentation process focussing all the components like assessments, context, strategies, capacities, actions, outputs etc including team building and relationships. He also talked about evaluation and stressed the need to follow tools and timelines. He also shared his learning on gaining from the lessons within the networks, with government, with SWA and with other partners globally and regionally.



Explaining some key specific points to be focused for the implementation of the projects in future he highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholders' collaboration, need of focus on quality and process, documenting political will and scaling up, focusing on LNOB, collaborating WASH and non-WASH players addressing the various cross-cutting issues like climate change, public health, livelihood and LNOB issues. Finally, Dr. Mysore also highlighted the need to build the tools like case studies and pilots for knowledge sharing and capacity building to scale up and for faster progress; policy brief and policy research for making ourselves heard in the right place; creating internship opportunities in collaboration with the partners; sharing experiences in multiple platforms through participation in conference, meeting etc and generating evidence for future intervention for collective action at all level.

Followed by the presentation from Dr Seetharam, there was a fruitful discussion on establishing some mechanism like knowledge hub to translate the content at global and regional level.

The final presentation for the session was from Dr Snehalatha Mekala Regional Coordinator FANSA. She presented the detail activities on SWA catalytic funding for better understanding on the project for the FANSA country chapters and member organizations.

Ms. Lajana Manandhar, Regional Convenor of FANSA delivering her concluding remarks thanks all the speakers, presenters and the participants for the active participation and fruitful sharing. On her remarks, she also shared about FANSA developing its strategic plan and has hired the consultant for the same.