An Assessment Report [1]
on
Progress Against Commitments in SACOSAN-VII

[1] *This is a compiled report prepared based on the assessment report produced by FANSA country team for their respective countries while documenting the progress made by them over commitments in SACOSAN, April 2018. The respective assessment reports of the respective countries, prepared by FANSA member countries, are attached in the Annex.*

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ACRONYMS

ADB : Asian Development Bank
CBOs : Community Based Organizations
CBS : Central Bureau of Statistics
CEA : Central Environmental Authority
CGPM : Clean Green Pakistan Movement
CKD : Chronic Kidney Disease
COVID : Corona Virus Disease
CRIP : Climate Resilient Improvement Project
CSO : Civil Society Organization
DC&S : Department of Census & Statistics
DNCWS : Department of National Community Water Supply
DWSSM : Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management
FAN : Fresh Water Network
FANSA : Fresh Water Network South Asia
FGD : Focus Group Discussion
GoB : Government of Bangladesh
GoI : Government of India
GoM : Government of Maldives
GoN : Government of Nepal
GoP : Government of Pakistan
GoS : Government of Sri Lanka
HCF : Health Care Facilities
JMP : Joint Monitoring Plan
KII : Key Informant Interview
LA : Local Authority
LAs : Local Authorities
LG : Local Government
LGOA : Local Government Operation Act
LNOB : Leave No One Behind
MDGs : Millennium Development Goals
MHM : Menstrual Hygiene Management
MICS : Multi Indicator Cluster Survey
MIS : Management Information System
MoCC : Ministry of Climate Change
MOH : Ministry of Health
MOJS : Ministry of Jal Shakti
MoWS : Ministry of Water Supply
MPI : Multi-dimension Poverty Index
MUAN : Municipal Association Nepal

MWS	: Ministry of Water Supply
NARMIN	: National Association of Rural Municipalities of Nepal
NGO	: Non-Government Organization
NMICS	: Nepal Multi Indicator Cluster Survey
NPC	: National Planning Commission
NPS	: National Policy on Sanitation
NSHP	: National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy
NWSDB	: National Water Supply and Drainage Board
NWSSP	: National Water and Sewerage Strategic Plan
ODF	: Open Defecation Free
PCs	: Provincial Councils
RGoB	: Royal Government of Bhutan
RWSS	: Rural water Supply Scheme
SA	: South Asia
SAARC	: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACOSAN	: South Asian Conference on Sanitation
SDC	: Sustainable Development Council
SDGs	: Sustainable Development Goals
SEIU	: Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit
SMP	: Sanitation Master Plan
STFs	: Sludge Treatment Facilities
SuSanA	: Sustainable Sanitation Alliance
SWA	: Sanitation and Water for All
TMU	: Training Management Unit
UN	: United Nations
UNFCCC	: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	: United Nations Children's Fund
USD	: United States' Dollar
VNR	: Voluntary National Report
WASH	: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASH-CC	: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene – Coordination Committee
WASHFIT	: Water And Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool
WinHCF	: WASH in Health Care Facilities
WinS	: WASH in Schools
WaSSIP	: Water Supply and Sanitation Improvements Project
WHO	: World Health Organization
WSMP	: Water Supply Master Plan
WSS	: Water Supply Scheme

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The preparation of a synthesized report on the "Assessment of Progress Against Commitments in SACOSAN VII[1]" involves documenting the current progress in sanitation across the FANSA member countries within the South Asia region. This document aims to serve as a foundational resource for policymakers, professionals, and practitioners, enabling them to effectively formulate action plans to meet SACOSAN commitments and accelerate progress toward achieving the targets outlined in SDG 6.2.

FANSA extends its sincere appreciation to the FANSA national chapters (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka), particularly the National Convenors and Project Coordinators, for their dedication and tireless efforts in conducting this progress review assessment in their respective countries. We would also like to express our gratitude to all stakeholders who contributed their insights, expertise, and experiences, which were invaluable in shaping and completing this study. The knowledge and time provided by individuals, institutions, practitioners, and sector professionals throughout the South Asia region were instrumental during the review period.

FANSA is grateful for the support of Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Their technical and financial assistance, along with the unwavering commitment from the FANSA secretariat and its National Chapters, made this achievement possible.

We believe this synthesized report represents a significant step toward equitable and inclusive planning and strategizing for the sector's acceleration, ultimately fulfilling the needs to meet SDG targets. It aims to benefit all by ensuring access to safely managed sanitation services and improving the sanitation status of the region on the global stage. Furthermore, FANSA believes this report will foster an enabling policy environment that attracts additional resources from governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and development partners within the South Asia region and beyond, supporting the achievement of SDG 6.2 and establishing a foundation for sustainable sanitation services in South Asia.

Best,

FANSA Secretariat Team,

[1] This synthesized report was first prepared in July 2022 and was further updated later in March 2024.

1. Background

1.1 FANSA

The Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA) was established in 2008 based on the felt need of the civil societies to ensure that their local experiences and voices are represented at the policy-making discussion and fora. The South Asian network is a member of Freshwater Action Network (FAN), a global consortium of civil society networks engaged in implementing and influencing water and sanitation policy and practice.

FANSA aims to improve governance in WASH sector by strengthening the role of civil society in decision-making. It considers both environmental and developmental aspects as crucial for the realization of the right to water and sanitation for present and future generations. Further it aims to strengthen the engagement of civil society in WASH related policymaking and development specifically in the South Asia region. In particular, it supports initiatives to achieve international targets on water and sanitation, improve regional cooperation between different civil society organizations and increase the number of civil societies to advocate and communicate clearly on water policy issues and the broader agenda2.

Currently it has national level networks in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan and plans to expand or linkup with existing civil society networks in other South Asian countries.

1.2 SACOSAN

SACOSAN is a biennial South Asian advocacy and practice forum on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), co-led by the governments of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

This regional event provides a forum to generate political will towards better sanitation in the region, with the following objectives:

- To accelerate the progress in sanitation and hygiene promotion in South Asia
- To reiterate political commitment in each country of the region for furthering the sanitation agenda
- To share experiences and lessons learnt in sanitation and hygiene promotion

Every two years, key government officials from SAARC countries meet together – alongside development partners, WASH networks, think tanks, and civil society members – to evaluate progress made on WASH-related targets. The latest thinking on effective approaches is shared and discussed to support countries in their sustainable development goals journey.

[2] http://www.freshwateraction.net/sites/default/files/FANSA%20Brochure.pdf

2. SACOSAN VII - A Context

SACOSAN VII, hosted in Islamabad, Pakistan in 10 - 14 April 2018, provided an opportunity to reflect on the existing sanitation issues in South Asia, in light of the global. Sharing experiences, challenges and lessons at the regional level on sanitation and hygiene in a multi-stakeholder forum helps to accelerate the national ambition of the global goals. The event also helped prepare countries for the July 2018 UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, where the global goal on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all will be reviewed.

The inaugural event of SACOSAN VII set the stage for reflections and critical analyses prevalent during the rest of the conference. After a warm welcome from the President of Pakistan, Mr. Memnoon Hussain, and the respective minister and secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change (event's host), speeches from the heads of delegations revealed that:

- country governments have the political will to prioritise sanitation;
- policies and institutional arrangements to support WASH governance are in place; and
- local resources for sanitation access have been mobilised effectively across the region – all resulting in the "South Asian Sanitation Revolution".

Participated by more than 500 delegates from the WASH sector including from governments and different partners from the of eight South Asian countries and beyond (more than 250 coming from other South Asian countries and globally), sanitation-related achievements shared during SACOSAN VII gave all the participants multiple reasons to celebrate, a reality check – that despite this progress, health and nutrition outcomes remain to be seen. FANSA had the opportunity to participate, learn and contribute to some very interesting technical and side sessions focused on several key WASH topics.

A week-long SACOSAN VII, ended successfully with the signature of the SACOSAN 7 Declaration by each of the high-level representatives of the 8 member countries, renewing the commitment of working together towards an open defecation free South Asia and the achievement of SDG 6.2 in the region. At the end of each conference, nationally endorsed commitments on sanitation are agreed and signed by each country representative. Thanks to the Government of Pakistan and the support of all of the partners participating in SACOSAN VII, it has been a very successful conference.

2.1 Declarations of SACOSAN VII

The Heads of Delegations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, participating in the 7th South Asian Conference on Sanitation, (SACOSAN-VII) in Islamabad, Pakistan in April 2018:

South Asian nations sign declaration for better sanitation (*Thursday, 26 April 2018*)

At the conclusion of the 7th South Asian Conference on Sanitation, held in Islamabad, Pakistan, the member nations committed to improve sanitation in the region. Following is the full text of the declaration adopted at the Conference:

(1) Realising that safely managed drinking water and sanitation services are basic rights of every person; and poor access to safely managed sanitation services and hygiene is a leading cause of preventable diseases and stunting,

(2) Appreciating SACOSAN member states for integrating sustainable development goals (SDGs) into national development agendas,

(3) Recognising that significant progress has been made towards reducing open defecation in the region, and growing attention is being given towards building sustainable and safely managed sanitation systems and hygiene behaviours,

(4) Understanding that South Asia Is home to many of the world's most rapidly urbanising areas, presenting challenges in service provision but also real economies of scale in serving densely Inhabited areas,

(5) Reaffirming all SACOSAN commitments made between 2003 and 2016, and reiterating our call for Joint actions and learning through SACOSAN being a nonpartisan forum, so that all South Asians may enjoy safe and adequate sanitation and hygiene,

2.2 Commitments of SACOSAN-VII

SACOSAN VII unanimously resolves and commits to:

1. Establish baselines and WASH Targets for SDG-6.1 & 6.2, including the elimination of open defecation and progress towards universal basic and safely managed sanitation services and hygiene. All countries in the region should review and align their national and sub-national policies/strategies with safely managed sanitation services and hygiene as outlined in SDGs.
2. Streamline and align the data collection tools, processes and approaches of key national and sub-national surveys, so that they track progress on WASH related SDGs.
3. To ensure no one is left behind by; generating evidence to understand inequalities in access to WASH, especially around geographical areas, vulnerable groups and income levels; improved targeting of those least served; strengthening participation and accountability in collaboration with sector partners
4. Conduct structured human resource opacity assessment, followed by a roadmap for human resource development for public sector, civil society, service providers and other stakeholders engaged in WASH.
5. Introduce essential sectoral reforms, based on comprehensive legislative reviews with a specific focus on regulatory frameworks and institutional arrangements, including enhanced inter-ministerial coordination for quality sanitation and hygiene services.

6. Develop effective financial planning, and reporting on sanitation and hygiene related Investments to achieve SDG related targets by strengthening the tracking and monitoring processes.
7. Develop national and sub-national advocacy plans, strategies and campaigns that promote use and sustainability of sanitation services as social norms with the active engagement of all.
8. Prioritise WASH in institutional settings, especially accessible WASH in schools, health care facilities and public places including sensitisation and provision for menstrual hygiene management.
9. Collaborate to strengthen knowledge management and learning on sanitation and hygiene, at regional, national and sub-national levels, through training centres and networks.
10. Support climate change adaptation, and explore financing to promote climate resilient sanitation and hygiene technologies and behaviours in general, and in at-risk communities in particular.

3. Process adopted to assess progress against SACOSAN VII Commitments

As a part of the preparation for participation in the 8th SACOSAN targeted to be held in India, FANSA-country teams reviewed the progress made in Sanitation by their respective countries against their commitments made in SACOSAN VII, Pakistan. The following section provides the process adopted by the FANSA member countries in assessing the progress/achievements made by each of the respective countries against the commitments in SACOSAN VII and documenting them. This assessment is basically to increase the accountability of the National Governments by producing evidence-based analysis on the status of SACOSAN VII commitments to address sanitation and Hygiene issues of the marginalized through an assessment report. FANSA through its member countries across the South Asia Region assessed the realization of the governments' commitments made in SACOSAN VII as a declaration of the conference. Thus FANSA planned to bring the evidence from the field on the real progress made and gaps in reaching the last mile in sanitation progress across all the seven South Asian Countries by bringing out the assessment report. The objectives for carrying out this assessment process were;

- To provide an independent Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) assessment of the progress achieved by Governments on the SACOSAN VII commitments; and provide opportunity to CSO to reflect on the commitments from the perspective of the real-life conditions of the communities with whom they are working;
- To support the efforts of the government in making participatory and evidence-based report on SACOSAN VII commitments and accordingly strengthen overall accountability of national governments on SACOSAN process;
- To build visibility for FANSA by making a meaningful contribution to ensure that SACOSAN VIII process includes focus on the crucial issues affecting WASH progress in SA region.

3.1 Process Adopted by the Countries in documenting the progress:

In pursuance of these objectives all the seven National chapters have carried out the assessment exercise. For the review and analysis of the progress against SACOSAN VII commitments, the National Chapters of FANSA have adopted multi-step processes that were considered appropriate and relevant in the country context and feasible within the time available in respective countries.

FANSA countries consulted in their respective countries with the key sector actors, government institutions and reviewed different progress documents and assessment reports to come to conclusion on the achievements made by the respective countries on their commitments in SACOSAN VII in April 2018. Finally, the FANSA countries produced the country wise reports and disseminated with relevant stakeholders which are further consolidated by Regional Secretariat and produced a synthesis report.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh had first carried out desk research and then organized a national level consultation webinar. The preliminary report drawn from this webinar was further presented for feedback and validation by the community representatives in different geographical pockets of the country. Series of FGDs & KIIs were conducted in different hard-to-reach and difficult parts & pockets under the coastal, char, flood, hoar, hill, and tea garden areas covering especially the poor & disadvantaged communities. In line with this, following steps were undertaken to assess the progress. The

consolidated outcome of the study has drawn a picture of the implementation status of the SACOSAN-VII Commitments in Bangladesh.

a. Organized a Webinar on 20 December 2021. A total of 46 representatives participated in the Webinar jointly with civil society in Bangladesh, WASH sector actors, representation from the Government of Bangladesh, WASH Networks, CSOs and NGOs
b. The communities and LGs were consulted during the study conducted in various locations and context of the country emphasizing the sanitation progress of Bangladesh focusing the commitments of 7th SACOSAN and for validation of what had been mentioned as a progress. The study conducted FGDs and KIIs covering the geo-hydrological zone/context with active engagement of the FANSA-BD members in the process and with the active participation of community people, local govt., relevant govt. agencies, sector specialists & professionals and other key stakeholders.
c. The consolidated outcome of the study has drawn a real picture of the implementation status of the SACOSAN-VII Commitments in Bangladesh. Accommodating the community findings, the outcome was further shared with the wider level of stakeholders in the Policy Influencing Meeting for Achieving the SDG-6 on 26 May 2022.
d. Lastly, the progress status against the commitments was agreed upon based on evidence-focused discussions of the participants and recorded as:
    i. Completed / Good Progress has been made,
    ii. Substantial progress has been made,
    iii. Minimal progress has been made
e. Later, on 28 February 2024, the FANSA-BD reviewed the progress of the commitments through a webinar, where the FANSA-BD members including LGI representatives, INGO representatives, WASH experts, and professionals took part and gave their valuable opinions. The review meeting was organized by SKS Foundation, the Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA)-Bangladesh Secretariat and brought together WASH specialists and representatives from FANSA-BD member organizations.
f. Existing documents related to Bangladesh's sanitation efforts were reviewed and a report was prepared. The review included government policies and strategies, reports from NGOs and international organizations, and academic research. The collected information and data from the review was analyzed against SACOSAN VII commitments and the progress was assessed. Furthermore, the gaps and challenges were also identified. The findings of the review were then presented in the webinar on 28 February 2024 which came up with some recommendations.

Bhutan

FANSA Bhutan had the internal consultation and decided that for the reasons of objectivity and professionalism in conducting the assessment an appropriate and competent agency was engaged to independently facilitate the process and produce the report.

During the consultation with government entities for the documentation of the realization of Bhutan's commitments on SACOSAN-VII, it was informed that the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) is in a process of reviewing and updating the progress achieved. FANSA-Bhutan team were suggested not to publish the report with Traffic Light as the government itself will produce status report with the "traffic light indicators against the commitments made in SACOSAN-VII". In this

context, the report generated by FANSA-Bhutan may not cover the progress in a holistic manner, be comprehensive, complete and authentic.

Therefore, the progress status against the commitments was mapped based on the review of latest available literature only to form a basis for reflecting the country's progress status and hence reflected accordingly rather than mentioning actual progress status. Thus, the information compiled for this report are solely for the purpose of FANSA only. The study included thorough examination of the existing literature within the WASH sector, with a focus on materials preceding and following the Seventh SACOSAN to maintain contextual accuracy and reflect on-the-ground realities. In addition to secondary sources, the evaluation incorporated the latest insights from two key officials from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT) and SNV Netherlands, Bhutan. This was facilitated through a structured questionnaire aligned with the 10-point declaration of SACOSAN VII.

India

FANSA India has formed a small core team to develop a concept note on the proposed assessment, identified an external resource person to systematically conduct the assessment process. The other sector partners identified were engaged in conducting this progress assessment process. Desk review of the relevant documents, online survey, interviews with key informants were the methodology followed, in addition to what has been mentioned below, for this assessment process.

a. A desk review of relevant documents from the Government Ministry of Jal Shakti, and development partners, was conducted. During this process, the documents of Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) such as Swachha Bharat Mission (SBM) II guidelines and the Rural Sanitation Strategy were also analysed for consolidated analysis, apart from aforementioned process, to ascertain what the ministry has stated as its actions and progress against the SACOSAN commitments. Among the sources screened for this desk review were the respective ministry websites, research papers, and reports from international, regional, and local partners, and as well as any publicly available data in print, social media, or any other recorded format.
b. The analysis of civil society perspectives on the SACOSAN VII commitments was conducted virtually, given the shortage of time. It was completed in May 2022.
c. Conducted an online survey using Google Forms to elicit responses from a wide range of respondents from across India. It was emailed that survey form was administered to over 200 people, including on the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) list and the FANSA members; a total of 79 people of whom responded to the survey3 (40%). The results of which are given below.
d. Detailed interviews were conducted with leading WASH organizations on each of the commitments. and their responses are summarised in the section on reflections. This analysis of civil society perspectives on the SACOSAN VII commitments was conducted virtually, given the shortage of time. It was completed in May 2022.
e. Secondary data is gathered from different sources and then combined to align them for each of the commitments listed. Stakeholder consultations in the sector helped shed light on the

[3] https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1DvEbXjLXIL8RWWxIpL1jiqwejoGTyOy5TawVWVyO5sM/edit

current state of affairs, validate existing data, and pinpoint obstacles to completing the last mile.

Maldives

In Maldives the opportunity of conducting this assessment enabled FANSA Maldives to re-engage with the public, private and the development sector partners. It also created an opportunity to capture all the vital information and produce an updated WASH status report. Maldives hired consultant who carried out required research and produced the draft report for feedback and input from the sector partners and the responses were highly limited in number. However, the finalized report was presented for CSOs' reflection and the responses are presented separately in the final report. Before concluding to a final report, the Water Care responsible for assessment recognizes that the assessment of progress on SACOSAN commitments is an important responsibility of Civil Society and took the initiative to assess SACOSAN VII commitments closely guided by the provision assessment. Water Care recognizes that the assessment of progress on SACOSAN commitments is an important responsibility of Civil Society and took the initiative to assess SACOSAN VII commitments closely guided by the provision assessment, TLP model. Water Care included this activity among the program of studies proposed to SWA for funding in 2020 as regards the implementation of CSO commitments tabled at Sector Ministers Meeting in Puerto Rico in 2019.

The assessment was carried out as follows:

a. A consultant was hired who had previous experience with the FANSA advocacy process on WASH through participation in workshops and conferences of FANSA.
b. The consultant writes to stakeholders who were previously engaged in WASH accountability program of FANSA, WATER AID, SWA. Among them, Government Ministries, Development Partners, Private sector and CSO were included.
c. Although the original intention was to combine the expected input from the stakeholders, its absence and lack of input from Key stakeholders led us to use open sources of related party websites that provided us the content used to generate the progress on the commitments since 2018.
d. The draft report is shared with the stakeholder inviting discussion and deliberation. No input was received; the draft was therefore finalized with no revision.
e. The finalized assessment was later discussed among interested CSOs. The input this received is presented in a separate section of this document.

Nepal

The assessment process in Nepal adopted qualitative method for identifying the existing gaps and progress made in implementing SACOSAN VII commitments and status of sanitation with specific reference to reaching the most marginalized. Literature review and secondary data analysis, Key Informant Interview (KII), Focus Group Discussion (FGDs), data Analysis and report preparation tools were used for preparing the assessment report. Following methods were adopted to assess the progress:

a. Literature review and secondary data analysis: The study reviewed the SACOSAN VII declaration, national documents including plans, strategy and reports to track the milestone

achieved and collect evidences. It also analysed the FGD reports, *Gyapanpatra* and training reports conducted by FANSA Nepal during 2019-2021with different stakeholders.

b. Key Informant Interview (KII): KIIs were conducted with the representatives from Government, UN Agencies, Experts, Academia/research institutions, private organizations and CSOs to gather and review the evidence of progress and identify existing gaps.
c. Focus Group Discussion (FGD): FGDs were conducted with marginalized and LNOB groups, FANSA key members and stakeholders.

Data Analysis and report preparation: Data collected from the field and existing reports were thoroughly analysed. Similarly, existing gap and status of WASH with specific reference to reaching the most marginalized in the context of COVID-19 were also analysed. After the analysis, the information was documented meticulously to ensure it was concise, coherent, logical, reader-friendly, and contributed effectively as an assessment report.

Pakistan

FANSA Pakistan had engaged a well reputed, experienced Consultant, who has attended previous SACOSANs himself. The assessment process was conducted in all four provinces to assess the progress made and existing gaps in implementing SACOSAN VII commitments with specific reference to reaching sanitation services to the most marginalized. While undertaking the assessment, following process were also given due consideration as major ones.

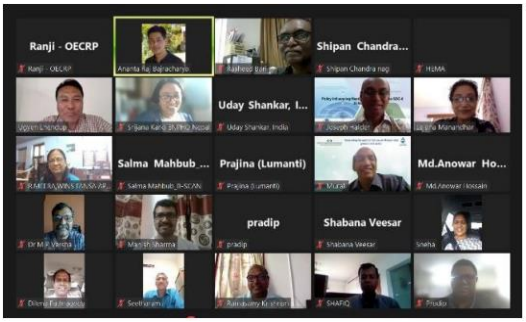
a. The Assessment of the realization of the commitments made in SACSOAN VII in April 2018 included the review of the SACOSAN-VII commitments compiled and published by the Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan at the conclusion of the conference.
b. Based on the requirements of FANSA, a commitment-wise questionnaire was developed for seeking interviews from the Key Informants and sector specialists. The list of key information and reports and public sector data was obtained from different sources.
c. The assessment also included Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) with local councillors, community leaders and Key Informants at district, provincial and national level. Special assessment tools were developed to ascertain data, to see how Covid-19 has affected Government's initiatives regarding SACOSAN-VII commitments.
d. For this purpose, much of the data and information were taken from the various reports and information available in the public sectors in the four provinces and Government of Pakistan.
e. The draft report was shared with stakeholders for their review and feedback which was further refined as a result of feedback from the FANSA and other stakeholders.
f. Because of the time and resources constraints, the research and analysis work were largely confined to desk review of reports and resources, telephonic interviews and digital exchange of data.
g. Much of the information and help was taken from the provincial and national level joint sector reviews, recently conducted in all the four provinces and Islamabad under the auspices of Ministry of Climate Change, where the respective ministries of Finance, Planning, Health, Environment, Public Health, Local Governments, water and sanitation services companies, local areas development authorities, municipalities and WASH sector development partners and CSO's carried out a comprehensive exercise, to ascertain the current situation, identify gaps and recommend actions where needed.

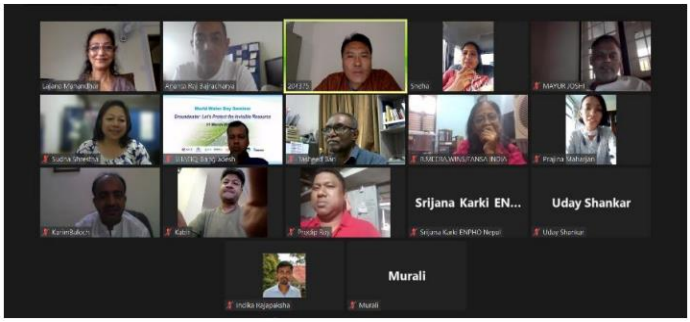
h. For those commitments which were either not covered in the JSR or partly covered, additional data from different organizations/individuals were sought to meet the requirements.

Sri Lanka

FANSA Sri Lanka also engaged a consultant to steer the process of assessment with the engagement of CSOs, sector partners and the concerned Government agencies. Ministry of Water Supply, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Department of Community Water Supply, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project and INGOs like UNICEF were involved in seeking responses to the assessment process basing on which the consultant employed by FANSA Sri Lanka has produced the report. For the assessment, review and analysis of the progress against SACOSAN VII commitments, a multi-step process was adopted as applicable and relevant to the country context. Along with, FANSA Sri Lanka, conducted the assessment of progress on SACOSAN commitments considering it as an important responsibility of Civil Society. The study adopted mostly qualitative method for the assessment of existing gaps and progress made while realizing SACOSAN VII commitments. FANSA Sri Lanka through a consultant as mentioned above conducted FGDs, KIIS, consultation meetings etc. with the following key sector institutions along with the review of the national and sector documents related to WASH to review the progress made over the commitments:

- Ministry of Water Supply
- National Water Supply and Drainage Board
- Department of Community Water Supply
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project
- UN Agencies (UNICEF, WHO etc.)
- INGOs, NGOs and CBOs





The chase matrix prepared on the SACOSAN VII declaration is used as the instrument for assessing progress made against each commitment. In 2019 the chase matrix was shared among the sector partners for comments before sharing with the ICWG members. The chase matrix was presented at the11th ICWG meeting held in Islamabad Pakistan by the Sri Lankan member.

The chase matrix was updated and presented at the National Water Sanitation Coordination meeting on March 28th, 2024, the Ministry of Water Supply & Estate Infrastructure chaired a meeting of the National Multistakeholder Coordination platform for WASH. During the meeting, the

topic of SACOSAN and a suggestion made by FANSA/CEJ was discussed. On behalf of the Ministry of WS&EI CEJ circulated latest version of the chase matrix and requested comments from stakeholders.

4. Progress achieved against SACOSAN VII commitments: A reflection

The following section provides a summary of the achievements mead by the respective South Asian countries against the commitments they made during SACOSAN, April 2018. The critical reflections made by country wise is made aligning with the ten commitments of the respective countries.

Bangladesh

As of February 2024 review, Bangladesh has made notable progress in implementing the commitments of the SACOSON VII. Bangladesh is the first open defecation free country in South Asia and has achieved significant progress in policy formulation and data collection in sanitation. As a part of that progress, Bangladesh has developed and revised WASH-related policies & strategies and taken steps toward achieving SDGs in a spirit of LNOB along with SDG tracker. Similarly, the policies are being aligned so that no one is left behind. The acts are also mandated to frame the budget to allow opportunities for hard core poor to access WASH services. Pro-poor strategy has ensured that the hardcore poor are entitled to 100% subsidy for water and sanitation services. Though good progress can be found in the sanitation, but the cleanliness and hygiene use and sustaining ODF is one of the major issues and challenges. This requires the changes in attitude and behaviour as most needed among the people.

The country has also opened up a scope for private sectors' engagement and participation in sanitation discourse. Inclusive entrepreneurship and business approach have been developed to ensure sustainable WASH services at the community by bringing Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) on board to provide loans to the sanitation entrepreneurs for establishing/expanding their sanitation business. However, there is only a minimal progress in the HR development of the stakeholders. Similarly, the knowledge management and learning endeavours has not been taken up to the level as expected and there are not any specialized training centres or institutes at the community level to uphold practicing sanitation and hygiene knowledge. Therefore, government institutions should play a more proactive role in aggregating knowledge and learning products for further promotion and replication.

The overall national budget for WASH has been increased, even though it is urban-centric. The policies and strategies have opened the door for better coordination and achievement of the WASH goals of Bangladesh and need to be put into concrete actions. The overall national budget for WASH has been increased ~3 times since the MDG era, even though it is urban-centric. Though Bangladesh Climate Change Trust has been created, investment in developing a context-specific technologies considering ecological zone, zone-specific technology has not been done properly with assurance of adequate financing for their promotion to a scale. There is a need for investing in developing context-specific technologies. The community people are neither aware of the climate-resilient Sanitation and Hygiene Technology, nor aware of accessing to the finance (fund/budget) even if they get access, they have to go through a complicated process that discourage them to proceed with.

Bhutan

Bhutan has made significant progress in meeting the commitments of SACOSAN VII. It has made commendable strides in establishing baselines and WASH targets aligned with SDG 6.1 and 6.2. The country's efforts to achieve universal basic sanitation services and hygiene are evident through important policy initiative, such as the National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy (NSHP) of 2020, which outlines clear objectives and strategies to improve sanitation infrastructure and services.

Bhutan declared all 205 sub-districts and 20 districts open-defecation-free (source: Beyond the Finish Line project brief, Nov. 2022). The Roadmap for Sanitation and Hygiene to achieve SDGs of 6.1 and 6.2 has been developed.

Bhutan has integrated SDG indicators into its National Key Result Areas (NKRAs) and monitoring frameworks. The endorsement of the NHSP of 2020 and the subsequent development of the National Strategy for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (NSWASH) indicate efforts towards aligning data collection with WASH-related SDGs. At the national level, the Water and Sanitation Information System (WaSIS) has been developed to keep track of the progress in the sector. The Country undertook the initiatives in harmonising the monitoring information systems and indicators aligning with international definitions.

Bhutan's focus on targeting vulnerable groups, including girls with disabilities, indicates efforts to ensure inclusivity in menstrual health (MH) and WASH initiatives, aligning with SACOSAN VII commitments to leave no one behind. Aligning with this, Bhutan's emphasis on "Leave No One Behind and Post ODF strategy" sets the goal to achieve 100 percent improved sanitation by 2022. The National Toilet Guidelines of 2021 is in place.

The country's National Health Promotion Strategy plan 2015-2023 (NHPSP) proposes a roadmap for human resource development in public health sectors, including training programs and capacity-building initiatives. However, human resource capacity in the WASH sector remains a challenge in Bhutan. The NSHP of 2020 reflects a commitment to institutionalize mechanisms for effective coordination and service delivery, with clear delineation of roles and responsibilities among relevant ministries, agencies, and local governments. It further underscores the importance of sustainable financing mechanisms and calls for proper cost recovery mechanisms to meet operational expenditures. Bhutan has demonstrated a commitment to strengthening knowledge management and learning on sanitation and hygiene through collaborative efforts at regional, national, and sub-national levels.

India

The country made a significant progress in Sanitation i.e. in regard to SDG 6.2 with the acceleration of *Swachh Bharat Mission* (SBM) by Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) and India declared itself as an Open defecation-free country in the year 2019. The progress made under SDG 6.1 is remarkable, with 96 percent of the population accessing portable water, which is in conformity with JMP data as well. The data reveals there are consistent efforts to provide services, and there is a gradual progress from the elimination of open defecation to creating facilities for solid and liquid waste management facilities.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti in India has undertaken several initiatives to streamline and align data collection tools, processes, and approaches for tracking progress on WASH related SDGs, particularly SDG 6. In addition, NITI Ayog, a policy think tank of the Indian Government that provides input regarding the implementation of the different programs and policies, also has a dashboard to track the progress of SDGs. The dashboards and indexes are a good source to track progress, but there needs to be better alignment and streamlining of all the data sets.

India has taken several targeted approaches to ensure no one is left behind in its efforts to improve access to WASH services, focusing particularly on understanding and addressing inequalities across

geographical areas, vulnerable groups, and income levels. There are several provisions under SBM/ JJM, that mention the systematic process of training needs assessment, capacity building, and the need to bring ownership among the communities for a safe and sustainable environment.

India has made commendable progress towards Commitment 5 of SACOSAN by implementing significant sectoral reforms and flagship programmes. The Ministry of Jal Shakti's establishment and initiatives like Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, Jal Jeevan Mission, Atal Bhujal Yojana, and Amrit Sarovar Yojana underscore the country's commitment to enhancing sanitation and water management. The regulatory initiatives of the National Green Tribunal and the Pollution Control Boards further emphasize the nation's dedication to environmental health and sustenance.

Financial planning has been streamlined with SBM II and the 15th Finance Commission has earmarked 60% funds for WASH sector in India. Financial tracking has been in place for several years through the government's MIS. There is a good inter-ministerial coordination due to SBM guidelines that stipulated multiple ministries and WASH actors to act for promoting WASH programs in rural and urban space to achieve SDG commitments.

Over the period, there has been a significant increase in budget allocation. However, the budget does not meet the operation and maintenance funds, there are no specific allocations to the marginalised groups, gender budgeting is not done and there has to be much more decentralisation at the Panchayat level or grass roots level on how to utilise the budgets. Regarding WASH in institutions, the WASH convergence in education is very good, while convergence with health is average and sanitation in public places is poor. However, the situation is comparatively better in urban than in rural areas. Though SBM-II aims to develop advocacy plans but limited to behaviour change strategy for sustaining the ODF status only. For this, the Government used multiple channels to promote behaviour change converging with other ministries along with grassroots campaigns through *Swachhata Sangrahas* which itself is a knowledge management repository. The data reveals that multiple advocacy campaigns and IEC activities are being rolled out to reach the communities. Training and knowledge management is happening but more on ad-hoc than in a systematic and coordinated way where different partners conduct a programme in response to government demands at different levels. There is no mention of climate change resilient infrastructure and financing in the SBM II and hence no separate budget for climate resilient WASH infrastructures. Given the pressure on governments to achieve the SDGs and the often-constrained budgets, investment in climate-resilient urban sanitation has unfortunately become a secondary priority, leading to a significant gap in government funding. However, the Government of India has initiated small budgeted programs though the impact of climate change is very large given the flash floods, heat waves, and water scarce situations.

Maldives

Open defecation was eliminated in the country in 1980s following strategic action taken against diarrheal diseases such as Cholera and Shigella. The government of Maldives has developed WASH targets covering water and sewerage in the National Water and Sewerage Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025 which is the key instrument for accelerating the sanitation drive in the country. The development of the Water Act, Water Utility Regulatory Act, and launching of the Water Policy and Strategy Action Plan has already being implemented. According to Country Programming Framework (2018-2020), The Government of Maldives is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and is in the process of localising the SDGs and establishing

the mechanisms for coordination, data collection and monitoring. While data has been collected for many years, the identification of gaps and of measures needed to make the datasets relevant and appropriate for SDG monitoring is only commencing.

There exists a drive from the implementation of existing acts, policies, regulations and strategies for the identification of vulnerable groups generating evidence with existing legal and institutional mechanisms *(to address the concerns of vulnerable, marginalized, poor, and excluded groups)* helped to enable the attainment of the rights to water and sanitation for all the residents of Maldives.

Since 2018 there has been significant development in the area of sectoral reform in the way of changes in the institutional arrangement with separation of policy and implementation and annexing policy. Inter-ministerial collaboration led by the government through multi-stakeholder actions together with engagement of civil society through their empowerment has been a commendable initiative for developing synergies towards the attainment of LNOB as committed in SDG 6. The currently available technical human resource within the country is insufficient. Therefore, the policy action of the NWSSP (2020-2025) needs to be actioned soon as it also aims to produce more professional human resources in WASH by setting out the activities for the medium term for the development of HR capacity in the sector.

Based on the proportion of Health Care Facilities (HCFs) with elements of basic sanitation, country has improved and usable sanitation facilities in almost 100% of HCFs but only 15% of them have gender separated toilets with MHM facilities. The access to WASH facilities in schools is high, but poor design and operations & maintenance (O&M) remain challenges. However, gender-separated toilets are the norm. A five-year national awareness campaign i.e. FENFAHI campaign (2017 - 2021) works in harmony with the National Water and Sewerage Policy (NWSP) to enable the public to become more knowledgeable, responsible and involved in the management of water resources, water supply and sewerage systems. The country partnership strategy and frameworks, 2020-2024 of Asian Development Bank and World Bank Group emphasizes the need for climate change adaptation, environmental protection and disaster risk management. Accordingly, in alignment with Climate adaptation policies, regulations and guidelines, follow-up projects to promote climate-resilient sanitation and hygiene technologies are designed and being implemented with high priority.

Nepal

Nepal has made significant progress in water, sanitation and hygiene. The basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene coverage has increased considerably. According to the National Population and Housing Census of 2021, 93% of the population currently enjoys access to basic water supply services, marking a notable increase from 85% in 2011. Nepal has undertaken a significant journey to enhance toilet facility accessibility, aiming to increase it to 95% from 62% in 2011. The country achieved the milestone of being declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) on September 30, 2019. However, some issues like water quality, faecal sludge management and sustainability of handwashing practices are still prevailing. The National Planning Commission (NPC) has formulated indicators and targets for SDG 6.1 and 6.2 along with the monitoring framework that requires sources of data, level of disaggregation, frequency and responsible agency. There exist a clear institutional and service delivery arrangements within the national and sub-national level of the

country as per the provisions made in constitutions, Water and Sanitation Bill, and Local Governance Operation Act for providing quality WASH services through all three tiers of government by defining criteria and classifying the development programs and projects accordingly. WASH Act and WASH policy has been finalised and endorsed. WASH regulation is in draft state.

Nepal has been making remarkable progress in developing and using N-WASH which is an digital tool to collect and analyse data to track the progresses in WASH SDG 6 and drafting WASH plan in a local level. Moreover, UNICEF along with WHO and Nepal Statistics Office are conducting MICS survey which was conducted in 2019 and now is planned for 2024. The major achievement in the sector is preparation of WASH plan for all 753 local government units through the use of N-WASH to ensure LNOB for access of all to WASH services and form a basis for LGs to allocate the financial resources. The WASH plans aims for improved targeting of those least served with equity especially around geographical area, vulnerable groups and income levels and strengthening participation and accountability in collaboration with sector partners. However, the implementation of WASH plan is a huge challenge as the budget requirement is very high incomparable with the current allocation. The consistency of WASH product and services specially to the people and communities who are in bottom of pyramid is another challenge. The Ministry of Water Supply has recently implemented a Management Information System (MIS) using the NWASH application. This application is utilized to identify and track unserved populations.

The Government of Nepal is actively enhancing human resources in the WASH sector, with initiatives such as a Capacity Development Master Plan and a business plan for the National Water and Sanitation Training Centre. The NWSSTC and NMIP are collaborating to establish an online learning portal, intending to offer various WASH courses. The budgetary allocation from the government is persistently low, around 3%, even after average 1.4% increase over the four years (WaterAid, 2018)[4]. The current allocation has over 17% deficit of the projected investment required for achieving SDGs on WASH and is also distributed inequitably by region and gender. The investment from private sector is currently very low (0.8%) of the total WASH financing required to achieve SDG (NPC, 2018)[5]. The advocacy strategy report, 2021 (*under WASH SDG project*), defined the key criteria for prioritizing advocacy agenda to address the WASH issues and accordingly the advocacy themes were identified for sector influencing works. Nepal has developed guidelines for ensuring WASH in Schools (WinS) and WASH in Health Care Facilities (WinHCFs) and developed tools like three-star approach for WinS and WASH-FIT for WinHCFs. Climate change emerged as a new challenge, effect of which is amplified with unplanned development and haphazard urbanization.

The paradigm of Nepal's WASH sector is shifting from access to basic WASH services to safely managed WASH services and products with lots of challenges ahead. 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[6].

[4] *https://washmatters.wateraid.org/publications/wateraid-nepal-country-strategy-2017-2021*
[5] *https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/SDGs_Costing_Final_Version.pdf*
[6] *https://mofe.gov.np/noticefile/NAP%20Rep%202021-2050_Suggestion_1634621834.pdf*

Pakistan

The country has number of policies related to WASH in place and some are being revised and updated through the ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) which also guided all the provinces to have WASH sector development plan in place. MoCC is responsible for engaging INGOs and WASH sector for meaningful discussion contributing to sectoral reforms. The country also developed number of tools and referred for data collection to track the progress on SDG. Pakistan is striving for more collective and shared process for development moving forward with explicit actions to curb inequalities and confront discrimination to ensure progress for those furthest behind. Though Pakistan made significant progress in improving access to sanitation, the existing capacity of the service providers vis a vis the mandate of the WASH sector is something that needs to be realigned. The slow progress on the front of safe water and sanitation is linked with capacity issues on part of the service providers. On the whole, a dedicated capacity development initiative focusing on innovative solution for WASH endeavours is missing in the country. Establishment of WASH Strategic Unit and initiation of Clean Green Pakistan Movement (CGPM) etc. reflect the country's emphasis on the capacity development of public service providers and local elective representatives.

Pakistan has clear institutional arrangements with clear roles and responsibilities for each tier of governments not only for policy formulation and standards settings but also for the actions. The launching of CGPM also created an enabling environment for WASH sector with specific focus on institutional strengthening, capacity development and for receiving highest level of political commitments. A review of the budget documents showed an increasing trend of WASH allocations from 2018-2022. The most important forum for lobbying and advocacy for development plans for WASH services is the MoCC at national level while at the provincial level this role is being played by the Public Health Engineering Departments and Local Government Departments. The forum such as WASH clusters, MHM Working Groups, Provincial Sanitation Up-scaling Steering Committee, the Clean Green Cities Index etc. are promoting the WASH champions and are playing an important role in developing national/sub-national advocacy plans, strategies, campaigns etc. that promote the use and sustainability of sanitation services.

Majority of HCFs in low-and middle-income countries lack of quality WASH services. The data regarding WASH and environmental health in the healthcare facilities of Pakistan is extremely limited. On the contrary, WASH in schools has received special emphasis with the improvement in the availability of WASH facilities consistently from primary to higher schools and such WASH facilities are greater in private schools compared to public. WASH Sector Strategic Planning and Coordination Cell has been established in the MoCC to facilitate and fast-track progress towards achievement of SDG 6.1 and 6.2 and promote knowledge management. This Unit also serves as a federal level nerve centre and jointly owned institutional platform for ensuring smooth collaboration involving federal/provincial governments, civil society, private sector, academia and development partners for WASH sector reforms in Pakistan.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has well understood the need for improving status of water and sanitation and placed them in a high place in the policy framework and development agendas targeting SDGs. It has established national targets during baseline reporting period and presented at the National WASH Coordination Forum. The country continued its commitments towards safely managed sanitation

and has achieved over 90% population coverage in improved sanitation by 2020. Sri Lanka continued with the provision of onsite sanitation to rural communities and pipe sewerage to major cities. Targets for 2020 could not be achieved due to COVID 19 followed by economic setbacks and political instability in 2022. SDG 6 indicators for WASH are incorporated in the national census. However, data will be available on the progress of the sector once the ongoing national census is completed. Both National Sanitation Policy and Master Plan have received cabinet approval. The legislative reforms, financial planning & reporting, and development of advocacy plans are three major objectives of the National Policy on Sanitation developed recently. The sanitation master plan has identified the number of households across the island that need sanitation facilities to avoid ODF. Now the target is set for 2027 to eliminate ODF. All new interventions will be within the framework introduced by newly developed Sanitation Master Plan. WASH budgets and allocations are made and distributed in such a way so that marginalized and poor sectors in the society will be given priority and no one will be left behind.

National targets have been set for FSM by implementing STPs for local bodies in environmentally sensitive areas. The improvement in WASH facilities in institutions has been highly prioritized in all sanitation projects. All projects and programmes implemented in rural sector and for WASH in Schools conduct community mobilization and behaviour change programs. At least 3 projects are being implemented on institutionalizing strategies to tackle climate impacts on water by UNDP, World Bank and ADB. Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management is UNDP funded project.

Ministry of Water Supply, NWSDB, DNCWS and Ministry of Health has contributed by implementing many activities to improving knowledge management. Though human resource development plan is yet to be developed in sanitation sector, but with the establishment of Regional Sanitation Training Centre, Sri Lank is contributing towards human resource development and improving knowledge management in sanitation sector not only within the country but also in the SA Region. Sri Lanka has a strong institutional base to achieve WASH targets manned by highly qualified professionals and skilled personnel. Sri Lanka was one of the five countries selected for HR capacity assessment in 2012 assisted by the International Water Centre Brisbane and IWA. HR assessment was done during the GLAAS 2018 and 2022 survey.

Climate change endeavours in the WASH sector is still a challenge and is at the primary stage. However, Sri Lank is committed to improve status on water and sanitation and has taken number of measures to achieve SDGs amidst facing numerous challenges including subsequent economic difficulties, downturns and political turmoil. However, once above difficulties are solved, Sri Lanka will be on track again and will achieve SDGs, as planned, by 2030.

5. Challenges/Gaps experienced by the countries while fulfilling the commitments

Following are some of the challenges the countries faced or are facing while accelerating the sanitation and hygiene intervention aiming to meet the commitments made in SACOSAN-VII and SDG commitments by 2030.

Bangladesh

- There still exists the barriers for sustaining the ODF status and reaching the excluded population (e.g. Dalit communities), marginalized groups (i.e. urban slum & pavement dwellers. Similarly, sustaining the Basic Sanitation status achieved among the poor & marginalized people in the communities and gradual achievement of safely managed sanitation status among urban dwellers have been degraded due to the impact of COVID-19 induced public health and climate induced natural disaster i.e. flood, river erosion, cyclone, salinity, etc.
- Ensuring data accuracy and equitable resource allocation, especially between urban and rural areas remain as key challenges.
- The proper awareness on the need of data collection and the dissemination of the result of the survey have not carried out to the level of understanding of the target audiences of the communities as people are completely unaware of it. For this, cconcerned authority has to make them aware to respect citizen's rights to information.
- Not yet initiated the revision of pro-poor Strategy for Water and Sanitation to let poor community people positioned themselves for WASH services from government. Need further improvement in inter-ministerial coordination and collaboration for providing better WASH services to the citizens of Bangladesh especially for the unreached & poor.
- Progress beyond ODF towards next ladder of sanitation is an overall challenge with slow progress in fecal sludge management as Faecal sludge and wastewater produced in urban towns are directly connected to the open drain, canals/rivers - a huge headache for municipal authorities to manage. One of the reasons for this is the weak capacity of the municipalities *(lack of Human, Finance, Equipment resources)* to carry out their mandates of managing Faecal Sludge.
- The national budget allocation has been urban-centric focusing on megacities i.e. city corporations. The allocations for the hard-to-reach areas has been remaining less though these are the most deserving areas. The current trend of resource allocation may not be able to meet / achieve the SDG commitments.
- Alongside, the community people are not well aware of this financial planning and budget allocation on water, sanitation & hygiene. Whoever are aware of this, those unserved communities feel that the budget allocation is not enough to cover the need. The communities also believe there is a gap in planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of WASH facilities.
- The Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) remains challenge in Bangladesh and most development schemes have not materialized yet.

Bhutan

- Despite government initiatives to allocate resources and prioritize capacity building, there is a mismatch between skills and market demand.
- One particular issue that draws the attention is the need to ensure effective and horizontal policy coordination, program planning and implementation.
- The current initiatives and efforts bear the risk of getting derailed because of potential fissures in inter-institutional collaboration and policy-program disconnect.
- Challenges remain in ensuring consistency and comprehensiveness in data collection methodologies.

- While the financial planning and reporting mechanisms for sanitation and hygiene-related investments are being strengthened in Bhutan, challenges persist in resource allocation, sustainability, and the absence of standardized tariff regulations.
- A costed WASH plan is needed to achieve national and SDG targets effectively.
- Ensuring effective utilization of funds and transparent reporting mechanisms remain crucial for achieving SDG-related targets.

India

- Desk research indicated SBM had no explicit measures save for guidelines for toilets making them inclusive and differently abled friendly.
- Sustainability and equity of services were two key challenges facing the sector—current levels and targeting of budget allocations were not sufficient to address them.
- The government needs to rethink its strategy for meeting SDG targets around safely managed and sustainable ODF. This may not be possible for the government to achieve this alone as it involves building infrastructure for treatment and disposal and continuing BCC for the use of toilets, plugging gaps in infrastructure as only 25% toilets were twin pits.
- Financial planning has been streamlined with SBM II and 15th Finance Commission has earmarked 60% funds for WASH sector in India. This may face challenge while achieving SDG commitments and targets.
- India estimated HR shortages to be largest in emptying and transport, O&M (of existing infrastructure and future FSTPs), regulation, business development, monitoring, and oversight and support, including continued community engagement at local level, after the large-scale mobilization during the ODF campaign.
- Despite consistent meetings and partnerships among departments, some gaps persist. One such gap is that the unified action plan from these departments has not yet been disclosed, which would enable the citizens and concerned organisations to observe the convergence of these institutions in terms of resource management and common activity plans, as well as identify any extant gaps.
- Despite the gradual increase in funds for water and sanitation since the announcement of the SBM and JJM programs, there are still numerous gaps in ensuring service delivery. The operational and maintenance budget is deplorable, despite investments in water and sanitation infrastructure. The 15th Finance Commission provides insufficient funding to local bodies, and most of the time, the Panchayats are unaware of the exact amount of funds allocated for water 23 and sanitation. The budgets do not follow gender budgeting, and allocations and special provisions are not made for the physically challenged and other marginalised groups.
- Though there are various knowledge Management Hubs and Portals, the field level staff and other grassroots level functionaries are not able to access this information. Given the technical and human resource constraints, these hubs are not able to reach all the institutional levels for effective dissemination of the messages. Though there are state and National level Knowledge Management events that take place from time to time, the knowledge is retained by a limited number of people, and there are not many efforts to disseminate the information.

Maldives

- Considering the several shortcomings in the designs as well as construction of water and sewerage projects, they will face huge challenges when come to the operation stage. Therefore, the civil society highlights the importance of short medium and long term plans for creating relevant knowledge and mechanisms.
- CSOs who met to discuss the achievements of SACOSAN 7 expressed concerns of the limited engagement they had in this advocacy plan development and implementation process. It is recommended that increasing engagement responsibilities and variety of roles be provided for

civil society to engage scale and develop beyond what the government alone could implement through a centralized system.

- The support of development partners as well as various donors and supporting agencies are required for a transformational approach in diversification of advocacy and awareness resulting in meaningful engagement at grass-root level service recipients of WASH as set in SDG6.
- There is no specific menstrual hygiene management (MHM) policies or program either in HCFs or in schools. Formal hygiene education, trained school health assistants and good hygiene practices are lacking.
- WASH facilities exist in all schools; poor quality and O&M remain challenges. Most schools have no plan for cleaning septic tanks. Similarly, the responsibilities for O&M are unclear and is a low priority for the policy-decision makers that allocate budget be it at national (central) or at sub-national (local) level.
- Finance, planning and systems for all types of waste disposal are lacking.
- CSOs' discussions on access to WASH services by particularly the physically disabled noted the lack of regulations requiring WASH facilities (providing universal access) in public places, shopping centers, transport vessels and harbours.
- At present, the available technical human resource is insufficient for achieving the desired sector goals and objectives. This number can be increase with more women participation.
- The civil society discussions highlighted the limitation of the human resource development strategies to the operation level while most of the consultancy and contracting components of water and sewerage projects being implemented over the country are resourced through foreign companies.
- The access to WASH facilities in schools is high, but poor design and operations & maintenance (O&M) remain challenges.

Nepal

- Although, the constitution has assigned separate clause relating to drinking water under Right to Health, it is still yet to recognize WASH as the interlinked subjects. Considering the data of NPC-2016, N-MICS-2019, and SDF- 2021; high time has come for the Constitution to identify safe WASH services as the fundamental rights against right to clean water and clean environment only.
- Local governments play a crucial role in planning and managing WASH services, but capacity constraints hinder their effectiveness.
- A significant portion of water supply systems in Nepal face functionality issues, requiring repair or reconstruction. Community capacity for operation and maintenance needs to be strengthened, water source sustainability improved, and the capability of Water User and Sanitation Committees (WUSCs) enhanced to tackle this issue.
- Poor water quality remains a pressing concern in Nepal, exacerbated by inadequate water treatment systems and unregulated sewage discharge.
- Besides, with the considerable achievements in Sanitation (basic and improved status), the containments get filled in coming years and hence, faecal sludge management is likely to become a huge challenge as there are very few faecal sludge treatment plants currently operating in Nepal.
- Key challenges for sustaining the ODF status are Institutional, Technical, Socio-Cultural & Economic, Behavioral, Environmental and Financial sustainability
- The prevailing challenges and gaps to drive the WASH sector as anticipated are:
    - Insufficient human resource in Local government for enrollment of N-WASH and formulation of WASH plan
    - Lack of proper data base to track experts on the basis of expertise
    - Mushrooming of different tools especially mobile applications from different organizations

- Status of sanitation in schools and HCFs are still very poor. The built-in WASH infrastructures for institutions, particularly in schools, are not aligned with standard technical designs and operations. Huge concerns exist on the student-toilet ratio of toilets. The budget allocation for WASH in Institutions is not adequate and need-based, but on ad-hoc
- Climate change initiatives need to be materialized instead of limiting them to slogans only. Accessibility for those who are worst hit by climate change especially in remote areas is challenging. This requires economically viable Innovative technology and is currently lacking in practice, may be due to the need of huge cost for climate change friendly projects or climate resilient projects.
- Financing remains a significant challenge in achieving WASH objectives in Nepal. Sustainable funding mechanisms are needed to support WASH initiatives and bridge funding gaps, ensuring continued progress towards universal access to safe and sustainable water and sanitation services.

Pakistan

- Not much has been done in targeting the unreached, poor, marginalized, vulnerable and excluded groups/communities/ Similarly, the participation aspect has not been reflected to ensure the participation is strengthened within the country while proceeding to address the issues of LNOB. The service delivery for water and sanitation in Pakistan involves numerous actors working for a common goal but apparently in different directions.
- There is no comprehensive legislation that empowers the Environment Protection Agencies to perform the functions such as preparing rules and standards for regulating public and private sectors. Thus, necessary legislation is required for establishing a regulatory authority and framework for water and sanitation services with legal cover and administrative and financial autonomy.
- There is still space for convincing the citizen to start paying the cost of sanitation services as the local governments will not be able to provide sustainable services for free or without any cost recovery mechanism.
- Similarly, there is a lot to be done to convince the policy makers and government functionaries to allocate additional resources for sanitation and clean environment. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene does not reflect in Annual Development Plans of Governments and is given low priority.
- Behaviour change regarding WASH is not part of the curriculum at any level of education from school to university.
- The country is still behind in terms of SDG's target of Leave No One Behind (LNOB) and universal coverage of all citizen. Therefore, the role of lobbying by the WASH stakeholders for more resources both from national and donors is felt and relevant.
- Pakistan lacks data on safely managed sanitation, including the treatment of wastewater from sewer connections and the emptying and treatment of faecal sludge from septic tanks and pit latrines. Further work is needed to address these gaps and assess the coverage of safely managed sanitation.

Sri Lanka

- There is a policy to address the issues of LNOB but not sure how that policy has been actually realized on the ground and how the issues related to LNOB has been addressed or planned to address in achieving SDG 6 targets by 2030.
- With the increase of access of people to on –site sanitation facilities, the pit/tank emptying has becoming challenges. Gully suckers who are responsible for the discharging/disposal of the faecal sludge after emptying the pits/tanks to the nearby water bodies, marshy lands thus endangering the environment.
- Necessary regulation needs to be brought on board for regulating the disposal of the emptied faecal sludge to an environment friendly way possibly after their treatment.

- Sri Lanka is ahead of South Asian Countries in achieving population coverage in improved sanitation. However, Sri Lanka is affected due to the last mile problems in delivery due to the current adverse economic situation where the national budget allocations are reduced for all development sectors.
- Accurate assessment of the sector performance was delayed due to the postponement of the national census affected by COVID-19 in 2021 and economic setbacks in 2023.
- Sri Lanka is not in a position to raise project loans for planned projects and programs due to the ongoing debt restructuring process.
- The sector institutions are working hard to maintain progress and attend to the priority needs of the population.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 Conclusions:

SACOSAN countries have made significant progress in extending access to sanitation and hygiene with significant achievements and progress in meeting the commitments made in SACOSAN VII with most of the countries declared with ODF status and those which are not are having their number of states/provinces with ODF status. Country governments have the political will to prioritize sanitation and hence the progress in having policies and institutional arrangements to support WASH governance. Almost all the countries in one way or other have developed and revised WASH-related policies & strategies and taken steps toward achieving SDGs in a spirit of LNOB along with SDG tracker aligning with the context of respective countries. These legal provisions allowed opportunities to frame the budget to reach hard core poor for their access to WASH services. One critical method of reaching the vulnerable and marginalized communities to ensure LNOB is to strengthen local government institutions and inter-ministerial/departmental collaboration for multi-stakeholder actions for synergies towards the attainment of LNOB as committed in SDG 6. The consistency of WASH product and services specially to marginalized community, people with disability and, those who are in bottom of pyramid is another challenge.

Though good progress can be found in the sanitation, but the cleanliness and hygiene use and sustaining ODF is one of the major issues and challenges. This requires the changes in mindset, attitude and behavioural as most needed among the people. Therefore, the issue of open defecation that is being addressed in the South Asia region should be best looked at from the broad angle of faecal sludge management and city/municipal wide inclusive sanitation. Considering the currently available technical human resources are insufficient to meet the needs and realize the SDG commitments, the countries are striving hard to come up with plans and strategy to fit the purpose for capacitating more professional human resources in WASH either by undergoing institutional reforms or developing plans as informed by the capacity need assessment of the sector.

Almost all the countries improved in their financing for Sanitation be it investment or utilization; both are in an increasing trend when compared to the past. local resources for sanitation access have been mobilised effectively across the region – all resulting in the "South Asian Sanitation Revolution". But still these efforts are not sufficient to meet SDG commitments by 2030. Though financing is in an increasing trend, on an average, it is persistently low and inequitable in SA compared to the progress countries are making towards safely managed sanitation services than basic sanitation services. The former needs huge investment than the later and hence financing in sanitation is becoming a huge challenge for SA countries in meeting SDG targets. Besides, the financing and investment in sanitation is distributed inequitably across all the sub-nationals, rural vs urban and reached vs unreached in SA. Though there exists the commitments of the government and high level of political commitments for the sector, this remained a challenge.

Regarding WASH in institutions, the WASH convergence in education is very good, while convergence with health is average and sanitation in public places is poor. However, the situation is comparatively better in urban than in rural areas. The poor design to ensure inclusiveness and poor operations & maintenance (O&M) remain challenges. Climate change endeavours, which is currently seen at the primary stage in the WASH sector but is emerging as a new challenge, the effect of which is amplified with unplanned development and haphazard urbanization. The

community people are neither aware of the climate-resilient Sanitation and Hygiene Technology, nor aware of accessing to the finance (fund/budget). Although, not purposely designed for climate change adaptation, many of the sanitation technologies in the rural communities of SA countries use less water that can contribute to adaptation from climate change.

But alongside this progress in sanitation, there comes a wakeup call. In other words, the progress in sanitation has yet to translate to improved health and nutrition outcomes. A WASH poverty diagnostics initiative of the World Bank conducted in 18 countries (which also covered Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India) found that despite reduction in poverty, improvements in dietary intake, and progress in access to water & sanitation: health & nutrition outcomes remained weak. Findings showed that faecal-oral contamination – a key contributor to stunting – was still high due to unsafely-managed sanitation and insufficient protection of water supply systems. This finding revealed that "poorly-managed sanitation is as bad as open defecation".

With the gradual realization of the commitments made in SACOSAN-VII by the countries reflected their commitments to improve status on water and sanitation with number of measures taken so far to achieve SDGs amidst facing numerous challenges including subsequent economic difficulties and downturns brought by Covid-19. Analysing the current trend of Sanitation and Hygiene in South Asia, the paradigm of WASH sector is shifting from access to basic WASH services to safely managed WASH services and products with lots of challenges ahead.

6.2 Recommendations

SACOSAN countries have made significant progress in extending access to sanitation and hygiene and this is commendable. Together with this progress, challenges are also showing up and that needs to be addressed gradually. Here are some recommendations to overall sectors for SACOSAN countries to think through:

- The SA countries need to rethink their strategy for meeting SDG targets around safely managed and sustainable ODF. This may not be possible for the government to achieve this alone as it involves building infrastructure for treatment and disposal, bringing innovative technologies and continuing BCC for the use of toilets. Leveraging partnership, data driven decision-making and strengthening accountability mechasnisms are crucial for achieving sustainable sanitation.
- Community level leadership building and training of community champions need to be done to enable communities to identify the most potential representatives of marginalized and vulnerable communities.
- Alignment of SDG indicators with review of national indicators and consistency on the use of indicators from all development partners need to be initiated by all the SA countries. In this regard, reporting of government and donor finance needs to be sufficiently comprehensive and transparent.
- Proper management of database on WASH is required to be set up with a framework for the data collection, uploading to the system and making them publicly available for their use, understanding and awareness. This will also be a basis for proper planning for all the national and sub-national governments, development partners and sector stakeholders for realistic planning and reporting.

- All the draft laws, policies and guidelines needs to be finalized as soon as possible. Whatever are revised and updated need to be rolled out or actioned at the soonest. This will help the sector to provide special attention needed to identify the scattered population who are still deprived of basic WASH services to ensure no one is left behind
- Proper plans and advocacy need to be carried out to increase WASH budget as well as to focus on improved WASH in institutions with inclusive facilities. The financing in sanitation is required to be increased than the current rate not only in terms of absolute amount but also fund needs to be distributed equitably as per the existing gaps to be addressed and as per the geographical locations.
- The capacitated human resources are required to be developed along with strengthening institutional capacity and knowledge management to ensure professional services are granted whenever required. For this the necessary plans with short term, medium term and longer term plan needs to be devised and collaboration with education and training institutions and development partners should be intensified with an aim of achieving the SDG commitments by 2030 with LNOB.
- Gender segregated WASH in institutions are required with an assurance of their sustained functioning. Besides, student toilet ratio, cleanliness of the facilities with proper O&M ensuring hygienic to be used. Proper MHM assurance and inclusiveness is required to make the institutional facilities friendly for all the users.
- The progress in sanitation needs to be analysed from how the progress contributed to improved health and nutrition outcomes as the way progress contributed to poverty reduction.
- Climate-resilient Sanitation and Hygiene Technology needs to be developed or imported to be implemented in country's context to address the climate change issues and challenges in WASH sector. Appropriate financing is also required together with ensuring planned urbanization and development.
- SA countries, while realizing their commitments made in SACOSAN-VII, also identified the need for the sector to address the issue of equity in health and nutrition outcomes as part of the concrete SDG 6 actions. This includes tackling the challenge of the "last mile" especially in mass movements, and adapting services to different population groups.

Lastly,

This report produced by the SA countries on the progress achievements against SACOSAN VII should also be analysed with the reflections from the communities and local stakeholders.

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[7] This Report has been prepared through a collaborative effort of FANSA-BD and Network of WASH Networks in Bangladesh based on the outcome of Webinar & community consultation.

ANNEX – 1: Commitments wise achievements made by the countries against their SACOSAN-VII commitments, April 2018

Commitment 1: *Establish baselines and WASH Targets for SDG-6.1 & 6.2 including elimination of open defecation and progress towards universal basic and safely managed sanitation services and hygiene. All countries in the region should review and align their national and sub-national policies/strategies with safely managed sanitation services and hygiene as outlined in SDGs.*

Progress Status:

INDICATORS	i. Baseline *ii.* Elimination of Open Defecation *iii.* Basic and Safely Managed Sanitation *iv.* Review and Align National & Sub-national Policies/ Strategies

Bangladesh:

Regular assessments of WASH targets for SDG 6.1 and 6.2 were done by Government of Bangladesh (GoB) through:

a. Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and latest one is from MICS, 2019. MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey), which is used to track progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is established.
b. National Hygiene Survey had been completed in 2018 and the report published in 2020.
c. The results of the surveys on toilets in different communities done by the GoB and NGOs.

Bangladesh has been declared as an Open-Defecation Free (ODF) country and acknowledged by the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) Report, 2021 which states that:

a. the basic sanitation status of Bangladesh is 54% (in 2020) against 47% (in 2015).
b. the safely managed sanitation status is 39% (in 2020) against 34% (in 2015).

All the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene related policies and strategies with SDG-6 and COVID-19 pandemic are updated or being updated

a. Pro-Poor Strategy for Water & Sanitation Sector in 2020
b. National Strategy for Water Supply & Sanitation in 2021.

Bhutan:

Generic:

- Established baselines and WASH targets aligned with SDG 6.1 and 6.2.
- Developed Roadmap for Sanitation and Hygiene to achieve SDGs of 6.1 and 6.2.

As of November, 2022: Declared all 205 sub-districts and 20 districts open-defecation-free.
Source: *(Beyond the Finish Line* (BFL) project brief, November 2022*)*.
According to the Bhutan Living Standards Survey (BLSS) 2017, improved sanitation coverage stands at 85.3 percent. UNICEF Bhutan has declared "Bhutan achieves 100 per cent Open Defecation Free with access to improved sanitation".

Leave No One Behind and Post ODF Strategy has been developed with:

a. Implement pro-poor support mechanism through identification of the poor, people with disabilities by LGs with allocation/mobilization of budget/resources
b. Adapt appropriate technological options meeting specific needs & accessibility guidance
c. LG should ensure toilet is included in the drawings before approving new house construction; and should monitor the progress of construction in a given time frame
d. Promote and create awareness and sensitize on safe sanitation and hygiene practices
e. LG should ensure adequate and appropriate sanitation facilities in all institutions within the *gewog* and should ensure that the organizers make a provision of adequate WASH facilities in such gatherings to address the WASH needs during such public gatherings (*WRT Sanitation & Hygiene guidelines, 2014*)
f. National Public Toilet Guideline 2021 is published to include Technical factors for considerations; General requirements for public toilet; Consideration for accessibility; Sustainability of public toilets.

g. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Emergencies.

The Guidelines for Faecal Sludge Management for Rural Sanitation and Hygiene 2019 is in place and the protocols of formative research on child faces management and interventions have been developed.

India:

- As per the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MOJS), with regard to Goal 6.2, under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), the country achieved Open Defecation Free India in 2019. SBM's success derived from the amount of flexibility granted to states in implementing their own guidelines/interventions
- According to CSOs, there is a lot of data but nothing which captures SDG or JMP indicators excepts increased ambiguity (*e.g. The National annual rural sanitation survey (NARSS) data says toilet coverage was 95% in 2019 but NFHS data says 65% and 80% (rural and urban)*) and therefore the indicators have not been implemented. *The government (SBMG) referred the baseline for sanitation conducted in in 2013-14 and accordingly evidenced that the government has completed the task and the country is on track. But the data has changed over the years and Government accepts new HHs have come up that need Toilet, and there are families who were left out from first baseline.*

- The data reveals that 50 percent of homes have access to drinking water through domestic tap connections, while the remaining 50 percent still lack this service. The progress on urban water supply and sewerage through AMRUT & other convergence programs includes 139 lakh water connections and 145 lakh sewer connections.
- There is no database that captures HHs with different category of toilets and those left out or those HHs that slipped back /broken down or HHs who made single pit toilets etc. that are not SDG compliant. For avoiding ambiguity and confusion and to have a clear status, it would be better if Government (MoJS) conducts another baseline to match SDG and JMP conditions on safely managed sanitation given the context that the Census data is also not shared with programme ministries.
- It is encouraging that multiple data sets from the government point to different outcomes. This provides space for dissonance even as there is a broad agreement on progress in sanitation and hygiene.
- SBM-U 2.0 aims to sustain the ODF status and prevent slippage by ensuring that all faecal sludge and used water are safely contained, transported, processed, and disposed of, so that no untreated faecal sludge or used water pollutes the ground or water bodies.
- The SBM 2.0 focuses on solid waste management and used water management focusing on the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Principles.
- The Government of India in partnership with States/ UTs and ULBs is committed to make all cities 'Garbage Free' under SBM-Urban 2.0 in order to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030.

Maldives:

Baseline assessment, targets and action plan: The government of Maldives has developed WASH targets covering water and sewerage in the National Water and Sewerage Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025 published towards the end of 2020. Some of the targets such as the development of the Water Act, Water Utility Regulatory Act, and launching of the Water Policy and Strategy Action Plan has already being implemented.

Open Defecation: Open defecation has been eliminated in the 1980s following strategic action taken against diarrheal diseases such as Cholera and Shigella. Therefore, the issue of open

defecation that is being addressed in the South Asia region should best be looked at from the broad angle of faecal waste management.

Under the newly introduced Water Act, utilities are obliged to ensure wastewater disposal in alignment with effluent regulations which are yet to be introduced. In the meantime, international guidelines may be followed together with strict monitoring obligation falling on the Utility companies.

Policy / Strategies:

- The Ministry of Environment is responsible for implementing government policies, regulations, programs and projects related to the provision of clean water and appropriate sewerage services, provision of clean and affordable energy services, provision of a clean and healthy environment free from pollution, protection of the islands from coastal erosion, advocate for the rights of small islands states in the fight against climate change, mobilize finance to adapt and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change, coordinating sustainable development goals within the government, and protection and preservation of the natural environment.
- Promulgated the National Water and Sewerage Policy by ministry of Environment and Health Master Plan prepared by the Ministry of Health - *both indicates how the multi-stakeholders input is integrated into the national strategy by incorporating the strategic plans of the private service providers and NGOs*.
- In the National Water and Sewerage Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025, Policy 1 is focused to ensure access to safe water supply and adequate sewerage services. Under this policy, strategies and actions have been developed and the developed actions are also aligned with the Commitment 1 of SACOSAN as well.

Nepal:

Baseline and WASH targets:

a. **NPC:** The National Planning Commission (NPC) has formulated indicators and targets for SDG 6.1 and 6.2. It has also set baseline value for year 2015 and separate targets set for 2019, 2022, 2025 and 2030. It has also prepared monitoring framework with sources of data, level of disaggregation, frequency and responsible agency.

b. **N-MICS:** Nepal Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey, conducted in 2019, provided statistically sound and internationally comparable data essential for developing evidence-based policies and programmes, and for monitoring progress toward national goals, including 15th Year Development Plan (2076/77-2080/81 and global commitments. The result of MICS also establishes Multi-Dimension Poverty Index (MPI), contributes to Voluntary National Report (VNR) and on the achievements of SDGs.

c. **JMP:** The JMP contributes to monitoring WASH indicators related to SDG targets on poverty (1.4.1), health (3.8.1) and education (4.a.1). SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 call for universal access to WASH services by 2030. In order to monitor the progress made on SDG 6.1 and 6.2, JMP has some of the key indicators for water, sanitation and hygiene in households, schools and HCFs. In Nepal also many national and international agencies are using these indicators to report on SDG 6.1 and 6.2.

Elimination of OD: Nepal has made considerable progress in sanitation services with:

- 79.2% HHs using improved sanitation services which are not shared.
- 93% households are with an improved sanitation facility that does not flush to a sewer and ever emptied.
- Nepal declared as an ODF nation on 30.09.019 aligning with the basic indicators of National Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan, 2011 that expects to have 100% improved sanitation facilities at household, institutions and public spaces and their hygienic use prior declaring with ODF status.

Reviewing and aligning national/subnational policies and strategies: Following are some of the legal provisions i.e. relevant laws, policies, strategies & guidelines

a.Constitutional provisions for WASH: right regarding water and sanitation under separate clause under right relating to health. Apart from this, water and sanitation is close linked with the

following articles of the constitutions: (a) Article 18: right to equity; (b) Article 24: right against untouchability and discrimination; (c) Article 30: right to clean environment; (d) Article 35: rights to access to clean drinking; (e) Article 44: rights of consumers.

b. **Provisions in Local Governance Operation Act, 2073:** This Act, formed as per the Article 296 (1) of the constitution of Nepal – 2015, clarifies the rights of municipalities/ rural municipalities to form local laws, regulations and criteria for conservation of environment, protected areas and species; for environmental pollution and hazard control; solid waste management; basic health and sanitation; drinking water, small hydropower and alternative energy etc. However, it has not indicated anything concrete on inclusion, leaving no one behind, but made some consolation from the GESI with emphasis on rights to equity and against social discriminations.

c. **Water and Sanitation Bill, 2019 (2076 BS):** In order to respect, protect and fulfil the fundamental right of citizens to receive clean and quality drinking water and sanitation services with easy access and to make necessary provisions regarding sewerage and wastewater management Government of Nepal has drafted this act and is expected to come in practice in 2077 (2020). Once the act comes in practice it will repeal Water Tariff Fixation Commission Act 2063 and Water Supply Management Board Act 2063.

d. **15th Periodic Five-Year Plan (2076/77-2080/81)**: 15th Periodic Plan has been considered as base plan to attain long term goal of, "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali." With a vision of "Clean, safe, accessible and sustainable WASH services for all" and goal is to "enhance quality services by ensuring access to basic drinking water and sanitation services for all"

e. **Drinking Water and Sanitation Act of 2022** begins with a preamble aiming to provide clean and quality drinking water and sanitation services easily, while respecting and fulfilling the basic rights of citizens to receive such services and to manage sewage and wastewater.

f. **National WASH Policy 2023** in Nepal, officially approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in August 2023 accords the highest priority to the provision of basic drinking water and sanitation services, with a commitment to enhancing service levels in accordance with demand-driven prioritization during implementation.

g. **SEIU Business Plan** is in draft phase. SEIU's vision is to emerge as a leading platform fostering sectoral strength through effective coordination, improved governance, and interconnectedness across all levels, thereby furnishing dependable, affordable, equitable, and safely managed water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

Pakistan:

Baseline and WASH targets: ***The Census 2017 data revealed that:***

15% population of Pakistan does not have any latrine facilities available.

31% of latrines are connected with sewerage, 13 percent with septic tank, and 22 percent pit with slabs.

15% of flush are connected with open drains. Around 66 percent of latrines fall under the category of improved latrines.

As per Pakistan Social & Living Standards Measurement (PSLM) Survey 2019-20,

91% population of Pakistan has latrines. Out of this, 83% are flush and 8% are non-flush latrines. 9% population reported to be living without any latrine.

Reviewing and aligning national/subnational policies and strategies:

a. In 2021, the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) revised National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2012, which included alignment of WASH related interventions.

b. National Water Policy 2018 also underpins drinking water and sanitation as key priority over all other usages, and emphasizes on the provinces to develop their guideline and strategies for drinking water and sanitation.

c. Currently, all four provinces have their approved drinking water policies i.e., Sindh 2017, Punjab 2011, KP 2015 and Baluchistan 2016. For sanitation, Sindh has approved policy 2017, whereas other provinces have draft versions.
d. Similarly, all the provinces have developed their WASH sector Development Plan and its mid-term review was held to analyze progress and WASH roadmap in respective provinces.
e. The provinces are also working on developing Water Acts for ensuring safe water and sanitation services.
f. The MoCC is working with the sector partners to conduct a legislative review to determine the overlaps and identify new areas required for WASH reforms.
g. In 2021, the MoCC developed and launched a National Roadmap for Hand Hygiene for All (HH4A) under the guidelines of World Health Organization and UNICEF. And followed by provincial detailed action plans of HH4A through consultations.
h. The National Education Policy of Pakistan also acknowledges of integration WASH in schools and identifies provision of missing facilities as critical for retention and quality education.
i. Government of Pakistan has developed its National Water Conservation Strategy 2023-27.

Sri Lanka:

Baseline and WASH targets:

- The total safe water coverage was 90.6% by year 2018, with the urban population had the maximum coverage. (WSMP, 2019).
- As in many other developing countries, Sri Lanka also faces many challenges in sanitation sector and has only a very small portion of population (2%) having access to piped sewerage, majority of people depends on on-site sanitation with detrimental effect on environment in some areas.

Basic and Safely Managed Sanitation

- While majority of people in the country depends on onsite sanitation, centralised piped sewerage services are provided by few organizations with remarkable progress within 4 years (2018-2021):
- ***Centralized Sewerage and wastewater systems:*** Sewerage connections increased by 11.25%. Similarly, interventions are underway to increase the connections by 40% in Colombo city. Few other similar projects are underway in Kandy city.
- ***Onsite sanitation system:*** On-site sanitation facilities have also substantially improved during the past four years with the involvement of Central Government, DCWS and local authorities and CSOs in their respective rural development projects.

Reviewing and aligning national/subnational policies and strategies:

a. NWSDB prepared a Master Plan for Water Supply in 2019 under Water Supply and Sanitation Project (WASSIP) Project, and with this basis NWSDB developed a Corporate Plan with a Business Plan to achieve high water coverage to 72% by 2025 from 40% at 2019. Due to the Covid-19 situation and subsequent economic problems faced by the country, the progress has been in a very slow pace.
b. NWSDB developed a master plan for sanitation sector (SMP) as directed by MWS and shared with the relevant sector actors including government institutions.
c. MWS together with NWSDB initiated to establish a National Policy on Sanitation (NPS) for Sri Lanka after having a long process of consultation.
d. Both National sanitation policy and Sanitation Master Plan received cabinet approval and proceeding ahead for its implementation. NPS comprises national standards for safe sanitation, institutional arrangements at national and province levels.

Commitment 2: *Streamline and align the data collection tools, processes, and approaches of key national and subnational surveys so that they track progress on WASH-related SDGs.*

Progress Status:

INDICATORS	*I.* Streamline and Align Data Collection Tools, *II.* Processes and Approaches on WASH-related SDGs

Bangladesh:

a. SDGs tracker, which was developed to collect data on WASH-related SDGs and monitor the data, is managed centrally Ministerial level which makes sure about the accuracy, authenticity and validation of data received from different ministries/agencies/sources. For this mechanism had been developed by the GoB to engage sector stakeholders in data validation process

b. In MICS, handwashing & MHM data have been added and data collected. This made Bangladesh one out of 2 SA countries to report full set of data for menstrual hygiene for the first time.

Bhutan:

a. The National Statistical Bureau is the government designated agency that collects data and reports on various thematic areas, inter alia, Social, economic, health, environment, etc.

b. Other agencies that report on SDGs are the UN agencies (UNDP and UNICEF), National Environment Commission secretariat and few CSOs.

c. GNHC as the central planning agency monitors the implementation of Five-year plans as per the National Key Result Areas and Key Performance Indicators. It carries out mid-term evaluation of the five-year plans.

d. The annual household survey with water, sanitation and hygiene related data are collected by Ministry of Health.

e. There is a framework "National Monitoring and Evaluation System", where the Cabinet Secretariat is the apex body entrusted with monitoring the implementation.

f. The Ministry of Works and Human Settlements has institutionalized WASIS (Water and Sanitation Information System) for urban towns. At the national level, WASIS keeps track of the progress in the sector.

g. They maintain inventory and monitor sanitation coverage, service delivery standards and compliance to various rules and regulations. Education Management Information System (EMIS) administers protocol annually to collect information on hygienic toilet use, functionality and handwashing in the schools.

h. Similarly, Monastic Information Management System (MIMS) have the same role as EMIS but in monastic institutions.

i. In MICS, handwashing & MHM data have been aded and data collected. This made Bangladesh one out of 2 SA countries to report full set of data for menstrual hygiene for the first time.

j. The country has developed its own data system to report progress against SDG and the information below provides sanitation and hygiene monitoring systems by different agencies in Bhutan:

- ***Program:*** *Rural Sanitation and Hygiene;* ***Data collection system:*** *DHIS 2; Ministry: Ministry of Health*
- ***Program:*** *WASH in Schools;* ***Data collection system:*** *EMIS; Ministry: Ministry of Education*
- ***Program:*** *WASH in Monastic Institutions Nunneries;* ***Data collection system:*** *NIMS; Ministry: Council for Religious Affairs*
- ***Program:*** *Urban Sanitation and Hygiene;* ***Data collection system:*** *WASIS;* ***Ministry:*** *Ministry of Works and Human Settlement*
- ***Program:*** *WASH in Health Care Facilities;* ***Data collection system:*** *HAMT;* ***Ministry:*** *Ministry of Health*

(Source: Department of Public Health, MOH 2018, Country Paper for SACOSAN-VII)

India:

The Ministry of Jal Shakti in India has undertaken several initiatives to streamline and align data collection tools, processes, and approaches for tracking progress on WASH related SDGs, particularly SDG 6.

As per SBM-G: Initiated on-line monitoring system which has been set up and expanded contains wealth of information on different indicators, disaggregated by state. An expanded MIS system is under way to monitor implementation of various elements of the Sanitation Strategy.

As per CSOs: None of the current data collection tools track progress against the SDGs and neither they reflect the JMP methods and definitions.

However, there is increased interaction with agencies concerned with the NFHS team that is aligning its survey with SDGs; NARSS to include SDGs. The Niti Aayog is the agency that tracks progress against SDGs. Tracking / monitoring systems have been set up by certain states, but no such infrastructure exists nation-wide.

The data collection tools and dashboards are essential for the accumulation of information on key indicators of progress. This information is published to the portals by the states and is used to critically review both the SBM and JJM programmes. The following are the significant dashboards and information monitoring sources.

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Dashboard
- Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS)
- Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Dashboard
- Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Reports
- Swachh Survekshan
- Star rating protocol for Garbage-free cities
- SDG India Index
- Composite Water Management Index (CWMI)

The key processes and approaches used are:

- Data Integration and Real-time Monitoring
- Training and Capacity Building
- Collaborative Assessments

Maldives:

a. The Maldives Government is working to establish a national framework for achieving the 17 UN-SDGs. The National Bureau of Statistics in Maldives is working on a production of accessible, timely, and reliable disaggregated data, and building national statistical capacity to facilitate the key to the process of monitoring the achievements of SDGs at a national level.
b. Data update report on SDG (National Bureau of Statistics 2018) presents baseline data and details on the availability of data on SDG Indicators through the National Statistical System which catered data from all the sources primarily census, surveys and administrative systems/registers.
c. According to Country Programming Framework (2018-2020), the Government of Maldives is committed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and is in the process of localizing the SDGs and establishing the mechanisms for coordination, data collection and monitoring.
d. However, while data has been collected for many years, the identification of gaps and of measures needed to make the datasets relevant and appropriate for SDG monitoring is only commencing.
e. Potential for GLAAS, JMP improvement under the new WASH institutional arrangement including the support being provided to CSOs in this respect is expected to strengthen the JMP and GLAAS

process, the government's commitment to the shared goals of SDG is reflected in recommending a civil society leader to as SWA Joint Monitoring Champion.

Nepal:

a. Nepal has been making remarkable progress in developing and using N-WASH which is a digital tool to collect and analyse data to track the progresses in WASH SDG 6 and drafting WASH plan in a local level. Moreover, UNICEF along with WHO and Nepal Statistics Office are conducting MICS survey which was conducted in 2019 and now is planned for 2024.
b. Ministry of water supply has come up with a MIS system through the use of NWASH application to track down unserved population. In order to mitigate the risk of financial barrier, WASH plan is being prepared in all 753 local government unit with detail cost estimates to ensure NOLB for access to WASH services.
c. According to the business plan of Department of water supply and sewerage management, in order to address the LNOB issues, identification and mapping of deprived community from basic drinking water and sanitation services will be done through WASH plans. Similarly, preparation of project bank, ranking giving weightage as per hardship, social status of the community, willingness to pay of community and willingness to invest of local government will be conducted

Pakistan:

a. The WASH sector has been able to develop data collection tools for national and sub national surveys to track the progress on WASH related to SDG' by using and utilizing the following sets of surveys which are summarized ***in the left column***. The information collected through these sets of surveys are later used for developing planning and preparing implementation strategies.
b. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) is the national custodian of tracking and reporting the progress on SDGs in the country.
c. The existing questionnaires of all three HH surveys *(i.e., PDHS, PSLM and MICS)*, have been aligned with the needs of SDGs & JMP reporting requirements for obtaining uniformity & cost effectiveness.

Sets of surveys for data collection at national/sub national level:

1. Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP by UNICEF/WHO) 2020
2. Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (PSLSMS) 2019- 20
3. National Population Census Report-2017
4. Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2019.
5. Health Sector Information Management Report
6. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
7. Pakistan Council of Research on Water Resources
8. Pakistan Demographic and Housing Survey (PDHS)
9. National Nutrition Survey 2018
10. Clean Green Pakistan Index (CGPI) 2019-22
11. National Population Census Report – 2023
12. Drinking water Quality in Pakistan current status and challenges 2021.

Sri Lanka:

a. Various agencies collect data relevant to their own activities, data are not appeared on a common platform and are provided to another agency on request only.
b. The responsibility of nation wise data collection, including WASH, is assigned to Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) through a nation-wide general census once in ten years. In addition to DCS, sustainable Development Council (SDC) also involves in data collection. The previous census was completed in 2011/12. The national census scheduled for 2021 was postponed due to COVID-19 and delayed further due to economic meltdown. WASH indicators are included in 2019 HIES.

c. One of the key tasks identified under the National policy on sanitation was data collection and dissemination. Under the NPS, two coordinating committees (at the National level and Provincial Level Coordination Committees at the provincial level) were proposed with the participation of all stakeholders. Indicators for Accessibility, Availability and Quality of WASH services included in National Surveys Conducted by the Department of Census & Statistics.
d. Absence of a mechanism for regular collection of data in sanitation sector creates many problems. While no one is clearly aware about the actual situation, it leads to problems in allocation of funds, selection of priorities, waste of funds due to poor identification, misuse of funds and spending on unsustainable projects. Finally, all above deficiencies will lead to waste of public funds and delay in achieving SDGs on WASH.
e. Realizing this deficiency, one of the key tasks identified under the NPS is data collection and dissemination both at national and provincial level. Once this system is fully established, it will be possible to get accurate and timely data on WASH status.
f. Currently, there is not any clear indication of accurate and reliable data to state the status of the country's sanitation status in particular and WASH status in general.

Commitment 3: *To ensure no one is left behind by; generating evidence to understand inequalities in access to WASH especially around geographical areas, venerable groups, and income levels; improving the targeting of those least served, strengthening participation and accountabilities in collaboration with sector partners.*

Progress Status:

INDICATORS:	*I.* No One Left Behind (LNOB) *II.* Strengthening Participation

Bangladesh:

a. Policy Alignment: Policies are being aligned so that no one is left behind. Pro-poor strategy has ensured that the hardcore poor are entitled to 100% subsidy for water and sanitation services, criteria for identifying the hardcore poor. Reality: 79% of funds for WASH are allocated for urban areas and only 21% in rural areas.
b. The Local Government Act (Union Parishad– 2009/10) has mandated that the yearly budget has to be framed in consultation with the people of the union to allow opportunities for the hard-core poor to participate in the planning process to ensure their demand for inclusive WASH services are prioritized by the LGI as citizen's rights. The process needs to be strengthened to produce the outcome it envisioned.
c. GoB, as a part of Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) signed up to the mutual accountability and both the government and CSOs have made commitments, which are being monitored in terms of progress.
d. NGOs and private sectors are engaged in Fecal Sludge Management service delivery.
e. GoB, is creating a scope for private sectors' engagement and participation, as the way CSOs are engaged with GoB, in sanitation discourse in particular and WASH in general at the national, sub-national and grassroots level.

Bhutan:

a. National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy (NSHP) 2020 has been published with the following policy objectives:
   I. Policy Objective 1: Achieve universal coverage and access to sustainable services for all.
   II. Policy Objective 2: Adopt appropriate technology for sustainable sanitation systems.
   III. Policy Objective 3: Develop sustainable and efficient financing mechanism for safe sanitation and hygiene services.
   IV. Policy Objective 4: Strengthen capabilities including Behavior Change Communication at all levels.

V. Policy Objective 5: Institutionalize mechanism for effective and efficient coordination and service delivery

b. Sanitation and Hygiene Guidelines is published.

c. Last mile strategy "Leave No One Behind and Post ODF Strategy is published.

d. National Public Toilet Guidelines 2021 is available; the Guidelines for making toilets and handwashing access easier for all in Rural Bhutan has been developed; and Do It Yourself (DIY) on accessible toilets educational materials have been distributed.

e. The National Health Promotion Strategy plan 2015-2023 (NHPSP) stresses on the efforts to strengthen participation and accountability and the need for inclusive policies and interventions to address disparities in access to healthcare services and nutrition.

India:

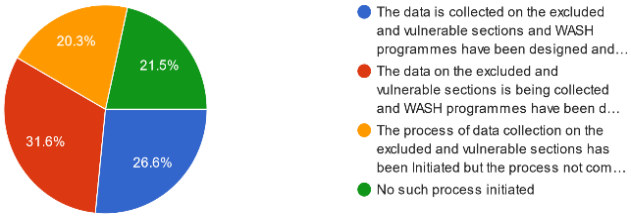
India has taken several targeted approaches to ensure no one is left behind in its efforts to improve access to WASH services, focusing particularly on understanding and addressing inequalities across geographical areas, vulnerable groups, and income levels. The programs included targeted subsidies and financial support for constructing household toilets and improving sanitation facilities among low-income households. In addition, inclusive policies were also developed to cover the most marginalised and people from low-income social groups.

Though SBM, JJM, AMRUT, and other programs clearly mention the special focus for the marginalised in terms of financial incentives, participation in committees, special schemes for SC and ST, representation of women, SCs and STs in the Water and Sanitation Committees, etc.

Several approaches are advocated to encourage the participation of people, and one of the popular ways is Participatory Rural Appraisal, which aims to enable rural communities to share, enhance, and analyse their knowledge of life and conditions, and to plan and act accordingly.

a. The SBM guidelines state that the government will ensure access to sanitation for new/left behind households.

b. This analysis found the government and development partners recognize there is no data on excluded communities.



c. It has started LNOB and LOB outreach. Panchayats have been asked to identify and report on these groups.

d. One critical method of reaching these communities is to strengthen local government institutions and set up informal structures, for instance community organizations that can be a bridge between communities and formal service providers or the local government institutions.

e. In urban context, left out sections in poor settings such as women-headed households and households with differently-abled people have managed to access faecal sludge and garbage removal services provided by municipalities through their local, informal structures.

f. India needed improved data, transparency, disaggregation and reporting. TrackFin could make a major contribution in these areas.

g. While policy statements concerning effective institutions were in place, but provisions for institutional strengthening and processes were almost absent.

Maldives:

There exists a drive from existing policy and strategy for the identification of vulnerable groups generating evidence, Legal and institutional mechanisms to address such concerns of vulnerable groups *(i.e. Implementation of legal and institutional action for equitable access to water and sanitation for all and strengthening participation and accountability through a multi-stakeholder approach)* such as:

a. **Participatory mechanisms:** as social audit and grievance redress mechanisms are part of the country's accountability mechanisms. Public consultations are made now and then, but not in a systematic manner or standards followed.

- **Generating evidence:** Institutional restructuring of the environment sector combining climate change, science and technology is expected to provide infrastructure for alignment in data collection, reporting and evidence-based policy and planning. The government is committed and also implementing program for establishing countrywide water and sewerage facilities by 2025. This provides safe water and sewerage services to all inhabited islands.
- **Identification of vulnerable groups:** Identifying the marginalized groups and communities and providing access to WASH services is not so obvious in the WASH sector as in the health sector which utilizes private and social sectors for provision of public health services. NGO's together with some of the stakeholder groups have identified gaps in the provision of WASH services to the elderly, construction workers, schools, public parks, sea ports, harbours, etc. Changes are perceived as recent Civil Society call supported by INGOs regulations for the provision of universal water and sewerage service facilities at public spaces are going to be addressed once newly enacted Water Act is adopted by all. Currently water and sanitation services are provided in public places voluntarily by the developer with no mandatory requirements from the government. However, regulatory instruments need to be introduced.

b. **Adopting Multi-stakeholder approach:** Inter-ministerial collaboration together with engagement of civil society is driven through empowerment and space creation for engagement led by the government through multi-stakeholder action for synergies towards the attainment of SDG6 by 2030. The ministry of environment has taken the initiative to establish a water and sewerage coordination committee comprised of CSOs, private sector, public sector and development partners; but no activity since the initial discussion for establishing the committee has taken so far, may be due to the challenges of COVID-19.

c. The Government of Maldives in its acts, policies and regulations endeavours to progressively implement and enable the attainment of these rights to water and sanitation for all residents of Maldives. In doing so, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology will amongst others implement a Gender Action Plan (GAP) to ensure non-discrimination and Inclusiveness are mainstreamed into all aspects WASH development, implementation, management and reporting.

Nepal:

The commitments are focused specifically on the principle of "Leave no one behind" to ensure:

a. no one is left behind with an evidence to understand inequalities in access to WASH especially around geographical area, vulnerable groups and income levels.
b. improved targeting of those least served and strengthening participation and accountability in collaboration with sector partners.

The Ministry of Water Supply has recently implemented a Management Information System (MIS) using the NWASH application. This application is utilized to identify and track unserved populations. To mitigate financial barriers, comprehensive WASH plans are being developed across all 753 local government units, including detailed cost estimates, to ensure universal access to WASH services without exclusion. These plans are designed with indicators that prioritize accessibility for people with disabilities. GoN has taken WASH plan as an entry point for WASH interventions in each municipality for governments and partners. WASH plan prioritizes the existing projects based on certain criteria, one of those criteria is the least served communities.

Pakistan:

a. The WASH sector is committed to 'leaving no one behind' as it strives towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goal to achieve WASH for all by 2030.

b. This is a testament to a more collective and shared process for development moving forward with explicit actions to curb inequalities and confront discrimination to ensure progress for those furthest behind.

c. Pakistan has made significant progress in improving access to sanitation yet 25 million people still practice open defecation. Lack of access to proper sanitation facilities impacts negatively the health and wellbeing of people especially the women and children.

d. Over the last few decades, the number of people who practice open defecation has dropped significantly in Pakistan, from 39 per cent in 2000 to 7 per cent in 2020, and the country is on track to eliminate the practice by 2030. This reduction has been especially notable in rural areas, where rates have fallen by more than 2 percentage points per year, from 55 per cent to just 12 per cent.

e. The national government recently developed a plan to eliminate open defecation among the remaining (and hardest to reach) 7 per cent of the population that still engages in this practice.

Sri Lanka:

a. Sri Lanka is aware on the need for strengthening participation in accountability with sector partners in sanitation sector for better results which has been one of the main objectives in introducing the National policy on Sanitation.

b. Further in developing master plan, needs of marginalized groups and inequalities have been identified and remedial measures have been proposed. This will allow to identify funding needs and priority needs.

c. This process will ensure that solving of WASH issues will be based on commonly agreed criteria so that no one will be left behind.

d. Projects and programs implemented under the Reaching the Unreached (RTU) focused on populations who were left behind by major development.

e. The sanitation master plan has identified the number of households across the island that need sanitation facilities to avoid ODF.

f. The Multistakeholder platform established under the Ministry of WS&EI conducts National Sector Coordination reviews interventions by sector partners and facilitates engagement.

Commitment 4: *Conduct structured human resource capacity assessment followed by a roadmap for human resource development for the public sector, civil society, service providers, and other stakeholders engaged in WASH.*

Progress Status:

INDICATORS:	*I.* HR Development of Stakeholders *II.* HR Capacity Assessment

Bangladesh:

a. In the public sector, the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) has a mandate to deliver water & sanitation services in rural areas whereas City Corporations is responsible for urban areas.

b. DPHE has invested in developing its capacity for FSM services and has established a Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) FSM support cell.

c. However, the capacity of the local government institutions and their staff to support WASH activities at the grassroots level needs to be improved. Few NGOs are working at grass-root level with limiting resources and are contributing to develop HR for WASH endeavours limiting to training and hands on trainings only. These are not adequate to meet SDG 6 targets.

d. There is minimal progress in the HR development of the stakeholders, and the community is completely unaware of the status of prevailing HR Capacity informed by HR Capacity Assessment to be aware where to receive supports when needed.

Bhutan:

a. Two nuns and 22 monks from 18 monastic institutions in three districts are trained in maintain and operating water supply scheme in their institution.
b. Country has a sector capacity building plan and is being implemented to bridge the capacity gaps in the sector
c. The National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy (NSHP) 2020 has a policy objective (*particularly the Policy Objective 4: Strengthen capabilities including Behaviour Change Communication at all levels*) to support HR capacity building. As this strategy being a fairly new policy, will take time for its implementation.
d. The country's NHPSP 2015-2023 proposes a roadmap for human resource development in public health sectors, including training programs and capacity-building initiatives.
e. The NSHP of 2020 emphasizes the importance of capacity development at all levels with specific strategies to enhance skills and expertise among relevant agencies, local governments, and community-based organizations.

India:

There are several provisions under SBM/ JJM, that mention the systematic process of training needs assessment, capacity building, and the need to bring ownership among the communities for a safe and sustainable environment.

a. The SBM II guidelines state the government will strengthen the capacity developed under SBM I. It will effect convergence with national skilling platforms such as National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to enhance skills in sanitation and allied sectors, strengthen the capacity of chair and secretary of Panchayat(s), functionaries on augmentation and upgradation of sanitation services promoting the 5Rs and ODF Sustainability, and set up a Training Management Unit (TMU) in each State and District will have to provide oversight and support to the capacity strengthening interventions.
b. The government recognises it cannot manage alone – it can setup infrastructure, but the local governments have to manage it. Government has a time-bound build capacity of all panchayats to plan, build and manage their infrastructure programmes through a cascading model with an aim of strengthening the capacities of district teams who can be deputed to villages for this work.
c. MOJS started in 2020 and it has picked up this year. Five-six states have also put this in place; this is good institutional strengthening and capacity building.
d. These need to be structured and coordinated better to make an impact. More thoughts are required at multiple levels because as long as guidance is generic as in SBM II, it is hard for local governments to figure out what is the pathway to use. However, governments at different levels, have started making multiple requests of development partners for supports for the technical aspects of SLWM and preparing GPDPs.

The government needs to rethink its strategy for meeting SDG targets around safely managed and sustainable ODF. This may not be possible for the government to achieve this alone as it involves building infrastructure for treatment and disposal and continuing BCC for the use of toilets, plugging gaps in infrastructure as only 25% toilets were twin pits.

e. The Government of India has implemented various measures to enhance the capabilities of sector stakeholders to execute the two significant flagship programs, JJM and SBM. The Ministry of Jalshakti has been collaborating with organisations such as UNICEF and WaterAid, and capacity-building programs have been announced. Action plans were developed to deliver the training

under JJM, and 32 Key Resource centres were identified. However, the efficiency of these programs has not yet attained the qualifying mark.

f. Under JJM, some standard modules were created for various themes, and materials were developed to deliver these modules. Similarly, for urban areas a consortium of National Sanitation Alliance was built and various organisations under the alliance developed the training courses and materials.

g. Similarly, for the Urban areas the nodal agency National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) identified 23 Swachata Knowledge Partners to deliver the capacity-building programmes under SBM. Nevertheless, these programs have not been conducted yet.

Maldives:

a. The government together with the implementation of water and sewerage projects is providing training to operators and managers on aspects of integrated water resource management. Further, current water and sewerage action plan is driving a structured approach with targets for training water and sewerage professionals which is expected to commence with a baseline assessment.
b. Amongst training of operators and administrators, empowering women in the sector and human resource and capacity building is accepted as a priority area for the Government.
c. At present, the available technical human resource is insufficient for achieving the desired sector goals and objectives. This number can be increased with more women participation.
d. Policy 3 of the National Water and Sewerage Strategic Plan (2020-2025) provides the activities set out for the medium term for the development of HR capacity in the sector:
   • by 2022 collaborative partnership arrangements will be made with at least 3 local/international educational institutes for capacity building of water and sewerage sector program and service.
   • The policy action aims to produce at least 40 engineers in water and sanitation related files, with 30% of all employees working in the water and sanitation of each island be women.
   • The policy action aims to train by 2024 at least two council members for overall utility operation al services, governance and best practices.
e. The specific actions under the policy are to undertake a capacity assessment of the water and sanitation sector by end of 2021;
   • Development of engineering courses by 2023, prioritize national training for meeting water and sanitation sectorial needs through scholarships and student loans,
   • Introduction of professional licensing schemes in the water and sewerage sector, training of local councils in to improve utility operation and governance.
f. Collaborative partnership arrangements will be made with at least 3 local/international educational institutes for capacity building of water and sewerage sector program and service.

Nepal:

The Government of Nepal is actively enhancing human resources in the WASH sector, with initiatives such as a Capacity Development Master Plan and a business plan for the National Water and Sanitation Training Centre. They've introduced the N-WASH system for comprehensive data collection and are conducting training programs to strengthen local government personnel's technical capabilities.

Additionally, WASH plans are being formulated with support from local governments and development agencies. To address anticipated human resource needs, strategies include standard recruitment processes, engaging consulting firms for specialized expertise, and managing projects through Public-Private Partnerships to leverage private sector skills while streamlining recruitment.

Pakistan:

a. The existing capacity of the service providers at national and sub national level *vis a vis* the mandate of the WASH sector is simply a mismatch.
b. A capacity assessment for WASH at Ministry of Climate Change in 2015 identified the need for creating a WASH Unit to provide facilitation in coordination, learning, knowledge management and reporting of overall WASH sector at national level with undertaking joint capacity development initiatives.
c. Currently, this WASH Strategic Unit has been established and is fully functional since July 2017, and this WASH Unit has successfully rolled out Joint Sector Reviews for WASH in the provinces for setting the targets for SDGs.
d. The Clean Green Pakistan Movement has strongly emphasised on the capacity development of public service providers and local elective representatives for safely managed water and sanitation services. MoCC is also conducting a climate change vulnerability assessment in the context of WASH in all provinces to determine the capacity needs of provincial stakeholders, and identify strategic integration of climate resilient WASH.
e. The slow progress on the front of safe water and sanitation is linked with capacity issues on part of the service providers. This has been highlighted as a key challenge in provincial WASH Sector Development Plans and Joint Sector Reviews held in all the four provinces to ensure necessary capabilities and skills are available to achieve the strategic objectives.
f. The existing WASH mandates should be defined in terms of required levels of human resources and mechanisms for institutional capacity building on essential skills to carry on the agenda. Similarly, the implications of HR deficient in CBOs also need to be analysed to address demand-side aspects of the interventions. Despite of having government academies and management training institutes at provincial level, systematic approach for WASH capacity development has not yet been developed.
g. On the whole, a dedicated capacity development initiative focusing on innovative solution for WASH endeavours is missing in the country.
h. The powers have been devolved to local/district governments during 2000-2002 but they lack resources and capacity to generate their own sources to properly perform their responsibilities.

Sri Lanka:

Despite of having a well-established network of field health officers who deliver a great service in improving sanitation sector, yet, there are many deficiencies, especially, in technical field. Non-availability of adequately capable and knowledgeable human resources is a common problem in sanitation sector in the country.

There were many steps taken by the government to address this HR capacity related issues during the past, by providing necessary training and capacity development for persons involved in sanitation sector. This matter has been well studied when the SMP was prepared and is implemented with the NPS, and accordingly actions have been carried out as planned to cover the necessary capacity development in the sector, such as:

- Establishment of Joint Research and Development Center (JRDC) in Kandy under the Ministry of Water Supply in 2021 to provide capacity development facilities and also provide capacity development programs for the sanitation sector, especially for those who serve in local authorities and community-based organizations.
- National and sub-national level capacity development is carried out mainly by various government agencies such as NWSDB which intends to establish a state-of-the-art training center to increase training and capacity development activities.

In addition to above, capacity development activities have been carried out by various projects implemented during the last four years.

Sri Lanka reported the status of HR in the GLAAS 2021/22. Sri Lanka was one of the five countries selected for HR capacity assessment in 2012 assisted by the International Water Centre Brisbane

and IWA. HR assessment was done during the GLAAS 2018 and 2022 survey. HR capacity will be updated in the next round of GLAAS in 2024.

Commitment 5: *Introduce essential sectoral reforms, based on comprehensive legislative reviews with a specific focus on regulatory frameworks and institutional arrangements, including enhanced inter-ministerial coordination for quality sanitation and hygiene services.*

Progress Status:

INDICATORS:	*I.* Sectoral Reforms and Revised Strategy *II.* Institutional & Regulatory Framework (IRF) for Faecal Sludge Management (FSM)
Bangladesh: The GoB has responded to revise and update the following WASH-related policies & strategies specially to align with SDGs: 1. **Revised** a. National strategy for water supply & sanitation. Revised/Updated in 2021. b. Pro-Poor Strategy for Water & Sanitation Sector. Revised in 2020. c. National Menstrual Hygiene Management Strategy 2021. d. Response to COVID-19 outbreak through water, sanitation & hygiene interventions. Bangladesh Strategy Paper. 2020-2023. **2. Under Revisions:** *a. National Policy for Safe Water Supply and Sanitation 1998 – under revision* *b. National Policy for Public Toilet Construction, Operation and Management – under formulation.* *c. National Hygiene Promotion Strategy 2012 – under revision* *d. Sector Development Plan 2015-2025. - under revision.* *e. National Action Plan (NAP) has been developed for the implementation of IRF-FSM for municipalities.*	
a. National Action Plan (NAP) was formulated based on IRF-FSM for the Municipalities/LGIs. b. The IRF-FSM forms / acts as a basis for: I. Guiding the government & non-government institutions to follow, II. Local Government Institutions (LGIs) to ensure provisions of better sanitation services for population who needed it the most.	
Bhutan: Country has undertaken sector reforms to ensure enabling regulatory framework & institutional arrangements a. B-WASH Cluster has been established as a coordination mechanism (*consists of Tourism Council of Bhutan, the CSOs- Ability Bhutan Society, Royal Society for Protection of Nature, Bhutan Nuns Foundation, Tarayana Foundation, Bhutan Toilet Organization, UNICEF, Swiss Red Cross, SNV, media and private sectors etc.*) at the central level for inclusive and participatory collaboration and coordination amongst the sectors / agencies to address the WASH issues. b. Standard Operating Procedures for Water, Sanitation & Hygiene in Emergencies 2018– Bhutan. c. Publication of the National Public Toilet Guidelines (LNOB); and Leave no one Behind and Post ODF strategy. d. The National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy, 2020; and WASH in Health Care Facilities, 2019. e. National Health Policy 2010 advocates the need for multi-sectoral coordination in delivering universal access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene services. f. National Health Promotion and Sanitation Plan (NHPSP) 2015-2023 advocates for policy reforms and legislative reviews to improve regulatory frameworks and institutional arrangements in areas of water, sanitation, and road safety. g. Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Program (RSAHP) aimed to achieve total sanitation in rural communities through a community-led approach.	

India:

The reforms and regulatory frameworks are crucial in advancing India's progress towards the achievement of SDG 6 by promoting sanitation and hygiene practices, ensuring sustainable management of water resources, and enhancing inter-sectoral coordination for holistic development. The Indian government implemented a variety of sectoral reform initiatives under its flagship programmes in order to make substantial progress towards the realisation of SDG 6.

a. SBM guidelines stipulated multiple ministries (*Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Rural Development etc.),* Development Partners, Academic Institutions, Private Sector/ Corporates and NGOs and other Civil Society Organisations will work towards fulfilling aims of providing technical assistance for promoting WASH programs, the concept of ODF, safe sanitation and hygiene, in the communities of rural and urban endeavours, health care facilities and for convergence with STPs particularly in urban areas.
b. Besides, academic institutions will also be mobilized for transferring skills, conducting specialized engineering courses, BCC strategies and R&D etc.

However, according to CSOs, while there was good inter-ministerial coordination in SBM-I, it has since slowed.

c. *MOHFW* through *Kayakalp* initiated to improve wash in health centres but the HMIS doesn't have any WASH indicators, similarly progress of WASH in public places is very slow and patchy; and there is no monitoring as well.
d. The Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) was formed in May 2019 by merging the two erstwhile ministries—the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation to deal with water and sanitation issues in India both at national and international levels.
e. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) deals with urban drinking water and sanitation under its flagship program Amrut 2.0.
f. The Atal Bhujal Yojana, which was implemented in 2019, is designed to mitigate groundwater depletion and encourage sustainable groundwater management practices in areas that have been identified as groundwater-stressed.
g. Launched in 2019, Amrit Sarovar Yojana focuses on rejuvenating and restoring urban water bodies, which play a crucial role in sanitation and environmental health.
h. National Groundwater Management Improvement Scheme prioritises enhancing service delivery.
i. National Used Water Management Policy-2012 mandates recycle and reuse of water as the general norm and advocates treatment to specified standards before reuse of wastewater.
j. The National Green Tribunal is a specialised judicial body formed in 2010 to handle environmental protection and conservation cases.

The regulatory agencies play a very critical role in ensuring the safety of the environment. The two important regulatory bodies that are functioning in India actively are Pollution Control Boards and the National Green Tribunal. The standards for discharge of wastewater and Biosolids etc are determined by NGT for various uses and the same is expected to adhere by the states, cities and towns. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) are regulatory bodies that are responsible for the monitoring and regulation of pollution.

Regarding sectoral reforms, not much has happened except in a few states such as Odisha; where urban-rural convergence in FSTPs under pressure from NGT and is developing models. There is good coordination between departments e.g., financing which uses money from SBM-G. *But this is more the exception only not the trend of progress.*

Maldives:

Institutional Arrangement (Reform): Since 2018 there has been significant development in the area of sectoral reform in the way of changes in the institutional arrangement with separation of policy and implementation and annexing policy.

Under the current regime (with recent adjustments), the Ministry of Environment is responsible for implementing government policies, regulations, programmes and projects related to the provision of clean water and appropriate sewerage services (*incl. provision of clean and affordable energy services, provision of clean and healthy environment free from pollution, protection of the islands from coastal erosion, advocate for the rights of small islands states in the fight against climate change, mobilize finance to adapt and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change, coordinating sustainable development goals within government, protection & preservation of natural environment*).

With the changes in the government in 2018,

The Ministry of Environment (*during SACOSAN-VII, this Ministry was named as Ministry of Environment and Energy*) being the leading institution to implement this NWSSP 2020-2025, the following government agencies are thus affiliated and functions under its direct supervision.

- Environment Protection Agency (EPA),
- Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS),
- Maldives Energy Authority (MEA),
- UNSECO Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Office (BR Office), and Baa Atoll Conservation Fund

a. Policy/planning and project implementation has been separated and these functions remain with the Ministry of Environment while the Ministry of Planning (MNPHI) takes over the responsibility of infrastructure project implementation. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment to coordinate with the relevant stakeholders to implement this strategic plan.
b. The Civil society organizations, are empowered and provided space to provide input for improving related regulations for binging synergy through multi-stakeholder actions to attain SDG 6 by 2030.
c. The ministry initiated to establish water and sewerage coordination committee (comprised of CSOs, the private sector, the public sector and the
d. development partners) to strengthen joint review and collaborative approach in WASH policy and service development

The following is a brief of the WASH related legislations that would provide space for the CSOs once such a multi-stakeholder platform is created.

- Environmental protection Law; Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations
- National Solid Waste Management Policy, 2008; Waste Management Regulation, 2013, National Solid Waste Management Policy (NSWMP 2008,2015):
- National Water and Sewerage Act,
- Utility Regulatory Authority Act (Law No. 26/2020) was ratified in 2020.

Nepal:

Institutional Arrangements: According to the constitution, water and sanitation falls under jurisdiction of all three forms of government and even under concurrent power in this federated structure of the country. Under the new federal system, WASH responsibilities have been decentralized to every tier of government, resulting in government-owned institutions at the national, provincial, and local levels responsible for WASH service delivery. The differentiation in roles are aligned with the provisions in the constitution and on the basis of volume and geographical coverage.

a. **Service Delivery Arrangements:** The responsibility of providing quality WASH services falls under all three tiers of government. Constitution of Nepal, Water and Sanitation Bill and different guidance and decisions have emphasized the roles and responsibilities of different level of government.
b. Hence, government has tried to solve the ambiguity by defining criteria and classifying the development programs and projects through Criteria regarding the classification and distribution of development programs and projects that are the responsibility of the federal, provincial and local levels, 2076. Similarly, the water and sanitation bill has also defined responsibilities and liabilities of national, provincial and local government.
c. In addition to above, following are some of the legal provisions related to water and sanitation (*also refer progress of commitment 1*)
   - **Constitutional provisions for WASH:**
   - **Provisions in Local Governance Operation Act, 2016 (2073):** This Act, formed as per the Article 296 (1) of the constitution of Nepal – 2015, clarifies the rights of LGs to form local laws, regulations and criteria
   - **Water and Sanitation Bill, 2019 (2076 BS):** To respect, protect and fulfil the fundamental right of citizens to receive clean and quality drinking water and sanitation services with easy access
   - **15th Periodic Plan 2019/20-2023/24 (2076/77-2080/81)**: Considered as base plan to attain long term goal of, "Prosperous Nepal" With a vision of "Clean, safe, accessible and sustainable WASH services for all"

The Government of Nepal (GoN) has recently introduced the WASH Act, with the regulation currently in the draft stage for the first time. Additionally, revisions have been made to the WASH policy, focusing on regulatory frameworks, institutional arrangements, and leveraging resources from various sectors and stakeholders to ensure quality WASH services.

Pakistan:

Institutional Arrangements: The leadership for drinking water and sanitation at federal level rests with MoCC, which primarily relates to policy formulation, standards settings, reporting and coordination for regional and international commitments. In the provinces, the department of Local Government and Public Health Engineering are leading on the identification, planning, implementation and monitoring of drinking water and sanitation initiatives.

Service Delivery Mechanisms: The prime responsibility for service provision related to drinking water and sanitation services lies with elected local councils and local government department as per their geographical jurisdictions. However, in practice, the provincial departments are playing a leading role in resource allocations, project identification and service delivery including O&M of large schemes. The O&M of water supply and sanitation schemes is assigned to local councils

Monitoring and Surveillance: The provincial Environmental Protection Acts, derived from National Environment Protection Act 1997, delegates the responsibility of monitoring, controlling and surveillance of national/provincial environment quality standards on municipal/industrial effluents, drinking water, noise, and air, etc., to Provincial Environment Protection Agencies.

Clean Green Pakistan Movement (CGPM): The commitment of GoP for creating an enabling environment for water and sanitation has been reinforced through launching of CGPM by the Prime Minister of Pakistan with focuses on institutional strengthening for effective service delivery and behavioural change for sustenance and continuity for the accessibility and availability of safe water and sanitation to the people of Pakistan; and indication of the highest level of political commitment to the subject. Under CGPM, the MoCC started Clean Green Pakistan Index for ranking the cities against the performance of five pillars of Clean Green Pakistan

Sri Lanka:

Institutional arrangements:

- Although main responsibility lies with MWS, local authorities operating under the Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government (MPS, PC&LG) play the main role in service provision.
- Ministries such as Health (MoH) and Education (MoE), Plantation Trust (PT) as well line agencies such as NWSDB, Central Environmental Authority (CEA) also play key roles in the sanitation sector.
- During the past, many such organizations act standalone without adequate inter coordination and led to inefficient interventions.
- National targets have been set for FSM by implementing STPs for local bodies in environmentally sensitive areas. So far up to 15 STPs have been implemented and handed over to Local Bodies for operation. Local Government is responsible for regulating environmental Sanitation under the Municipal and Urban Council Ordinances.
- On behalf of MWS, NWSDB facilitates the implementation process for Water and Sanitation services. In this regard, certain legal amendments are being made to make NWSDB more effective and successful in implementation
  - NWSDB prepared National Policy on Sanitation (NPS) with the Sanitation Master Plan (SMP) with an intention of sector reforms and has been approved from the cabinet of ministers.
  - Similarly, NWSDB also prepared SMP which should be implemented within framework introduced by NPS to illustrate various steps to be adopted to achieve SDGs on time.

Coordination Mechanism: NPS has proposed a coordination mechanism with national level coordination committee represented by national level stakeholders including government agencies. Similarly, provincial coordination committees were form for each province.

Commitment 6: *Develop effective financial planning, and reporting on sanitation and hygiene related Investments to achieve SDG related targets by strengthening the tracking and monitoring processes.*

Progress Status:

INDICATORS:	I. Financial Planning and Reporting

Bangladesh:

a. The Government of Bangladesh has been quite active to support the overall WASH needs of its citizens. Over the last decade, the overall national budget for water, sanitation & hygiene has increased. The budget has increased to Taka 119.55 billion in 2021/22 from Taka 43.49 billion in 2010/11 thus reflecting 175% increment within 11 year of period making it to a steady increment of 16% p.a. on an average. Microfinance are providing loans. To meet the SDG target, additional financing of Taka 69.48 billion would be needed in FY 2025 and Taka 58.30 billion would be needed in FY 2030.

b. Inclusive entrepreneurship and business approach have been developed to ensure sustainable WASH services at the community level by bringing MFIs (Micro-Finance Institutions) on board to provide loans to the sanitation entrepreneurs for establishing/expanding their sanitation business. These initiatives are considered as positive in sanitation discourse of the country as they are assisting the expansion of sanitation services in Bangladesh.

c. The GoB has developed a tracker to track the progress of SDGs requiring more investments and better monitoring at the grassroots for more accurate data to be fed to the tracker.

d. Capacity enhancement is required for mobilizing funds in a timely manner.

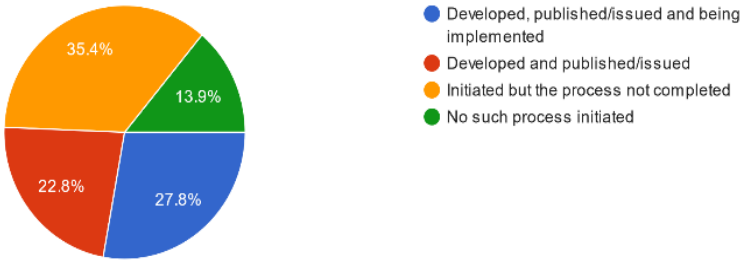
Bhutan:

Sector	Resource Allocation, Nu(in millions)		
	Fiscal Year 2015-2016	Fiscal Year 2016-2017	Fiscal Year 2017-2018
Education	28.73	19.00	11.66
Rural	26.55	35.62	15.86
Urban	153.89	359.92	409.87
Monastic Institutions	11.40	20.41	6.72
TOTAL	**220.57**	**434.94**	**444.11**

a. The NSHP 2020 has in its policy objective (i.e. Policy Objective 5: Institutionalize mechanism for effective and efficient coordination and service delivery) indicated the resource mobilization as one of the policy objectives but evidences of its implementation on the ground are not available at the moment.
b. The NSHP of 2020 underscores the importance of sustainable financing mechanisms and calls for proper cost recovery mechanisms to meet operational expenditures.
c. The NHPSP 2015-2023 stresses on the importance of financial planning and reporting for sanitation and hygiene investments. The plan emphasizes the need for innovative financing mechanisms to support health promotion efforts, including those related to water, sanitation, and road safety.
d. A steady increase in the resource allocation of sanitation and hygiene in past three years has been reported by the Ministry of Health's Country Paper, 2018. Refer the table attached herewith.
e. Country has guidelines for financial planning and reporting system *(Source: PHL, MOH 2018, Country Paper for SACOSAN-VII).*

India:

a. Financial planning has been streamlined with SBM II and the 15th Finance Commission has earmarked 60% funds for WASH sector in India. Financial tracking has been in place for several years through the government's MIS, even though the data is not publicly available anymore.
b. In SBM II, while the government is financing capex, it is not enough to build full SLWM systems and therefore panchayats and ULBs need to find funds from other sources to implement Sanitation plans that need to draw budget from diverse sources.



c. The SBM II has a complicated funding structure. It is not easy to understand what models local governments should support. It is difficult to implement with this fragmented picture.
d. The CSOs stated there is planning and reporting but needs improvement with incentives for making toilets.
e. The WaterAid paper noted a 51% rise in SBM funding from 2012 to 2016. A 2016 World Bank study on the costs of achieving the SDG targets stated that India would have to spend 3.7 more to achieve targets 6.1 and 6.2 of the SDGs, amounting USD 20,171 million against which expenditure was USD 5514.
f. For rural sanitation, only India has more than 75% of what is required to finance national targets. It underlined the need for improved transparency as well, as the reporting and transparency. The WASH sector needed increased transparency and improved reporting.
g. The flagship programs implemented by the Ministry of Jalshakti also received sizable funding allocations to implement these water and sanitation sectors for the last four years, and the same has been depicted in the table below.

Year	Central Fund Allocated (Rs. Cr)	Fund Drawn by States (Rs. Cr)	Reported Utilisation (Rs. Cr)	Total Expenditure (Centre + State) (Rs. Cr)
2019-20	10,000.66	9,951.81	5,998.89	10,065.77
2020-21	11,000.00	10,917.86	12,542.03	20,345.39
2021-22	45,011.00	40,009.77	25,524.36	44,204.23
2022-23*	55,000.00	41,919.43	41,796.43	73,663.08

**Data as of March 2023 - Press Information Bureau*

Table: Year wise fund allocation and utilization

h. It can be seen from the above table that there is a consistent increase in the funds allocated from the Central government while the state's consumption is also gradually increasing as they have to contribute similar amounts from their budgets to receive the next tranche of the funds.

i. According to the desk study, there were multiple funding sources, including government and other initiatives. According to the India Country Paper, there are also private-sector CSR funding, lending, and self-financing options.

j. After the creation of MJS, the share of budget allocation changed for drinking water (from 87 percent in 2009-10 to 31 percent in 2018-19). In the same period, the share of allocation to rural sanitation has increased from 13 percent to 69 percent.

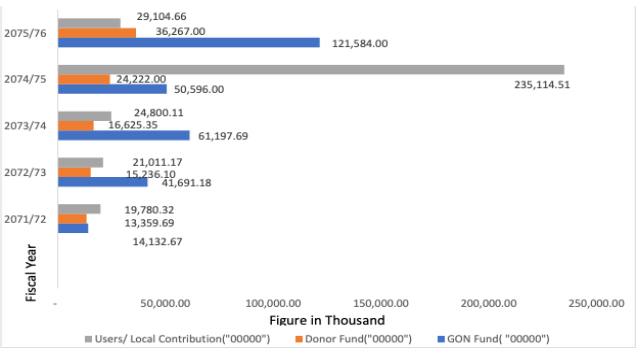
k. Under the Budget 2020-21, the Finance Minister declared the budget around 'ease of living' in synchronisation with the 'ease of doing business' for inclusive access to opportunities.

Maldives:

a. Under the current strategies, The NWSSP 2020-2025 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which will be implemented by the Water and Sanitation Department of the Ministry of Environment to measure and track the water and sewerage program activities and results systematically. The NWSSP 2020-2025 five-year action plan will be reviewed in its third year and an evaluation will be carried out to measure progress, achievements and identify challenges and strategies to address them.

b. The National Strategic Framework to Mobilize International Climate Finance to Address Climate Change in the Maldives 2020 - 2024 provides strategies for the development of robust financial management procedures and procurement policy, the inclusion of financial allocations within the national budget, streamlining climate finance through innovative financial mechanisms for funding adaptation measures, mobilizing sustainable funding through multilateral and bilateral mechanisms, the establishment of a monitoring mechanism for effective funding modalities and project delivery, increasing private financing, and streamlining funding mechanisms based on national priorities.

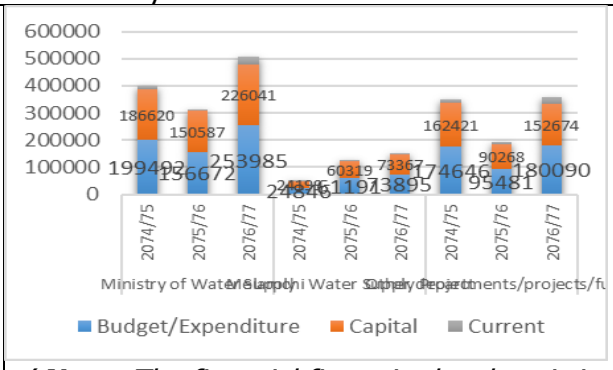
c. CSOs assessment of financial planning and reporting relates to the need for voluntary sharing of data on WASH related investments towards SDG targets by including CSOs in the tracking and monitoring process. In this context the CSOs stressed the need to create meaningful awareness of SWAs mutual accountability mechanism among the policy executive and community level inclusive of elected officials, parliamentarians and community leaders.



Nepal:

a. WASH sector investment from public and private sector is a critical need and is one of the current hindrances WASH sector is going through.

b. The investment from private sector is currently very low (0.8%) of the total WASH financing requirement to achieve SDG (NPC, 2018)[8].



(***Note:*** *The financial figure in the chart is in lakhs.)*

The chart above shows the budget and expenditure chart under Ministry of Water Supply for three consecutive FYs. Whereas the chart in the Left Column shows the trend of investment in WASH sector is last 5 years

[8] *https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/SDGs_Costing_Final_Version.pdf*

c. The budgetary allocation from the government is persistently low, around 3%, even after average 1.4% increase over the four years (WaterAid, 2018)[9].
d. The current allocation has over 17% deficit of the projected investment required for achieving SDGs on WASH. The allocation of the budget is inequitably distributed by region and gender.
e. An approximately 43% of the total national WASH budget was spent only on three official projects –all serving Kathmandu valley (Thapa et al., 2019)10 and only 1.12% of the annual WASH budget is targeted to rural areas (Shrestha, 2020)11.
f. N-WASH features an automated financial analysis system for all WASH initiatives, with validation conducted in municipal meetings.

Pakistan:

a. Overall, the Government of Pakistan allocated PKR 225 billion for 2021-22 for WASH services in provincial and federal budgets of Pakistan. A review of the budget documents showed an increasing trend of WASH allocations from 2018-2022. Compared to FY 2018/19, budget is increased by 114% in 2021/22 and expended by more than 100% in 2020/21. In 2020/21, overall utilisation is 83% while it was 57% in 2018/19.
b. A review of the 2020-21 budgetary allocations and expenditures revealed that highest level of spending was reported by Sindh province (88%) and lowest by KP (69%) respectively.
c. The per capita WASH allocation in Pakistan during 2020-2021 was PKR 830. This was the highest in Balochistan with PKR 1,694 and the lowest in Punjab with PKR 548. Whereas, the per capita WASH expenditure in 2020-2021 in Pakistan is highest in the Balochistan with PKR 1,416 and Punjab being the lowest with PKR 470.

Sri Lanka:

a. Stakeholders engaged in sanitation sector investments are not monitored properly from the central monitoring except the funds allocated through national budgets thus leading to duplication and overlapping of investments. There were various sources through which funds are secured such as provincial councils, local authorities, estate sector and NGOs. Therefore, need for identifying funding requirements, sourcing of funds, distribution of available funds in a reasonable manner and monitoring is vital to achieve desired results.
b. When SMP and NPS were prepared this issue was clearly identified and now all funding to be channelled through NCC and PCC is being established under the NPS. Further, all stakeholders are compelled to follow the SMP to identify priorities and decide on mode of intervention. Therefore, reasonable distribution and close monitoring of investment in the coming day could be assured.

Commitment 7: *Develop national and sub-national advocacy plans, strategies, and campaigns that promote the use and sustainability of sanitation services as social norms with the active engagement of all.*

Progress Status:

INDICATORS:	I. Advocacy Plans, Strategies, and Campaigns to promote sustainability

Bangladesh:

a. GoB, with the continuous engagement of development partners, I/NGOs, and CSOs in promoting the use and sustainability of sanitation services from couple of decades ago, was able to achieve Open Defecation Free country. This has been maintained reflecting the resilience of the sanitation services in the country. The NGOs and LGIs at the grassroots have continued the process of

[9] *https://washmatters.wateraid.org/publications/wateraid-nepal-country-strategy-2017-2021*
[10] *https://www.researchgate.net/publication/345444574_Implications_of_the_Melamchi_water_supply_project_for_the_Kathmandu_Valley_groundwater_system*
[11] *https://washmatters.wateraid.org/sites/g/files/jkxoof256/files/financing-factsheet-for-wash-in-nepal-2020-21.pdf*

sensitizing and making people aware on the need of the sanitation services with positive impact on sanitation coverage and its status in Bangladesh.

b. The COVID-19 pandemic has also given much-needed impetus to the hygiene campaign in the country and has supported the overall WASH sector.
c. Hand Hygiene for All (HH4A) Road Map has been developed with its implementation plan being developed with short-term, medium-term and long-term activities to support hygiene awareness among the people of Bangladesh.
d. The 'Sanitation Month' in October and Global Handwashing Day are celebrated every year at various levels which supports to awareness activities on Sanitation and Hand Hygiene agenda in particular and WASH agenda in general by Govt. institutions, NGOs and CSOs at all levels.

Bhutan:

a. National & sub-national level advocacy, strategies & campaigns are developed, published and implemented for sustainability
b. The NSHP 2020 has in its policy objective (i.e. Policy Objective 5) emphasized on the Institutionalization of the mechanism for effective and efficient coordination and service delivery. It outlines specific strategies for behaviour change communication and community engagement.
c. The 12th Five Year Plan has the WASH components like Sustainable water-ensured for all (Drinking & Irrigation) by 2021; and manage wastes more efficiently.
d. Publication of the National Public Toilet Guidelines (Leave no one behind); and Leave no one Behind and Post ODF strategy.
e. The National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy, 2020; and WASH in Health Care Facilities, 2019. NHPSP 2015-2023 highlights the significance of advocacy plans and campaigns to promote the use and sustainability of sanitation services, including healthy city initiatives.
f. CSO such as Bhutan Toilet Organization (BTO) are engaged in carrying out the following activities with their ambassadors across the country:
g. *Promoting Hand wash barrels in public places, schools and institutions.*
h. School Toilet up-gradation; Event Toilet Management with Portable Toilet service, and High-way Toilet service

India:

a. The SBM II guidelines state the government will develop effective advocacy plans at different levels including IEC and BCC strategy as these have been the primary enablers of behaviour change. This strategy aims to reinforce behaviour change and continued below-the-line inter-personal communication to sustain the sustained usage of toilets, community based ODF surveillance for sustained ODF behaviours, safe sanitation practices such as SLWM and adopting hygiene behaviours.

b. National and state plans were made for IEC planning and implemented since last 4 years (in SBM I) to reach out to communities with sanitation campaigns, roping in film actors, GIVA foundation, the PM's messages. But in SBM II, nothing has happened including even on SLWM. There are more networks and training centres than before.
c. The Government used multiple channels to promote behaviour change converging with other ministries through Swachhata Sangrahas along with grassroots campaigns by community motivators, trainers, and government officials using the Community Approaches to Sanitation (CAS) methods.
d. With the launch of SBM, JJM, Amrut etc the advocacy plans and strategies to popularise the scheme benefits to every citizen across the country. The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) have been the primary enablers of behaviour change. This strategy includes regular above-the-line messaging through mass media at central and state levels for reinforcing behaviour change and continued below the-

line interpersonal communication to sustain the usage of toilets and for overall safe sanitation practices such as SLWM and hygiene behaviours.

e. Several campaigns were run under the SBM program that included open defecation campaigns, incentives and awards for ODF villages, campaigns for solid waste management includes Clean India campaign, Malasur campaign for promoting desludging operations. Similarly, the JJM program campaigned for Har Ghar Jal for promoting Household Tap connections, Jal Andolan for Rainwater harvesting and water conservations and Rosy world for Menstrual Hygiene management. Corporates also joined for taking forward the campaigns and one such CSR is Reckitt where the Dettol Challenge for promoting Hand washing and Pani campaign for water conservation.

f. To promote sanitation practices, SBM employed approximately 650,000 Swachhagrahis (village motivators) and various local leaders. They played a crucial role in educating communities and ensuring the adoption of toilets. JJM has employed Jal Saathis to promote messages on water quality, water conservation and safe drinking water usage and handling methods, etc.

Maldives:

a. The National Awareness Strategy for water and sewerage aspires to promote awareness among all stakeholders. This strategy presents a five-year national awareness campaign - the FENFAHI campaign (2017 - 2021) under its policy 4 to enable the public to become more knowledgeable, responsible and involved in water resources, water supply and sewerage systems management.

b. FENFAHI campaign intends to increase knowledge in the general public, and will specifically target youth, school children, educators, businesses, industry, community groups, and NGOs.

c. The FENFAHI campaign has been planned to work in harmony with the National Water and Sewerage Policy (NWSP) by the Ministry of Environment and Energy with an aim to encourage the participation of individuals, communities and the private sector and to establish networks and empower them to use capacities and resources more effectively and collaboratively to solve problems related to water resources management at the island level, regional level and national level. This campaign includes themes and topics i.e.

I. Value of water and water security,

II. Water supply as a natural cycle; Sources of water, threats and water safety; Effects of climate change on water supply; Sustaining; water supply and sewerage systems; Promote willingness to pay for water and sewerage services.

d. The strategy aims to kick start awareness activities related to the following goals of NWSP;

- Goal 4 - Encourage the private sector to invest and engage in water and sewerage services development
- Goal 5 - Build institutional capacity in water resources, water supply and sewerage services
- Goal 7 - Strengthen advocacy and awareness programs in water resources, water supply and sewerage
- Goal 8 - Promote Research and development for sustainable use of water resources, water supply and sewerage system
- Goal 9 - Protect and conserve water resources The FENFAHI campaign aims to develop the human resource capacity and provide support to carry out research work in related areas.

(https://www.environment.gov.mv/v2/wp-content/files/publications/20170716-pub-nationalawareness-strategy-water-sewerage-mar2017.pdf).

Nepal:

Advocacy has been identified as a cornerstone of WASH system strengthening, with development partners collaborating with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and communities to develop advocacy plans and practice evidence-based advocacy.

According to advocacy strategy report 2021 (under WASH SDG project), the key criteria for prioritizing advocacy agenda to address the WASH issues include:

- Specificity and clarity to prove the problem based on local needs and emerging sector gaps and shifts

- Organizational knowledge and experiences; and availability of resources (time, money, and influence)
- Likelihood of success in 3-5 years
- Potential for partnerships both at national and local level
- Risk to the organization

Aligning with this criteria, the following advocacy themes have been identified:

- Improving Municipal WASH governance for safe water and sanitation services
- Strengthening civil society alliance to hold service providers to account
- Ensuring availability of safe and inclusive WASH services and products
- Strengthening community-based approaches to behaviour change for safe WASH uses
- Enlarging local stakeholders and partners' roles to play knowledge catalytic role

Additionally, GoN and other stakeholders commemorate various events such as Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Day and World Water Day. This year, GoN plans to launch a multi-year sanitation campaign. In the current landscape of WASH advocacy initiatives, efforts are being made to enhance advocacy through diverse channels. The implementation of a video platform aims to streamline the utilization of the N-WASH dashboard and associated applications, while the development of Local Government (LG) modules is supported by the Municipal Association of Nepal (MUAN) and NARMIN. Development agencies are conducting pilot testing of tools such as Sustainable Service Initiatives, WASH governance, Asset management, and the Information Management Information System (IMIS) in various LGs.

Pakistan:

- The most important forum for lobbying and advocacy for development plans for WASH services is the Ministry of Climate Change at national level while at the provincial level this role is being played by the Public Health Engineering Departments and Local Government Departments.
- The UNICEF and WHO are also interacting with the government counterparts to work on launching joint WASH investment projects. The targets set under the SDG's and National Water and Sanitation Policies and the research on water quality by the PCRWR are few of the motivating factors to push the government for winning additional resources.
- The Joint venture of UNICEF and Local Government Departments in the four provinces for promoting the Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation and School Lead Total Sanitation models with active support of the local communities.
- The forum such as WASH clusters, MHM Working Groups, Provincial Sanitation Up-scaling Steering Committee, the Clean Green Cities Index, the National WASH cluster and promoting the WASH champions in the country play an important role.
- The use of electronic and social media by designing public awareness messages and Radio drama to reach to the rural and remote areas of the country proved effective tools to generate demands for WASH services. The SACOSAN forum itself is a useful platform for regional counties to learn from each other experiences and expertise.

Sri Lanka:

- As in many other countries, sanitation is a highly diversified sector with many actors. Therefore, directing all interventions towards a common goal and effective coordination and collaboration among stakeholders is vital. Considering the importance of these, National Sanitation Policy for Sri Lanka was introduced.
- Under the Sanitation Policy, national level and provincial level coordination will be carried out through coordination committees, which will be represented by all stakeholders. Developing national and sub national plans and coordination of effective implementation are expected to be achieved through the proposed system.
- Project and program-based advocacy plans are developed as a requirement for plan implementation.

Commitment 8: *Prioritise WASH in institutional settings, especially accessible WASH in schools, health care facilities and public places including sensitisation and provision for menstrual hygiene management.*

Progress Status

INDICATOR:	i. Advocacy Plans, Strategies, and Campaigns to promote sustainability

Bangladesh:

a. The GoB and NGOs took various programs and initiatives to support WASH in Schools, Health Care Facilities and in public spaces with adequate sensitization of Menstrual Hygiene Management. The 'WASH in Schools' program has promoted separate toilets for girls & boys in schools. Around 50% of schools provide proper MHM education and awareness for their girl students with proper MHM facilities in girl toilets.

b. 'Pubic Toilet' is getting more attraction at the policy-making level but the cleanliness and hygiene is one of the major issues in public toilets. Public toilets are often inadequate, and many existing ones are unusable. This creates a particular challenge in public places with government buildings, where there's a critical need for accessible and well-maintained restrooms. Women and girls are especially vulnerable when public sanitation facilities are lacking. This requires the changes in attitude and behavioural as most needed among the public together with improvement required for operation & maintenance (O&M) of the Public WASH facilities (Toilet in particular), which is gradually getting priority.

c. The GoB has initiated to develop O&M policy to support and ensure the overall O&M of the public facilities for their everlasting operation and sustainability.

Bhutan:

a. Programs that ensure and prioritize WASH in Institutions (*School, Health care facilities, Public Places*) reflect its commitment to ensuring universal access to sanitation and hygiene services.

b. A monastic school in Talakha, Thimphu has been provided by eco-friendly and sustainable water heating system to promote WASH.

c. Sensitization and provisions for Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) through Bhutan red dot awareness on Facebook; Supply of sanitary napkins to school and creating awareness on MHM among both adolescent girls and boys; Observation of MH day; Knowledge booklet on Menstrual Hygiene.

d. MoIT has developed WASH in Health Care Facility Strategy of 2022 and carried out assessment on WASH using WASH FIT (Facility Improvement Tool).
e. The NSHP of 2020 underscores the importance of providing adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities in institutional settings, with specific provisions for menstrual hygiene management.

Status in HCFs:

Water: 95% have a basic water service (improved, available, & on premises) and moving towards near universal
coverage; 95% have a piped water supply from improved water sources; and 38% share their water supply with
the community.

Sanitation: 16% have basic sanitation services; 76% have toilets connected to a septic tank, and 49% of them have a soak pit; Maintenance is a concern as only 84 % of toilets are usable; and 73 % have a separate toilet for staff whereas on 31% have toilets designed for people with disabilities or limited mobility.

Hand Hygiene and Health Care Waste Management: 73% have a basic hygiene service (hand hygiene facilities at point of care and water & soap at toilets); 88% have hand hygiene facilities at points of care, with soap and water and alcohol-based hand rub; 80% safely segregated waste, making use of at least three labelled and separate bins; and 59% provide treatment/disposal of infectious wastes and 50% provide treatment/disposal of sharps.

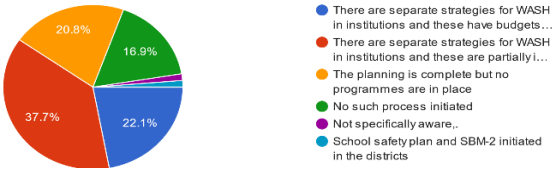
Status in Schools:

- 68% of the water sources in schools are piped water; 15.3% is protected spring, 0.2% are dug well and 0.5% is drilled.

61.4% of the toilets in schools are pour flush toilet and 36.5% are aqua-privy toilets (Source: PPD, MoE, RGoB, 2021, Annual Education Statistics 2021)

India:

- The guidelines for SBM II list the government's ongoing resolve to strengthen WASH in institutions – schools, health centres etc. This is partly addressed through convergence and sectoral sanitation programmes under SMB-II.



- The CSO analysis shows that this is a mixed bag:
- For convergent WASH, there is a rating for schools. This means convergence in education is very good, while convergence with health is average and sanitation in public places, is poor.
- However, panchayats and ULBs have started working on public sanitation, but this is better in urban areas than rural. Thanks to Swachh Sarvekshan that has become a major incentive for cities and towns.
- The country's highest court- the Supreme Court, has underlined the need for gender-separate restrooms in all Indian schools. Similarly, it is imperative that schools have sufficient menstrual hygiene management (MHM) facilities. The initiatives, such as Swachh Sundar Shauchalay (SSS) launched in 2019 also focused on improving the cleanliness and hygiene of school toilets and emphasised on the MHM facilities, similarly, the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) initiated by Govt of India in collaboration with UNICEF, where a national framework for assessing schools was developed by measuring performance on 39 WASH indicators, and MHM was one of the important indicators.
- Swachh Swasth Sarvatra, KAYAKALP scheme is being promoted to recognize and reward the excellence of health facilities in promoting cleanliness; and it is mandatory for the Hospitals and primary care centres to have the safe sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and practices.

Maldives:

Policy/standards/guidelines:

- WASH in Schools is the responsibility of MoE, but there are not any specific MHM policies. However, the School Health Policy (MoE, 2011) states there should be safe drinking water, toilets and soap/handwashing facilities available for all.
- The draft Policy on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools (MoE 2017) mentions on MHM facilities.
- Standards for ensuring disabled-friendly toilets and MHM facilities in all schools developed but regulation guideline was not yet placed in public domain to adopt & use.
- Water and Sanitation for School Policy developed.
- Growing Up Well for Girls and Boys were separately published (MoE, UNICEF, 2016).

MHM practices:

- A recent WinS assessment (MoE, UNICEF 2013) found no program for promoting safe and private menstrual hygiene for older girls.
- Hygiene education has been inadequate (MoE, UNICEF 2013). Education Management Information System (EMIS) collects data on water & toilet availability; no MHM data is collected.
- UNICEF is working with the MoE to incorporate elements of SDG monitoring into EMIS. The high cost of monitoring WinS on all atolls led the MoE to launch an online Open EMIS system to support access and build capacity.

Coordination platform/mechanisms: There is currently no MHM platform. A multi-stakeholder committee steers the School Health Programme, although this group has been inactive recently.

WASH in HCFs: Based on the proportion of Health Care Facilities (HCFs) with elements of basic sanitation among countries, country has improved and usable sanitation facilities in almost 100% of HCFs. Yet the facilities are only 15% sex separated and menstrual hygiene provided in 30% of facilities (WHO, 2019: p32,33). According to the report, the proportion of HCFs with hand hygiene materials at points of care is 88% (*WHO, 2019: p43*), waste management service in HCFs is at 30% (*WHO, 2019: p51*). The WASH facilities in hospitals are much better than HCFs (*which in general comprise of health centres and island health clinics)*.

WASH in Schools: The access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in schools is high, poor design and operations & maintenance (O&M) remain challenges. However, gender-separated toilets are the norm, girls can access washrooms with emergency pads and painkillers and the new WASH in schools (WinS) policy includes MHM (2017). Toilets in most of the schools are not disability-friendly toilets. WinS and MHM are being integrated into teacher training and the school curriculum by the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the UNICEF.

Water Availability: 85% have a functioning water system; and 15% need extensive repairs or a new system (MoE, 2013).

Sanitation Availability: 97% have functioning sanitation facilities; 3% need extensive repairs or new facilities (MoE, 2013). Toilet to schoolgirl ratio 1:35 (against WHO standard = 1:25) with one washstand for 50 girls (UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA), 2012).

WASH in public space: Few public places have access to toilets. (e.g. parks) and most of them are not to the standard to ensure disabled-friendly. No national standards.

After COVID 19 situation in 2021, all school were provided with WASH facilities, WASH education is incorporated in the curriculum, hence it is mainstreamed, Growing Up Well for Girls published (MoE, UNICEF), Growing Up Well for Boys published (MoE, UNICEF), WASH for School Children Needs to know how these programs are conducted and their effectiveness.

Nepal:

Progress in WASH within institutional settings is currently being made through several initiatives.

Firstly, data collection on WASH in institutions is ongoing via the N-WASH system, facilitating comprehensive information gathering. Additionally, the implementation of the UN-Water Glass Track Fin initiative, with support from WHO, is enhancing WASH practices in institutions. Furthermore, guidelines have been developed for WASH in Schools and WASH in Health Care Facilities (HCF), providing essential frameworks for improvement. To supplement these guidelines, tools such as the three-star tools for WASH in Schools and WASH FIT in HCFs are being actively utilized, contributing to the advancement of WASH standards across institutions.

Pakistan:

WASH in Health Care Facilities (HCFs):

- Majority of HCFs in low-and middle-income countries lack these services, being ill equipped to ensure staff and patient safety and to respond to outbreaks (*Weber, Patrick, Hayter, Martinsen, & Gelting, 2019*).
- Insufficient environmental conditions and scarce availability of standard precaution items in a HCF increase the risks of infection through contaminated water, hands, food, medical equipment and unsafe waste disposal (*Cronk & Bartram, 2018*).
- Consequences of poor WASH in HCFs include 15% of the patients from low-and middle-income countries develop one or more infections during their stay at hospitals (HCFs). This burden of infection is higher in women who come to healthcare facilities to deliver and the new-born children.
- According to a National Scoping Study in 2020 conducted by Regulations and Coordination and Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, (a) Water: 83% of HCFs have access to drinking water with highest in Punjab (97%) and lowest in Balochistan with 45%; (b) Sanitation: Only 38% of HCFs have access to sanitation facilities with highest in Punjab (92%) and lowest in Balochistan with 30% only; (c) Hand Washing Facilities (HWFs): only 44% of the HCFs have functional and operational HWF with highest in Punjab (90%) and lowest in ICT with 13% only.
- The data regarding WASH and environmental health in the healthcare facilities of Pakistan is extremely limited.

WASH in Schools (WinS):

- The Government of Pakistan has given special emphasis on the integration of WASH in schools within the Education Sector.
- The National Education Policy 2009 acknowledges the integration WASH in schools and identifies provision of missing facilities as critical for retention & quality education.
- The provincial WASH and School Education Sector Plans also give emphasis on improving basic facilities at school incl. water facilities and female friendly washrooms.
- There is a need to follow, develop and implement school WASH quality standards in terms of the number of WASH facilities per student, knowledge and practices of hygiene, and periodic review of WASH services (*WaterAid, 2016*).
- According to Pakistan Education Statistics 2017-2018, the availability of drinking water & sanitation facilities improves consistently from primary to higher schools.
- **The overall availability of water** in primary school is 68%, 82% in middle schools and 93% in high schools. Whereas, access to functional toilets in primary schools is 74%, 90% in middle schools and 96% in high schools. Whereas, **access to functional toilets** in primary schools is 74%, 90% in middle schools and 96% in high schools.
- According to Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2019, the availability of water and sanitation services is greater in private schools as compared to public schools.
- Water quality data when compared with the National Standards for Drinking Water Quality showed that out of total 435 drinking water sources across the country, 168 (39%) sources were safe, whereas 267 (61%) sources were unsafe for drinking (National Drinking Water Quality Status 2021)

Sri Lanka:

WASH in Health Care Facilities (HCFs):

- Public HCFs are normally housed either in government buildings or common places or community centers. WASH facilities in such places are normally improved using public funds.
- WaSSIP[12] Project has provided WASH facilities for 18 number of health care centers during the period of last four years, benefitting 4800 number of persons using the above centers.
- UNICEF also has taken steps to provide WASH facilities in some health care centers.
- The Environmental and Occupational Health Unit of the Ministry of Health conducted an all-island survey among all healthcare facilities in the government sector using UNICEF/WHO WASH FIT 2022 to understand the WASH status in health care settings.

WASH in Schools:

- WaSSIP project, in a period of 2018-2021, provided WASH facilities in 609 schools benefitting more than 50,000 school children and about 2200 teachers.
- During the 4 Yrs. period (2018-2021) under review, UNICEF has also provided WASH services in number of schools.
- Sri Lanka has more than 10,000 schools which functions under the Central Government and Provincial Councils. All projects and programs implemented for WASH in schools and public conveniences sanitation include MHM dimensions.

WASH in Public Places:

- People visiting cities regularly face difficulties due to the absence of public convenience centers. While number of such places are not adequate, maintenance of existing facilities is also at a very poor status. As many urban areas are falling under Municipal or Urban Council areas, it is the responsibility of respective Councils to establish and maintain such facilities. Some councils
- WASH in public places are not adequate and even if exists, their maintenance is also at a very poor status.
- With the responsibility of Municipal or Urban Councils, they have provided new public toilet facilities and their maintenance have been outsourced while a small fee is charged from users.
- WaSSIP Project has also provided 10 such facilities (with bathing areas, separate toilets for Ladies & Gents, MHM facilities, Restroom, feeding room etc.) in public places mainly in public bus stands during last four years.

Commitment 9: *Collaborate to strengthen knowledge management and learning on sanitation and hygiene, at regional, national and sub-national levels, through training centres and networks.*

Progress Status:

INDICATOR:	i. Knowledge Management and Learning

Bangladesh:

a. The overall process of knowledge management and learning needs to be improved at all levels.
b. The practice has been quite evident at the institutional level, especially at the NGOs/INGOs.
c. Community health workers are working for the dissemination of the knowledge acquired for its further promotion and replications at the community level

At the national level, ITN-BUET is playing a central role as a depositary of knowledge and learning. DPHE & other government institutions should play a more proactive role in aggregating knowledge and learning products for their further promotion and replication to a wider scale.

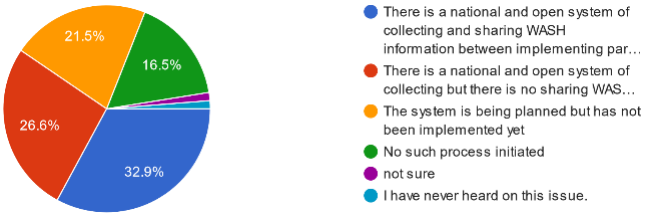
[12] *World Bank funded Water Supply and Sanitation Services Improvement Project*

Bhutan:

a. Guidelines for Sector collaboration are in place to strengthen Knowledge management, Learning on Sanitation & hygiene
b. The NSHP 2020 has a policy objective (i.e. Policy Objective 4: Strengthen capabilities including Behavior Change Communication at all levels) to support Knowledge Management and communication. It emphasizes the importance of capacity building and collaboration with research institutions and universities to enhance skills and knowledge in the sanitation and hygiene sector. This policy being a fairly new, its implementation is yet to happen.
c. On April 10th 2018 the Institute of Development Studies, UNICEF and WSSCC co-convened a half-day Sharing and Learning Workshop in Islamabad, Pakistan, ahead of the 7th South Asian Conference on Sanitation. Collaboration on knowledge management and learning is happening – but not institutionalized.
d. Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy (2015 – 2023) supports the national scaling up of the Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Programme aiming to meet the nation's regional (SACOSAN) and international commitments.
e. B-WASH Cluster has been established as a coordination mechanism (consists of They consist of Tourism Council of Bhutan, the CSOs- Ability Bhutan Society, Royal Society for Protection of Nature, Bhutan Nuns Foundation, Tarayana Foundation, Bhutan Toilet Organization, UNICEF, Swiss Red Cross, SNV, media and private sectors) at the central level for inclusive and participatory collaboration and coordination amongst the sectors/agencies to address the WASH issues.
f. At CSOs level, since 2019, BTO has hosted the Freshwater Action Network of South Asia (FANSA) Bhutan Chapter. It gives the regional body secretarial support to implement WASH-related activities and projects.

India:

a. At the national and sub-national levels, compared to the progress in setting up for key resource centres for drinking water supply, there has been much more limited progress on sanitation. Where available and feasible and as best practice, states may assign existing institutions with expertise in water and sanitation as State Centres of Excellence on Swachhata for sustainability and create dedicated sanitation and SLWM cells.



b. At the regional, national, and sub-national levels in India, there are numerous platforms for the administration and acquisition of knowledge regasrding sanitation and hygiene. These platforms function as forums for the exchange of information, best practices, research findings, and experiences concerning sanitation and hygiene. The following are a few key platforms:
   1. Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Portal
   2. National Water Mission (NWM) Knowledge Portal
   3. National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) Knowledge Hub
   4. Regional Water and Sanitation Centers (RWSCs)
   5. National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)
   6. State Water and Sanitation Missions (SWSMs)

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) established strategic collaborations with key development sector organisations, leveraging their expertise and experience across thematic areas.

These partners offer technical assistance at the central level and support states, union territories (UTs), and urban local bodies (ULBs) in capacity building and skill development for the Mission. NFSSM Alliance and SKPs are some of the knowledge providing networks and closely work with MoHUA on various initiatives.

Maldives:

a. Ministry of Environment signed an agreement in October 2019 with Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authority to refine and certify employees in the public utility sector. An individual who completes the training from TVET will be working in the construction industry, with a close inspection of a site supervisor. Participants who complete this course should be able to perform a variety of skilled duties involved installing repair and maintaining pipes, fixtures etc.
b. Additional arrangement for WASH related training are being conducted by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with MN and MWSC with the assistance of USAID in desalination plant operator training.
c. Further Fenaka and MWSC are individually making arrangements for training their water and sewerage system operators as well as plumbers, monitoring and management personal of water systems at Polytechnic.
d. Policy 3 of Ministry of Environment Strategic Action Plan 2020-2025 shows capacity building activities being planned for implementing policy through partnerships and collaborations.
e. Key national adaptation policies and plans:
    - Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023 (Status: Enacted, October, 2019)
    - Updated Nationally Determined Contribution to Paris Climate Agreement (Status: Submitted, 2020)
    - National Communications to the UNFCCC (Status: Two Submitted, Latest: October 2016)
    - Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework (Status: Enacted, August 2015)
    - National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) (Status: Enacted, December, 2006)
    - Disaster Management Act (Status: Enacted, October, 2007)
    - Second National Environment Plan (Status: Enacted, 1999)
    - National Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (Status: Enacted, 2014)
    - Health Master Plan

Nepal:

The NWSSTC and NMIP are collaborating to establish an online learning portal, intending to offer various WASH courses. Additionally, the finalized business plan of SEIS and NWSSTC, along with a prepared training calendar, marks progress. Utilizing N-WASH for training needs assessment, diverse training packages are being developed, encompassing both online and in-person formats.

a. Video platform for using N-WASH dashboard and applications
b. LG module development with the support from Municipal Association of Nepal (MUAN) and National Association of Rural Municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN)
c. Tools like Sustainable Service Initiatives WASH governance, Asset management, IMIS, etc. are being piloted in different LG by development agencies

Pakistan:

a. Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) has been re-assigned with a mandate of WASH sector coordination at the federal level alongside with the responsibility of WASH sector strategic planning, reporting progress and sustaining stakeholder dialogue including all federating units as well as international development partners.
b. Pakistan WASH Sector Strategic Planning and Coordination Cell has been established in the MoCC to facilitate and fast-track progress towards achievement of SDG 6.1 and 6.2 and promote knowledge management. This unit is supported by UNICEF and World Bank.
c. The Unit is also to serve as federal level nerve centre and jointly owned institutional platform for ensuring smooth collaboration and sustaining meaningful dialogue involving federal/provincial governments, civil society, private sector, academia and development partners having stakes in WASH sector reforms in Pakistan.

Sri Lanka:

Sri Lanka has taken many initiatives for the knowledge management and learning on sanitation and hygiene as follows.

a. Establishment of Joint Research and Development Center (JRDC) in Kandy to focus on research activities on water & sanitation, kidney disease (CKD), low-cost water treatment technologies, rainwater harvesting, improvement of groundwater quality among many other areas. Besides, JRDC also provides and facilitates capacity development programs on water and sanitation, especially for those who serve in local authorities and community-based organizations.
b. National and sub-national level capacity development is carried out mainly by various government agencies. NWSDB conducted many programs for members of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and other personal involved in sanitation sector. Further, NWSDB has started a program where they provide comprehensive training on plumbing for unemployed youth.
c. National Water Supply & Drainage Board established a state-of-the-art center for WASH named Center for Excellence for Water and Sanitation (CEWAS).
d. Further, NSWDB organize International Water Conference Annually. The Eighth Annual Research & Development Symposium of the National Water Supply & Drainage Board was also conducted together with the International Water Conference 2023 that created a platform to serve as a catalyst for changes in the field of water and sanitation, fostering knowledge exchange with the innovative researches.
e. Additionally, MoH, MoE and DCWS also conduct advocacy and hygiene improvement program for public, school children, and CBO members respectively.
f. WaSSIP has carried out a remarkable number of programs related to capacity building and knowledge enhancement such as Hygiene awareness programs for the communities and for the schools, and training to the members of CBOs.

Commitment 10: *Support climate change adaptation, and explore financing to promote climate resilient sanitation and hygiene technologies and behaviours in general, and in at-risk communities in particular*

Progress Status:

INDICATOR:	I. Climate Change Adaptation and Explore Financing to Promote Climate-resilient Sanitation & Hygiene Technologists and Behaviours

Bangladesh:

At the International Level: GoB advocated to take urgent action on mitigation and adaptation to climate change by raising a serious concern about climate change and its adverse impacts.

At the National Level: GoB created Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund to implement projects that promote climate-resilient technologies for adaptation. However, investment in developing a context-specific technologies considering ecological zone, zone-specific technology is required with assurance of adequate financing for their promotion to a scale. NGOs are playing a vital role from their end with their capacity by promoting climate resilient sanitation facilities (e.g. building latrines on raised platforms and with twin pits) and innovative technologies for adaptation to climate change. There is a need for investing in developing context-specific technologies.

At the Community Level: The community people are neither aware of the climate-resilient Sanitation and Hygiene Technology, nor aware of accessing to the finance (fund/budget) and even if they could get access but needs proper justification irrespective of the extent of climate change threats, they face on WASH facilities. Thus, requiring the amendment of the policies and provisions to make them accessible to the communities

Bhutan:

Sector programs have an element of Climate change adaptation and promote climate resilient sanitation technologies & behaviour. Although, not purposely designed for climate change adaptation, many of the toilet technology that use less water can contribute to adaptation from climate change.

- Sato pan where there is less water and for extreme cold places
- Rain water harvest projects in water stress areas for WASH

The NSHP of 2020 underscores the need to explore financing options to support climate-resilient WASH initiatives.

The NHPSP 2015-2023 suggests exploring financing options to support climate change adaptation efforts related to WASH and road safety.

The National Guidelines for Sanitation Technology of 2023 assists in selecting the best solutions for on and off-site sewage management technology and to provide quick guidance to sanitation planners.

India:

a. There is no mention of **climate change resilient infrastructure and financing** in the SBM II strategy or guidelines. Therefore, there has been no progress or recognition of this aspect.

b. The SBM guidelines do not mention them and there is no separate budget for climate resilient infrastructure.

c. The CSO analysis bears this out. There is no recognition of climate change risks in the WASH sector because climate change agenda is driven by MOEF and WASH by MOJS. There is no interaction between the two despite efforts by UNICEF and others having advocated for DRR sanitation plans. MoPR and NDMA have incorporated some DRR elements in DPR handbooks.

d. Given the pressure on governments to achieve the SDGs and the often-constrained budgets, investment in climate-resilient urban sanitation has unfortunately become a secondary priority, leading to a significant gap in government funding.
e. SBM promotes the use of eco-friendly and climate-resilient technologies, such as bio-toilets and composting toilets, which reduce water usage and improve sanitation in flood-prone areas. AMRUT includes projects that enhance urban infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events and improve water and sanitation services in urban areas.
f. National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) funds projects that enhance the resilience of water supply and sanitation infrastructure to climate impacts.
g. Each state in India has developed its action plan aligned with the NAPCC, focusing on local adaptation and mitigation strategies. State governments allocate budgets for implementing these plans, which often include climate resilient sanitation and hygiene projects.
h. Water Security and Climate Adaptation in Rural India (WASCA) is a project commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented in India from 2019 to 2022. The project is led by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and the Ministry of Water Resources etc.
i. Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR): The project aims to improve rural water resource management for water security and climate adaptation.
j. Green Climate Fund (GCF): An international fund established to assist developing countries in adaptation and mitigation practices to counter climate change. GCF has funded several projects in India that include components related to climate-resilient water and sanitation infrastructure. CSR Funding for Climate Resilience: Companies and foundations like Tata Trust, ITC, and Reckitt are funding climate resilient programs, but in a very small way.

Maldives:

- In alignment with Climate adaptation policies, regulations and guidelines, follow-up projects to promote climate-resilient sanitation and hygiene technologies are implemented as areas of high priority.
- The "Supporting vulnerable communities in the Maldives to manage climate change induced water shortages" project initiated by the government in 2017 is currently being implemented and near completion. The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) with co-financing from the Government of Maldives and contribution from UNDP. The project aims to bring a paradigm shift towards climate change-resilient and cost-effective water supply and management in the Maldives contributing towards resilience of water security
- The country partnership strategy (CPS) 2020-2024 of Asian Development Bank and World Bank Group emphasizes the need for climate change adaptation, environmental protection and disaster risk management
- The WBG's Country Partnership Framework (FY16–FY19) aims to contribute to the achievement of some of the government's medium-term goals in areas that are critical for the reduction of extreme poverty and the promotion of shared prosperity,
- Increased capacity of targeted institutions to monitor and report on status and changes related to food and nutrition security, agriculture and natural resources, including the impact of climate change mitigation and adaptation interventions, with focus on the SDGs and on the need for disaggregated data by gender, vulnerability, etc.

Nepal:

Progress against the intersection of WASH and climate change is evident through various initiatives and strategic documents. In the JSR 2023 declaration, a comprehensive WASH financial strategy is proposed to secure investments for meeting SDG targets, accompanied by the development of climate-resilient service delivery frameworks and the integration of gender equality and social inclusion in the sector.

a. 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[13] .
b. 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[14]
c. The 15th National Plan emphasizes the incorporation of climate change mitigation and natural disaster management optimization into the design and construction of drinking water and sanitation services.
d. The Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM) has outlined activities such as preparing a water stress inventory for areas facing multi-stage pumping and groundwater depletion, guiding the prioritization of climate-resilient water supply schemes, and developing life cycle support plans for local government bodies.

These efforts reflect a concerted approach towards addressing the challenges posed by climate change within the WASH sector.

Pakistan:

a. The Federal Government has launched clean and green Pakistan drive, which is a good step towards building climate resilience. However, there is an urgent need to develop a holistic policy framework.
b. The town planning practitioners and urban planners may guide local development agencies & communities for adaptation of environment-friendly spatial and infrastructure planning.
c. The following steps taken by the provincial governments in the recent past are worth consideration.
   - Preparation of master plans for major cities of Pakistan
   - Mandatory building plan approval from the concerned municipal authorities;
   - Provision of high rise commercial and residential buildings to save the space;
   - Preparation of climate resilient sectoral actions plans in line with NDMA and PDMA policy guidelines.
d. Promulgation of Water Act, 2020; Urban Development Policy-2022 and Cities Improvement Project by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial government

[13] *https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Nepal%20Second/Second%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution%20(NDC)%20-%202020.pdf*
[14] *https://mofe.gov.np/noticefile/NAP%20Rep%202021-2050_Suggestion_1634621834.pdf*

Sri Lanka:

a. Effect of climate changes can adversely affect in WASH activities in multiple ways. The following Table 2 shows the prominent effects on climate change and steps proposed / being taken to mitigate them by respective agencies

Possible effect due to Climate Change	Possible Consequences on WASH sector	Remedial Measures proposed/ Being Taken
Rise in temperature	Increase demand for water Depletion of water resources	Paying attention for this when planning of new/ rehabilitation of water supply schemes
Rise in sea water level	Increased salinity intrusion in rivers endangering portable water supply Difficulties in construction of toilets	Moving of water intakes towards upstream priority in provision of piped sewerage systems
Flash Floods	Damages to water intakes and difficulties in operations during floods Health issues in low-lying areas	Considering in planning in new intakes and raising of existing intakes where possible
Long Spelled Droughts	Problems in water supply due to increased demand and reduced supply Lack of adequate water for sanitation activities	Raising awareness for water conservation, reducing water consumption, possibility of adopting options such as rainwater harvesting
Increased pollution in water bodies due to less flows	Difficulties and increased cost for water treatment	Raising awareness on protection of water bodies

Possible Conseauences of Climate Change on WASH Services

b. Knowledge and awareness on possible effects due to climate change in Sri Lanka is still at primary stage. The authorities are taking steps to identify the gravity of problem and taking suitable measures to address them.

c. A World Bank funded "Climate Resilient Improvement Project (CRIP)" implemented under the Ministry of Irrigation studied possible threats in Mahaweli area and a series of remedial measures are proposed, while some are being already implemented.

d. In the 3rd National Communication report submitted to UN, separate chapter is dedicated to mitigate risks to water and recommends on the adaptation strategies for climate resilient water systems.

e. At least 3 projects are being implemented on institutionalizing strategies to tackle climate impacts on water by UNDP, World Bank and ADB. Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management is UNDP funded project.

For Further Details, Contact

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