Freshwater Action Network South Asia

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

'Rising for the Rights: Strengthening Civil Society Networks in South Asia to achieve SDG 6'

Progress Summary (December 2022 – March 2023)

FANSA Regional Secretariat
Kathmandu, Nepal
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During this four-months, the project mainly focused on establishing project management and operation systems, and creating enabling environment for the FANSA member countries prepared to take off the project at their respective country contexts.

With the signing agreement with the BMGF for the Rising for the Rights, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was further signed between Huairou Commission (HC), as a fiscal agent and Lumanti, as a grantee of the project. Following this, partnership agreements were signed with all the respective FANSA member countries (Bangladesh – SKS Foundation], [Bhutan – Bhutan Toilet], [India - MARI], [Maldives – Water Care], [Nepal – ENPHO], [Pakistan- HOPE], [Sri Lanka – CEJ).

One of the major activities carried out during this period is the **Regional Inception Workshop**. The workshop of the *Rising for the rights: Strengthening Civil Society Network in South Asia to achieve SDG 6* project was facilitated by the Regional Secretariat team of the FANSA in Kathmandu, Nepal from 6-8 February 2023. The workshop helped to develop a common understanding especially on the project outcomes, finalizing the result framework of the *Rising for the rights* project, and delivery mechanisms. Along this, **FANSA Regional Steering Committee Meeting** was also conducted physically. In this meeting, all the FANSA chapters were able to update on their initiatives, introduce new and renewed members. One of the major outcomes of the meeting was the final inputs received on the FANSA's governance policy, restructuring the FANSA to strengthen itself and its network.

Comprehensive city selection criteria with a score card were developed and shared with all the seven member countries of FANSA. The criteria were adopted by all the countries and selected cities (refer figure 1) to implement the Rising for the Rights (R4R) project.

Amidst of this period, Finance Manager of Lumanti/Rising for the Rights visited WaterCare in Maldives and CEJ in Srilanka. His visit supported WaterCare to develop and set up institutional operational documents.

Countries	Cities selected
Bangladesh	•Gaibandha, Moulvibazar, and Barishal
Bhutan	•Thimpu, Paro, Phuntsholing
India	• *NA*
Pakistan	•Quetta
Nepal	•Pokhara, Hetuada
Maldives	•Male City, Thulusdhoo Island
Srilanka	•Kandy, Galle, Balangoda, Badulla, Panadura, Akkareipaththu

Figure 1: FANSA chapter wise cities selection

Furthermore, an electronic version of project brochure is developed for the dissemination. The brochure includes basic information of the project, vision, mission, goal, strategy. It has been widely circulated to the stakeholders as and when required.

Similarly, FANSA Website https://fansaregional.net/ is launched and the website has been so far uploaded with the latest available information. For a uniform and consistent reporting mechanism, the Regional Secretariat has developed a quarterly, six-monthly and annually reporting template in line with BMGF's annual reporting format.

Moreover, FANSA Regional convener of FANSA, Lajana Manandhar, participated at the Asia Pacific Urban Forum on Sustainable Development held from 27th - 29th March, 2023 in Bangkok, to represent voices of Asian CSOs and communities in relation to their progress towards achieving the SDGs and the challenges faced by them.

BRIEF UPDATES:

BANGLADESH: FANSA Bangladesh conducted a steering committee meeting, focusing on sharing updates of the network and the Rising for Rights project, project implementation modalities & ensuring participation of the members in the implementation process, and also reform/enrollment of FANSA-BD membership. Through the meeting, the committee made decisions to uphold the network in the country. Similarly, as per direction of the National Steering Committee Meeting 2023, FANSA- BD initiated the reform/enrollment of the new members of the network and invited applications through a prescribed form aligned with the FANSA Governance Policy. Furthermore, centering the World Water Day 2023, FANSA- BD organized a photo exhibition based on the theme of the day, and invited photos focusing on challenges & solutions relating to water issues covering the geophysical contexts & communities of Bangladesh.

Photo-1: FANSA Bangladesh Steering committee meeting (*Photo credit: Dipak Saha*)

BHUTAN: FANSA Bhutan organized a project orientation workshop on March 17, 2023, inviting various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and Private Organizations, which included old members as well as potential new members. The workshop commenced with the enrollment of new and existing members to the FANSA Bhutan membership, followed by an exhibition of FANSA's activities, which prompted fruitful discussions, suggestions, and feedback. Besides, Bhutan Toilet Organization (BTO) conducted data collection surveys in seven communities across Thimphu city, which covered shanty camps set up by road workers, sanitation workers, and waste pickers working under the municipality, most of whom are daily wage earners with little or no social protections. The survey revealed that many of these camps lacked basic WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services; still resorting to pit toilets and with some sites experiencing water shortages. The available water points and toilets are located away from the camps making it difficult to access at night and during rainy days.

MALDIVES: FANSA Maldives has formed the advisory committee and steering committee whereas, the concept of mutual accountability to assure universal access to WASH (CWIS in the context of SMSS) were explained to steering committee and advisory committee in the forum held by Ministry to discuss VNR on SDG to be submitted to UN in mid-2023. The FANSA Maldives team has met community grassroot leaders (WDC members of Thulusdhoo) to assess situation on access to WASH. Community was also briefed on the Rising for the right Project. Furthermore, collaboration with CSOs (MAPD/CEL/Alzeimers association/Association of poets/ WDC members of Thulushdhoo/National Library) followed by discussion on the issue with WASH focal Ministry of Government (MECCT), along with planning to conduct project launching function prior to WASH workshop has been done. Moreover, information session organized for CSOs and National Library Staff on SDG 6 focusing on water and sanitation rights of marginalized groups in the context of Maldives. And, marked World Water Day in collaboration with FENAKA Corporation (Water and Sanitation state owned company).

NEPAL: FANSA Nepal advocated for the rights of sanitation workers on the World Water Day 2023 at national level. This event provided a platform to sanitation workers to share their issues in the national level forum. Similarly, integrating gender targeting school teachers and students on WASH policies and standard for school with a focus on access to a safe toilet and MHM facilities for youth through workshop. Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) training has been provided to the participants representing from Lumanti Support Group for Shelter and FEDWASUN. Further, FANSA Nepal has been actively involved in national level GESI thematic group under JSR 2023 committee and contributing to the sector for GESI mainstreaming in WASH at the national level.

PAKISTAN: FANSA Pakistan has conducted Orientation meeting for the National Steering Committee (NSC) of FANSA Pakistan, members. Through this orientation, the steering committee got insights on the project objectives, plans and implementation strategy, in line had discussion on selection criteria of town/city for CWIS. Similarly, the meeting was held with District/city Government Officials to have brief on the project.

SRI LANKA: FANSA Sri Lanka has reviewed the existing policies, programs, guidelines, and budget allocations at national level with respect to equitable and inclusive Safely managed Sanitation Services (SMSS)/ Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) for the targeted beneficiaries. Moreover, the report is in underway. Further, the FANSA Sri Lanka has organized an Inception workshop for the local project partners in Colombo.

For more information,

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