

# CSOs Review of National Accountability Mechanism for SDG 6

NEPAL



**6** CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CNI</b>	Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI)
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>D-WASH-CC</b>	District WASH Coordination Committee
<b>DPs</b>	Development Partners
<b>DUDBC</b>	Department for Urban Development and Building Construction
<b>DWSSM</b>	Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management
<b>EMD</b>	Economic Management division
<b>EWP</b>	End Water Poverty
<b>FEDWASUN</b>	Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal
<b>FNCCI</b>	Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry
<b>GoN</b>	Government of Nepal
<b>GSi</b>	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
<b>HLPF</b>	High-level Political Forum
<b>ICTs</b>	Information and communications technology (ICT)
<b>JSR</b>	Joint Sector Review
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
<b>MOF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MOFAGA</b>	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
<b>MOWS</b>	Ministry of Water Supply
<b>MOWSS</b>	Ministry of Water Supply
<b>NCC</b>	Nepal Chamber of Commerce
<b>NDAC</b>	National Development Action Committee
<b>NDAC</b>	National Development Action Committee
<b>NDHS</b>	Nepal Demographic Health Survey
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>NLSS</b>	National Living Standard Survey
<b>NMIP</b>	National Management of Information Program
<b>NPC</b>	National Planning Commission
<b>NSHCC</b>	National Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee
<b>NSHSC</b>	National Sanitation and Hygiene Steering Committee

<b>NWSSTC</b>	National Water Supply and Sanitation Training Centre
<b>ODF</b>	Open Defecation Free
<b>P-WASH-CC</b>	Provincial Wash Coordination Committee
<b>R/M WASH-CC</b>	Rural/Municipality WASH Coordination Committee
<b>SDG 6</b>	Sustainable development Goal six
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SDP</b>	Sector Development Plan
<b>SEIU</b>	Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit
<b>UN</b>	United Nation
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Reviews
<b>W-WASH-CC</b>	Ward WASH Coordination Committee
<b>WASH</b>	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WASHCC</b>	Water Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WUSCs</b>	Water Users and Sanitation Committee
<b>SWAp</b>	<i>A swap is an agreement between two parties to exchange a series of future cash flows Swaps are financial agreements to exchange cash flows. Swaps can be based on interest rates, stock indices, foreign currency exchange rates and even commodities prices.</i>

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**Mukti Pokharel**  
**Consultant**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IRC (IRC) and its partners have commissioned a global study including Nepal to map out existing national accountability mechanisms relevant with SDG 6 in its participating country. In line with the plan, a short survey has been conducted to identify the progress status of the accountability mechanism of SDG 6 in Nepal. It is a qualitative study based on desk review and 26 individuals of different sector actors' reflections that are collected through survey questionnaire, interviews and discussion.

The MDG has streamlined global priority issues and sketched a map of our journey about what we want to achieve globally and locally. We have built a foundation to set out for new journey originating from the MDG, learned lessons and continue on the way towards SDG 2016 - 2030.

It has established excellent cooperation and coordination mechanisms among sector actors: government institutions, Development Partner (DP), Non-Government Organizations (NGO) and Civil Society Organization (CSO) at both national and sub-national levels, which are key milestones for succeeding SDG. Government of Nepal (GoN) has accomplished preliminary works for progressing SDGs but many are yet to happen. It has prepared baseline status report<sup>1</sup>, which is at the verge of meeting national targets and waiting for approval of WASH Sector Development Plan (SDP). These all are the milestone and also a road map for systematic progressing and localization of the SDG.

Political system of the country is being transformed into new federal democratic republican state by replacing the long historic monarchical system. In this process, most of all government structures are being reframed and realigned towards the sentiment of newly established political system of the country. The newly established institutional mechanism NPC is expected to facilitate on achieving the SDGs on time and Ministry of Water Supply leads the Water and Sanitation for SDG6.

### Major gaps

- Capacity gaps of CSOs in line with implementation of SDG6.
- Clear and common strategy of CSOs in making governments accountable for sector progress in line with SDG6.
- Strategies and plans for localizing SDG targets for enhancing operational action
- Clear database and monitoring systems to track SDG targets
- Statisticians working on MIS and reporting support the monitoring part following national survey procedure
- Limited functional secretariat to address SDG 6 at local and Provincial levels.

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<sup>1</sup> National Planning Commission, 2017: Nepal's Sustainable Development Goals, Baseline Report, 2017. Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission, Kathmandu, Nepal

- Consolidated effort and defined advocacy agenda, own functional roles of CSOs and contextual analyses of micro level issues of the sectors.
- Effective engagement of CSOs in the federal, provincial and local level accountability mechanisms as per the government structure.

## **Recommendations**

### **a. For Government:**

- Need to have target wise focal department as focal point, trained on the reporting system with full authority
- Streamline the national standards and periodical target (now are based on the existing report available)
- Capacity building on the monitoring and reporting process covering all SDG6 targets (need more with National/International experts)
- Government need to plan to re-activate all Federal, Provincial and R/Municipality level existing structures WASHCC and must give them business for functioning and wider actors' engagement.
- WASHCC at all level should start comprehensive discussion among sector actors about the strategies and plans for localizing SDG targets and enhancing operational action.
- Make national estimate comparable with JMP
- Need to have clear database and monitoring systems to track SDG targets

### **b. For Sector Partner:**

- Strengthen CSOs Institution: Need to assess capacity gaps of CSOs in line with implementation of SDG6. It needs to have clear database and monitoring systems to track SDG targets.
- Government and development partners shall plan and budget for institutional capacity building and sustaining of CSOs.
- Should have Statisticians working on MIS and reporting / can support the monitoring part following national survey procedure

### **c. For Civil Society**

- Need to have clear and common strategy of CSOs in making governments accountable for sector progress in line with SDG6.
- Promoting functional secretariat to specifically discuss and address SDG 6 at local and Provincial levels.
- CSOs should have their consolidated effort and defined advocacy agenda, own functional roles and contextual analyses of micro level issues of the sectors to educate & advocate government and sector partners in achieving the SDG targets.

- CSOs should be engaged in the federal, provincial and local level accountability mechanisms as per the reformed government structure to support to educate & advocate government and sector partners in achieving the SDG targets.
- CSOs thematic structure under Nepal SDG forum is a good model for wider level of engagement of different types of actors. But, these groups are also doing to the relatively accessible areas, mostly in and around Kathmandu. It is important that these structures are replicated at the local level and equipped with skills and resources for better coverage.

Government need to recognize the importance of behavior change and need to strategically work with CSOs for bringing the desired social change.

### **Conclusion**

There is a wider opportunity for Nepal to move forward to implement SDG 6. It is important to build capacity of human resources at every level to analyze and to incorporate SDGs into programme cycle management. Number of policies have been revised to align with SDGs but these revisions need to be translated in annual plans with appropriate budget allocations. The 14th development plan provides a generic framework to implement SDGs. These needs to be translated into actions, work plan with budget and time frame should be continued to following periodic plans. It is also equally important to clarify roles of different stakeholders to implement SDGs. It is important that the national indicators and targets are integrated into annual plans and budgets of governments at all levels and competent and adequate human resources are provisioned for effective implementation. Nepal is progressing well in terms of nationalizing the indicators and targets, in preparing baseline and collection and management of disaggregated data set, these are pre-requisite for effective implementation of SDGs.

Two major corrective actions are Increase priority on water with emphasis on functionality and toilet without water cannot be functional and time has come to move beyond toilet coverage. All WASH sector agencies and partners need to continue to support in upgrading WASH facilities and strengthening Accountability mechanism at all level. Nepal is moving fairly well in terms of preparedness, especially in establishing structures for oversight, coordination, implementation and monitoring; integration of SDGs into periodic plans and budget and strengthening monitoring and evaluation system. The constitutional right of water and sanitation helps to accelerate water and sanitation goals of SDG.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

This report is an attempt to update the national achievement against the SDG 6 in Nepal based on a survey conducted in November 2019 commissioned by the IRC. The report also assesses the national situation on SDG 6 from national perspectives, examines their relevance in the national context and provides inputs for preparing report, dialogue, and shows a pathway for implementation.

Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) aims to ensure water and sanitation for all, and to stop open defecation by 2030. Based on this goal, Nepal like other countries has prepared its own specific goals to achieve by 2030. There are six targets within the SDG 6 prepared by Government of Nepal. As per the national goal, it is aimed that the basic water supply coverage will become 99% whereas improved sanitation facility is aimed to reach to 95% by 2030 (SDP, 2030) in Nepal. Efforts to achieve SDG have already passed four years, however, the prevalence of contaminated drinking water, struggle to find water to wash their hands and defecating in the open area are found in many places.

UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) survey report 2018/2019 revealed that there are numerous examples of governments specifically targeting open defecation free to create positive impact on health and sanitation. This report further found that those countries are prioritizing on WASH systems strengthening, Official Development Assistance (ODA) for WASH is rising, which signals the increasing interest to resolve by the international community to make progress on WASH. However, the translation of commitments into real practices is yet to come. As per the report, the reason against this is the weak fully functioning delivery system of the national governments. Due to the limitation of human and financial resources, countries are unable to implement policies and plans hence the institutions tasked with regulatory oversight are often stretched and detailed reporting and data are rare.

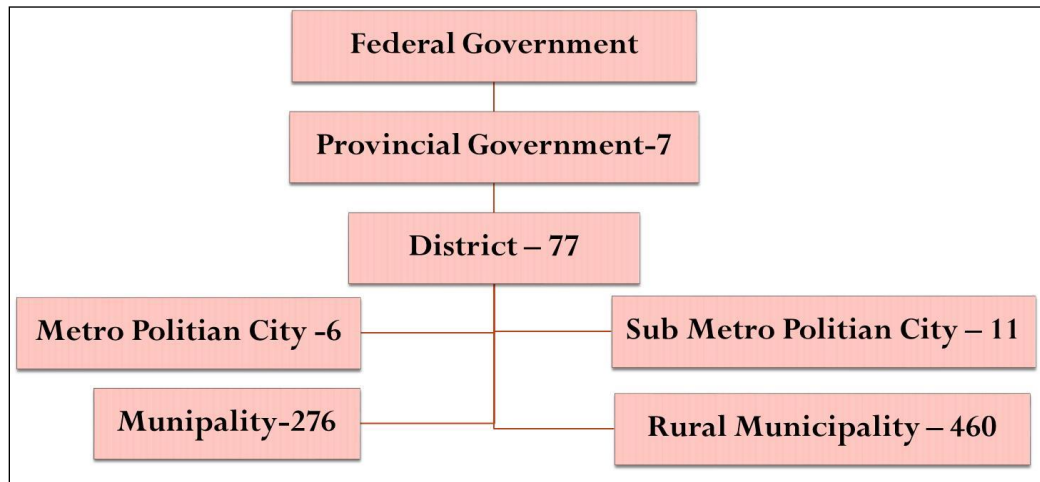
## 1.2 Country Context

Nepal is a landlocked country located in South Asia, bordered by India and China. Nepal has a relatively small land area 147,181 square kilometres elongated along east and west. Population density (people per sq. km) in Nepal was last measured at 199 persons per square kilometre in 2015. Population density varies by topography. Population is spatially distributed being dense in eastern and southern part in comparison to western and northern part of country. Southern plain land locally called Tarai/Madhesh has high population density while the northern hill and mountain areas have low population density.

Despite its position as a developing country, facing challenges including a fragmented political scenario, poverty, rapid urbanisation, climate change and natural disasters, Nepal has made remarkable strides in development, and continues to be a country of great achievement and possibilities.

The Constituent Assembly (CA) of Nepal endorsed Nepal's Constitution 2072 on September 18, 2015. This is the first democratic Constitution passed by a Constituent Assembly, making it a historic event and marks a democratic milestone for Nepal and its people. The government completed local elections (urban and rural municipalities) and provincial election. With recent election of Rastriya Sabha (Upper house) in 2018 all federal structures are in place now and will speed up the process of implementation of Federal Republic Governance.

**Governance Structure of Nepal:** The governance structure is now set as:



### 1.2.1 WASH Regulatory Framework:

New **constitution of Nepal 2015** article number 35 (4) has enshrined water and sanitation as fundamental right. Nepal is also a signatory of UN Declaration of Human Rights to water and sanitation. Alignment with these rights, water sector ministry is developing new water acts, rules and regulations. The present water act gives drinking water as top priority over all other usage of water. Nepal is also a signatory of ILO 169 that defines indigenous people right to natural resources including water. Water Resource Act 1992 **is an** umbrella Act governing water resource management, defines the order of priority of water use. It dictates that drinking water has first priority over other usage of water. **Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011** recognizes the leadership of local bodies, coordination mechanism at central, regional, district and municipality/village Levels; ODF status as entry point of Total Sanitation; Cost Shearing stimulates ODF Initiatives.

Water Rules 1998: Regulates the use of drinking water; provides for the formation of Drinking Water User Associations and sets out the procedure for registration; deals with licensing of use drinking water; deals with the control of water pollution and maintenance of quality standards for drinking water; sets out the conditions of service utilization by consumers; provides for the acquisition of house and land and compensation; provides for formation of service fee fixation committee.

## 1.2.2 Water and Sanitation coverage:

### **Commitment of Nepal Government:**

“With Due respect to Declaration of 753 Municipalities (Palikas) and 77 Districts as Open Defecation Free I declare Nepal as Open Defecation Country. Besides, I call upon people of Nepal to move towards total sanitation country and achieve target of Sustainable Development Goal by 2030.

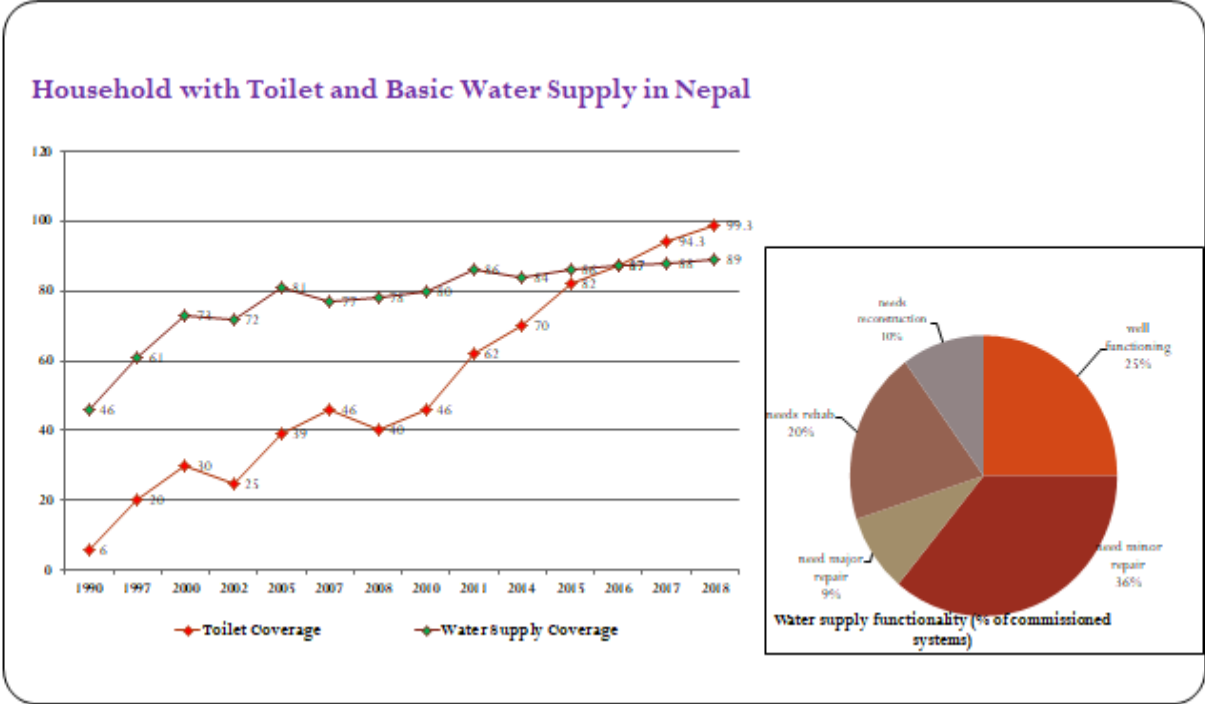
**“K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister; Date: 30 September 2019”**

Sanitation became a social campaign after the International Year of Sanitation-2008. Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan (SHMP) was formulated in 2011 which provided a nationwide guideline with a target to declare ODF Nepal by 2017. The Local Government (LG)-led ODF movement scaled up nation-wide. Earthquake 2015 affected the movement in some of the districts, as a result target to declare ODF Nepal shifted from 2017 to 2019. Government of Nepal in its annual program (FY 2019/20) has a plan to declare ODF nation and move towards Total Sanitation led by Local Government. NSHSC, NSHCC and PWG meeting held on 25 September approved the process and date for declaration. Country was declared as ODF on 30 September 2019 by the Prime Minister of Nepal. Total Sanitation Guideline 2015 as the base beyond ODF though SHMP itself also holds the mandate beyond ODF.

Until last decade sanitation coverage has lagged behind significantly from water coverage. However, with recent open defecation free campaign, basic sanitation coverage leaped forward with toilet coverage 99% while water coverage has modest growth reaching to 89% only. If functionality is considered water coverage drops down below 50%. that is beyond ODF.

<b>WASH in Health Care Facilities in Nepal</b> (Source: Global Baseline Report on WASH in health care facilities 2019 )	
<b>Water services:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 % of HCF do not have water services</li> <li>• 10% of Hospital do not have water services</li> <li>• 6% of Non- hospital do not have water services</li> <li>• 6% of Government HCF do not have water services</li> <li>• 12% of non-government HCF do not have water services</li> </ul>
<b>Sanitation Services:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8% of HCF do not have sanitation services</li> <li>• 9% of Hospital do not have sanitation services</li> <li>• 8% of non-Hospital do not have sanitation service</li> <li>• 7 % of government HCF do not have sanitation service</li> <li>• 12% of non-government HCF do not have sanitation service</li> </ul>

Hand Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 46% of HCF have handwashing facilities available at point of care</li> <li>• 70% Hospital have handwashing facilities available at point of care</li> <li>• 43% Non-hospital have handwashing facilities available at point of care</li> <li>• 43% Government HCF have handwashing facilities available at point of care</li> <li>• 73% Non-government HCF have handwashing facilities available at point of care</li> </ul>
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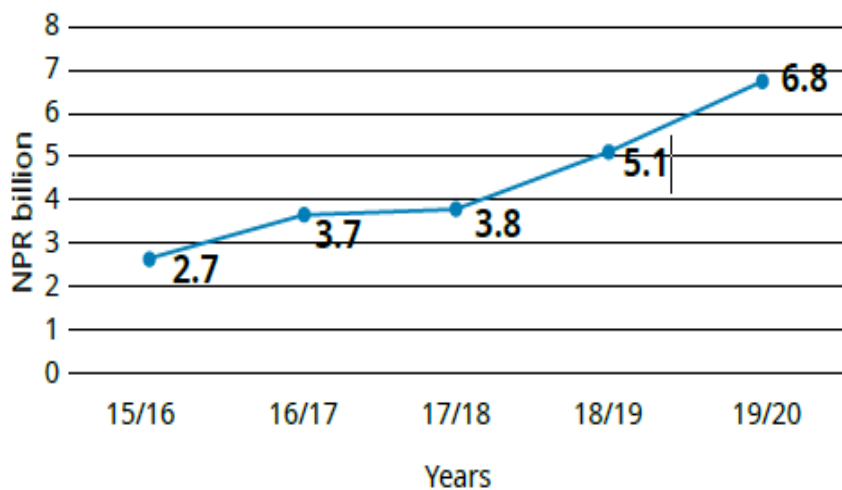


Source: CBS 2011, NMIP 2014, SEIU 2016, NMIP 2018

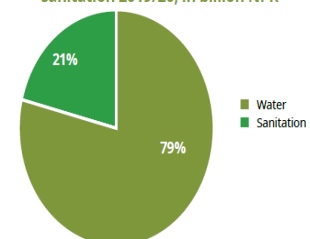
**Trend of Financial Resource**

The National Budget over the last four years indicates that the budget for sanitation is increasing but that for wastewater and solid waste management is fluctuating. Stand-alone sanitation budget found encouraging.

## Stand alone sanitation budget trend (in billion NPR)

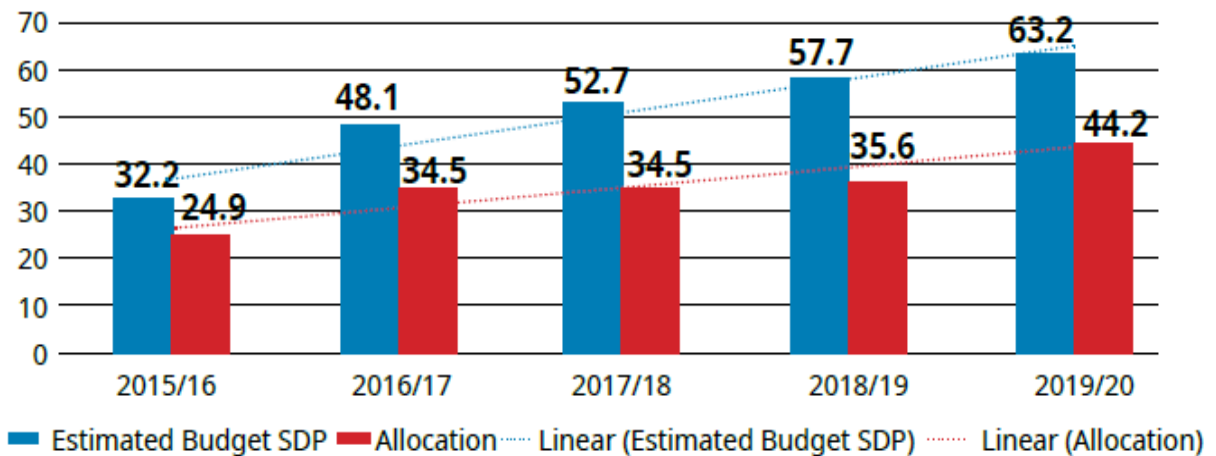


Estimated budget allocation across water and sanitation 2019/20, in billion NPR



(WASH Financing in Nepal 2019/20, study done by WaterAid Nepal)

### SDP budget estimation vs allocation (in billion NPR)



Draft WASH Sector Development Plan of Nepal has estimated a requirement of NPR 1,641 billion (Inflated) for meeting SDG targets 2016-2030



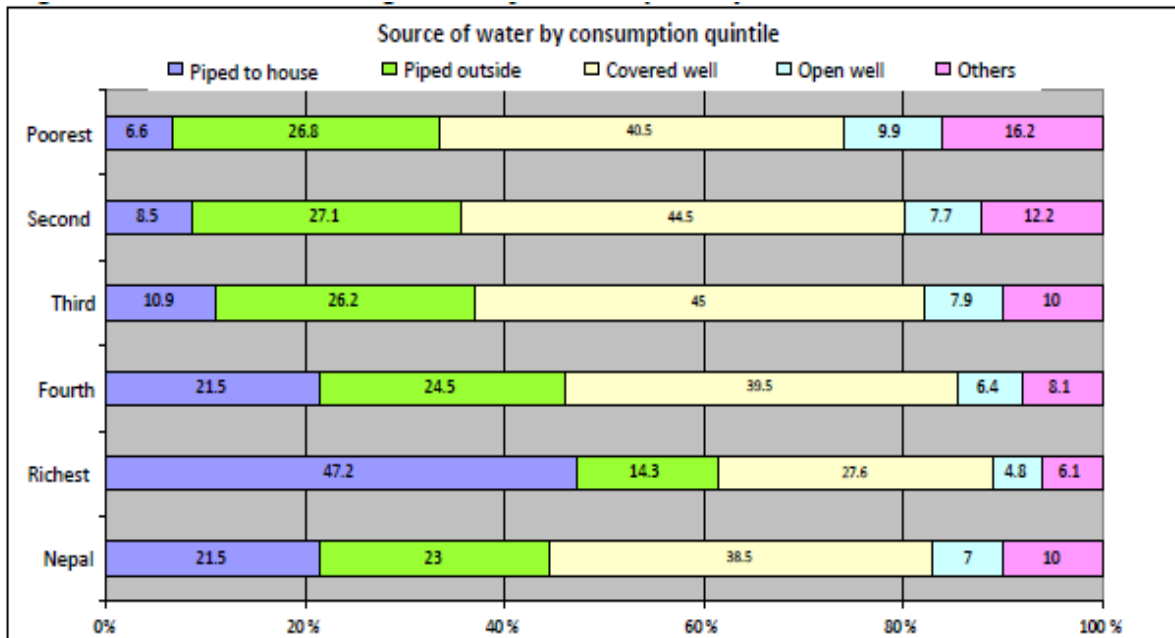
*(WASH Financing in Nepal 2019/20, study done by WaterAid Nepal)*

Above figure shows that 2.7 billion rupees was allocated in 2015/16 on sanitation sector which has been increased to 3.7 billion in 2016/17. The slight increment by 0.1 billion in 2017/18 is followed by high increment in 2018/19 and reached to 6.8 billion in 2019/20.

All seven Provincial government and 753 Local government (Rural/Municipalities) are also well resourced in the federal context with WASH mandates and resource is dedicated to WASH services.

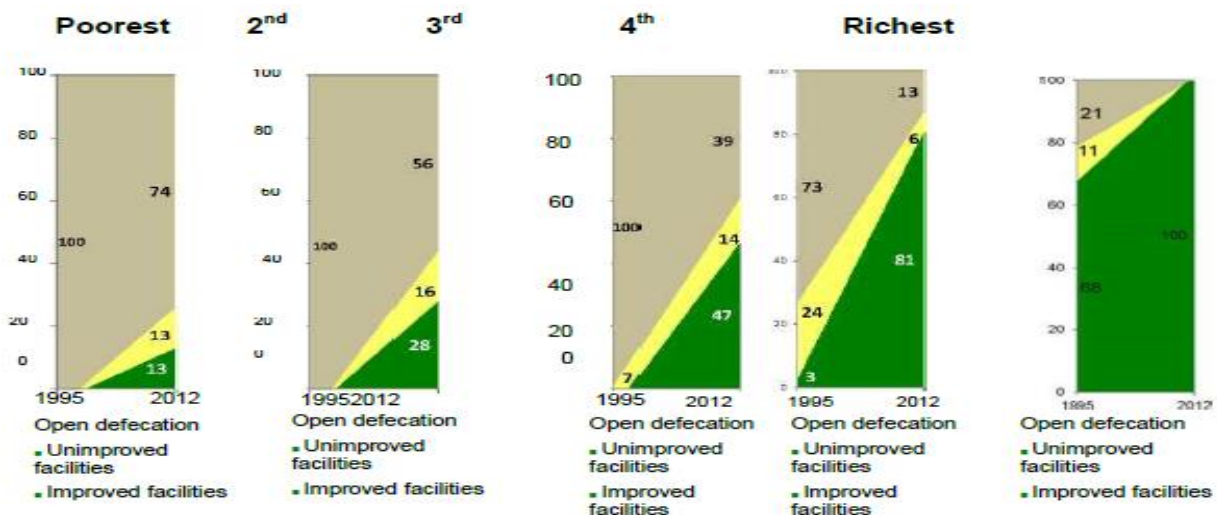
#### 1.2.3 Access, Equity and Gender:

Development benefit is unevenly distributed across the affluent and non-affluent groups. Water and sanitation is not an exception to this. Following chart indicates that about 47% of households in the top quintile have their drinking water piped to their housing units against only 7% of the bottom quintile.



Source: MDG Progress Report, NPC/UNDP, 2013

The case is true for sanitation also. Progress in Open defecation is largely contributed by the rich wealth quintiles than the poor quintile.



Source: NMIP, 2014

### 1.2.4 Sector Development Plan SDGs:

Water Sector Ministry has WASH Sector Development Plan (SDP) and waiting for endorsement by government of Nepal. Recently the sector ministry has also published WASH status report of Nepal. Draft WASH Sector Development Plan of Nepal has estimated a requirement of NPR 1,641 billion, excluding user's contribution to meet SDG targets on WASH by 2030. The recent trend of allocation can predict the availability of less than half on the overall WASH budget and less than one fourth for sanitation

requirements. The shift is recognition of greater role of development Partner (DP)s, I/NGOs, civil society, and private sector. With reference to SDG, National SDG 6 targets have been set (NPC report on SDG: Status & Roadmap: 2016-2030) with a target of 99% basic water supply coverage and 99% sanitation coverage and 20% safe sanitation by 2030. This is an enormous task and a long way to go.

### **1.3 Study Objectives**

The main objective of the study is to map out the existing national accountability mechanisms relevant for SDG 6, its progress status and the situation of CSOs participation in engaging with Governments to achieve SDG 6.

Following are the specific objectives to be carried out in the study:

- To update national accountability mechanism study on 2018 and to track the achievement of the targets of SDG 6.
- Mapping and update the current achievement against the SDG6 of the existing national accountability mechanisms;
- To review the contribution of NGOs, CSOs and other groups towards achieving the targets of SDG6.

### **1.4 Methodology**

This qualitative study was conducted based on the review of earlier status reports, policy documents, views collected from 26 experts and consultation meetings and telephone conversations. WASH related reports, policy documents and literatures were reviewed. Review of media archives from two broadsheets (Kantipur and Republica), national and international commitments were also part of literature review. List of reports/ policies reviewed is in Annex-4.

The 26 professionals were represented from government, non-government, development partners, private sectors, academia and Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FEDWASUN) and were engaged at national and subnational level on policy, planning, programming & delivery.

17 professionals had participated in questionnaire, nine were consulted individually. Draft report shared with high level government officials, development partners and sectoral experts for their valuable feedback and input. Inputs on the draft report were duly reviewed and incorporated in the final report.

## **2. COUNTRY REPORTING ON SDG 6**

The National Planning Commission (NPC) is the main official representative from Nepal to plan, implement, monitor and report to High Level Political Forum (HLPF) for SDGs 2030 agenda from Nepal. The Economic Management Division (EMD) of NPC is the focal point on behalf of the GoN and holds responsibility of coordinating sectoral teams, planning, harmonizing, Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) and finally presentation in HLPF.

The NPC has estimated resource needs and analysed institutional prerequisites to help set the stage for an expedited implementation of the SDGs. The rigor with which the quantitative benchmarks have been set for dozens of development indicators that help

coordinate and steer development efforts towards common, achievable ends. The periodic plans and annual budgets have already begun to reorient policy and budget priorities to reflect these commitments.

## **2.1 Source of information**

The study team examined various sources of information National Living Standard Survey (NLSS), Nepal Demographic Health Survey (NDHS), Annual Report of the Department of Health Services publications of Central Bureau of Statistics and finding of latest publications particularly the impact and effect level indicators for preparing this report. It also refers to recent reports of UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and other relevant organization.

There is an established monitoring and evaluation system; National Management of Information Program (NMIP) under the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM) for collecting and compiling regular database related to water and sanitation. It compiles data on annual basis and publishes it through annual report of the department.

The NMIP system has followed a conventional process of manual format system about collecting program data, and does not cover ground learning and reflections. But there is an optional practice to commission some issue-based studies from the concerned ministry, department and other sector actors and sharing of findings among the sector actors, which is a good practice and highly fruitful process among the sector actors.

### ***Data collection tools and surveys aligned with WASH related SDG's and their indicators:***

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) is a periodic data collection system that can be linked to SDG. Geo-reference database will be generated during WASH Plan formulation. The Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out in 2014 by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) as part of the global MICS programme. MICS covered Water and Sanitation component indicator such as use of improved water sources, use of improved sanitation, handwashing and water quality etc. Major WASH information of the MICS 2014 is in annex-6.

Nepal Sustainable Development Goals Status and Road Map (2016-2030), National Planning Commission 2017, Government of Nepal, 15th Plan Approach Paper (2076/77-2080/81). National Planning Commission 2019, Government of Nepal and Nepal Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector Development Plan (2016-2030) SDP Ministry Water Supply 2016, covered the period 2016-2030, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **2.2 Report sharing and consultation with sector actors**

NPC has institutionalised key stakeholders meeting for preparation HLPF. NPC has formed nine thematic teams for implementation and monitoring of SDGs. The team prepares/updates SDG national report based on finding and the conclusion after reviewing available reports and data base. Specific committee hasn't been yet formed for WASH under the NPC but the already provisioned National Sanitation and Hygiene Steering Committee (NSHSC), and National Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee (NHSCC) works for it, where CSO's representation is already there.

The NPC also invites comments, suggestions and feedback from all stakeholders by uploading the draft version of the report on their webpage. The reporting team communicate to government officials and other development partners/stakeholders through email communication requesting them for their review and inputs. In addition, such consultation meetings proceed with representatives of the private sector, cooperatives, non-governmental organisations, members of the civil society, youths and media people. Similarly, all draft and final reports made available on official website for public review and information.

Report sharing and consultation with different levels - Community Sanitation Volunteer, Ward WASH-CC, M-WASH-CC, D-WASH-CC, Provincial WASH-CC, N-WASH-CC and National Sanitation Steering committee mainly in periodic meeting or as per need. Other important forums for sharing the reports are WASH DPs that can combine with sharing of national and international level commitment such as SACOSAN and thematic working groups.

### **3. ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS TOWARDS SDG 6**

The National Planning Commission (NPC) is the focal point for the SDG and has formed Central Steering Committee on SDGs, which is chaired by Prime Minister itself and members are composed of Vice chairperson of National Planning Commission, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Finance, Chief Secretary of Government of Nepal and Secretary - National Planning Commission.

Beneath the Central Steering Committee stands SDGs Implementation and Coordination Committee (working committee) for coordinating the all thematic working committee. This committee is chaired by Vice Chairperson of National Planning Commission. This committee is represented by Member of NPC (Economic development), Secretary of Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representatives from FNCCI, CNI, NCC – the umbrella organizations of private sectors and Joint Secretary of Financial management section at National Planning Commission acts as Member Secretary. There is a provision of Nine thematic working committee led by NPC are also formed to execute theme wise activities. The thematic groups comprise of members from concerned ministries, private sector, civil society and senior officials of the National Planning Commission Secretariat. CSOs can attend the meeting by invitation.

#### **3.1 Existing Accountability Mechanisms**

The Prime Minister, as head of National Development Action Committee (NDAC), takes charge of national progress review on trimester basis. Ministerial Development Action Committee (MDAC) reviews the progress every two months and concerned department conducts annual progress review. In 2011, Joint Sector Review (JSR) process was established to assess sector performance and policy reviews. The JSR platform proved to be effective in enhancing mutual accountability for the sector effectiveness. However, JSR has been a structural review and post 2011, no JSR has taken place in Nepal.

Public hearing and social audits are also part of regular accountability mechanism to engage wider stakeholders and beneficiaries in the performance review processes,

especially at the local level. Government, service providers and CSOs organized public hearing and social audits end of the fiscal year or project completion period. These platforms are crucial in bringing out voices of unreached and marginalized population to hold the government and concerned organizations accountable and responsive. The government has given attention to mainstream and audit 'Gender Equality and Social Inclusion' (GESI) in the WASH sector. Public hearing and social audits Under Rural Water and Sanitation National Policy 2004, WASH Sector Stakeholder Group (SSG) is formed representing key government stakeholders, DPs, I/NGOs for joint planning and monitoring on annual basis. SSG meeting mainly organized to consult WASH issues and plan. Public Hearing is provisioned legally at least three times annually for the government offices. It is declared by Governance management and operation Regulation 2065 article 19. Similarly, in case of Non-Government Organization, Public Hearing should be performed at least one time annually to fulfill its commitment and accountability towards its users and beneficiaries

SSG and JSR are key platforms to share innovations and learnings for exploring scaling up model under the government leadership. Similarly, Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit (SEIU) under the Ministry of Water Supply organized series of learning and sharing events on different thematic agenda. With the advancement of ICTs, different digital platforms including web portals of the Government are developed as the platform for knowledge repository. Publications like Sector Status Reports and water and sanitation newsletters has also supported in sharing information to wider stakeholders. DWSSM is strengthening its online portal system for knowledge repository of best practices. NWSSTC is also trying to be a repository of sector information and knowledge. Considering this, DWSSM has initiated to document best practices, innovations and creations in the WASH sector in reshaping existing knowledge management practice in the new governance structure and strengthening learning alliance.

CSOs thematic structure under Nepal SDG forum is a good model for wider level of engagement of different types of actors. But, these groups are also doing to the relatively accessible areas, mostly in and around Kathmandu. It is important that these structures are replicated at the local level and equipped with skills and resources for better coverage.

### **3.2 Institutional arrangement and systems for holding government accountability**

**Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS):** Ministry of Water Supply is the lead sector ministry for the formulation of WaSH policies and plans as well as regulation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes. Under MoWSS, DWSSM is the lead agency in the planning and implementation of both rural and urban WaSH projects. Previously the department is responsible for the projects with population above 1000. However, this criterion is reviewed aligning with the provincial and local government. The central level projects capacity strengthening adoption of innovative technology, service level enhancement and waste water treatment and management are the key responsibilities of DWSSM.

**Ministry of Health(MOH):** MOH is responsible to promote health and hygiene through water quality surveillance and emergency response. The ministry is also responsible for policy, strategies and programme development for Hospital Waste Management and WASH in Health Care Facilities.

**Ministry of Population and Environment(MOPE):** MOPE contributes in climate change resilient infrastructures including the WASH services and province level ministry of physical infrastructure development is responsible for promoting WASH in the province.

**Department for Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC):** DUDBC under the Ministry of Urban Development is implementing ADB-financed Integrated Urban Environmental Improvement Project in which sewerage and drainage are key components.

**Ministry of Finance (MoF):** – By the very nature of the ministry, it has decisive role to allocate budget and to regulate and monitor its utilisation.

**Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration:** The ministry is formed by merging earlier two ministries - Ministry of Federal Affairs and Ministry of General Administration. The ministry is responsible for local governance as per new constitution

**Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MOEST):** The key role of Ministry of Education is to promote WaSH in Schools (WinS). Department of Education is implementing agency under the Ministry of Education to execute WASH in school programmes.

**Province and Local Government:** Under the new federal structure, WASH sector is devolved at Province and Municipality (local) level. Local government are responsible for implementation of WASAH projects and has right to raise local level funding which often is not accounted in the past.

**Government partnership with major funders:** The major funders are : Asian Development ADB (Melamchi Water Supply Project, Urban water and sanitation sector projects with MoWS/DWSSM, MoUD/DUDBC); World Bank (project with MoWS/Fund Board); UNICEF (sector development, sanitation and hygiene, WaSH in schools, emergency preparedness and response) • Embassy of Finland (support to two major bilateral projects to MoFALD) ,WHO (water and health, water safety plans and climate change) , DFID (Gorkha Welfare Scheme) • JICA (WaSH solutions, capacity building for urban areas), UN-Habitat (sanitation and hygiene, urban WaSH)

**NGOs and CSOs:** Many NGOs and CSOs operate on WASH sector in Nepal. But many of them are focused on rural service delivery. Few NGOs/CSOs are engaged in urban centres. Government and donors in the past has prioritised rural sector as priority sector for NGOs and CSOs to work. Major NGOs working in urban centres for water and sanitation are Lumanti, ENPHO, CIUD, UEMS, GUTHI, NGO Forum and Friends Service Councils. The NGOs brings innovative ideas and demonstration projects to address the unreached community need while NGOs and CSOs together brings grass root voices to make the system accountable in addressing the unreached community voices.

**International Organisations:** A number of INGOs (Water Aid, Practical Action, Plan International, Oxfam, Care, Helvetas, and other) contribute to WASH sector in service delivery and capacity development of WASH sector players including government and civil societies. International Financing Institution such as World Bank and Asian Development Bank almost cover 40% of water and sanitation financial resources. So they are prominent players in water project design. External agencies such as UN,

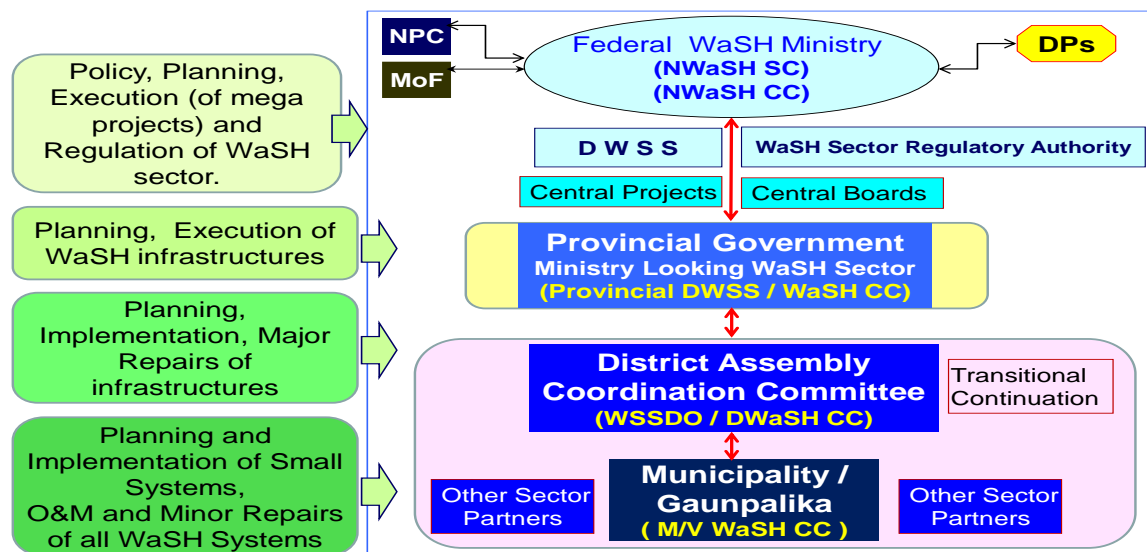
FINIDA, JICA, and SNV have remarkable influence on policy and programme design since they have direct budgetary support to the government.

**Users Committee:** By water and sanitation regulation formation of water and sanitation users committee is mandatory before starting any project work. The rule defines active participation of users committee in design, implementation, monitoring and follow up of the projects. However, in reality many of the water schemes do not follow the guidelines as a result large numbers of water schemes remain non-functional.

**Private Sector:** Engagement of private sector for WASH is a new phenomenon in Nepal. Very few private organisations do exist or even if they exist they are not being documented. Smart Pani is one of the established organisations having good experience in marketing of the WASH products. A number of water tankers and water bottling companies do operate but they are not registered under the lead water sector ministry but are registered with Ministry of commerce and industry. Similarly, few private operators exist for public toilets and faecal sludge management. They maintain relation with municipalities and not normally with lead water sector ministry and department. To reiterate, government initiative in establishment of infrastructure development bank is innovative step to attract private sectors.

Recent WASH Instructional Mechanism of Nepal is clearly mention in Sector Development Plan (2016-2030) is below:

### Institutional Mechanism



### 3.3 Plan and programming

Nepal as elsewhere encompasses four phases of budget and programme development. They are; Formulation phase, enactment phase, execution phase and auditing phase.

**During formulation phase**, initial plan and budgets are prepared at local level. This goes to concerned ministries for review. To and fro dialogues does happen this phase. The concerned ministries are provided budget ceiling by Ministry of Finance. Based on

budget ceiling, negotiation takes among local level, state and province with the Ministry. The ministries then submit their draft budget and programme to National Planning commission who prepares annual development plan and budget. Ministry of Finance gives the final say on budget size and approval.

The plan, programme and budget are submitted to the parliament. Once the parliament approves it they are reflected in white paper and Red Book of Government of Nepal. The concerned ministries, departments and local governments are responsible to carry out execution as reflected in the Red Book. The last phase is audit phase, during this period all large-scale projects and plans under the umbrella of government initiatives are audited. If required, audit can be done for others as well.

### **WASH Specific Plan and programmes**

Contribution of NSHMP 2011 is noteworthy for accelerated sanitation movement in the country. Previously, budget was prepared at district level following the guiding principles of the master plan. There was adoption of one sanitation plan at the district level approved by D-WASH-CC attended by all agencies involved in the sector. This plan included budget of involved ministries, local bodies and I/NGOs.

As per the federal constitution, WASH plans and programs are developed at municipal level integrating with other development agenda mainly local development, education and health services. In the local planning process, communities have more power to shape up their local plans that are carried in leadership of the elected municipal leaders. Municipalities sanitation investment also includes solid waste and drainage management as it is on high public demand.

Nepal Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector Development Plan (2016-2030) SDP covered the period 2016-2030, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. Further the SDP has three phases of implementation -- short-term, medium term and long term (refer table below)

**Table: SDP Period and Targets**

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Overarching Targets</b>
Phase 1	Short Term (2016-2020)	Universal access to basic WaSH services; improved service levels (medium 25%, high 15% population, Reconstruction
Phase 2	Medium Term (2021-2025)	Improved service levels (medium 40%, high 30% population) Functionality & Sustainability improvement
Phase 3	Long Term (2026-2030)	Improved service levels (medium 50%, high 50% population), Impact assessment

Source: SDP 2016-2030.

### **3.4 Monitoring and Evaluation System**

The high level National Development Action Committee (NDAC) is the apex body of M&E in the government that seeks to relieve coordination bottlenecks and redress problems that cannot be solved at the ministerial level. The committee is chaired by the Prime Minister with ministers, the NPC Vice Chairman and members, and the Chief Secretary of the government as members and the Secretary of the NPC as member-secretary. This Committee reviews the implementation of programs and projects and establishes inter-ministry coordination. NDACs are preceded by the Ministerial Development Action Committee (MDAC) in each line ministry. These committees are chaired by the Minister with membership of the relevant NPC member, the secretary of the concerned ministry, representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of General Administration. These committees organize meetings every trimester to review the implementation status of programs and projects.

The old M&E systems at the regional and district levels has restructured into Provincial and R/Municipality level at the sub-national levels, to help tracking the local achievement of SDGs.

The monitoring and evaluation of SDGs multilateral efforts started through collective efforts of the government, private sector, civil society organizations and external development partners.

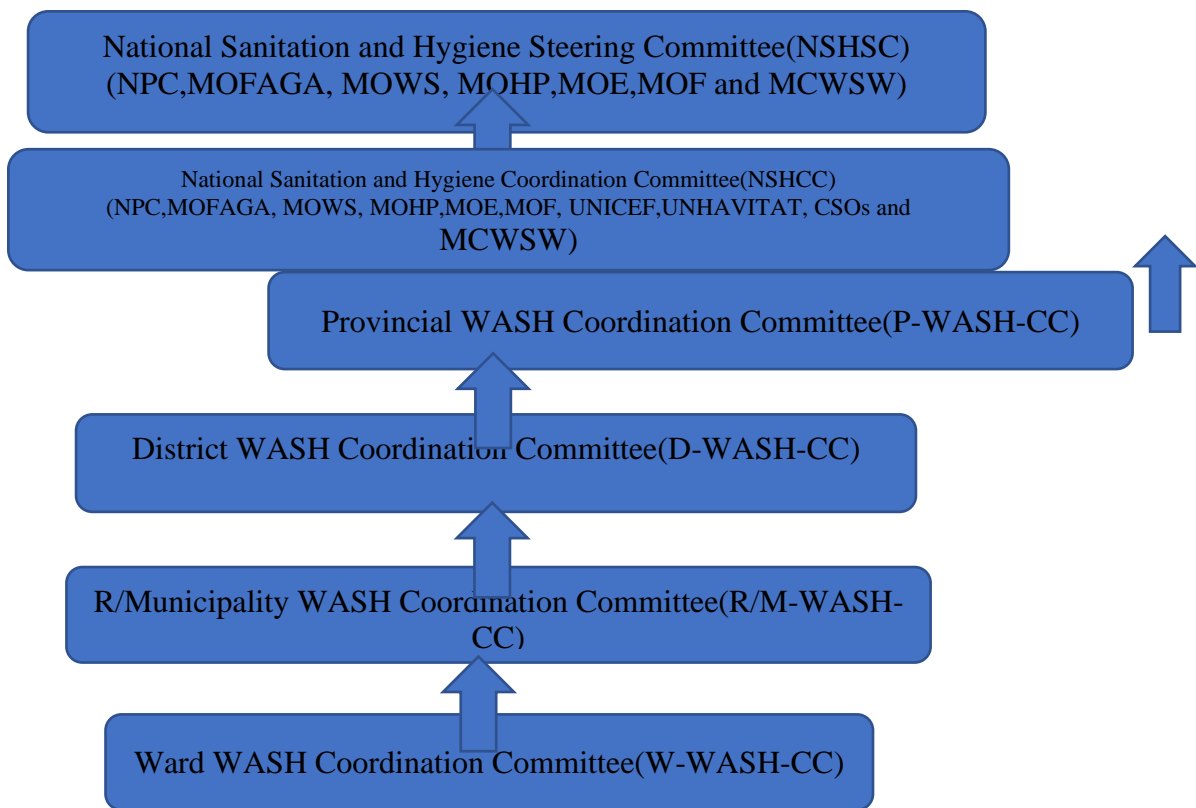
Mapping of the SDGs data requirement and their existing quality shows large gaps for monitoring targets and indicators. Data for nearly 100 indicators are not yet available, and the quality of the remainder is uneven. Large investments will, therefore, be required to undertake new surveys, and to be innovative in adding on targeted modules to routine and regular statistical censuses and surveys, building capacity of the national statistical body, and utilizing new internet-enabled ICT technologies to educate the public.

Surveillance Specialist Group (SSG) and Joint Sector Review(JSR) are key platforms to share innovations and learnings for exploring scaling up model under the government leadership. Similarly, Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit (SEIU) under the Ministry organized series of learning and sharing events on different thematic agenda. With the advancement of ICTs, different digital platforms including web portals of the Government are developed as the platform for knowledge repository. Publications like Sector Status Reports and water and sanitation newsletters had also supported in sharing information to wider stakeholders. DWSSM is strengthening its online portal system for knowledge repository of best practices. NWSSTC is also trying to be a repository of sector information and knowledge. Considering this, DWSSM has initiated to document best practices, innovations and creations in the WASH sector in reshaping existing knowledge management practice in the governance structure and strengthening learning alliance.

National Management Information Program (NMIP) under DWSSM, is administering the periodic update of water and sanitation coverage and functionality of water supply systems in the country. National Planning Commission (NPC) has prepared result based

monitoring framework aligning with central monitoring mechanism under the Prime Minister's Office. NPC performs sector monitoring including sanitation along with the Ministry. Joint monitoring mechanisms are coordinated by WASH-CCs at national to local levels. WASH planning process has started in the R/Municipality level. However, with the new governance structure, there is a need to strengthen planning and monitoring system at the local level.

## Institutional Linkage



The diagram shows vertical accountability of reporting starting from ward to NHSC. CSOs are accountable at all level as per their working field and capacity.

### 3.5 Accountability Platforms /Mechanisms for CSO's Participation

The Nepal WASH SDP has envisioned three roles for Non-Governmental Organizations NGOs (a) providing pro-poor WASH services to unreached areas, (b) building partnerships with users and civil society to influence policy and practices and holding the public sector accountable, and (c) bringing knowledge and innovations in this sector. Different NGOs and other Civil Society organizations (CSOs) like alliances and Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users are actively engaged in the sanitation sector. The engagement of these NGOs, CSOs and schools in empowering communities and awareness promotion is remarkable.

Similarly, there are several INGOs involved both in WASH service delivery and advocacy with local NGOs. Their contribution in the areas of strengthening services addressing issues of gender equality and social inclusion along with global knowledge sharing has contributed in promoting sanitation agenda in the country.

There are different Development Partners (DPs) partnering with the government for promoting WASH services along with their assistance in strengthening sector policy, plans and programs as well as bringing innovations.

Emerging trend of partnership with private sectors mainly in the areas of fecal sludge management and solid waste management is encouraging. However, more efforts are required in creating favorable environment for increasing private sector engagement.

Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FEDWASUN) is one of the civil society network in Nepal. Water and Sanitation user groups are associated as members in the network and the user groups represent all users of the drinking water supply systems, hence it has been connected to large numbers of people through promoting the water and sanitation issue. Similarly, there are NGOs and their alliances dedicated to WASH on behalf of NGO sector. Those NGOs are also associated with NGO Federation, which is a larger association of the NGOs in Nepal and it has mechanisms at district, region and national level for organizing, participation and sharing of the members. As a CSO there are many other issues-based user networks such as community forestry users, cooperatives, irrigation users etc. in Nepal.

NGOs and CBOs can play vital role for water quality advocacy and awareness creation. FEDWASUN has already started water safety planning in their respective field it works as a pressure group for the user's prospective.

### **Role of CSOs found outstanding during the ODF campaign in the country.**

Nepal has made good progress on engaging wider sector actors in progressing WASH since 2011 when Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan started. It has created different level platforms such as:

**National Hygiene & Sanitation coordination Committee (NSHCC):** NSHCC led by joint secretary of the dedicated ministry, which is the apex mechanism for overall coordination throughout the country. Above this level is a National Sanitation Steering Committee taking major policy decisions. WASH related ministries such as health, education, environment and NPC are the members in this committee. Despite good system, it hasn't been functioning satisfactory role since initial phase of the formation.

**WASH Coordination Committee(WASH-CC):** There is a **Provincial WASH Coordination Committee (P-WASH-CC)** in all seven Province, District **WASH Coordination Committee (D\_WASH-CC)** in all 77 districts, Rural/Municipality **WASH Coordination Committee (R/M-WASH-CC)** in 753 Rural/Municipality level and **Ward WASH Coordination Committee (W-WASH-CC)** in each Ward in the R/Municipality. There is a provision to participate national level CSOs in the NSHCC, Provincial Level CSOs in provincial WASHCC, and other CSOs at their respective level WASHCC.

**Joint Sector Review(JSR):** JSR was another large and effective mechanism for wider participation of CSOs on the ongoing WASH programmes in the country. This mechanism created floor for CSOs on discussing issues, learning and reflecting on WASH services and program quality in the country. All actors- concerned government agencies, development partners, I/NGOs, civil society organizations, private sectors, academia worked together in this mechanism. Eight issues based thematic committees were formed under the process and they worked for long time on deeply reviewing the sectoral issues and reflections and produced valuable thought, ideas and feedbacks for sector policy and program reformation. As a process, joint monitoring team conducts field visits of different program fields, observe jointly the situations of ongoing

activities, interacted with beneficiaries and local actors for their impressions and feedbacks and shared findings of the trips by different groups conducted in different geopolitical settings in the large forums. But it has stopped after Joint Sector Review II, 2014.

There are many good practices of organizing various major events exercised as sector initiatives and interventions such as WASH conference, review meeting/workshops, joint monitoring, national day celebration, issue and agenda-based short sharing events etc. These events are participated by other sector actors too. Mostly, concerned ministries, and department organizes such events, where all sector actors including concerned government agencies, development partners, I/NGOs, civil society organizations take part. Sometime, non-government organizations and civil society also organize such events and share their matters with sector actors including government institutions.

#### **4. POSITIVE EXPERIENCE OF CSO'S PARTICIPATION IN ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS**

Raising public awareness on SDGs is a critical step in its successful implementation. SDG related Interaction of stakeholders for better understanding on their relevance to the national, sub-national and local context not only build ownership but more importantly encourage people, to effective and meaningful participation. In this process both the government and CSOs have organized series of workshops, consultation and focused group discussions.

As explained earlier, CSOs thematic structure under Nepal SDG forum is a good model for wider level of engagement of different types of actors. But, these groups are also doing to the relatively accessible areas, mostly in and around Kathmandu. It is important that these structures are replicated at the local level and equipped with skills and resources for better coverage. Role of CSOs found outstanding during the ODF campaign in the country.

One of the positive experiences of CSO's participation in Nepal is **Open Defecation Free movement**. As required by Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011, sector partners including government and non-government organizations were involved in unified ODF campaign from National Provincial, at district as well as R/Municipality level joining for supporting communities. The movement was localized up to Palika(Municipality) level. The campaign addressed behavioral, social, technical, environmental barriers on sanitation and hygiene. People constructed toilets meeting minimum standard and stopped open defecation with community's own efforts. When every household owned toilet in their homes and institutional toilet at public places, local levels declared their designated area as ODF Palika after the recommendation of D- WASH-CC. The districts were declared as ODF on basis of recommendation of P-WASH-CC (old R-WASH-CC). After declaration of all 753 local levels (77 districts), Nepal was declared as ODF nation i.e. declaration that no one will be allowed to defecate in the open places in the future. LGs are now responsible for sustaining ODF. LGs prepare plan of action for gradual improvement of sanitation condition in their jurisdiction based on standard indicators. Of them, five indicators indicate sanitation at household level including the practice of clean hands, clean water, clean food, clean house and clean toilet and practice for the same. One more indicator indicates cleanliness at

community level including management of solid waste and liquid waste, sustained open defecation, manage faecal sludge, and water safety plan and greenery as applicable. Declaration of nation as ODF has open up way towards clean Nepal in new dimensions.

Nepal SDGs Forum held its third round of discussion on preparation of civil society report on Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 6 February 2020 at NGO Federation of Nepal's office at Buddhanagar, Kathmandu. (please see in annex-7).

In addition, Nepal SDGs Forum organized meeting of associations and networks working on children's issues at the office of NGO Federation of Nepal at Buddhanagar on 23 February 2020 to discuss on the approach, framework and basic guidelines as well as further plan in order to hold consultations, collect information and provide inputs to the main civil society report on VNR. The participants have agreed to take the discussion on children ahead in coordination of the thematic committee. Same type of meeting is going to holds soon on SDG6, date is not finalized yet. For detail please see in annex-7.

## **5. REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION of CSOs IN HIGH LEVEL STATE STRUCTURES**

The SDGs implementation requires governments to create spaces and mechanisms for engagement of different stakeholders including the networks of civil society, academia, think tank, private sector as well as human rights organizations, not only as a way to strengthen people's basic political rights but also help to create better policies and generate better development outcomes. Multi-stakeholder approaches encourage and facilitate partnerships between government and all these non-government actors. Representation and participation of CSOs in high level government structure is also important because CSOs often represent the voice of the most marginalized and minority groups and contribute to make the decisions more responsive to these groups.

Though the structures are called multi-stakeholders, it has limited spaces to CSOs and other stakeholders. Representation of CSOs that are legitimate for raising concerns of women, Dalits, marginalized IPs, persons living with disabilities, senior citizens, persons living with HIV and AIDS, LGBTIQ community etc are also required. Participation of CSOs is provisioned in national Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee. It is limited to 'invited member' in implementation, coordination and monitoring. It loosely says, 'the coordinator of the committee may invite organizations, individuals or stakeholders in the meeting as deemed necessary'. The frequent change of invitees and participants means lack of institutional memory and difficulties to build voice and competence. It limits the participation as observer to the committee; therefore, affects effectiveness and insufficient capacity of the CSOs in the SDG localization processes including integration, implementation, and coordination and monitoring processes. The exclusion of CSOs from state led structures tends to limit their ability to represent issues of the marginalized and minority groups and build their voice that is critical to ensure inclusive process and outcome of SDGs.

Nonetheless, the government has several mechanisms and they can create spaces to some extent for receiving the inputs from CSOs and different corners on the process and documentation. However, our discussion with interest groups shows that the open

space for consultation is limited mainly in accessible areas and the people and CSOs outside of Kathmandu has limited space and opportunity to participate in consultation and to provide feedback.

## **6. NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS**

**Building synergy among the actors** - SDG roles need to be simple at all levels- central, local government, NGOs, academia, private sectors, community groups and people at large. Each of these groups, with specific set of skills, mandate and constituencies can complement each other for effective outcome of SDGs. Constructive dialogues among different actors will help to outline the action plan. It also builds a common understanding among the actors on where to engage, whom to contact and work together.

Though the GoN has made public about existence of different structures and their roles, this is not yet clear and communicated how these structures facilitate as well as consolidate the work of non-government organizations and private sectors. Clarity in the roles and dialogue with relevant actors would help to establish sharing and learning mechanisms and would make synergy for better result.

Practice of level wise report sharing and consultation need to continue within set of mechanism at all level, Community sanitation Volunteer, Ward WASHCC, M-WASH-CC, D-WASH-CC, Provincial WASHCC, N-WASH-CC and National Sanitation Steering committee. Beside this National and International level commitment such as SACOSAN different thematic working groups including development partner, NGOs, INGOs, CBOs and civil society call for actions to engage with the government on sector progress.

Following are the major areas that need to improve in the accountability mechanisms:

- CSOs role on this is to advocate and facilitate this process with basic focus on Leave No One Behind- Principles and assuring Equality and Non-Discrimination aspects and align with global agenda - SWA, regional agenda -SACOSAN and national WASH Forums.
- In current context, the simplification of **Total Sanitation Guideline and** indicators required to align with SDG.
- The engagement of Private sector is vital at this stage to gear the WASH results with equal footing as with other multi sectors.
- The cohesion among Development Partners for this agenda in collaboration with CSOs is vital.
- Meaningful engagement of current CSO forums with government structure is vital for CSO's accountability. It must be the joint voice of CSOs reaching the policy rather than fragmented reach.
- Need to assess capacity gaps of CSOs in line with implementation of SDG6

### **6.1 Provisions for financial and technical assistance for CSOs**

One of the issues related to SDGs preparedness that have considerable attention in developing countries is a need for assessment of financial and technical assistance for the implementation of SDGs. A careful analysis of need has not been done yet in

Nepal. Government is in process to make such assessment. But simultaneously, it is equally important to analyze need of financial and technical assistance to be mobilized by CSOs. Among the CSOs, capacity and constituencies differ. Therefore, it is equally important to ensure equitable distribution of technical and financial resources among the constituencies and actors.

## 6.2 Key issues and Challenges

**a. Lack of disaggregated data:** The principle of 'Leave No One Behind' requires disaggregated data for each level and if number of indicators is expanding, it becomes almost impossible to generate data for each and every indicator.

**b. Effective implementation of National SDGs strategy:** There is urgent need of preparing SDG based long term national development strategy and periodic plans. For this coordination within and among the ministries and key development actors should be effective. Implementation approach should be inclusive, participatory, human rights based and integrated. [L] [SEP]

**c. Localization of SDGs:** There is urgent need to more localize SDGs – from international to national and from Federal to Provincial and Local Levels. Targets and indicators need to be localized at Provincial and Local Levels - as many SDGs are to be implemented at Provincial and Local Levels. In the localization process, targets and indicators have to be matched. There are 40 women related targets and 50 indicators. [L] [SEP]

**d. SDGs implementation guidelines:** Provide clear pathways for integrating SDGs into development plans and annual budgets. As the provincial and local governments do not have periodic plans, implementation rigor, or capacity to implement. [L] [SEP]

**e. Enabling environment:** Creating adequate enabling environment and role for all developing and developed countries, national and international agencies, domestic stakeholders such as CSOs, cooperatives and private sector is must. It is concluded that the civic space has been shrinking in last few years and operating environment for NGOs has been degrading to some extent. [L] [SEP]

**f. Managing resources:** Resource mobilization by all stakeholders financial, human, technological & managerial is crucial issue. Mobilization of diverse domestic resources and promotion of South-South, triangular and regional cooperation is essential rather depending merely on traditional North-South mode of cooperation. While Nepal is short of means of implementation (enhance, technology, capacity building and trade) for effective implementation of SDGs from global perspective, the same is applicable in federal government and province and local governments as these are being constituted recently and may have several limitations to implement SDGs. So, the federal government has to support the sub-national government and other stakeholders in leveraging means of implementation. [L] [SEP]

**g. Motivating private sector:** SDGs focusing on infrastructure require huge investment as already shown by various studies. So, there is a big role of innovative enhancing mechanism and financial markets in the private sector. [L] [SEP]

**h. Inter government agency coordination and synergy:** Inter government coordination and harmony is weak, it needs further attention.

**i. Data gaps:** There is no nationally owned survey after 2011, so planning is to be based on the old data, including setting SDGs indicators.

**j. Multi-stakeholder coordination:** Coordination among local partner (line ministries, UN agencies, IFIs, IDPs, INGOs, CSOs, co-operatives, media etc.) is still challenging. It is seen that line ministries are working on their own. UN agencies are engaged with respective line ministries with their own agenda. For example: UNESCO is working directly with ministry of education, UNFPA with ministry of health and so on. Donors also have their own interest and there is no single window to oversight the process of how donor's investment is consistent with SDGs and what have been the outcomes. There is also a challenge to consolidate achievements and learning from NGOs and INGOs. Thematic working groups need to be effective to coordinate the works of all public, private and CSOs and guide, monitor and consolidate. This requires strengthening system and building capacities as well as wider ownership to the process. CSOs thematic structure under Nepal SDG forum is a good model for wider level of engagement of different types of actors. But, these groups are also doing to the relatively accessible areas, mostly in and around either in capital or major urban areas, access of the remote/local level is difficult.

**k. Integrating SDGs in periodic plans:** 14th periodic plan is consistent with SDGs. Now the challenge is to bring this consistency throughout in annual plans, budget and monitoring mechanism not only at federal but also at province and local government levels.

## **7. EXPERIENCE OF GOOD ACCOUNTABILITY PRACTICES FROM ANOTHER SECTOR**

Health information system (HIMS) that records health related information is effective means in Health sector but WASH information on health system has yet to include.

EIMS of Education Department is a meaningful asset as it covers information of water and sanitation access in all schools. However, the need is to analyse it and report back accordingly.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION**

### **8.1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The study recommends following:

#### **8.1.1 For Government**

##### **a. Clarity of roles and building synergy among the actors**

SDGs offer roles to everyone be it central and local government, NGOs, academia, private sectors, community groups and people at large. Each of these groups, with specific set of skills, mandate and constituencies can complement each other for effective outcome of SDGs. Constructive dialogues among different actors help to do the roles and to outline the action plan.

Integration of Goal 6 with other goals and at least find the mechanism to link different SDGs (For e.g. Goal 6 of water and sanitation is highly linked with Goal 1.4 end poverty, Goal 3.2, 3.3, 3.8, 3.9 healthy lives, Goal 4.1, 4.5, 4.7 quality educations, Goal 5.4 Gender equality, Goal 9.1, and 9.4 resilient infrastructure) is required. No isolated view of WASH SDG ca be the approach.

Though the GoN has made public about existence of different structures and their roles, this is yet not clear and communicated how these structures facilitate as well as consolidate the work of non-government and private sectors. Clarity in the roles and dialogue with relevant actors would help to establish sharing and learning mechanisms and would make synergy for better result.

##### **b. Provisions for financial and technical assistance for CSOs**

One of the issues related to SDGs preparedness that have considerable attention in developing countries is a need for assessment of financial and technical assistance for the implementation of SDGs. A careful analysis of need is not yet. Government is in process to make such assessment. But simultaneously, it is equally important to analyze need of financial and technical assistance to be mobilized by CSOs. Among the CSOs, capacity and constituencies differ. Therefore, it is equally important to ensure equitable distribution of technical and financial resources among the constituencies and actors.

##### **c. Align in national and local planning system**

SDGs plan and national plans shall not be as two separate processes, but integrated as one plan government document and there should be clear guidelines for local government on how to align their development plan in coherence to SDGs. Awareness at local level is a need.

##### **d. Database system**

Government should establish strong database system from local level to national level. Disaggregated, reliable and updated data should be available and there should easy access of CSOs and general public. Further, gender statistics is an area to be strengthened for baseline.

##### **e. Strengthen the roles of CSOs**

Some efforts have been done by CSOs in terms of advocacy, lobbying, networking and campaigning on effective implementation of SDGs. But, they need to strengthen their roles and works further on SDGs in a proactive manner. Government should build enabling environment for CSOs at all levels ensuring appropriate policies, laws and access to resources. CSOs themselves should think about pursuing funds for longer terms in line with SDGs, rather than approaching for a short-term project.

**f. Ensure means of implementation**

The federal government and the development partners should ensure means of SDGs implementation for provincial and local governments as well. Development partners should adhere to their commitments in supporting means of implementation. Available resources should be optimally utilized.

**8.1.2 For Sector partners**

**a. Multi-stakeholder partnership**

There is a need to setup inclusive multi-stakeholder mechanisms at federal, provincial and district levels and ensure institutional representations from all major groups including NGOs and CSOs. Mechanisms should provide political leadership and guide implementation of SDGs. There should be effective coordination among actors horizontally as well as vertically. There should be dialogues between and among Government entities (Executive, legislative and judiciary), UN, IDPs, cooperatives, private sector, CSOs, and Media; which is crucial for ownership. We need to encourage these structures to produce annual SDGs status reports and disseminate in respective constituencies.

**b. Raising awareness at all levels**

CSOs can play a proactive role in disseminating SDGs messages and localizing them among local communities. All communities should be made aware on SDGs. Adequate orientation and support should be provided to office bearers of local governments and province governments.

**8.1.3 For Civil Society**

**a. CSO mechanisms at local level**

Strengthening watchdog role of civil society is important at all levels. CSOs should set up inclusive coordination mechanism at provincial, district and local level for effective watchdog role and continuous advocacy and campaign on SDGs. It is suggested to form Nepal SDGs Forum at all levels.

**b. Oversight Mechanisms**

Setting up of oversight mechanisms on SDGs within the federal and provincial parliaments is recommended. Additionally, parliamentary committees on SDGs can be enhanced. The suggestion is also for preparing periodic (every 2-3 years) civil society monitoring report on SDGs.

### **c. Gender Equality**

SDG is an opportunity to bring change in result and life time opportunity to bring equality. Gender equality is a key component of sustainable development better to address these concerns is costly for societies and maintain sustainability.

### **d. Implement SDGs as campaign**

Implement SDGs in a campaign mode, Leave No One Behind. All initiatives and efforts should focus on root causes of poverty and backwardness including structural causes and barriers of equitable and inclusive development.

- e.** CSOs thematic structure under Nepal SDG forum is a good model for wider level of engagement of different types of actors. But, these groups are also doing to the relatively accessible areas, mostly in and around Kathmandu. It is important that these structures are replicated at the local level and equipped with skills and resources for better coverage.

## **8.2 CONCLUSION**

It is matter of pleasure that Nepal has been declared Open Defecation Free Country from 30 September 2019 and moved towards total sanitation. Appreciation goes to all WASH Sector agencies and partners for their leadership and encouragement; the support of all NGOs and CBOs that inspired people for change; and the sustained interest and attention generated by all public media that helped to transform the sanitation campaign into a nation-wide movement for positive change. Joint effort as in ODF campaign is required to move towards total, community-wide, sanitation through local-level initiatives with the vision of a clean Nepal to achieve the sustainable development goal of sanitation and hygiene. Two major corrective actions are Increase priority on water with emphasis on functionality and toilet without water cannot be functional and time has come to move beyond toilet coverage. All WASH sector agencies and partners to continue to support people in upgrading household sanitation and help municipality administrations to raise environmental sanitation towards a clean municipality, Province and the Country.

Nepal is moving fairly well in terms of preparedness, especially in establishing structures for oversight, coordination, implementation and monitoring; integration of SDGs into periodic plans and budget and strengthening monitoring and evaluation system. The constitutional right of water and sanitation helps to accelerate water and sanitation goals of SDG.

Despite frequent changes in GoN leadership and the challenges associated with, Nepal is progressing well in terms of nationalizing the indicators and targets, in preparing baseline and collecting and managing disaggregated data set. These are pre-requisite for effective implementation of SDGs.

The limitation of SDGs awareness is being confined to few government officials, CSOs and policy makers. The agenda is not yet in public debate, especially at the province and local levels.

Number of policies has been revised to align with SDGs but these revisions need to be translated in annual plans and budget. The 15<sup>th</sup> development plan provides a generic

framework to implement SDGs. These needs to be translated into actions, work plan with budget and time frame, and should be continued to following periodic plans. It is important that the national indicators and targets are integrated into annual plans and budgets of governments at all levels and competent and adequate human resources are provisioned for effective implementation (List of policies is in annex 2)

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## **f. ANNEXES**

### **Annex 1: Review documents**

#### **a. Target and Indicators of SDG -6**

##### **SDG 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all:**

The SDG 6 targets for 2030 include (i) achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all, (ii) achieving access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, (iii) improving water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, (iv) substantially increasing water-use efficiency across all sectors, (v) implementing integrated water resources management at all levels, and (vi) protecting and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

Basic water supply coverage in the country reached 87 percent of the population in 2015, while sanitation also reached 70 percent of the population. However, less than half (49.5 percent) of the households have access to piped water supply (Annex Table 6). Access to such supply varies across social groups and place of residence. Access to piped water is positively associated with household wealth; almost all (99 percent) of households having access to piped water are located within 30 minutes of the water source; and access for them is uniform during both the rainy and dry seasons. Providing the safe water through pipe is challenging, as recent survey indicated that 82.2 percent households are using contaminated water with *E. coli*.

Although two-thirds (67.6 percent) of the Nepali population is using latrine, only 30 percent urban households are connected to sewer systems. Two-fifths (41 percent) of local authorities (VDCs and Municipalities) have been declared open defecation free. However, there is still a challenge to close the sanitation gap in southern flat land in order to achieve universal access to basic sanitation.

The proposed specific targets for the year 2030 in SDG 6 include basic water supply coverage to 99 percent households and piped water supply and improved sanitation to 90 percent of households. Other targets are to free 99 percent of the communities from open defecation, to reach 95 percent of the households with improved sanitation facilities which are not shared, and to enable 98 percent of the population to use latrine.

#### **b. Target and Indicators:**

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Target 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Targets and Indicators	2015	2019	2022	2025	2030
6.1.1 Household with access to piped water supply (%)	49.5	60.3	68.4	76.5	90
6.1.2 Basic water supply coverage (%)	87	90.2	92.6	95	99

6.1.3 Households with E. coli risk level in household water $\geq$ 1 cfu/100ml) (%)	82.2	60.3	43.8	27.4	0
6.1.4 Household with E. coli risk level in source water $\geq$ 1 cfu/100ml (%)	71.1	52.1	37.9	23.7	0
6.1.5 Population using safe drinking water (%)	15	35	50	65	90
6.1.6 Turbidity (Nephelometric turbidity unit - NTU) (%)	30	23.3	18.3	13.3	5

Target 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.<sup>[17]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

Targets and Indicators	2015	2019	2022	2025	2030
6.2.1 Households using improved sanitation facilities which are not shared (%)	60	69.3	78.7	85.7	95
6.2.2 Proportion of population using latrine (%)	67.6	75.7	83.8	90.0	98
6.2.3 Local authority areas that have declared Open Defecation Free (%)	41	56.5	71.9	83.5	99
6.2.4 Sanitation coverage (%)	70	77.7	77.5	83.3	99
6.2.5 Urban households with toilets connected to sewer systems/ proper FSM (%)	30	46	62	74	90

Target 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated waste water and increasing recycling and safe reuse.<sup>[17]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

Targets and Indicators	2015	2019	2022	2025	2030
6.3.1 Proportion of untreated domestic waste water (%) 65	99	89.9	83.1	76.3	65
6.3.2 Proportion of untreated industrial waste water (%) 10	99	75.3	57.5	39.7	10
6.3.3 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality -	-	-	-	-	-

Target 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and

ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

<i>Targets and Indicators</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2030</i>
<i>6.4.1 Wastage of water while using it (per person per day in liters) - . .</i>					
<i>6.4.2 Wastage of water – Irrigation</i>					
<i>6.4.3 Availability of freshwater (per person per day in liters) . -</i>					
<i>6.4.4 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available -</i>					
<i>6.4.5 Non- revenue Water</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>5</i>

Target 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through trans boundary cooperation as appropriate <sup>(1)</sup><sub>(SEP)</sub>

Targets and Indicators	2015	2019	2022	2025	2030
6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)	0	16	28	40	60
6.5.2 Proportion of trans boundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	-	-	-	-	-

Sources: a: MWSS (2016), b: NPC (2016), c: Based on consultation with thematic committee, d: CBS (2014), e: CBS (2013), f: NMIP (2014), g: NPC (2013)

## **Annex 2: Policy Environment:**

Sectoral plans and strategies that were reviewed in order to align with SDGs

- 15th Periodic Plan 2019/2020-2023/2024
- School Sector Development Plan-SSDP, 2016-2023 <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>ISEP'</sub>
- Nepal Health Sector Strategy –NHSS, 2015-2020 <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>ISEP'</sub>
- Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC) Action Plan of Nepal, 2016-2025 <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>ISEP'</sub>
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Broadband Master Plan of Nepal, 2016-2020 <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>ISEP'</sub>
- Forest Sector Strategy (FSS) of Nepal, 2015-2015 <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>ISEP'</sub>
- Nature Conservation National Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development, <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>ISEP'</sub>2015-2030 <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>ISEP'</sub>
- Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector Development Plan of Nepal, (2016-2030) <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>ISEP'</sub>
- 20 Years Road Plan, 2001-2020 and Five Years Road Sector Strategy of Nepal, 2016-2020 <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>ISEP'</sub>
- National Urban Development Strategy of Nepal <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>ISEP'</sub>
- Nepal's National Tourism Strategic Plan, 2015-2025 <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>ISEP'</sub>
- National Energy Strategy of Nepal, 2013-2030 and Nepal's' Energy Sector Vision 2050, 2013-2050 <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>ISEP'</sub>
- National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) to Climate Change 2010, Climate Change Policy of Nepal, 2011 and Local Adaptation Program of Action (LAPA), 2011 <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>ISEP'</sub>Source: NPC/GoN 2017 <sup>[[1]]</sup><sub>ISEP'</sub>

### **Annex 3: WASH Regulatory Framework:**

Nepal has following key regulatory framework:

**Constitutional Right:** Nepal new constitution has enshrined water and sanitation as fundamental right. Nepal is also a signatory of UN Declaration of Human Rights to water and sanitation. Alignment with these rights, water sector ministry is developing new water acts, rules and regulations. The present water act gives drinking water as top priority over all other usage of water. Nepal is also a signatory of ILO 169 that defines indigenous people right to natural resources including water.

**Water Resource Act 1992:** The umbrella Act governing water resource management, defines the order of priority of water use. It dictates that drinking water has first priority over other usage of water

**Water Resource Rules 1993:** The umbrella Rules governing water resource management, sets out the procedure to register a Water User Association and to obtain a license, establishes the District Water Resource Committee.

**Drinking Water Service Charge (Recovery) Rules, 1994:** Details the procedures for Tap connection and hole change, ownership of Taps and its transfer, metering, repair of systems and Taps, fees/charges for tap connection and their recovery etc.

**National Solid Waste Management Policy 1996:** Waste management by Local Bodies; mobilize wastes as resources; reduce wastes at sources; local Participation in wastes management

**Drinking Water Rules 1998:** Regulates the use of drinking water; provides for the formation of Drinking Water User Associations and sets out the procedure for registration; deals with licensing of use drinking water; deals with the control of water pollution and maintenance of quality standards for drinking water; sets out the conditions of service utilization by consumers; provides for the acquisition of house and land and compensation; provides for formation of service fee fixation committee

**Local Self Governance Act 1999:** Sets out the powers, functions and duties of VDC, Municipality and DDC in relation to water and sanitation; establishes the procedure for the formulation of water related plan and project implementation.

**Rural WatSan National Policy and Implementing Strategy 2004:** comprehensive set of policy statements; defines water supply service levels; provides basis for inclusion of women and disadvantaged groups in decision making; defines roles and responsibilities of different GoN ministries and agencies as well as WUSCs, Schools and Students and other Sector Actors; has set a National Goal of basic water and Sanitation facilities for all by 2017

**Water Supply Tariff Fixation Commission Act 2006:** Establishes the WSTFC; Provides for appointments to the Commission Authorises the Commission to fix tariffs to be charged by service providers; Authorises the Commission to monitor service providers to ensure compliance with standards.

**Water Supply Management Board Act 2006:** The act puts emphasis on the participation of local bodies and WaSH institutions in water and sanitation services in the urban areas.

It provides for the establishment of an autonomous and independent WSM Board to own the assets of the water supply systems. The Act also provisions for the issuance of a license to the operator for the management, operation and maintenance of the system and leasing of the assets. However, sanitation has received little attention in the Act.

**Urban Water Supply and Sanitation National Policy 2009:** WaSH services are tools for poverty reduction; Output Based Aid to support for household toilets promotion; thrust on cost recovery principles; decentralized waste management.

**Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011:** Recognizes the leadership of local bodies; Coordination Mechanism at Central, Regional, District and Municipality/Village Levels; ODF status as entry point of Total Sanitation; Cost Shearing stimulates ODF Initiatives.

**Nepal Health Policy and Strategy:** Nepal Health Policy 2014 has stated improvement in health outcomes requires efforts across several sectors – not just health. Such as expanding access to clean water and sanitation, waste management, etc. Nepal Health Sector Strategy III has stated promoting healthy lifestyles and healthy environment through multi-sectoral action by expanding access to clean water , water conservation , including waste management, while building code for HF.

**Nepal, Basic Health Operational Guideline 2012** has guideline on water, sanitation and hygiene in hospital having 25 or more beds- such as provisions of 24 hour drinking water supply for patients and care taker, water quality monitoring on regular basis, gender segregated toilets, hand washing station with water and soap available nearby toilets, cleanliness of toilets and hospital premises, waste management.

#### **Annex -4: list of reports/ polices reviewed**

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- j. *Nepal country Paper SACOSAN VII (11-13 April 2018 Islamabad, Pakistan)*
- k. *2019 Voluntary National Reviews 2019*.

## Annex -5: Contact information

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***Annex -5: Comparative Chart between previous and this report:***

## **Annex -6: WASH findings of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Report 2014**

Water and Sanitation Drinking water was used from an improved drinking water source almost universally (93 percent of the population). Among those who did not have access to an improved drinking water source, only 14 percent used an appropriate water treatment method. About 67 percent of users of improved drinking water sources had a water source directly on their premises. In addition, 22 percent used an improved drinking water source with a round trip of less than 30 minutes. In total, 7 percent of household members took more than 30 minutes to collect water. Rural households were more likely than urban households to spend more than 30 minutes collecting water.

Some 30 percent of households in the Mid-Western Hills took 30 minutes or more to collect water. Water was usually collected by adult women (84 percent) in the household. The education level of the household head and the household's wealth status were both positively associated with having a water source on the premises.

Approximately 72 percent of the population of Nepal is living in households using improved sanitation facilities. However, only 60 percent are using improved sanitation facilities that are not shared. Some 26 percent still practiced open defecation.

Urban areas were much more likely than rural areas to use improved sanitation facilities (94 percent cf. 67 percent), and the use of improved sanitation facilities is strongly correlated with the education level of the household head. Strikingly, the poorest households were less likely than households in the second and middle wealth quintiles to practice open defecation, possibly as a result of recent targeted interventions that provide the poorest with sanitation facilities.

Overall, 56 percent of the household population used an improved drinking water source as well as an improved sanitation facility. Child faeces were disposed of in a safe manner for 48 percent of children under the age of two years. This was twice as common in urban areas as rural areas (81 percent cf. 43 percent), and there were significant regional differences (24 percent in the Far Western Terai cf. 78 percent in the Eastern Hills).

In households where a place for handwashing was observed, 73 percent had water and soap or another cleansing agent present at that place. The proportion of households with water and soap or cleansing agent available at the handwashing place varied by region, being highest in the Eastern Terai (81 percent) and the lowest in the Mid-Western and Far Western Mountains (41 percent each). It was lower in rural areas than urban areas (69 percent cf. 85 percent).

It was positively associated with the education level of the household head and household wealth status. A water quality testing questionnaire was included in the Nepal MICS for the first time, aiming to collect data on the quality of water actually consumed throughout Nepal through the use of a test for microbiological parameters such as *E. coli* and total coliform. Overall, more than four-fifths (82 percent) of household members were at the risk of *E. coli* concentration  $\geq 1$  cfu/100 ml in their household water. People living in the richest households were less likely than those living in the poorest households to have *E. coli* in their drinking water (64 percent cf. 91 percent).

*Likewise, the quality of drinking water at source was also measured. In total, almost three-quarters (71 percent) of the household population were at risk of E. coli due to its concentration in their source of drinking water. The poorest households were more likely than the richest households to have E. coli in their source of drinking water (88 percent cf. 58 percent). Eight out of 10 households (84 percent) with unimproved sources of drinking water had E. coli, whereas it dropped to 70 percent for those households that had an improved source of drinking water. Unimproved sources were much more likely than improved sources to fall into the very high-risk category.*

## **Annex -7: Nepal SDGs Forum Expedites VNR Process**



Nepal SDGs Forum held its third round of discussion on preparation of civil society report on Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 6 February 2020 at NGO Federation of Nepal's office at Buddhanagar, Kathmandu. The participants represented civil society federations, networks and organizations; development partners including UN and INGOs; National Planning Commission (NPC), and the development activists. Member organizations of Nepal SDGs Forum, including the conveners and co-conveners for SDGs, and Major Groups and Stakeholders participated in the meeting.

The background information and presentations basically on process and priorities on VNR by NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN) team triggered the discussion. President of NFN highlighted the objectives and focus of the CSOs in VNR. Deputy Secretary General of NFN presented how VNR is associated with international plate-forms including the UNGA and HLPF. He also reviewed the engagement of NFN and Nepal SDGs Forum from local government to province and national levels in localization of SDGs and acceleration of Agenda 2030. Drawing lessons from earlier practices in which civil society came up with its own report on SDGs, Executive Director of NFN Mr BB Thapa said that NFN will coordinate and facilitate all the efforts and the NFN's meeting hall will be a common venue for anyone who wish to discuss and work in order to contribute to VNR. Mr Hum Bhandari, Program Manager at NFN, focused on the priorities and the information to be collected for VNR report.

Notably, NFN represents civil society on National Steering Committee on SDGs led by the Prime Minister and all thematic committees of National Planning Commission. Thus, NFN has been raising the voice and concerns of the people and CSOs or bridging civil society and Government.

Aimed at contributing to accelerate implementation of 2030 Agenda, and in this process to underscore priorities and concerns of civil society or of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized communities with further specific focus, the meeting has developed a common understanding about going forward and coming up with a consolidated report of the civil society or CSOs in Nepal.

Although some thematically focused organizations and networks have been working for contributing to VNR, they have agreed to share their findings and recommendations to Nepal SDGs Forum to produce an integrated report. Apart from this, efforts and actions that different organizations have planned will be undertaken in a collaborative and coordinated way so as to build synergy, avoid overlaps and duplications and streamline the process resulting in a common report that everyone has ownership and the government and stakeholders will give due consideration.

The participation and inputs from NPC, UN bodies, and INGOs have been encouraging and fruitful. As representative of National Planning Commission (NPC) which is the lead government agency for SDGs and VNR, Mr Dev Raj Joshi, Program Director at NPC, shared the Government's plans and timetables for preparation of VNR. He advised how the civil society report can be more timely and coherent with the Government's so that contents of the civil society report can be duly considered and be incorporated in Government's VNR report.

Likewise, Mr Subhash Nepali, Economist and SDG Advisor at United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, shared that UN bodies are working closely with Government of Nepal and will collaborate with civil society in SDGs and VNR in order to make interventions and results participatory and inclusive. Besides, representatives from UNDP have committed to supporting for data and information sharing and analysis.

Various INGOs— including VSO, World Vision International, TDH Germany, CARE Nepal, and WHH—have offered support in VNR initiatives to coordinate and collaborate with of Nepal SDGs Forum. An advisory group is to be formed in which such development partners will be joining.

The representatives of various CSOs have expressed interest to lead or contribute to the VNR report preparation. They will share their plans with Nepal SDG Forum's Secretariat at NFN which will coordinate with everyone.

Based on the interest and expertise, different groups will be proposed and communicated soon. The next step would be formation of working groups and expedite the information collection and report writing process. Interested organizations and experts may voluntarily express their interest to contribute by contacting Mr. Hum Bhandari (Email: [hum@ngofederation.org](mailto:hum@ngofederation.org); phone: 01-4782908) at NFN.



2. Nepal SDGs Forum organized meeting of associations and networks working on children's issues at the office of NGO Federation of Nepal at Buddhanagar on 23 February 2020 to discuss on the approach, framework and basic guidelines as well as further plan in order to hold consultations, collect information and provide inputs to the main civil society report on VNR. The participants have agreed to take the discussion on children ahead in coordination of the thematic committee.

For reporting of specific goals and thematic topics, a draft framework was discussed and will be further improved. Different organizations and networks will consolidate their reports under this framework which will ultimately be incorporated in the civil society report on VNR to be prepared by Nepal SDGs Forum.

In addition to this, Nepal SDGs Forum, National Child Rights Council, National Action and Coordinating Group (NACG) Nepal, and Save the Children launched a book on Child Rights Situation & Sustainable Development Goals in Nepal.

Krishna Prasad Bhusal, Under Secretary of Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen; President Jit Ram Lama, Secretary General Ram Prasad Subedi and other officials of NGO Federation of Nepal; President of NACG Krishna Chandra Acharya, Executive Secretary General of ADDCN Krishna Chandra Neupane, Madhu Dawadi, Program Director and other representatives of Children as Zone of Peace (CZOP), Bidur Subedi of Human Rights Alliance, and representatives of OVN, Sath Sath, Fowep Nepal, NANGAN, SAP-Nepal, Plan International Nepal, World Vision, BBC Nepal, JURI Nepal, KIRDARC, among others were the participants of the meeting. (Web site: [www.ngofederation.org](http://www.ngofederation.org))

**THE END**