

CSOs Review of National Accountability Mechanism for SDG 6

SRILANKA



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



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Executive Summary

The country report that presented review of National Accountability Mechanisms on the commitment to SDG 6 and mutual responsibilities in achieving universal access to water sanitation and hygiene was conducted at the end of 2017 and completed in January 2018 commissioned by End Water Poverty and IRC. The current report is prepared to update the previous findings and present the new developments in the WASH sector of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka has made steady progress in mainstreaming SDG 6 Targets in the water and sanitation sector through institutionalizing Target 6.1 and 6.2. Water and Sanitation sector established the baseline for SDG 6 taking into account the achievement at the end of MDG period and subsequent development responsible for increased service coverage. The report also includes nationally agreed milestones and targets towards achieving universal access to global goals. The process incorporated agreed indicators for monitoring and carry of national census and surveys.

The status of access to improved water and sanitation at the expiry of MDG is reportedly 89% of the population had access to improved water supply and 87% of the population had access to improved sanitation.

Status in terms of targets 6.3 to 6.6, although not up to the mark, national partners responsible for each target have been identified and the basis for achieving progress has been agreed.

Government Accountability Towards CSOs ;

The CSOs have to develop a new strategy in engaging the new government as there are policy changes in terms of the ruling parties manifesto presented to the people. The CSOs need to take the advantage of the opportunity created due to the commitment to SDG 6 **by the Government of Sri Lanka**

The strong platform established in 2007 with the Mainstreaming of Emergency WASH Coordination for regular development coordination, involving government, CSOs donors and private sector is required to be sustained.

Lessons Learnt to promote Accountability Mechanism; Sri Lanka's model established for WASH coordination during Tsunami recovery period ,represented by all partners who engaged in humanitarian efforts, has been recognized by WASH Cluster as best practice and shared with the SAARC region including the lessons learnt on leadership, promotion of collaborative partnerships, adopting standards for WASH in emergencies. In addition synergy in the mobilization of resources and efforts and ability to engage expertise on task forces to advice on resolving technical issues with respect to servicing the displaced with WASH.

Areas for Improvement and Recommendations; Government leadership for national platform for coordination mechanism involving all stakeholders suffered setbacks since 2018 due to instability of the government and inconsistencies. With the

change of government leadership in November 2019 and impending parliamentary elections in April 2020, focus will be diverted to mainstream politics. The elections will follow change in the government structure and subsequent consolidation will take a long time to re-establish the accountability platforms/mechanisms, due to loss of institutional memory. Government sector always faces setbacks and delays due to administrative decisions and not have the liberty that is enjoyed by their counterparts in the INGOs/NGOs and CSOs. High staff turnover and leadership changes in the government are frequent and it affects the institutional memory and re-establishment of the status quo. CSO are required to take the advantage of the leverage provided by the international community towards engagement of CSOs

1. Introduction

1.1 Sector Overview

Sri Lanka's water supply and sanitation sector's performance in the past 30 years has been outstanding compared to its neighbors in the SAARC region. Having achieved MDGs related to improved water supply and sanitation Sri Lanka is in a better position to achieved SDG 6 Targets 6.1 and 6.2 ahead of time. Sri Lanka's emphasize on achieving SDGs is demonstrated by establishing a separate ministry for Sustainable Development¹ and constituting a Parliamentary Select Committee to oversee the performance of sector ministries. The Government of Sri Lanka is committed to work towards the UN 2030 Agenda for SDGs. The Parliament will play a vital role at the forefront through its law-making, budgeting and oversight functions. The Select Committee of the Parliament of Sri Lanka on SDGs has been mandated to make recommendations to ensure that the UN 2030 Agenda for SDGs is achieved in Sri Lanka.

Provision of drinking water supply is a government priority and targets have been set periodically with regards to population access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. On a nation-wide basis, piped water systems, tube wells and protected dug wells deliver improved water to almost 96% of the urban population and 70% of the rural population. Sri Lanka has achieved the MDG target for access to improved water supply with coverage of 90% of improved water supply of the population by 2014 as reported in the MDG final report presented by the National Planning Department. Piped water is supplied to 48% of the population at present which is over 10 million people. Sri Lanka successfully improved access to adequate sanitation with 89.5% population coverage. (MDG Country Report 2014)

Provision of drinking water supply is a government priority and targets have been set periodically with regards to population access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. The targets were manly based on the provision of piped water supply. Sri Lanka is much ahead compared to the countries in the South Asian Region in achieving targets set by MDGs prior to 2015.

Sri Lanka's WASH sector underwent major changes during the Tsunami recovery period and in the emergency created due to the North and East conflict. Major displacement of people in the conflict affected zones took place when the government and its partners were engaged in resettlement and restoration of Tsunami affected population in the coastal areas of Sri Lanka. The WASH emergency coordination established since 2005 continued beyond Tsunami recovery to deal with the emergency created due to large scale displacement in the conflict affected areas in north and east after the hostilities were ceased.

¹The Ministry of Sustainable Development not reconstituted after the restoration of the cabinet of ministers following constitutional crisis in December 2018. Instead government established Sustainable Development Council under the Ministry of Environment

2. Country Reporting of SDG 6/ Policies and Actions Aligned with SDG 6

2.1 Mainstreaming SDG 6 and Commitments

The Ministry in charge of Water Supply and sanitation as the nodal agency for SDG 6 successfully reviewed policies related to water and sanitation to reflect the commitment to SDG 6 and its targets. National Human Rights Action Plan has fully recognized water and sanitation as two separate rights. Actions so far in mainstreaming SDG 6 in the water and sanitation sector are;

- **Transition** – From MDG service levels achieved and reported by 2015 has been compared to safely managed service levels of the SDG WASH ladder
- **Baseline** – 2012 census sanitation coverage categories transformed into SDG WASH Ladder categories and projected to 2016 considering the development in the past 5 years to project current status in terms of SDGs
- **National targets** – formulated and agreed with the committee appointed by the Secretary and presented to the sector partners in the last WatSan meeting held in August.2017
- **Indicators** –SDG WASH Ladder indicators add to MDG indicators this has to be reconciled with the national census to conducted by DC&S
- **Benchmarks** – Safely managed with on site or off site treatment
- **National Targets** -adopted by the water sanitation coordination forum

Sri Lanka continued with the status quo with respect to monitoring and reporting of the WASH progress, to national regional and international monitoring mechanisms. It has been noticed that there is an intense participation of stakeholders in learning and knowledge management in SDG 6 targets than MDG period. Sri Lanka shared the baseline information with global monitoring system and participated in JMP and GLAAS reporting in 2018. See Annex IV for key activities undertaken in mainstreaming SDG 6.

2.2 National Plan of Action for Protecting Human Rights

The Government of Sri Lanka has expressed a firm commitment to protect, promote and fulfill human rights of all Sri Lankans

The National Human Rights Action Plan for 2017-2021 documents goal-oriented activities in Human Rights arena, aimed to strengthen the national processes and mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights through substantial constitutional, legislative, policy and administrative frameworks. The National Action Plan was spearheaded by an Inter-Ministerial Committee appointed by the Cabinet and was formulated through a consultative process which involved several actors including government, civil society organizations, National Human Rights Commission, United Nations agencies, INGOs and academics.

The **National Action Plan for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (NHRAP)** Chapter 7, **“Economic Social and Cultural Rights”** has recognized under the Goal 3 that ***‘Access to sufficient and safe water and improved sanitation for all, and the sustainable management of water’ as human rights***

NHRAP Commitments	Process	Policy Statement
3.1.1 Review and consider the right to water and sanitation as recognized in international conventions	Enabling environment for National Targets to achieve universal access to water and sanitation by 2030	Ensure water safety and security regardless of social status for all comities
3.1.2 Amend the fundamental rights chapter of the constitution to include right to water and sanitation	Constitutional amendments or to be proposed in the new constitution	Adopt the UN resolution made in 2013
3.1.3 Harmonies all legislative, policy and regulatory provisions to recognize and implement a "minimum standard of access to water" – for both personal (drinking) and domestic use	Nationally agree minimum standards and benchmark an review all policies and regulatory provisions	Adopt minimum standards and access in line with SDG 6 Target 6.1 &6.2
3.1.4 Articulate a clear policy statement and a plan of action to implement access to "improved sanitation" as a matter of priority among vulnerable groups individuals	Included in the national sanitation policy	Targeting safely managed sanitation

SDG 6 Challenge; *Archiving targets by raising service levels through appropriate interventions maintain service levels and respond to national and global monitoring protocols periodically with reliable data.*

2.3 National Policies Aligned with SDG 6

a) National Drinking Water Policy

The National Drinking Water Policy of 2010, now being reviewed by the Ministry of Water Supply Facilities has clearly recognized water as a human right and incorporate policy statements with respect to achieving SDG 6 targets 6.1.

The draft policy will be subjected to consultation process of inter-agency, key stakeholders and civil society to agree that the drinking water is a national priority. The opportunity created by the commitment to SDG 6 is important to resolve many issues affecting the water and sanitation sector in terms of water availability , accessibility and quality in order to expansion the services to the people who need access to safely managed drinking water. The NDWP is under revision to incorporate SDG 6 Targets 6.1,

6.2 and 6.3. and the policy will make necessary statements to address issues and expected results by mobilising water sector agencies to take appropriate actions to comply with SDG 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6 and institutionalize the targets. The Policy has recognized the important roles played by key stakeholders the government, donors, the civil society and the private sector.

The Policy vision is ***“Drinking Water Policy envisions a healthy society that values the reliability and safety of drinking water and is committed for its sustainable use”***

b) National Sanitation Policy

National Sanitation Policy approved by the cabinet of Ministers in August 2017 has incorporated policy objectives in raising the current status of sanitation to the safely managed sanitation per Target 6.2 of SDG 6. A national workshop was held to agree on respective responsibilities with respect to implementation of policy recommendations. Since sanitation is a multi-stakeholder activity clear policy direction are important to maximize synergies. The policy of the Government is to provide pipe borne sewerage in cities where the population density does not permit environmentally sound on site sanitation systems.

c) National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Policy

Although the policy review is overdue the 2001 policy advocates the importance of community managed systems for rural water and sanitation. Promote participatory approach to find affordable solution and strengthening community based organization for sustainable service delivery. The Government established a separate department for community water supply in 2016 to function as the oversight agency to ensure sustainable rural water supply. The Department of National Community water Supply under the ministry of water supply will undertake revision of the policies related to rural sector.

d) Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Development Strategy

The National Water Supply and Drainage Board had adopted institutional policies for defining urban water supply, investment strategies and criteria for development of pipe sewerage. Water supply development and operations are based on the following 4 main categories of pipe water service delivery areas.

1. Urban Water Supply – development is based on Urban and Municipal council areas
2. Small town – development with over 1000- 2000 water connections for less than 15,000 population
3. Rural water Supply – Community managed water supply schemes
4. Plantation Sector water supply – small systems with limited treatment and for a small community
5. Sewerage development- pipe sewerage is proposed for major cities where on site sanitation system fails due to high population density.
6. Septage Management – Most of the local authorities face the challenge of disposal of septage generated due to poor onsite sanitation in urban and small towns. In such situations septage treatment infrastructure is promoted for protection of environment and water resources.

2.4 Commitment to SDG 6

The Ministry of WSF took action on mainstreaming SDG 6 Target 6.1 & 6.2 and to complete the following tasks in 2018.

- Established a monitoring mechanism to update sector performance annually based on 2016 baseline for SDG 6.
- Working on the Targets and milestones towards 2030 (Annex I)
- National indicators based on emerging WASH ladder for SDG (AnnexII)
- Knowledge management on SDG 6 and consultation with other water sector agencies
- Work with Department of Census and Statistics to develop national indicators for WASH census and surveys conducted for national census water
- Accessibility Availability and Quality included in the national monitoring mechanism and national census through Department of Census and statistics
- Identified respective responsibilities

Sri Lanka will continue with the global protocols for monitoring followed during MDG period and will be obliged report the sector performance to JMP and GLAAS as required. Sri Lanka participated the GLAAS 2018/19 round and successfully completed the survey and validated through consultation sector partners including CSOs.

2.5 National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development

Under the provision of the sustainable development act passed in 2017, the Sustainable Development Council was constituted by the government to promote sustainable development policy and support achievement of SDG 17. The SDC is in the process of finalizing the National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development. A validation workshop was held to facilitate all stakeholders government, civil society, private sector and academia to express their views on the sustainable development policy and its key objectives of creating an enabling environment for achieving SDG 17.

2.6 Sector Performance and Monitoring

In Sri Lanka the water and sanitation sector performance is monitored through number of surveys carried out by the Department of Census and Statistics (DC&S). Reporting to JMP, GLAAS and other international monitoring mechanisms is based on the National Census of Population and Housing (CP&H) carried out on once in 10 years. The last national census was held in 2012 and the next national census is scheduled for 2021. The DS&S also conducts Household Income and Expenditure Survey(HIES) and Demographic Health Survey (DHS) in between two national censuses, these surveys include indicators for water and sanitation and the frequency of conducting the surveys is 3-4 years. The latest HIES survey was conducted in 2016 and the report was published in 2018. The procedure for approval to publish data has to undergo tedious process due to its sensitivity. During the MDG reporting a national committee representing all sector partners was established to develop indicators for the survey based on the reporting protocols and JMP/GLAAS indicators. There were 13 indicators for drinking water and 7 indicators for sanitation in the 2012 national census conducted on Population and Housing. In addition the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) publishes Economic and Social

Statistics of Sri Lanka, the annual report of CBSL includes access to water and sanitation as well with respect to provinces.

The survey outcomes of national surveys are published according to three social sector of Sri Lanka, namely Urban, rural and plantation sector or estate sector predominantly represented by the tea plantation.

Reaching the Unreached and leaving no one behind are the mottos used to mobilize donor support to fill the service delivery gaps that exists in areas where there are constraints and accessibility issues. The NGOs/INGOs are playing a pivotal role to mobilize resource to implement project and programs to improve access to water sanitation hygiene and nutrition, for people in hard to reach areas.

Base line data accepted by all sector partners and reported to JMP is presented in 2016 for water and sanitation are presented in tables 2.6.1 and 2.6T.2

2.6.1 Access to Drinking Water ²

	Urban				Rural				Estate			
YEAR	Pipe Water	Improved	Unimproved	Surface Water	Pipe Water	Improved	Unimproved	Surface Water	Pipe Water	Improved	Unimproved	Surface Water
2012	75	17.1	7	0.9	32.7	35.5	26.3	5.5	39.8	3.2	14.4	42.6
2016	77.8	17.4	3.6	1.2	37	40.8	16.5	5.7	30.1	8.5	7.3	54.1

Source DC&S – National Surveys and Census are carried out on the basis of number of household the size of the HH is 3.8 (CBSL 2019)

2012- National Census Population 20,653,000

2016 – DHS Demographic Health Survey of DC&S

Note; Urban Pipe water supply is updated to end 2018 (NWSDB KPI)

The pipe water supply coverage is updated annually through the number of new house connections provided by the National Water Supply & Drainage Board (NWSDB), presented in the Key Performance Indicators KPI Report, on an average basis the NWSDB provides 120,000 household connections annually representing an increase of population access to nearly 500,000 people. Since the pipe water is supplied to people with adequate treatment and safety is ensured through implementation of water safety plans by service providers, it has been agreed that pipe water services to be reckoned as safely managed.

Annex II indicators explains the status of the baseline data for SDG 6 which defines safely manage categories improved water supply and unimproved access. The protected wells could be qualifies as safely managed if water safety plans are introduces. The

² Access to Drinking Water coverage data used in JMP and GLAAS and agreed nationally at the validation workshop with key stakeholders

baseline for SDG 6 target 6.1 was established on the pretext that protected wells provide safely managed drinking water per emerging WASH ladder. These figures will be used until the next national census in 2021 in which indicators for accessibility availability and quality will be included.

2.6.2 Access to Sanitation³

Access to sanitation is updated with the DHS survey and the status with regards to three social sectors is presented below

	Urban					Rural					Estate				
	Connected to Pipe sewer	Connected to Septic Tank	Unimproved	Other Unimproved	Open Defecation	Connected to Pipe sewer	Connected to Septic Tank	Unimproved	Other Unimproved	Open Defecation	Connected to Pipe sewer	Connected to Septic Tank	Unimproved	Other Unimproved	Open Defecation
2012	1.5	86.1	10	2	0.2	1.6	85.6	10.8	0.2	1.8	0.3	70	20.5	1.8	7.4
2016 DHS	11.1	78.5	5	4.6	0.8	1.9	86	8.6	2	1.5	0.6	75	17	4.4	3

National figure for open defecation is derived from 2012 census data in which it has been recorded as 1.7% of the HH are not using a toilet.

This figure is used as the base value and it is updated with the subsequent increased service provision to 1.4% at the expiry of MDGs

The population without toilet facilities in 2012 was equal to 350,000

At present the estimated figure is 220,000

Note indicators have been incorporated in the next national census in 2021 to record the exact population practicing open defecation.

The policy of the Government is to provide pipe borne sewerage in cities where the population density does not permit environmentally sound on site sanitation systems.

2.7 Indicators used

An analysis of the indicators used during MDG reporting and 2012 national census data have been used to show the transition to SDG 6 service levels in terms of safely managed water and sanitation, this is presented in the annex II with actions required to raise the standard of current service levels to SDG 6 Target 6,1 WASH ladder. One of the key achievement by the WASH sector partners is to develop the national indicators for the next census to be carried out in 2021. The exercise was conducted through several consultations to agree on the indicators and proxy indicators required to monitor the progress of the sector as well as to fulfill reporting protocols of JMP and GLAAS.

2.8 Base Line for SDG 6 Targets 6.1 and 6.2

Base year for SDG 6 has been established as 2016 and the sector performance during MDG reporting has been interpreted with the SDG WASH ladder. In order to reconcile with SDG 6 service levels an estimation of safely managed percentage was deduced depending on the accessibility, availability and quality. The coverage data has been

updated with the development and increased coverage since 2012 up to 2016, estimating and disaggregating the improved services to safely managed, improved and basic to establish the status of WASH achievements in terms of SDG 6 Target 6.1 and 6.2. **The National census in 2012 had no indicator for hand washing and data to establish baseline for hand washing is not recorded.**

The baseline for SDG 6 targets 6.1 and 6.2 was presented to civil society in April 2016 at the consultation workshop held prior to the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) High Level Meeting 2016, attended by the sector minister of Sri Lanka. The same was used in the Sri Lanka GLAAS survey carried out in 2018/2019 cycle through engagement of sector partners at the end of 2018 by WHO.

The DC&S collects, compiles and disseminates relevant, reliable and up-to-date statistical information required for planning, implementation and monitoring progress of development and other socio-economic activities in the country. The DCS is entrusted with the duty of conducting all national censuses and surveys, and generate official statistics using administrative records. Since the next National Census will be held in 2021 the data and information on the informal water and sanitation particularly the population using protected wells, unprotected wells, tube wells and other sources will not be available until 2021.

Sri Lanka Baseline for SDG Target 6.1 & 6.2

SDG ambition	Safely managed Drinking water from an improved source which is located on premises, available when needed and free of faecal and priority contamination	80	Safely managed Use of an improved sanitation facility which is not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed in situ or transported and treated offsite.	89
	Basic Drinking water from an improved source provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing	10	Basic Use of an improved facility which is not shared with other households	2
MDG continuity	Limited Drinking water from improved sources which require over 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing	1.4	Limited Use of an improved facility which is shared between two or more households	5
	Unimproved Drinking water from unprotected dug wells or unprotected springs	4	Unimproved Use of pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines and bucket latrines	2.6
	No service Drinking water from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal or irrigation channel	4.6	Open defecation Human faeces disposed of in fields, forest, bushes, open bodies of water, beaches or other open spaces or disposed of with solid waste	1.4

Note: Above figures were presented at the national water sanitation coordination meeting and the GLAAS validation meeting and ratified as the base line for SDG 6 Targets 6.1 and 6.2 until the next national census in 2021. The base line data for safely managed is deduced on the SDG ambitions per emerging WASH ladder.

Since 2016 the access to water and sanitation improved on the following categories;

1. Number of new Household connected to pipe water supply

2. Number of Household constructed new toilets
3. Number of new Household connected to sewerage
4. Number of rural water supply implemented and rehabilitated
5. Number of households covered by new septage treatment plants
6. Number of tube wells and rainwater harvesting systems

Considering above development the increased percentage of people receiving safely managed water supply is 6% and safely managed sanitation is 4.5% during the past 4⁴ years since the establishment of the baseline.

Please see Annex II for current estimations in safely managed water and sanitation coverage based on latest updates.

3. Institutional Framework for Monitoring

3.1 State Structure

Sri Lanka's state structure is in several layers with national, provincial and district administration⁵. These layers have created duplications overlapping and inconsistencies. Although Sri Lanka has a strong institutional base for the water and sanitation, adaptation and mainstreaming of SDG 6 targets 6.1 and 6.2, the progress towards establishing a national level mechanism to fulfill the commitments related to Targets 6.3 to 6.6 for 6.3 to 6.6 suffered setbacks due to frequent change of the political leadership and inconsistencies in allocation of subjects to ministries.

The ministry in charge of water and sanitation has changed its name at least 6 times in the past 10 years. Similarly the other water sector agencies were brought under different ministries with acceding to then policy of the ruling party of the government.

The interest generated during the transition to SDGs and positive steps taken in creating an enabling environment to fulfill the commitments were reaffirmed with the establishment of a dedicated ministry for sustainable development in 2015. The other important actions by the government were appointment of a parliamentary select committee and passing of the Sustainable development Act in the parliament. Sri Lanka represented the High Level Political Forum in July 2018 held in the UN HQ and presented the VNR Voluntary national Review of selected SDG Goals including SDG 6.

3.2 Institutional Arrangements

Establishment of a dedicated Ministry for Water Supply in 2007 demonstrated the commitment of the GoSL to accelerate achievement of the national goals in the provision of water supply and sanitation. The ministry received the 3rd highest national budget allocation to its projects and programs up to 2012. The NWSDB is the implementing arm of the ministry and is responsible for almost all major developments in the sector and delivers a piped water supply service to around 40% of the population. (Another about 10% is covered by Local Authorities and Community Based Organizations). 90% of the urban centres are supplied with piped borne water. The

⁴ These findings need to be validate by the national forum

⁵ See Annex II

NWSDB is also responsible for the implementation of large-scale sewerage projects planned for the major cities in the country.

Under the ministry, the Department of National Community Water Supply (DNCWS) was established in September 2014 to address sustainability issues affecting service delivery in the rural water supply sector. The key role of the Department is to ensure sustainable & safe drinking water supply and basic sanitation facilities for the rural population through community managed facilities. The CBO operated water supply had many deficiencies and number of schemes was abandoned due to non-availability of an institutional arrangement for technical and administrative backstopping. Creation of DNCW will go long way in restoring the facilities and build capacity for sustainable service delivery in the RWS sector. The DNCWS is the lead for SDG 6 Targets 6.6(b)

DNCWS is working in close collaboration with leading CSOs national and International who are supporting the communities in hard to reach areas.

3.3 Sub Sectorial Roles of Service Providers

Water Supply Sector		Sanitation Sector	
Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
National Water Supply & Drainage Board (NWSDB)	Department of Community Water Supply (DCWS)	National Water Supply & Drainage Board	DCWS, Local Bodies, NWSDB
Municipal Councils Urban Councils	Community Based Organizations (CBO)	Municipal Councils/Urban Councils	Provincial Councils
Urban Development Authority and Private sector	Local Bodies	(implement and operate Piped Sewerage)	Plantation Human Development Trust
Board of Investment	Provincial Councils	Ministry of education	Community Based Organizations and CSOs including NGOs/INGOs
	Private sector and Grass root organization (CSO and INGOs)	Education for School sanitation	Projects and Programmes implemented by INGOs for Reaching the Unreached (RTU) to ensure LNOB (Leave no One Behind)
		Board of Investment for waste water treatment	
		Central Environment Authority for Compliance	

Note; Only CBOs are in service delivery no CSOs are only involved in implementation of projects and programmes

3.4 Important Activities Up to date in Adopting SDG 6

Joining the global community Sri Lanka committed to achieving an ambitious agenda for sustainable development by 2030 and stated that “we have promised that we will leave no one behind in doing so. The progress made in SDG 6 by the WASH sector in Sri Lanka, comparatively ahead of almost all other sectors pursuing SDG Goals. There are number of projects and programmes, implemented by the state sector and CSOs including INGOs have formulated based on the Leaving No One Behind concept. Reaching the Unreached is one of the projects being implemented by EU assistance.

Sri Lanka will continue with the Global Monitoring protocol for WASH as engaged during MDG period with JMP and GLAAS. The Ministry of City Planning & Water Supply has taken steps to form a working group representing key government agencies, development partners and CSOs to prepare national indicators and milestones for 2021 census and update on sector performance for global monitoring and reporting.

Since the expiry of MDGs in 2015, the nodal ministry for drinking water and sanitation institutionalized the SDG 6 and carry out number of consultations with all stakeholders to mainstream SDG 6 in the water and sanitation sector.

Main activities undertaken during the period of transition from MDGs to SDG 6 are as follows;

1. Reviewed policies to reflect the commitment to SADG 6 by the nodal Ministry⁶
2. Established base line by 2016 through updating national census data of 2012
3. Agree on national bench marks
4. Agreed on the targets and milestones on the way to global goals by 2030
5. Established a monitoring mechanism to update sector performance annually based on 2016 baseline for SDG 6.
6. Working on the Targets and milestones towards 2030
7. National Plan of Action for Adoption of Human Rights
8. National indicators based on emerging WASH ladder for SDG
9. Knowledge management on SDG 6 and consultation with other water sector agencies
10. Agreed with Department of Census and Statistics on the national indicators for WASH census and surveys to be conducted from 2020.
11. Identified respective responsibilities of sector partners on the other targets 6.3-6.6
12. Shared baseline data and latest survey data with JMP monitoring
13. Participated in the GLAAS 2018/19 cycle and validated the finding with key stakeholders at a workshop

⁶The Ministry has been re-named after the new government took power Ministry of Water Supply Facilities (Formerly Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply)

14. Clear ambiguities with regards to SDG 6 service levels, WASH ladders and development of indicators
15. Adopted SDG 6 indicators for 2021 national censuses at a workshop participated by all sector players including CSOs and Private sector
16. Adopted sector targets and milestone towards achieving SDG 6 See Annex V
17. Enactment of Sustainable development Act
18. National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development

4. National Multi-Stakeholder Accountability Platforms

4.1 Background

Water supply and sanitation sector underwent major transformation in the past 3 decades with the development in the rural water supply expansions programmes implemented in the past 30 years. Initially the stakeholder involvement was limited to donor coordination and the water supply was a subject under the Ministry of Urban Development. Involvement of the Civil Society was promoted by the Asian Development Bank assisted Sri Lanka Water Supply and Sanitation project. A rural water supply scheme was implemented on pilot basis through engagement of local NGO to promote community mobilization and behavior change. This was the basis for formulate of an institutional framework for sustainable service delivery in the rural sector. Since then the civil society was engaged in policy formulation and consultation on case by case basis.

Sri Lanka's civil society is represented at all levels of the society and assists the national development efforts in many ways through advocacy to regular development and emergency responses. In the WASH sector government's engagement with civil society is vibrant as it is one of the few sectors where civil society has equal opportunity. The relationship of civil societies has been given a new impetus during the Tsunami recovery phase since 2005. The unprecedented scale of relief and recovery operation mounted by large number national and international agencies during the post Tsunami period posed a dilemma for the government in coordinating activities. Intervention by the national and international agencies brought a strong mechanism for streamlining the efforts and eased the burden on the government. The Tsunami coordination platform has been the basis for strong relationship between the government and the civil society.

The platform created at that time was mainstreamed successfully under the government leadership and establish the national coordination forum for the WASH sector. The forum adopted a specific TOR and follows a transparent process and maintains trust of all partners.

4.2 National Coordination Platform (NCM)

The multi-stakeholder platform established in early 2005 during the Tsunami Recovery period continued through the emergency coordination and resettlement phase of the post conflict emergency caused due to mass scale displacement of affected people of the North and East. The chairmanship of the national platform for coordination of humanitarian efforts for water and sanitation was transferred to the nodal ministry in the late 2007 and normalized with the sector coordination. This forum acts like the apex

body of all platforms. Mutual accountability of all stakeholders representing government, donors, Civil Society and Private Sector towards sector goals was recognized.

The foundation for the national coordination platform was built on the commitment of all stakeholders and strong partnerships established at the transition from emergency coordination to regular national development coordination established in 2007. The key ideals encapsulated in the terms of reference of the form are based on the following;

- The right to water and sanitation cannot be dissociated from human dignity
- Everyone has the right to participate in decision- making processes that affect their right to water and sanitation
- Communities have the right to determine the nature of their water and sanitation services
- Everyone should be given full, transparent and equal access to information

The Government of Sri Lanka being accountable for respecting, protecting and fulfilling its obligations, is “in the driving seat” of the National Water and Sanitation Coordination Group and continue to chair and provide for policy directions, effective resource mobilization, sharing of responsibilities with partners and identifying priorities.

The Ministry in charge of drinking water has recognized the important role played by sector partners represented by UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs and private sector in mobilizing resources for implementation of projects and programmes especially for marginalized groups in hard to reach areas and affected due to emergencies which results due to Hydro-meteorological disasters and chronic emergencies such as CKDu. The national multi-stakeholder forum chaired by the Ministry provides platform for the sector partners to engage in dialogue priorities interventions and take timely actions for efficient resource mobilization. Since 2007 the forum continued and conducted meeting at once a month, however after the change of leadership in 2014 the meetings were conducted once in two months.

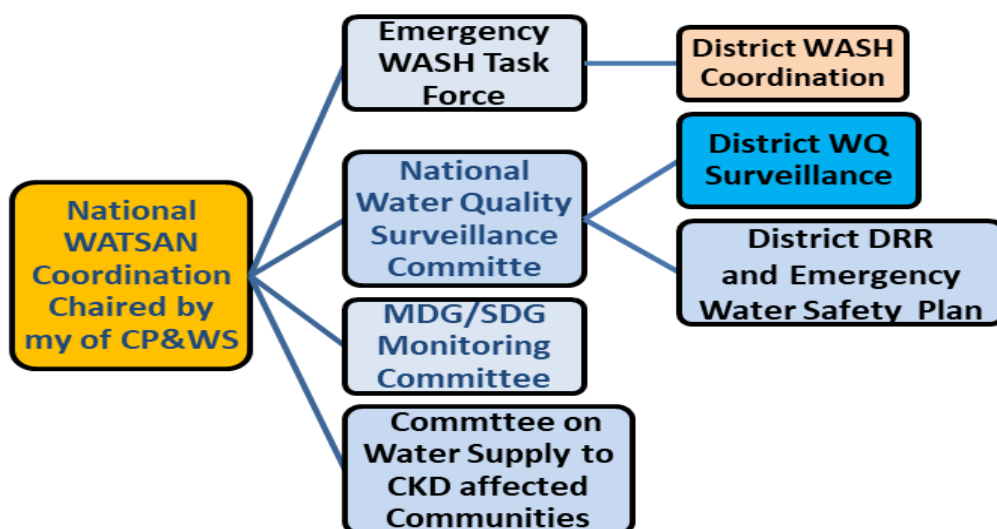


Fig The National Coordination Architecture in 2011

Water Sanitation Sector coordination platform was built on the lessons learnt during emergency coordination established for Tsunami response and above framework was developed with the identification of key issues and responsibilities for maximizing synergies. In addition coordination platform was extended to sub national level to build capacity at district level and to promote best practices.

The NCM reviewed systematically the key information and issues brought up by the district coordination that has to draw attention of the national level forum in order to resolve through mobilizing relevant efforts.

All stakeholders agreed that the national water sanitation coordination meeting (WATSAN NCM) meeting be held once a month and continued as the apex forum for the sector by adopting Terms of Reference. The forum continued effectively until 2017 due mainly to the strong collaborative partnership among the government, academia, and donors/INGOs, NGOs and Private Sector. After 2014 the leadership at the government level changed frequently and the loss of institutional memory affected regular conduct of the meeting. The Ministry in charge is the convener of the national coordination and chaired by the chief executive officer of the ministry. The CEO changed 9 times in the past 5 years since 2014 led to inconsistency and affected policy coherence and collaboration with external agencies. The policy process did not progress after 2018 due to the constitutional crisis and political instability.

4.3 National Monitoring Platforms for SDG

The National Forum for SDG 6 monitoring was chaired by the Department of Census participated by sector agencies, UNICEF, WHO and relevant members of the national coordination forum representing CSOs as well. This main tasks fulfilled by this forum were, develop indicators for SDG 6 Targets 6.1 and 6.2 for monitoring safely managed WASH services. Adopt the national census questionnaire for 2021 census. Training of field animators to collect data on accessibility, availability and quality of water was conducted with the assistance of JMP including use of mobile phones. Facilitated mobilization of support from JMP team to conduct capacity building on field testing of bacteriological water quality of household water users which is required in the national census and other surveys conducted by the DC&S.

4.4 Participation in the GLAAS Cycle and JMP Validation Platform

Sri Lanka's participation of GLAAS in the 2018/19 cycle was facilitated by WHO at the end of 2018 and findings were presented to the all sector partners including CSOs for validation before finalizing the GLAAS report. JMP validation was done in 2018⁷ with sector partners and reported the revised data.

4.5 Regional Platforms

Water, Education and Health sectors together with the CSOs, donors and private sector are engaged in the preparation for Sri Lanka's participation in the South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN). All activities are implemented through a multi-stakeholder partnership under the national coordination platform. The key activities are preparation of country report and the traffic light paper prepared with the collaboration of FANSA.

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Sri Lankan water sector partners are playing an important role since hosting of SACOSAN IV in Colombo and adopted a Terms of Reference for Inter Country Working Group. Sri Lanka proposed to establish a permanent institutional arrangement for SACOSAN at SACOSAN V in Kathmandu and it was endorsed by the Ministerial Conference included in the Dhaka declaration and the SACOSAN VI. As a result the Regional Centre for Sanitation (RCS) was established in 2017 by the Ministry of Water Supply. RCS has established a collaborative partnership with regional and international agencies to organize regional knowledge management events as a part of its mandate.

The following are the key partners collaborate with the RCS

- UNICEF Regional Office
- Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
- FANSA
- Water Aid India

4.6 Other Important Events Participated by CSOs

- i. Voluntary National Review – all sector partners were engaged in the preparation of VNR which included reporting on SDG 6 at the HLPF held in UN Head Quarters in July 2018. (the lead for this activity was the then Ministry of Sustainable Development)
- ii. Regional Planning platform a workshop organized by FANSA with the support of RCS and participated by regional CSOs engaged in WASH and the objective of the meeting was **Strengthening Advocacy Action of CSOs to Accelerate Progress on Realization of the WASH Commitments made by the National Governments in South Asia**
- iii. RCS in Partnership with national and international CSOs organized a side event at the HLPF July 2018 New York to highlight the importance of **“Why Robust Multi-Stakeholder National Accountability Mechanism are essential for Achieving SDG 6**. The event was hosted by the Sri Lanka resident mission for UN in New York. The activity was sponsored by WSSCC and IRC of Netherlands.
- iv. Two events organized by RCS promoted sharing of best practices and collaborative planning for WASH to achieve LNOB in the region through contribution of knowledge management and sharing best practices and experience of governments, researchers CSOs and practitioners in the field of WASH
- v. National Validation Workshop organized by the Department of Census and Statistics in Sept 2019, to adopt the questionnaire for SDG 6 indicators for the 2021, Population and Housing Census.
- vi. Validation Workshop on National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka 12th -14th March 2020. The Sustainable Development Council invited key stakeholders representing all sectors responsible for developing policies and strategies to achieve 17 Global goals to agree on the policy, goals and strategies.

Note: Leading CSOs in Sri Lanka established the “Sustainable SDG Platform” In parallel with the VNR process of the government to prepare an alternate report⁸ to the HLPF in UN HQ. The report was prepared with the participation of leading CSO agencies including FANSA Sri Lanka, Global Sustainable Solutions and World Vision. The Sri Lankan CSOs has an opportunity to conduct a side event jointly

With INGOs in parallel with the HLPF held in 2018 in UN HQ.

4.7 Role Played by Key Players and Partners

The National Process is coordinated by the Ministry of Water Supply Facilities. Representation and involvement of key players could be summarized as follows.

Matrix of Involvement and Functionality

#	Stakeholder	Role Played	Contribution
	Ministry of Water Supply Facilities	Coordination and Facilitation of National Process and chair multi-stakeholder platform	Promotion and knowledge management for SDG 6, collaboration with agencies Baseline for SDG 6 and formulation of new indicators and proxy indicators for SDG monitoring. Revision of policies and conduct pilot field activities
	Department of Census and Statistics	Collaboration with Key players in developing indicators and capacity building	Working with sector agencies to consultation on national indicators for SDG 6.1 and 6.2 targets indicators, assign staff coordinate training of animators and finalized population and housing questionnaire
	UNICEF	Facilitate and assist for successful results	Technical assistance for capacity building on the use of equipment for field testing of water quality. Training of staff of DC&S and NWSDB
	WHO	Assisted GLAAS survey and incorporation of water quality in the SDG 6.1 Target	Assistances to conduct GLAAS 2018/19
	National Water Supply and Drainage Board	Governments development arm of the water and sewerage sectors	Consultation on indicators and field trials of water quality testing of the water sources and household quality

⁸ report was reviewed by Mr. Hemantha Withanage(FANSA SL Chapter and CEJ and Eng. Ananda Jayaweera National WASH advisor)

#	Stakeholder	Role Played	Contribution
	Department of National Community Water Supply	Expand and ensure rural water supply and sanitation	Participated and capacity building of staff in adoption of national indicators for Rural Water supply Sector
	Ministry of Health	Facilitated and identified health sector indicators for WASH	Partnership for SDG 6 in monitoring, water quality surveillance and input to GLAAS survey
	Ministry of Education	School Water and Sanitation monitoring	School WASH and assist in GLAAS survey identify GAPS in WASH and hand washing in schools
	CSO/INGOs FANSA SL Chapter	Engaged in provision of services and participated in policy and monitoring	Collaborate with the government in achieving goals promote LNOB and Reaching the Unreached
	ADB , World Bank AFD , JICA, AFD and other multilateral and bilateral donors	Development of the sector to achieve targets review sector performance and assist development	Monitoring Review and evaluation of sector performance on implementation of projects and programmes

5. Positive Aspects of Accountability Mechanisms, Platforms

Lessons Learnt in the Accountability Mechanism; Sri Lanka's model established for national WASH coordination is appreciated by the countries in the SAARC region and among the lessons learnt are on leadership, promotion of collaborative partnerships, adopting standards for WASH in emergencies and regular development, synergy in the mobilization of resources and efforts and ability to engaged expertise on task forces to deal with special issues.

Many sector strategies evolved through this process as the engagement with civil societies facilitated knowledge management and mobilizing expertise to address specific sector issues affecting displaced population as well as people in hard to reach areas. The mutual accountability of both government and the CSO have been the key to streamline knowledge platform on SDGs and share responsibilities in achieving global goals and Targets. Contribution of all sector partners recognizing mutual accountability and shared responsibility to achieve WASH Goals.

Government's Accountability; is demonstrated in many ways through the commitment and response to global monitoring, active involvement with international partners such as Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) , regional partners of SACOSAN and leadership provided to the national platform where an all-inclusive approach is followed in engaging sector partners including CSOs and private sector. Sri Lanka's all-inclusive

approach in getting all sector partners into the decision making process has been commended by international community as best practice.

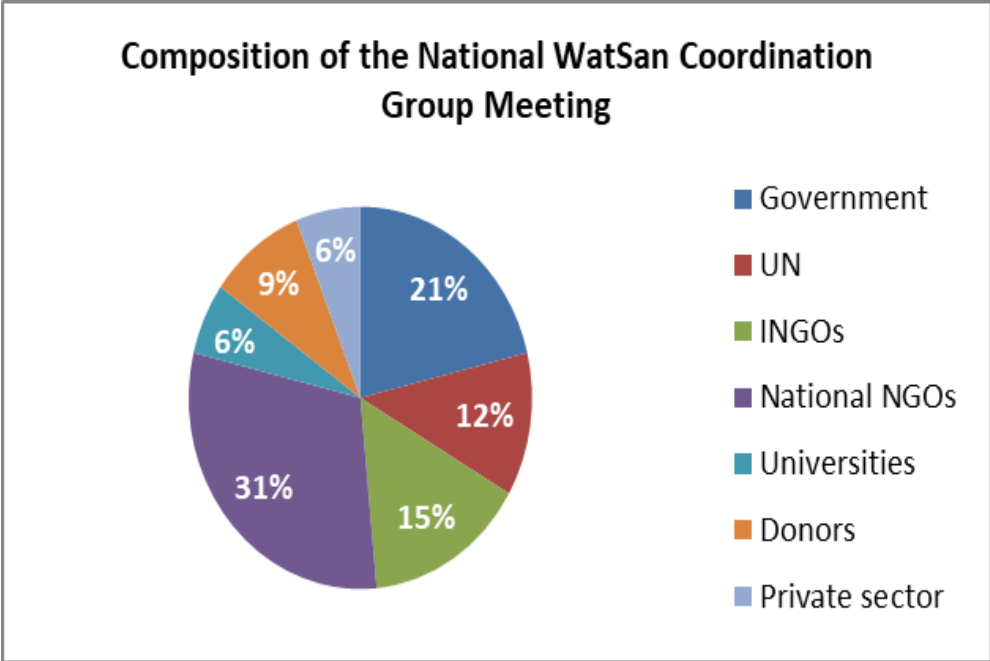
Civil Society Organizations represented by the NGOs and INGOs in the WASH sector receive external assistance to support communities left behind due to failure of government delivery system for effective intervention in hard to reach areas. The main reasons are as follows;

- i. Equity and Inclusion issues in Hard to Reach Areas
- ii. Government Delivery system has failed to reachout
- iii. Scattered population not feasible for major development
- iv. Not attractive for loan projects
- v. Lack of reliable water sources for investment on new development
- vi. Difficult terrain and high cost of development
- vii. Weakness in community organisations and advocacy
- viii. Central and local issues
- ix. Environmental issues affecting RWS
- x. Water conflicts due to multiple users and uses
- xi. Water safety and security for informal sector

Participation of CSOs in National Coordination Mechanism re-enforce multi-stakeholder decision making and mutual accountability among partners and creating an enabling environment for informed decision making to maximize synergies.

More over CSO are mobilized by international partners for REACHING the UNREACHED

One important positive aspect of well-structured multi-stakeholder platform is the level of participation and collaboration, the below is a representation of the national coordination platform when it was subscribed by all sector partners in 2013.



5.1 Leading INGO/NGOs in WASH Sector

The following National and International CSOs are actively engaged in the WASH sector in various capacities for promotion and implementation of projects and programmes towards archiving SDG goals.

Table 5

Organization	Role Played	Current Activities
FANSA SL Chapter Hosted by Center for Environment Justice	Knowledge Partner and Regional Coordination	Partnership with RCS in organizing events and set up platform for all regional partners to engage in dialogue and share experience
Center for Environmental Justice	Advocacy over protection of water and environment	Facilitate accountability platforms for engagement of CSOs
Oxfam	Support LNOB OXFAM and ADRA with support of European Union (EU) are working to bust myths around menstruation.	Implement WASH programmes to Reach the Unreached in marginalized communities. Promoting a better understanding on menstrual health and hygiene among young students,

Organization	Role Played	Current Activities
World Vision International	Mobilize Resources and serve affected population	Support children and community in emergency WASH and many other SDG targets
Solidaridad Network Asia	WASH and Nutrition Communities affected due to poor service delivery	Implement EU supported WAtrenghten CBOs. SH and Nutrition Programme Reaching the Unreached (RTU) in 4 Districts. WASH in Schools and
Sri Lanka Water Partnership	Strengthening Communities	MHM programmes and strengthen community advocacy
Sevalanka Foundation	Community Empowerment	Emergency relief , climate resilient and sustainable environment
Sevanatha Urban Resource Center	Poverty Alleviation CMABC Community Mobilisation and Behavior change	Mainstreaming urban poor to access services and promote sustainable energy
Janathakshana (GTE) Limited	Community Lively Hood	Community capacity building and Knowledge sharing for sustainable
Private Sector	Emergency and support CKDu affected people	School WASH improve hand washing and provide RO plants for Drinking and Cooking Water for CKDu areas

6. Positive Experiences of Participation in SDG Processes

- 1) Establish baseline for SDG 6
- 2) Mainstreaming SDG 6 and agree on national targets
- 3) Agree on bench marking in WASH services
- 4) Formulation of National Targets and milestones towards achieving SDG 6 and adopted at the national coordination platform (See Annex II)
- 5) Develop national indicators for monitoring of SDGs
- 6) Central level CSOs leverage action on Knowledge management of grass root organization to be adopted in service delivery. on national policy SDG 6 service levels and standard
- 7) Review of Policies on drinking water and sanitation
- 8) Capacity building of sector partners
- 9) Capacity building on septage management and ecosan
- 10) Community Mobilization and Behavior Change
- 11) Guidelines for Household water treatment

- 12) Promotion of eco-sanitation
- 13) Strengthen Community Based Organizations
- 14) Collaboration for national and regional events
- 15) Promote climate resilient WASH facilities
- 16) Mobilization of resources for emergency WASH interventions

The Ministry of Water Supply Facilities as the nodal agency for SDG 6 has identified knowledge gaps among the national agencies responsible for SDG 6 Targets and civil society who are engaged at grass root level in the provision of water and sanitation services. Government's accountability is well established towards CSO through an inclusive approach to engage all sector partners recognising their respective roles in contributing to SDG 6 goals.

7. Areas of Improvement:

7.1 Achieving SDG 6

All sector partners need to consider establishment of a strong mechanism for mutual accountability supporting and strengthening and alignment with country planning and review processes and their timelines towards global goals. So far the actions have been on case by case basis and responded to the global monitoring mechanism. It is important to strengthen collaborative partnership of government, CSOs and private sector to focus on SDG 6 all targets from 6.1 to 6.6. Institutional capacity and financial resources required for progressive realization of service levels and filling the gaps, need to be reviewed periodically

The following main challenges need to be addressed in order to achieve SDG 6 targets by 2030.

- Raise the standard of drinking water and sanitation to safely managed status in line with SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 and achieve universal access to safely managed water and sanitation by 2030
- Assess waste water generated in all sectors and enforce regulations to reduce the waste water discharged to the environment in stages to achieve national targets. Establish national ambient water quality standards and monitor the effectiveness of reduction of waste water discharged to the environment.
- Improve water use efficiency of bulk water users in irrigation, agriculture tourism commercial and industrial sectors through a collaborative approach. This will be the basis for re allocation of water to the drinking water sector. Also this will be the strategy to defer large investments for further development of water resources.
- Address institutional fragmentation in the water sector through reforms and create enabling environment for implementing IWRM
- Restore critical watersheds to maintain integrity of the hydrological cycle, restore fresh water ecosystems
- Strengthen community advocacy to minimize risks affecting their water management area and ensure sustainable service delivery

- Create enabling policy and institutional environment for collecting real value of water

The water supply and sanitation sector will face many challenges in achieving its longer term objectives. Having achieved number of national goals in the provision of water and sanitation services nearly five decades of development with strong institutions and technical capacity the policy makers are looking ahead to stabilize the current services and bridge the gap to achieve universal goals by 2030 and beyond. However one of the main concerns is financing SDGs in the next decade with a heavy burden of debt servicing faced by the national agencies.

Contribution of the government budget is the key to achieve targets while recognizing that the contribution of the civil society is important in sustaining WASH interventions.

Government policy process is always affected by the frequent changes in the hierarchy and inconsistencies in the approaches to collaborative partnerships with all stakeholders. Lack of expertise and capacity of the government, high turnover of senior staff at ministry level affect coherent approach towards the targets. Sometimes good practice overshadowed by gaps in the perception of individuals with different priorities and hampers the progress of good practices institutionalized over the years. CSO participation is affected mostly in situation of this nature where there is a high turnover of senior government positions. Attitudes of individuals in the government sector and poor commitment are deterrent to implementation of public policy.

The long term outlook for the water and sanitation sector depends on how well we understand the unfavorable trends and ability to get back on track towards establishing sustainability of the sector through addressing warning signs and alarming signals in the wake of climate change threatening water and environment.

8. Achieving Accountability Critical Analysis

Sri Lanka's main challenge to achieve global goals in terms of SDG 6 Target 6.1 and 6.2 depends on the availability financial resources in filling the gaps in service levels and raise the standard to safely managed water and sanitation. As discussed in the chapter 4 the 2021 census will be a key milestone in assessing the actual gap interims of accessibility, availability and quality of services. The other critical aspect is the maintaining services to the existing population who enjoys the services. Enactment of Right to Information Act (RTI) is an important instrument enhances sharing of information and accountability in terms of identifying gaps and mobilisation of resources. A critical need of the hour is to establish an accountability mechanism with respect to resource mobilisation and its effectiveness in expansion of service. Sri Lanka will be able to achieve the SDG 6 targets if available funds are utilised prudently devoid of corruption to meet the targets for universal access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation by 2030.

The other challenge is to mobilise relevant stakeholders, government and Civil Society to support national responsibilities focusing on other targets 6.3 to 6.6 as there is no tangible action so far on establishing a national process. This is mainly due to the poor response and lack of knowledge in SDG targets. . On this aspect the steps taken so far is not adequate and the responses from responsible agencies not forth coming due to fragmentation of responsibilities along sub sectorial interests. The major issue for the poor response is the change of political administration and inconsistencies in allocation of

subjects of the government to various ministries. The name of the nodal ministry for Water changed 5 times in the past 8 years and the chief executive of the ministry was changed 9 times in the past 5 years.

So far it has not been fully realised by the water resources sector, that, it is essential to institutionalise SDG 6 Targets 6.4 , 6.5 and 6.4 and establish a collaborative partnership with major water use agencies to agree on a road map with milestones to improve water use efficiency and implement IWRM. Availability of adequate water resources is critical to maintain and expand the services. Water is a diminishing resource and it is important to understand the warning signs and alarming signals in the wake of climate change.

It is a fact that water savings in the irrigation sector by increasing water use efficiency by 5% could be used to supply water to the city of Colombo for one year.

The National Drinking Water (NDW) Policy process was halted due to poor commitment of the government officers assigned for inter-agency consultation and agree on the national objective on priorities of water use. The key objective of NDW Policy is to establish that drinking water is priority among all other uses. .

A comprehensive assessment of the following gaps is important to do a situational analysis to find out whether Sri Lanka is on track to achieve Targets 6.1 and 6.2

- a) Human resources requirement to achieve SDG 6 Targets 6.1 and 6.2
- b) Financing SDG 6 – an assessment of annual financing gap towards 2030
- c) Technological gap assessment to maintain and expansion of services
- d) Institutional framework for monitoring and reporting
- e) Establish a mutual accountability mechanism through multi- stakeholder platforms at national and subnational level.
- f) Adopt all inclusive approach and improve level of participation that existed during the early stages of national coordination
- g) Assign lead agencies for each target of SDG 6
- h) Allocation of functions to ministries to be based on a scientific approach
- i) Frequent changes at the hierarchy and shortened tenure of the head of ministries to be addressed for effective leadership
- j) Change of leadership is essential in mobilizing support of sector partners representing govt, INGOs/NGOs/donors , academia and private sector

9. Good Accountability Practices Introduced with Shared Responsibility

9.1 Overarching Statement

The national accountability towards meeting national and subnational service delivery targets focusing on **Leaving No One Behind** (LNOB) to be firmly established through strong all inclusive participatory approach representing, governments, external support agencies, civil society, the private sector and research and learning institutions. A system that will run on its own rather than depending on individuals and based on plans, strategies, targets and milestones that government and other partners have agreed to reach the WASH targets of the SDG 6.

The following initiatives are to be strengthening on the basis of the above;

1. Mainstreaming SDG 6 , Monitoring Committee – this is now focusing on the SDGs and the main tasks assigned are establish baseline for SDG 6, agree on national indicators, develop consensus for national targets and milestones and establish benchmarks.
2. Chronic Kidney Decease of unknown Origin CKDu affected areas
Water supply to the region affected by CKDu is supported by many agencies including CSOs , Private sector and donors the coordination help to mobilizing resources to provide water for drinking and cooking for the affected people in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka
3. Emergency Water and Sanitation – Coordination of efforts of all sector partners in bringing relief to the people affected by floods, landslides and droughts – floods and droughts have become an annual emergency in Sri Lanka
4. Policy Working Group – Contribute in formulating of policies related to urban and rural drinking water supply
5. Water Quality Surveillance Steering Committee – Chaired by Ministry of Health as the regulator for water quality to be re-established
6. Implementation of water safety plans to covers domestic wells and defer investment in expanding capital intensive pipe water systems.
7. National Multi-stakeholder platform acts as the apex body build consensus on national policies , targets , milestones, indicators and bench marks.
8. Appoint task force to recommend solutions to burning issues in the sector. This way the expertise available with external agencies could be mobilized to work with government partners.

The collaboration of sector partners is important in maximizing synergies and invite attention of relevant parties to assist in ensuring appropriate linkages. The forum helps to mobilize expertise to focus on policy matters, institutional arrangement and technical solutions to burning issues affecting the sector.

The Ministry of Water Supply considers the forum, National Coordination Meting, as an accountability platform for sector decision making on policy review, technological options and create opportunities for the experts from INGO/NGOs to engage in use of the knowhow at national level.

The Forum adopted a Terms of Reference during Tsunami recovery phase and it was reviewed as the standard operating procedures at NCM where number of nationally importance subjects

10. Recommendation and Way Forward

Key strategies to achieve national targets are as follows:

- I. Revise National Drinking Water Policy in line with SDG 6 and Targets 6.1-6.6
- II. Establish inter agency collaboration to develop mechanisms to achieve Targets 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and 6.5

- III. Project sector financing needs to achieve Target 6.1 & 6.2 through agreed milestones by 2030. Sector financing needs to be identified as a % of the National Budget
- IV. The financial sustainability of institutions involved in the drinking water supply and sewerage sector at the national, provincial and divisional levels to be strengthened to achieve self-reliance.
- V. Community involvement in managing community water supply schemes is ensured through strengthening the newly established Department of National Community Water Supply (DNCWS) in terms of Target 6.6 (b)
- VI. Strengthen water quality surveillance, re-establish national steering committee chaired by Ministry of Health, for safely managed services while all service providers implement water safety plans to ensure safety of drinking water supply.
- VII. Extend water safety plans and water quality surveillance to cover water users who depends on protected wells/informal supplies that fulfil accessibility and availability criteria for their drinking water needs (This will be the strategy to raise these source safely managed)
- VIII. Provide septage management facilities for urban centres where pipe sewerage is not feasible in order to meet safely managed sanitation per Target 6.2
- IX. Change of leadership of the multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) – the CSOs need to consider co-chairing the MSP for national coordination of the WASH sector

In order to achieve these goals GOSL has emphasized on institutional capacity building of sector agencies coordination and sector collaboration. To ensure Sustainable access to water and sanitation, all interventions have focused on building the capacity to operate and maintain services in accordance with the sound financial and administrative practice.

Partnership for water management needs to be established at local level with the required strength to derive powers from the existing legal framework and enforcement capacity to safeguard the efforts of the WS&S sector for sustainable service delivery. It is important to understand the short- and long-term impacts and action required to mitigate the negative effects affecting water due to climate change and degradation of the natural resource base

Legalize Water Safety Plan (WSP) which is a tool introduced to follow the concept of water safety through **catchment to consumer**. WSP encompasses risk assessment and risk management in a more iterative manner from catchments to consumer for consistency assuring the delivery of safe drinking water.

There are is an increasing demand for transparency, accountability and cost –effective performance on behalf of the public sector institution. Therefore it is imperative to adjust to the changing socio-economics, environment and climate change and perform to meet the goals.

Role of CSOs and Accountability

Recognize mutual accountability towards achieving SDG 6 targets and harmonies efforts in achieving level of services. Government and CSO expertise to be pooled to

conduct knowledge management in universal access to safely managed WASH and how to transform existing facilities to safely managed status.

Response to Global Partnerships

Commitment to global monitoring mechanism and partnerships to be used to strengthen CSOs effectiveness.

Transparent Decision Making

Improve the current level of decision making to encourage grassroots level efforts by the CSOs and develop a MIS with benefit monitoring and evaluation system to recognize contributions of all stakeholders.

Essential Change

Sustainable peace and development are essential to the future of the planet and humanity. This vision is laid out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030), which aims to end poverty, build peaceful societies and promote prosperity and people's well-being while protecting the environment for current and future generations. Its unanimous adoption by United Nations Member States in New York in 2015 requires these states to now translate the ambitious and transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national priorities and to marshal the required resources and build the necessary partnerships with civil society and the private sector for successful implementation.

Parliamentarians have an opportunity, and a constitutional responsibility, to play a significant role in supporting and monitoring SDG implementation. The Agenda 2030 Declaration acknowledges the "essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets, and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments." Members of parliament are uniquely positioned to act as an interface between the people and state institutions, and to promote and adopt people-centered policies and legislation to ensure that no one is left behind. The successful implementation of Agenda 2030 requires an integrated approach, partnerships and participation through inclusive political processes and responsive, effective, accountable institutions. It will require global and regional exchanges of experiences between countries to identify solutions for planning, budgeting, implementing and monitoring progress toward achieving the SDGs, as well as tracking where and how funds are spent to curb corruption and assess the impact of these initiatives on the lives of people – especially women and members of marginalized and disadvantaged groups.

Two Key Action Points

- ***Multi-stakeholder platform should not suffer due to poor government engagement CSOs to take lead using the leverage of donor community to lead national water and sanitation platform***
- ***Harp on Mutual Accountability Mechanisms for equal opportunity and informed decisions***
- ***Monitor policy process and safeguard against government inconsistencies***

Attachments

Annex I Proposed Actions under the National Action plan for the Protection of Human Rights

Annex II – Coverage Data and Baseline for Safely Managed WASH

Annex III – Mandate of Sector Players

Annex IV – Key Activities in Mainstreaming SDG 6

Annex V – Sector Targets and Milestones