

Traffic Lights Paper

Progress on SACOSAN IV commitments

Prepared by Right to Sanitation Campaign in South Asia, October 2013

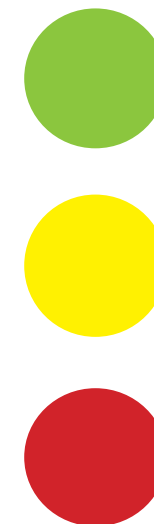




South Asian and UK Parliamentarians discussing Sanitation issues in South Asia and appealed for SAARC attention to the same



Progress on SACOSAN IV commitments



In July 2010 a resolution was passed at the United Nations explicitly recognising the Right to Sanitation as a Human Right. This resolution was signed by all eight countries whose reports have been consolidated in this Traffic Lights Paper for the South Asia Region. At SACOSAN IV in 2011, these countries made 13 commitments to end sanitation crisis in the region. This paper then is an attempt to record and evaluate the progress made since then by the Governments who will be represented at SACOSAN V in Nepal in October 2013.

Methodology

The concept of presenting this progress (or lack of it) in a visual form through what has been termed a Traffic Lights Paper had been used by civil society organisations in SACOSAN IV. However, on reviewing the previous effort, a concern was expressed by a number of civil society groups that perhaps the 'scoring' was somewhat subjective. Therefore a scoring methodology was developed that could contribute to a more objective scoring system that could apply across the region.

This methodology involved the listing out of a set of verifiable indicators for each of the main commitments made at SACOSAN IV. Based on the number of indicators present and evidenced, each country was to be awarded a score that indicated its progress (or lack of it) towards fulfilling that particular commitment. This methodology was reviewed and adapted as per the advice of the RCCT of RtS campaign before being sent out to all the countries.

The following guidelines were offered to all countries

participating in the preparation of their respective National TLPs, on the basis of which the final Regional TLP would be prepared: (i) A civil society National Consultant (NC) was to be engaged to facilitate the process in each country. This NC was expected to prepare a Zero Draft of a National TLP based on desk research and consultations with a few experts in the field. (ii) This zero draft was to be widely disseminated and comments solicited from civil society groups and individuals. It was specifically mentioned that there was need for supporting evidence to be presented to justify the 'scores' given.

In addition, in order to further enhance the validity of the final Regional TLP document (iii) The NC was also expected to engage with relevant government officers to get their feedback on the progress made on each of the commitments. (iv) Based on all this feedback, the NC would prepare a first draft which would be presented at a national consultation meeting – at which every effort would be made to include a wide range of Civil Society representatives and government officials as participants. (v) Finally in the light of the discussions at the consultation, the NC together with the NCCT was expected to prepare a final report and send it to the Regional Resource Person (RRP), who would then consolidate the same. The NCCT was composed of representatives from FANSA, WaterAid and other key stakeholder organizations in each country.

Countries adapted this proposed process according to the exigencies of their own particular situation.

In the case of **Bangladesh** the additional step was that the national consultant was selected after an initial meeting of stakeholders. However a final national consultation could not be held.

In **India** the only variance from the proposed process was that Government officials were not able to attend the consultation. However, government representatives did provide very comprehensive feedback which included a face-of civil society and to-face meeting with the NC (for India) and the National Convenor of the NCCT.

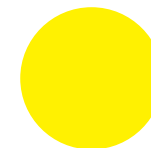
In **Nepal** the civil society groups did not carry out the initial step of consulting with various civil society stakeholders before preparing the draft TLP, but this was prepared by the NC in consultation with the NCCT. Simultaneously the Government too prepared its own report and asked key stakeholders for their feedback. Then at a National Consultation organised, at which a large number government representatives were present, both the government draft and the Civil Society drafts were presented and debated, and a consensus was developed. In the case of **Sri Lanka** too there was no National Consultation meeting, but a lot of the comments were received from different sources including Government, UN agencies and Civil Society organisations. These were compiled by the person in charge.

In the case of **Pakistan** an even more robust process than suggested was employed. After initial discussions between two major Civil Society organisation/network representatives, a first workshop was conducted at which a wide spectrum of people both from within the

government and other sections of society including the private sector and subject experts were present. At this workshop the entire TLP process and scoring indicators were shared thoroughly. Subsequently based on the required desk research and consultations a draft was sent out to key WASH sector experts, government officials and civil society groups. It was also shared and discussed with the Climate Change division and government personnel involved in preparing for SACOSAN V.

Revisions were then made and once again the new draft was shared and discussed extensively with all the above groups at a second workshop, at which after much discussion and debate a consensus was developed both with the government and the civil society representatives as well as other sector representatives who had been invited. Finally a further review meeting was held at the Climate Change Division office, at which government, UNICEF and civil society representatives were actively present. All these processes were facilitated by the NC.

As the Right to Sanitation Campaign and its collaborating organizations do not have any presence in Afghanistan, Bhutan and Maldives, the UNICEF Regional Office in Kathmandu was approached for support and thus the process in these three countries was led by UNICEF representatives who did not follow the process used in the other countries. However, the indicators used were the same.



The consolidated colour coded regional TLP is included in the following pages, which also includes the scoring methodology used in relationship to the indicators. In addition to the above, some general comments may be made regarding this consolidated TLP:

a) Though there was a request to focus only on progress made since the last SACOSAN IV, many of the reports did not do this for various reasons, one of them being the claim that decisions or actions taken before 2011 were still in force even during the past two years.

b) It also needs to be stated that the degree of rigour of scoring varied significantly across countries. Therefore it would not be valid to compare the colour codes across countries. As a result the evidence seems to indicate that a country which shows green in one commitment may in actuality have progressed less than another country which shows yellow for the same commitment. This means that the colour codes need to be understood as the evaluation of progress made within each country - with red indicating the least progress within a country and green indicating the greatest progress.

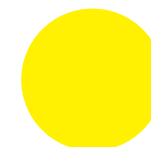
c) Again, as far as the matter of evidence offered to support the scoring given, there was great unevenness in this, with civil society organisations in some countries offering better and clearer evidence than those in others.

d) As far as the Right to Sanitation is concerned, in Maldives the constitution in 2008 recognized the right to Sanitation and guarantees every citizen the right to adequate sewerage facilities. Furthermore a Water and Sanitation Act has been prepared and sent to Parliament in 2013 and is pending approval. In Bhutan

there has been a royal decree to this effect from 1992. In the case of Nepal, the Interim Constitution of Nepal (2007) states that "every person shall have the right to live in a healthy environment" and this is taken to include a right to sanitation. However, this Constitution has not yet been officially promulgated. In the other countries represented in this Regional TLP, though the Governments have all signed the UN resolution of July 2010, there has been no significant further action that moved the respective countries to the promulgation of a justiciable Human Right to Sanitation.

e) Despite the above assessment, the evidence offered by the various countries seems to indicate that the Governments in the region are indeed making efforts to expand Sanitation entitlements through schemes and allocation of increased resources (financial and sometimes human resources). However, only some of the countries (Bhutan, India, Nepal and Maldives) seem to have a dedicated budget for sanitation and hygiene within their National budgets.

f) A score was also given on each commitment for the Region as a whole. However here the scoring was done in a different manner to guide the awarding of a traffic light. After adding all the individual scores from each country, a percentage was calculated for the region. Any commitment which received an overall percentage of less than 40% (i.e. not much progress) was given a red traffic light; any percentage that was over 40% (i.e. real progress) was given a yellow traffic light, and any percentage over 70% (significant progress) was given a green traffic light. This percentage scoring was followed because it would have been unhelpful to use the same scoring system that was used for the indicators (where RED = a ZERO score), since even if ONE country had a score of 1 then the total would be more than ZERO.



Assessment of progress against the commitments made in SACOSAN IV

 Action implemented and maintained

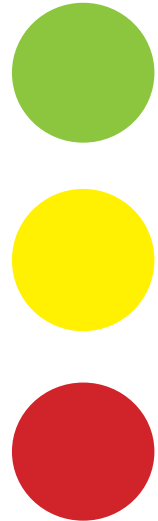
 Process started/Some action taken

 No action taken

#	SACOSAN-4 Commitments	Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Afghanistan	Bhutan	Maldives	Regional Score (RED=Below 40%, YELLOW=40% plus, GREEN=Above 70%)
1	Work progressively to recognize the right to sanitation in programmes and projects and eventually in legislation.									Regional Score= 38% It would seem that except for Maldives, Bhutan, and Nepal not enough progress has been made in the region towards establishing Sanitation as a Justiciable Human Right. And even in these three countries the progress that did take place took place before SACOSAN IV
2	To develop time-bound plans and to allocate and mobilise resources for delivering on all previous SACOSAN commitments.									Regional Score= 75% The Region seems to have made significant progress in allocating resources
3	Design and deliver context-specific equitable and inclusive sanitation and hygiene programmes including better identification of the poorest and most marginalized groups in rural and urban areas, including transparent targeting of financing to programmes for those who need them most, taking into account the challenge of protecting the environment and responding to emergencies and climate change.									Regional Score = 64% Definitely an attempt has been made in the region towards focussing on the excluded, though in five of the countries it is not enough.
4	Raise the profile of WASH in schools with the objective of ensuring that every new and existing school at every educational level has functioning, child-friendly toilets, separate for girls and boys, with facilities for menstrual hygiene management.									Regional Score = 52% While there is a general consensus on the need to focus on WASH in schools in the region, not enough has been achieved in this regard, though attempts are certainly being made.
5	Establish one national body with responsibility for coordinating sanitation and hygiene, involving all stakeholders including, but not limited to, those responsible for finance, health, public health, environment, water, education, gender and local government at national, subnational and local levels.									Regional Score = 38% The region has apparently been generally recalcitrant to establish an overarching separate National Body to implement the commitments of the SACOSAN IV
6	Establish specific public sector budget allocations for sanitation and hygiene programs.									Regional Score = 58% As mentioned under commitment # 2, there has been some real progress made in increasing allocations for SANITATION, but more needs to be done in this regard in some countries
7	Progressively increase allocations to sanitation and hygiene.									

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8	Recognise the importance of people's own contribution to sanitation and to ensure that policies and programmes empower communities to invest in and control their own sanitation solutions while protecting the poorest.	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	RED	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	Regional Score = 58% Some efforts have been made in this regard but the evidence offered indicates that it is not really one of the priorities of the Governments concerned. Moreover the focus of Governments is more on people's contribution than on being accountable to the people.
9	Develop harmonised monitoring mechanisms with roles and responsibilities clearly defined, using agreed common indicators which measure and report on processes and outcomes at every level including households and communities, and which allow for disaggregated reporting of outcomes for marginalised and vulnerable groups.	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	Regional Score = 35% The establishment of clear outcome monitoring indicators is a commitment on which the countries of the region have not progressed very much. Allocation of resources without this would only feed into siphoning out of these very allocations.
10	Include in monitoring mechanisms specific indicators for high priority measures such as WASH in schools, handwashing and menstrual hygiene.	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	YELLOW	Regional Score = 52% It would seem that the establishment of WASH indicators for schools is a bit better than what was referred to in the previous commitment, but it is certainly not enough
11	Adopt participation, inclusion and social accountability mechanisms from planning through to implementation in all sanitation and hygiene programmes at the community level, particularly for the most marginalised areas and vulnerable groups.	YELLOW	GREEN	YELLOW	RED	YELLOW	GREEN	GREEN	YELLOW	Regional Score = 60% While people participation has been encouraged, developing social accountability mechanisms has lagged behind. Without this it would be difficult to really ensure implementation at the ground level.
12	Build and strengthen capacity for sanitation and hygiene implementation, including investing in higher education facilities, development of curricula, research and development, and knowledge exchange and partnership development.	YELLOW	YELLOW	GREEN	YELLOW	YELLOW	RED	YELLOW	YELLOW	Regional Score = 35% On this aspect of finding newer and/or more effective ways of ensuring that Sanitation goals have to be achieved all the countries in the region need to do much more
13	Ensure the effectiveness of the SACOSAN process by committing to report specifically against these and all other SACOSAN commitments when we meet again in Nepal in two years' time, inviting participation from ministries of finance, health, education and other relevant ministries in all future meetings.	The RCCT in collaboration with the country NCCTs decided not to score this commitment for obvious reasons since it refers to action to be taken in SACOSAN V.								

This document has been put together by the Regional Campaign Coordination Team of the Right to Sanitation Campaign with the scoring in each country put together by the national teams. Mr. Josantony Joseph as the Regional Resource Person provided valuable inputs in this process of bringing out the Regional TLP. In the case of Afghanistan, Bhutan and Maldives the process was led by UNICEF (an inter-governmental agency) in close coordination and engagement with concerned Government agencies. A good number of major sector and non-sector stakeholders, including government agencies, were engaged/consulted in the process. The entire process was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and WaterAid UK.



The **South Asia Campaign on Right to Sanitation** is an effort by a collective of more than hundred CSO networks and organizations to establish the “right to sanitation of all” particularly for the marginalized, poor and excluded in South Asia.

For more information, please contact:

Nepal: nptimsina@gmail.com rabinlalshrestha@wateraid.org

Bangladesh: milonbpaul@gmail.com

India: convenor@fansasia.net mamatadash@wateraid.org

Pakistan: zia@awazcds.org.pk abdulhafeez@wateraid.org