

Webinar  
On

**WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) SYSTEM STRENGTHENING: SHARING OF EXPERIENCES OF MUNICIPALITY WASH PLANS AND EXPLORING MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES AHEAD**

Organized by: Smart WASH Solutions  
In collaboration with Agenda for Change, Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management & Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN)  
15th February 2021 | 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM GMT

**PRESENTERS/SPEAKERS**



**Er. Sunil Kumar Das**  
Joint Secretary  
Ministry of Water Supply



**Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha**  
President, MuAN



**Mr. Dandi Ram Bishwakarma**  
WASH Specialist  
UNICEF Nepal



**Dr. Rajit Ojha**  
Senior Division Engineer  
Dept of Water Supply  
and Sewerage Management



**Mr. Hari Narayan Chaudhary**, Mayor  
Dhangadimai Municipality



**Mrs. Gita Kumari Gurung**  
Chairman, Ichhakamana  
Rural Municipality



**Er. Hari Prasad Sharma**  
CEO  
Smart WASH Solutions

**REMARKS**



**Dr. Bharat Kumar Pokharel**  
Country Director  
HELVETAS Nepal



**Er. Ganesh Shah**  
Former Minister  
Government of Nepal



**Mr. Harka Bahadur Chhetri**  
Director  
Smart WASH Solutions

**COMMENTATOR**



**Mr. Suman Prasad Sharma**  
Former Secretary  
GoN

**MODERATOR**



**Er. Ramdeep Sah**  
Chairman  
Smart WASH Solutions

**ZOOM WEBINAR**

**FACEBOOK LIVE**

[www.facebook.com/smart.wash.315](http://www.facebook.com/smart.wash.315)

**ZOOM LINK**

<http://tiny.cc/watersanitation>

Meeting ID: **845 3868 0741**  
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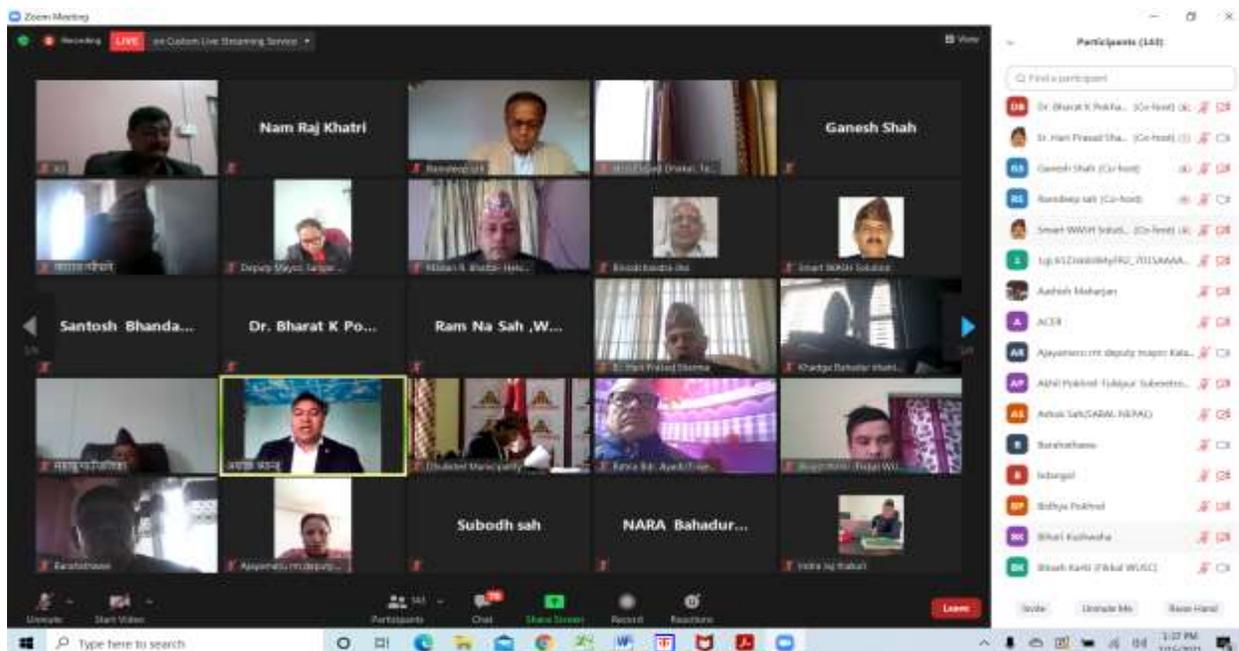



**Webinar on**  
**WASH System Strengthening: Sharing of Experiences of Municipality WASH Plans and Exploring More Effective Measures Ahead**  
**A Summary Report**

## Background

Nepal has been making efforts to realize its SDG targets and other commitments related to WASH by the stipulated time. Experiences so far have shown that the efforts need to be more intensified ahead and focus on WASH system strengthening, which is prerequisite for improved and sustainable service delivery. Exchange of ideas/opinions and discussions among the government agencies, nongovernmental and civic society organizations, working in the sector and other relevant stakeholders are essential to assess the sector's overall status and plan more effective interventions ahead. Such interactions help identify good practices, issues and collaborative measures in the chosen theme. Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual means was the safer way for the interaction program. Hence, a webinar on "WASH System Strengthening: Sharing of Experiences of Municipality WASH Plans and Exploring More Effective Measures Ahead" took place under the Agenda for Change country collaboration initiative.

The webinar was organized by Smart WASH Solutions with financial and technical supports from Agenda for Change and its members in Nepal: Helvetas, Welthungerhilfe, WaterAid and Care on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 during 13:00 – 16:00 hours (GMT +5:45). Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management and Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) also collaborated to organize the event.



## Objective

The main objective of this webinar was to review the implementation of the WaSH plan preparation guidelines and NwASH apps, share the experiences of few municipalities who have recently prepared WaSH plan and to recommend more effective measures for WASH system strengthening ahead, especially in the post COVID-19 situation.

## Program schedule

Time	Programs
12:45 – 13:00	Joining the webinar
13:00 – 13:05	Objective and Welcome Remarks : Dr. Bharat Kumar Pokharel, Country Director, HELVETAS Nepal
13:05 – 13:20	Opening Remarks: a) Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha, President, Municipal Association of Nepal b) Er. Sunil Kumar Das, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Supply c) Er. Ganesh Shah, Former Minister, Government of Nepal
	<b>Technical Session, Moderated By: Er. RamdeepSah, Chairman, Smart WASH Solutions</b>
13:20 – 13:35	<b>Key-Note Presentation 1: Er. Sunil Kumar Das, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Supply</b> <i>Topic: Nepal Government Policy and Guidelines on WASH Plan</i>
13:35 – 13:50	<b>Presentation 2: Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha, President, MuAN</b> <i>Topic: Role of MuAN to roll out WASH in Municipalities of Nepal</i>
13:50 – 14:05	<b>Presentation 3: Er. Dandi Ram Bishwakarma, WASH Specialist, UNICEF Nepal</b> <i>Topic: Status, Issues and Challenges related to WASH Plan Preparation &amp; Way Forward</i>
14:05 – 14:25	<b>Presentation 4: Dr. RajitOjha, Senior Divisional Engineer, Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management</b>

	<i>Topic: Application of N-WASH Apps in WASH Planning Process: Issues, Challenges and Way Forward</i>
14:25 – 14:40	<b>Presentation 5: Mr. Hari Narayan Chaudhary, Mayor, Dhangadimai Municipality</b> <i>Topic: Experiences and Outcomes of WASH Plan</i>
14:40 – 14:55	<b>Presentation 6: Ms. Gita Kumari Gurung, Chairman, Ichhakamana Rural Municipality</b> <i>Topic: Experiences and Outcomes of WASH Plan</i>
14:55 – 15:10	<b>Presentation 7: Er. Hari Prasad Sharma, CEO, Smart WASH Solutions</b> <i>Topic: Scanning WASH Planning Process, Gap Identification and Way Forward</i>
15:10 – 15:40	Floor Discussion / Question and Answer
15:40 – 15:50	<b>Commentator: Mr. Suman Prasad Sharma, Former Secretary, GoN</b>
15:50 – 15:55	Summary of the Session: Er. Ramdeep Sah, Chairman, Smart WASH Solutions
15:55 – 16:00	Vote of thanks: Mr. Harka Bahadur Chhetri, Director, Smart WASH Solutions

## Participants

There were about 100 participants from government agencies, national and international Non-governmental organizations, academia, local governments and media in the webinar. The number of the participants reached up to 140 sometimes during the 4 hour long webinar.

## Key Outputs / Discussion points

- The webinar introduced the Agenda for Change, its objectives and members in Nepal.
- It discussed different aspects of the WASH plan being prepared in the local governments – municipalities, rural municipalities in the country and its potential to contribute to WASH system strengthening.
- The webinar reviewed the Nepal Government's policy and guidelines on WASH plan, highlighted key features of National WASH apps for WASH planning process.
- It shared experiences and outcomes of WASH plans from two municipalities which have already prepared the plans. They extended practical tips to the municipalities which have yet to prepare the plan.
- The webinar discussed various issues and challenges related to WASH planning process and WASH system strengthening in the country, particularly at the local government level and recommended way forward.

## Conclusion and Way Forward

1. WaSH plan covers major components of WaSH such as water supply, sanitation, toilets, solid waste and drainage management etc at household, community and institutional levels. It assesses the present situation and guides future investment in the WaSH sector at the local levels. The data and information compiled in the WaSH plan is linked to the national database system. This, thus, supports strengthening the MIS system in the WASH.

2. WaSH plan clearly focuses on achieving the SDG goal 6.1 and 6.2 while it also contributes to the goal 6.3 and 6.4 to some extent. But it does not have tangible interventions to address the goal 6.5 - IWRM at all level and reducing transboundary water source issues. It focuses on provision of WaSH system within municipality only. WaSH plan also has potential to contribute to the SDG 6.6 A

and 6. 6 B. It assumes support of national and international partners for the capacity building and investment and insists on enhancing local capacity for the management of WaSH system. However, it needs to outline the specific framework and the activities in this regard.

3. WaSH plan assumes provision of WaSH services as one time event. It considers initial investment and does not care much of operational cost over life cycle of the system. It does not take into account the operational issues and strengthening operational management. WaSH plan guideline should provide framework for sustainable operation of the WaSH system. The WaSH plan should include operational approach, technologies and life cycle costing as well.

4. WaSH plan enlists the projects and activities to be implemented to improve the WASH services. But it does not deal with the issues related to institutional and investment capacity of the local governments and organizations for implementation of the plan. Institutional capacity of the implementing agencies and the service providers are the essential elements of system strengthening. There should be specific provision to enhance the capacity of the local governments. This has to be addressed by national policy and guideline on WaSH.

5. System strengthening should be guided by the broader legal framework of the country. However, the current WaSH plan guideline is not linked to any prominent legal documents - policy, act, rules and regulations related to WASH. For the real long term strengthening of WaSH system, the policy, act, guideline and regulations at the national, provincial and local level should specify how to operate the WaSH system in a sustainable manner. It will be better to prepare or update those documents first in the overall national context and revise WaSH plan guideline accordingly.

6. The WaSH plans prepared so far do not directly make provision for WASH requirement in view of COVID-19. However, as the WaSH plan aims to achieve provision of WaSH facilities for all and in all situations, it has potential to address need for WaSH facilities during the time of outbreak of diseases and the pandemic like COVID 19. The WaSH plan to be prepared in the days ahead should include specific mechanism to provide enough WaSH facilities even during the emergency situations caused by the pandemic. WaSH plan needs to adapt to COVID 19 context and should have measures to address demand for more water and facilities to maintain hand hygiene and protect the people from getting infected by the virus.