

Symposium Proceedings, 2010

## Regional Symposium on Total Sanitation Movement in Nepal Lessons, Challenges and Way Forward



### Organised By:



Mid Western Regional WASH  
Coordination Committee



WASH RCNN



WSSCC Nepal WASH Coalition



ENPHO



NEWAH

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## Preface

As the countdown to achieving the Millennium Development Goals of halving the proportion of people without sanitation by 2015 and attaining the national goal of universal access to sanitation by 2017 is narrowing down, a lot of effort needs to be put in to speed up service delivery from the national to the local level. Serving 53 percent of the population as targeted to meet the MDGs appears possible, but at the current rate of progress providing basic sanitation facilities to all the Nepali people within the next seven years requires huge and continuous efforts and investments from all sectors, both government and non government. Timely achievement of the national goal for sanitation means shifting from a project or activity based programme simply focused in small pocket areas to a large movement based programme encompassing large population size of communities, VDCs and districts.



Of the five development regions in Nepal the Mid Western Region ranks the second last in terms of sanitation coverage. Hence, taking all these into account a Mid Western Regional WASH Coordination Committee has been formed. It is a strategy to achieve total sanitation in the region within the targeted period, advancing sanitation promotion in the form of a large campaign. The committee exists to increase collaboration and coordination among all sector stakeholders present in the region, to undertake sanitation as a priority agenda by avoiding duplication, adopting uniformity, building capacity and effectively mobilising resources. Besides, it has also created a forum for debate, discussion and consensus building for sanitation promotion among all concerned.

Thus, this Regional Symposium on Sanitation Movement in Nepal has been organised at an opportune time here in Nepalgunj. It has provided a platform for all concerned agencies to come together and discuss about approaches, technologies of sanitation promotion, what has worked, what has not, the challenges faced, key lessons drawn and the opportunities that lie ahead. I hope the learning will provide further boost and guidance for the success of the campaign in the region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abadh Kishore Mishra', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Abadh Kishore Mishra,**  
Chief  
Regional Monitoring and Supervision Directorate, Surkhet

# Acknowledgment

This Regional Symposium on '**Total Sanitation Movement in Nepal – Lessons, Challenges & Way Forward**' organised in the Mid Western Region, Nepalgunj to bring together sector stakeholders including government representatives and media in a forum, where existing good practices, lessons learned and challenges faced in total sanitation service delivery (including both approaches and technologies) has been noteworthy.



I believe, it has been instrumental to provide a common forum to share existing knowledge and good practices on sanitation approaches & technologies, lesson learned and challenges faced in total sanitation movement at the district level in Nepal. Similarly the participants of the symposium have had an opportunity to discuss and identify strengths and areas of improvement on possible technological options and approaches that could help scale up total sanitation in the region and the country.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all the agencies, the paper presenters and participants, without their effort and invaluable participation this symposium would not have been meaningful. Accordingly, I would like to appreciate the cooperation of all the members of WSSCC Nepal WASH Coalition. I would also like to thank, Mr. Dinesh Upreti, Regional Manager of NEWAH Mid and Far Western Regional office and his team, Mr. Ratan Budhathoki, Mr. Bharat Adhikari, Mr. Bharat Prasad Bhatta, Ms. Anamika Singh Bhandary and Ms. Anusha Airi of NEWAH who have played an important role to design, coordinate and manage this symposium on behalf of the organisers.

On behalf of the organising team I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the cooperation, contribution and the role played by Mr. Abadh Kishore Mishra, the Chief of the Regional Monitoring and Supervision Directorate, Surkhet to make this symposium a success.

Last but not the least, I am grateful to WASH RCNN, ENPHO and WSSCC Secretariat in Geneva for their funding and moral support to initiate such constructive and worthwhile forum in Nepal.



**Umesh Pandey**  
WSSCC National Coordinator

## **Introduction**

A Regional symposium on Total Sanitation Movement in Nepal - Lessons, Challenges and Way forward was organised in the Mid Western Region of Nepal in Nepalgunj, Swastik Cottage on 9 December 2010, organised collaboratively by the Mid Western Regional WASH Coordination Committee, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene-Resource Centre Network Nepal (WASH-RCNN), Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) Nepal WASH Coalition, Environment and Public Health Organisation (ENPHO) and Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH). Around 50 participants from 11 districts in the region participated in the programme. The programme was facilitated by Homnath Acharya, WASH Advisor, SNV Nepal.

### **One: Opening session**

The opening session was chaired by Rabin Bastola, National Coordinator, WASH-RCNN as the chairperson, Abadh Kishore Mishra, Regional Director, Regional Monitoring and Supervision Directorate, Surkhet under Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS) as the chief guest, Umesh Pandey, National Coordinator, WSSCC Nepal WASH Chapter and Rajesh Adhikari, Programme Manager, ENPHO as special guests.

#### **1.1 Welcome**

Welcoming the participants to the regional symposium on behalf of the organisers Dinesh Upreti, Regional Manager pointed to the poor sanitation condition of the country as opposed to water and the need to share and apply knowledge generated at different level in the region in the process of sanitation promotion and direct efforts towards improving the situation.

#### **1.2 Inauguration**

Followed by this Abadh Kishore Mishra officially inaugurated the programme by lighting a candle.

#### **1.3 Highlight on Objectives**

To help the participants better understand the objectives of the symposium Umesh Pandey shared facts and figures on the poor sanitation scenario of the country. He informed that still 16 million people in Nepal are compelled to defecate in the open and as per the Joint Monitoring Progress Report of 2010. Globally Nepal also falls among the ten countries where the most open defecation takes place. He also pointed that children, women, people with disability, old, excluded groups and poor are more impacted by the lack of access to sanitation. That women and girls are more prone to face problems in schools, while traveling, police officers, street vendors while out in the street, girls and women are as much vulnerable to abuse and violence in the absence of toilets etc. He said that in context of this present scenario, this symposium would provide the opportunity to learn from the total sanitation campaign implemented by various bodies in the Mid Western region and to proceed based on this learning.

#### **1.4 Objectives**

- To initiate a common forum to share existing knowledge and good practices on sanitation approaches & technologies, lesson learned and challenge faced in total sanitation movement in Nepal.

- To discuss and identify strengths and areas of improvement on possible technological options that could help scale up total sanitation approaches in Nepal.

### 1.5 Opening Note

On his opening note Abadh Kishore Mishra highlighted that sanitation sector progress has not been as expected although Nepal is close to 2017 by when achieving total sanitation access in the country has been targeted. Expressing that the current progress and model adopted is not enough to achieve the goal within these seven years, he stressed that continuous efforts from all sectors is necessary. He further informed that the Mid Western Regional WASH Coordination Committee, Surkhet had been formed at the Mid Western Regional level as a strategy to achieve total sanitation in the region within the aimed period. He elaborated that rather than taking small pocket areas to promote sanitation and focusing on activity based programme a larger campaign was necessary. Hence, the target of the regional coordination committee was to take sanitation forward as a campaign and movement. Mishra informed and added that commitment has been reached to move ahead in a unified manner following uniform approaches, making people realise the importance of sanitation - changing their attitude and behaviour.

He also expressed the need for line agencies to work according to the existing national sanitation policy and stressed that the speedy approval of the National Hygiene and Sanitation Master Plan followed by revision of the national sanitation policy would pave way for effective and timely implementation of this plan. Mishra hoped that this symposium would provide further impetus and guidance to this campaign and ended his note by wishing for success of the symposium.

### 1.6 Closing the session with vote of thanks

At the close of the opening session Rabin Bastola expressed that at present the Total Sanitation campaign has been gaining momentum in the country and is taken to heart by all concerned bodies. He praised that the coordination committee formed in the Mid Western region comprising of various stakeholders is a great encouragement for the sector. He informed that the symposium has been organised with the objective of supporting this kind of campaign in the country, bringing into discussion – the lessons and challenges faced in sanitation promotion and generating learning and working out the future direction on required policy, technology, approaches as well as the role civil society could play to support the total sanitation movement in the region. He thanked all for their valued presence in the symposium.



Rabin Bastola, WASH RCNN, National Coordinator closing the opening session

## **Two: Knowledge Sharing Session**

### 2.1 Introduction of Participants

Prior to the knowledge sharing session all the participants took turns to introduce themselves. The programme was participated by government representatives representing the Regional Monitoring and Supervision Office, Surkhet, District Development Committee (DDC), Village Development Committee (VDC), District Health Office - Sub Health Posts, District Water Supply and Sanitation Division Office (DWSSDO), Federation of Water and

Sanitation Users Nepal (FEDWASUN), local and national NGOs, INGOs, human rights activists, Community Forestry Users representatives and media persons from 11 districts of the Mid Western region - Kalikot, Surkhet, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Banke, Baridya, Rukum, Rolpa, Pyuthan, Dang, Salyan and members of the organising team (*Name list of participants is in Annex 1*).

**Existing policies and provisions that support total sanitation movement in Nepal - Abadh Kishore Mishra, Regional Director, Regional Monitoring and Supervision Office, Surkhet**

**On sanitation policies and provisions:** Mishra informed about the various policy provisions that exists to support sanitation promotion in Nepal tracing it back to 1994 as the following:

- Water Resources Act – 2049 (1994)
- National Sanitation Policy 1994 (B.S. 2050)
- Water Supply related National Policy 1998 (2054)
- Local Self Governance Act 2055 (1999)
- Rural Water Supply and Sanitation National Policy and Strategy 2060 (2004)
- Urban Water Supply and Sanitation National Policy and Strategy 2009 (2066)
- MDG Goal 2000
- National Hygiene and Sanitation Master Plan (awaiting endorsement)

He informed that the national sanitation policy 1994 although very good in paper with policy directives to all stakeholders to develop a multi year, multi sectoral programme, ensure 50% or more participation of women in programmes, focus on capacity building and institutional development, provide appropriate technological options etc. for sanitation promotion, it has not operationalised effectively.

Further he also shared key points of what the other policies provisioned for sanitation promotion in Nepal. The Water Supply National Policy 1998 emphasised on implementing sanitation programmes as an integral part of water supply programmes, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation National Policy and Strategy 2004 – stressed on providing safe and adequate water supply and sanitation facilities to all the Nepali people, especially targeting the poor and marginalised groups and communities, also dealing with water quality issues, forming a water and sanitation users federation etc. He also informed that the National Hygiene and Sanitation master plan that awaited cabinet endorsement would guide in speeding up the total sanitation movement in Nepal.



Abadh K. Mishra delivering his presentation on sanitation policies and provisions

**Mid Western regional level efforts on sanitation promotion:** They were pointed by Mishra as:

- Realisation brought among responsible person and bodies of their responsibility towards sanitation promotion
- Sanitation initiated as a debate by concerned people and bodies
- Action plan development effort in the working area
- Sanitation strategy and working policy of all districts falling in the region developed
- Declaration to implement the sanitation policy with confidence
- Implementation of sanitation programmes with priority

- Regional WASH Coordination Committee formed (19 March 2010)
- Based on consultation with stakeholders an agreement reached to take forward programmes in a coordinated manner by bringing uniformity in working approaches
- Regional Stakeholders Workshop organized passing the Surkhet Declaration Paper (10 May 2010)
- Decision to implement 'Concrete and Progressive Sanitation Promotion Programme' in the Mid and Far Western region through consensus among stakeholders (17 June 2010)
- Effort to make programmes successful and sustainable in an institutionalized manner by forming coordination committees at different levels
- Establishment of a resource centre
- By building capacity of various groups and individuals take their support to create a whirlwind of awareness (resource person developed and mobilised at the district level)
- Mobilisation of locally available resources as a priority for sanitation promotion based on conformity

**2.2 Possible technological options that could help scale up total sanitation - Prem Krishna Shrestha, Senior Divisional Engineer, Regional Monitoring and Supervision Office, Surkhet**



**What is total sanitation and how to ensure toilets for all:** Clarifying among participants what total sanitation entailed Prem Krishna Shrestha, Senior Divisional Engineer, Regional Monitoring and Supervision Office, Surkhet said it was not only to massively work towards the ODF campaign, it meant everyone having access to toilets. According to Shrestha building HH toilets, shared toilets, community toilets, public toilets etc. as per requirement and priority of the area to be declared ODF would actually ensure everyone with an access to a toilet. To further elaborate this point he cited example of Surkhet district where ODF has been hindered due to absence of public toilets in the bus stop area where people heavily commute to and fro and defecate openly.

**Existing problems and solutions:** He also clarified that as long as the problems people face in using a toilet are not understood it is difficult to make them use it. Taking various examples, he explained that toilets should be sanitary, safe, comfortable, user friendly, disable friendly, easy for maintenance etc. which are also the basic requisites. He also demonstrated the various types of household toilet in use in Nepal and recommended that septic tanks, bio gas need to be promoted in densely populated and semi urban areas. Further Shrestha also pointed the problems found in existing toilets and solutions for it as below

- temporary toilets collapsing - necessary to line the pit
- toilets filling up, difficult to maintain and clean - twin pit toilets
- problem of odour, flies – use of water seal, cover, ash etc.
- difficult to use, not in use – build proper super structure
- water scarcity, dirty – make pit, ecosan toilet
- not in use by all – make it child and gender friendly etc.

**Knowledge & skill transfer and additional options:** He also emphasised that it was necessary to provide additional options to give people more choices e.g. dry ecosan toilets, ecosan with water facility, compost toilet, Sulabh toilet, biogas attached toilet etc., technical knowledge and skill transfer at the local level such as trainings to local masons, booklets and guidelines on total sanitation, toilet types, maintenance, pictorial guidelines, constructing toilet models and making sanitation materials easily accessible. For this he stressed on the need to revive the concept of Sanimart.

#### 2.4 District total sanitation campaign (lessons and challenges), Pyuthan –Govinda Bhurtel, WASH Engineer, DDC, Pyuthan

The Pyuthan District total sanitation campaign presentation was structured in the order of background, approaches and strategies of the total sanitation campaign, the process supported by major actions, review and reflection, policy decisions, outputs, challenges, learning and opportunities for scaling up.



**Background:** Making a presentation on behalf of Pyuthan DDC, Govinda Bhurtel, WASH Engineer, DDC, Pyuthan began by quoting “Water is life, sanitation and hygienic behaviour a process of a healthy life style, thus staying clean and healthy an individual’s social responsibility.” It was informed that the Pyuthan district launched the district total ODF campaign in 2008 targeting to achieve total ODF by 2013, trying to complement the national total sanitation goal of 2017. According to Bhurtel the sanitation coverage of the district at the time was about 18.2 percent and by end of 2010 the coverage status reached up to 39.33 percent with 17 thousand 463 HHs with latrines out of 44 thousand 399 HHs in the district.

**Approach and Process:** A decision was taken by all the district level stakeholders to launch a district ODF campaign on the occasion of International Year of Sanitation 2008 to achieve district total sanitation by 2013 and a 10 point Pyuthan Declaration was made as an outcome of a two days workshop held in the district headquarters from 17-18 December 2008 (2-3 Poush 2065), stated Bhurtel. A strategy was developed and a coordination committee formed to back up the declaration. The declaration covered the following key points:

- Setting a deadline for total district coverage by December 2013,
- Invitation to all the sector agencies, political parties, support agencies, media, civil society, CBOs, local clubs, youths, mother groups, forest users groups to take up sanitation as a common agenda and with priority in their programmes to contribute towards the total sanitation campaign,
- To take Bijuwar Indredanda tole an ODF declared area as a model for gradual replication and scaling up in other parts of the district,
- Setting up a information and documentation desk within DDC and DWSSDO equipped with database system for regular updates from all networks, and monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place,
- Establishment of basket fund and mobilisation of human and financial resources with necessary capacity building as well as making influencing effective to support sanitation, programmes in potential backward section of society and remote areas identified
- Compulsory allocation of 20% of water and sanitation budget for sanitation and ensure the best utilisation of this allocated fund at the local level,
- Decision to request all the donor and support agencies to invest certain amount of their funding to the basket fund for sanitation promotion,
- Media mobilisation for mass awareness raising in the district,



Govinda Bhurtel speaking on Surkhet district total sanitation campaign

- Promoting sanitation through the use of slogan '*San 2013, Sarsafai Purna Pyuthan Hera*' and '*Ghar Gharma Charpee Jillako San, Purna Sarsafai Yukta Pyuthan Hamro Pahichan*'

Based on this, a five year action plan was developed and executed accordingly. The progress and challenges were assessed through a workshop in September 2010 and gaps were identified. Based on this analysis, a new strategy and plan was developed and endorsed by the district level stakeholders meeting to enable the execution of action plans.

**Outputs:**

- Total sanitation campaign promotion guidelines preparation and endorsement from district council.
- ODF declaration done in two VDCs and 13 communities,
- Continuous awareness programme through FM Radio.
- 39.33 percent sanitation coverage in Pyuthan district so far

**Challenges:**

- Non uniformity in sanitation promotion approaches still exists in practice,
- Insufficient budget allocation for sanitation promotion,
- Limited media campaign,
- Monitoring not effective as expected
- Commitments unfulfilled by all concerned decision makers, supporters and agencies,
- Inadequate level of awareness of citizens, and dependency on outsiders' for support,
- Sanitation promotion hindered by absence of water supply services.

**Lessons:**

- Basket fund modality works better for sanitation promotion. Reward and recognition is effective to stimulate the people,
- School and community both wings needs to be equally mobilised for sanitation promotion,
- VDCs should be utilised as the coordination point and all staff of VDC should be oriented about the importance of total sanitation promotion.
- All donor agencies should invest on sanitation promotion,
- Active strength of all the political parties useful in sanitation promotion.

**Opportunities**

- DDC, DWSSDO and VDC have agreed to allocate 20 percent of their budget for sanitation promotion thus there seems an ample opportunity to increase the sanitation coverage in the district,
- More opportunities to reward communities exemplarily working for sanitation promotion,
- Enabling environment established in the district with the commitment of all government, NGOs and donor communities

**2.5 Question & Answer**

The following questions were raised, clarifications made, suggestions given with regard to the presentations:

**2.5.1 Questions**

1. Will it be possible to achieve such a challenging goal of attaining total sanitation in t Pyuthan district as expressed by 2013?
2. What is the process of registering the sanitation committee in the DDC or VDC?

## 2.5.2 Clarifications

### Question 1

- The presenter clarified that a midterm review workshop has been carried out to assess the plan and a renewed process / approach has been developed. Greater focus on awareness generation was given. He added that analysis of each ward had taken place and within one and half to two years the target could be achieved. According to him, out of the 49 VDCs in the district two had already been declared an ODF area
- Drona Koirala of Care Nepal informed that initially a cluster wise approach had been adopted and now covering total VDCs has been considered. He further emphasised that another meeting could be organised to decide on how to move ahead in the future in achieving the district total sanitation target.
- The RD added that considering the resources for water and sanitation available in the district, there was enough to achieve total sanitation as targeted if they were effectively mobilised.

### Question 2

- In the DDC lead campaign in Pyuthan each cluster or village has a sanitation committee that leads the process and triggering staff take the lead in the facilitation and where a water committee exist they take the lead.

## 2.5.3 Suggestions



Man Bahadur Rokaya putting up his suggestions

1. Man Bahadur Rokaya also pointed to the importance of sanitation condition around the taps which if considered would complement the district sanitation campaign.
2. A need for strengthened monitoring, subsidy on sanitation materials in the remote areas where it is very expensive and prevents the poor from constructing toilets was suggested
3. The issue of constructed toilets not generally brought to use due to lack of knowledge and ownership was raised and generating awareness for this was emphasised
4. RD clarified that as far as making materials easily accessible in the district, the district coordination committees had been requested to explore the possibilities of linking with local business people to supply the materials as per the decision of the committee.
5. It was also pointed that the reward of rupees 50 thousand should be given to the ODF declared VDCs / wards only after the proper monitoring and evaluation takes place to ensure that such declarations are not rushed into just for the reward
6. Experience of ODF campaign in Bardiya was shared by Red Cross representative that out of the eight VDCs in the district, in the first two years strictly infrastructure development was focused on and five VDCs were in the process to declare ODF by the end of 2010
7. Sanitation campaigns can be largely speeded up if there is greater coordination with and among WASH users committee and the forest users committee to attain the total sanitation goal as large portion forests still continue to be a place of open defecation
8. Need for linkages of sanitation campaign with education campaigns including changes in the school syllabus from the lowest level and greater focus on hygiene and sanitation educational aspects going to general mass.



**2.6 VDC total sanitation campaign (lessons and challenges), Lankuri VDC, Dailekh –Bal Krishna Bista, Senior Auxilliary Health Assistant, Sub District Health Post**

**Background:** Sharing about the poor sanitation background of the Lankuri VDC in the past, Bal Krishna Bista, Senior Auxilliary Health Assistant, Sub District Health Post, Lankuri, Dailekh district pointed that before the campaign only 50 percent households used toilets in Lakuri VDC and those in regular use were those households that had invested for toilet construction while those that had been supported by other organisations were not properly used. Of these, 50 and 55 households of Ward No. 8 and 9 respectively were supported by NEWAH and SUDEC Nepal declaring the Wards an ODF area. The water supply and sanitation programme through NEWAH in partnership with SUDEC in Ward No. 3 and 4 had covered 150 households and toilet construction in 20 households in an indigenous settlement in Ward No. 5 were supported by SUDEC Nepal.

**The situation of the past**

*According to Chandra Bahadur Bista, VDC Secretary of Lankuri, in the past whenever and wherever he visited places in the VDC, he could smell the bad odour of human excreta prior to approaching the settlements. It would remind him of an old adage 'smell faeces, you know the village is close'. During the rainy season the situation used to be worse, the sources would all be contaminated by faeces, as you walked along the path or in the fields, one would step on faeces everywhere. Working in the field was a nightmare for the women; they faced lot of skin problems in their legs and hands. Children mostly suffered from diarrhoea, worms, and skin diseases. Often medicines were hard to find in the government hospital. In turn patients had to be taken to the private medical which cost them more money. But now all this has changed and changed for the better.*

**Approach and Process:** Against this backdrop, the Sub Health Post initiated a process to garner support from all the political party leaders and representatives, VDC, all party coordination mechanism, teachers, VDC officials, students, Female Community Health Volunteers, media, mother's group, social workers, elites, health workers to declare the VDC an ODF area. The campaign kicked off since May 2009 with health workers of Lankuri VDC Sub Health Post leading a door to door visit campaign. By July 2009, 75 percent of the visits had completed, told Bista.

As shared by Bista, further the outbreak of diarrhoea since the onset of monsoon in districts like Jajarkot and Rukum including Dailekh led them to start a massive sanitation campaign in the district and the VDC. Awareness through workshops for VDC representatives, teachers, political leaders, health related workers and volunteers, mother's group, local elites, social workers and other relevant stakeholders took place followed by a weeklong household visit campaign and a review meeting in September 2009. As a result, four wards of the VDC observed to be ahead in sanitation promotion were awarded through an appreciation letter and a stretcher each. Commitment was made to declare the VDC an ODF area within the

fiscal year 2009/10. Accordingly government, non government organisation, other stakeholder organisations, VDC, DDC, District Health Office, DWSSDO, NEWAH, SUDEC, OXFAM and various other organisations were approached for support.

According to Bista in December 2009 a toilet up gradation message was spread in the communities to promote conversion of temporary toilets into permanent ones. Subsequently the DWSSDO also supported a SLTS programme in the VDC through a school to cover 75 households in their catchment area. The programme was expanded to seven schools to cover all the nine wards in the VDC, forming child clubs and orienting



Presentation on VDC total sanitation, Lankuri VDC, Dailekh

them and 14 mothers group. With the support of Lankuri VDC and facilitation of SUDEC Nepal a water supply and sanitation programme covered 36 households of Ward No. 9. Lankuri VDC was declared an ODF area on 3 July 2010 amidst a function observed by district and VDC level stakeholders government and non government, media, political party representatives and the local residents of Lankuri.

**Outputs:**

- Toilets constructed in all 350 households and brought into use
- Target achieved as per target and commitment made on 11 September 2009
- All have had the opportunity to be aware about the personal, household and environmental sanitation issues

**Challenges:**

- Difficult to mobilise people's participation due to household heads and guardians away for overseas employment
- Persisting mentality that whoever leads should manage everything and take all the responsibility, or whoever is working actively are doing so because of heavy commission involved
- Hard to change habits of elderly people used to their age old ways
- Because neighbouring community households have been provided with sanitation facilities for toilet construction, resistance from next door communities where a sanitation campaign is launched
- Agreement to construct and use toilets only under the condition that water supply services are provided in communities without water supply
- Political differences also in the way of getting enough support

**Lessons:**

- Greater lessons and awareness on the importance and necessity of using toilets, proper hand washing practices and good hygiene behaviour
- Starting the campaign from the household level, expanding it to communities, VDCs and DDCs can help to achieve national total sanitation target

**Opportunities:**

- Water supply is necessary to give continuity to the hygiene and sanitation behaviour in the community so concerned bodies will be approached
- Monitoring must be done for sustainability of toilet construction, use, maintenance, sustainability of good hygiene behaviour or else the VDC will return back to its original state. Post ODF work is as important for future sustainability
- Policy statements such as providing rewards to ODF declared communities by the Nepalgunj declaration 2066 bringing them into effect would be an encouragement and give an impetus to the sanitation movement in the region



## 2.7 NEWAH's experience in the total sanitation campaign, Himalaya Panthi, Social Development Manager, NEWAH

**Background:** Himalaya Panthi, Social Development Manager of NEWAH presented about NEWAH's experience in supporting the total sanitation campaign in Nepal. He explained that the organisation started promoting the CLTS approach since 2003 against the poor sanitation background in the country, and added that the pilot projects in Karkidanda of Dhading district and Urlabari of Morang district, the first community to be declared an ODF area directed NEWAH for total sanitation promotion in other parts of the country.

**Approach and Process:** The approaches that NEWAH follows to promote total sanitation as informed by Panthi are the adoption of the CLTS approach, integration of hygiene promotion to sanitation programme, a VDC total sanitation strategy, with the target to achieve ODF in five district by 2015, collaboration and coordination initiated at the district level, along with implementation of programmes focus on capacity building and advocacy and increased collaboration with various sectors.

He shared about the sanitation approaches and activities that were undertaken to promote sanitation in different stages of NEWAH's hygiene and sanitation promotion programme, the first being Pre-ODF stage where VDC level workshop is organised, then a model demonstration site is established with various sanitation models and demonstration of good hygiene practices, a SaniMart is established for people's easy access to materials and convenience to build a toilet as well as sanitation masons are trained. This is followed by the second stage, the Triggering and ODF stage, he informed. In brief he stated that it involves the triggering exercise, identification of various appropriate toilet options, monitoring the effect of triggering, conducting various hygiene and sanitation promotion related trainings, participation and mobilisation of children, media support, declaration of ODF, reward and appreciation. Further he elaborated that the third stage – Post ODF – Sustainable Behaviour Change covered organising a clean and healthy village / *tole* indicator setting workshop, management & mobilisation of community sanitation promotion fund and construction of a hygienic toilet, land issues for toilet construction resolved and mobilisation of social capital cost, various community level and school level hygiene and sanitation promotion activities, declaration of clean and healthy village / *tole* (cluster).



Himalaya Panthi giving a NGO perspective

### Outputs:

- So far ODF declared in about 300 communities
- ODF declared in eight VDCs
- 11 VDCs in the process of ODF declaration within the next one year
- Communities able to declare ODF within two days and VDC within one month
- VDC level WASH coordination committees formed in programme implemented VDCs
- Regional collaboration and capacity building
- Contribution to the National Hygiene and Sanitation Master Plan, 2010

### Challenges:

- Impact of traditional and subsidy approach
- Conflicting policies and procedures
- Lack of elected local bodies
- Land issues for construction of toilets especially for the landless and poor

- An unchanging outlook towards development issues

**Lessons:**

- Hygiene behaviour found to be sustainable due to implementation of integrated hygiene and sanitation promotion programme
- Able to change open defecating practices and culture even without providing any kind of subsidy
- Reward and appreciation largely supports in the sustainability of programme
- Women and children key agents of change
- Require capable, exemplary and voluntary leaders
- Need for Sanimart and accessibility of materials at the local level
- Coordination with stakeholders and political leadership very effective
- Leadership, planning and resource mobilisation from local bodies has a greater impact
- Approach can be adopted in a way suitable to the geographic, socio economic and cultural situation of the place

**2.8 VDC total sanitation campaign (lessons and challenges), Kumal Gaon VDC, Kalikot – Akkal Bahadur Shahi, Social Technician, KIRDARC**

On behalf of KIRDARC, Akkal Bahadur Shahi, Social Technician made this presentation on the VDC total sanitation campaign experience in Kumal gaon VDC in Kalikot district. The highlight of the presentation particularly was on status of access to sanitation facilities, total number of ODF declared VDCs, coordination process, working methodology, process of coordination, group formation, awareness and capacity building, effects, community's responses, outputs and challenges. Few details on these aspects has been summarised below.



Sharing total sanitation campaign experience Kumal Gaon VDC, Kalikot,

**Background:** According to Shahi the sanitation coverage increased from 2.9 percent in 2006 to 21 percent in 2009 in the district. Kumal Gaon was the first ODF declared VDC in the Karnali Zone ranking the 36<sup>th</sup> VDC of the country. The DDC has a provision to reward rupees hundred thousand to the ODF declared VDC. In addition to this, the WASH sector has been receiving the budget from Karnali employment programme.

Currently a total of three VDCs, 13 villages and two clusters have been declared as ODF area. The district WASH Steering committee has been playing an instrumental role in maintaining coordination and bringing support from SNV Nepal and all the other stakeholders, informed Shahi.

**Approaches and process:** The process followed in leading to the declaration of the VDC as and

ODF area as per Shahi is:

- PHAST tools and CLTS approaches
- Demand Creation through ODF Declaration,
- Participatory sanitation promotion process focusing on four key areas: latrine use, hand washing, safe water handling and food handling,
- KIRDARC is promoting sanitation with its programme supported by care Nepal "ASHA", Concern Nepal "Domestic Plus", Unicef "Emergency WaSH Preparedness", SNV Nepal "Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All".

- Maintaining coordination with the DDC, VDC, women groups, child groups, youth groups, forestry users committee, and district level water and sanitation networks.
- Awareness and capacity building was done through the use of triggering tools, engaging all the men, women, youths, clubs and networks with proper mobilisation and monitoring of progresses.

### Outputs

- Effective awareness has been delivered at community level,
- Meaningful participation has been generated at the community level
- VDC level politicians and other agencies have been sensitised about their role and accountability towards sanitation promotion,
- The budget from Karnali employment programme has been effectively used for sanitation promotion on one household one latrine.

### Challenges

- Women, poor and pregnant women likely to suffer more in some cases if proper planning, awareness and precaution not applied on time
- Non uniformity in policy, procedures and implementation modality of different agencies has hampered the sanitation campaign.

## 2.9 Question & Answer

**Questions, Comments & Suggestions:** The following gives a overview of the questions put up for the last three presentation, clarifications given and suggestions from the participants:

- Concerning the Kalikot presentation Mina Giri a human rights activist from Pyuthan pointed that pressuring people, women to construct toilets even when they are very poor or pregnant can have a negative impact on the total sanitation campaign especially for its sustainability and does not give out a good message (based on examples taken of an old woman from a poor family sold the only cooking stove that she owned out of pressure to build a toilet and the example of a pregnant woman who had a miscarriage while carrying stones to construct a toilet
- With regard to the NEWAH presentation Rabin Shahi of KIRDARC questioned how it is actually possible to declare ODF within a short span of two days after the triggering takes place. To this Himalaya Panthi clarified that prior to the declaration there are a set of indicators developed by the concerned village/ cluster and based on whether they have been met it is possible but the sustainability is a challenging part.

## Three: Discussion Session

### 3. Group Division

For the group discussion although sector wise six group divisions was planned, based on suggestions from the participants three groups were divided into:

1. Government Bodies – DDC, VDC, DWSSDO, DHO
2. Local, National and International NGOs
3. Civil Society Organisations – FEDWASUN, FECOFUN, Human Rights, Media

### 3.1 Topics for Group Discussion

What kinds of sanitation policies are required?

What should be the appropriate sanitation technologies?

What should be the sanitation working approaches?

What kind of expectations do the users and communities have?

What should our role be in sanitation promotion?

### 3.2 Conclusion of group discussion

The recommendations of the group discussion are as follows:

#### 3.2.1 Group One: Government Bodies

##### Policy wise

- Introducing a system of fining rupees 5,000 and three months jail term to those found openly defecating (the reward and punishment mechanism can flexible for change)
- Providing uniform support based on geographic classification of areas – Mountains, Hills, Tarai
- Introducing a provision of rejecting citizenship certificate application unless there is a toilet at home
- Making toilet a prerequisite to represent in public office and necessary for public servants, NGO workers, teachers and various other officials to compulsorily construct toilets in their homes
- Making political party workers and various others be involved in the implementation of sanitation awareness programmes
- Implementing the water supply and sanitation programmes together
- Allocating 20% of each infrastructure and development budget for sanitation programmes



Group work in progress of government agency representatives

##### Technology wise

- Design should be appropriate and suitable for the location
- Infrastructure should be child friendly, disable friendly and gender friendly while constructing community and public toilets

##### Working approaches wise

- Adopt CLTS, SLTS and WLTS approach
- Programme should be implemented based on realisation of need from the local level
- Need for provision of award and recognition
- Advocacy for implementation of policies and regulations

##### Expectations from users and communities

- Expectation from the government to construct toilets for all
- If only some kind of support could be received such as - materials inaccessible at the local level like cement, pans, pipes could be made available then toilet construction could be easily achieved
- The sanitation related materials are not easily accessible in the villages

Our role in sanitation promotion

- Playing a coordinative role
- Providing a facilitative role, advocating and demonstrating yourself as an example in sanitation promotion

**3.2.2 Group Two: Local, National and International NGOs**



Policy wise

- Supporting poor / excluded groups and areas based on socio-economic classification
- Implementing hygiene and sanitation policy at the VDC level with clarity, developing policies and regulations for the community level, forming a WASH committee at the ward level

Technology wise

- Should be easy to use, appropriate and cost wise reasonable
- Based on the use of locally available materials
- Should be of multiple uses

Working approaches wise

- Raising awareness on the importance of toilets
- Implementing a practical and workable policy
- Following a uniform approach (one door approach)

Expectations from users and communities

- Subsidy (support for material transportation, masonry)
- Generate income out of the programme
- Implement water supply as a priority
- Receive meeting allowance

Our role in sanitation promotion

- Incorporating hygiene education and sanitation compulsorily with other institutional programmes
- Giving continuity to monitoring work after programme completion

**3.2.3 Group Three: Civil Society Organisations – FEDWASUN, FECOFUN, Human Rights, Media**

Policy wise

- Developing policies considering the proposed federal structure
- Formulating policies based in identification of targeted groups
- Provisioning material and technological knowledge support based on geographic structure and awareness level of the area
- Developing policies on hygiene and sanitation promotion from the formation level of formal and non formal education

Technology wise

- Should optimally use and mobilise the local human resource and material resources
- Give emphasis to creating more subject specific skilled human resource
- Information dissemination at the utmost through the media

Working approaches wise

- Implementing programme following a one door approach
- Provisioning a reward and punishment mechanism based on working policy of concerned stakeholders

Expectations from users and communities

- Establish water, sanitation and hygiene as a fundamental right
- Identification of targeted groups and support to them

Our role in sanitation promotion

- Being service oriented, debating and advocating for sanitation, increasing awareness and being transparent
- Participating in policy level discussion and decisions and being active in bringing them to the implementation level



Civil society representatives sharing group findings

**3.3 Summarising group presentations**

Homnath Acharya the facilitator for the symposium expressed that the papers presented certainly were a wealth of knowledge from the various districts and organisations of the Mid Western region and would be useful to further boost up sanitation promotion in the region. The presentation on the policy provisions and efforts towards total sanitation movement, technological options suitable for different geographical conditions and learning generated from the good practices applied through DDC led approach in Pyuthan, Sub Health Post led approach in Dailekh, VDC led in Kalikot and NEWAH's experience would be worthy knowledge that could potentially help scale up and replicate the sanitation campaign in other district and VDCs of the region.

He shared that the outcomes of the group discussion emphasised more on the stakeholders' role in taking forward this movement on a massive scale, the need to create urgency and truly bring commitments into effect. He concluded that if lessons drawn from the symposium were to be adopted on the ground it would allow the region to take a significant leap in sanitation promotion in the country.

He stated that this symposium could be considered as one of the key milestones and a positive start of Total Sanitation Movement in the Mid Western Region in terms of knowledge sharing.

**4. Conclusion**

Finally, Rajesh Adhikari, Programme Manager of ENPHO thanked everyone for their active participation in the symposium. He praised the efforts made at the regional level in terms of programme implementation, and improved coordination and collaboration among various stakeholders to widely take forward the sanitation agenda, especially under the active leadership of the Regional Director to harmonise the sector at the Mid Western regional level. He wished for success of the total sanitation movement in the region. With this he declared the programme as closed.

**Report Compiled by:**

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## List of Participants

Annex 1

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