

WASH Ethiopia
Multi stakeholder Forum
Key Note Address by CSOs
(February 4–5, 2014)

Ghion Hotel

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Keynote SPEECH by Robel Lambisso

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Honourable Ministers, Development Partners, Representatives of International Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sectors, the Media, and invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very much pleased to be part of the 6th MSF which aims at bringing all the WASH stakeholders in Ethiopia for productive consultation, monitoring the sector performance and devise strategies & key undertakings that can enhance the achievements in the sector.

In the past consecutive years, the WASH sector in Ethiopia has shown encouraging progress in aspects of implementation of new wash facilities and improved service coverage. This progress in fact is attributed to the increasing commitment of the government and the combined effort of the various development partners, and user communities.

With the recent launching of One WASH national Program, the efforts in the sector are expected to gain additional momentum in a more integrated and harmonized manner so that the estimated 40% of needy communities will get timely access to the WASH services.

In line with the above, The CSOs in the country are also making continued efforts to contribute to the achievement of the ambitious targets indicated in the OWNPN. So far the WSF has prepared three (3) WASH reports of CSOs and is in the process of developing the fourth (4th) report which combines the contribution of CSOs to the WASH sector in the 2005 Ethiopian Calendar year(2013 G.C).

The draft version of this fourth round report revealed that in 2013, CSOs invested more than **391,725, 278.00 ETB** in the sector for water supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, and capacity building interventions and benefited over **2,100,000** people.

This is a partial report and hence the above results are attributed to only 22 CSOs. It is obvious that the actual contributions are even far more than the stated amount had all the CSOs working in the sector been able to timely report their contributions for the WASH sector through the WATER & SANITATION FORUM.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite the successes and progressive performance, the Ethiopian WASH sector has a number of challenges. Among these the major ones are: scarcity of budget, low execution and financial utilization/absorption capacity, lack of equitable distribution of funds & poor operation and maintenance for sustainable service delivery and others.

In order to accelerate achievement of the GTP and UAP targets, the bottlenecks in the sector must be addressed and concerted efforts need to be exerted under the umbrella of WASH Implementation Framework (WIF) which provides guidance for implementing the sector wide Program by defining the roles and responsibilities of major stakeholders in the WASH sector.

Despite the progress, the gap in the sector is still huge & calls for unified effort from all actors in the sector.

Millions of Ethiopians still lack improved water and basic sanitation facilities, and very few people regularly wash their hands with soap and water at critical times. This is what we can easily understand from global M & E information (JMP reports, GLASS reports) and the national WASH inventory results.

Ladies and gentlemen,

at this juncture, allow me to raise important issues that we would like to bring to the attention of all sector actors:

- The success in the sector largely depends on the integration of the relevant sectors. Accordingly, we call up on the sector ministries to strengthen, and where necessary establish, functional coordination structures at the national, Regional and Woreda/Town Levels as set out under the WaSH Implementation Framework (WIF).
- Sustainable use of WASH facilities needs to be given high priority. Local level capacity building and the establishment of WASH supply Chain outlets needs to be accelerated in all regions of the country.
- In 2012, The Water & sanitation forum has carried out a budget tracking study. The results in the study revealed that there are key areas that demand attention of concerned ministries & the stakeholders:

1. It is not possible to track both budget and expenditures on sanitation and hygiene in isolate from water supply, due to multiple institutional arrangement and absence of specific budget code. Thus, it is recommended to establish proper budgeting system including codification in the budget and expenditure reporting mechanism for sanitation and hygiene.
2. Over the years, within the poverty oriented sectors, water supply expenditure share had been the lowest; but significant improvements have been made over the last two years in enhancing budget allocation to the sector. In line with this, the recent progress review of the 2012 HLM Commitment indicated that there is a long way to go to and much has to be invested in the sector to attain the GTP targets.
3. Variation in water supply capital expenditure against the budget remained high compared to other poverty oriented sectors, indicating low implementation capacity & lack of proper budget management.

Although the one WASH National Program can give the opportunity to resolve some of the challenges, there is still a need to give attention to ensure increased sector performance.

Finally, on Behalf of WSF member organizations I would like to confirm that WSF and its member organizations would continue their contribution to bring sustainable change in the sector. Member organizations will also update the National Database by regularly reporting the progresses & subsequent project achievements.

Thank You!