

**The Sixth WASH Multi-Stakeholder Forum,  
Gihon Hotel, Addis Ababa, 04 February 2014**

H.E Ato Alemyehu Tegenu, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy,

H.E Ato Fuad Ibrahim, State Minister of Education,

H.E Ato Kebede Gerba, State Minister of WIE,

H.E State Minister of MOFED,

Excellency Ambassadors,

Dear Representatives of Development Partners,

Invited guests,

Ladies and gentlemen:

I welcome you all to the Sixth WASH MSF.

As you know water, sanitation and hygiene services and promotions cannot be left only to one party but requires partnership and collaboration among different actors – sector ministries & bureaus, NGO partners, donor communities, FBOs, religious institutions, larger public and households. Four ministries have signed WASH MoU and launched one national WASH Program in partnership with multilateral and bilateral development partners.

As you know, we have registered remarkable results in water, sanitation and hygiene coverage compared to the 1990 levels as a result of government's commitment of implementing national/sectoral strategic plans over the last 20 years and introduction of cost effective community health services – health extension program – that has seven packages that deal with hygiene & sanitation.

With the introduction and rollout of health extension program throughout the country, coverage of traditional household pit latrines has increased remarkably and in some communities implementation of community-led total sanitation and hygiene has enabled them declaring open-defecation free status that would definitely contribute to creation of health community. Moreover, we have set target of 30% ODF kebeles for this fiscal year that also requires engagement of different actors supporting the health extension workers on the ground. Organized community movement, health development army, is expediting and scaling up best practices. There are some communities who undertake sanitation marketing that contributes to improved sanitation practices that need to be scaled up for which we expect positive roles from WASH DPs.

As you know, we have launched national design & construction manuals for WASH facilities in health institutions and primary schools and the One National

WASH Program that require coordination and strong partnership. Many health centre and health posts don't have access to clean water supply. Quality of care in health facilities cannot be met without sustainable supply of water; healthcare waste management is also important to provide quality service.

This Forum would help in sharing experiences among the stakeholders and identify best practices that we all need to scale up in partnership. I wish you pleasant discussion and fruitful deliberations. Thank you.

# **The 6<sup>th</sup> Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Multi Stakeholder Forum (MSF-6)**

**Opening Remark by His Excellency Ato Alemayehu Tegenu , Minister of  
Ministry Water, Irrigation and Energy and Chairman of the National  
WaSH Steering Committee**

**Gihon Hotel, Addis Ababa  
04 February, 2014**

**Excellences,.....**

**Respected Development Partners,**

**Regional Bureau Heads,**

**Invited guests,**

**Workshop participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity of welcoming you on behalf of the National WaSH Steering Committee and Myself to this important the 6<sup>th</sup> Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Multi Stakeholder Forum.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As all you know, the main purposes of today's Forum is to account for progress on sector development program implementation, ~~Dialogue on policy issues,~~ and strategies. It is also a forum for stakeholders engaged in the sector program development to discuss, receive feedback, and generate consensus and commitment for priority actions for the year ahead. The outcomes of the MSF are recorded into a statement which was prepared immediately following the forum. The statement and its implementation shall be subject to similar review in the next meeting.

Today, on this important forum, I would like to take this opportunity to synchronize to how far we have travelled in the past one year impressively. and also, to take stock of what is left to do, and to agree on some homework for the

coming years, because the journey is far from over, and also much more important is how this Forum managed to put the importance of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene together. The 5<sup>th</sup> Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Multi Stakeholder Forum smartly linked WASH to poverty, the environment, culture and social-economic development and it defined the key challenges:

Thanks to the great leadership of the country. The importance of WASH for poverty reduction was now fully recognized. And MDG 7C clearly spelt out the aim of ensuring 'access to safe drinking water', and access of basic sanitation as a central element of this great endeavour.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

We went to every corner of the system to make the voice of water and sanitation heard and to promote synergies between all those whose mandate mattered to WASH, such as World Bank, UNICEF, ADB, DFID etc...

Because repetition breeds recognition and recognition is what we need to make people act. And that's why we have to tell our story again and again. The story is about million poor and vulnerable people who lack adequate Water supply and basic sanitation facilities. It is on their behalf we have to get the country moving.

The government of Ethiopia has made remarkable progress in the past few years in the water and sanitation sector, in which the legal basis for the right to water and sanitation services emanates from the 1994 constitution. Article 90 of the constitution explicitly states that “ To the extent the country’s resources permit, policies shall aim to provide all Ethiopians access to public health and education, clean water, housing, food and social security’. Article 44 of the same constitution also states that “All Persons have the right to clean and Healthy environment”. In order to implement the fundamental principles and objectives of the water and health sector policies and the national priorities defined in the WaSH Sector strategies, the Government of Ethiopia developed a 15 years Water Sector Development Program WSDP (2002-2016) and successive Health Sector Development programs(HSDP I-IV). Their targets were subsumed by the Plan to the first Universal Access Program (UAP-1, 2006-2012) which was launched in 2005 and basically was designed to achieve full access. The plan set out national and region-specific targets for the construction and functionality of water supply

facilities and sanitation systems, and set out a strategy to achieve these goals based on low cost technologies.

Mass mobilization of the community and self-supply was also promoted to accelerate the access to water supply and sanitation. To date, the self-supply concept has become an integral part of the One WaSH National Programme. With the preparation of the Growth and Transformation Plan in 2010/2011, the UAP had undergone its second major revision, taking into account a revised end date (2015) and spiralling costs of service delivery. The revision has included school & health post WASH facilities, catchment management, capacity building, water quality management, reinvestment, special emphasis to pastoral regions, program coordination etc. to make the effort of achieving sustained WASH universal access comprehensive and complete.

In parallel with the revised UAP, a Hygiene and Sanitation Strategic Action Plan (SAP) was also prepared and aligned with the 4th Health Sector Development Plan. The SAP largely focused on the scaling up of Community Led total Sanitation, a strategy – or movement – that links mass mobilization with the community wide rejection of open defecation and the construction of rudimentary home built toilets (with no subsidy).

Furthermore, WASH Memorandum of Understanding (MoU, 2006) and the Wash Implementation framework (2009) were reviewed and signed by MoFED, MoH, MoE and MoWE in November 2012 and March 2013 respectively to operationalize the National WASH Programme for both Government and Development Partners. These documents together with the preparation of One WaSH program document (that builds on the former UAP and SAP documents) prepared during the past four months' time in consultation with regions and development partners has led to the launching of One WaSH National Program that integrates water supply, sanitation and hygiene today.

The main features of the Program that originate from the principles of the Paris declaration are:

- One plan for WASH; meaning there will be one government-led WASH plan for all partners
- The four principles stated in the WIF: Harmonization, Integration, Alignment and Partnership, will govern Program implementation.

- A WASH organization will be established in regions, zones, woredas, towns and kebeles.
- The role of Government, donors and CSOs in the Program will be defined in accordance with the WIF.
- Donor's financial and procurement procedures will be brought increasingly aligned with GoE procedures.
- NGOs can become collaborating partners of the Program; The effective involvement of HEWs and the Health Development Army are considered essential for Program success.
- Accountability will increase since the Program will be owned by the Government.
- The role of the Joint Technical Review (JTR) and Multi Stakeholder Forum (MSF) in assessing progress and evaluating the Program will increase.
- Joint participatory planning will be promoted (e.g. kebeles and communities will be involved in WASH planning with assistance from woredas and other service providers). Community ownership of the improved WASH facilities will be enhanced.

The One WASH National Program (OWNP) will be the main instrument for achieving the universal goals (i.e. 98.5 % in water supply, 100% in basic sanitation, 77% in hand washing and 80% in achieving Open defecation free status respectively).

In the One WaSH National program that takes account of the national WaSH inventory undertaken in 2011, water supply and sanitation software and hardware activities will be implemented at a total cost of 2.411billion USD. Of the total estimated financial requirement Technical assistance, program management, rural water supply, Urban Water supply, urban sanitation and Rural &per- urban sanitation &hygiene.

Water supply activities in the One WaSH program require additional 20,000 artisans, experts, technical groups, consultants, contractors and specialists. On the other hand sanitation activities require about 5,000 junior health professionals to be assigned in all the health centers of the country for providing support to health extension workers. Increasing the number of health staff at regional and federal levels is also required. Cascaded training is required to enhance the capacity of the existing staff in the WaSH sector. The capacity of the private sector shall also

be quickly built immediately to undertake the huge task of achieving the GTP targets under the One WaSH program.

The huge financial and human resource requirement necessitates for the involvement and contribution of communities, development partners, bilaterals, multilaterals and all other stakeholders.

Finally I would like to thank you greatly for your engaged participation, for your enthusiasm and moving WASH forward. I would like to also extend my gratitude to all those who worked so hard to make this forum a success – both inside and outside of government. I would particularly like to thank all of our developing partners for their unwavering support and their true belief in the goals we have set ourselves.

**God's blessing you, your work and all who will benefit from it.**

HSS  
Alemayehu  
Your Excellency Ato Kebede Gerba

State Minister for Ministry of Water/Irrigation <sup>and</sup> *and energy.*

H10  
Your Excellency Dr. Kebede Worku

State Minister for Ministry of Health

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be here representing the Ministry of Education to make this keynote speech on this very essential 6<sup>th</sup> annual Multi-Stakeholders Forum. I would also like to express my deep gratitude and highest regard to all our partners supporting the WASH program

As you may know well, access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and education are basic needs of human life and dignity. These basic needs remain a dream for millions of people, in particular for women and children across the world. Poor hygiene, inadequate quantity and quality drinking water and sanitation facilities cause millions' of people to be affected by preventable diseases every year.

Inadequate access to safe water and sanitation services, coupled with poor hygiene practices, sickens and kills thousands of children every day, and leads to impoverishment and diminished opportunities for many people. It is also true that many children are facing difficulties in their learning abilities because of frequent illness that leads to low

attendance and dropping out of schools. The provision of safe and adequate water supply and basic sanitation for school children has significant effects on their learning activities.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Ethiopia is also facing the same challenges, inaccessibility to safe water and inadequate sanitation facilities and hygiene education. In spite of massive expansions in school construction and increasing of enrolment, the provision of quality and adequate water, latrine and hygiene has not improved as much as the expansion of schools, because of this effect the number of female student dropouts is significant in each year.

Thus, the national WASH inventory shows that in many schools the drinking water coverage is low, the quantity of water in many schools where there is a supply found to be inadequate, the physical accessibility of water sources is far from schools, most of the latrines are predominated by traditional pit latrine, the overall latrine seat to students ratio is low and hand washing facilities are not sufficiently available in schools. Moreover, many of the designs of water and sanitation facilities do not reflect gender and special needs of physically challenged students, although there have been improvements currently.

It is our conviction that children can be used as best change agents who can play an effective role in creating a healthy, clean and active learning

environment in schools and they can also help to convey messages back home and motivate their families for improved behavior. This in turn can help water supply and sanitation facilities to have a great influence on the quality of education. To this effect, the Ministry of education has made concerted efforts to supply safe drinking water and sanitation facilities at school level. With regard to latrine, significant number of schools have latrines. WASH program has been given a high priority activity and included in the five year sector plan. It is also incorporated in school curriculum, particularly in environmental science subjects. WASH indicators have been revised and included in the MOE annual abstract in order to capture appropriate and reliable information.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The provisions of safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and hygiene education were undertaken under the responsibilities of different sectors in uncoordinated manner. After it was realized that provision of water, sanitation and hygiene as a package would have significant impacts on the health of school children and consequently affects the quality of education. Thus why, the Ethiopian government initiated to establish a harmonious working modality between the Ministry of water, Irrigation and Energy, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and Economy Development and other potential partners in the implementation of water supply, sanitation and hygiene education

activities to realize the full rights and benefits of the program for school children and people at large scale..

Since the implementation of the WASH program, many changes have been taken place in terms of the organizational structure and service delivery of education office at Federal, Regional, woreda and school level with the commitment of development partners to align and harmonize their support for the effective implementation of the program.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my conviction that the implementation of the WASH program will definitely contribute to improving the water supply, sanitation and hygiene situation of schools thereby improving educational access, equity, efficiency and quality which will accelerate the attainment of the Growth and Transformation plan. This in turn greatly contributes to reduce child and maternal morbidity.

Finally, the objective of the program can be achieved if and only if we could work collectively rather than in a separate manner. Please allow me to thank you all, who are here to make your best contribution for this very important meeting ***“Innovative One WASH for Sustainable Development.”***

Thank you