

Full proceedings of the 6th Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum

Held at Ghion Hotel, February 4-5, 2014

All participants to this 6th Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum including Ministers, State Ministers, Federal and Regional Government staffs, representatives from donor agencies, private sector, exhibitors and the media were welcomed by Michael Negash who was the facilitator for the opening remarks and keynote speeches by the several State Ministers to follow. Ato Michael noticed that the attendance of the yearly MSF not only by the high level government presence, but the number of participants and audience members has increased, which in turn shows that importance of the subject of water, sanitation and hygiene together. A brief reading of the itinerary for the two day meeting were read, and the meeting was officially opened by His Excellency Ato Alemayhu Tegenu from MoWIE.

His Excellency Ato Alemayehu Tegenu , Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy

Ato Alemayehu Tegenu who is also Chair of National WaSH Steering Committee thanked all those present and stressed the need for all stakeholders to be present, as this is the time for all to participate, discuss and generate consensus on program implementation and strategies. He stated that this forum is imperative because the significance of the integration of water supply, sanitation and hygiene together is put at the forefront.

Ato Alemayehu stated that access to clean water and sanitation is a basic human right and quoted the Ethiopian Constitution as saying “to the extent of 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.” In saying this he stated that MSF, which connects WaSH to issues such as poverty, environment, culture and socio-economic development coupled with good leadership, will lead to the acquisition of these universal human rights.

The Minister noted that the WaSH MoU and the WaSH Implementation Framework were reviewed and signed by MoFED, MoH, MoE, and MoWE to operationalize the One WaSH National Program for both government and development partners. Some of the main features of the OWNPN include;

- A one government-led WaSH plan for all partners following the principles of harmonization, integration, alignment and partnership stated in the WIF
- The setting up of WaSH organizations at all levels with defined roles of all stakeholders
- Financial and procurement procedures that align with those of the Government of Ethiopia
- The increase of accountability as ownership will be passed on to the Government of Ethiopia

Ato Alemayehu made it clear that the One WaSH National Program will be the driving force for Ethiopia to achieve the universal goals of 98.5% water supply, 100% basic sanitation, 77% hand washing, and 80% open defecation free status. With the increased role of the government, donor agencies, civil and private sector, these goals can be achieved.

His Excellency State Minister of Education Ato Fuad Ibrahim

Ato Fuad thanked all participants and partners supporting the WaSH program and stressed the necessity for this basic need. He stated that the lack of access to safe water and sanitation services together with poor hygiene practices has a direct effect on not only the health, but the education of thousands of children and further diminishes the opportunities of countless others. In spite of the expansion of school facilities and increased enrollment, there is a disparity of the ratio of students and the number of sanitation facilities available. Moreover, the facilities available do not take into consideration gender and the physically challenged.

Ato Fuad noted that children can be the vehicle of change as they can accelerate the pace of these best practices through education and the passing on of these practices to their families. He added that he believes that the implementation of the WaSH Program will contribute further to the improvement of accessibility, equity, quality, and efficiency of water supply, sanitation and hygiene. This in turn will have a direct effect on education. Because of this, WaSH Programs have been included in the MoE's Five Year Sector Plan, and has been incorporated in the school curriculum and WaSH Indicators are now a part of the MoE annual abstract.

After the realization of that water, sanitation and hygiene together, has a direct and significant effect on the health, attendance and quality of education of school children, the government has established a more harmonious working modality between the MoWIE, MoH, MoE, MoFED and other partners. Finally, Ato Fuad stated that although progress has been seen, there is a need for further coordination amongst the different sectors to accelerate the attainment of the Growth and Transformation Plan.

His Excellency State Minister of Health Dr. Kebede Worku

Dr. Kebede emphasized the need for strong partnerships and coordination between different partners in regards to the issue of water, sanitation and hygiene services and promotions. He noted that many changes have been seen over the past twenty years due to the introduction of health extension programs. Some of the improvements that have taken place include:

- The increase and relevance of organized community movements
- Sanitation marketing
- Increased coverage of household pit latrines
- Declaration of open defecation free status
- The National Design and Construction Manual for WaSH facilities in health posts and education facilities to provide adequate and quality water supply.

Dr. Kebede closed his keynote speech by stressing the need for partnership and coordination to make the One WaSH National Program a success.

Dr. Peter Salama - Country Representative of UNICEF

The importance of the One WaSH National Program as the means to achieving the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) and the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) was the underlying theme behind Dr.

Salama's speech. Recognition was given to the Government of Ethiopia and its role in the progress of the WaSH sector. He mentioned that Ethiopia has met most of its commitments through the creation of a National WaSH Inventory (NWI) and the formation of a Consolidated WaSH Account (CWA) under the WaSH Implementation Framework (WIF).

Dr. Salama stated that although significant achievements have been reached, work needs to be done to achieve the goals of the OOWNP in the following three key areas by 2015:

- The issue of open defecation (OD) in urban areas has been realized and is being tackled by the Government of Ethiopia which has pledged to achieve 82% OD free status by through the creation of an Urban Sanitation Strategy which provides guidance on waste management
- The NWI shows that some regions have only 40-60% access to improved water supply, therefore; a sustainable framework needs to be established to aid in the reduction of non-functioning water supply schemes by 10%
- Focus should also be given to the increasing of access to safe drinking water to achieve MDG 7 which strives to halve the population without access to clean water and sanitation.

The OOWNP should look into the methods used to create positive results while identifying those that create setbacks to better assess which areas need to be focused on. The areas mentioned as needing focus includes "strengthening government procurement systems at different levels through clear procurement thresholds and the identification of independent supervisor and construction works".

Chair of Water and Sanitation Forum, WaSH Division Director of World Vision Ethiopia Ato Robel Lambisso

The WaSH sectors has grown in implementation of WaSH facilities and improved service coverage thanks to the increased commitment of government, development partners, and Civil Service Organizations (CSOs). The Water and Sanitation Forum (WSF) in in the process of preparing a fourth WaSH report of contributions by CSO's. Although still in its draft stage, and only taking into account the report of 22 CSOs, the report shows an investment of 391,725,278 ETB in the area of water supply, sanitation, hygiene, and capacity building.

Despite these achievements, there are still issues of budget scarcity, low execution, utilization/absorption capacity, equitable distribution and poor operation and maintenance issues. As noted by speeches from other keynote speakers, Ato Robel also stressed the need to address the bottlenecks in the sector by defining clear roles and responsibilities of all the major stakeholders while creating a vehicle for coordination, capacity building and the establishment of WaSH supply chain outlets at the local level, and by carrying out a budget tracking system.

Ato Robel closed his speech by promising the continued involvement of CSO's to achieving the goals of the OOWNP.

President of the Water Supply Contractors Association, Managing Director of the GTB Engineering (Representing Private Sector Organizations), Ato Getahun Tagese

Ato Getahun began by greeting all present and thanking the organizers for the opportunity to take part in the forum. He stated that the official launching of the WSCA will commence upon the obtaining of certification of legal registration soon, in the presence of all the stakeholders present today.

PSOs realize that the WaSH program has been on the right track in line with government policy and strategy towards access to adequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene. Ato Getahun also stated that PSO's are committed and ready to work together for the realization of the One Wash Program. With the help of both government and development partner's contribution to address the issues of common interest we can bring about sustainable growth of the water construction sector in Ethiopia.

Ato Michael Negash thanked all keynote speakers on behalf of the organizing committee, and the Chair of the National WaSH Technical Team, Ato Nuredin Mohammed was introduced to give a brief presentation on the introduction of MSF6 and a short presentation on the achievements of MSF5 and the Joint Technical Review (JTR) 8 finding.

Chair of the NWTT and Acting Director the Water Supply and Sanitation Directorate of the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Ato Nuredin Mohammed

Ato Nuredin started that there were five MSF5 undertakings which are the following:

1. Implementation of the One WaSH Program as per the WIF by
 - Updating the Universal Access Program II (UAP) based on the results of NWI, EMIS and HMIS indicators
 - Preparing operational guidelines and manuals for the Consolidated WaSH account to flow to the regions
 - Develop a means in which funds can be mobilized in an efficient manner to different levels, with functional procedures and processes to monitor fund utilization, including a One WaSH Program Document with an annual breakdown of the plan and budget
 - Prepare annual planning formats to be used at all levels of government and develop consolidated woreda/town level strategic WaSH plans
 - Increased involvement of stakeholders in the implementation all action points of the undertaking in terms of budget, capacity building and technical assistance

The progress made to date on the first undertaking of MSF5 include the preparation of an annual One WaSH Program document with a breakdown of the Plan and budget, and the ongoing preparation for the Program Operation Manual (POM) for the Consolidated WaSH Account (CWA). Work is underway to update the Universal Access Plan II (UAP) based on the results of the 2003 EFY NWI, EMIS and HMIS indicators.

2. Implementation of the signed MoUs at all levels
 - Distribution and ensured understanding of MoU amongst relevant stakeholders

- Adoption and signing of MoUs at all but three regions based on federal MoU
- Quarterly monitoring of WaSH plans for sector Ministries and Bureaus by the NWSC and RWSC
- A plan of action for One WaSH coordination and implementation which includes clear budget distribution and roles and responsibilities at all levels
- CSOs , in line with the WIF should join coordination structure at all levels

Progress to date include the approval of the WaSH Plan, the dissemination of MoUs at all levels, and the adopting and signing of MoUs at most regions based on federal MoU. Outstanding activities include the strengthening of WaSH coordination at federal, regional and woreda levels and the establishment of WaSH Program Management Units (PMU) at each bureau.

3. Ensuring the functionality of WaSH services by

- Finalising the legalization of WASHCOs and support Woreda WaSH Teams (WWT) to organize WASHCO to promote Caretaker Training
- Continuing the development of WaSH Supply Chain Outlets in all regions
- Prepare and monitor woreda level WaSH Plans
- Support Town Water Boards to update and implement business plans
- Increase the involvement of development partners in the implementation of these undertaking through the development of a National WaSH Operation and Maintenance Management Strategic Framework

Although the legalization of WASHCOs is still a work in progress, the WaSH Operation and Maintenance Management Manual and the WaSH Supply Chain Outlets has been finalized.

4. Establishment of robust Monitoring and Evaluation systems

- Through the publication of the NWI 2003 EFY data and the ensuring the annual update of the NWI through the development and implementation of a collaborative Sustainability Strategy.
- Training and procurement of adequate equipment such as computers and server, and training for 300 woredas
- Introduction of plan and budget to equip other woredas
- Completion of the pilot of the WaSH M&E-MIS and begin roll out toward implementation in 300 woredas
- JTR 8 should serve as a bi-annual review of progress of MSF 5 undertakings
- Increased involvement of all stakeholders in the implementation of all action plans

Progress includes the publishing of the NWI 2003 EFY findings, inventory of the Somali region has begun; also one JTR was conducted with a plan to conduct two more JTRs in the future, and the establishment of the 2012 High Level Commitments monitoring system. Outstanding activities include the procurement of a further 500 computer, the scaling up of WaSH MIS from pilot woredas and to improve the functionality of WaSH MIS and preparation the National WaSH Inventory updating strategy as far as the budget will allow.

5. Development of water improved sanitation safety procedures, capacity and processes.
 - Reviving of the guidelines, standards and procedures to establish a system for Water and Improved Sanitation Safety Management at a national level that supports regions through collaboration with MoWIE, MoH, MoE, Regional Bureaus and regulators
 - Developing appropriate economical and safe sanitation technology options to support the above guidelines with the involvement of development partners

Progress to date include the monitoring of Safe Water Programs have been started with two utilities and two regional health labs, Regional Water Safety (RWS) plan capacity building has been carried out with CSOs and COWASH and some pilot Water Safety Plans have been set up. RWS plan materials have been prepared and will be completed soon. WHO has also launched project on “Building adaption to climate change in health in Ethiopia through resilient WaSH”. Outstanding activities include the creation of a nation level plan to support regions on water and improved sanitation and safety management.

The JTR8 finding will be presenting in detail during the following Plenary Session, so only an introduction of the three themes was discussed:

1. Readiness for the One WaSH National Program with focus on the Gambella region
2. Urban WaSH Sanitation and Non-Revenue Water in Oromia region
3. Rural WaSH CLTSH/Self Supply in SNNP

Ato Michael Negash thanked all participants and announced the cancelling of the Press Conference due to the schedules on the invited State Ministers. Participants were invited to visit the stands setup by various exhibitors which included representatives from WaterAid, AMREF’s Malaria Prevention and Control Program, BishanGari Water Purifier, Citrus International Trading, Tulip Water Filter, Aquatabs Water Purification Tablets and Wuha Agar. All exhibitors were very insightful and knowledgeable about their products, and had abundant materials for all participants of the forum.

Ato Abiy was introduced to present on the findings and recommendation of the JTR 8.

Ato Abiy Girma - NWCO Coordinator

There are two major objectives of the JTR 8 proceedings which include the review of implementation progress of the WaSH Program supported by the Ethiopian government and donor partners, and to investigate the three WaSH themes considered high priority through field visit findings.

Further elaboration was given to the three themes that were touched on by Ato Nuredin included Readiness for OWNP, Urban WaSH – Sanitation and Non-Revenue Water, and rural WaSH – CLTSH and Self Supply.

Readiness for OWNP – Gambella Region

The review noted that PMU in the regional bureaus were not organized, and activities assigned to the one Focal Persons were not at the forefront. Also, the Gambella region was not aware of what kinds of professionals were needed to staff PMUs and RWCO. The review also noted that additional funds were

necessary to implement the One WaSH program. The lack of awareness on the importance of reporting WaSH data coupled with challenges on the use of the WaSH-MIS webpage has led to a breakdown in communication sharing both horizontally and vertically.

The JTR through its findings has deduced that an OWNPN coordination and implementation structure needs to be based on the specific needs of each region. This includes the introduction, guidance and training on updating and communicating the NWI database, reporting findings, the strengthening of WASHCO management, vertical and horizontal communication and coordination, and the introduction of a standard planning and reporting formats at all levels.

Urban Sanitation and NRW in Oromia Region

The JTR found that the sanitation status in most towns visited in Oromia region was at their lowest. There was little or no coordination amongst concerned stakeholders mainly due to the absence of a lead institution there are no clear roles and responsibilities. As sanitation is given a back seat, there is a lack of budget allocation which leads to understaffing. The absence of facilities for the proper collection and disposal of solid and liquid waste was noted.

The definition of non-revenue water was explained as the water produced/generated less wasted water plus unpaid water. Adama town was recognized as having the worst case of NRW due to the aged buildings and water systems, and the lack of instruments that detect these water pipes and any leakages that may occur.

Some challenges noted include the lack of budget allocation, coordination and leadership, organizational structure, guidance, clear roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, and support from the private sector. Recommendations include remedying the above challenges.

Rural WaSH with focus on Self Supply (SS) and CLTSH – SNNPR

A favorable environment for SS was put in place in SNNPR as households were linked to Micro-Finance Institutions (MFI). There are over 100,000 hand-dug wells in the region with as many as 2,000 to follow with an allocated budget of 98 million Birr. The region received guidelines from the MoWIE on SS and has been on its agenda since 2002 E.C.

Challenges for SS include the insufficient numbers of professionals and producers of quality Rope Pumps, the quality of water is too poor to use for drinking water, lack of clear roles and responsibilities and coordination among different levels.

Recommendations for SS include the implementation of the full package of SS, the linking and coordination with household irrigation, increased information and training, clear strategy and action plans and implementation where there is clear potential. Some other recommendations include the introduction of instruments for supply chain with involvement from private sector, MFIs, and a plan to increase the quality of water for drinking and other purposes.

CLTSH, or Community-Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene, have been seen as an instrumental tool if steps and follow-ups are maintained. The establishment of ODF verification committees and the improved quality of latrine construction by households are the main focuses.

Challenges include the lack of sufficient budget, uniformity, prompt behavioural change, low water supply coverage, incomplete or lack of actual process of CLTSH. Stone slabs have been considered laborious and has required a shift to the use of concrete slabs.

Some recommendations for CLTSH noted include the coordination through exchange visits, proper documentation of the right processes and steps in implementing the CLTSH with proper training and revitalization of set guidelines. There is also a need to support artisans by linking them with MFIs.

Ato Tamiru Zeleke, Country Director of Hope International was introduced with a presentation on the 4th Annual Joint CSOs Report on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Ato Tamiru noted that Civil Society Organizations (CSO) has played significant role in the WaSH sector. The Water and Sanitation Forum has contributed in the areas of capacity building, networking, and resource mobilization to name a few, and has been instrumental in creating a link with Ministries and donor agencies.

Some major achievements include:

- The construction and rehabilitation of 1687 different types of water schemes providing water for over 1.1 million people at a total cost of 342,758,179.86 ETB. Of these, 1525 water schemes have functioning WASHCOs.
- The establishment of 41,582 (31,579 HHs, 8,557 schools, 1,138 health facilities, 257 emergency camps/villages and 51 others) proper sanitation facilities which provides service to 621,503 people has been constructed at the cost of 41,796,676 ETB. This led to the declaration of ODF status for 1471 triggered villages.
- Capacity building in the form of:
 - Sanitation and hygiene training for 15,147 participants at a cost of 886,737 ETB
 - Training of artisans, caretakers and strengthening of WASHCOs members with an expenditure of 3,028,169.50 ETB
 - Training and awareness creation of different crosscutting issues at the cost of 929,367.80 ETB for 286,941 participants
 - Material support such as IT equipment and WaSH Kit tools with an expenditure of 1,869,398.92 ETB

Noted challenges include the limited sustainability, slow reporting times, capacity and skills for the proper management of WaSH projects which are in turn directly linked to the high staff turnover. Another challenge includes the lack of availability of construction material coupled with the high costs, and the lack of smooth program delivery due to the 30:70 legislation.

Some recommendations put forward include the need to create a set of bylaws with good management systems to synchronize WaSH plans with sector actors and other stakeholders to create a sense of accountability. The need to engage the private sector to create innovative and cost-effective approaches in implementing WaSH projects was also mentioned.

Ato Tamiru ended his presentation with thoughts for future WaSH projects which touched upon the recommendations stated above and adding that behavioural change communication principles need to be considered.

Michael Negash thanked Ato Tamiru Zeleke and summed up the challenges and recommendations of WaSH schemes and introduced Ato DangewTadesse from MoH.

Sanitation and Water for All High Level Ministerial meeting will be conducted in Washington DC in April. Two reports have been drafted, the Progress Report 2012 and Smart Commitments 2014 that will represent Ethiopia on the global front.

Global coordinating office has designed a matrix that takes into account nine commitments by four ministries, and according to these commitments, their status and successes will be briefly discussed.

Commitments and progress and status include:

1. To generate 3 billion USD to implement UAP from government and donors forging long-term partnership - this is almost complete.
2. Create a wash inventory which will establish a national baseline on water and sanitation availability which is almost complete for all regions except Somali region.
3. Establish self-supply as a service delivery mechanism for rural water within national WaSH program in order to reach 30% of people who do not have adequate access to safe water – good progress has been made in this front.
4. In terms of the next commitment to achieve WaSH related MDG and UAP goals, good progress has been made.
5. Establish a consolidated WaSH Account in 2013 to harmonize and integrate mechanisms in partnership with all external financiers, NGO's and private sector – this commitment is almost complete.
6. Implement the Health Extension Program (HEP) which is almost complete with the deployment of 38,000 HE workers in rural and urban areas.
7. In the commitment to achieve 82% Open Defecation Free (ODF)in Ethiopian by 2015, progress has been made, but is slow as there is a need to involve multiple Ministries and development partners.
8. Progress has been made in the commitment to strengthen and enabling environment through political commitment and sectoral reform.
9. Reduce the non-functionality of schemes to 10% in 2015. Good progress has been made as the non-functionality of schemes has been reduced from 34% to 24%.

SMART Commitments were presented:

- Visibility of sanitation – MoH, MoFED, MoWIE and MoE will issue the contribution of improving sanitation and hygiene practices in recognized in Ethiopia's GTP
- Financing of water and sanitation – MoFED will work with MoH, MoWIE, to secure internal and external financing to address OWP current funding

- Policy and planning – MoH will work with MoUDC, MoWIE, MoE, MoFED to develop and endorse and commence implementation of national integrated urban sanitation and hygiene strategy by end of 2014
- National monitoring system – MoH will develop indicators to track of progress to national and international targets
- Coordination and alignment – MoWIE, MoH, MoE will work together to strengthen and establish a functional coordination structure at all levels as set by WIF
- Capacity - MoH will provide support to build the capacity of front line health workers to enable 82% ODF kebeles by 2015
- Capacity - MoH will support the development and implementation of approach guidelines and policy such as sanitation marketing to support ODF environments.
- Capacity – MoWIE is to strengthen SS as a service delivery mechanism with OWINP alongside community managed approach

Ato Michael Negash thanked the two presenters and opened the floor questions and comments.

Comment - I have been waiting for One Wash Program that was initiated 20-30 years back to be realized. This is a very important step forward, but effort needed for its application. I have two observations on JTR. Urban sanitation is suffering because of unique features of urban setting, but I would have liked to see other features of urban wash, one being for households to build latrines, most homes are rented and those are the ones that do not have latrines. Secondly I would have liked to hear how the health extensions programs is performed in the urban settings and lessons to be learned or challenges they have faced.

A: Ato Abiy - urban sanitation is a hot issue and it is difficult to answer. As the presentation had mentioned, this part needs more attention and clear strategies. Also there needs to be a lead organization to manage urban sanitation. What has been observed is that there is a lack of responsibility from all offices involved. This has been seen as one of the main problems we are facing.

Q: In regards to the readiness criteria in Gambella for the implementation of the OWINP. Some things are lagging behind in terms of resource mobilization, assigning appropriate focal persons to WaSH activities to the region. What is the way forward to materializing the plan in the region?

Q: In the presentation by Ato Abiy, with regard to urban sanitation solid/liquid waste has been included in the assessment. There was mention of a lack of lead institutions, coordination, etc. of those groups. The need and importance of the role of Ministry of Urban Development and Construction and its branches in those towns needs to be known. MoH cannot tackle this issue alone. Have you asked how they are planning to manage solid/liquid waste in the future in the urban setting is not addressed, how is it going to be coordinated?

A: Ato Abiy – Ato Waltaji from WHO had a question in regards to the urban sanitation issues. This is the major problem in urban sanitation. Other colleagues can reply further.

A: The assessment states the gravity of the problem of urban sanitation as it has been recognized as a huge public health challenge and the OWINP is not accommodating the issue of urban sanitation. Over 935 towns are representing the country, so the Ministry deployed over 39,000 HE workers have been

trained to promote. Behavioural change of urban dwellers have changed, but hardware part is not being addressed the liquid/solid waste management issue is not being addressed also. To fill the gap, an urban sanitation technical working groups (involving governmental and DPs) was established to document and draft a strategic action plan. The framework is almost complete. I invite key partners to join the working group to finalize the urban sanitation strategic action plan. Since the key partners are not involved in the OWNPN, I think MoU needs to be developed on urban sanitation, and we need your help.

Compliment -Team member Ato Manaye - Problem of awareness is not the only issue at hand; there is also a lack of infrastructure, and implementation. You cannot build a latrine through awareness only. There are license issues, land management issues to name a few. In my opinion, only the awareness component has been achieved as of date. There are other issues that need to be addressed. Awareness is achieved but does not mean anything without these other factors. There is no coordination in towns and kebele/woreda levels to support these urban health extension workers, and this has created a big gap. There are organizational, budget and capacity problems. Need for a comprehensive urban sanitation strategy that clearly defines what urban sanitation is and how to achieve the goals.

Compliment: Ato Sileshi - we cannot discuss and finish urban sanitation as it is a complex one. Currently the Federal Ministries are one of the major stakeholders regarding this issue. We have already deployed 4084 urban extension workers have been deployed who are responsible to carry out awareness at household level only as they are not high level experts. To discuss more about this issue further, as the agenda states, the parallel session will contribute more to the issue.

Q: Readiness of Gambella region for implementation of one Wash program. What is the way forward with regard to materializing the plan in that region?

Related Q: ADB Comment on the readiness of the Gambella region in implementing the OWNPN from a national view. What has been done in assessing the capacity in all regions for the implementation of OWNPN? During the presentation, it has been seen that there are some institutions that are not active or non-existent. The successful implementation of a OWNPN depends on the availability of people who can implement it. So there needs to be a country wide assessment of capacity. The POM is supposed to have aspects to say that in as much as it is a common document but each region will be treated differently due to capacity. What will the approach be for the OWNPN in terms of capacity in the different regions?

A: Ato Abiy - The program is assessing the capacity and readiness of implementation of OWNPN in all regions. Reports state that there is almost a 40% shortage of human resource with a lack of trained professionals in the sector. The government has been involved in capacity building, and compared from previous years there is progress in terms of human resources, professionals and technicians in regions and federal levels. Also, most regions have now prepared and signed their MoU.

Supplement by Participant – I have clearly seen that the establishment of a regional program management unit will not be established in the Gambella region. It has not been previously established, saying this, it has been stated that PMU is not well organized. It has not even been established. The reason is because the budget given from DP will remain in the office. The NWC needs to know that

Gambella region will not establish the PMU unless a separate budget is allocated apart from the national distribution formula. One justification for this is because the budget is allocated out of 1 million ETB, 750,000 ETB for one activity. Need to address issue of nation formula for budget allocation to the Gambella region.

Q: I see some figures that indicate around 7600 audited kebeles nationally, but the official report states no more than 3,000. How did you come with those figures?

Q: SS has been shown as important to the approach of water supply at the individual level. How can we scale up under the condition of individual attitudes and the lack of access of materials and high costs? The time allotted to reaching the MDG is next year. Under these constraints how can we scale up water supply?

Presentation 2 Question and Discussions

Q: The presentation states that only 22 CSO's reported, but it needs to be said that report still has value and contributes greatly to OWNPN. What is the mechanism of collecting reports from CSO's, the main challenges, and the report mechanisms used. This is one issue in Ethiopia, a lot of work is done, and nothing is reported. What future actions will be taken to combat this issue?

A: Ato Tamene: we should state that this forum is voluntary and is not law abiding. Everything comes willingly. This is all collecting from NGOs that are willing to give their reports. Some don't like giving reports to us but rather to the government. So most of the time, our report is based on door to door surveys to show that we are working together to develop Ethiopia. We hire consultants that ask questions via an agreed format with all the members which are sent to the focal person who responds to us. They all have their own reasons why the reports are not returned in a timely manner. We call upon all NGOs to come together to agree on the format and then they send their report. Challenges are that most NGOs are busy for their own reasons which include high staff turnover. For the future, we are planning to do it in a better way, we continue to go door to door, send e-mails and ask government to help us collect to collect the required information. Government has the right to forced reporting, but this should be done willingly.

Q: In terms of reporting data, is there a standard reporting format that is handed out to all the NGOs, and what is this format based on? Also in regards to the Impact of the figures mentioned, when providing materials of finances contributions is there an impact assessment of those figures? How do you align it to NWIs?

A: Yes, there is a standard for reporting. At the end of each year, we try to make impact assessments done by outside consultants. In the next report we will try to align with One WaSH reporting system.

Q: You mentioned that you have managed to construct several water supply schemes and sanitation facilities, in addition to the provisions of these services; I strongly believe NGOs are innovative creation media for the sector. How much has been taken into consideration the interest of the disabled groups in the planning, designing and implementation of WaSH facilities?

A: We try our best to be gender sensitive and the disabled.

Q: Regarding the collaboration with MoH with regional/woreda health offices. What was your role in constructing household latrines from a subsidy point of view and triggering participation?

A: The question should go to individual NGOs and not to the committee. Each NGO has their own reporting systems and they know what they have done over the years. We will try to work with the government, even to the regions and woredas, but not so enough data is given to this committee.

Compliment: Ato Robel – Ato Tamiru has addressed most of the points. There was a question on the ODF kebeles. The numbers of households not kebeles are estimated at being 7638 (Previous question period). Civil society organizations in general do not work independently, we are grassroots level agencies in most cases and the government extension workers and all existing structures has been part of this process. It shouldn't be considered as coming from a different angle. It's all about partnership.. That is an estimate based on collaborations with grassroots levels and government organizations. The reporting issue still a challenge. This is a very high level concise report for this forum. The work is in progress. Even after compiling this, 6-7 CSOs have reported. We know that every NGO cannot operate in this country without reporting to a higher party. But they are reluctant when it's voluntary. We should be able to work together to contribute to the sector. Ministry support will be helpful to get timely reports. The other issue on the impact assessments – they will be reported and captured by an outside consultant. Innovations and disability issues should be dealt with individually, these are parts of the package. We try to address these issues and have innovations like manual drilling. The learning curve can be scaled up and should continue.

Q: In regards to the reporting issue. We are getting reports from regions performed by CSO's are not fully captured. We need to have a system to get full reports from CSO's in the WaSH Sector. CSO should report to the regions at the least, and we need a mechanism to get these reports to the governments. Some report to the financiers, but some do not report to the required level government organizations. What are your recommendations on getting reports on time from all CSOs in the sector?

Presentation 3 Question and Discussion

Q: I have a few recommendations for Ato Dagnev related to the 2014 commitments:

1. One of the Smart Commitment was raising funds for OOWNP by the end 2015. Funding should be raised at the end of 2014
2. Capacity by MoH -the commitments by the MoH has been acknowledged, but the water sector has recently planned to engage water extension workers to support implementation at woreda levels, and there has already been work in some of the regions including Tigray where 10 graduated have been trained and deployed. In my opinion this needs to also include capacitating woredas through recruitment and deployment of water extension workers across the country.

A: The fundraising and capacity issue will be considered and we will amend the commitment

Q: As global evidence becomes available on the impact of the climate and changes on health, environment and availability of water, this is an opportune time to include the issue of climate change to gain sustainability.

A: The inclusion of the global issue of climate change and health is important. We will also include this input into our commitments

Q: Regarding the household sanitation issue. MoH is successfully using CLTSH approach, which was being used in other regions. Little success in creating demand, but little is expended on the supply side of improved latrines. If Ethiopia is to achieve ODF by 2015, 38 % have to get better toilets. Something more has to be done to invest in household sanitation. Commitments need to be made between donors and MoH to fund new innovations by encouraging local entrepreneurs to push household sanitation in rural and semi urban settings.

A: Recently, the Ministry has developed and approved a guideline for sanitation marketing that will be approved tomorrow, with a national workshop looking into experiences of other countries including Cambodia. This should be a remedy for that gap.

Q: On the commitments set for 2014, WaSH Ministries will ensure that sanitation and hygiene is getting proper attention in the GTP. It is good to put more explicit commitments especially to budget allocation so that development partners can contribute more. Two presentations have triggered the need for that. Budget allocation for sanitation and hygiene is less prioritized and is not captured; we need explicit commitments for sanitation and hygiene. Regarding commitments on improving the national monitoring system, is it geared towards having an integrated WaSH MIS?

A: On improving national monitoring system; the sanitation issue both in the urban and rural settings has suffered because sanitation is a central problem for all. Is this commitment an integrated WaSH MIS? The central problem of feces as a contaminating source for water and health is an issue in both urban and rural settings. So an allocation of the budget for sanitation is a critical issue.

A: We accept that that both rural and urban sector sanitation has suffered. Allocating of a specific budget is a critical issue that needs to be amended.

Q: In regards to the achievement of WaSH related MDGs; how was the update made since 2012 and how is it directly related to the development of a strong monitoring mechanism? We need to know where we are in 2014 to achieve our targets.

Q: Sanitation and hygiene is a global issue. The new Smart Commitments drafted and presented here are inclining more on the sanitation sub-sector only. How the MoWIE engaged and involved in the process of drafting this commitment? Regarding the operation and maintenance, based on the NWI report present the malfunctional schemes are at 34% and in some parts beyond, we are left with less than one year, the issue of strategizing our engagement regard O&M services is under process, without having those materials and tools how can we downsize the level of malfunctioning schemes to 10%?

A: we realize that most of the commitments are focusing on sanitation and the inclusion of water is necessary. This is why we are all here to give feedback on the gaps in the commitments.

Lunch Break

Parallel Session 1/1 – One WaSH National Program Operational Manual (POM) presented by Yemarshet Yemane (as reported by Gulilat Birhane & Martha Solomon)

The main purpose of the presentation prior to finalizing the POM was to briefly present purpose, content, and use of the POM and to discuss unresolved issues of ambiguities within the document.

The main purpose is to make the Consolidated Wash Account (CWA) operational. The content includes implementation arrangements, financial management and disbursement, procurement, administration, environmental and social safeguards, and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). The POM will be used by all consolidated WaSH account users, but mainly by MoFED.

Major findings noted include:

- Prerequisite for financial disbursement from Development Partners (DP), with all procurement of goods and services subject to post review
- Each DPs bilateral agreement with MoFED needs to be in accordance with the signed MoWIE's Code of Conduct (CoC)
- Government system will be used to procure, disburse, report, audit and monitor DPs assistance to the CWA
- Categorization of grant receiving small towns
- Not all OWNPs budget is managed and disbursed through the CWAs

Yemarshet mentioned that to finalize the POM, there are some issues that need to be resolved. Firstly, there need to be an establishment of clear definitions of roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders at all levels. Secondly, fulfillment of the prerequisite requirements for the transfer of the CWA, and lastly, clarification on ambiguities concerning WaSH implementation procedures and procurement need to be resolved.

Parallel Session 1/2 - WASH Social Assessment Results presented by Ato Girma Aboma on behalf of the National WaSH Coordination Office

Ato Girma stated that an increased understanding of the social impacts of the implementation of WaSH projects can provide better alternative project design and implementation. The social assessment done by both international and national consultants through review and synthesis of existing data, aimed at assessing potential impact of OWNPs on under-served populations, and identifying strategies to mitigate impacts.

Results show that there is considerable progress being made in the access to water and sanitation (from 19% & 3% in 1990 to 52% & 63%). But although a committed enabling environment supporting OWNPs to

meet GTP goals exists, with a focus on groups who are lagging behind, disparities exist within regions, urban/rural areas, and access for women, elderly and the physically disabled.

Challenges face the sector due to the lack of a clear guideline within OWNPN with regard to equity and inclusion. There is a clear disparity in the benefits gained from existing services, due to the lack of training and access to information on community specific needs.

These issues can be combated by increasing focus on equitable and inclusive access to WaSH services and facilities, upgrading sector data management systems, and to put an increased focus on sustainability of WaSH services at all levels.

Parallel Session 1/3 – Fiduciary Risk Assessment (FRA) of Ethiopia’s OWNPN presented by UNICEF WaSH Specialist Ato Tamene Gossa

The FRA aims to understand and evaluate the level of fiduciary and procurement risk within the OWNPN and CWA. The FRA will report on its main findings, risk implications and level of risk and later recommend mitigation measures. The FRA covered areas including financial management and procurement capacity, regulation, practices and procedures for the public sector institutions responsible for program implementation. The FRA looked at three regions, with 2 woredas in each region given focus. The results showed that most of the risk levels are at low or medium, with the program management and monitoring indicator at the woreda level being high risk.

Key recommendations from the FRA include the need to put into place an agreed standard for periodic reporting with a focus on computer-based reporting systems with at least one finance officer. Secondly, a need to conduct annual sustainability checks of program management models while looking into urban sanitation and health extension programs, and considering the inclusion of responsibility for siting productive boreholes on contracts. Thirdly, the need for skilled staff for procurement, trained finance officers, and internal auditors needs addressing.

Ato Tamene closed by stating that the FRA requires follow through with joint efforts by government and donor parties.

One WaSH POM discussions are as follows:

Standardizing available documents in the sector

Does the POM accept staggered implementation for regions that have capacity problems? What strategies should in place to overcome the problems of high staff turnover in the regions?

Rephrase WASHCO managed towns to small towns

Replace CFT with technical equipped specialist

Budget distribution to combat water issue which is not adequately addressed – sanitation is not well addressed in terms of sanitation

There is no disagreement between donors on procurement; there is no disagreement either on POM

Towns categorized by the size of the population versus the ability to cover the cost but now it is clustered based on a management style

POM will help MoFED/BoFED/WoFED in managing CWA so we should not mix points

What is the time frame to finalize the POM?

Social Assessment

Climate issue should consider the boarder of the country

Does this have budget implications? If so, should development partners be expected to allocate a budget?

Fiduciary Risk Assessment

How are case woredas identified?

How is the representativeness of these six woredas compared to the country as a whole?

Call to implementing institutions to address the FRA mitigation with the POM

The POM is the base for all others and how others rated moderate while you conclude there is a good

Post implementation should be a focus and PM should be future focus

What is the link between these two documents and POM?

Do we need only annual sustainability check for FRA? Detail mitigating measures should be in place

The FRA should show detailed on where the risk should lie, woreda, kebele, or type of funding

Parallel Session 2/1 - SNNPR and Oromia Self Supply Experience and Strategy – Ato Eyasu Mamo (as reported byInge Klaassen &Dr. Alemayehu Mekonnen)

The question of the need for SS was raised, and the need for SS to reach GTP targets. SS takes into account the needs for the un-served community members due to low increment rate, high non-functionality, increased population and demand, and limited budgeting OWINP.

Some differences between Oromia and SNNPR in Self-supply acceleration included the level of implementation; Oromia is delivering with SNNPR is still in its inception phase. There is also a difference in terms of approach; Oromia has established a Regional Task Force and package preparation, while SNNPR is using communication, advocacy and promotion with maximum participation and contribution from beneficiaries. The third difference is in planning and sector involvement; Oromia has a high participatory planning between WaSH, Education and Health Bureaus and suppliers, while SNNPR is just getting started and has included Agricultural sector in the planning.

Findings and agreements

- We need to accelerate existing practice by improving (not make new ones)
- Create demand, which encourages the emergence of new technologies
- Attitude change and desire to disseminate the package
- Private sector involvement can lead to reaching the unreached, yet is a challenge
- Political leaders should lead, while each actor has clear roles and responsibilities.
- Annual planning and budgeting as to make SSAP tangible
- Include SS in existing structures
- Approach: follow the SS Implementation Manual
- Collaboration with partners such as UNICEF, IDE, JICA, IRC each on own unique components of SSA

Challenges

- Insufficient technical support (as compared to demand)
- Poor coordination regional and zonal and woreda
- Concern on (monitoring) water quality at household level
- Low quality RP being manufactured
- Different modalities and approaches by different partners and between sectors (e.g. subsidy)
- Lack of private sector involvement

Solutions

- Address supply chain and private sector engagement
- Coordination is central. Establish Inclusive SS platforms at all level.
- Increase M&E
- Find common implementation mechanism and activities
- Pooling of resources(e.g. agriculture-wash)
- Prevent confusion communities and households (e.g. free delivery)
- Strong leadership is required

S2/2 Self Supply Package (Federal) – presented by Ato Eyasu Guta

Federal: SSA Manual in order to meet the GTP

Ato Eyasu acknowledged the role of the regions in supporting the implementation of the OWNPN by piloting and implementation SSAP. The aim of the SSA manual is to standardize the application of SS to reduce irregularities when implementing SS by reducing financial gaps within the OWNPN, creating access and service provisions, and promote low cost technologies that is demand driven.

Five pillars of Accelerated SS were observed; of these enabling environments, training and capacity building, technologies, implementation and promotion and awareness creation were mentioned.

Ten steps in accelerating SSA were noted as being;

1. Assign a focal person
2. Assessment of potential
3. Potential mapping
4. Creating demand
5. Training and Capacity Building
6. Select appropriate technologies
7. M&E
8. Available credit
9. Implementation
10. M&E

The way forward from here is to invest in community mobilisation, focus on local and low cost technologies.

S2/3 Rural Water Supply Operation and Maintenance Manual and Strategic Framework for Rural Water Supply – presented by Ato Nuredin Mohammed

Finance allocation is moving from implementation towards O&M. O&M is the backbone in achieving coverage and sustainability as so; there is a need to get stakeholders interest and a budget for this purpose. 25.5 % of the current rural schemes are not functional (totally 23,610). The aim of UAP/GTP is to reduce the non-functionality rate to 10% by 2015 as there will be a 16% increase in coverage by reducing non-functionality. Ato Nuredin stressed the need for developing strategic framework for rural water supply and O&M manual.

Some recommendation leading to milestones against schedule include, review and selection of technology, legalization of WASHCOs, post-construction support, regulation of private operators, and the establishment of independent revolving fund office to procure and distribute spare parts. Another recommendation was to develop the O&M Manual with clear monitoring and reporting system that is linked to an O&M database.

Questions and Discussion

Q: How can we put quality control methods in place when we implement SS?

A: Quality control as partners (e.g. water works enterprise) have duties in implementing SS. Quality controls starts from the feasibility study (design, application and implementation) which needs strong monitoring support.

Q: How can we accommodate additional cost for O&M?

A: The tariffs for O&M for rural communities are based on different criteria, such as affordability. Towards this, there may be regional differences.

Q: How is the commitment to follow these procedures and accelerating Self-supply and necessary steps not to create 'a mess'?

A: MoWIE put in place clear roles and responsibilities; commitment can be checked through these lines and to assure not to duplicate efforts. Create demand should be in balance with support provided. Commitment has to do with creating an enabling environment, as shown by high level commitment.

Q: Regional demand Self-supply is not indicated in the OWNPN plan. OWNPN indicates a low figure. How is the flexibility of OWNPN to accommodate such variation or demand in the future?

A: It is noticed that planned finance to implement the OWNPN is short. National advised the regions to focus on low cost technologies such as Self-supply as to fill the finance gap.

Q: Manual drilling: Concern about cost variations. How can e.g. IDE address this?

A: Higher quality (such as provided by IDE) will cost more; lower quality or modifications to the standard will cost less. The consumer is to do cost-benefit analysis and choose.

Q: How can we put quality control methods in place when we implement SS?

A: Quality control as partners (e.g. water works enterprise) have duties in implementing SS. Quality controls starts from the feasibility study (design, application and implementation) which needs strong monitoring support. Small-scale and micro-enterprises whom have received training as to assure quality. Monitoring and training is relevant. JICA: minimum standards have been set in standardisation as to assure quality.

Q: How can we accommodate additional cost for O&M?

A: The tariffs for O&M for rural communities are based on different criteria, such as affordability. Towards this, there may be regional differences.

Q: Regional demand Self-supply is not indicated in the OWNPN plan. OWNPN indicates a low figure. How is the flexibility of OWNPN to accommodate such variation or demand in the future?

A: It is noticed that planned finance to implement the OWNPN is short. National advised the regions to focus on low cost technologies such as Self-supply as to fill the finance gap.

Q: Training and procurement is a cascaded approach.

A: Training is provided to the local artisans, so that after training completion, they can support the users. Procured items can be handed over according to the need and readiness.

Q: Regional experience on manual drilling technology and the easiness of using these tools by communities?

A: This and related quality question needs to be addressed to different partners; it is not a sector question alone. The question is here also: do we need to follow the same quality on rope pump, for example price and standard of pump used for agriculture versus drinking water?

Q: Did you consider the IWRM and source protection? Did you include disability designs in the Self-supply manuals?

A: IWRM is part of SSA manual, while practically learning from Regions

Q: How will you operationalize the O&M manual?

A: Consultant will prepare an operationalization strategy document towards the manual.

Q: Sustainability of Self-supply: Do you evaluate risk of ground water depletion and Fluoride before you replicate?

A: Yes, we do. We strengthen water harvesting activities, so it complements depletion of water. Also, the manual addresses sustainability issues towards which all actors are to live upon to.

Some unanswered questions include:

Q: How do you familiarise the SS manual to communities?

Q: It is believed that SS is a low cost technology. Is it?

Q: There should be an assessment of the areas where these low cost technologies can be implemented; else the financial gap may not be filled

Floor was opened for discussion or further question for the two Parallel Sessions

Q: There needs to be clarification on the SS presentation, as it relates to the JTR presentation. Potential of SS as a solution for safe drinking water – improving existing wells

A: SS is a common practice, what is different is that there is an acceleration strategy where roles and responsibilities are defined. Ownership is felt. Inception phase is in terms of ownership.

A: The concern as professionals and practitioners are the quality issues of SS. No incentives were there. The approach is that there is a practice, now how can we improve the water quality through those practices? Through improving construction quality and improving storage. Cost is a minimal amount.

Q: SS in Oromia and SNNPR is being aggressively planned, but among the list of recommendations and assumption, one of the issues is that a common mechanism and approach is needed. Based on 1wash pillars, harmonizing approaches is not an option as seen in Oromia and SNNPR.

A: Two things – it is good to go for common approach in terms of subsidies to assure minimum quality, and on getting private sector in. HH tailored SS on the other hand needs a wide range of options, but we need to give options a look into.

A: How do we bring other ministries on board? We need to take the initiative to invite other ministries and SS together as a service delivery mechanism that complement each other.

Q: Observation for the O&M strategy. When I see the results it doesn't have room for social issues to be included in the manual and strategy. How can we mainstream social issues in the manual that is more technical?

A: Yes. There are practices we can learn from; one approach is where SS can finance all but technical support. Household irrigation is also similar. SS approach is one service delivery moderm of WaSH and therefore not separated from sanitation.

Q: POM has generic issues in terms of implementation approach. This is a guide and not a detailed strategy. We have tried to link social assessment and the POM. We need to link all three documents POM, FRA and Social Assessment.

A: There is a stakeholder group to address these issues. Mr. Arto requests that social issues need to be stressed.

Q: Role of MFI was missing in the presentation. Successful SS need MFIs on board. We need a suitable entry points for the MFIs. We can use examples from other countries and implement these here in Ethiopia to help convince MFIs to come into the picture. Using SS for local gardens to sell produce will be an incentive of MFIs to have confidence to fund SS schemes.

A: Ato Arto - WaSH MFI workshops took place 1 ½ years ago and established a coordination committee that never met. There is a need to try again as this issue has been stressed strongly. MFI market assessment is being done, and this could ignite the coordination again.

Q: Tulip water filters. We would like to acknowledge the encouragement and support by the Oromia region to promote low-cost technologies. All technologies are imported from abroad, coupled with the issue of foreign currency, low cost technologies were not an important issue. How can this forum support us in a way to put these issues in the forefront as this service is a huge health issue and crucial to the community?

A: Ato Arto, this is a valid comment. There is no action plan on how to involve the private sector more. We need to establish another task force to work with the private sector. We need to involve people who know the private sector as they know how to make the business end prosper.

Q: Benishangul-Gumuz – MoU at the regional and federal levels have been signed. What is the involvement of youth and women? They have not signed the MoU at the federal level.

A: This is not a big challenge, as what is happening on the ground is more important.

Ato Arto: this needs to be addressed in the POM

Q: Fair allocation of resources in urban sections. Categorization of towns does not help to allocate resources. Yemarshet categorized towns into two sections. Cost recovery is an issue. Affordability and categorization needs to be addressed. Categorization full cost recovery and partial loan/grant/subsidy towns, and then full grant/subsidy towns.

A: The urban classification question is an ongoing issue. Town classifications are different to what the classification is needed for. We also need some clarification on the classifications.

Comment: SS quality issues and the material delivered were not focused on. Material to be supplied should be quality assured. Involvement of private contractors and the type of contract will help with sustainability and maintenance.

Comment: A common modality and integration among industries and ministries is necessary. If we do not work together depletion of resources will be an issue. Priorities could be different amongst ministries and may not consider issues that are big in other ministries.

Some unanswered questions include:

Q: SS which focuses on water supply. Is it not possible to apply this issue on sanitation facilities because we are scaling up the sanitation facilities in the rural setting?

Q: I would like to raise issues in SS. The issue of collaboration or coordination is a big concern between different sectors like agriculture. How do we bring about this collaboration?

Meeting is closed for today with a reception to follow.

Day 2 of the 6th Multi-Stakeholders Forum

Parallel Session 3 – One WaSH Performance Monitoring

S3/1 WaSH Facility Mapping – presented by Kimmo Koivumaki (COWASH GIS Expert)

Water Facility mapping similar to water point mapping. Ato Kimmo stated that data collection and updating of national wash inventory is for decision making purposes. To make good decision, up to date and correct data is needed. This should be in the back of our minds at all times. There is also a need to coordinate data collected to have a better analysis. Objectives of this presentation are to relay results, point out obstacles, and look into possible solutions for WaSH Facility Mapping.

Data was collected from five project woredas in the Benishangul-Gumuz region. There have been approximately 1,000 facilities built over the past four years with 90-100% of facilities mapped.

The major findings (although sample woredas are small in number, similar finding were at other woredas) were the lack of poor data collection due to the lack of proper internet connection/power, infected computers, and lack of budget. Data collected was poorly organized and in many instances stored on one personal computer. Saying this, there was a general sense of interest in developing the data management process and there were function computers and GPS in all woredas.

The mobile data collection method was mentioned as being the best method, but it too has its disadvantages as it cannot read other databases, high cost for devices and training and the dependency on an external commercial partner. Ato Kimmo also mentioned that there is no clear process or clear organization for NWI updating or mapping as there are no clear roles and responsibilities for data collection and management.

Major recommendations include:

- Data management should be considered a performance evaluation criteria – with the establishment of M&E units for each administrative level
- Until functioning spreadsheets and internet/power connection is established, handwritten records should be considered
- Build the source on open source software

A strategic direction needs to be formed with decisions made on scaling up/down of smart phone data collection, software for WaSH Facility Mapping, and the establishment of clear roles and responsibilities. Databases need to be aligned into one MIS with secure access to all stakeholders.

S3/2 TOR for the Establishment of WSWG and its Secretariat – presented by Ato Mesfin Mulugeta

Objectives of the presentation are to create awareness for the newly established WSWG and secretariat, to get endorsements, and to initiate funding for administrative purpose and experience sharing for teams and staff. Ato Mesfin stated that the WSWG wants to create a platform with DPs to jointly promote, support and coordinate sustainable integrated development.

The specific objectives are to:

- Function as knowledge hub for the sector as a whole

- To organize a forum for information sharing and exchange
- Jointly discuss review strategy agenda
- Discuss and develop shared solutions
- Discuss and follow up the issue of sector wide coordination awareness and initiative creation
- Ensure formal links between water and relevant sectors.

The highlighted purposes for the establishment of WSWG include financing, strategy and planning, monitoring, coordination, and information sharing. Tasks to be carried out in relation to the purposes of the WSWG include the review of water sector financing, identifying issues, creating a practical action plan, and a strategy for broad water resources management, by working similar-interest groups.

The organizational structure and proposed members of WSWG was discussed.

The roles, core functions, and organizational structure of the secretariat were also discussed in detail. Of these roles, knowledge management, program support, networking and coordination and communication were mentioned.

As a way forward, what we are expecting the endorsement by DPs to function actively.

S3/3 One WaSH M&E MIS and Experience of Somali NWI – presented by Ato Tamene Hailu (MoWIE)

The NWI was first undertaken in 2003 EFY by MoWIE together with other stakeholders to combat the variations and discrepancies of the baseline data. These variations/discrepancies had a negative impact on the sector planning and monitoring on the goals set by UAP, GTP and MDG.

NWI uses smart phone technology to generate maps that are later uploaded to the database via internet connection. This data can later be exported and used in other applications like Excel. Results from NWI were reviewed and lessons learned were discussed. As noted earlier by Ato Kimmo, there is a missing data, lack of internet connection and computer is a major issue.

Ato Tamene talked about the experience of NWI in the Somali region. UNICEF has supported the procurement of 220 smartphones which have already been configured and transferred to the region. The Kenya-based non-profit AKVO has been contracted to ready mobiles and give Training to Trainers (ToT) for 50 people from relevant sector office and NGOs. Enumerators training and electronic-based NWI started in January of 2006.

Akvo flow and how the flow works was introduced. Data entry, cleaning and quality was discussed. Challenges include battery lifetime, internet connectivity, initial and recurrent costs of ICT, vulnerability of the device to theft and destruction, and the need to link Akvo database with WaSH MIS.

In saying this, Ato Tamene stressed the need to update the database to enhance and monitor WaSH change indicators for sustainable development in the sector.

The three speakers are invited to the front for discussion period.

Q: Inge - When we think of updating NWI and putting in a budget for that, can we take into account that we have to also budget for lessons learned, not only on the device but the system and the indicators. The OWP is hosting more profoundly, and more pronounced alternatives WaSH services such as SS and CMPs. If the Secretariat is responsible for coordinating and managing the WaSH sector, it needs to be informed through the NWI on the systems and the way WaSH is done.

A: This is correct. A budget should be both for the mobile and staffing issue, also for lessons learned. This needs to be in the budget.

A: Ato Tamene - We need a budget not only for the mobiles and administrative costs, but for all the updating systems, including lessons learned. We will try to work on this issue.

Q: Haimanot – Regarding the WSWG, I need more clarification on the scope in areas where challenges are present in the sector. What is this working group going to do in terms of water source mapping and overseeing standardized designs and supporting private sectors and CSO's?

A: Ato Mesfin - WSWG has not yet started as per what the TOR is saying. We are just starting to make it active and everything will come together over the course of time. When we try to take the water resource kick-off meeting, we tried to identify issues with the relevant directorates within the Ministry, and one of the issues raised was the standardizing of designs.

Q: Michael Wood – NWI regarding the numbering of water points. In Benishangul-Gumuz there are more than 900 water points that have been constructed since 2009, there is still no numbering on actual water point with a unique number on pumps. What is the plan for the Ministry to address this issue?

A: Ato Tamene - Our unique number is the GPS coordinates. We also give a unique administrative code to that water code, but in the future we are thinking of putting a unique code on the schemes. During updating we will improve and make corrections.

Q: Martha – In relation to updating. When entering updated work that is done, we should focus less on established and past indicators but other indicators that are not being focused on. We now have studies like the social assessment; these should be looked at more deeply.

A: We considered previous indicators as a term of reference. We include these indicators to evaluate our WaSH performance. Yes, we should include other indicators like water quality and social issues.

Q: Oliver Jones – linking NWI with other monitoring information and data. There are good initiatives in the different Ministries and outside in terms of improving monitoring and data collection, where is the macro view coming from? What are some of the linkages between the different monitoring activities taking place so we can start to bring these different systems and information together in a more coordinated manner to have more harmonization and less duplication of data and then we start to have a more holistic system that serves the whole sector? Is there a body who will take responsibility to drive this forward?

A: We are trying to link with other MIS systems from all the different Ministries (MoFED, MoH and MoE). In the future, we have to consider to link with other monitoring activities.

A: One of the duties and responsibilities of the program support is undertaking monitoring and evaluation works by the Secretariat body.

Q: On TOR core function it would be good to include program and monitoring support to address high risk issues that was presented. If monitoring is included it will be linked from the Secretariat to the regions. To the Somali experience, is it possible to qualitatively indicate the budget so that that will give us a point of measure for the gap in the budget?

A: The budget is stated as being around 7.2 million birr, which does not include the cost of the smart phones and cost for Akvo contractual agreement. There is support from UNICEF and other NGOs around the Jijiga area.

Q: Arto – NWI – Akvo is one of the commercial suppliers in this field, and I know that RWQA is also going to also map water points and quality. This RWQA is not using Akvo but MWater. Which company is Ethiopia going to be using in the future?

A: There are many organizations working in the data collection using mobile phones, so we need to standardize the application. Also, data sharing can happen easily. Even the use of different mobile phones in different regions is an issue.

Q: I want clarification on how WSWG is working with other organizations in the sector particularly the WaSH sector. We already have a national coordination office. I want to get the demarcation between the two units. When we think of Technical Working Group how are the development partners being used?

A: the NWCO is responsible to implement the OWNP. We are working with them, but the WSWG is broad, it included the water resource management on the one side. NWCO – there is a WaSH technical team, and this is linked to NWCO. With respect to the development partners, I listed the would-be members on both technical committees. Water resource management is a broader issue; we will try to bring all government institutions including MoA and MoFED on that technical committee to try to bring everyone on the platform.

Q: Basazin – NWI mobile technology is very effective, but is it a one-time activity or a continuous day-to-day system.

A: I agree that updates need to be done on a yearly basis, we suggest yearly, but we need to discuss time interval of updates.

Q: Abera – One of the issues learned was of the high staff turnover after capacity building. How do you see this issue in terms of sustainability?

A: This is not only an issue for WPM but a bigger issue that is occurring in other areas. I don't have an answer for that.

A: Ato Tamene – High turnover is occurring in all sectors. I cannot say we can solve this problem, but the government should focus on this problem.

Q: Involvement of private sector in functionality and updating of water points. This is a vast country and the government cannot cover all these areas. Other countries have the private sector involvement in assessing functionality of water points, collecting and updating. What is the intention of the Ministry in taking private sector on board?

A: We did not think about private sector involvement. In the future, we can create an association and we will give them training and they may do the inventory in the future.

Q: Leul – Technical Working Group – the Secretariat is mainly at the federal level, what is your plan and structure at regional and woreda levels?

A: Regarding the Secretariat at the regional and woreda level – it has no reason to be there. It would be a duplication of efforts. It has not started at the federal level, we need to strengthen this first and see if some kind of forum at the national and woreda level is needed.

Comment: What will be the combined NWI in the future and is it aligned with the WIF?

A: Linking MIS with mobile information capturing system is what is needed. WIF was developed after the NWI. During the updating we will consider the WIF and other indicators.

Q: Marko – There has been good discussion on challenges to data collection, but the data needs to be analyzed for decision making and targets. We are now in the second half of 2006 EFY, and a wash report for 2005 EFY has not been made. How is this being addressed and what improvements need to be made?

A: Ato Nuredin - At the end of every year we collect a report, last year's report from all the regions but the report is not on the website or made public, but anyone can get the report upon request. This has been submitted to the Parliament and Prime Minister's office. We are now preparing the reports biannually.

Comment: Martha – I have a few concerns on responsibilities and core functions of Secretariat. As we know the WSWG is a group, and not a permanent institution. This group is composed of government, DPs and NGOs that comes together every three months to discuss on strategic issues and give directions. We need to be careful that an overlap of responsibilities does not happen. The Secretariat gives support to make the WSWG operational, and should not be involved in preparation of the annual plan. We should be clear on these responsibilities.

A: We fully accept what you said and need to take lessons from different regions.

A: The role of the Secretariat is coordination, facilitation, and providing technical support to the WSWG and the technical committees. It is not a permanent structure; it will not be there every time.

Q; Inge – Following up on the concerns of updating indicators as part of NWI II; what kind of body can assure this process?

A: One of the challenges is updating of the existing inventory schemes, status, system, and entering new schemes. We have prepared more than 26 indicators at the beginning of the NWI, but we are only using 10 because of the lack of capacity, we are thinking to add more indicators. We need support in this regard.

A: Mobile data collection working group was established last year from various organizations to look into making structure from federal to woreda levels, getting funds, using budget for this update. We will bring this to the working group.

Q: Robel – There has been mentioned that Akvo database does not link with MIS; what does that mean and what is the mechanism moving forward?

A: Yes it is not linked. Till now there are two consultants, these two should sit and talk about a simple application to export data to MIS system. After we finish the inventory we will bring the two together to make this link.

Q: Michael Wood - Challenges include sending info to dashboard. In Benishangul-Gumuz there is a Woreda Net was established with satellite dishes, but they are not using it. Could this be used to send information?

A: Yes, there is a Woreda Net, but there are a few in the Somali region. Even the Woreda Net is not functioning properly. In the future, the Science and Technology Ministry is working to deploy the Woreda Net. Then we can use it.

Q: I would like to ask for clarification about the updating on NWI; I am concerned about the timing if this data should serve as an input for decision and policy making, how much are we planning on using this data and how will the Ministry willing to accept and incorporate in planning process?

A: The issue of timing is also our concern. We are asking all stakeholders to think about the timely updating of NWI, and should be included as an undertaking of MSF6.

Q: Nadine – Structure of working groups – wash substructure. We have an Urban WaSH group that meets monthly. This group started to meet last year when a lot of DP felt that urban wash and urbanization is a prominent topic that needs to be discussed. The structure presented shows more subgroups (urban sanitation, urban water, rural WaSH) for obvious reasons. But this seems to be against the integral idea of WaSH to separate sanitation and water. However the Ministry decides to move forward, my question is in regards to timing and when DP can expect a final structure and how the existing working groups will function under that?

A: You asked how we are going to make these technical teams functional and when. I cannot provide a timeframe, on the how part, this will be done in consultation with the relevant directorates and WTG co-chairs (JICA, UNICEF). I cannot give you a timeframe, but it will be soon. I know the existence of the Urban WaSH group, we will capture everything after participation and we will try to align the secretariats group with the Urban WaSH group.

Q: My question may be irrelevant, but is important for small organizations who work in WaSH programs. We don't have mapping technology. I have the mobile, could you help with the technical knowhow?

A: The application is not complicated, the application is installed into the mobile and to get detailed support we can discuss further in my office.

Q: Mobile phone data entry; how is the data approved before sending to the board? Is it collected at the woreda/kebele level before being sent? What is the approving mechanism? Some previous data shows surprising results of access coverage at some woredas. It has been shown that there is 200% coverage released on the website. Validity of the data needs to be checked before release.

A: The data is approved on the field prior. The system that existed before data was given first to the kebele, then to the woreda, and then the region then inputs the data. Error can occur during the transfer of data through so many hands. But with this technology, data is sent directly to the mobile, which transfers it to the dashboard, which sends the information to the federal level. Firstly, the mobile does not accept any error therefore incorrect data cannot be inputted into the system. Errors do occur, but I believe this technology will improve that.

Parallel Session 4 (as reported by Mesay Tefera and Amare Beyene)

S4/1 Urban Sanitation in One Wash – presented by Ato Sileshi Taye (MoH)

The main purpose of urban sanitation in WaSH was to create dialogue between stakeholder to generate ideas through policy makers, researchers, operators and end users. Ato Sileshi quoted some numbers to stress the need for dialogue. He mentioned that 60% of the urban population is living in about 68 towns with an average growth rate of 4.1% and contributing to about 60% of the GDP.

There are five levels/grades of urban centers distinguished by population size. Some of the implications of rapid urbanization include, poverty, water shortages, inadequate sanitation, overcrowding, and inadequate services to name a few. Due to this rapid urbanization access rates for latrines is at 80.35%, which means that 20% of residents are practicing OD. Towns have a limited capacity for solid/liquid waste removal, coupled with lack of investment, coordination and technology has exasperated the situation.

Some proposed strategic directions include:

- Making urban sanitation a priority agenda in the urban setup
- Develop a MoU by Sector Ministries and Agencies that will delineate the duties and responsibilities and establish M&E systems
- Creating incentives to engage private sector

Q: Did the urban sanitation strategy considered the conventional system?

A: The sanitation strategy will include also institutions not only HH.

Q: Is it expected to prepare new MoU for Urban sanitation, is the WIF referred?

A: There is a new MoU, which involves MoUDC and other stakeholders.

Q: Is there a possibility to resolve the role of each stakeholder in the guideline?

A: In the MOU all actors' roles and responsibilities are clearly addressed.

Q: No structure for hygiene and environmental sanitation almost at Region and Woreda levels, hence how do you think to implement sanitation?

A: Even though the structure is not in place; Regions, Zones and Woreda are partially taking care of it.

Q: How does the guideline consider involving private sectors on urban sanitation?

Related Q: In what ways do urban sanitation strategies involve the private sector?

A: Yes, investment in urban sanitation is huge and it needs private business owner's involvement.

Comment: Need clear understanding and system on urban sanitation

Comment: Consider town water supply boards in urban sanitation as stakeholder

Unanswered questions include:

Q: How do you address the space and ownership challenge in urban sanitation?

Q: Incompatibility of demand vs. investment, Is there any study?

Q: In the engagement of TEVET, Universities what were their contribution?

Q: It is good to involve Urban Sanitation environment and land management organization, what type of tool designed for urban sanitation?

Q: Do you consider toilets for the homeless? How are they being addressed?

In general, in Ethiopia no Urban Sanitation program before, currently it is in its infant stage. Hence, all actors should contribute for its implementation and should be considered for one of the MSF6 Undertakings.

S4/2 Institutional Sanitation in One WaSH – presented by Dr. Daniel Gelan (UNICEF)

Insight, major findings or gaps, and identifying the main areas to focus on to accelerate institutional sanitation are the objectives of the presentation. The NWI (2013) showed that 31% of primary schools have water supply facilities on premises, 33% have improved latrine facilities, only 12% have hand washing stations within 5 meters from latrines, and 33 % of 20,000 health facilities have water supply facilities and 85% have basic sanitation facilities.

It has been stated that although there is an urgent need to address these issues, lack of integrated institutions with adequate budget, disparities in the quality of water and sanitation infrastructure between urban/rural areas has resulted in poorly utilized facilities which have a reduced impact. Three underlying reasons for this have been noted as being inadequate or inappropriate design, poor construction quality, and the lack of proper management.

Proposed strategies to help remedy the situation include:

- Ensuring that Health and Education Ministries both prioritise and adequately budget for WASH in their respective Sector Development Plans
- Ensuring that arrangements are put in place that guarantee effective convergence between the three WaSH Ministries, their respective Regional Bureaus and woreda offices; with implications for planning, budgeting and reporting
- In terms of the planning process in schools, it is important that students themselves, especially girl students, are involved and consulted in terms of the location, design and orientation of facilities.

Comment: In design of institutions the water and sanitation facilities are considered, but the problem is on the implementation side.

Q: Is the guideline cascaded down to the grassroots level?

A: The roll out has started in Tigray and Amhara regions, and the plan is for it to go on.

Comment: An undertaking for MSF6 should be that all the guidelines shall incorporate enforcement mechanism and strategies

Q: Is there any standard guideline for sanitation implementation at institutions?

A: There is service management module for health institutions; same should be developed for schools.

S4/3 Sanitation Marketing in One WaSH – presented by Ato Dagnaw Tadesse (MoH)

A significant number of HHs have gained access to self-constructed basic latrines, but these latrines fail to fulfill minimum standards of improved sanitation and hygiene facilities, thus the need to initiate sanitation marketing. The creation of sanitation marketing will help Ethiopia meet the global and national commitments including the HSDP4/SAP, UAP II and MDG targets. By properly designing, monitoring and evaluating of sanitation marketing while enhancing harmonization between all stakeholders to create a conducive environment for the private sector to get involved.

Partnerships, roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders starting from the Federal level right down to the HHs who are the end users was discussed with emphasis being put on harmonization, coordination, and information sharing to produce the best end result.

Q and Proposed Undertaking: Who will be the lead office for sanitation management?

Comment: As stakeholders, the guideline should incorporate MFI and MEs.

Q: Is there any clear data or study about demand vs. supply of sanitation management?

A: Yes, there is study in UNICEF, CRS and Cambodia experience so this can be taken as an input.

Q: How are we going to involve private sectors with a less conflict to the approach of CLTSH?

A: No conflict, the SM guideline clearly put the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.

Q: Are private sectors expected to function as market facilitators/marketer?

A: The private sector is expected to function as marketers.

Q: Is there any update on sanitation coverage?

A: When the M&E is well strengthened, updated data on sanitation coverage will be captured.

Plenary Session 3 - Feedback and Discussion of Parallel Sessions S3 and S4

Q: Have you looked at the feasibility of undertaking of DHS under WaSH sector going through census and its impact on MDG?

A: regarding conducting the DHS in the upcoming the next twelve months, this is a proposal from UNICEF.

A: Dr. Samuel – the observation is valid. The group discussed the issue that in order of us to obtain MDG there needs to be a statistically relevant sample survey before June 30, 2015 to be able to show progress against water and sanitation targets. Although some issues are present, as an undertaking it is important for us as a sectoral group to show statistical progress against the targets that were set for the MDG 2015.

Q: I have a suggestion regarding need for coordination. Drought impact assessment was done two years ago to monitor groundwater particularly one mobile per borehole to check groundwater decline. This information was well captured, so we need to work to share information between early warning systems and groundwater monitoring.

A: This is a constructive suggestion, should be considered for emergency wash intervention.

Q: In terms of the water sector working group. What is the purpose of establishing another working group?

A: One lead government structure is needed. Different platforms are under one umbrella under WIF and One WaSH structure. Undertaking to show statistical progress against targets set at an earlier date.

Comment: we need to build on what we have been doing. Those who were part of the working group have been challenging the GMP and what improved wash facilities means. Admin data was 84/1% no justification for it to go down to 24%. Statistics lets us know if our facilities are functional. What I'm trying to say, sometime the GMP data is contested, not here. We have to stand firm and contest.

Comment: Marko – clarification on WSWG. There needs to be a more coordinated way of addressing development needs of the country in terms of use and development of water resources. Industries use and pollute water sources, irrigation, hydropower, etc. no structure to coordinate that. WSWG will help to provide that role.

Q: Michael Wood – observation that sanitation marketing is seen as an answer to getting better coverage by sanitation by June 2015. There are other models besides sanitation marketing that the MOH should also be looking into. Why not use MFIs. There are 900 WASHCOs that are legal entities that can apply for a loan; the HH under those WASHCOs can then receive assistance.

A: In the sanitation marketing guideline, WASHCO's are incorporated as partners.

A: MFI can take money and give to each HH to build better latrines.

Comment: WSWG TOR was developed earlier and we tried to refine it and put it in this way. There is a budget proposal that was submitted to TWG. Unless the Secretariats supported through a budget, the staff will not undertake activities. Therefore, we expect DP to financing fully or partially. We are going to undertake kick off meeting for the water resource management committee, which will be shared with all interested parties. Focal persons for the three sub technical groups under the WTC have already been identified. State Minister has nominated focal persons for the subgroups and technical groups for WRM and Wash Tech Team.

Comment: In regards to WaSH inventory update by WaSH partners in different regions; this inventory without the knowledge of the Ministries means there is no synergy and data inconsistency and format inconsistency. I suggest that we consider updating and conduction with knowledge of mandated ministries and bodies as an undertaking.

Comment: There has been a lot of discussion and recommendations on the ratio of what should go to the urban sanitation. There is a defined rural-urban ratio to 70-30. There needs assurance that urban sanitation gets allocation it requires. Also include the definition of urban sanitation. UNICEF is supporting 8 town WaSH programs where urban sanitation is a major component. We have tried to define minimum sanitation package. When a sanitation program is undertaken in urban setting minimum sanitation package needs to be defined.

A: A consultant will be hired to try to set a minimum package but this issue is complex.

Comment: Urban sanitation needs huge investment as the infrastructure is different from the rural setting. Detailed assessment and clear direction is needed.

Q: Who is the lead for urban sanitation?

A: A draft document is being prepared to identify key partners.

Comment: Because of their critical role of MoUDC in urban sanitation, their involvement is critical. During the development of the OWNPN this has been said, and the discussions have been going on. I have seen from Ato Amare's reflection that there is a need to sign a MoU, but I am not sure at what pace this is progressing. At this MSF, a representative from that Ministry and other relevant Ministries need to be present to contribute to these discussions. We are asking who the lead agency is. This is not the time to discuss this. We are running out of time and we need to accelerate implementation. We need to sit down and make key decision as to how to involve key Ministries. This same discussion occurs with SS and MoA, but we need to bring the concerned parties on board. Urban sanitation has been forgotten and requires attention from everyone. If there is a plan to sign a MoU, let's do so accordingly.

Q: WaSH is being looked at from different directions and different interpretations. M & E and urban sanitation has been there for 5-6 years. We need to discuss how to support WaSH coordination structure and task forces under them. This structure is key to creating accountability. We create undertakings, but there is no body that coordinates or even addresses these undertakings. Groups should be mandated to take the lead within a timely manner.

The Parallel Session is closed - In conclusion, emotions are an indicator of commitments for the undertakings under urban sanitation, minimum packages, etc. We need better coordination and acceleration and achievements need to be seen.

Lunch

Plenary Session 4 - Presentation of MSF 6 Undertakings and Closing Speech

1. One WaSH Coordination and Leadership
 - Defined roles and responsibilities of One WaSH bodies will be established according to the WIF with matching budget across all levels
 - Functioning WSWG and Secretariat
 - Capacity building activities and systems that address fiduciary risk mitigation
2. Sustainable Services of One Wash
 - Strategy on financing and supply of household level WaSH facilities which coordinate with other sectors and include the involvement of MFIs and private sector
 - Generic Rural Water Supply Operation and Maintenance Management Manual and Strategy which is socially sensitive

3. One WaSH Performance Monitoring
 - NWI database will link with relevant MIS and national institutions
4. Hygiene and Sanitation in One WaSH
 - Integrated Urban Sanitation Strategy with defined roles of all actors
 - Institutional WaSH will be mainstreamed into all programs
 - Sanitation marketing will be promoted

Closing Speech

The State Minister of the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy, His Excellency Ato Kebede Gerba

H.E. Thanked all present on making this forum filled with insightful presentations and intense discussions. There is a need for collective action to achieve the set of Undertakings. The role of water, sanitation and hygiene to bring about growth and transformation has been seen as critical. These goals can be reached through integration, harmonization and aligning of all our efforts.

It was mentioned that success is built from the ground up, therefore there is need to reach out to zones, woredas, kebeles, civil societies, private sector and to the communities themselves. With this, the 6th MSF was closed.