

**WRM**  
Water Resources Management  
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Ethiopia ሊትዮጵያ



## **SUMMARIZED Proceedings of the Joint 10<sup>th</sup> WASH-WRM Multi-Stakeholder Forum**

*Accelerating integrated, inclusive, sustainable and quality WASH services  
and water resources management for achieving the SDGs*



**Addis Ababa**

**November 26-27, 2019**

**Hilton Hotel**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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*Conference participants, photos by SNV*

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## 1 BACKGROUND OF THE WASH-WRM MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM

The annual Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) is the largest forum of its kind in the world and the most important WASH sector event in Ethiopia. The first WASH MSF was conducted in 2006 under the auspices of the European Union Water Initiative for WASH sector coordination. The Government Ethiopia's WASH organizations (Education, Finance, Health and Water) took over the WASH sector coordination process from the joint donor-government led committee in 2009. Since then the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) has led the National WASH Steering Committee and governed the WASH sector coordination and development in Ethiopia.



*Banner of the MSF 10, photo by COWASH*

In order to address the wider water sector issues and strengthen the linkage between Water Resources Management (WRM) and WASH, the Government of Ethiopia has amplified the WASH MSF by including WRM issues and related institutions and since 2018 the forum has been celebrated as joint WASH-WRM MSF.

This year marks the 10th Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF 10) for WASH; and the 2nd MSF for the Joint WASH-WRM Multi-Stakeholder Forum. The event was held at the Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa, under the theme "Accelerating integrated, inclusive, sustainable and quality WASH services and water resources management for achieving SDGs" on November 26-27, 2019. Therefore, this brief proceedings presents the main highlights of the two days event.

## 2 OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of the joint MSF was to bring all WASH and WRM stakeholders together and revitalize their commitment for the implementation of the One WASH National Program (OWNP) II and the National Integrated Water Resources Management Program (NIWRMP). This commitment will also ensure the gaps in the implementation of both programs are properly identified and addressed. Furthermore, the MSF will ensure that the progress in the sector is properly monitored and reported.



*MSF 10 Opening Session, photo by SNV*

### 3 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The joint WASH-WRM MSF was opened with a series of keynote addresses from representatives of various stakeholders (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Environment and Climate Change Commission, Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations, Civil Society Water and Sanitation Forum and the Development Assistant Group).



*Dr Nigusu Legesse, CCRDA*



*Eng Melaku Ezezew, ECC*



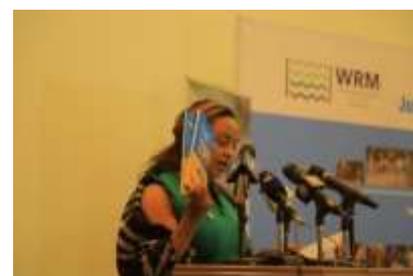
*Ms Adele Khodr, UNICEF*



*Mrs Frenesh Mekuria, EFCCC*



*Dr Kaba Urgessa, MoA*



*Mrs Tsion Teklu, MoE*



*Mr Admasu Nebete, MoF*



*Dr Lia Tadesse, MoH*



*Dr Eng Seleshi Bekele, MoWIE*

Participants also witnessed the official launch of three major WASH sector documents:

- a) School WASH Design and Construction Manual;
- b) School WASH Operation and Management Manual; and
- c) To End Open Defecation and Urination in Ethiopia, National ODF Campaign 2024.

Following the official opening of the forum, the 10-year strategic direction of MoWIE, the evolution of the MSF process, and the progress made on MSF 9 undertakings were presented in a plenary session. In addition, the global monitoring tools for WASH have been presented.

The two-day event focused on the following WASH and WRM themes where different presentations were made in a Parallel and Plenary Sessions:

**A. WASH themes:**

- WASH marketing;
- WASH financing, financing gaps, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Sanitation marketing;
- Quality in WASH;
- Sustainability in WASH;
- Climate Resilient (CR) Water Safety Planning;
- Equity, inclusion and accessibility in WASH;
- WASH sector institutional capacity building;
- WASH financing and equity;
- CR-WASH and equity.



*Seleshi Demissie plays a song about the importance of WASH, photo by SNV*

**B. WRM themes:**

- WRM strategic pillars and National Integrated Water Resources Management Program (NIWRMP);
- Strategy on sustainable management of water hyacinth;
- Sustainable use and management of Lake Beseka;
- Improving WRM in practice;
- Irrigation schemes performance assessment;
- Payment for Ecosystem;
- Water-Based River Corridors Approach for Irrigation Development;
- Modern Irrigation Development through Young Entrepreneur Program;
- Basin information management system;
- Stakeholder engagement and coordination;
- WRM Institutional arrangement and capacity;
- WRM financing.

During the two days event, parallel to the meeting and discussions, a poster based exhibition was also organized which involved 15 governmental and non-governmental institutions. The exhibitors displayed their work on WASH and WRM.

The MSF had close to 300 participants, including national, regional and local government officials, UN agency representatives, development partners, civil society organizations, private sector companies, and academia from Ethiopia and abroad.



*Representatives from Eritrea were also present in the MSF 10, photo by COWASH*

MSF offered a good opportunity to increase the awareness and understanding of the all stakeholders on the importance of an integrated, inclusive, sustainable and quality driven approach in WASH services and water resources management for achieving the SDGs. Moreover, the need to accelerate the ongoing WASH and WRM intervention to achieve the SDGs

was given paramount importance. Finally, the meeting was concluded by forwarding 12 priority undertakings for the year 2020.

#### 4 KEY NOTE ADDRESSES AND OPENING

The Forum opening session was facilitated by Mr Kebede Faris. The key note addresses were given as follows:

- a) Address from civil society (Dr. Nigusu Legesse, Executive Director of CCRDA/CSOs Water and Sanitation Forum);
- b) Address from the private sector (Eng. Melaku Ezezew, President of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association);
- c) Address from the Development Assistant Group (Ms. Adele Khodr, UNICEF Representative and Co-Chair of the Water Sector Working Group);
- d) Address from the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC) (Prof. Fedaku Beyene, Commissioner of EFCCC);
- e) Address from the Ministry of Education (H.E. W/ro. Tsion Teku, Minister);  
In her key note address she launched the two new documents: a) School WASH Designs and Construction Manual and b) School WASH Operation and Management Manual. She encouraged all stakeholders to use these manuals during and after the construction of school WASH facilities;
- f) Address from the Ministry of Agriculture (H.E. Dr. Kaba Urgessa, Minister);
- g) Address from the Ministry of Finance (H.E. Ato Admasu Nebebe, Minister);
- h) Address from the Ministry of Health (H.E. Dr. Lia Tadesse, Minister).



*Conference participants, photo by COWASH*

After these key note addresses, His Excellency Dr. Eng Seleshi Bekele, The Minister of Water Irrigation and Energy, had his opening statement and he declared the MSF 10 officially opened.

Major take-aways from the key-note speeches and closing were the following:

- The government has to bring transformational change to the sector. Investment is still a big challenge for achieving the SDGs. A sector wide approach is needed as the WASH sector is still fragmented;
- More efforts are needed to integrate WASH with other sectors such as environment, nutrition and climate change;
- We need investment in new technologies and introduction of new practices;
- We need to think of a private and public water sector forum. Incentivize experiments how to save water use and reduce water pollution;
- We have to make sure that there are good urban sanitation systems and we need to prioritize WASH in schools and health facilities;
- We also need a strong focus on equity. Marginalized communities are often the ones who face successive years of drought;

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- We need readiness to enhance collaboration among the different Ministries and between the Government and other partners. We need collaborative action to clean Ethiopia. The Afforestation Campaign is the best example of inter-sectoral collaboration;
- The best policy action is to regulate the access to water resources through the payment of ecosystem services;
- WASH has a great effect on the quality of education. Children can be part of the change and have an active role motivating their families;
- WASH and WRM working together is a good approach. A long-term vision should be given to both sectors working together;
- A clear framework for WRM is crucial. Policies should ensure social security and access to water and sanitation. Promote capacity development, good governance and participatory processes;
- We need to focus on personal hygiene and improvement of menstrual hygiene management:
- Integration, sustainability, inclusiveness and quality are necessary to increase the progress in WASH.

(Please note that you can read the highlights of the key note addresses in the full version of the MSF 10 proceedings).

## 5 ODF CAMPAIGN BRIEF AND LAUNCHING CEREMONY

The Open Defecation Free (ODF) Framework was presented by H.E. Dr. Negash Wagesho, Minister of MoWIE and H.E. Dr. Lia Tadesse, Minister of the Ministry of Health (MoH). After their briefing the ODF Campaign was colourfully launched. In their briefing they mentioned that:

- The integration, inclusiveness and quality are important in the ODF campaign;
- Improving access to water and sanitation services is key to achieving SDGs and eradicating poverty;
- SDG 6 is mainly about water supply and sanitation but we should also remember the importance of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM);
- Only 10% of existing latrines constructed are decent. Open defecation is widely practiced;
- 30% of the disease burden is attributed to poor sanitation;
- Poor sanitation costs 13.5 billion Ethiopian Birr per year (2.1% of Ethiopian GDP).



*Presentation of the ODF Campaign by Dr Negash Wagesho, State Minister, MoWIE, photo by COWASH*

The ODF Campaign targets are:

- Construction of household toilets: 12 million;
- Construction of community toilets: 125 thousand;
- Construction of public toilets: 5 thousand;

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- Construction of institutional toilets: 20 thousand;
- Establishment of sanitation market centres: 1 thousand;
- Construction of model latrines: 1.5 thousand;
- Population benefited from the ODF Campaign: 60 million.

With regards to how to achieve the Open Defecation Free Ethiopia, the State Ministers highlighted the following important facts which need to be addressed in the ODF Campaign:

- Assess the existing situation and foster behaviour change communication (baseline data and initial motivation);
- Introduce an infrastructure design (context-based package design);
- Introduce a sustainable intervention approach (sanitation solutions);
- Establish and carry out monitoring and evaluation (technical team ↔ community);
- Achieve sustainable behaviour change: We need to work with the mindsets of the people, starting from ourselves down to the communities;
- Introduce sustainable products and services: Bring supply chain provision and management, guidelines and capacity development. Infrastructure designs have to fit the context;
- Engage all: all government sector offices, development partners and all other partners are engaged: political leadership, sector ministries, development partners, civil society organizations, communities, philanthropies, prominent figures (elders, elites and celebrities), religious and community elders, education, health and agriculture professionals, school children, activists and media.

## 6 PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

### 6.1 PLENARY SESSION I

After the opening session was followed plenary session with the following presentations:

- **Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy's 10 years strategic direction highlights (2020-30), presented by H.E. Dr. Eng. Seleshi Bekele, Minister**

In this presentation His Excellency gave a highlight on the history of the water sector, potential, challenges and plans on what is needed to achieve full water security in Ethiopia. He presented the recently prepared sector strategy framework for water, food and energy secured Ethiopia. In this framework more focus has been given to water resources development in rural areas, urban sanitation and institutional water supply.

- **Evolution of the MSF and progress of the MSF 9 undertakings, presented by Arto Suominen, COWASH**

Mr Suominen presented the purpose of Joint Technical Review (JTR) and MSF and how these two have developed and evolved from the first JTR/MSF on 2006. His presentation helped to better understand the evolution of the forum, challenges and achievements. He concluded that we are on the right track.

Mr Suominen concluded his presentation as follows:

- There were too many undertakings in MSF 9 which make it very difficult to follow up;
- Undertakings have not been focused and prioritized;
- Difficulties to get clear owner for each undertaking;
- Restructuring at the MoWIE hampered the implementation of undertakings;
- Limited capacity of the Water Sector Working Group (WSWG) Secretariat and the National WASH Coordination Office (NWCO) and overlapping roles and mandates between the WSWG Secretariat and NWCO.



*Mr Arto Suominen, photo by COWASH*

- **Presentation of the highlights of the 12th JTR field mission findings, presented by Kaleab Getaneh, WSWG Secretariat**

JTR number 12 was carried out prior to the MSF 10. In JTR civil society organizations, federal institutions (MoWIE, MoH, Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)), development partners and universities took part. JTR was also conducted separately to WRM.

WASH JTR 12 assessment framework included three major streams: 1) Equity and inclusion, 2) Sustainability and 3) Quality. In each stream four focus areas were assessed: 1) water supply, 2) WASH, 3) climate resilience and 4) institutional WASH. JTR 12 was carried out in: Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia and Tigray.

The major JTR 12 findings were:

- Limited verifiable data;
- Full WASH package not implemented in institutional WASH;
- Gaps in the use of standard designs in the construction of institutional WASH;
- Challenge of managing institutional WASH facilities in poor areas;
- WSP implementation not institutionalized;
- CR-WASH concept not well understood;
- Focus on numbers of constructed schemes and little oversight on functionality and service delivery;
- Weak institutions – WASHCOS, utilities;
- Financing – collection of fees to support operation and maintenance is limited;
- Power supply - grid connection, power interruption, limited use of alternative energy & diesel fuel (cost and logistics problems);



*Mr Kaleab Getaneh, photo by COWASH*

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- Equity and inclusion is mostly development partners (DPs) and civil society organizations driven and there is limited awareness in the sector;
- No data on equity and inclusion (difficult to monitor);
- Problems of complying with design standards and limited inclusiveness – pathway, ramps, support structures;
- Insufficient water quality testing reagents for laboratories;
- Lack of trained staffs on water quality lab techniques and operation and maintenance;
- Health extension workers overloaded with work packages – lack of sustained engagement with communities;
- Limited logistical capacity, shortage of qualified staff and high staff turnover;
- There is lack of loanable funds for water and sanitation services–energy and agriculture. Low involvement of financing institutions;
- Huge funding gap to achieve the SDGs.

WRM JTR framework included: 1) Basing information management, 2) institutional capacity, 3) coordination and stakeholder engagement, 4) financing and 5) stakeholder involvement. It was carried out in the Rift Valley Lakes Basin and the Abay Basin. The following WRM hotspot issues were prioritized:

- Confusion over mandates (BDOs and regions);
- Lack of permit system;
- Regional politics complicating basin management;
- BDOs lack adequate capacity and finance to play their role;
- No separate unit responsible for coordination and mobilization;
- Inadequate stakeholders mapping and limited engagement of stakeholders (particularly the private sector);
- Lack of reliable data and management information;
- Limited coordinated funding from DPs (priorities seem to be unclear) and there is no initiative to tap the private sector financing;
- A huge gap exists between planned projects and available funding (example: 50% in the case of Abay Basin);
- Abijatta Lake under enormous pressure;
- Lake Ziway is functioning beyond its carrying capacity;
- Hyacinth infestation of Lake Tana;
- High sediment yield throughout the basin;
- Industrial and urban related pollution.



*WRM session participants, Photo by COWASH*

- **Global monitoring tools' updates (SWA + JMP + GLAAS), presented by Abireham Misganaw, Ministry of Health**

Mr. Abireham presented the basic global monitoring tools: SWA, JMP and GLAAS. In his presentation he focused to the following issues:

- Ethiopia's level of engagement is SWA is green as there is high commitment from government and development partners;
- GLAAS works together with a monitoring tool called TrackFin which is tracking WASH finance from the federal to the district level. Ethiopia doesn't have a TrackFin monitoring tool yet;
- The Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) has been used for monitoring national, regional and global progresses towards achieving SDGs WASH targets. There is official reporting from each government on its WASH interventions.

## 6.2 PARALLEL SESSIONS

After the plenary session the participants were divided into two parallel sessions. The parallel session program was the following:

<b>Parallel session on Water Resources Management</b>	<b>Parallel session on WASH</b>
<b>Thematic Stream S1: WRM strategic directions</b>	<b>Thematic Stream S2: WASH marketing and financing</b>
S 1/1: WRM strategic pillars and NIWRMP, Presented by: Getachew Gizaw (BDA)	S2/1: WASH financing and the SDGs, Presented by: WASH Financing Group (Tedla Mulatu, MWA)
S1/2: Strategy on sustainable management of water hyacinth, Presented by: Yohannes Zerihun (BDA)	S2/2: WASH Marketing, Presented by: WASH Marketing Team (Monte Achenbach, PSI Ethiopia)
S1/3: Sustainable use and management of Lake Beseka, Presented by: Tesfaye Tadesse (BDA)	S2/3: Sanitation marketing lessons and national guideline, Presented by MoH Sanitation Marketing Team (Abireham Misganaw, MoH)
<b>Thematic Stream S1: Improving WRM in practice /WRM instruments/</b>	<b>Thematic Stream S2: Quality and sustainability in WASH</b>
S1/4: Irrigation schemes performance assessment, Presented by: Elias Awol (MOA)	S2/4: Sustainability in WASH, Presented by: JTR sustainability Team (Gezahegn Lemecha, IRC WASH)
S1/5: Payment for Ecosystem (PES), Presented by: Abdeta Debela (EFCCC)	S2/5: Quality in WASH, Presented by: JTR Quality Team (Hiwot Ghiday, UNICEF)
S1/6: Water Based River Corridors Approach for Irrigation Development, Presented by: Dr. Zeleke Agide & Dr. Habtamu Hailu (MoWIE)	S2/6: Climate Resilient Water Safety Plan, Presented by: CR-WSP Group (Azeb Tadesse, WDC)
S1/7: Modern Irrigation Development through EYIP, Presented by: Dr. Tesfaye Zeleke & Dr. Yenesew Mengistie (MoWIE)	--
<b>Thematic Stream S1: Water Resources Management JTR findings</b>	<b>Thematic Stream S2: Equity, inclusion and institutional capacity</b>
S1/8: Basin information management system, Presented by: Dr. Zebene Lakew (BDA), Semunesh Golla and JTR Team	S2/7: Equity, Inclusion and accessibility in WASH: Challenges and opportunities, Presented by: Equity and Disability Inclusion Task Force (Aino Himanen, COWASH)
S1/9: Stakeholders engagement and coordination, Presented by: Belayneh Yirdaw and JTR team	S2/8: WASH sector institutional capacity building, Presented by: Institutional Capacity Building Team (Tamene Hailu, EWTI)
S1/10: WRM Institutional arrangement and capacity, Presented by: Asmamaw Kume and JTR team	S2/9: WASH financing and equity, Presented by: Water Resources Development Fund (Wanna Wake, WRDF)
S1/11: WRM financing, Presented by: Jelmer van Veen and JTR team	S2/10: CR-WASH and equity, Presented by: Water Development Commission (Shewanesh Demeke, WDC)

## 6.3 PLENARY SESSION II: TAKEAWAYS FROM THE PARALLEL SESSIONS

The WRM and WASH parallel sessions were summarized in a plenary session in the afternoon of the second day. Here are in short the summaries of both sessions.

### 6.3.1 Thematic Stream 1: Water Resources Management

#### a. WRM strategic pillars and NIWRMP; major conclusions

- Need for all stakeholders to adopt NIWRMP;
- WRM strategic pillars: Integrated watershed management, WRM, transboundary waters, basin information management and institutional capacity building;
- NIWRMP components: Eight interventions/projects were identified and cost estimated provided with the implementation schedule;
- It is time to rollout the NIWRMP and urgent support is needed to start the implementation.

#### b. Strategy on sustainable management of water hyacinth

- Effort done to date to control/manage: Buffer zone (Papyrus growing), upstream erosion control, mechanical removal, continuing research. However, little success to tame and the area coverage is still expanding;
- Consider a supportive role of the private sector;
- Consider a combination of solution and evaluate success;
- Support needed financially as well as technically.

#### c. Sustainable use and management of Lake Beseka

- Ground water rising in the vicinity with salinity challenges to farms;
- The lake size seems to be showing stabilization, but updated measurements, assessments needed and continuing the proposed project;
- Short-term solution: Extend existing drainage canal to a total of 13 km for controlled release and dilution into Awash River;
- Long-term solution: Various options may be considered such as upstream irrigation efficiency measures, utilization of water for power generation, and so on.



*WRM session presenters in a panel, photo by Getinet Getu*

#### d. Payment for Ecosystem

- The pressure on the ecosystems is growing and it is causing ecosystem degradation.
- National Payment for Ecosystem (PES) strategy and law are drafted by the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission to protect the diverse ecosystems;
- The draft PES law introduces payment for ecosystem services, proposes a governance structure and collection systems;
- PES is a good initiative but who the service provider is and the user have to be clearly identified;
- The collected fee should be cascaded to the service providers (the farmers);
- Water charge (Basin Development Authority) and PES (Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission) seem to have overlaps. The two laws need to be coordinated to avoid double payments and overlaps.

**e. Water based river corridors approach for irrigation development**

- The river corridor is a water-centered integrated approach to intensify irrigated agriculture in areas of high resources (land and water). It is the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy's initiatives to



*WRM session participants, Photo by Getinet Getu*

- guide the strategy of irrigation expansion and development in the country;
- The river corridor approach includes: Land sustainability mapping, irrigation water demand and water resources estimation and growth corridors delineation and mapping;
- The river corridor approach focuses on irrigation but needs to integrate the other development activities (WSM, livestock, and so on);
- The river corridor approach is based on the endowment of resources but it should consider other criterion such as equity.

**f. Modern irrigation development through Educated Youth Irrigation Program (EYIP)**

- EYIP is a flagship program of the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy to create employment opportunities and modernizing the irrigation sector;
- EYIP goal is to develop 124,000 ha. of land and deploy 30,000 youth and 300,000 unskilled labor;
- EYIP shifts from convention to modern commercial farming by introducing water saving. Technologies;
- Land acquisition is a major challenge in the implementation of EYIP;
- Integration of EYIP with other areas like livestock, water supply and environment is needed within the IWRM context;
- One time training may not be enough for the youth. Continuous coaching and mentoring is essential.

**g. Basin Information Management System (BIMS)**

- BIMS aims to transform information into knowledge;
- BIMS directorate is working on overcoming challenges on data collection and processing by establishing a central web based BIMS;
- Data quality is vital for BIMS and special focus should be given to data collection quality and utilization for correct modelling development.

**h. Stakeholders' engagement and coordination**

- Stakeholder engagement is key to improve transparency, ensure a collaborative and comprehensive decision-making process ensuring technical and social sound IWRM;
- Weak coordination due to the lack of structure at basin development organizations results in poor implementation and community engagement;
- Allocation of personnel, budget, tools, equipment and training is urgent;
- Basin context has to be considered carefully to tailor engagement strategies.

**i. WRM institutional arrangement and capacity**

- Federal level: Not enough regular meetings and confusion of mandates;
- Regional level: Overlapping mandates, conflicting regional strategies and limited human capacity;
- Inter-regional workshops and inter-agencies coordination needed;
- Awareness creation and mainstreaming of the One Basin-One Plan;
- Private sector engagement and harmonization of mandates;
- Inter-basin meetings to share experiences and lessons learned;
- Internship program and other mechanisms needed to engage young professionals in water management.

**j. WRM financing**

- Greater degree of involvement of the private sector (financing experience and risk management);
- Real understanding of infrastructural operation and management costs;
- Performance based contracting;
- Increase absorption capacity of concerned government institutions discourages; development partners' involvement in additional financing.

**6.3.2 Thematic Stream 2: Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

**a. WASH financing and the SDGs**

- There are huge finance gaps to meet SDGs, Growth and Transformation Plan II and the OBNP II;
- Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) contribution to the WASH and ODF Campaign, both as consumers and as businesses, should be deeply looked;
- Scope and scale of alternative financing (micro-finance institutions, commercial banks, vendors/suppliers, bonds and Water Resources Development Fund) should be further explored.
- Challenges:
  - Lack of loanable funds for WASH;
  - Low involvement of financial institutions;
  - Incomplete policy guidance; and
  - The tariff set is not related to the cost.
- Recommendations/Takeaways:
  - Develop a guideline for WASH financing;
  - Policy directives to financial institutions for WASH loans; and
  - Policy changes to allow foreign investors to inject capital in WASH.



*Dr Beshah Mogesse, WDC Commissioner, photo by COWASH*

**b. WASH marketing**

- Challenges to business:
  - Tax and tariffs;
  - Consumer and business financing;
  - Barriers to attract country investment.

- Recommendations/Takeaways:
  - New business models and faster expansion;
  - Business policy reform and tax exemption.
  
- c. Sanitation marketing lessons and national guideline**
- Challenges:
  - Financing for households and businesses;
  - Product diversification;
  - Demand and supply imbalance;
  - Business model limitation;
  - Weak coordination;
  - Social behaviour change communication interventions rely on health extension workers;
  - Weak technical teams in some of the regions;
  - An approach for urban and pastoral communities was not defined.
- Recommendations/Takeaways:
  - Revise SMG frameworks;
  - Community-led Total Sanitation training for open defecation woredas;
  - Scale best practices;
  - Avail technology mix.
  
- d. Sustainability in WASH**
- Challenges:
  - Absence of WWT in the woredas non-Consolidated WASH Account (CWA);
  - Slippage of ODF kebeles due to the lack of strong behaviour change;
  - Lack of funding for institutional WASH in woredas non-CWA (mainly for operation and maintenance);
  - Leakage from pipes;
  - Mobility of communities in pastoral areas for sanitation works;
  - Lack of manuals and guidelines for CR-WASH implementation;
  - Affordability of operation and maintenance.
- Best experiences:
  - Strong partnership with government and NGOs;
  - Coordination platforms on WASH are in place in Afar;
  - Asset management system to support operation and maintenance planning;
  - Water Office experts in place in kebeles in Tigray and Benishangul-Gumuz.
- Recommendations/Takeaways:
  - Strengthen monitoring systems;
  - Capacity building to enhance the use of renewable energy (such as solar powered systems);
  - Develop an incentive mechanism for caregivers; and
  - Enforce the full/partial cost recovery for urban water utilities.



*Mrs Ekram Redwan, Hygiene and Environmental Health Director, MoH, photo by COWASH*

### **e. Quality in WASH**

- Challenges:
  - Presence of fluoride, iron and TDS in deep wells, and coliform bacteria in shallow wells;
  - Water quality monitoring and surveillance not conducted regularly;
  - Proper utilization of water quality test kits, shortage of reagents;
  - Tariffs do not cover operation and maintenance;
  - Poor quality of household latrines.
- Best experiences:
  - Application of reverse osmosis for water quality and temperature control;
  - Provide technical water quality trainings;
  - Use of solar powered pumps.
- Recommendations/Takeaways:
  - Increase the use of solar powered pumps;
  - Application of reverse osmosis for water quality and temperature control;
  - Include catchment management into water supply systems;
  - Create a favourable enabling environment for the private sector; and
  - Clear directions and standards needed for improved latrines and ODF monitoring and reporting.

### **f. Climate Resilient Water Safety Plan**

- Challenges:
  - Implementation of CR-WSP is not institutionalized;
  - Limited efforts to implement catchment protection;
  - Sanitation safety planning is not known;
  - Climate information was not used for planning.
- Best experiences:
  - Involvement of universities, NGOs and the private sector;
  - Increased awareness about CR-WSP;
  - Different level of capacity building provided.
- Recommendations/Takeaways:
  - Institutionalize CR-WSP;
  - Strong advocacy in equitable, inclusive CR-WSP/Sanitation Safety Plans;
  - Strong coordination with the agriculture sector.



*WASH session presenters in a panel, photo by COWASH*

### **g. Equity, inclusion and accessibility in WASH**

- Challenges:
  - Disability inclusion is very low;
  - Standard water supply designs are inaccessible;
  - Accessible designs are not known;
  - Inaccessible paths and ramps within the compounds;
  - The disability and inclusion concept is not understood.
- Recommendations/Takeaways:
  - Capacity building and awareness raising at all levels;

- Standardized accessible designs;
- Build the capacity of contractors - inclusive designs;
- More attention to household sanitation inclusion.

#### **h. Institutional capacity in WASH**

- Challenges:
  - Lack of trained staff/technician and skill gap;
  - Lack of spare parts/Supply chain for water infrastructure;
  - Limited capacity of woredas;
  - Stakeholders' role not identified;
  - Weak integration in budget allocation for institutional WASH.
- Best experiences:
  - Ethiopian Water Technology Institute (EWTI) training on operation and maintenance of water supply schemes for three technicians in each woreda (case of Afar);
  - NGO contributions is high in capacity development (example: SNV Tigray); and
  - Michew Polytechnic training on maintenance of generators and pumps.
- Recommendations/Takeaways:
  - Strengthen the capacity of EWTI;
  - Strengthen TVET colleges;
  - Support the Regional WASH Coordination Offices to conduct skill gap surveys;
  - Use SMART WASH technologies.

#### **i. WASH financing and equity**

- Challenges:
  - WRDF cannot satisfy the demand;
  - Prolonged loan repayment period and negligible interest rate;
  - No additional revenue other than the repaid loan;
  - Weak capacity of Town Water Utilities;
  - Equity vs. quality of projects;
  - Non-responsiveness of the regions (timeliness and so on).
- Recommendation/Takeaways:
  - Awareness campaign shall be conducted;
  - Best way is to increase finance to narrow the gap between the demand and the supply;
  - Involvement of the private sector should be encouraged;
  - Tax exemption;
  - Investment in WASH for towns.



*Mrs Sewanesh Demeke, WDC Deputy Commissioner, photo by COWASH*

#### **j. CR-WASH and equity**

- Challenges:
  - Inequalities in arid and semi-arid areas compared to other areas;
  - Low access to improved water source in pastoralist areas;
  - Low latrine coverage in emerging regions.
- Recommendations/Takeaways:
  - Elements of equity in CR-WASH should be included;

- Integration and collaboration with other sectors;
- Secure matching funds;
- Water resource securing and watershed management;
- Strong capacity building and operation and maintenance.

## 6.4 CLOSING SESSION AND UNDERTAKINGS

In this session the MSF undertakings for 2020 were read out, discussed and endorsed. The approved undertakings are presented below:

### 6.4.1 WASH and WRM undertakings to be implemented jointly in 2020

#### 1. Upscale the implementation of the Climate-Resilient WASH through equitable and inclusive water and sanitation safety planning.

Each new water supply and sanitation project (and selected older projects in vulnerable and high- priority areas) should have an operational equitable and inclusive Climate-Resilient (CR) Water Safety Plan (WSP) and a Sanitation Safety Plan (SSP). This requires institutionalization of WSPs and SSPs into existing WASH structures, strategies and plans. CR WASH cannot be achieved without close cooperation with all relevant partners at all levels, and in all parts of the country. Water, health, agriculture, environment and forestry, and river basin authorities need to work hand-in-hand to make WASH facilities climate resilient. An increase in awareness and understanding of the CR-WASH approach will require advocacy work to ensure all relevant agencies and actors fully buy into, and implement, climate resilient approaches. Furthermore, capacity of the overall WASH sector regarding CR-WASH and WSP/SSP development and implementation needs to be enhanced.

**Lead Institution:** WDC

**Supported by** BDA, MoH, MoA, EFCCC, WHO, Delivering Climate Resilient Water and Sanitation Project financed by DFID

#### 2. Revise Water Resources Management policy and strategy.

Although the revision of the Water Resources Management Policy and Strategy has been initiated by MoWIE, the process has lagged behind schedule and needs to be accelerated. On the other hand, the Hygiene and Environmental Health Strategy, Integrated Urban Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy, School WASH Strategy, and Strategic Action Plan are already in place with the Ministries of Health and Education, respectively. However, these strategies will require further attention including cascading to lower levels and through decentralized planning and budgeting processes.

**Lead institution:** MoWIE , MoH and MoE

**Supported by** Water Sector Working Group (WSWG) partners and NWCO

### 6.4.2 WASH sector undertakings

#### 3. Improve institutional capacity to deliver WASH services.

The recent restructuring of MoWIE, which established the WDC as standalone institution, and the establishment of the Hygiene and Environmental Health Directorate (HEHD) in MoH are opportunities which should be fully used in terms of capacity development of the sector.

Similarly, GoE actions taken to increase staffing in the National WASH Coordination Office (NWCO), Regional WASH Coordination Offices (RWCOs) & local WASH structures across the country are highly commendable and very welcome. However, improving the capacity of these institutions and their staff (from federal to kebele levels) should be undertaken to create clear accountabilities and responsibilities among the various stakeholders in the sector.

Assessment of OWNP implementation to date at regional and district levels indicates a need for greater capacity, systems development, community engagement, and planning. All this should be firmly based on monitoring data, thorough needs assessments, and supported by information and knowledge management, logistical planning, timely financial releases and funds absorption and efficient procurement processes. It will be necessary to assess the available human resources pool in each region and to establish, wherever needed, skills development training or deployment of additional staff. Federal and Regional level human capacity development units also may need to be established. This capacity building process should be viewed not as individual development opportunities but rather as part of institution- and sector-wide capacity strengthening.

**Lead institution:** WDC

**Supported by** EWTI, MoH HEHD, MoE School Improvement Directorate and NWCO.

#### **4. Increase the WASH sector financing.**

Sector financing needs, possible financing sources, and financing gaps were identified and discussed. The financing gap is huge – and affects all WASH sectors. Filling the gap will require, among other things, identifying innovative financial instruments for the sector. For example, bringing Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), banks, and cooperatives into the WASH sector's financing mix, as well as assigning appropriate priority to WASH initiatives by GoE institutions, will be required. It is estimated that MFIs could insert close to 6 Billion USD to the WASH sector, which covers almost half of the financing gap. Sector policies also evolve to allow foreign investors to inject capital into MFIs for WASH loans. Alternative financing mechanisms for WASH also need to be supported by policy level incentives including tax exemptions, interest rate reductions, customs tariff relief, and more.

The role and capacity of the Water Resource Development Fund (WRDF), cooperatives and unions are to be strengthened and explore the possibility of establishing blended financing. At the same time, WASH sub-sectors also need to improve their absorption capacity in order to accelerate implementation to meet the SDGs.

**Lead institution:** MoWIE (Ministers and WDC Commission)

**Supported by** Ministry of Finance (MoF), WSWG partners, WASH Finance Working Group and NWCO

#### **5. Improve the business climate for the private sector and improve the private sector's capacity to deliver WASH services.**

Private sector actors are considered key stakeholders to further advance WASH service delivery. There is a need to incentivize their engagement through the development of sustainable business models, as well as strengthening their capacity to engage in the WASH sector. Public-private partnerships should be promoted and specific guidelines should be

prepared to operationalize the recently approved Public-Private Partnership Proclamation (2018)<sup>1</sup> in the WASH sector.

**Leading institutions:** MoWIE (Ministers and Commissioner level) and MoH

**Supported by** Contractors and Consultants Associations

## **6. Robust Functional planning, monitoring, and Management Information System (MIS) for WASH**

A monitoring framework system supported by an MIS which integrates data on water and sanitation services across the four involved WASH ministries is under development. So far, MoWIE has lacked a fully functional MIS similar to that of the Education MIS (EMIS) or the Health MIS (HMIS). However, MoWIE conducted a national level water supply inventory at the beginning of 2019, and robust MIS is about ready to be launched. The MoWIE MIS will interface with the HMIS and EMIS, enabling the WASH sector to have a reliable source of information for policy and decision making at all levels.

**Lead institution:** WDC

**Supported by** WSWG partners and NWCO

## **7. Rollout national strategies and the ODF campaign 2024 to eliminate open defecation (and urination) in rural and urban areas, and to improve access safe sanitation with dignity.**

MoWIE, together with MoH, have developed the Total Sanitation to End Open Defecation and Urination (TSEDU) Ethiopia National ODF Campaign 2024 Framework. Open defecation is a big challenge in achieving the SDGs. It is estimated that poor sanitation costs the Ethiopian economy 13.5 billion Birr each year, equivalent to 170 Birr per person per year or 2.1 per cent of GDP. The National ODF Campaign 2024 framework is an important step for driving improvement in sanitation and hygiene in Ethiopia. The framework leans on behavioral change and provision of sanitation services for all. To achieve TSEDU, Ethiopia will require strong integration among relevant government bodies, institutions, stakeholders and communities, building on the foundations of the OWNPP platform. MoWIE will work hand-in-hand with the MoH, MoE, regional, zonal and woreda level bureaus, international donors and partners, NGOs and civil society organizations, and communities.

**Lead institutions:** MoWIE (State Minister) and MoH (State Minister)

**Supported by** MoE, WSWG partners and NWCO

### **6.4.3 Water resources management undertakings**

## **8. Roll out the National Integrated Water Resources Management Program (NIWRMP).**

NIWRMP has been under preparation the last two years and the process took long time due to institutional restructuring within MoWIE. It is now time to rollout the NIWRMP by establishing a proper Program Management Unit (PMU) within BDA and identifying 3-5 high

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<sup>1</sup> Public Private Partnership Proclamation No. 1076/2018

priority and pilot interventions and engaging core co-founders from Development Partners (DPs) as well as allocating seed money from the government.

**Lead institution:** BDA

**Supported by** WSWG partners/WRM working Group

**9. Strengthen the planning, implementation and regulatory capacity of the Basin Development Authority and the three basin development offices (Abay, Awash and Rift Valley Lakes).**

Particular attention should be given to the Rift Valley Lakes basin as it is the youngest dealing with complex water resources management challenges. In addition, ensure the sustainability of ongoing and completed projects (example Tana Beles project). This can be done through conducting comprehensive capacity assessment and accordingly preparing a 2-3 years capacity building plan which could be financed as part of the NIWRMP.

**Lead institution:** BDA

**Supported by** WSWG partners/WRM working Group

**10. Establish a comprehensive Basin Information Management System (BMIS).**

BMIS should make BDA and its existing basin offices information hub for other sectors. This can be done by building on prior information systems such as the groundwater information data base, surface water, water quality and ongoing MoA Irrigation Management Information System. The BMIS can be financed as part of the NIWRMP.

**Lead institution:** BDA

**Supported by** WSWG partners/WRM working Group

**11. Increase the funding for the basins development and management.**

The water resources management/basins management subsector in general and BDA in particular is highly constrained by lack of funding. Compared to its mandate and the complexity of issue it is dealing with, the resources at its disposal is meager and there is a need to mobilize additional resources from the DPs and explore alternative sources of financing such as the application of the water charge and permit system as well as private sector financing.

**Lead institution:** BDA

**Supported by** WSWG partners/WRM working Group

**12. Focus on the water resource management during emergencies.**

Establish a multi-stakeholder national and basin level taskforce to deal with water resources management emergencies (hotspots) related to water quality and quantity degradation due to pollution, over abstraction, water hyacinth expansion and sedimentation in Rift valley lakes (particularly Lake Ziway and Lake Abijatta); Koka Reservoir and Lake Tana.

**Lead institution:** BDA

**Supported by** WSWG partners/WRM working Group

#### 6.4.4 Monitoring and evaluation of the undertakings

Following the MSF 10 the lead organizations mentioned under the undertakings will prepare a detailed plan of action with clear roles and responsibilities and will present it to the NWCO and WSWG Secretariat by the end of December 2019.

The implementation of these undertakings will be monitored and evaluated by the Joint Technical Review team in June 2020 and by the stakeholders called upon by the NWCO and WSWG Secretariat.

## 7 MSF IN PHOTOS



MSF IN PHOTOS



Summarized Proceedings of the Joint WASH-WRM Multi-Stakeholder Forum





Summarized Proceedings of the Joint WASH-WRM Multi-Stakeholder Forum

November 27, 2019			
Time	Sessions and Thematic Streams	Facilitation, Presentation, Reporting Responsibilities	
09:00 - 09:20	<u>Thematic Stream 51: Water Resources Management JTR findings</u>	<u>Thematic Stream 52: Equ. Inclusion and institutional capacity</u>	
09:20 - 09:40	<b>Chaired by: Getachew Gizaw ( BDA)</b> <b>Reported by: Andrea Bozzetto (AICS)</b> <b>Panelists: Dr. Yilma Seleshi (MoWIE) and Dr. Oya Shunji (IICA)</b>	<b>Chaired by: Dr. Beethab Mogesse (WDC)</b> <b>Reported by: Aino Kezanne (IICA)</b> <b>Panelists: Habab Tafour (WBI) and Lemessa Mekonta (IRC WASH)</b>	
09:40 - 10:00	<b>3rd Parallel session</b> <b>\$1/8: Basin information management system</b> Presented by: Dr. Zebene Lakew (BDA), Semunesh Golla and JTR Team <b>\$1/9: Stakeholders engagement and coordination</b> Presented by: Belemnesh Yerdaw and JTR team <b>\$1/10: WRM institutional arrangement and capacity</b> Presented by: Asmamaw Kume and JTR team <b>\$1/11: WRM financing</b> Presented by: Jelmer van Veen and JTR team	<b>\$2/7: Equity, inclusion and accessibility in WASH: Challenges and opportunities</b> Presented by: Equity and Disability Inclusion Task Force (Aino Hiraniemen, COWASH) <b>\$2/8: WASH sector institutional capacity building</b> Presented by: Institutional Capacity Building Team (Tamene Hallu, EWTI) <b>\$2/9: WASH financing and equity</b> Presented by: Water Resources Development Fund ( Wanna Wake, WRDF) <b>\$2/10: CR-WASH and equity</b> Presented by: Water Development Commission (Shevaneesh Demeke, WDC)	
10:00 - 10:20	Discussion	Discussion	
10:20 - 11:30		<b>HEALTH BREAK AND POSTER DISPLAY VISIT</b>	
11:00 - 11:30	<b>2nd Plenary session</b> <b>Feedback of the parallel sessions, H.E. W/ro. Tsion Teklu, State Minister, MoE and H.E. Dr. Negash Wagesho, State Minister of MoWIE</b>		
11:30 - 12:00	Presentation of the take-away from the Thematic Stream 1 (crosscutting issues and nexus), Stream 1 Reporter		
12:00 - 13:00	Presentation of the take-away from the Thematic Stream 2 (crosscutting issues and nexus), Stream 2 Reporter		
13:00 - 14:00	Discussion		
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>			
14:00 - 14:20	<b>Closing session</b> <b>MSF 10 Undertakings and Closing, H.E. Dr. Negash Wagesho, State Minister of MoWIE</b>		
14:20 - 15:00	Presentation on the MSF 10 Undertakings, Presented by CSO Representative		
15:00 - 15:30	Closing, Guest of honor		
15:30 - 16:30		<b>HEALTH BREAK AND POSTER DISPLAY VISIT</b>	



**Contacts:**

**Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy**

**Water Development Commission**

**National WASH Coordination Office**

**Abiy Girma**

**E-mail: girmaabiy@gmail.com**

**Tel: +251-911 320 282**

**Water Sector Working Group Secretariat**

**Kaleab Getaneh**

**E-mail: kalgetaneh@gmail.com**

**Tel. +251-911 643 977**

*MSF 10 materials, presentations and undertakings are available at:*

<https://www.cmpethiopia.org/page/3592>