

SECTOR EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT UNIT (SEIU)



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Urban Development
Water Supply and Environment Division
Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit (SEIU)

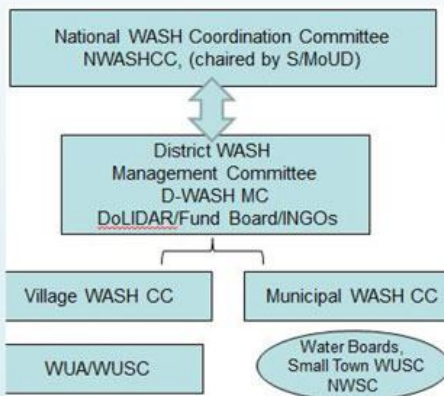
The Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit (SEIU) was established on 31 July 2009 with the objective to arrive at a transparent, accountable, service-oriented and responsive WASH Sector. The Government has institutionalized SEIU on June 2012 as a permanent unit of the Ministry of Urban Development, where it acts as the Secretariat to Sector-wide coordination, planning and monitoring of the water supply and sanitation programs of the Government of Nepal. The Government of Nepal provides comprehensive support to the sector efficiency improvement processes by ensuring policy harmonization, adequate monitoring and performance assessment, targeted financing and capacity building, and by creating a regulatory framework that protects and encourages good practices in the delivery of WASH services.

SEIU is working on various aspects of sector improvement working closely with all WASH sector partners through a consultative and participatory process.

Together, SEIU and sector partners will develop a platform for harmonizing stakeholders' approaches to improve the quality and sustainability of services. It support reviews of (programs) policies and priorities, institutional structures, subsidy arrangements and implementation modalities and increasingly manage s learning processes to enhance sector knowledge.



Institutional Development:



The JSRII recommended that the Sector rebalance the WASH coordination committees at various levels to include water supply, sanitation, hygiene and waste water. During the successful national total sanitation movement, the Sector has used the DWASH-MC mechanism very effectively and learned a lot in the process. The experience can be used to strengthen the DWASH-MC in its coordination and planning roles, and also provide it with a stronger management and monitoring capacity so that it will pursue local implementation by stakeholders more effectively. In addition, the management capacity of the DWASH-MC needs to be used to raise functionality and service delivery in all schemes in the district. The Operational Directives and other regulatory processes will support this task.

The relation between the National WASH-CC and the WASH-MC is quite close, with plenty of interaction through the SEIU as the Secretariat. In turn the DWASH-CC supervises the Village and Municipal WASH CC and supports them in their tasks.

Formulation of a comprehensive WASH Act and Policy for the Sector



Through a consultative process SEIU has drafted an umbrella act and policy for the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. The draft policy and act will apply to all government sector agencies, local bodies, government enterprises, non-government organizations, service providers, community based organizations, and private sector. In the draft, Government's sovereign right over natural water sources is recognized and traditional rights of Individual and community protected. The new policy rolls the two separate urban and rural sub-sector policies in to a single policy document. The new policy is update and harmonization of the existing urban and rural policies, which has also been able to bring consistencies in the two policies. The umbrella act fulfils the need of a comprehensive law for the effective, efficient and harmonized water supply, waste water and sanitation service delivery in accordance the stated Government policies. The draft act is available on SEIU's website for public discussion and review. <http://seiu.gov.np/index.php/new-act>

Human resource development and capacity building strategy

The Training Need Assessment completed in March 2014 by SEIU, with JICA support, showed the gap in training and capacity building in the Sector. Encouraged by strong recommendations during the JSR II, SEIU initiated the formulation of a HRD and capacity building strategy.

The strategy puts forward a pragmatic vision for human resources development for the WASH sector on critical aspects and challenges to ensure sustained capacity building efforts at national and district level, for rural water supply and sanitation schemes and for urban WASH service providers, in line with current government policies. It seeks to lay out strategic recommendations to the MoUD, DWSS, SEIU and National Water Supply and Sanitation Training Centre (NWSSTC, earlier named CHRDU) on how to facilitate access by all stakeholders to effective relevant and well-designed training and capacity building resources and programs.



Benchmarking exercise for Small Town Water Supply Systems



Benchmarking and Performance Assessment of Water Service Providers (WSPs) was started in early 2013 to develop capacity for monitoring functionality and performance of Nepal's water supply service providers as an instrument for improving the service delivery and performance of the urban water supply sector. Three rounds of orientation workshops for WSPs have been conducted so far involving 102 WSPs. In April 2014, a data book was produced with the results on the 32 participating WSPs. A Performance Improvement Planning workshop was conducted for the WSPs included in data book 2012/2013. MIS is under preparation to support the Benchmarking process. This process has been found very useful and effective for the performance improvement planning of WSPs.

A next data book will be published in November 2014.

Communication strategy for the sector



Communication is an essential dimension of the sector development plan. A communication strategy, developed, agreed and operationalized by relevant sector stakeholders, is important to inform and get feedback on sector developments and achievements.

Effective communication within the sector is important for greater harmonization and cost-effective resource utilization. Regular communication will contribute to the achievement of broad sectoral goals, objectives and policy agenda. SEIU is currently drafting a communication strategy for the sector through a consultative process. The strategy will support the realization of the approaches, objectives, priority streams and the organizational arrangements in the sector.



SEIU is available on twitter and internet



<https://twitter.com/Nepalwash>



<http://seiu.gov.np/>