



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE MANAGEMENT BOARD CONCEPT



**Way for
Sustainable
WASH
Services**

**Rural Village Water Resources Management Project Phase III
Sudurpashchim and Karnali Provinces, Nepal**



GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL



EUROPEAN UNION



Ministry for Foreign
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Background

The Rural Village Water Resources Management Project has strong links and long history of working with the local government level. The project has worked in WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) and livelihoods sectors since 2006, with participating local governments in 10 districts of Nepal (Achham, Baitadi, Bajhang, Bajura, Dadeldhura, Dailekh Doti, Darchula, Humla and Kailali). The Project is currently (FY 2077/78) working closely in 27 core and 36 proposal based (Rural) Municipalities (M/RMs) of Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces. The first two phases were completed in 2010 and 2016, with the current third phase set to finish in 2022. The project works in four result areas: WASH; livelihoods; renewable energy and climate change; and governance support. In practice, this means WASH and livelihoods implementation in close collaboration with RMs at scale, along with constant capacity building of the local government and in communities.

The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 6.1. is to **achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030.**

Sustainability of WASH services should be ensured in long run. To retain the sustainable WASH services, local governments should have strategic and viable management for operation and maintenance (O&M) and management of water supply systems, as well as implementing Total Sanitation and Dignified Menstruation Management.

As provisioned in the constitution of Nepal and Local Government Operation Act 2074, local governments are responsible for the WASH service delivery to the citizens. To perform this function, local governments need to develop local regulations, institutions and partnerships.

To institutionalize WASH in governance, the project has developed *Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Management Board* concept

together with Rural Municipalities (RMs).

The concept was shaped as the way forward for sustainable management of WASH services. The concept also resulted in the formulation of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Management Directive 2077 for all 27 core RMs. The

Directive is based on Local Government Operation Act,

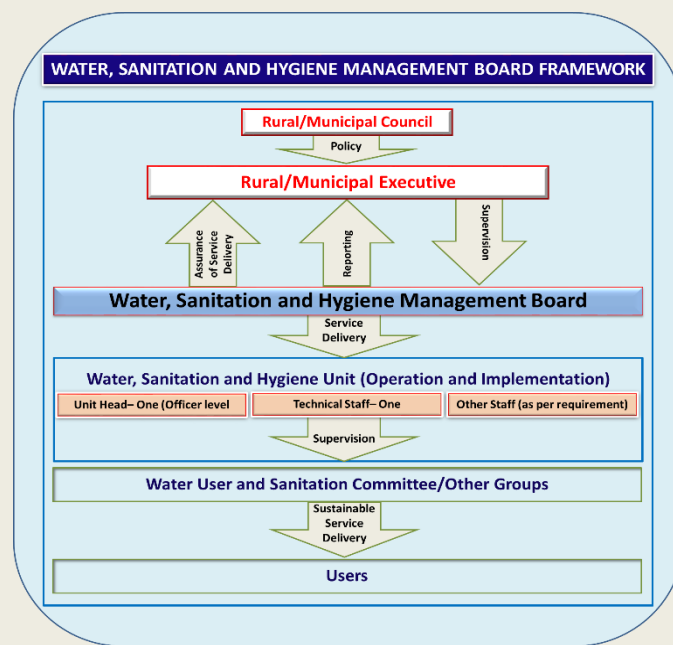
Key Points of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Management Board Concept

- WASH Management Board
- WASH Unit
- RM Level Scheme Repair Fund
- RM WASH MIS
- Registration and Renewal of WUSCs
- WUSC Network
- Annual Reporting by WUSC
- Annual Evaluation of WUSC
- Rewarding to WUSCs
- Commitment to SDG

2074. Actions as provisioned in the directive are already moving ahead in all 27 core RMs.

Framework of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Management Board

As provisioned in the WASH Management Directive of the RMs, WASH Management Boards were established as a formal entity in all 27 core RMs. Structure of the Board is mentioned in the directive. In most of the RMs, RM Chairpersons are chairing the Board.



Role of WASH Management Board:

Main responsibility of the WASH Management Board is to promote WASH governance at the local level. The main duties of the Board are presented below:

- Prepare periodic plans on WASH with clear vision.
- Prepare annual planning with budgeting of WASH sector.
- Support the Rural Municipal Executive (RME) for policy formulation regarding the WASH sector.
- Establish and operationalize the RM-WASH Management Information System (MIS).
- Establish and operationalize the RM level WASH repair and maintenance fund.
- Ensure functionality and sustainability of water supply systems.
- Prepare and fund relevant Total Sanitation and hygiene related activities, aiming to achieve total sanitised status of the RM.
- Prepare and fund relevant sanitation programmes for the public.
- Manage institutional and school sanitation in the RM.
- Prepare targeted programmes for Dignified Menstruation Management, aiming for full coverage in RM.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene Unit

The WASH Unit works under the supervision of the WASH Board as the operative body and the secretariat.

Role of WASH Unit:

- Implement and coordinate sanitation, hygiene and dignified menstruation management related programmes, identified in the annual work plans.
- Monitor, facilitate and supervise assigned individuals, volunteers, schools, youth clubs, mothers groups, and community based organisations in WASH management.
- Establish and update RM-level WASH MIS, and provide accurate figures for the Board for the evidence-based decision making.
- Compile Water Use and Sanitation Committees (WUSCs) functionality status reports with data and proposals submitted by the ward offices. Update these to the MIS and submit summary report to the Board with proposed action plans. Follow up with wards if the reports are not received.
- Facilitate to form or reshuffle WUSCs and support them to register/renew in the RM.
- Support WUSCs for operation and maintenance management of the schemes and monitor the performance.
- Identify the best managed schemes and recommend WUSCs to the Board for the annual reward. Provide targeted support to passive WUSCs including WUSC reshuffling, WUSC management training, and other actions that can trigger a passive WUSC to be more active.
- Establish periodic monitoring and evaluation system of existing water supply schemes.
- Prepare Annual Report on WASH and submit to the Board.
- Recommend WUSCs for funding of emergency and major repairs to the Board.
- Perform any other activities as decided by the Board for sustainable WASH services for all citizens.
- Carryout administrative work for the Board (minutes, invitations, reports, WUSC registration, etc.)

Water Use and Sanitation Committee Network

There is a WUSC Network in the RMs. The chairperson of the network is nominated as a member of the WASH Management Board. WUSC Networks work as a bridge between WUSCs, the WASH Management Board and other donor institutions. They identify the issues and problems related to the O&M of water supply systems, and they seek solutions. In particular, the network has an advocacy and supporting role for institutional

capacity enhancement of WUSCs and functionality and sustainability management of water supply and sanitation schemes.

All the schemes are entitled to be affiliated with the WUSC Network. WUSCs are encouraged to affiliate with viable local cooperative to accumulate O&M fund and to receive other WASH management support services.

Repair and Maintenance Fund

RM level Repair and Maintenance Funds are established in each RM to support the WUSCs in sustainable scheme maintenance. Based on an assessment, WASH Management Board may recommend any of the schemes to RM Executive body for repair and maintenance after ensuring the following pre-conditions:

- WUSC has an O&M Plan and Water Safety Plan, and related O&M regulation is approved and applied at the time of registration and renewal.
- WUSC has registered at RM and registration is renewed annually.
- WUSC has the O&M fund and collects regular water tariff (considering exceptions only for the poor and other who are in a disadvantaged situation).
- WUSC manages tools and spare parts.
- WUSC has appointed a water system maintenance worker.
- WUSC conducts Annual General Meeting and public audit.
- WUSC maintains book-keeping and store records.

Water Quality Management

Water Safety Plan is to be formulated and implemented in each water supply scheme. The RM needs to establish a water quality lab at RM level to test water quality of each WASH system, charging a minimum fee.

Reporting Mechanism

WUSCs submit the scheme status report during the first quarter of each fiscal year to the ward office. This report updates any scheme-specific information regarding functionality of the scheme, institutional arrangement of WUSCs, total sanitation status, menstruation management practices (access to toilet and tap during the period) and home garden management. Any proposals for emergency repairs, service level improvements or other support needed from the WASH Unit should be submitted together with the status report. The Ward Office forwards these to the WASH Unit. A copy is submitted to the WUSC Network and affiliated cooperative. The report may include special attention need to be taken by the Board or WUSC network.

WASH Management Information System

WASH Unit is responsible for establishing and updating RM WASH Management Information System (MIS). The Unit is to provide accurate figures for the Board for evidence-based decision making. RM WASH MIS is to be linked with N WASH MIS.

After receiving reports from the WUSCs through ward offices, the WASH Unit verifies the data by conducting monitoring visits. The verified data is compiled and updated into the RM WASH MIS accordingly.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The WASH Board establishes a system for regular monitoring and evaluation. The Board monitors the functionality and sustainability status of the schemes, institutional setup of WUSCs, total sanitation status, menstruation management practices (access to toilet and tap during the period) and home garden management status. The monitoring visits verify the

reported data and highlight the possible need for support to WUSCs.

Based on the verified data of the WUSC reports, WASH Unit evaluates the WUSCs. The best performing WUSCs may receive a reward, to be decided by the Board, to encourage them to maintain the WUSC's performance.

Commitment to Sustainable Development Goals

WASH Management Board is committed to contribute towards the achievement of the following Sustainable Development Goals:

- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

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