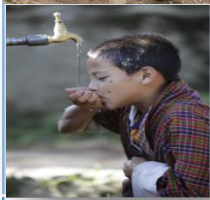


2016

B-WASH CLUSTER

*A national partnership to achieve universal access to safe & adequate water
sanitation & hygiene facilities*

Governing Document



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1. INTRODUCTION

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is an important social sector and already there is huge pressure in both urban and rural areas to ensure safe, adequate and potable water supply, and sewage management. As per the Bhutan National Urban Strategy (BNUS), over 50% of the population is estimated to reside in urban areas by 2020, and this would impose tremendous pressure on requirement of planned infrastructure & services. Further, in rural areas, although the report shows that 95%¹ of the houses have access to basic latrines, these toilets are not of sanitary standards, according to 2015 JMP² report. Therefore, only 51%³ of the Bhutanese rural population have access to improved sanitation as monitored by the MDGs.

Institutional set up exists but it is not robust enough. There are challenges regarding coordination as there is no single entity responsible for coordinating the Water, Sanitation & Hygiene sector. Harmonization of efforts is necessary to avoid duplication, optimum utilization of resources and to achieve national, regional and SDGs WASH sector. Responsibilities should be clearly delineated and partners like the Tourism Council of Bhutan, BCCI (private sector), relevant CSOs and local government should be roped in to address WASH challenges and needs. The Sanitation & Hygiene sector in Bhutan should strive to steer towards one Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Plan and not work in silos anymore.

To harmonize the approach, major relevant stakeholders met in Paro on 29th July 2014 for the very first time at the behest of Public Health Engineering Division, Department of Public Health under Ministry of Health. Subsequently, a bigger WASH consultation forum was further arranged on 28th and 29th of March 2016 with diverse participation and to seek wider consensus among the stakeholders for effective coordination and collaboration. The 2 day consultative meeting was attended by over 50 participants from various agencies including INGOs, NGOs and development partners. The need to establish a dedicated forum (*B-WASH Cluster*) was echoed very strongly during the proceedings of the entire 2 day meeting.

Vision, Mission and Objectives of the **B-WASH(Bhutan WASH) Cluster** was also drafted during the meeting. The meeting also agreed to form a Technical Working Group (TWG) to coordinate the B-WASH Cluster activities more effectively in the future.

¹ Annual Health Bulletin 2015

² JMP –Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation by WHO and UNICEF is the official United Nations mechanism tasked with monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) relating to drinking water and sanitation (MDG 7, Target 7c)

³ Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey 2010

2. VISION

A Nation with access to Safe, Sustainable and Equitable WASH for all, always and everywhere.

3. MISSION

To be a leading body in coordinating and guiding safe, sustainable and inclusive WASH interventions.

4. OBJECTIVES

- i. To provide platform for inclusive and participatory collaboration and coordination amongst the stakeholders to address the WASH issues.
- ii. To provide a common forum for exchange of knowledge, information & expertise.
- iii. To guide and facilitate optimal utilization of available WASH resources
- iv. To facilitate harmonization of data collection and management towards achieving the national, regional and international(SDG) commitments
- v. To facilitate advocacy and /sensitization of WASH issues with special focus on children, women, elderly, monks & nuns and PLWDs at all level.
- vi. To prepare and guide the WASH emergency response plan.

This Governing Document has been developed to ensure that B-WASH Cluster operates under a structure of good governance – notably internal mechanisms for transparency, accountability, and balanced representation of interests – as well as effective structures for management and oversight of B-WASH Cluster activities. It is designed to enable B-WASH Cluster to be flexible and responsive to changing circumstances, through efficient and inclusive decision-making structures.

5. OVERVIEW OF THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The B-WASH Cluster is a collective of partners with representatives from the stakeholders of WASH activities in the country with a Chairman and Executive Chair for the Technical Working Group(TWG).

Public Health Engineering Division of Ministry of Health and Water & Sanitation Division of Ministry of Works & Human Settlement will host the Secretariat on rotation basis.

5.1 MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS

Although WASH related activities are being undertaken and looked after by various agencies, the following are the major stakeholders/partners that has been classified as the stakeholders for the B-WASH Cluster:

1. Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC)
2. National Statistical Bureau (NSB)
3. National Environment Commission (NEC)
 - a. Water Coordination Division
4. Ministry of Health
 - a. Public Health Engineering Division (PHED)
 - b. Health Infrastructure Development Division (HIDD)
 - c. Royal Centre for Disease Control (RCDC)
 - d. Health Promotion Division (HPD)
 - e. Dzongkhag Health & Engineering Sectors
5. Ministry of Works & Human Settlement (MoWHS)
 - a. Water & Sanitation Division (WSD)
 - b. Department of Roads
 - c. Dzongkhag Thromdes
6. Ministry of Education (MoE)
 - a. School Health & Nutrition Division (SHND)
 - b. Special Education Needs Division (SEND)
 - c. School Planning & Building Division (SPBD)
7. Dratshang Lhentshog
 - a. Religion and Health Project
8. Armed forces
 - a. Royal Body Guard (RBG)
 - b. Royal Bhutan Army (RBA)
 - c. Royal Bhutan Police (RBP)
9. INGOs, NGOs, CSOs & Private etc.

SNV, Ability Bhutan Society (ABS), Bhutan Nuns Foundation (BNF), Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN), Bhutan Toilet Organization (BTO), Bhutan Tourism etc.
10. Development Partners (WHO, UNICEF, etc.)

5.2 GOVERNANCE LEVEL

1. The Chair: is a leader with convening power to provide direction to the B-WASH Cluster.
2. The head of the Department of Public Health/MoH and Department of Engineering Services/MoWHS shall serve as chair on rotational basis.
3. General B-WASH Cluster Meeting shall be held at least once a year.
4. The Executive Chair (EC): chairs the TWG, supports and oversees implementation of the TWG work, advocacy and awareness raising efforts and liaises closely with the Chair and the stakeholders.
5. Chief of Public Health Engineering Division (PHED) and Water & Sanitation Division (WSD) will act as the EC on rotational basis.
6. The Secretariat for TWG and B-WASH Cluster shall be for two years term and whosoever chairs the TWG shall also act as the Secretariat.

5.3 TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)

Technical Working Group (TWG) is a representative sub-group of B-WASH Cluster with representation from major stakeholders; drives forward the initiative; holds decision-making authority and oversees all B-WASH Cluster activities; meets regularly through the year; and mandates and tasks the Secretariat. Members from the following stakeholders shall constitute the TWG:

1. Water Coordination Division, NEC
2. Public Health Engineering Division, MoH
3. Water & Sanitation Division, MoWHS
4. School Health & Nutrition Division, MoE
5. Religion & Health Project, Dratshang Lhentshog
6. 1 Member representing Arm forces.
7. 1 Member representing NGOs
8. 1 Member representing Development Partners

1. The TWG meeting shall be convened as deemed necessary anytime of the year.
2. The TWG will prepare annual WASH Cluster progress report and submit to higher authorities to influence appropriate policy, programming and resource allocation decision making process.
3. The TWG will serve on advisory capacity for GNHC on ongoing WASH issues and also act as central body for implementing emergency response (in case of need).
4. The TWG will facilitate to provide technical assistance to any organization in developing the advocacy material on WASH for resource generation and create public awareness based on request.
5. TWG shall strive to provide technical⁴ support to B-WASH Cluster to address key issues related to water, sanitation and hygiene in Bhutan.
6. TWG shall initiate periodical meetings, workshops, conferences and timely follow up on the cluster activities.
7. TWG shall also facilitate/support and ensure that respective stakeholders are collecting, compiling and generate reports based on harmonized indicators and standards including resource utilization as per respective sector AWP and share during the B-WASH Cluster meetings.
8. Two third of the TWG members shall be required to fulfil the decorum.

5.4 ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMMES OF B-WASH CLUSTER

- The activities of B-WASH Cluster will evolve with time according to sector needs, opportunities, and commitments from partners;
- General B-WASH Cluster Meetings are envisaged as regular core activities;
- Advocacy to seek greater attention and resources allocation in WASH at all levels shall be carried out during appropriate times;
- B-WASH Cluster activities such as workshops, seminars & symposiums shall align closely with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and SCOSAN declarations;
- GLAAS, which is governed by UN-Water and led by WHO, will also be closely coordinated with B-WASH Cluster activities.
- Create milestones/indicators to assess the progress of the WASH cluster

⁴National standards, guidelines, harmonized indicators, reporting module

Annex A: B-WASH Cluster Guiding Principles

B-WASH Cluster is a multi-stakeholder partnership working towards an ultimate goal of sanitation, water and hygiene for all, always and everywhere. Recognizing that agencies and organizations can achieve more by working together, it is a transparent, accountable and results-oriented framework for action, built on a common vision, values and principles.

B-WASH Cluster members recognize that:

1. The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living and inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as the right to life and human dignity;
2. The partnership promotes the progressive realization of the right to water and sanitation as part of the right to an adequate standard of living and is guided by the principles of participation and transparency
3. Universal and sustained access to sanitation, water and hygiene fundamentally underpins economic growth, human security and all aspects of social development, especially health.
4. Sanitation, water and hygiene underlie achievement of the SDGs
5. Resource and planning prioritization, comprehensive planning frameworks, and evidence-based decision making are essential factors to achieve universal access to sanitation and drinking water.

ABBREVIATIONS/ GLOSSARY

ABS	:	Ability Bhutan Society
AWP:	:	Annual Work Plan
BHIMS	:	Bhutan Health Information & Monitoring System
BNF	:	Bhutan Nun Foundation
BTO	:	Bhutan Toilet Organization
CSO	:	Civil Society Organization
DHS	:	Health Sector
GLAAS	:	Global Analysis & Assessment of Sanitation & Drinking- Water
GNHC	:	Gross National Happiness Commission
HIDD	:	Health Infrastructure Development Division
HPD	:	Health Promotion Division
MoE	:	Ministry of Education
MoH	:	Ministry of Health
MoWHS	;	Ministry of Works & Human Settlement
NSB	:	National Statistical Bureau
PHED	:	Public Health Engineering Division
PPD	:	Policy & Planning Division
RCDC	:	Royal Centre for Disease control
RSPN	;	Royal Society & Protection of Nature
SACOSAN	:	South Asian Conference on Sanitation
SEN	:	Special Education Needs
SHND	:	School Health Nutrition Division
SPBD	:	School Planning & Building Division
TCB	:	Tourism Council of Bhutan
TF	:	Tarayana Foundation
TWG	:	Technical Working Group
WASH	:	Water Sanitation & Hygiene
WSD	:	Water & Sanitation Division