

City Sani scope

CWISAN'S VOICE FOR ENSURING SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SANITATION FOR ALL



CWISAN/UN-Habitat

WATER & safe Sanitation for All

The Water and Sanitation Regulation 2025 is finally promulgated after it was approved by the Cabinet on 31 December 2024 and published in Nepal Gazette on 23 January 2025. After an initial glimpse, many from the sanitation sector might comment that the Regulation is still too “water supply” heavy and focuses on sewer services, missing the opportunity to address the non-sewered services that covers 89% of the population. But to have the Regulation for now itself is an essential milestone in the country's effort to provide clean water and sanitation for all its citizens as guaranteed by the Constitution of Nepal 2015.

The Regulation has demarcated the roles and responsibilities of federal, provincial and local governments with recognition to “safe” sanitation. Though the role of provincial government as well as the term “sanitation” is still unclear, there are still efforts to avoid duplication and encourage coordination among the three-tiers of the government with water supply and safe sanitation utilities. Any surveys, construction and operation of water supply and safe sanitation infrastructure will now require approval which will be granted within 90 days. There is also penalty provisions for poor service delivery and industrial and business areas must ensure treatment of wastewater before dumping it in the sewage network or water bodies. The Regulation also ensures waivers on installation charges and tariffs for marginalized groups. However, the key challenge now is the smooth implementation of the Regulation.

System Performance Assessment

A situational assessment of 10 sewer and non-sewered systems across Nepal is currently ongoing with a team led by Ministry of Water Supply (MOWS) and supported by UN-Habitat. Field study with comprehensive checklist developed collaboratively was conducted towards the end of 2024 and the final assessment is currently underway. The report is expected to be out soon.

The assessment aims to benchmark the functionality of these 10 systems and understand their institutional arrangements, regulatory provisions, operational performance, technical efficiency and gaps, financial sustainability in terms of service and business model, and compliance with national effluent standards.

At the first of its kind interaction with development partners regarding the Regulation on 28 January 2025, Minister for Water Supply, Mr. Pradeep Yadav, was honest enough to appeal to the non-government sector to increase funding on water supply and safe sanitation citing that the government allocates very little budget in the sector. He was also aware that donors are currently cash strapped due to ongoing global challenges.

But the Ministry for Water Supply (MOWS) has already identified 12 utilities, including the Guheshwori Wastewater Treatment Plant (pictured above), to pilot the Water and Sanitation Regulation that will be assisted for implementation. Even to go beyond that will require more coordination among alliance members and pool the required resources. Are we ready yet for operationalizing the regulations effectively envisioning the safe water and sanitation services to people of Nepal?

[Read Water and Sanitation Regulation 2025 \(Nepali\)](#)

[Read More on the Workshop Report](#)

Words to CWISAN: Ms. Meena Shrestha, Jt. Secretary and Spokesperson - MoWS

“For safe and inclusive sanitation, there are 753 municipalities in Nepal, and there are different sized cities. These municipal cities must proceed ahead by developing either Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) plans or municipal-wide inclusive plans. During the implementation, these plans can be initiated with whoever has the budget and align with relevant organizations. By doing so, we can achieve safe and inclusive sanitation efficiently. But if we work haphazardly and without any structured plan, then it would burn up generous budget and significant time to reach these targets. So, every municipality should develop its inclusive and safe sanitation plan and it should be inclusive in every way. Then only we can achieve the targets of safe and inclusive sanitation.”

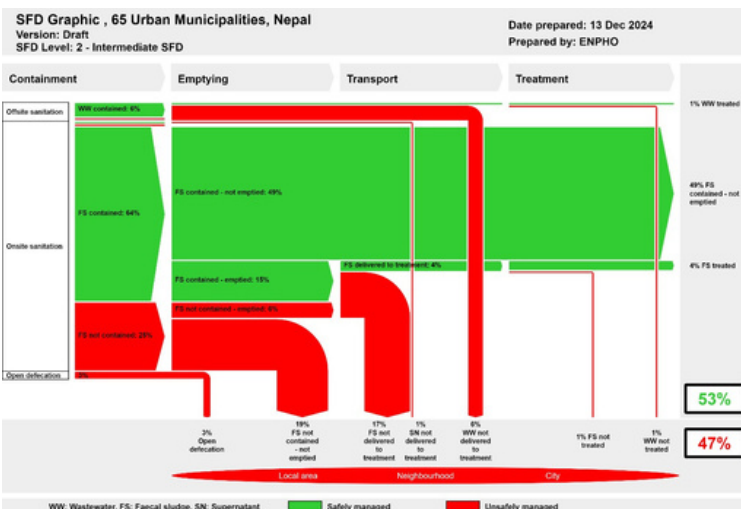
[Watch More](#)



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Sanitation Synopsis of 65 Urban Municipalities

Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) under the Municipalities Network Advocacy on Sanitation in South Asia (MuNASS – II) has come up with significant sanitation data, particularly fecal sludge (FS) management, while preparing “intermediate level” Shit Flow Diagram (SFD) for 65 municipalities across Nepal.



ENPHO

The data reveals that 64% of FS generated is safely contained but it decreases to 49% as we approach the emptying and transport of the sanitation value chain. Furthermore, one percent of wastewater is considered treated in Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) and four percent of FS is treated primarily from biogas digesters and Fecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs). This leads to 47% of FS generated is managed unsafely and will most likely increase as desludging services are not easily available with issues still lingering over formal registration and regulation. The report recommends upgrading infrastructure, promoting mechanical desludging, constructing more treatment facilities and regulating sanitation services. [Read More](#)

12 pilot utilities for Water & Sanitation Regulation

The Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS) in November 2024 identified 12 utilities to pilot Water and Sanitation Regulation that will be assisted for implementation. MoWS is also leading a seven-member task team under its Joint Secretary and comprising of Deputy Director General of Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM); its two Senior Divisional Engineers (DWSSM and MoWS); Chair, Water and Sanitation Service Tariff Commission; Executive Director, Kathmandu Valley Water Supply Management Board; and UN-Habitat as relevant expert who can be nominated by the Ministry to provide specialized assistance. MoWS is provided technical assistance through WaterLinks and support from UN-Habitat.

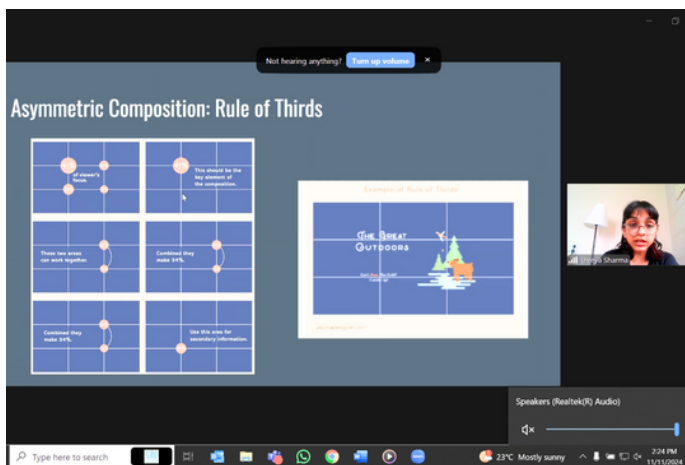
Nepal at World Urban Forum (WUF-12)

The World Urban Forum (WUF-12) was organized by UN-Habitat in Cairo, Egypt under the theme “It all starts at home” from 4 to 8 November 2024 and attended by over 25,000 participants including head of states, deputy prime ministers and ministers from 182 countries. Nepal’s participation was marked with engagement in over 25 sessions and the first ever Nepal Pavilion during the event. At the same event, Nepal’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Urban Development, Mr. Prakash Man Singh, emphasized the importance of collaboration with UN-Habitat and the UN in addressing key urban challenges faced by Nepal. A separate session on WASH highlighted the need for multi-level and multi-sectoral collaborations and partnerships for quality services. The event was also attended by CWISAN Member, Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA) Secretariat. [Read More](#)



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CWISAN Comms Follow-up



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CWISAN and Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) with support from Dasra, India organized an online meeting on 11 November 2024 as a follow-up to their Capacity Enhancement Workshop for communications practitioners. The meeting provided feedback to documents currently being developed on CWIS implementation, mentor cities in Nepal, Waling Municipality Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant as well as the first edition of the CWISAN Newsletter.

Toilets – A Place for Peace

CWISAN Members, Smart WASH Solutions (SWS) and Society of Public Health Engineers Nepal (SOPHEN), organized two separate events marking World Toilet Day with the theme “Toilets – A Place for Peace”. The first workshop, focusing on “Policy and Technology”, was held at Hotel Himalaya, Kupondole on 18 November 2024 with the Bagmati Provincial Government’s Minister of Social Development, Ms. Hari Prabha Khadgi (Shrestha), as the Chief Guest. The event was co-organized by SNV and WaterAid and supported by Welthungerhilfe, among others.

[Read More](#)



Smart WASH Solutions



SOPHEN

Similarly, the SOPHEN event, supported by WaterAid Nepal and Intellectuals Center, was organized at Hotel Hilton, Naxal on 19 November 2024. The second workshop, focusing on “Coordination & Partnership for Safely Managed Sanitation”, was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS). The event brought together key stakeholders to address Nepal's sanitation challenges, emphasizing the importance of coordinated efforts between government tiers and relevant organizations. Speaking at the event, Minister for Water Supply, Mr. Pradeep Yadav, highlighted the role of toilets in promoting dignity, particularly for women in rural areas, while stressing the need for strong policies and inclusive coverage.

First Edition of Nepal Sanitation Tours

CWISAN and Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) launched the first edition of Nepal Sanitation Tours in Nepal covering six sites, six cities in three provinces from 16 to 20 December 2024. The five-day event brought together 18 urban practitioners from different municipalities, development partners and private organizations to learn and share from Nepal's Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) interventions. [Read More](#)



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Second Batch of CWIS Training of Trainers



DWSSM

An eight-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on "Citywide Inclusive Sanitation Approach for Municipality-wide Inclusive Sanitation in Nepal" was held at National Water Supply and Sanitation Training Center, Nagarkot from 22-29 December 2024. Around 19 participants from various sectors, including the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM), the Provincial Ministry, the Federal Water Supply and Sanitation Management Project (FWSSMP), Kathmandu Valley Water Supply and Management Board (KVWSMB), Melamchi Water Supply Development Board,

the Local Development Training Academy (LDTA) and the private sector participated. The ToT is as per agreement between DWSSM, Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS) and UN-Habitat and in coordination with Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO).

FSM Status in Urban Nepal

Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) organized a sharing program on “Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) Status in Urban Nepal” under Municipalities Network Advocacy on Sanitation in South Asia (MuNASS-II) at Entrance Café, Lalitpur on 31 December 2024. The event focused on disseminating findings from the SFD survey of 65 municipalities across Nepal and sharing key activities and achievements. Municipal representatives, sector partners, and stakeholders gathered to discuss and share urban sanitation initiatives for safe urban sanitation. [Read More](#)



ENPHO

Enhancing Collaboration in Sanitation

A workshop titled “Enhancing collaboration in sanitation services: Bridging the gap between government, sanitation workers and private sector” was organized by CWISAN, WaterAid Nepal (WAN) and Intellectuals Center at Yalamaya Kendra, Lalitpur on 31 December 2024. The event stressed the need for enhancing dignity of sanitation workers and private septic operators by ensuring adequate fecal treatment infrastructure and regulatory mechanisms in place. In the same event, Ms. Shanti Tamang, a Women Sanitation Workers’ Cooperative leader representing FANSA Nepal Chapter, emphasized the importance of fostering a respectful and inclusive work environment for all sanitation workers.



FANSA Nepal Chapter



MuNASS/UCLG ASPAC

MuNASS South and SEA CWIS Forum

United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) organized the “South and Southeast Asia CWIS Forum” from 13-14 January 2025 in Bangdung, Indonesia. This was a key event under Municipalities Network Policy Advocacy on Sanitation in South Asia (MuNASS) program that served as a platform to showcase innovative sanitation policies and technologies and strengthen local government capacity in addressing CWIS. The event facilitated knowledge sharing among cities across South and Southeast Asia, highlighting successes and insights from the MuNASS program in advancing CWIS. The forum promoted collaboration and networking among local governments, academia, and the private sector, with the goal of creating scalable and inclusive sanitation solutions. [Read More](#)

Operationalizing Water & Sanitation Regulation

Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS) organized and UN-Habitat supported an interaction program on “Operationalizing WASH Regulation and Meeting Sectoral Targets” on 28 January 2025 at the Everest Hotel, Kathmandu. The event is the first public interaction of its kind since the Water and Sanitation Regulation was promulgated recently on 23 January 2025. During the event, the Honorable Minister for Water Supply, Mr. Pradeep Yadav, appealed to bilateral organizations, development partners and non-government sector to increase funding for drinking water and safe sanitation. [Read More](#)



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UPCOMING EVENTS

POLITICAL DIALOGUE ON WASH (SNV), 10-11 FEB 2025

NEPAL SANITATION TOURS (BANGLADESH), 11-13 FEB 2025

PRACTICAL ACTION CWIS LEARNING VISIT, 17-21 FEB 2025

TOILET CONFERENCE, DHAKA, BANGLADESH, 25-26 FEB 2025

NEPAL SANI TOUR FOR NEPAL MAYORS, MARCH 2025

GATES FOUNDATION NEPAL MISSION, 3-7 MARCH 2025

We would like to thank our members for contributing photos and materials used for this publication.

Coverage timeframe for this issue is from November 2024 onwards, with priority to CWISAN Members who sent in their submissions.

Please send us your articles/feedback at sudha.shrestha@un.org

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