

City Saniscope

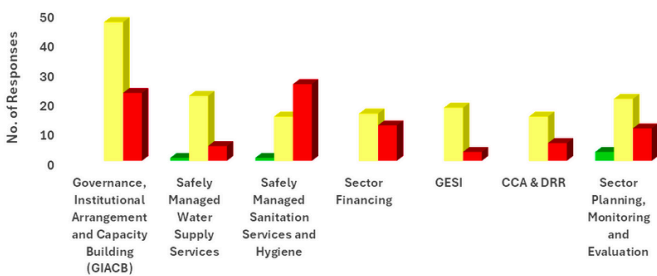
CWISAN'S VOICE FOR ENSURING SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SANITATION FOR ALL



The before (L, October 2020) and after (R) picture of Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) in Waling Municipality, Nepal. JSR 2023 notes the growing need for well designed septic tanks and FSTPs. Both Photos: CWISAN/MuNASS

Safe & Inclusive Sanitation for All

Thematic-wise Traffic Light Status



JSR 2023

Challenges Ahead

The result of the JSR Traffic Light Questionnaires in all seven provinces of Nepal discloses regional disparities, technological typologies, service sustainability as well as equity and inclusion challenges. There is a need to emphasize the importance of tailored approaches for different geographical regions.

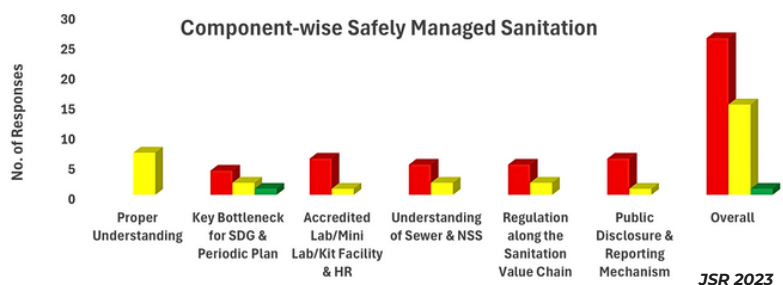
Among the seven thematic areas, Safely Managed Sanitation is one of the most critical sectors where around 61.9 % (highest, 26/42) of the responses were “red”. Out of total six components under safe sanitation, the responses of six provinces were “red” in two components followed by five “red” responses in two components. The responses of all seven provinces were “yellow” in only one component, which asked about proper understanding on the term safely managed sanitation.

It is a milestone that the Joint Sector Review (JSR) on Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Sector 2023 has come up with some valuable insights on safely managed sanitation in Nepal.

Though significant progress has been made, the report highlights that there are still substantial gaps. Among the 20 declaration points, JSR 2023 also mentions the importance of effective governance, collaboration, and sustainable financing mechanisms. There is also the need to adopt the Municipality Wise Inclusive Sanitation (MWIS) approach for implementing a national mission and accelerate actions to capture, transport, treat, and safely dispose. As fecal sludge containment systems continue to fill up, there is a pressing need to establish and enforce standards for proper disposal and management.

But the key question is yet to be answered: How can we, as an alliance, ensure safe and inclusive sanitation for all? Our grading starts right from here. [Read More](#)

Component-wise Safely Managed Sanitation



JSR 2023



GSGS, KU

“Solving problems such as Sanitation Goals requires coordinated efforts”

The relationship between humans and the environment has become imbalanced, creating massive issues. To restore balance, we must collaborate across disciplines -- working with policymakers, media professionals, and multidisciplinary intellectual teams to develop innovative, out-of-the-box solutions. Cities, as the cradles of modern civilization, will face increasing stress on water, sanitation, and other critical resources.

Today, experts from various sectors often work in isolation, but we are all connected in different ways. It is crucial to rethink how we connect, collaborate, and work together as environmental or sanitation experts. Curiosity, imagination, and multidisciplinary teamwork are essential pillars of today's transformation. Similarly, solving any problems -- such as sanitation goals -- requires coordinated efforts.

Science and technology offer powerful tools, but addressing complex issues requires policy integration. A robust policy must prioritize the welfare and improvement of all citizens. Such policies need to be well-practiced, iterated, and scalable to create refined, applicable knowledge.

I urge everyone to focus on complex challenges and avoid working in isolation. We must never rely on single-domain experts but instead build multidisciplinary teams dedicated to solving environmental, sanitation, and sustainability issues. Only through collaborative efforts can we hope to tackle the complex problems of our time. Let us not strive for individual successes while collectively failing. Together, we can create real, lasting change.

Today, I speak not only as an individual but as a dedicated practitioner committed to solving the practical issues we face in the field. In any area of work, we encounter a spectrum of challenges—some are straightforward, while others are intricate and difficult. Basic education can often resolve simpler problems, but complex issues demand deeper engagement and innovative solutions. In fact, Nobel prizes are awarded for breakthroughs in solving the most complex of problems. The more we focus on these, the more we can ease the lives of everyone.

Take, for example, the solid waste management (SWM) crisis in Kathmandu—a pressing issue that is yet to be resolved. Despite having excellent PhD scholars, a committed mayor, and a functional system in place, the complexity of the issue remains. Solving any issues requires a multifaceted approach, involving many brains working together.

An example from the past can be drawn from the introduction of the School WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) concept focusing on girl children during 2010-11-ies. Addressing disability-friendly toilets was another complex challenge at the time. Both examples demonstrate that practitioners must focus on complex, multifaceted problems—issues that demand multiple perspectives and solutions. Education, imagination, and curiosity should be the driving principles in today's learning environment. Cities, as hubs of thriving civilizations, present vast opportunities but also face major challenges. Solving complex problems requires collaboration among experts from different fields.

We have the necessary resources -- economists, higher income levels and ample job opportunities. However, one solution stands out in waste management: source segregation. Landfills and isolated interventions will not suffice; instead, we must connect "super brains" -- environmentalists, policymakers, media, and activists -- to foster the right collaborations and generate new knowledge. Too often, solutions are pursued in silos, and we need to break free of this mindset. Sufficient budgets and a combination of diverse compound solutions are essential to tackle these intertwined problems. A holistic approach is required to address complex issues, and our universities need to lead this charge -- helping us understand how problems connect and disconnect.

Environmental sustainability is another pressing concern. Two centuries of industrialization have accelerated global warming, climate change, and glacier melting. While air pollution remains a workable problem, it is still complex. Simple issues can be tackled at the citizen level, but the more significant problems demand intelligent and wise solutions. Wisdom helps break isolation and fosters collaboration.

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[Excerpts from the Keynote Address of Mr. Ashutosh Tiwari during the Habitat Innovation Conclave 2024 on 16 September 2024 at Rampur, Chitwan organized by Global Sanitation Graduate School (GSGS), Kathmandu University (KU) and Agriculture and Forestry University, Chitwan. Mr. Tiwari is Former Chairperson of Association of International NGOs (AIN) & Former Country Director of WaterAid Nepal with wide range of experiences on social activism, media as well as corporate leadership. He advocates private sector engagement & youth entrepreneurship. He is currently with SAFAL Partners, Nepal's first business operations-focused investment & consulting firm]

Regulation Sensitization Workshop

WaterLinks organized two events in Nepal, first in Kathmandu on 27 March 2024 and second in Dhangadi on 29 March 2024, on “Water Supply and Sanitation Regulation Sensitization”. The objective of both events was to foster discussions and enhance understanding of the draft WASH Regulations that is still awaiting approval.



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Bridging for Urban Sanitation Knowledge



ENPHO

Around 15 municipal representatives from Bangladesh visited Nepal from 1-3 June 2024 for a learning and exchange workshop at the invitation of the Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) as part of “Mentor City Cross Learning Visit”. The visit aimed to facilitate collaborative learning between municipalities in Bangladesh and Nepal, which are on the verge of becoming “Mentor Cities”. The concept of “Mentor Cities” initiates to establish a model sanitation city using CWIS indicators of inclusive sanitation and encourages other cities to adopt this system. [Read More](#)

Global Sanitation Summit

The Global Sanitation Summit in Kathmandu, Nepal hosted a side event titled “Ensuring Safe Sanitation: Initiatives of Communities and CSOs in South Asia” on 26 June 2024. The event, organized by Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA) with support from Gates Foundation, showcased community initiatives focusing on safely managed sanitation services. The event featured community leaders from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka as well as FANSA representatives from Pakistan and Maldives. [Read More](#)



FANSA Secretariat



FANSA Secretariat

South Asian Conclave on WASH

“South Asian Conclave on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)” was held in New Delhi, India from 9-12 September 2024 brought together diverse stakeholders to discuss strategies for achieving SDG 6 by 2030.

The event, organized by Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA) India Chapter and Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, featured community leaders, youth, and professionals sharing insights and innovative solutions for WASH. Key highlights included the launch of synthesized reports on WASH Policies and Investment Status across South Asia. [Read More](#)

Regional Training for Humanitarian WASH

Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO), in collaboration with German WASH Network, organized “Delivering Effective WASH Training (DEWT) for South Asia” from 9-13 September 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Over 15 participants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan participated in the training aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of humanitarian WASH professionals. [Read More](#)



CWIS Training

The Godawari Municipality in Lalitpur, Nepal, with support from WaterAid Nepal (WAN)'s Godawari Prabalya WASH Project, organized a three-day “Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) Training” from 10-12 September 2024. Around 45 municipality elected officials and staff members were oriented on the CWIS approach by accredited CWIS ToT (Training of Trainers) experts. The participants have expressed a strong commitment to apply the knowledge gained in their daily work within Godawari Municipality.

Introduction to CWIS Approach

A three-day residential training on “Introduction to CWIS Approach” was jointly organized by National Water Supply and Sanitation Training Center (NWSSTC) and Environment and Public Health (ENPHO) in Nagarkot, Nepal from 11-13 September 2024.



A total of 23 participants from various agencies, including the Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS), the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM), the Federal Water Supply and Sanitation Management Project (FWSSMP), and the private sector, attended the training.

Water, Sanitation & Spiritual Wellness

The Society of Public Health Engineers Nepal (SOPHEN) organized a half-day session at Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM) premises on 15 September 2024 on “Water, Sanitation and Spiritual Wellness”. A motivational talk by Brahma Kumari Raj Yog Center was also conducted. Dr. Arun Lama and Dr. Rajit Ojha led the technical discussions with around 45 participants from the government and non-government representations from the WASH Sector.



SOPHEN



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CWISAN Comms CEW Workshop

Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) with support from Dasra, India organized a 4-day capacity amplification workshop for communication practitioners from CWISAN member organizations from 17-20 September 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop was designed to enhance participant abilities to document and amplify best practices and key initiatives undertaken in Nepal.

MuNASS South & Southeast Asia CWIS Summit

The “South and Southeast Asia Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) Summit 2024” was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 25-26 September 2024. The event, organized by United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) and hosted by Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities (FSLGA), highlighted the urgent need for regional collaboration to address urban sanitation challenges. The delegates also visited Kandy’s Wastewater Management System showcasing its technology. [Read More](#)



MuNASS/UCLG ASPAC

EquiServe Workshop for CWIS Planning

A two-day “Using EquiServe Workshop for CWIS Planning in Nepal” was organized in Nepal by the Intellectuals Center (IC) and Athena Infonomics from 23-24 October 2024. The EquiServe tool assists public sector leaders and development actors to advance equitable sanitation services in cities globally. The first day of training was hosted by Banepa Municipality, Nepal, while the second day was held at Society of Public Health Engineers Nepal (SOPHEN) meeting hall in Kathmandu, Nepal – both as partners of the event.



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STOP PRESS

“Embracing Diversity: LGBTIQ+ Community Finds Opportunity

FANSA Nepal Chapter updates that Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City in Nepal has recruited three individuals (one of them in the picture at center) from the LGBTIQ+ community as sanitation workers and has announced plans to provide seed funding for cart rickshaws to 10 individuals. Hetauda Mayor, Ms. Mina Kumari Lama, was among the first batch of Nepal Mayors who were part of SaniTour of CWIS initiatives in India covering cities such as Hyderabad, Warangal and Bhubaneswar. Kudos to this good initiative for inclusive sanitation!



FANSA Nepal Chapter/ENPHO

UPCOMING EVENTS

SANITATION WORKERS FORUM

WORLD URBAN FORUM (WUF12), 4-8 NOV IN CAIRO, EGYPT

FOLLOW-UP OF COMMS CEW, 5 NOV (VIRTUAL)

WORLD TOILET DAY, 19 NOV

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

This being our first issue, coverage timeframe is limited to March to October 2024 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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