

**Development of “FEDWASUN”:
A model for effective local
WATSAN governance
An experience of Nepal**

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Outline

- Overview of the WATSAN in Nepal
- WATSAN Targets & Implications
- FEDWASUN
- Establishment Process
- Outputs
- Current Role
- Challenges
- Conclusion

Water and Sanitation coverage in Nepal

- Drinking water coverage 2000
 - Rural: 42 %
 - Urban: 78 %
 - National: 48%
- Sanitation coverage 2000
 - Rural: 19%
 - Urban: 67%
 - National: 27%

WATSAN Targets & Implications

- Halve the proportion of people without water & sanitation by 2015 - **MDG 2000-2002**
- 10th Plan (2003 – 2007): 85% water, 50% sanitation, total coverage by 2017.

To ensure quality of water and environmental sanitation the cost of meeting MDGs will be tremendously high:

- The target must address existing inequities (42 Out of 75 districts have below average coverage)
- High costs to reach poor and remote areas

FEDWASUN: aims

In 2001, NEWAH conceived a new strategy to encourage and strengthen community water user groups to form district federations that would:

- Collaborate with district level stakeholders
- Improve water and sanitation coverage for all.
- Ensure sustainability of existing water supply schemes.
- Ensure fair allocations between drinking water and other uses of water.

Process

- Concept development - series of consultation meetings within NEWAH, between NEWAH & WaterAid Nepal,
- Learning from others – background study visits to similar user group networks within country (FECOFUN).
- Advocacy for issue realization - number of interactions, workshops at district level in five regions.
- Defining the role, rationale, and positioning FEDWASUN in the sector,

Phases

- Internal preparation (Dec 2001- March 2002)
- Pre-development Stage (March 2002- Oct 2002)
 - Stakeholder workshop in one district.
- Development Stage (Nov 2002- March 2004)
 - Extension to five districts of five regions, ad hoc committee formation at district level.
- Consolidation and institutionalization stage (April 2004 onwards)
 - National level FEDWASUN formally registered
 - First National Assembly (March 2005)



Outputs

- Network in 23 districts with more than 750 users groups and 50,000 households.
- National level FEDWASUN established in May 2004.
- RWSS National Policy 2004, points to the need of a Federation for an independent monitoring and social auditing.
- Further RWSS strategy 2004 indicates the commitment to establish a national and district level federation for the users' organizations,

Status

- Networking with UNICEF, Actionaid and DFID
- Getting recognition as an umbrella organization for the users' group: “any issue raised by FEDWASUN will be positively taken up by the Department” – Mr. Srawan Kumar Upadhyaya, Division Chief - DWSS

Current role

- Is striving to improve the WATSAN local Governance by:
 - protecting rights of the users, conducting social auditing, coordinating local level hearings on sector policies, acting as channel in disseminating information on WATSAN to its members.
 - Monitoring performance of service providers
 - Constructive engagement with local bodies and service providers,
 - Involved in “Citizens Action in Nepal”- WAN

Challenges

- **Management and legal:** Addressing the needs of the users who are not registered at district water resource committees,
- **Professional:** Limited research, analysis & advocacy skill to better support effective local WATSAN governance
- **Finance:** Limited funding for its institutional strengthening and program extension in the districts

Conclusion

- FEDWASUN is recognized as an umbrella organization for the user groups and committees,
- Is engaged in advocating the issues for protection of the rights and benefits of the users,
- Is now acknowledged by the government and donors,
- Since it represents the voices of real users, ultimately sustainability of the WATSAN systems is envisaged through improved local governance of the sector.
- Capacity development and institutional support are most essential to demonstrate FEDWASUN as a viable player in the sector.