

Open Defecation Free Nepal Narration of the Journey



A Booklet with Materials on Country Open Defecation Free
and a Step to Total Sanitation Declaration Ceremony, 30 September 2019

2020



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Abbreviation and Acronyms

BS	Bikram Sambat
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CMS	Community Mobilization Section
DCC	District Coordination Committee
DDC	District Development Committee
DDG	Deputy Director General
DEO	District Education Office
DG	Director General
DOLI	Department of Local Infrastructure
DWSS	Department of Water Supply and Sewerage
DWSSO	District Water Supply and Sanitation Office
DWSSM	Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management
FEDWASUN	Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal
FUG	Forest Users Group
FSM	Faecal Sludge Management
FWG	Functional Working Group
GoN	Government of Nepal
GSF	Global Sanitation Fund
IDS	Integrated Development Society
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IYS	International Year of Sanitation
MAT	Monitoring and Action Team
MCPM	Minimum Condition and Performance Measure
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoFALD	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population
MoWCSC	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen
MoWS	Ministry of Water Supply
NEWAH	Nepal Water for Health
NMIP	National Management Information Project
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSHCC	National Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee
NSHSC	National Sanitation and Hygiene Steering Committee
NSW	National Sanitation Week
ODF	Open Defecation Free
PWG	Preparatory Working Group
RWSSFDB	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board
SACOSAN	South Asian Conference on Sanitation
SCNSA	Steering Committee for National Sanitation Action
SDE	Senior Divisional Engineer
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SLTS	School-Led Total Sanitation
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
TeCoSan	Terai Conference on Sanitation
VDC	Village Development Committee
WSSDO	Water Supply and Sanitation Division Office
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASH-CC	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee
WSP	Water Safety Plan
WUSC	Water Users and Sanitation Committee

Preface

The journey of sanitation promotion in Nepal especially in the past two decades has been remarkable although promotion of the sanitation programs had been formally initiated since 1980. The country has been declared open defecation free in this period indicating a paradigm shift from unhealthy and shameful practice of open defecation to systematic and safe use of toilets in every household.

The malpractices prevalent in society since ages, growing tendencies of community towards subsidy dependency, lack of awareness, working mechanism that fail to produce desired results and utmost disregard of the use and maintenance of toilets by the users are some amongst many hurdles in achieving open defecation free status in the past.

In this sense, the nation-wide sanitation campaign was as important and ambitious as it was challenging and difficult too. However, despite the odds and impediments in the process, the enthusiasm and commitment of people did not decline. Integrating the fragmented individual efforts, the Government of Nepal was able to make a major breakthrough through implementation of the Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011.

The sanitation program gradually took the shape of a nation-wide social campaign through collective effort of stakeholders. As the darkness of ignorance fade away in time, this campaign aggrandized, eventually leading the country to be open defecation free country. Thus, all Nepalese have succeeded the first step to glorious journey towards total sanitation. In order to maintain the sustainability and achieve total sanitation status, the responsibility of each of us is even more challenging. For this, partnership and collaboration among the three tiers of government and the community is crucial than ever.

The retrospection and objective analysis through the advancement of this glorious journey, the efforts to tackle hurdles and disruptions along the way, the policies and strategies adopted by the Government of Nepal to pursue the campaign and the contribution by the various government bodies, United Nations agencies, development partners, civil society organizations and general public to augment the campaign and the role of the media are of national importance.

This booklet provides better learning, experience and energy to successfully carry out similar endeavors in future. It is not easy to summarize the experiences gained, the collaborations made and the methods adopted during the campaign and to showcase direct and indirect impact of open defecation free situation in the communities in a single document. However, this memoir has attempted to incorporate the important milestones of this glorious journey.

The natural disasters such as the devastating earthquake of 2015, the frequently occurring floods and landslides have taken a toll on this campaign time and again. While Nepal was marching towards the nation-wide open defecation free campaign, the catastrophic earthquake caused huge destruction particularly in 14 districts while the flood severely affected the districts of Terai region. Restarting the effort of toilet constructions from the beginning was an arduous task. More so, this achievement is exceptional.

Despite the national target set in Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011, Nepal could not be declared open defecation free by 2017 as stipulated earlier due to the aforementioned constraints. The date of declaration had to be postponed, however, it did not bring the campaign to complete halt. As the effort continued, Nepal successfully marked as open defecation free on 30 September 2019 in front of the world. This achievement itself is a matter of pride for everyone involved and it gives a confidence that unity and collaboration can always win in any challenging situations. This campaign has significantly contributed to the vision of the Government of Nepal 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'. As we step towards a glorious journey, we are truly thrilled and honored. All the stakeholders and communities who have collaborated and been a part of open defecation free campaign with the Government of Nepal, thereby marching towards total sanitation with plaudits.

As we mark this important occasion to declare Nepal open defecation free, we assure you that this booklet will provide you documentation of the past, mirror of the present and guide to the future. This is an attempt to make living records of the great achievements made by Nepal in the sanitation sector. Therefore, we are fully confident that this booklet will be a useful reference material for researchers, students and all interested readers about sanitation campaign of Nepal.

In this booklet, the description of open defecation free journey of Nepal has been divided into two sections. The first section covers the introduction to former status of open defecation, the initiation and gradual development of sanitation, the institutional and policy provisions, the mechanisms and tools adopted for sanitation promotion and the development of collaboration between state, civil society and development partners.

It incorporates the cooperation of mass media sector and knowledge management in promotion of sanitation, the nature of promotional activities, the multi-dimensional impacts of the sanitation campaign in society, the obstacles and challenges faced and the sustainability of the open defecation free status. This section also includes some representative case studies in order to illustrate the achievements made during the

national open defecation free campaign. The second section of the book chronicles the historic day when the country was declared open defecation free. It includes the details of the key activities held and major promotional programs done during the preparation of the declaration as well as the programs conducted during the declaration along with the remarks made by the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal and Chief Guest of the Declaration Ceremony, and other distinguished guests of the ceremony. The annex of this book includes information about different working groups, date wise detail of the open defecation free declaration of all districts and reference used in this booklet.

This booklet as a memoir has been prepared with the creativity and contribution of many people. Mr. Bharat Adhikari has made a significant contribution to the writing of the booklet as well as editing of the content material and the language. Likewise, Mr. Kamal Adhikari has played central role in the preparation, analysis and editing of the contents. Similarly, the suggestions, comments and support received from Mr. Chandra Kumar Pan Shrestha, Mr. Devendra Kumar Jha, Mr. Bhojendra Aryal, Mr. Madan Kumar Malla, Mr. Nam Raj Khatri and Mr. Bipin Poudel are of utmost importance. Likewise, Mr. Gehanath Gautam, Mr. Ratan Budathoki, Mr. Rajesh Manandhar, Mr. Surendra Babu Dhakal, Mr. Govind Bahadur Shrestha and other members of the Documentation Functional Working Group and the experts in the field of water supply, sanitation and hygiene have provided invaluable feedback and support. Mr. Ramesh Subedi has made a significant contribution to the editing of this booklet. Thanks is extended to Ms. Suprina Shrestha for her contribution for translation of the booklet. Special thanks and congratulations are extended to all Nepalese and other concerned stakeholders who have significantly contributed to national sanitation campaign and also to experts and community level activists whose support has remained instrumental for preparing this booklet, case studies and photographs included in it.

National Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee, Nepal

2020

Compliments

Through the long and tireless efforts of the development partners, civil society and every citizen working together under the leadership of the Government of Nepal, we have had the opportunity to witness the glorious occasion of Nepal being open defecation free. As we paved our way forward to the journey of total sanitation, this milestone encourages us to move forward.

In the journey of the open defecation free campaign, lack of awareness, traditional beliefs, poverty and many other obstacles posed as threats and it was evidently not easy to carry on. On the top of that, natural disasters such as the catastrophic earthquake and flood took a toll on the projects that had been completed, rolling them down to the rock bottom again. But despite such disruptions, we have succeeded to achieve the status of an open defecation free nation. This campaign has always been carried out free from political prejudices. The political commitment has to be credited as the biggest factor leading to the success of this sanitation campaign.

This historic achievement is an important step to guarantee 'access to clean drinking water and sanitation facility' considered as fundamental right of every citizen by the Constitution of Nepal. We are confident that this achievement and our continuous pursuit towards attaining total sanitation will facilitate yet another challenging journey to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Along with this, the open defecation free status will strengthen the national goal of '**Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali**' taken by the Government of Nepal.

I perceive that this booklet is an important evidence-based document that portrays the achievements in the sanitation sector of Nepal. I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who as companions joined hands to move forward in this glorious journey as well as those who have contributed in the preparation of this booklet.

First and foremost, I would express my high gratitude to Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli who presided as the Chief Guest in the open defecation free declaration ceremony and for his inspiration during this journey. Also, my sincere thank goes to all stakeholders, political parties and citizens of Nepali who have contributed in this campaign to make Nepal open defecation free.



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Bina Magar
Minister
Ministry of Water Supply

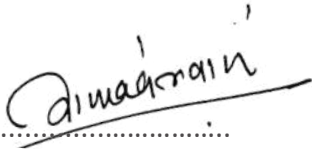
Compliments

With the onset of International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990), sanitation promotion campaign had formally started in Nepal which by now has crossed many mounting obstacles thereby achieving an important milestone in the glorious journey. We feel overwhelmed with pride and self-respect as we secure open defecation free status as a basic condition of sanitation. Having a history of only 2 percent of the total population having access to toilets until 1980, the present-day scenario where every household of the Nepalese has and use toilets, is a major achievement. In the period of last four decades, the country experienced many natural disasters and significant political changes. But even amidst all this situation, the sanitation campaign that unceasingly continued under the leadership of Government of Nepal and in cooperation of the development partners, activists, and all the stakeholders with their firm commitment. With the implementation of the Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011, a concept of 'one household, one toilet' policy was adopted and a collective campaign was launched with an objective to achieve open defecation free Nepal under the active leadership of the government.

Inspired with this campaign, the guarantee of 'access to clean drinking water and sanitation facility' has been ensured as a fundamental right of citizens by the Constitution of Nepal. This not only reflects the far-sighted vision of our constitution towards the public health in the world scenario, but also ensures the fundamental rights of every citizen. Hence, citizens play important role in the sanitation promotion of the country. This document is an effort to assemble and present the important events during the open defecation free campaign, the policy provision, strategic ideas and the proceedings of the Nepal open defecation free declaration ceremony. In this regard, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all my companions of this journey to open defecation free Nepal and to those who have contributed to bring out this book with due diligence.

I would like to thank the then Joint Secretary of Ministry of Water Supply and Chairperson of National Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee of Nepal, Mr. Chandra Bahadur KC, for his significant contribution in the open defecation free campaign as well as in hosting the open defecation free declaration ceremony, the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Water Supply and the then Coordinator of Preparatory Working Group for Country Open Defecation Free and a Step to Total Sanitation Declaration Ceremony, Mr. Sunil Kumar Das and the members of the Functional Working Groups, officials of the Open Defecation Free Nepal 2019 Secretariat and members of National

Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee, National Sanitation and Hygiene Steering Committee and Provincial, District and Municipality level Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committees. Similarly, officials of governmental organizations and Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management, civil servants, development partners, stakeholders, media personnel, health workers, teachers and students, officials of Water Users and Sanitation Committees and all Nepalese deserve special thanks. I would also like to extend gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Water Supply, Bina Magar, for her guidance in achieving and declaring the nation open defecation free and stepping towards the total sanitation. I am hopeful that each of us will join hands to proactively move forward in the journey of total sanitation.



.....
Madhav Belbase

Secretary, Ministry of Water Supply

(Chairperson of National Sanitation and Hygiene Steering Committee, Nepal)

Compliments

I am extremely delighted to have this booklet that systematically documents the pursuit of making Nepal an open defecation free nation, includes details of policy provision for sanitation and hygiene promotion, initiatives and promotional programs. It is prepared under the leadership of National Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee, Nepal. Everyone contributing to the preparation of this historic document deserves an applause. I am confident that the lessons learnt included in this booklet will provide important guidance in coming days to lead our nation towards paving the way for journey to total sanitation.

It is my pleasure to extend special thanks to the signatories of the Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011 for their collective commitments towards the national sanitation campaign and also to the concerned United Nations agencies, development partners, stakeholders and community people engaged in sanitation promotion in Nepal. Their close collaboration has enabled to bring significant changes in the sanitation sector in Nepal. I believe, the culture of collaboration that we have cultivated and institutionalized will effectively vitalize the journey of total sanitation as well.

I extend my special thanks to Mr. Devendra Kumar Jha, the then Member Secretary of the National Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee, Nepal for his remarkable contribution for preparing this booklet as well as for planning, coordination and facilitation to declare Nepal as open defecation free nation.

My sincere thanks and gratitude goes to all stakeholders who have made a significant contribution in making Nepal an open defecation free country. I extend thanks to the Global Sanitation Fund Program, UN-Habitat Nepal, for its support to prepare the booklet.



.....

Ramakant Duwadi

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Supply

(Chairperson of National Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee, Nepal)

Compliments

Declaration of Nepal as an open defecation free nation has come through the shared efforts and unwavering commitment of all Nepalese. During the open defecation free campaigns in the past, we have achieved many creative initiatives and useful lessons, which I am confident, will evidently guide in the process of upgrading the sanitation services and achieve total sanitation.

This booklet can be important reference material specially to formulate plan and policies in water, sanitation and hygiene for municipalities of Nepal. I would like to thank everyone contributing to the great work of preparing this document and also extend my heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders, officials of the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management, members of Preparatory Working Group for Country Open Defecation Free and a Step to Total Sanitation Declaration Ceremony, Functional Working Groups, Monitoring and Action Team and Secretariat as well as communities who have joined their hands to make our nation open defecation free.



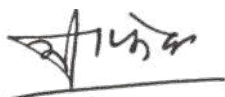
.....
Sunil Kumar Das

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Supply

(The then Coordinator of Preparatory Working Group for Country Open Defecation Free and a Step to Total Sanitation Declaration Ceremony)

Compliments

Nepal has been declared as an Open Defecation Free nation through a collaborative effort of the three tiers of government, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committees, development partners, civil society organizations, media and communities. The Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011 has enabled institutional development from central to local levels, stakeholders' capacity development and launch of Open Defecation Free campaign leading to total sanitation. The campaign is equipped with several indigenous methods and distinctiveness. And the campaign has internalized the fundamental spirit of health, dignity and development, significantly contributed to save communities from sanitation related morbidity and mortality and empowered them to live with full of dignity. I am confident that this booklet encompassing historical development, promotional process and learning about open defecation free campaign in Nepal will be a good reference to all the concerned stakeholders. Finally, I heartily thank and congratulate to all stakeholders of this great sanitation journey.



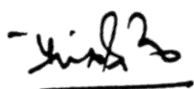
.....
Meena Shrestha

Director General, Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management

Compliments

It is evident that the Secretariat of the National Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee of Nepal located at the Sewerage Management and Environmental Sanitation Section of Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management and the National Sanitation Task Force have been working industriously in the plan formulation, facilitation and collaboration between the stakeholders for the open defecation free campaign of the country.

This booklet prepared under the leadership of National Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee of Nepal, facilitated by this secretariat and initiation of Documentation Functional Working Group, will serve as an important basis for research and development in the sanitation sector. This booklet has included record of policy level efforts, creativity, achievements and learnings. I extend my sincere thanks to all the members of the Sanitation Task Force of the National Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee, Nepal for their important role for national sanitation campaign and to all who have contributed in the preparation of this document. I express my utmost gratitude to the concerned stakeholders and every citizen of this country for contributing to establish Nepal's unique identity in the world as an open defecation free nation.



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Prabhat Shrestha

Chief, Sewerage Management and Environmental Sanitation Section

Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management

(Member Secretary of National Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee, Nepal)

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Journey to Open Defecation Free Nepal

1.1 Background

Access to toilet is regarded as a basic indicator of sanitation. The sanitation campaign in Nepal has promoted safe toilets with permanent structures. The coverage of sanitation has been determined based on the household's access to safe toilet. In Nepal, Open Defecation Free (ODF) status has been considered as the prerequisite for sanitation promotion.

According to the Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011 (hereinafter referred to as the Master Plan), if any designated area at any time is free of open defecation and if each household, school and office have an access to and regular use of a safe toilet, there is a provision to declare such area as ODF. Apart from this, practice of hand washing with soap and water at critical time in households, schools and offices is considered as an integral part of having the ODF status.

Sanitation has been established as the pillar of health, dignity and development. The main purpose of the ODF status is to protect public from the fecal-borne diseases by eliminating open defecation. There are two important aspects of achieving an ODF status. The first aspect is to safely cut off the contact between fecal germs and human with the proper use of toilet, thus controlling the risk of diseases caused by it. The second aspect is to save from the shame of open defecation. Therefore, ODF campaign has become a strong link in connecting science and society.

The Master Plan has envisaged a total sanitation status, with an aim of maintaining the ODF status and environmental sanitation. By ensuring construction and use of toilets in cent percent households and ending an open defecation practice, Nepal has been declared an ODF nation on 30 September 2019.

For this purpose, creativity and energy of different organizations, Federal, Provincial and Local Governments, development partners, different sectoral stakeholders, students, teachers, media personnel, civil society, private entrepreneurs and local community were mobilized. Through this full participation and ownership by the citizens and with the medium of ODF campaign, a significant impact has been made in socio-cultural coordination, development and transformation of Nepal. And the historic day of the declaration has opened next door to a new age of Nepal.

1.2 Introduction to an ODF Status

In literal, ODF status is a condition when there is no practice of an open defecation in any open place. However, this terminology carries a broader limit than its literal meaning. An ODF condition is when defecation is safely managed such that it cannot be felt through any human senses.

Although the pursuit of achieving an ODF condition had already begun before the formulation of the Master Plan, the definition of ODF condition given in the Master Plan has eliminated the discrepancy in the explanation of ODF condition as often seen. The Master Plan considers ODF as a first step moving to total sanitation condition. ODF means a state of not defecating openly. According to the Master Plan, the following basic indicators should be established so as to declare a designated area as ODF:

- ☞ There is no open defecation in the designated area at any given time,
- ☞ All households have access to improved sanitation facilities (toilets) with full use, operation and maintenance, and
- ☞ All the schools, institutions or offices within the designated areas must have toilet facilities.

During the initial stage of ODF campaigns, pit toilets were also given recognition as a sanitary facility. But the defecation in pit toilets are not separable from the human senses (eyes, nose and mouth) as they remain visible, generate foul smell and can transmit up to mouth through the medium of flies or other organisms. Moreover, it also has negative impact on the environmental sanitation and so, the Master Plan has later discouraged use of such toilets. As specified in the Master Plan, the stakeholders involved in the sanitation promotion encourage the communities to construct and use siphon-attached permanent toilets with pan. Therefore, the toilets constructed during the ODF campaign were found to be of good quality and durability in average.

1.3 Historical Development and Policy Environment of Sanitation in Nepal

Sanitation has been an integral part of the human civilization. However, in Nepal, sanitation promotion formally started only after the commencement of the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990). Later, National Sanitation Policy 1994 expanded the scope of sanitation, not only for the construction of toilets but also for the promotion of sanitation and hygiene and for the improvement of public health.

School Sanitation and Hygiene Education Program and National Sanitation Week (NSW) Campaign were promoted in Nepal since 2000. Similarly, Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach and School-Led Total Sanitation (SLTS) program were introduced in 2003 and 2005 respectively. These initiatives significantly contributed to spread awareness, to promote facilities of user-friendly water supply, toilets, hand washing practices in schools and to make communities ODF zone. In addition to this, with the promotional programs initiated to declare Chitwan, Tanahu and Kaski districts as model districts in sanitation, the ODF declaration programs in Nepal gained momentum. Owing to the practice of experimenting, using, promoting and expanding the new and creative activities relating to sanitation, Chitwan district can be considered as the laboratory of sanitation, where several innovations and creation in sanitation emerged and flourished.

The series of Ministerial Level South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN), which began in 2003 in Bangladesh, laid out some firm policy grounds for promoting the sanitation in the South Asia region. As a result, target of ensuring access to basic sanitation and safe drinking water facility for all its citizens, adoption of effective mechanism for sanitation promotion, expansion of the functioning of civil societies and inclusion of the expectation and voice of citizen were incorporated in the policy amongst the SACOSAN member countries. During this period, citizens of other countries including Nepal consciously raised their voice demanding for establishment of right to clean drinking water and sanitation as individual right. This was included in national worksheet to be prepared for SACOSAN.

Similarly, in the assembly of civil societies (called as pre SACOSAN) organized in eve of third SACOSAN held in New Delhi in 2008, it was recommended that the facility of clean drinking water and sanitation should be established as citizens' right. This recommendation can be considered as a milestone to establish drinking water and sanitation as fundamental right in Nepal and other South Asian countries.

With the world-wide celebration of International Year of Sanitation (IYS) 2008, the promotion of sanitation program gained new energy, momentum and height in Nepal as well. The Government of Nepal (GoN) had formulated and implemented Nepal Country Plan for IYS 2008. According to the plan, the state recognized sanitation as a national agenda for development. In the same year, the Master Plan was formulated and a separate budget allocation started for sanitation programs. With

the implementation of the Master Plan, ‘one household, and one toilet’ policy was adopted and sanitation campaign launched with the goal of making Nepal an ODF country, with the leadership and active involvement of the state. In order to promote drinking water quality, Water Safety Plan (WSP) were expanded in the country in the following days.

It is important to mention that beyond sole the technical thinking in the past, new dimension and synergy has been borne in ODF campaign of Nepal with the adoption of sociological and anthropological approach in sanitation sector. With an objective to attain total sanitation through ODF, Total Sanitation Model Village Promotion Program was formulated and implemented in 2012. The draft of Nepal Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector Development Plan (2016-2030) has the goal to achieve prosperity through development of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector. Similarly, Total Sanitation Guideline was formulated and implemented in 2017 to sustain ODF and maintain sustainability in sanitation. In 2018, Institutional and Regulatory Framework for the Faecal Sludge Management in Urban Areas in Nepal was formulated. Along with this, piloting of Sanitation Safety Planning targeting waste water treatment system has been initiated. In 2018, draft of National Policy for Safe and Dignified Menstruation was prepared and advocacy and awareness programs are being carried out through menstrual health and hygiene network and stakeholders. Through favorable policies and promotional efforts of four decades (Table No. 1), the program of achieving ODF condition equitably and inclusively expanded nation-wide and Nepal was declared an ODF nation in 2019.

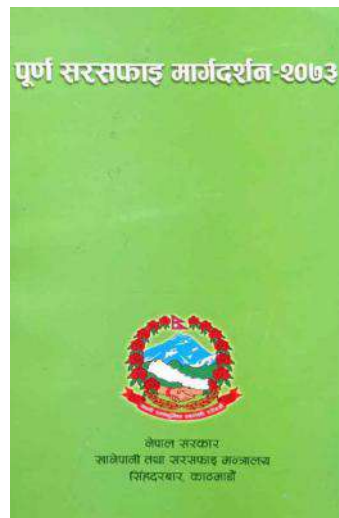


Table No. 1: Policy and Promotional Efforts on Sanitation

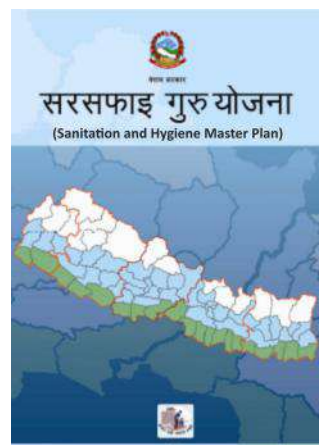
S.N	Important Initiation	Major Efforts and Achievements
A. Period of International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990)		
1981	International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade	Implementation of water and sanitation activities with integrated approach as per the decentralization process and thereby creation of favorable environment for sanitation, hygiene and environmental cleanliness promotion.
B. Period of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) (1991-2015)		
1994	National Sanitation Policy	Establishment of sanitation and hygiene as important basis of public health.

1999	School Sanitation and Hygiene Education Program	Significant contribution given to promotion of child-friendly, people with disability friendly and gender-friendly facilities on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.
2000	National Sanitation Week Campaign	Strong basis developed for nation-wide advocacy and communication relating to sanitation.
2003	Community-Led Total Sanitation	Contribution to promotion of toilets and activities to achieve ODF status without subsidy, amongst the community, through use of triggering tools.
2003	South Asian Conference on Sanitation	Popularity gained for ODF campaign through states' commitment in sanitation promotion via SACOSAN conference held in every two year.
2004	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation National Policy, Strategy and Sectoral Strategic Action Plan	Clear basis established for promotion of sanitation and hygiene through allocation of 20 percent of the budget from water supply and sanitation sector to sanitation promotion.
2005	School-Led Total Sanitation	Significant contribution made to achieve municipality level ODF condition from school's catchments through school and community partnership.
2006	Sanitation Model District	Significant learnings achieved to attain ODF condition in the whole district through collaboration of the stakeholders.
2008	Nepal Country Plan for International Year of Sanitation	Additional commitment by the state in sanitation promotion and budget management solely for sanitation program and initiation of the formulation of Master Plan.
2008	Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Policy	Preparation of clear basis for promotion of household toilets through output-based aid and FSM in the urban area.
2009	Stand Alone Sanitation Program	Momentum gained in achieving accelerated ODF declaration through stand-alone sanitation program aiming at the Village Development Committee (VDC) and municipality as the basic unit of program intervention.
2011	Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan	Creation of firm and favorable environment for expanding ODF programs as national campaign through the joint effort of multi-sectoral stakeholders, implementation of unified plan, leadership of local government and mobilization of local resources of the users.
2011	Joint Sector Review	Analysis of challenges and opportunities amongst the stakeholders on water supply and sanitation and concerned development sectors and contribution for exchange of learnings to revise sector policies, plan and strategies

2012	Total Sanitation Model Village Promotion Program	Strong contribution provided to achieve sustainable sanitation through upgrade of hygienic habits and facilities relating to sanitation in ODF declared areas.
2012	Millennium Development Goal Acceleration Framework	Identification of the obstacles encountered in sanitation promotion and concrete measures to solve them contributing in accelerating ODF campaign.
2013	First National Conference on Sanitation	Large contribution given to accelerate declaration of ODF in VDC, municipality and district through declaration paper on sanitation jointly issued by central, regional and district level stakeholders.
2014	District Conference on Sanitation	Significant contribution in achieving ODF condition within the stipulated timeframe in specified area by issuing declaration paper relating to sanitation through objective discussion amongst the district level political parties and different sectoral stakeholders about local level constraints and opportunities.
2014	First Terai Conference on Sanitation (TeCoSan)	Remarkable contribution in sanitation promotion in eight districts from Terai (Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusa, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara and Parsa), where sanitation promotion was lacking largely.
2015	Total Sanitation Guidelines	Favorable basis established for achieving total sanitation status for all and forever through ODF, in line with Sustainable Development Goals
C. Period of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) (2016-2030)		
2018	Institutional and Regulatory Framework for Faecal Sludge Management in Urban Areas of Nepal	Generation of strong basis for achieving the SDG through safe sanitation management by identifying managerial and regulatory role of the local government for Faecal Sludge Management (FSM).
2019	Country ODF and a Step to Total Sanitation Declaration	Country ODF and a step to total sanitation declaration leading to SDG by creating favorable policy-level environment, collaboration of multi-sectoral stakeholders and development partners, leadership of local, provincial and federal government and ownership of communities.
2020	Printing of a booklet on Open Defecation Free Nepal, Narration of the Journey	Documentation of process, factors and learning about ODF campaign Nepal.

1.4 The Goal and Strategies of the Master Plan

In absence of pre-determined goal, standard, strategy and procedure, the sanitation activities had to be carried out inconsistently while the efforts made by the stakeholders were also divided and inefficient. Addressing to all the existing situation, challenges and obstacles in the sanitation sector, the Master Plan was formulated under the leadership of the then Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS)-led Steering Committee for National Sanitation Action (SCNSA). The Master Plan aimed to promote the construction and use of toilet in each household of Nepal thereby making Nepal an ODF nation by 2017 and lead towards the total sanitation. The Master Plan was approved



as per the decision made by the GoN (Council of Ministers) on 4 August 2011, which was made public by the Rt. Hon'ble President at a special ceremony organized on 29 September 2011. In comparison to many other development programs where the sanitation related programs had been lagging, formulation of this Master Plan with an objective to mainstream sanitation and to improve public health can be considered as a landmark document.

The Master Plan has been recognized as an important reference material at both regional and international level. Considering the 43 percent coverage of sanitation as issued by National Information Management Project (NMIP) of the then DWSS as the base, the GoN, development partners and related stakeholders jointly set the target of sanitation (milestones) and made commitment to achieve 60 percent coverage by 2012/13, 80 percent coverage by 2014/15 and, 100 percent coverage by 2016/17 through the implementation of the Master Plan. The nine points guiding principles have been implemented as the major strategies of the Master Plan. They are:

- ☞ ODF as the bottom line,
- ☞ Universal access to sanitation in water supply and sanitation projects,
- ☞ Technology choices for household toilets,
- ☞ Leadership of the local government,
- ☞ VDC/Municipality as the basic unit of program intervention,
- ☞ Locally managed financial support mechanism,
- ☞ Sanitation facilities in institutions,
- ☞ Mandatory provision of toilets in newly constructed buildings and their regular maintenance, and
- ☞ Hand washing with soap and other behavior build up.

Through these principles, the major emphasis has been placed on conducting programs under the leadership of the GoN to develop sustainable and healthy habit. Under the direction of various level coordination mechanism institutionalized by

the Master Plan, the GoN, United Nation (UN) agencies, development partners and stakeholders have adhered these guiding principles. This created harmony between the sanitation activities and financing thereby achieving sanitation MDG by 2015 and attaining approximately 95 percent sanitation (toilet) coverage by 2017.

1.5 Institutional Arrangements and Partnership among Stakeholders

There was lack of inclusive and robust institutional structure for sanitation promotion in the past. Rural and urban policies and schemes related to water supply and sanitation have made Water Users and Sanitation Committee (WUSCs) (hereinafter referred to as user committees) responsible for sanitation promotion. But since the role and contribution of these committees remained minimum to promote sanitation as main agenda, the Master Plan has institutionalized the inclusive multi-sector coordination mechanisms in central, regional, district, municipality and VDC Levels. After the country transformed to federal structure, regional and VDC level coordination mechanism has been arranged in Province and Rural Municipality level respectively. In this booklet, both Municipality and Rural Municipality are denoted as municipality only.

The Master Plan has institutionalized National Sanitation and Hygiene Steering Committee (NSHSC) and National Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee (NSHCC) at the central level and WASH Coordination Committee (WASH-CC) at Province, District, Rural Municipality and Municipality level under the leadership of the GoN. The Province, District, Rural Municipality and Municipality level WASH-CCs are denoted as coordination committee in this booklet. Representatives from National Planning Commission and representatives from other related ministries under GoN take part in NSHSC and NSHCC. Similarly, the coordination committee at different level have provision of representatives inclusive of UN agencies, development partner organizations, Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FEDWASUN), media sectors as well as International/National Non-Governmental Organizations (I/NGOs). In addition, the coordination committees are also active at ward, tole and school's catchment areas as per the local needs. Importantly, the regular meeting of these coordination mechanism and respective task force has contributed to strengthening institutional memory.

Communication, coordination, participation and partnership have been maintained between the stakeholders thus achieving ownership by all in the national sanitation campaign through policy-level decision regarding sanitation, formulation of strategic plan, launching of promotional activities, formulation of code of conduct, resource management. Besides, co-financing, capacity development, progress review, sanitation conference, joint monitoring, validation, sectoral knowledge management, ODF ceremonies and other promotional activities are held.

In the ODF campaign, apart from the water supply and sanitation sector stakeholder,

various other sectoral stakeholder have provided tremendous support. Through the support of coordination mechanism at central, provincial, district and municipality level, strong partnership has been established amongst the stakeholders from education, health, women and children, public administration, forest, mass media and other sectors. As a result, every sectoral stakeholder has contributed to conduction of awareness activities, construction of toilet, development of healthy habit and achieving ODF condition.

With the adoption of strategic approach of ‘sanitation for all and all for sanitation’, the whole country has vigorously worked to make it an ODF nation. The support and achievements received for sanitation promotion through collaboration of different sectoral stakeholders have been mentioned in the Table No. 2 below:

Table No. 2: Contribution of Different Sectoral Stakeholders in Sanitation Promotion

S.N.	Sectoral Stakeholders	Contribution to Sanitation Promotion
1.	Political Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Commitment of sanitation promotion in their election manifesto, ☛ Formulation of policy for sanitation and support in budget management, ☛ Extensive mobilization of political cadres, ☛ Communication with community and raising awareness, and ☛ Taking initiation in ODF declaration ceremony.
2.	Water Supply and Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Management of budget for sanitation, ☛ Conduction of capacity development activities, ☛ Facilitation in formulation and implementation of plan and programs, ☛ Development and expansion of technology, ☛ Launch of awareness raising activities through mobilization of technical human resources, and ☛ Motivation the user committee to construct toilets at household level.
3.	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Development of hygienic habit in students, ☛ Mobilization of teachers and students to spread awareness in the communities, ☛ Development of the school's catchment area as ‘sanitation model’, ☛ Creating positive pressure and encourage the family members and communities by students, and ☛ Achieving of ODF condition in the school’s catchment in the leadership of school.

4	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Publishing results of the studies and research on sanitation and hygiene, ☛ Launch of awareness activities, and ☛ Dissemination of information on ODF condition by the health professionals
5	Women and Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Awareness for the promotion of equity and inclusiveness in sanitation, ☛ Contribution in the promotion of toilet in communities through mobilization of women group, and ☛ Advocacy on construction of child-friendly, gender-friendly and people with disability-friendly sanitation facilities.
6	Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Creating pressure and encouragement to construct toilet in the household of the users through mobilization of Forest User Groups (FUGs), and ☛ Provision of forest-based support material for construction of toilet for the households having person with disability.
7	General Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Coordination between the stakeholder organizations, ☛ Awareness and motivation in communities through mobilization of security force, and ☛ Effective implementation of law and code of conduct to create healthy sanitation condition.
8	Mass Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Raising awareness about water and sanitation, ☛ Disseminating news report on success and also about the areas requiring improvement relating to sanitation, ☛ Conducting policy dialog among stakeholders, ☛ Creating positive pressure through mass media and ☛ Facilitation in monitoring and validation of ODF condition.
9	Civil Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Strong discussion and advocacy on sanitation promotion, ☛ Monitoring of ODF condition and providing feedback to policy-makers
10	Private Organization and Entrepreneur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Providing loan to the household, ☛ Assisting for managing sanitation materials, ☛ Importing of the sanitation materials as per the demand by communities, and ☛ Construction of sanitation facilities including toilets.
11	Cultural and Religious Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Dissemination of awareness and motivational message on sanitation by the cultural and religious leaders, and ☛ Extensive promotion of sanitation material and information during cultural and religious festivals and celebrations.

1.6 Process of Sanitation Promotion

The plan of action of the Master Plan has been adopted for the promotion of sanitation. This includes institutional building of the coordination committee; capacity development of various sectoral stakeholders, teachers, students, community level facilitators, triggerers, user committee, women group, promotion of ODF declaration through triggering and awareness activities and upgrading the quality of sanitation services and facilities leading towards total sanitation condition at the provincial, district and municipality level. Overall, process and activities mentioned below have been adopted for sanitation promotion:

- ☞ Formation and orientation of coordination committee and task force at various levels,
- ☞ Providing training and mobilizing teachers, students, children clubs and health workers,
- ☞ Training of triggerer and facilitator and their mobilization,
- ☞ Collection of data on drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and health,
- ☞ Formulation and implementation of strategic plan, including existing ODF status, goals, strategies, code of conduct at the local level, stakeholders and assessment of resources,
- ☞ Creating a massive demand for sanitation with widespread public participation through triggering activities and collaborating with the entrepreneurs to supply demand-based sanitation material,
- ☞ Coordination and cooperation with coordination committees for strengthening inclusive and collective decision making for good governance and behavioral change,
- ☞ Attaining commitment of political parties, government authorities at all levels, sectoral stakeholders, media person and representative of civil societies by issuing declaration paper on sanitation promotion in the sanitation conference,
- ☞ Launching motivational, triggering, awareness and monitoring activities in the communities about faecal oral contamination and its prevention, hand washing practices, water treatment technologies through engagement of members of the taskforce, media person, triggerer, women group and local facilitator,
- ☞ Expanding awareness on sanitation, behavioral change and promotion of success stories,
- ☞ Conducting advocacy and awareness activities on sanitation during NSW, World Environment Day, World Toilet Day, World Hand Washing Day, World Health Day, Menstrual Hygiene Day along with other socio-cultural occasions at the local level,
- ☞ Promotion of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools, health institutions, offices and public places,

- ☞ Promotion in supply of the sanitation material and undertaking construction work in the communities through the collaboration with the private entrepreneurs,
- ☞ Encouraging individual for construction and use of safe toilet, practice of hand washing with soap and development of hygienic habits and behavior,
- ☞ Monitoring, certification and declaration of the ODF condition by the coordination committee,
- ☞ Acknowledgement of appreciation to the individuals and organizations providing significant contribution in sanitation promotion,
- ☞ Regular review of sanitation condition and maintenance and upgradation of facilities, and
- ☞ Documentation and dissemination of learnings and data on sanitation and hygiene.

1.7 Tools of Sanitation Promotion

In the past, trainings, seminars, publicity of awareness materials, street drama, group discussions, inter-school sanitation competitions and demonstration of hand-washing with soap were used for the promotion of sanitation in the communities and school level. But since the initiation of ODF intervention, tools of community level triggering (community triggering) and sectoral level triggering (sectoral triggering) are being used. Sectoral triggering is commonly understood as sector triggering in Nepal.

a. Community Triggering

Under community triggering approach, apart from disgust and shame, the risk arising in the public health due to open defecation is made to be understood fully. Under this, the tools such as sanitation mapping, flagging in the area where open defecation is practiced, calculation of faeces (projection of the amount of faeces accumulated in the open space), shit flow diagram (demonstration of how feces



A sanitation social map is being prepared in the community

travel from the open area to human mouth), field level testing of the drinking water quality, display the comical pictures (cartoons) of individuals who defecate openly in the public places and whistle blowing to discourage those who does unhealthy practice of open defecation are used.

According to the criteria that each household should abandon the bad habit of open defecation and thereby use toilet so as to free the whole community from risk associated with open defecation, the slogan titled “*Euita Chhute, Chakra Tute*” (one remains, breaks the cycle) depicting safety cycle of open defecation has been used to encourage engagement in sanitation activities.

b. Sector Triggering

Sector triggering approach adopts some principles such as clearly spell out roles and responsibilities of sector actors along with their space in the sanitation development, highlight one’s own contributions in sanitation with evidences and examples, recognize the individuals and institutions by comparing them with ‘renowned model figures’ and ‘reputed organizations’ and compare someone with other sanitation promoters in terms of their contribution and strengths. Similarly,



A glimpse of sector triggering for sanitation promotion

share the solid prospects in other sectoral developments via sanitation activities, accord ‘new titles’ for the ‘new roles’, share the evidence-based data and information that shows strong linkages between sanitation and other sectoral developments, show pictures, share data and highlight some typical cases by lively depicting death and drudgery resulting from poor sanitation. Further, cash the collective sentiment of ‘communities’, ‘villages’, ‘groups’ and ‘class’ in such a way that it strongly stimulates their collective consciousness and share professional and institutional credibility of sectoral organization with communities along with evidences so that communities value the statement and appeal of these organizations, internalize them and ultimately triggered to build and use toilet including proper hygienic behaviors.

The sector triggering brought in use as an indigenous approach in Nepal is mainly used during the sanitation conferences. Some novel efforts have been brought in practice in the conference such as analysis and presentation of sanitation status through the group work of the participants, assigning responsibilities to sectoral stakeholders, seeking joint commitment from the stakeholders for the resource mobilization, preparing code of conduct, issuing declaration paper with a specified date for ODF declaration, live telecast of the declaration paper through mass media and giving appreciation and respect to the individuals and/or organizations who have contributed to sanitation.

During sector triggering, the inherent strength, ability and responsibility of the various sectoral stakeholders (such as from water, sanitation, environment, health, education, women and children, administration and security, local development, private sectors, etc.) and other related sectoral stakeholders are strongly highlighted in such a way that they are made aware and prepared for the sanitation promotion. Apart from CLTS approach, sector triggering has embraced other indigenous sectoral learnings as well. In the sanitation campaign of Nepal, there is widespread use of community triggering as well as sector triggering and other local indigenous tools.

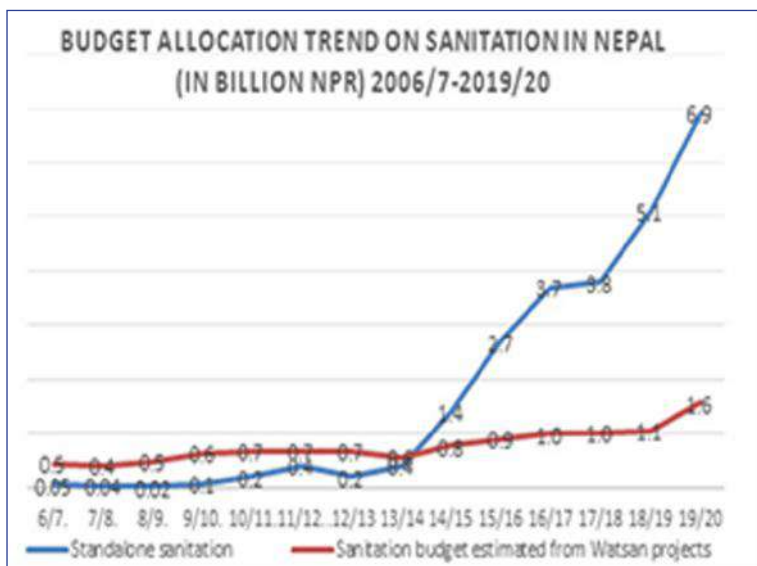
1.8 Commitment of State, Political Sector and Development Partner

The formal efforts for sanitation promotion in Nepal started three decades ago. However, sanitation sector had to face many ups and downs before getting a recognition and priority, in comparison to other development sectors. Despite the provision of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation National Policy, Strategy and Sectoral Strategic Action Plan 2004 to use 20 percent of the water supply and sanitation sector budget specifically for sanitation promotion, there was lack of effective implementation. So, only few sanitation activities could be carried out. In this period, development partners and other stakeholders from non-governmental sectors could not make significant contribution to expand sanitation coverage through their program activities promoted with limited resources. As per the commitment made by state to allocate separate budget for sanitation promotion in Nepal Country Plan for IYS 2008, later, through the budget statement of the fiscal year 2009/10, ‘one household, one toilet’ policy was implemented and yearly budget was allocated for conducting ‘standalone sanitation program’ nation-wide apart from sanitation promotion in water supply projects.

‘Global Sanitation Fund (GSF)’ program promoted since 2010, ‘Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All’ and community as well as school level WASH programs have contributed significantly to implementation of the Master Plan.

The then Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) made districts more responsible about the sanitation issues by adopting ODF as an indicator of Minimum Condition and Performance Measure (MCPM) and also through implementation of Environment Friendly

Figure No. 1



Local Governance Framework 2013. Under this ministry, ODF condition was recognized as a basis for evaluating work performance of Local Development Officers. These provisions, especially MCPM, worked as a positive catalyst to heighten ODF campaign. As a result, there has been a significant increase in budget for sanitation (See Figure No. 1, Page No 14) after the implementation of the Master Plan. However, as the toilet construction at household level were mandatorily provisioned through users' own responsibility, other than for the people with disability and poor households, the budget mobilized by the GoN and development partners were mostly used in capacity building, construction of toilets at schools and public places, establishment of sanitation fund, launching of awareness raising activities, reward and recognition, sustainability of ODF campaign and monitoring.

Amidst the state's commitment towards sanitation promotion and the favorable environment created by the Master Plan, the resources received from the development partners are fully mobilized. This has provided the opportunity to ensure the collaboration of stakeholders and mobilize their resources in an integrated manner. The district and municipal level strategic plans on sanitation has led to accelerate the process of attaining ODF condition. Along with this, commitment and participation of political sectors in sanitation promotion is ever increasing.



The then Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Jhala Nath Khanal declaring Kaski as the first open defecation free district of Nepal

Approval of the Master Plan by the GoN and unveil by the President of Nepal, launching of ODF declaration ceremony of Bhaktapur district in the presence of the President, ODF declaration of Gulmi, Tanahu and Rolpa district by the Vice-president and declaration of Kaski district as the first ODF declared district of Nepal by the Prime Minister are some examples of high level of political commitments for sanitation.

Similarly, participation of Speaker from the House of Representatives as the chief guest on the occasion of declaration of Chitwan as second ODF district of Nepal and presence of Deputy Prime Minister, Deputy Speaker from House of Representative, Ministers, Members of Constitution Assembly and senior leaders of political parties shows wider engagement of political leaders in sanitation promotion.

Inclusion of sanitation promotion in the election manifesto of political parties and launch of 'Chief Minister Sanitation Campaign' in Province No. 2 were some of the positive steps in this regard. Moreover, establishment of sanitation promotion as the key responsibility of the Local Government in the Constitution of Nepal has made political leadership more accountable towards sanitation.

1.9 Equity, Inclusion and Resource Management

Sanitation campaign of Nepal is example of an inclusive social campaign. The ODF campaign of Nepal has meaningful participation from all provinces, political parties, stakeholders, various castes, religions, classes and gender. Coordination committees at various level have been formed and institutionalized through inclusive approach.

The communication, coordination, joint investment and partnership amongst the stakeholders have been institutionalized through strategic plan and plan of action formulated with participatory approach; and establishment of the basket fund. Similarly, *Jagaran Karyakram*, which focuses on promotion of accountability in all levels in water supply and sanitation program has contributed to strengthen inclusion and WASH sector governance.

According to the guiding principles of the Master Plan, the mechanism has been established for declaration of any designated area ODF only after ensuring access and use of toilet to household of any ward, community, school's catchment area, any area occupied by



Students washing their hand with soap and water in a group hand washing station in school

municipality and district. For construction of toilets, financial and material support was provided only to the landless, ultra-poor, people with disability, single women and socially disadvantaged and marginalized families who are deprived of access to sanitation. This support is in the form of donations by the local donors and basket fund, material support and award by ward and municipalities. Similarly, Output Based Aid is used to support poor households to build toilet in Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Project areas.

Gender sensitivity has been implicated in all sanitation activities. In all coordination committees including at the local level, members include participation of women along with the representatives from various segments of the society. The ODF campaign has been carried out by considering the issue of gender sensitivity and social inclusion. Besides, advocacy campaigns, educational activities and media materials have considered these aspects.

The communities have been provided information about the toilet that suit their need and capacity. Child-friendly, gender-friendly, people with disability-friendly toilets have been promoted in schools and public places. The policy and program of the GoN in the fiscal year 2019/2020 has stated to provide sanitary pads to the public schools free of

cost for Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). Similarly, Curriculum Development Center has started revising the syllabus for grade 4 to 8 to include menstrual hygiene. While constructing public toilet at fairs, market areas, highways, bus park and other public places, the private sectors and other support organizations are encouraged to do partnership and share cost, instead of making investment by a single organization. Such funds are also utilized in community and school for triggering, publicity, awareness, capacity building, community empowerment, monitoring, exchange of learning and institutional strengthening in order for sustainable sanitation management, upgrading of the sanitation facilities and behavioral change communication in sanitation.

1.10 Collaboration with Mass Media, Advocacy and Knowledge Management

Before sanitation campaign was launched, talking about defecation and toilets were considered as a social taboo in Nepal. In this perspective, importance of mass media



Senior journalist Mr. Bhairab Risal giving tips to media persons of presenting sanitation issues

and advocacy in the sanitation sector has come to light. Though sanitation related topics gradually gained ground in media, it still could not get sanitation coverage as main news. So, initiation for interaction with the editors and desk editors was held for addressing this issue.

Initiation of orientation on sanitation to the media personnel across the country in collaboration of sectoral stakeholders and environmental journalists, initiation of competition

on sanitation material development in collaboration with Federation of Nepali Journalists, beginning of the series publication 'browsing through the newspaper: the status of sanitation in Nepal', close surveillance by the media during the epidemic in Jajarkot, launch of the 'Paschim Paila (step towards western part of the country where the sanitation condition was deplorable)' initiative by youths, initiation of organizing 'media WASH award' by the stakeholders at district, regional and national level and first historical WASH Expo in National Water Supply and Sanitation Training Center Nagarkot have made sanitation campaign more widespread, powerful and informative.

During the sanitation campaign, discussion and advocacy on sanitation carried out at various levels has succeeded to make policy-makers, planners, leaders of political parties and general public aware, alert and sensitive about the sanitation topics and issues. Also, direct involvement and engagement of mass media, civil society, NGOs, schools, local clubs, women group, user committees and its networks, indigenous

sociocultural organizations, cooperatives, micro-financial organizations, transport entrepreneurs, artists, religious leaders and priests has accelerated sanitation campaign making it like a self-powered engine. The representatives from mass media are included as the members in the coordination committee of the local level thus making the ODF campaign more transparent and effective.

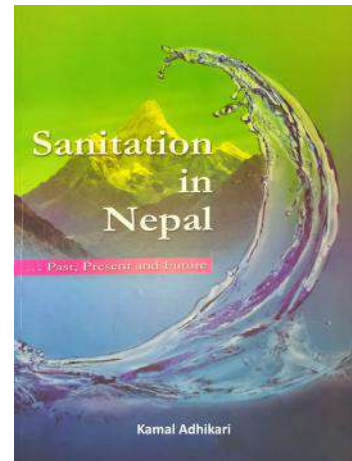
A strong mechanism has been developed to strengthen coordination, communication and collaboration among government at various level coordination committee, institutions and media. Besides, a mechanism has been developed to form a WASH Journalist Forum or coordination committee at central, district and local level which carries out advocacy, awareness, publicity and promotion of new and creative programs. Production of songs, radio jingles and television programs in local language and style as well as publication and distribution of pictorial and informative calendar on sanitation have added vigor to the sanitation campaign.

Out of various committees formed after the election of Constitution Assembly for writing constitution, as per the regular discussion amongst the members of Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles Committee, Caucus Group of women representatives in the parliament and other Constitution Assembly members, and through the strong advocacy done by NGO and civil societies, it has been mentioned in Article 35 sub section 4 of the Constitution of Nepal that each citizen shall have the right to access to clean water and sanitation. Nepal stands in the row of few countries in the world that define access to drinking water and sanitation as fundamental right of citizen, symbolizing the progressiveness in constitution.

The achievements and good practices on sanitation and hygiene have been publicized through electronic and print media of local and national levels. The collaboration with the media sector has provided significant support for identifying challenges, disseminating information, pursuing people, providing education via different communication materials, conducting research work and developing behavioral change communication and knowledge management materials. At the district level, such cooperation through 'WASH Journalist Forum' formed by the local media person has become more meaningful.



Similarly, bulletins like 'Sarsafai Sandesh (Sanitation Message)', 'Water and Sanitation', 'Water, Sanitation and Life' and 'Nepal Paani (Nepal Water)' as well as 'Journal of Society of Public Health Engineers in Nepal' and strategic plans of district and municipal and book titled 'Sanitation in Nepal: Past, Present and Future' (2015) have collectively contributed for knowledge management of water supply and sanitation sector. Study reports published by the government, development partners, media persons, researchers and independent people have supported to knowledge management.



1.11 Technologies and Standards of Sanitation

In the ODF campaign, the policy has been adopted to promote sanitation facilities that are economically feasible for users, technically appropriate, geographically suitable and user friendly. As recommended by the Master Plan, the ODF campaign has been expanded with households having improved toilet with permanent structure.

According to this standard, SULABH toilet, single pit pour-flush toilet, bio-gas connected toilet and ecological sanitation (eco-san) toilets are being used in different geographical locations of the country. Toilets with septic tank are being promoted and used in densely populated and urban areas. In addition to it, construction and use of hand washing platforms with provision of soap and water has also been promoted. WASHFIT (Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tools) has been adopted to improve the water and sanitation conditions of health institutions.



Permanent toilet with local materials above plinth level

Likewise, there are certain standards of promoting child-friendly, gender-friendly and people with disability-friendly water and sanitation facilities in schools. Separate toilets and urinals are constructed for boys and girls in schools. The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the stakeholders, has adopted a policy to develop mechanism for ranking schools as 'one star', 'two stars' and, 'three stars' on the basis of WASH facilities available in the schools. Work related to MHM is being carried out in schools for which the GoN has implemented School Water Sanitation and Hygiene Procedure, 2074 BS.

In many schools, taps and platforms have been built in such a way that many students can drink water or wash their hands at a time. In many public places and areas near

highways, user-paid SULABH toilets, eco-san toilets, septic tank attached toilets and sewerage attached toilets are being operated under the management at the local level itself. As a model, 'eco-san toilets' and 'smart-toilets' have also been constructed in the premises of government offices and municipality offices. Besides, some mobile toilets are being operated in religious and touristic places of Kathmandu. A hand book covering different models of household toilets for Terai region, toilet facilities for person with disability and procedure by targeting technicians for construction of toilets have been prepared and distributed during orientation programs.

Since sewerage system is not feasible technically and financially in all places, for integrated management of fecal sludge mainly in urban and semi-urban areas, formulation of 'City-wide Inclusive Urban Sanitation Plan' has been initiated in Mahalaxmi Municipality of Lalitpur, Gulariya Municipality of Bardiya and Bhimdutta Municipality of Kanchanpur and some other municipalities. Ghorahi Sub-metropolitan City and Dhankuta Municipality has been managing solid waste on their own efforts.

In Chitwan district, some private entrepreneurs have been collecting faecal sludge from households and collecting them in potholes and fields. In Kathmandu valley and other municipalities, collaboration is done with private entrepreneurs to collect household and institutional level solid waste, segregate them, sell the recyclables and finally dispose them in the dumping sites.

1.12 Process of ODF Declaration

Municipality, district and province are declared as an ODF area after all households and institutions have constructed and used toilets and arrangement of use of public toilets have been made as per the requirement of the Master Plan. Before declaring the area as ODF zone, the concerned municipality and district should formally request to district and province level coordination committee respectively mentioning current status of sanitation and requesting for ODF monitoring and verification of the area.



*The then Rt.Hon'ble President of Nepal
Dr. Ram Baran Yadav in the district ODF declaration
program of Bhaktapur district*

After receiving such request for monitoring, a monitoring team is formed and mobilized in that area. The team meets with the concerned level coordination committee and identify ward, communities, tole and schools for monitoring. The monitoring team then are divided into two or more groups to monitor condition of toilets in households, communities and schools and then carries out discussion with the stakeholders based on field findings.

After monitoring, the team collects required data and decides if the area is eligible/or not for ODF declaration. If the area is not eligible, they indicate areas of improvement, verify it and submit the report to the meeting of concerned coordination committee. The committee then discuss on the report and verifies if the area is eligible/not eligible for declaring ODF. The committee writes to the coordination committee informing the approval if eligible. If it is not eligible, it sends additional information on areas and aspects requiring improvement and request for monitoring accordingly.

While declaring school's catchment area, community, tole or ward, school area, community and tole is monitored and verified by ward and in case of ward, it is monitored and verified by municipality. After monitoring of designated area by the coordination committee of ward, municipality, district and province level, correspondence is done along with a report of eligibility to declare ODF to respective coordination committee. The meeting of the coordination committee is then conducted to discuss on the report and prepare for holding the formal declaration ceremony. The meeting decides and provide a specified date to the concerned ward, municipality or district. Various sub-committees are formed for the preparation. In presence of the chairperson of concerned level coordination committee, communities and stakeholders, ODF declaration ceremony is held on the specified date thereby committing to maintain ODF status, stopping open defecation in the public places and promoting activities to achieve total sanitation. In the declaration ceremony, report on the activities/efforts performed during the ODF campaign, outline of the future work plan and code of conduct is made public as well as the individuals and organizations contributing to achieve the goal are appreciated and awarded.

While undertaking monitoring for ODF declaration, an inclusive monitoring team including coordination committee members, media persons and concerned stakeholders are actively engaged to ensure quality of monitoring. The monitoring is held in presence and surveillance of the community itself following certain criteria and process for verification of declaration. This process help maintain quality of the toilet, its use and maintenance and the ODF condition.

For country ODF declaration, certain protocol and ownership of three level of government has been followed. Monitoring and verification of 753 Palikas (Rural Municipalities, Municipalities, Sub-metropolitans and Metropolitans) has been done by district level coordination committee and of 77 districts by the then regional level coordination committee (provincial level coordination committee now) thereby declaring respective areas as ODF, fulfilling all protocol and criteria. After its approval from the joint meeting of the NSHSC and NSHCC with development partners held on 25 September 2019, Nepal was declared an ODF country on 30 September 2019.

1.13 Factors Inducing the ODF Campaign

Basically, ODF campaign in Nepal started as an awareness towards public health. Sanitation gradually became a matter of prestige for individuals, village and cities. Stakeholders collaborated with the government in the journey of sanitation. In Nepal, sanitation became subsidy-less social campaign and an important political agenda. Along with this, the unified work plan and codes of conduct, positive and aggressive media campaign and provision of reward and recognition helped to boost the confidence of the campaigners at local level.

The proper implementation of the guiding principles of the Master Plan and proactive leadership of the coordination mechanisms have created a favorable environment

for achieving ODF status nationwide. The collaboration of various sectoral stakeholders has played a vital role for ensuring result-oriented ODF campaign. In Nepal's sanitation campaign, the sanitation coverage has been expanded rapidly due to transformation of sanitation promotion from 'project-based model' to a 'campaign-based model' with the proper combination of government's leadership, stakeholders'



Honourable Mohammad Lalbabu Raut, Chief Minister of Province 2 with activists of Terai sanitation mission

partnership, private sector's marketing and community ownership. The strategy of 'sanitation for all, all for sanitation' established in Nepal's sanitation campaign has promoted sanitation as the responsibility of all individuals from different walks of life and also established the value and ideology that no one should be left behind from access to basic sanitation facilities.

Setting a date for country ODF declaration by the state, maintainance of uniformity in work procedure and financing mechanism through the guiding principles of the Master Plan and integration of the efforts of all stakeholders through strategic planning and initiation of the government to bring all development partners in field level activities are some of the key steps for accelerating ODF campaign in municipality and district level. Similarly, conduction of community triggering and sector triggering approaches as well as promotional activities on hygienic practices through schools largely motivated towards ending open defecation and accelerating sanitation campaign in the Terai districts having lower sanitation coverage and higher population.

Likewise, raising awareness in community with the use of scientific facts by the health workers, maintaining balance of demand and supply through sanitation marketing, enforcing of the pressure or punishment system through social code of conduct, controlling the quality through monitoring and progress review, providing support to the people with disability and poor individual/family, institutionalizing practice of reward and recognition for those who provide significant contribution to ODF declaration work as a healthy competition has led Nepal to a huge leap in the sanitation sector within short span of time. Apart from this, the practice of releasing fund to the organization facilitating in sanitation promotion based on their performance to create/not create ODF conditions have made them aware of the result and accountable to achieve the goal of achieving ODF state within the stipulated time. This type of practice is often seen in some districts of Terai where GSF program related agencies and other development partners are actively involved. The factors inducing ODF campaign is mentioned in Box No. 1.

Box No. 1: Factors Inducing the ODF Campaign

- ☞ Expansion of the motivational activities of central level Monitoring and Action Team (MAT) in the areas of Terai and other districts facing difficulties in achieving ODF condition,
- ☞ Formulation of extended Terai-Madhesh and district level micro planning workshops,
- ☞ Establishment and mobilization of basket fund on sanitation,
- ☞ Provision of soft loan to ultra-poor from micro finances for constructing household toilets,
- ☞ Invocation of local government to communities on make 'toilets, take development',
- ☞ Support of forest materials to the ultra-poor household by the FUG,
- ☞ Launch of sanitation campaign for alms-deed collection,
- ☞ Easy availability of toilet construction material through sanitation marketing,
- ☞ Construction of toilets in support of security personnel and volunteers at the households of people with disability,
- ☞ Mobilization of community influencers such as sanitation ambassador, philanthropist, sanitation commando, sanitation military, etc.
- ☞ Telecast and display of sanitation related data and cartoons through media and hoarding boards as a positive catalyst,
- ☞ Launch of aggressive and creative media mission in different level,
- ☞ Publishing of triggering news such as 'fresh excreta flows along with water in the rivers' in national dailies,
- ☞ Monitoring of open defecation activities by drones,

- ☞ Display of life-like documentary demonstrating the painful situations as result of open defecation,
- ☞ Demonstration of group hand washing with soap in the socio-cultural ceremonies and school programs,
- ☞ Display of photos and posters through sanitation stalls at sanitation festival,
- ☞ Display of Sanitation Multiple Table, which contains personal hygiene and other WASH related facilities, during prayer time in school aiming to remind the students for following proper hygiene behaviors.
- ☞ Use of advocacy, awareness and behavioral change communication materials during the social and cultural occasions and local festivals such as Sithi Nakha, Chhath, Maghi, Eid, Lhosar, Teej, Gaura, Deusi Bhailo, etc.
- ☞ Conduction of inter district/municipality learning visit for getting information on operation of model sanitation areas.
- ☞ Knowledge management and publicity by establishing resource center at the community and school level,
- ☞ Persuasion by prestigious people in the community with problem of rampant open defecation,
- ☞ Appreciation of the student having toilet facility at home by putting on Tika at the time of admission,
- ☞ Highlighting the importance of sanitation during religious discourse by the religious gurus and priests,
- ☞ Provision of additional marks in the health subject for those students who has toilet at their home,
- ☞ Appreciation and recognition to the individuals and organizations that contribute in sanitation,
- ☞ Persuading and convincing people (those practicing open defecation) by government officials, representatives of development organization and media,
- ☞ Mobilizing students to convince their parents for constructing toilets,
- ☞ Providing toilet pan as a gift in wedding ceremony,
- ☞ Changing the attitude through 'hello toilet campaign' from local F.M Radios,
- ☞ On air transmission of programs like 'each one, teach one' and 'sanitation phone in',
- ☞ Highlighting the importance of sanitation through medical prescriptions by the health workers,
- ☞ Cleaning of the openly defecated areas of the communities by the head master within school's catchment.
- ☞ Formal request by district WASH-CC members to the households for constructing and using toilet properly,

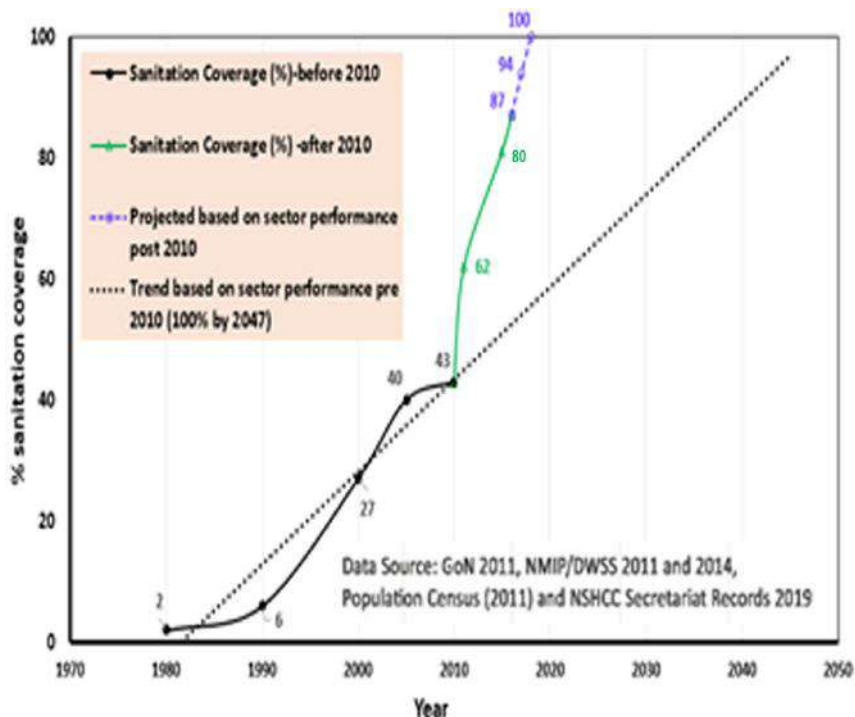
- ☞ Submission of memorandum by girl students at school stating that the school without toilet is like hell,
- ☞ Launch of hunger strike to promote toilet.
- ☞ Promotion of monitoring and social motivation through use of sanitation card,
- ☞ Launch of programs such as *Gaun Gaurab Yatra* (sanitation journey for pride), *Sarsafai Sangharsha Shiwir* (sanitation clamber camp) and *Saptahik Deradanda* (weekly encampment) especially in Terai and other areas with rampant open defecation practice.
- ☞ Make the statement entitled 'open defecation is a social crime' to public through government's documents.
- ☞ Establishing toilet as basic criteria to get membership of users committee or any organizations and to get services and facilities from government and other organizations,
- ☞ Establishing the statues of gods and goddesses in open spaces to discourage haphazard defecation,
- ☞ Motivational patrolling of security personnel and stakeholders for sanitation campaign,
- ☞ Night and morning sanitation patrolling and mobile sanitation camps to curb open defecation practices,
- ☞ Milk collection centers and communities collectively boycotting the milk from individual not having toilet in the house,
- ☞ Mobilization of *Sarsafai Daudaha Toli* (sanitation running team) and conduction of *Latthi Thokne Abhiyan* (hammer with stick campaign), and
- ☞ Confiscating pot (with water for anal cleansing) from those people who are defecating in open places.

1.14 Trend of Sanitation Promotion

The country has been making continuous effort for more than three decades to achieve its current status in sanitation. In 1980, only 2 percent of the total households had access to toilet which made a rise of 6 percent by 1990. Since the first SACOSAN that took place in 2003, its member countries have been encouraged to achieve ODF conditions as a national agenda. Until this time, the sanitation coverage in Nepal had reached to 30 percent. However, there was prevailed disparity in access to sanitation of the communities living in Mountainous, Hilly and Terai regions where open defecation were common. Nonetheless, activities were held for achieving ODF conditions by targeting few households and schools.

Dumre Ekata Chowk of Morang district, the catchments of Pancha Primary School of Kapilvastu district, Pragatinagar WUSC's service area of Nawalparasi district, the then Arjewa VDC of Baglung district and the then Pragatinagar VDC of Nawalparasi district (these VDCs through

Figure No 2: Trend of Sanitation Promotion in Nepal



CLTS and SLTS approaches respectively), Ratnanagar Municipality of Chitwan district, Dharan Municipality of Sunsari district and Kaski districts are the leading places of ODF declaration in Nepal. About 43 percent of the sanitation coverage have been achieved within three-decade before introducing the Master Plan. After the implementation of the Master Plan, additional 47 percent coverage in sanitation was achieved thereby making country ODF. The trend of sanitation promotion in Nepal is given in Figure No. 2.

1.15 Multi-dimensional Impacts of the Sanitation Campaign

Sanitation campaign in Nepal is not limited in construction of toilets. It has visibly made multi-dimensional impacts in promoting public health, environmental sanitation and socio-economic progress as follows:

a. Adoption of Integrated Development Process

Sanitation, that was considered as a mere part of the water schemes in the past has now expanded in the form of wider social campaign. Various sectoral stakeholders have recognized sanitation as an important factor that contributed positively to their respective development work. The learnings from the sanitation campaign has been extremely useful for institutionalizing the process of planning and implementing the other programs with an integrated approach. In addition to it, the efforts of the

stakeholders that was scattered previously have been integrated which has visibly supplemented to fulfil the required resources.

b. Support to Quality Education

There has been significant improvement in the practice of defecating in toilet, practice of hand washing with soap and water in critical situations, use of purified water maintaining sanitation in and around houses and gardens and keeping village and town clean through the knowledge, sensitization and skill-oriented activities conducted at communities and schools. With the gradual improvement of gender-friendly toilets and MHM, the tendency of adolescent girl missing school during their menstruation has dropped significantly. This will surely improve the quality of education and life.

c. Decrease in Child Death Rate

Around 7000 death of children under 5 because of water and sanitation borne diseases was scary until 2000. Now it is around 1000 due to integration of promotional activities on education, health, water, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and vaccination that have common goal of reducing child mortality and improving public health. The improvement in sanitation has even created a strong basis in controlling stunting.

Due to widespread public awareness created by the ODF campaign, diarrheal events could not occur even in communities affected by the devastating earthquake of 2015 and during the recurring annual floods. After the outbreak of cholera and diarrheal epidemics that occurred in Jajarkot, Rukum and other surrounding areas in 2009, the state has become more sensitive to sanitation promotion. Gradually such epidemic events are becoming limited in history.

d. Initiation of Healthy Competition in Development Work

Over the past decade, the ODF campaign remained common even amidst geographical, social, cultural and economical diversity of the country. Each and every district had a deadline to declare themselves as ODF zone and succeeded for the same. The attempt to ODF condition became nationwide 'unannounced but healthy competition' which was depicted as the most beautiful aspect of the sanitation campaign in the country.

In the inception of the campaign, the remote and disadvantaged districts such as Kalikot and Achham worked tirelessly to establish themselves in the 'top ten list' of the ODF districts. In this sense, this campaign became a medium to measure the community's readiness to accept changes. It was proven that inner zeal could easily overcome, the hurdles such as geographical difficulties, transportation problems, poverty, adverse weather, etc.

e. Strengthening of Unbiased and Self-help Development Process

The coordination committees of the then VDC, municipality and district were formed and become active throughout this campaign. As a result, they fulfilled the vacuum in the absence of the political representatives at the local level for long time. Gradually, the ODF campaign became a common agenda of all political parties and collaborating for achieving the same so they have presented an excellent cooperation during the ODF campaign.

The ODF campaign conducted with wider participation and full ownership of every Nepalese has significantly contributed to socio-cultural integration, development and transformation of Nepal. The culture of mutual cooperation among sectoral stakeholders has been flourishing through the sanitation campaign. Creative approaches have been growing where the stakeholders divide the challenges amongst themselves and consolidate the strength within them to address the challenges. Even the households seeking external subsidy for centuries have started constructing and using toilet thereby proving themselves to be as the residents of ODF area. Improved sanitation has become the integral part of life. The sanitation campaign has significantly contributed to leadership development in communities.

f. Positive Impacts in the Other Dimensions of Development

Sanitation has also become a development ladder for other development projects as well. The other development ventures have been significantly influenced by ODF and total sanitation. For examples, development program such as declaration of Chhaupadi-free community, full literacy and fully immunized municipality, safe water community, darkness free community, smoke-free community and plastic bag-free community have become popular nationwide. Based on this fact, the sanitation campaign of Nepal could be credited as an exclusive indigenous campaign that has triggered other development initiatives too.

g. Guarantee of Civil Rights

The state has institutionalized water and sanitation as the fundamental right of the citizens in the Constitution of Nepal witnessing the widespread motivation, public awareness and success created by the sanitation campaign in Nepal. The Local Governance Operation Act 2074 BS has mandated the Local Government to take key responsibility for ODF and sanitation related promotional activities. So, three level of the government have now become more accountable and responsible to address the issues of sanitation in line with constitutional provision.

The declaration of ODF nation contributed to addressed the constitutional provision in the field of sanitation. Nepal has moved a step ahead in sanitation since its declaration

as ODF nation. It has led to move ahead to achieve the national goal (access of basic sanitation to all) and the SDG (leaving no one behind from access to basic sanitation facilities). This achievement can be considered as a milestone in achieving the journey to ‘Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali’.

h. Support to Promote Environmental Sanitation and Tourism

The state, stakeholders and citizens are actively involved in cleaning the rivers, lakes and temples that are significant religiously, culturally and environmentally. Similarly, the concept of ‘sanitation tourism’ has entered in the sanitation sector. The comprehensive Bagmati River Cleaning Campaign and cleaning of ponds in Janakpurdham in Dhanusha district are some examples. Likewise, some communities have started running homestay after declaration of their village as an ODF area. Examples of such promotional activities on environment, tourism and livelihood related activities have been highlighted in this booklet.

1.16 Obstacles and Challenges

The sanitation condition in the country was disappointing in the past. Neither government nor community could establish sanitation sector as a prioritized sector in comparison to other development sectors. Small scale sanitation activities conducted in the communities and schools could not reduce the diarrheal diseases. The diarrheal and cholera epidemics that occurred in Far West Region, Rukum and Jajarkot in 2009 pictured the worst scenario. The rampant open defecation in Terai communities clearly justify that our past efforts to promote sanitation were inadequate.

The ODF campaign accelerated in the past decade has made positive impact on various aspects of public health, social transformation and environmental sanitation cum hygiene. However, it is not free from challenges. For example, a few incidences of not using toilets, restriction of women to use toilet during menstruation (Chhaupadi) in few communities and lack of practice of hand washing with soap and water during critical times are some of its challenges. Similarly, the improper use of toilets at schools and health institutions due to lack of proper sanitation, water and maintenance of facilities and inadequacy and lack of proper management of the public toilets especially in the urban areas pose challenges to the campaign.

Lack of toilets for the commuters at the highways, for workers at the brick kilns and tea plantation areas and for laborers at the fields during the time of harvest has posed difficulties in maintaining the ODF status. Similarly, due to lack of vision, skill, resources and suitable technology, the management and safe disposal of faecal sludge stand as a huge challenge in urban and densely populated areas.

Before the success of ODF campaign, the roads around every village of Terai used to be filthy with open defecation due to lack of household toilets. Due to difficulty in defecating openly during the daylight, many women used to consume little food to control nature's call for defecation. Many accidents and crimes used to take place while defecating in open places in night time. So, women had to develop coping mechanism to ensure that they could defecate in private. For this, they had to go during early mornings or late evenings.

No doubt, these challenges will be addressed after the ODF status is achieved and the path to total sanitation will be expanded. The devastating earthquake of 2015 and the frequent flooding in the plains of Terai caused destruction of large number of toilets giving set back to ODF campaign. For example, Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha districts had reached to the verge of being declared ODF when the catastrophic earthquake took place destructing many physical structures including toilets thereby postponing the ODF declaration.

Apart from this, the Provincial Government and Local Government have been institutionalized recently under the federal system, their priorities have been on the other development work than in the sanitation sector. It brought some laxity in the ODF campaign in comparison to the past activities while total sanitation activities had not been carried out as well. However, the municipalities have started to allocate separate budget for sanitation promotion.

At present, those challenges have been progressively addressed and total sanitation phase will fully take in to account these. For this, construction of sanitation facilities in the required places, focusing on 'behavioral changes', conduction of communication activities and construction of safe and temporary or mobile toilets at the places where there would be gathering of large number of general people, workers and laborers are essential along with the compliance of the code of conduct and laws regarding environmental sanitation.

1.17 Sustainability of ODF Status

The Table No. 3 below shows sustainability of ODF status from institutional, technical, financial, socio-cultural, behavioral and environmental dimensions. For this analysis, the sectoral experiences as well as learnings and conclusions of the study and research works on ODF in Nepal have been considered. If the opportunities emerged during the ODF campaign is expanded and the Local Government and respective stakeholders become proactive in organized manner to address the issues, it is obvious that total sanitation also becomes dynamic, result-oriented and sustainable mission as envisaged.

Table No. 3: Sectoral Experience, Learning and Conclusions of Study and Research Works

Dimensions of Sustainability	Major Learnings and Conclusions
Institutional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Provincial, district and municipality level coordination committee and task force actively involved in ODF campaign, ☛ Contribution of schools, child club, women group and user committees to the ODF campaign, ☛ Difficulty observed specially in performance of district WASH-CC due to lack of committed budget especially in federal governance structure, and ☛ Coordination committees and communities remained less active for sanitation promotion especially after ODF declaration.
Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Generally, permanent toilets are promoted through ODF campaign. However, construction and use of temporary toilets also seen in few ODF declared areas, ☛ Users, especially women and children, found indifference to use the toilet with temporary materials in its super structure, ☛ Disruption in proper use of toilets in the schools and health institutions in scarcity of water, ☛ Toilets at the health facilities and public places are not friendly for people with disability and MHM, ☛ Lack of standard operating procedure, tools and equipment to construct, use and maintain toilets, ☛ Lack of standard, technology, structure and management knowledge and skills for earthquake and flood resistant toilets, and ☛ Lack of expansion of technologies of suitable and sustainable toilets for different geographical areas.
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Gradual increment of budget allocation by the municipalities for toilet construction and sanitation promotion programs, ☛ Promotion of opportunities for mobilizing resources of different sectoral stakeholders for co-financing through basket planning arrangement, ☛ Mobilization of soft loan for construction of toilets,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Provision of additional development budget, cash assistance and material support by the Local Government as award to model communities and schools in sanitation, ☛ Achievement in speeding toilet construction activities through remittance from foreign employment, ☛ End of the mechanism to provide blanket subsidy (subsidy to each household) to construct toilet. However, support provided to the ultra-poor and households with people with disability by local government and philanthropists, ☛ Lack of operation and maintenance plan and adequate fund in schools and health institutions, and ☛ Lack of proper investment and supply of sanitation material by private entrepreneurs in remote topography.
Socio-cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Communities value toilets as a matter of prestige, ☛ Sanitation campaign as an effective tool to maintain mutual reconciliation and harmony amongst people in society, ☛ Toilet construction at household having people with disability becoming possible with participation of neighbours and youth, ☛ Promotion of sanitation activities during the community level socio-cultural festivals, occasions and perceived ODF declaration as a social festival in itself, ☛ Equal participation and ownership from different walks of life for promoting sanitation campaign. ☛ Construction of toilets at the users own cost even in economically weak households due to their feeling of prestige and self-respect, ☛ Significant support in promoting healthy habits and discouraging open defecation through enforcement of social code of conduct, ☛ Synergy gained for ODF campaign due to provision of appreciating and rewarding the individual and institutions, ☛ Vital role of self-respect and prestige of individuals and communities for ODF campaign, and ☛ Disruption in public health promotion resulted through open defecation caused by dogmas such as “Chhaupadi”.
Behavioral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Individuals switching to healthy sanitation and hygiene habits because of the feeling of security, comfort, self respect and prestige, ☛ Significant role of social codes of conduct as well as participatory patrolling and surveillance to discourage open defecation practices,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Community’s lack of attention to software aspects (awareness creation) of sanitation though role of both hardware (facility construction) and software aspects of sanitation deserve equal significance, ☛ A visible gap in community’s knowledge and practice on hand washing with soap and water during critical time and their underestimation about public health impact by haphazard disposal of child feces, ☛ Inadequacy of method, tools and awareness materials to bring sustainable behavioral changes suitable for various targeted groups, ☛ Lack of availability of and access to adequate water for hand washing with soap even in ODF declared areas causing difficulties in maintaining personal hygiene, and ☛ A few incidences of practices of not using toilets.
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Significant contribution of ODF campaign to maintain sanitation and beautification of home, schools, public areas and communities, ☛ Promotion of environment-friendly initiatives such as smoke-free home, plastic bag free community and solid waste free rivers along with ODF campaign, ☛ Difficulty in maintaining ODF conditions on highways and public areas due to lack of sufficient and safe toilets, and ☛ Though ODF declaration taken seriously by the stakeholders, there is lack of interest and capacity in safe collection, processing and disposal of fecal sludge.

1.18 Distinctive Features Inherent in Sanitation Campaign in Nepal

The nation wide ODF campaign conducted in collaboration of government and stakeholders is a unique campaign. It aims to promote public health by ensuring access to and use of toilet in every household of Nepal. Moving ahead of the project-based approach, ODF promotion has taken the form of social campaign which has been owned by each individual, household and community. Mainly, after the implementation of the Master Plan, significant progress has been made in the sanitation sector of Nepal. Table No. 4 shows the distinctive features inherent in Nepal’s sanitation campaign from the view point of policy aspects, working modalities, resource mobilization, collaboration among stakeholders, advocacy and awareness as well as their impact and achievements in sanitation.

Table no. 4: Distinctive Features Inherent in Sanitation Campaign in Nepal

S. N.	Distinctive Features	Impacts and Achievements
1	Proactive engagement and commitment of political sector in sanitation promotion	Creation of favorable environment for sanitation promotion through election manifesto of political parties as well as formulation of policy and budget for sanitation promotion.
2	Concrete provisions of sanitation promotion in various sectoral policies	Sanitation occupied place in other sectoral policies and programs causing expansion of sanitation services and facilities nationwide.
3	Compliance of the guiding principles of the Master Plan	Systematic promotion of sanitation through implementation of the guiding principles of Master Plan and end of the variation in financing and program approach as well as maintenance of uniformity and standard in sanitation promotion program.
4	Expansion of stand-alone sanitation program	Sanitation activities limited to water supply schemes gradually expanded as the stand-alone sanitation intervention through government and development partners adding energy and speed up ODF declaration in municipality, district and whole country.
5	Proactiveness of cross-sector inclusive institutional arrangement at central, provincial, district and municipality level	Ownership and support of other development sector organizations for sanitation due to proactive engagement of cross-sector inclusive institutional arrangement in different level.
6	Formulation and implementation of result-oriented unified strategic plan/plan of action at district and municipality level	Implementation of a concrete plan of action achieved through full ownership, joint-investment and collaboration of multi-sectoral stakeholders, development partners and local government fulfilled resource gap and accelerated ODF declaration.
7	Adoption of municipality as basic unit of sanitation intervention	The scope ODF declaration initially limited to some households, tole and school's catchments expanded to the entire area of municipality causing ODF declaration of the whole district within short span of time.
8	Wider awareness and commitment generated through sanitation conference	Achievement in conducting in-depth discussion on challenges and opportunities of sanitation amongst the active political leaders in municipality and district, and representatives from various sectoral stakeholders,

		development partner, mass media and civil societies, private entrepreneurs, users committee, women group, local clubs and schools as well as issuing letter of declaration on sanitation consisting of stakeholders' commitments for joint-investment and collaboration for ODF declaration
9	Effective compliance of the social codes of conduct	Social code of conduct proven to be effective tool to implement the practice of defecating only in toilets and discourage unhygienic habit.
10	Strong discussion and advocacy of sanitation during social, cultural and religious occasions	Importance of sanitation and hygiene had positive and indelible impact in general people when sanitation activities conducted with an integrated approach during the social, cultural and religious occasions.
11	Wider replication of successful approaches of sanitation promotion	Replication of innovative and successful approaches of sanitation contributed to make sanitation campaign easy and effective.
12	Popularity gained by no subsidy modality	No subsidy situation added momentum for toilet construction and make communities self-reliant through mobilization of immense local resources while support of local government and communities provided to construct toilets for poor, vulnerable and households having people with disability.
13	Institutionalization of appreciation and acknowledgement culture	Appreciating, acknowledging and rewarding the individual and organization who are contributing in the sanitation sector during special occasions encouraged to work more for sanitation.
14	Conduction of intensive programs to the places with poor sanitation conditions	Sanitation conference organized by Federal Government targeting the districts of Terai especially lagging behind in sanitation, inter-district extended workshop of coordination committees at district level, organization of sanitation camp in the communities, social pressure and encouragement, sanitation patrolling, result-based payment of fund to the facilitating organizations, support to poor households and implementation of sanitation marketing activities by and large contributed to construction and use of large number of toilets in short time in the targeted areas.

15	Targeting sanitation activities on the capable first and then on the other	For constructing toilet in accelerated manner, adopted strategy of making the ignorant aware, supporting weak and socially pressurizing the obstinate by first targeting economically sound households and then supporting weak and households having people with disability.
16	Encouraging the indigenous methods at the local level	Significant achievement gained in toilet construction and ending the open defecation practices through use of indigenous methods such as conduction of sanitation conference, mobilization of sanitation commando and local donors, appreciation and acknowledgement, inter-district learning visit, offering toilet pan as a wedding gift, use of sanitation card for monitoring and aggressive and creative sanitation mission through mass media.
17	Use of sector triggering approach	Cross-sector stakeholders largely triggered to promote sanitation as an important agenda through local level unified planning, co-financing and joint monitoring.
18	Promotion of model school, model community and model district in sanitation	Developing model places in sanitation largely stimulated positive competition among stakeholders for achieving this status through demonstration effect and scaling up sanitation coverage with added momentum.
19	Establishment of campaign model instead of project model for promoting sanitation	Establishment of sanitation promotion as a social campaign instead of a time-bound project work moved ODF campaign forward as a venture of healthy competition, which is backed by the strategy entitled sanitation for all and all for sanitation.

1.19 Steps after ODF Declaration and Sustainable Sanitation

Two important concepts ‘total sanitation’ and ‘ODF’ were emerged in the sanitation sector when Dr. Kamal Kar introduced the CLTS approach for the first time in Bangladesh around 1999. Under total sanitation, each person should use a hygienic toilet, adopt the practice of hand washing with soap in critical time (like before preparing and eating a meal, after washing the child’s feces and after touching the livestock and poultry), consume water and food safely and safely dispose livestock and domestic waste in order to prevent open defecation and maintain clean and safe environment.

According to the Master Plan, total sanitation is a range of facilities and hygiene behaviors that lead to achieve sanitized condition of the designated areas (VDC and municipality including settlements, toles, school's catchments, etc.). Total sanitation focuses on ending open defecation as a first significant step of sanitation and hygiene behavior change. The second step includes all arrangements leading to sustainable

hygiene and sanitation behaviors. According to Total Sanitation Guideline 2017, 'clean and hygienic zone' and 'total sanitation-oriented zone' should be ensured to achieve

Stage 2: Total Sanitation Oriented Zone



total sanitation as per set indicators with vision titled sanitation for all and forever by 2030. However, these indicators can be modified as per the local level need by considering these indicators as base. In fact, total sanitation is an ongoing process. This includes software and hardware aspects of sanitation such as institutional strengthening, capacity development, participatory formulation of plans, construction and maintenance of the facilities, development of awareness and good habits, monitoring and improvement. In order to

Stage 1: Clean and Hygienic Zone

and facilities in line with the total sanitation indicators, regular meeting need to be held with coordination committees of different level with regular discussion and review aiming for regular updates.

Nepal has been declared as ODF zone with the implementation of the Master Plan, in cooperation of government and different stakeholders. After the ODF declaration, personal hygiene, sanitation of households, schools, institutions, tole and community along with activities such as the purification of drinking water, the development of hand washing practices with soap and water, conservation of drinking water sources, solid and liquid waste management and cleaning of roads, rivers and ponds are being carried out at the local level for sustainability of ODF condition and for total sanitation. Maintaining the continuity of ODF status, the GoN has implemented the Total Sanitation Guideline. Considering the guideline as a base, development partners and stakeholders have been actively engaged in promoting activities such as 'healthy homes', 'star school', 'healthy communities', 'Seven Flags Approach to Total Sanitation' and 'sanitation model place'. Similarly, sanitation resource centers have been set up with leadership of communities as knowledge/learning center with provision of physical sanitation materials and awareness raising materials like books, brochures and documents. For example, Arghakhanchi district has begun such initiative.

In future, for implementing total sanitation through maintenance of sustainability of changes brought by ODF campaign, emphasis should be given to review the ODF status, preparation of the framework for total sanitation action plan, identification and mobilization of resources and formulation and implementation of local level social policies and regulations. Further, strengthening of sanitation programs in schools, strengthening of program and role of health facilities, upgrading of sanitation services, sustainable operation of water supply schemes and its management, FSM, extension of services and quality improvement, regular self-monitoring, joint monitoring, quality monitoring, review and facilitation and management of operation and maintenance fund will be undertaken. In addition to it, sanitation will be promoted as a means of livelihood for the sustainability of total sanitation. Besides, the total sanitation program will be taken as environment-friendly, tourism-friendly and sustainable approach.

In order to achieve the state of 'Clean Nepal' through systematic total sanitation intervention, the Federal Government will formulate the Total Sanitation Master Plan in collaboration with Provincial Government and Local Government in line with



Students practicing proper hand washing with soap and water in school

SDGs framework. Based on the Master Plan, Booklet on Total Sanitation, capacity development plans and packages, awareness raising materials and Municipality level WASH Plan and other necessary strategies and plan of actions will be formulated/updated. Overall, awareness raising and promotional activities will be implemented through leadership of the Local Government.

It is important to note that the triggering tools used in Nepal are basically focused on triggering ODF and hygiene related behavioral changes and development. But these tools are not sufficient for empowering stakeholders for formulating plans, managing resources, upgrading of quality service and facilities, improving health condition and strengthening sector governance particularly in total sanitation and SDG era. So, with the development and use of suitable triggering tools on total sanitation, systematic and effective implementing total sanitation will take place.

In order to commission the effective and quality total sanitation intervention in ownership and participation of Federal, Provincial and Local Government; the activities

listed under need to be accomplished in collaboration with concerned stakeholders. However, implementation of other locally appropriate and innovative promotional activities is always encouraged.

a. Strategic Level Activities

- ☞ Formulation and implementing of a Total Sanitation Master Plan,
- ☞ Preparation of booklet on total sanitation including smart indicators,
- ☞ Preparation of training manual and tools on total sanitation,
- ☞ Conducting training to master trainer/ triggerer on total sanitation,
- ☞ Formulation of guideline by concerned line ministries and department to promote 'clean home', 'star school', 'clean community' and 'clean municipality',
- ☞ Organizing total sanitation related training, workshop, media advocacy and conference at municipality, district, province and central level to activate stakeholders toward promotion of total sanitation,
- ☞ Applying the concept of 'clean home' by adopting five indicators (use of toilet, hand washing with soap water, safe drinking water, safe food and clean home) for community motivation,
- ☞ Conducting nation-wide total sanitation program to achieve the state of 'Clean Rural Municipality' and 'Clean Municipality' leading to 'Clean Nepal'.
- ☞ Implementation of concept on clean environment with management of solid and liquid waste and public toilet along with FSM, Water Safety Plan and greenery,
- ☞ Preparation of necessary technical and operational guidelines as well as standards by the concerned ministries and departments to maintain uniformity and set minimum standards in environmental sanitation,
- ☞ Conduction of research and development works on different aspects of total sanitation, and
- ☞ Strengthening of learning alliance at national, regional and international level through management and sharing of data and knowledge on total sanitation.

b. Operational Level Activities

- ☞ Formulation/updating of a municipal level WASH Plan marking long-term vision and planning, considering the Total Sanitation Guidelines 2015, SDG framework and other total sanitation related plans and policy documents,
- ☞ Development of awareness and capacity development materials and conduction of promotional activities on total sanitation,
- ☞ Capacity development and institutional strengthening of Provincial Government, Local Government and respective coordination committees,

- ☞ Expansion and upgrading of sanitation services and facilities in community, school, health institution, tourist area and public places,
- ☞ Establishment of province level validation committee with representation of concerned District Coordination Committee (DCC) for evaluation of total sanitation at municipality,
- ☞ Validation of household as 'clean home', school as 'star school' and community as 'clean community' based on the sector policies and locally formulated indicators and protocol,
- ☞ Declaring 'clean municipality' after maintaining ODF status and fulfilling the total sanitation indicators,
- ☞ Ensuring representation of municipality, educational institutions, health institutions, WASH agencies and women group in a team to validate 'clean home', 'star school' and 'clean community', and
- ☞ Household, school and community that are considered best in sanitation in each ward will be recognized by respective municipalities while the Federal and Provincial Government will recognize the best province and best municipality respectively within their area.

1.20 Case Studies

In order to lively depict the experiences and learnings collected during the sanitation campaign in Nepal in the past, some case studies are included in this section. Micro analysis of these important and representative case studies will help to motivate sanitation activists and facilitate formulation of strategic actions to be adopted by Nepal and other countries for promotion of sustainable sanitation.

For the preparation of following case studies, review of sectoral documents, discussion with sector stakeholders and also materials provided by sanitation sector experts and community level sanitation activists have been taken as reference.

Case Study - 1

From Asurpa to Kathmandu



Remesh Subedi

These days, mass media cover the news about sanitation activities as well as reward and recognition to activists by state and people. But in the past, this topic was not under priority of both government and general public. So, during the early days of sanitation movement in the country, the activists involved in sanitation sector had to face many challenges. In this section, an attempt has been made to pick the context of what the challenges were and how they were resolved.

This story is from the then Koteli VDC of Dadeldhura district. The former District Water Supply and Sanitation Office (DWSSO) Dadeldhura planned to initiate sanitation campaign from Asurpa village of Koteli VDC. In this regard, all the residents of the community were brought together and sanitation in public places was initiated. When we DWSSO staff including sanitation technicians Uddhav Bahadur Deuba and Shyam Raj Joshi started to collect and dispose the feces scattered around the school and village themselves, the villagers felt ashamed and joined us in cleaning. In an instant, there was storm of sanitation campaign created in the village and the village became cleaner in no time. This campaign witnessed not just male but female participants as well in significant number. However, this was only the beginning of sanitation campaign.

Each day, our team was assigned to the field for monitoring and motivation. In the training conducted by women volunteer and motivator selected from each ward, the women participants used to prepare songs based on the content that were discussed the previous day. I compiled dozens of sentimental songs about sanitation, some written by the participant themselves and some by asking their children to write it for them as they sung it. These songs were translated in English by Tejeshwor Babu Gwang and published as books in Nepali and English languages. The campaign was initially started by the chief of DWSSO, Krishna Mani Lamichanne and later followed by Chandra Bahadur KC. In this village, the women were so active that toilet construction work in each household completed in no time. Even the way to toilet was kept clean and mopped. If you followed the neat and clean way, it led to the toilet. Toilets were constructed in new and creative design using the locally available materials. For example, some built it with bamboo folding shutter while others with installed bell ringing system while in use.

Although the concept of ODF zone become popular in the country much later, history has witnessed that the community had been free from open defecation much early in practice. Though the village was not declared ODF formally as in today's context, it had been announced in 1998 in a ceremony facilitated by DWSSO Dadeldhura that all 125 households of the village have constructed and used toilets. Water and sanitation project operated under

Asian Development Bank support has a significant role in this program. A documentary on Asurpa Village Water Supply Project activities was made in support of Dr. Bijaya Shrestha. The documentary was demonstrated in Hague of Netherland in 2000 during Second World Water Forum. I along with Suman Prasad Sharma, Ramadevi Budayar and Shankaridevi Budayar had participated in the forum and we had highlighted about Nepal's very efforts on water supply and sanitation promotion.

Later, I witnessed that the work of sanitation promotion was very challenging in Dang district. Mainly, Dang district had been sensitized with the sanitation programs after Fourth National Sanitation Week was conducted there. Following this, an ambitious plan of declaring former Dhikpur VDC as first ODF VDC was put forward and achieved successfully. In the beginning, there were many who thought this was impossible and even laughed at it. Even the responsible people asked questions like 'Will you distribute polythene bags to control open defecation now?'. But later, from the same districts, 'sanitation commando' and 'Daanveer (local donor)' were produced and mobilized for the first time which influenced sanitation campaigns in the whole nation. After Dang district, when I was transferred to Rolpa district, the country was in full phase of ODF campaign.

The sanitation campaign initiated from Asurpa has now entered the capital city Kathmandu to achieve the national goal. In September 2019, Nepal will be declared ODF country with full of joy and excitement. It is a rare coincidence that after two decades, the nation will be declared as ODF zone led by one of the sanitation pioneers, Chandra Bahadur KC, who was also the leader in promoting toilet construction at Asurpa. I felt proud to be a commuter of the glorious journey of sanitation from Asurpa to Kathmandu.

Case Study - 2

Karkidanda: The Perfect Example of Sustainable Sanitation

 Bharat Adhikari

"Our village taught ten other villages around here to defecate in the toilet," says Bishnu Bahadur Thapa of Karkidanda in Dhading district. He says, "the people at the roadside and market area learnt to use toilet looking at us using it".

Another businessman Dhurba Thapa from Simle also agrees with this statement of Bishnu. He further adds, "I started selling pan, pipes only after the campaign of toilet construction started at Karkidanda. Karkidanda is the leader of sanitation in this area". His shop was established as sanitation promotion center, which sell pans, pipes, iron rod, cement, harpic, brush etc.

Water supply scheme was completed around 30 years ago at Karkidanda. First ever CLTS based ODF campaign was conducted in the community here. Water Aid Nepal and Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH) had provided their significant contribution for this work.

The village became a model after the water supply scheme included components like sanitation, regular maintenance of water supply schemes, functioning of operation and maintenance fund and continuous supply of water. For this, the resident worked very hard. Local resident Lokmani Tamang says "as our community is the first in this area to be ODF, there were hundreds of people who came to see this".

Development of Sustainable Sanitation Practices

The people in the Karkidanda village have become so sensitive towards sanitation that when somebody thinks of building a house, a toilet is constructed first. Local Ram Bahadur Thapa says, "Toilet has become essential for us. That's why I constructed toilet first when I started building my house".

Sanitation condition is also satisfactory in the school located at the far end of the village. According to Principal Ram Hari Subedi, each student use clean toilet. He concluded that the key reason behind the satisfactory condition of school is the good hygiene behavior that students learn at home.

The residents of Karkidada actually have developed good habits in sanitation. Children are found bathing in tap, using Chang (cleaned utensil drying station) and covering food and water properly. Local resident Keshav Thapa says, "We cannot see even a piece of plastic thrown on the ground" which clarifies that sanitation has become lifestyle here.

Communities Moving to Other Dimensions of Development

The residents here did not feel accomplished even after being declared an ODF zone. The movement of awareness brought by sanitation in the village helped them to move in other activities of development. To bring other possibilities of development in the village, operation and maintenance fund proved to be an effective medium. Chairperson of WUSC Jit Bahadur Tamang says, “this operation and maintenance fund has bought us here. We have donated Rs. 3 lakhs from this fund to dig the road that will connect to this village”.

After the earlier drinking water source dried up after earthquake, the residents brought water from new source. With accessibility to water, it is being used for vegetable farming apart from other household level uses. In this way, water supply and sanitation program has opened the door of development and livelihood in this area.

Case Study - 3

The Light Spread by Knowledge of School



Jagat Raj Regmi

Few years back, sanitation situation of Kapilvastu district was considered as most regressive in terms of adoption of the sanitation and hygiene practices. When sanitation campaign had accelerated in other parts of the country, sanitation activities in this district was almost nil. In such situation we felt that it's high time to do something about it. The sanitation condition of school was very poor. Due to lack of toilet in school, students were forced to go to jungle, river and bushes for defecation.

On this perspective, District Education Office of Kapilvastu provided training on school sanitation to all the teachers of the district from 2 to 4 of Mangsir 2058 BS, which in a long run became the basis for sanitation promotion in Pancha Primary School (Pancha Basic School now) to be a leading school in sanitation promotion. After returning from the training, a creative child club was established with the knowledge gained from the training. The sanitation campaign started in school under five categories. The students were divided into different group as hand washing with soap water (energetic) group, environmental sanitation (cleanliness) group, toilet cleaning (hardworking) group, drinking water and tap cleaning (healthy) group and oral rehydration therapy (health) group.

Even after almost two decades, these groups are still working with full enthusiasm as before. Similarly, sanitation code of conduct was developed and implemented in the school with the participation of child club, students and teachers. Even before the formulation of any national policy on sustainable sanitation, the child club had set a sanitation indicator to make sanitation children's lifestyle and to bring a positive change in behavior of the child. To achieve these indicators, all five groups played their role actively. As a result, the school became a model school in sanitation.

Replication of Practical Knowledge in the Community

Sanitation campaign was not complete only by keeping school clean. In Bhadra 2069 BS, the child club, teachers and students came together to organize sanitation related rally, drama, songs, award and appreciation in the school's catchment area of Baijalpur and North Pipra village. After conducting this program for one year, on 26th Shrawan in 2060 BS, a separate water supply and sanitation users committee was formed in Baijalpur and North Pipra village. Both the committees took the role of constructing and monitoring the use of toilet. In this context, the then DWSSO and UNICEF of Kapilvastu district and the then DWSS provided their full support. To give the information on construction of toilet and importance of sanitation, a group was formed in each tole.

Despite the difficulty in constructing toilets in the 42 households of slum settlement, with the joint effort from all the stakeholders, toilets were constructed and used in all 316 households including the slum settlement on 25th Magh 2062 BS. Monitoring was done by DWSSO Kapilvastu and school family. After monitoring that cent percent of houses were using toilet and practicing hand washing with soap and water, the area was declared ODF on 4th of Falgun 2062 BS in the presence of entire villagers of Baijalpur and North Pipara and unveiled the hoarding with the slogan of "Our Village is Open Defecation Free, Come Visit Baijalpur and North Pipara if you Want to See".

Till date representative from 45 districts have visited the school and its catchment area to observe the sanitation related activities and mechanisms implemented, which is still going on. In the 5th SACOSAN held in Kathmandu in 2013, Pancha Basic School, Baijalpur presented its case study and also got an opportunity to facilitate the trainings conducted in different places of the country. Indicators such as use of toilets, sustainability of hand washing practices with soap and water, cleanliness of home and surrounding, safe water, safe food and environment sanitation are considered for school catchment area to move towards total sanitation. Kapilvastu district was declared ODF on 3rd Bhadra 2076 BS with the goal of making Kapilvastu district a total sanitation district within next five years. In this regard, the motivating role of Pancha Basic School became instrumental.

Case Study – 4

Toilet is not Expensive Rather it Makes Life Easier for People with Disability



Arjun Dahal

A 45 years old Raj Kumar Sada resides near the Kamala River. This river also serves as the border between Dhanusha and Siraha districts. Because of this river, village of Sada is full of lush green surrounding. But the river has not just benefitted the villagers but also made them suffer. Ten years ago, when the water from river entered village in the rainy season, flooding whole village, Sada had to leave his ancestral land along with many other villagers. After his home was destroyed, he managed a place to live where he is living now. In the then Inaruwa VDC's Malhaniya village, Sada has managed to construct a small thatched roof house in just 3 Dhur (nominal) land which according to him is all wealth he has. He cannot use a foot because of polio and this hampers his daily activities. But even in this state he works in farm as a labor. The responsibility of raising a family of five, including a daughter and two sons, is on his shoulders.

There are 35 households in Sada's village. In this village with very low infrastructure development, Samaj Uthan Yuwa Kendra implementing GSF program had launch an ODF campaign one year ago. After the campaign started, the villagers and the sanitation triggers came to his home as well to explain about the importance of toilet. After understanding many benefits of toilet, he decided to build one.

Talking about the expenses of constructing toilet, Raj Kumar said that covering of ring cost about Rs 2500, labor cost for digging a land is about Rs 500, cost of bamboo is about Rs 800, and cost of roof (corrugated sheet) is about Rs 500. Including the pan set and other material the total cost of the toilet would be Rs 10,000 (approximately 100 USD). "For someone like me who cannot move around easily, toilet is a must. After constructing one, I feel relieved and the comfort it has given is less in comparison to the amount of money it costed me, he shared.

Raj Kumar does not trust those who only show hope to help. Many people came to him and noted down his name to help but no one returned to provide a wheelchair as they had promised. He hasn't even received the identity card of person with disability yet. Raj Kumar's neighbor Dom Sada is also a person with disability suffering from polio. He had also constructed toilet recently. "He did not agree in the beginning but after understanding the importance of it, he has constructed a toilet now", said the sanitation trigger Shiv Lakhan Yadav mentioning that the arrangement of cost for it is not easy. It would take Dom more than 5 months to earn that amount of money. He also added that after the initiation of sanitation campaign in Rural Municipality, all the households have constructed and used toilet.

Case Study – 5

Mystery behind Tourism in Baugha Gumba

 Roshan Kumar Joshi

After welcoming the guests with flowers and juice some head towards kitchen and some to do other chores. The landlord Suk Bahadur Thapa starts chitchatting with the guests. All 22 homestays operated the list of the guest it will host is pre-determined. But since Suk Bahadur's house is the first one in the line and as he is the 'Mukhiya' (chief of village) himself, the guests are always welcomed at his home first. The then Baugha Gumba VDC of Palpa district (Magar Village of Baugha Gumba at Ward No. 13 of Tansen Municipality now) is well-known as 'Homestay Village' these days. Everyone who reaches this village are pleasantly surprised with the cleanliness and management the people here have maintained. Kitchen gardens filled rows of vegetables, some have already started commercial vegetable farming by making tunnels, flowers blossoming beautifully in every home, clean gardens and foot trails and friendly behavior of the villagers fills up everyone's heart with bliss and joy.

"This is the reason we had an opportunity to meet today", says Suk Bahadur, pointing at the toilet at the corner of the garden. The 82 year-old who is still filled with youthful energy clarifies furthermore in funny tone, "Tara Gaun Vikas Samiti (organization under Ministry of Tourism that provides training and undertake monitoring of the homestay operations) made it mandatory to construct toilets at each home if we wanted to plan for homestays. In this age we can't even find son-in-law for our daughters if we don't have a toilet, expecting guests to come without toilet is a far-fetched idea".

This area, which had been facing acute water shortage for a long time, was financially supported by Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board (RWSSFDB) in 2066 BS. In 84 houses and one school, jars were constructed, each with the capacity of storing 6,000 liters, to store rain water during the rainy season. "Since it was provisioned that the villagers had to mandatorily construct toilets to get the facility of water jar, everyone constructed the toilet", says Chairperson of the Sanitation User Committee, Lil Bahadur Thapa. "Our village could not be declared ODF until 2071 BS because of other VDC though we were already ODF area by 2066 BS", he said. Now-a-days we receive guests from every part of Nepal. The residents here have been provided necessary trainings on homestay operation. Sanitation has become their way of life. The profit they are making through homestay operation has encouraged them to do more. The road connecting Baugh Gumba to the historical Rani Mahal is being constructed. Now the homestay operators of Baugha Gumba can make quality package tours for the tourists including showing them around Rani Mahal. Baugha Gumba has set an example that if the community is ODF, it not only improves their health but also their economy by creating opportunities. It is now time to acknowledge contribution of ODF campaign in country's economy as well.

Case Study - 6

25-day Journey from Shame to Glory



Keshab Subedi

Dhana Kumari BK is a resident of Pragatinagar village under the then Bageshwori VDC of Banke district. The change brought by this leading social facilitator eleven years ago through her tireless effort has become a source of inspiration for many other villages around it even after years.

With the cooperation and joint efforts of social facilitator Hari Bahadur Oli, Dhana Kumari managed to bring electricity in the village which increased the community's faith in her. After Hari Bahadur got transferred to another community she was left alone to work in the community. But her courage and hardworking nature never failed. When she heard that the village where Hari Bahadur was working would be ODF in 3 months, Dhan Kumari also filled with desire to make Pragatinagar ODF. According to the suggestion of Hari Bhadhur, she coordinated with local organizations, Integrated Development Society (IDS) and moved towards the direction of making the community ODF.

Dhana Kumari still feel disgusted while remembering those days when there was practice of open defecation in the village. "The fear of being seen by other while defecating was like a hell". She says, "Children use to defecate nearby the houses and the places would stink unbelievably. There was always a threat of wild animal, snake, spiders but still no one would even think of constructing a toilet". In such situation, she jumped to conclusion that her community should be ODF.

On 23rd Poush 2065 BS, facilitators of the organization conducted a mass meeting in village. They asked the villagers about personal and household level sanitation. After that, they asked the villagers to walk with them to the places having open defecation. The villagers felt uncomfortable upon this request but they could not deny it. While walking around the openly defecated areas, the facilitators kept asking them who might have defecated there, rich or poor, women or men.

Villagers used to close their nose due to foul smell but facilitator kept on asking more and more questions. On their way back, the facilitator instructed villagers to fix yellow flag in the open defecation spots. This action made the area full of yellow flags making open defecation more visible. Dhana Kumari says that walk was very embarrassing for them but it was also very important because until we returned back to the village, many people in the community had already realized that it is a blunder to defecate in open.

After returning to the village, the facilitators made use of locally available colors and materials to create a map of the village on the ground where mapping of road, water sources, irrigation

canal, farm land, homes, schools, temples and offices were done. A beautiful picture of the village was prepared, but the work was not yet completed. The facilitators requested to fix yellow flags in the ground where they would openly defecate, as before which turned the whole map to be full with yellow color.

"They did a lot of work to explain what was happening to us due to open defecation in our village. After explaining how faeces get into our mouth people were shocked," says Dhan Kumari. The facilitators asked people, "do you want to change this situation or you just want to stay in the same situation?"

The activities performed by the facilitators were so entrenched in the mind of community that people started to think that we should not live this way. The villagers discussed and called them the very next day. They advised the villagers to form Pragatinagar WASH users committee and to operate an ODF program. This suggestion was followed and the committee was formed in which Dhan Kumari herself was chosen as the chairperson.

After being elected as a chairperson her responsibility increased and she began to worry how she would perform. Dhankumari says "we made a work plan to set a target of constructing toilet in a one-month time. Everyone was desperate to make our village ODF". After the initiation of campaign, everyone started to make toilets. There was healthy competition amongst the people in the community to construct better and safer toilet. Though the target was set for a month, the village successfully constructed toilets in all 35 household in mere 25 days.

Finally, the ODF declaration day came on 18th Magh 2065 BS. For the first time when the facilitators came to villages and roamed along with the villagers, all the villagers were very ashamed of the condition but on this day, they were only proud and happy. The village was decorated with flags and a welcome gate was built. Officials of the then District Development Committee (DDC), secretary of the then VDC and staff of IDS, people from neighboring village, media person and representation from other organizations accepted their invitation to be part of our ODF ceremony. Dhana Kumari requested the entire guest to come and visit the village once again.

During that ceremony, everyone was in rush to show their toilet. They roamed around the whole village with the guests enthusiastically. When they reached the place which used to be filled with feces everywhere just a month ago, now, there they stood proud and high. After this glorious walk, Dhan Kumari announced the village ODF. The villagers promised to move toward total sanitation. "This is a big day for us. Now we don't have to wake up at night to go defecated in open fearing someone would see us. Our shame is saved", says local resident Sangita BK. This story of Pragatinagar is story of many villages across the whole country. In true sense, we have completed a glorious journey today. But we should not forget that we have only reached the base camp. We need same help and support with each other to reach the summit.

Case Study - 7

'Hello Toilet' to Shake the Heart of Stubborn



Raju Shrestha

The sanitation campaign initiated in Salyan district in 2015 had increased the sanitation coverage from 50 to 80 percent. But after that, the campaign did not proceed as expected. The task of achieving 100 percent coverage in sanitation was very challenging. Not any triggering tools had bought positive change in the remaining households to construct toilet. Many were waiting for the subsidy, because of which only Salyan district was remaining to be ODF amongst the others in the then Rapti Zone.

As ODF campaign was accelerating all around the country, it was discouraging to see the campaign grow colder only in Salyan district. Hence, with the objective to speed it up, SNV and its supporting organization PASS Nepal started discussions with the then Water Supply and Sanitation Division Office (WSSDO) of Salyan district to find effective ways to make the district ODF. In the meantime, it was concluded that effective use of the media could give the final push to reach the sanitation movement that had almost halted. During this period, the idea of conducting a radio program called 'Hello Toilet' was born in discussions with representatives of the local FM radio station. For this, PASS Nepal collected the details of all the houses that had not constructed a toilet.

The "Hello Toilet" radio program was very interesting. In this program the program presenter called at the house owner and spoke politely in an interesting way to ask why they did not construct toilet, when neighbors have already constructed it for their health, dignity and reputation. The program presenter also talked about various alternatives on cheap and good quality toilet. In this conversation, the house owner could not leave without making a commitment to make a toilet within the specified date. Staff of PASS Nepal repeatedly visited the respective houses to ensure that the commitment was fulfilled. Since the commitment from public was live broadcasted, this program was the reason for progress of sanitation campaign.

"Hello Toilet" program was broadcasted thrice a week. During the program, interview with three to four house owners was conducted in the allocated time of 45 minutes. A total of 240 household participated in the program. This program has brought positive impact in the community. Since this program was broadcasted, 1200 household in the then 8 VDCs have constructed toilets and started using it within 4 months. In the middle of 2016, Salyan districts took a pride in declaring itself as ODF.

Case Study - 8

Toilet Built from Piggy Bank Money



Ram Kali Tharu

What would the kids do from the pennies they have collected in their tiny piggy bank? Most will reply - they will go visiting fairs, buy some toys, or have some sweets. But you will be surprised to hear toilets being built out of the piggy bank money. The Ramnagar village from Gulariya Municipality in Bardiya district has witnessed such a scenario. Ram Naresh Yadav from the village did not have a toilet at his home as other 87 households in the village. 45 year old Ram Naresh and 6 other people from his family used to defecate openly. Everyone in the village used to openly defecate, keep their cattle around the roads, and throw the trashes around without much care which used to normally cause typhoid, diarrhoea, and other diseases all the time. Like other districts in the country, Bardiya also took the strategies to declare the district as ODF zone, which brought in many awareness programs in coordination with 'Clean and Healthy Gulariya Project' in the Gulariya Municipality as well.

These awareness programs slowly started having an impact on the general people. The family of Ram Naresh also started to understand the benefits of having a toilet at home and realized that they will need one at their home too. And they became worried as they were not being able to build a toilet because of poverty. When nothing worked, two sons of Ram Naresh decided to break their piggy banks and the money was enough to buy the construction materials required to build a toilet. When they built a toilet, Ram Naresh happily said, "I was able to do it because of the money my children collected in their piggy banks. Even though they are kids, they are very much intelligent like adults." The sons who were also agreeing with everything their father said with no regrets for breaking their piggy banks.

Case Study - 9

Successful Results of Creativity and Collaboration



Govind Khadka

Ghorahi Bazar looked all decorated with people's rally and exciting cultural parades on 23rd Jestha 2073 BS. The crowd, which looked like the whole district has come out together, was ready to announce Dang district as an 'ODF' that day.

Other districts of the country also followed the creative footsteps and the best practices that were used in Dang district to make their district ODF. In this regard, the ODF initiatives from Dang district were not only successful in the district only but were a milestone for the initiatives that took place across Nepal.

The ODF campaign in Dang district formally began when a 6-year action plan was approved on 12th Assad 2066 BS. Although former Dhikpur VDC was already announced as an ODF VDC on 13th Falgun 2065 BS, the campaign was not gathering enough momentum. After 3 years of this, Saudiyar VDC was also declared ODF. The Chief of WSSDO Dang, Ganesh Thapa, Engineer Tilak Neupane and Secretary of the then Dhikpur VDC, Shalikram Parajuli, led the ODF campaign in the VDC and other hundreds of activists brought a wave of sanitation campaigns in the district.

The ODF campaigns started bringing new learnings. Daanveer, Sanitation Commando and other innovative concepts came out. Many such local tools were invented to keep the village clean and achieve ODF status. For example, blowing a whistle when somebody is seen defecating openly or create cartoons of such persons to be pasted in public places and many others tools worked well to trigger communities to stop open defecation.

When the written commitments started coming from the political leadership for promoting the sanitation, the spirit of the activists grew higher and the campaign took pace as well. The practical knowledge and skills for sanitation promotion gained from Kamal Adhikari from the then DWSS, Ramesh Kumar Adhikari from the then MoFALD, Siddhi Shrestha from UNICEF and late Dhurba Karki generated enormous energy for the district-based sanitation promoters.

The ODF campaign took further speed in Dang after organizing District Conference on Sanitation. It became even more firm with the collaboration among District Administration Office and the then DDC, WSSDO, District Public Health Office and District Women and Children Office. If it was impossible to motivate the communities without toilet, some initiatives and provisions like giving community pressure, blocking the government facilities and registering complaints in the police office were applied against those who have adequate resources but declined to build and use a toilet.

But a few settlements across the Rapti River still had attitudes of not building toilets with making excuses. To those people who used to run away from home when people came to them requesting to build a toilet, activists started meeting them in their bedrooms. Police started arresting those who did not listen to the requests. This helped to propel ODF campaign. There were some local level attempts to attack the sanitation activists as well. But the activists did not give up with the hardships they faced. Even the local festivals such as Maghi, Dashain and Tihar were full of songs showing the importance of sanitation. Those villages and settlements, which were already declared ODF, started honoring the sanitation activists which helped them keep on with the momentum further.

Nepal Red Cross Society also played an important role to make the campaign successful. Its former president, sanitation officer, technical and other staff started reaching communities early mornings. It even produced awareness programs for the local radio stations and broadcasted. The WASH Forum created by the Federation of Nepali Journalists Dang Chapter coordinated with district and central level media platforms to promote the sanitation materials in the district. Even the activists of Salyan, Kailali, Achham, Morang, Dhankuta and other districts used the learnings of these campaigns of Dang district.

The community forest groups strongly supported the ODF campaign. In former Hekuli VDC, the construction material suppliers supplied the sanitation materials without transportation costs. The concrete toilet rings were being produced in the communities. Toilets were built without subsidy. All these combined efforts made possible to make Dang district ODF when other districts were just beginning with the campaign. Later, the learnings from this successful campaign also helped other such campaigns across the country.

Case Study – 10

From Sanitation Model District Chitwan to ODF Nepal



Madan Kumar Malla

Though a well-planned initiation of sanitation campaign in Nepal started only after the formulation of the Master Plan, there were few sanitation programs being conducted before that. Although not conducted in an integrated manner, the experiences and learnings of the sanitation programs conducted at that time have been proven to be cornerstone of overall ODF campaign of Nepal. These experiences and lessons learnt have been used as important reference materials during the formulation of policies including the Master Plan.

In the past, inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation was lacking in sanitation programs conducted by various governmental and non-governmental organizations. In the meantime, the organizations involved in sanitation promotion in Nepal suggested that the sanitation programs should be conducted with collaborative and integrated approach rather than intermittently. In line with this concept, a creative and ambitious step was taken by deciding to work on making Chitwan district ODF and establishing it as 'Sanitation Model District' in the leadership of the then SCNSA and DWSS with partnership among district level stakeholders.

Chitwan District: Sanitation Laboratory

The time limit for ODF declaration was fixed and promotional actions was run with a slogan titled 'San Dwi Hazar Nau, Chitwan Herna Jaun' (A.D.2009, Let's Go and See Chitwan). The methods adopted and collaboration and policy decisions taken while taking this step has proven to have long term significance. The practical lessons learnt during this process were taken up in other districts as well. Experiences and learnings gained in each district changed over time which remained until declaring all 77 districts of Nepal. In this sense, Chitwan district featured as the vanguard in sanitation movement and established as an open library. Due to several reasons, this district could be declared ODF only after about two years of the pre-stipulated date. However, Chitwan district has unique identity for bringing creativity and dynamism in the sanitation campaign of Nepal. Kamal Adhikari, in his book on Sanitation in Nepal: Past, Present and Future (2015), has recognized Chitwan district as the laboratory of sanitation.

The opportunity to work as a coordinator of the sanitation program in Chitwan district on behalf of the then SCNSA and then in Terai districts was not only a matter of pride, but also a challenge for me. Because the level of awareness was very low at that time, social receptivity towards sanitation was not developed like now and the media did not give importance on sanitation issues. At that time, there was a deep impression in the general community that the promotion of sanitation was solely the responsibility of the paid employees working in this area.

Generally, Chitwan district was considered to have majority of educated people but the situation of Madi and hilly areas were quite different from that of its central area. About a decade and a half ago, those areas were much remote and disadvantaged. In this complex situation, initiation of creative and well managed approaches in sanitation program started from Chitwan district as sanitation program was decided to be integrated with the existing development programs which over the time proved to be extremely successful and productive. Innovative sanitation interventions were conducted in leadership of school and community. Approaches like 'each one teach one', awareness generating program on importance of toilet and sanitation in highway and surrounding areas in coordination with transportation professionals, personal hygiene and hand washing practice program in collaboration with health posts, investment of cooperative in sanitation, issuing code of conduct on sanitation by the then VDCs, provision of forest based material to the differently abled household through FUG, giving sanitary materials as wedding gifts and building of eco-san village were applied to promote sanitation. The district also initiated revolutionary steps such as cleaning the places that were used for open defecation in the past and building temples there, cleaning of the faeces by the head master of the school to discourage the openly defecating practice and pressing parents to construct toilets by telling students to defecate in their kitchen if their parents do not agree.

The creative activities such as conduction of sanitation orientations, sanitation material production and publication/broadcast from media in collaboration with various organizations working for water and sanitation also started from Chitwan district. This gave an opportunity to the general public to get familiarity with the sanitation and ODF campaign. In this way ODF campaign right in its inception attained excellence in inter-sectoral collaboration. The positive experience gained in the early phase of campaign in Chitwan district helped to develop greater confidence in Kaski, Tanahu and other districts too.

A concept of total sanitation was applied to many communities of Chitwan district at that time. Many household, schools and communities were developed as sanitation model places. There, individual household and environmental sanitation aspects were followed for achievement of ODF condition. Most importantly, the expert team started their first field study from Chitwan district and developed the basic strategic concept and perspective of the Master Plan. Similarly, there used to be frequent gathering of hundreds of international sanitation promoters and researchers in Chitwan district. It is noteworthy that the then SCNSA and DWSS played leadership role while UNICEF Nepal, NEWAH, RWSSFDB, World Health Organization Nepal, UN-Habitat, Nepal Red Cross Society, Friendship Clinic, Lumanti, the then VDC, municipality, DDC and WSSDO, governmental agencies and development partners of Chitwan district have provided significant contributions to develop Chitwan district as 'Model District' in sanitation.

Sanitation Campaign in Terai Districts: Example of Lily Bloom in the Mud

This journey that started from Chitwan had passed to Kaski, Tanahu, Myagdi and Kalikot districts and then to all hilly districts of Nepal, spreading the campaign like a wildfire thereby. However, there were predictions that few districts from central and eastern Terai and some

hilly districts where sanitation could not progress significantly up until 2013 could be hurdles to achieve ODF nation within the given time frame of 2017. So, the state and the development partners specially focused on these places with aggressive sanitation mission.

Especially in Terai region, running the sanitation campaign was not easy given certain prevailing conditions. As there have been plenty of open spaces around the settlements since ages, the practice of open defecation was not considered unnatural there. Some of the issues in Terai such as-existence of wrong practices like brother-in-law/father-in-law and daughter-in-law not sharing the same toilet, dense settlement of the poor and landless, frequent destruction of structures due to flood and filling of the pits sooner because of higher water table thereby restricting the faeces to dry up and decay quickly were making the sanitation campaign to be unproductive and ineffective. Brick kilns, tea states (especially in Jhapa and Morang districts) in the Terai areas lack toilets for seasonal workers. Since the main highway lies along the most part of Terai area, it was challenging to make the surrounding area ODF due to lack of well managed and adequate number of toilets for the passengers. Moreover, due to high mobility of the temporary farm labor/migrants coming from India for three to four months of the year, it was difficult to stop the practice of open defecation in these areas.

The biggest impediment of all was the prevalence of subsidy-driven sanitation program in the past that made people to be expecting for the support all the time. This problem prevailed more or less in every part of the country. This expecting nature of people discouraged to build toilets on their own. But the sanitation work did begin even in these places satisfactorily with the help of government, development partners and civil societies. Significant supports were received from media to carry on with the campaign. And local pressure was generated to compulsorily construct toilets so as to be eligible to get government services. This helped to intensify the message and action on toilet promotion. People in the community who were negative towards the sanitation campaign but could influence others in the society were searched and trained to be leaders in sanitation program. This made it easier to work in communities even in difficult circumstances.

Similarly, some policy decisions played important roles there. The TeCoSan and extended workshop of inter-district coordination committee remained instrumental. Instead of conducting meetings in district headquarters, the meetings of district WASH-CC were conducted in those villages where communities were indifference and inactive for promotion and use of toilet. There was an overnight change in the areas when high ranking officials and security personnel reached these communities. Likewise, in communities with great difficulties in sanitation promotion, the activists rented to the houses nearby did not leave until they succeeded to persuade the communities to construct and use toilet following weekly encampment policy.

Though some social pressure and code of conduct contributed to sanitation, hard work of the activists made communities widely realize that toilet is for their own benefit. That's why we have become citizens of an ODF country today. Toilets constructed in the communities beyond

our country's border in Terai region seem to have better as these are constructed through bigger subsidy. Toilets in the region in our communities do not look very attractive as people construct these as per their financial status. But it is important to note that these toilets are regularly used. This is the distinctive feature of subsidy-free sanitation social campaign in our country.

Sanitation: Inspiring Element for Other Development Works

The policy of collaboration amongst the other developmental aspects that started from Chitwan district is one of the many reasons why ODF program in Nepal became a national agenda and brought historical success. As a result of ODF campaign, concepts like chemical fertilizer-free zone, total literate area, total vaccinated area, plastic bags free zone and pesticide-free zone were born and were worked upon accordingly. Such outcome may not have been achieved if the ODF campaign had been promoted as an isolated program everywhere. In many places, we received request to make villages alcohol-free areas by the women in communities. It can be considered as one of the positive impacts that ODF campaign made on other dimensions of development. Hence it became evident that ODF campaign opened the door of opportunity for other development sectors as well.

Local Tools: Basis of Success

The local tools provided important contribution while working from Chitwan to the districts of western part of the country, Terai districts, Solukhumbu district and finally all of Nepal in achieving an ODF state. So, while most of the other developmental efforts started from eastern part of the country, it is evident that ODF campaign took a pace from western Nepal.

Due to the widespread use of the fundamental tools and measures created in various districts of the country including Chitwan, the assumption that the poor and landless will delay the construction and use of toilet was proved wrong. However, sanitation campaigns have rather been relatively weaker even in much conscious communities. Along with this, geographical remoteness and poverty could not be problem for the campaign. And age long notion that sanitation in Terai would be difficult was also proven to be only a myth.

We should not forget the learning of Chitwan district which was incorporated by the Master Plan as its main strategy that if all stakeholders come together and collaborate, properly use their skills and their resources and strength are integrated, it helps to declare large areas ODF in short span of time. Therefore, Chitwan district that emerged as a model district in sanitation later grew to become sanitation laboratory. The other districts too became successful for creating indigenous concepts and creativity following the learning from Chitwan district. Such initiatives then significantly contributed to declare Nepal as an ODF nation amid the global communities.

Dignified Menstrual Hygiene: A Strong Link between ODF and Total Sanitation

 Guna Raj Shrestha



Background

Despite the fact that menstruation is a biological process related to the reproductive health of women, many ill-practices related to it are still prevalent in our society. These ill-practices have been backed by traditional, religious and cultural beliefs due to which adolescent girls and women have been deprived from social opportunities along with education, sanitation and hygiene. Because of the discrimination they face during menstruating time, their self-esteem, dignity and human right have been violated. Especially in few districts of far western and Karnali province of Nepal, women are treated as 'untouchables' during their menstruation. During this time, they are forced to exile in menstruating huts outside the house, which is called "*Chhupadi*". In other parts of the country as well, girls and women are affected by family and social discriminations somehow. Such discriminations negatively impact in achieving national development goal as well as SDG.

About 88 lakh adolescent girls and women menstruate every month in Nepal. It constitutes to 63 percent of the women population and 34 percent of the total population in Nepal. According to UNICEF Nepal, 3 percent of women are forced to exile in 'Chhaupadi' during menstruation. 71 percent of the women in far western hilly district face such situations mostly. This conservative belief that affects such a large part of the population is not only problem of girls and women but also is a hindrance to development of the whole country.

Major Issues Related to Menstruation

As the world passes through second decade of the 21st century, our society has been pushed backward due to old aged ill-tradition associated with a normal biological process such as menstruation. So, to address this problem, it is important to focus on the following:

-  Raising awareness is necessary in removing superstitions regarding menstruation. Especially, since menstruation is connected with religion and culture, even educated group of people hesitate to take it as a natural biological process. Thus, based on the scientific facts and other parables, it is necessary to bring change in this age-old conservative belief.
-  Recently, state has taken various policy decisions to take menstruation as entirely biological process. However, because of its weak implementation and monitoring part, change cannot be actually felt in the society. Thus, it is important to focus on effective implementation and monitoring of the decisions taken by the state.

- ✍ As inter-ministerial level coordination acknowledges the menstruation related issues, strong cooperation and coordination is important amongst Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS) for sanitation and hygiene promotion, Ministry of Education (MoE) for improvement in curriculum and construction and management of menstruation-friendly toilets at schools, Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) for promotion of health education and Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen (MoWCSC) for raising awareness and assurance of women rights.
- ✍ NGOs have also conducted various programs so as to establish menstruation as a glorious event. But due to lack of coordination, their effectiveness is seen to be weak. Thus, it is important to conduct programs like this with coordinated approach.
- ✍ The current education at school level, related to menstruation, is only information-based. So, knowledge-based and skill-based curriculum that raise awareness and bring conceptual changes.
- ✍ Despite many efforts, 'Chhaupadi' practice has not been eradicated completely. Thus, implementation of strong program especially at province and municipality level is required to address this issue.
- ✍ As tax is imposed on importing most essential material such as sanitary pads used during menstruation, treating it as luxury materials, it is important to promote cheap and easily available pad distribution system and mechanism of safe disposal, in cooperation with public and private sectors.
- ✍ There has been no discussion started on toilet for the third gender people. It is important to focus on this issue without any delay.
- ✍ It is important to take ahead dignified menstrual campaign by immediate enforcement Dignified Menstrual Hygiene Policy prepared by the GoN two years ago, along with its effective implementation.

Initiation to Make Menstruation Dignified

Since past few years, the GoN, civil society, non-governmental sectors, researchers, international organizations, private sector and media has been playing active role to establish menstruation as a dignified subject. In the wake of a large number of deaths, the Supreme Court ordered that seclusion to menstrual hut during menstruation should be declared as ill-tradition by the Council of Minister and issued a directive asking the government to come up with laws to eliminate Chhaupadi. As per the order, the GoN declared it as ill-practice on 26th Baisakh 2063 BS. The government issued 'Chhaupadi Tradition Elimination Guideline' in 2064 BS. Similarly, as per the Criminal Code Bill passed by the Parliament in 2074 BS, it criminalizes the traditional practice that banishes women from home during menstruation to the menstrual hut. The new law stipulates jail sentence for 3 month or/and Rs. 10,000 fine for anyone forcing a woman to follow the custom.

The Master Plan has equally emphasized on MHM as an important part of ODF campaign. Physical structures and awareness activities related to MHM are being conducted as the Total Sanitation Guideline prioritizes. A draft of National Policy on Dignified Menstruation 2074 BS has been prepared by MoWS. Furthermore, MoHP, MoE, MoWCSC has been conducting activities on menstrual hygiene. There have been many attempts by the GoN and NGOs to eliminate untouchability and bring change in the misconceptions occurring during menstruation. Because of this, there has been some reduction in the ill-practice such as 'Chhaupadi' while the issue of menstrual hygiene that had been in dormant stage for ages has been strongly highlighted by the ODF campaign.

Chhaupadi had become a major obstacle in achieving and maintaining ODF status. As women are not allowed to use toilet during menstruation, they are forced to defecate in open places. Amidst this unhygienic and disgraceful situation, it became difficult to declare many communities ODF. So, instead of the orthodox model project, considering sociological and anthropological perspective as a basis, through full ownership of the society, establishment of dignified menstruation related new values and recognition is important. Then this guarantees human rights as abided by constitution and law thereby promoting awareness, capacity development and social transformation activities in leadership of the Local Government.

Seven Point Declaration by the GoN

The GoN issued a 7-point declaration on the occasion of the menstrual hygiene day, jointly organized by MoWS, MoHP, MoE and MoWCS on 14th Jestha 2075 BS. The declaration included commitment on implementation of Dignified Menstrual Hygiene Policy so as to ensure end of all kind of violence during menstruation and guaranteeing right to live in clean environment. There is also a commitment in fully eliminating and eradicating wrong traditional practices like Chhaupadi which largely risks life of women during menstruation. Likewise, commitment has been made to construct girls-friendly toilet with regular water supply at all community schools and to ensure the availability of hygienic materials to come to school during menstruation. This declaration clearly commits to implement spirit of the Constitution of Nepal and country's commitments made in national and international level for women health, reproductive health and sanitation. This also enables the developments partners to provide their financial and technical assistance to the government, NGOs and private sectors to achieve SDG and government's program and women's right. This declaration strongly urges for initiatives 'to make mensuration dignified starting from me and from my home.'

Way Forward

With the country being ODF, we have formally embarked upon the journey to total sanitation. As personal hygiene and sanitation is an important indicator of total sanitation, maintaining sustainability of ODF status to achieve SDG in sanitation is important. In order to support this goal, MHM can be a strong link between ODF and total sanitation so that it is important to establish and widely promote MHM as inter-sectoral subject.

Sector Triggering: Nepal's Indigenous Experiment in the Sanitation Sector



Kamal Adhikari

Ideological Basis

It is evident that the development of sanitation has been largely guided by 'mind-oriented' concept since centuries. This concept puts in more emphasis on the cognitive aspect of sanitation. In addition to it, with the help of existing theories, causes and effects are sought intensively. Apart from this, theoretical frameworks and perspectives of the external experts and consultants are fully adopted to address the challenges on sanitation. And a vast majority of efforts and resources of the organizations working for sanitation are spent on 'piloting'. However, 'scaling-up' of the sanitation services and facilities has not been as expected through such pilotings. Besides, locally held indigenous efforts for sanitation promotion often remain in dormant condition amid these piloting initiatives widespread globally.

In the platform of sanitation development, while 'mind-oriented' concept is deeply rooted, the advent of new 'heart-oriented' concept signals 'deconstruction' of the earlier concept. The 'heart-oriented' concept emphasizes on the location-specific, indigenous and 'tailor-made' model instead of 'ready-made' model. The power of heart-oriented concept is densely accumulated in the center of the human heart. It is not grounded on any existing theory. Instead, the particular places nurtured by the 'heart-oriented' concept have been creating new theories of sanitation development every day. In the context of this article, 'deconstruction' should be understood as displacing the centuries-old established beliefs and practices, working in different style based on experience and evidence to achieve the desired result. This leads to a new era by ending the status quo, thereby leaping towards advancement.

CLTS approach could be credited as an invention for sanitation promotion, which deconstructed the centuries-old established concept and method of sanitation promotion. In CLTS approach, 'ignition' or 'triggering' tools are recognized as fuel or factor that drive the engine of sanitation. Under this approach, mostly small communities with problem of rampant open defecation are targeted and ignited using 'community triggering' tools. Through CLTS tool, the targeted communities are empowered to end open defecation by generating the feelings of disgust and shame in them and without providing any external subsidy for household toilet construction. CLTS is basically a 'heart-oriented' method. This 'subsidy-less' approach could be considered as the deconstruction of the globally established 'subsidy-led' approach in sanitation promotion.

The Indigenous Creation of Nepal

In the sanitation sector of Nepal, the word 'ignition' has been used synonymously for triggering. 'Sectoral triggering' is an indigenous and popular approach used in the sanitation sector in Nepal. It is commonly called 'sector triggering'. The sector triggering not only triggers a community but it collectively triggers the entire sanitation related sectoral stakeholders. In 2011, the author introduced the concept of sector triggering in Nepal, which is widely used in sanitation promotion. Apart from principles of community triggering of CLTS approach, the sector triggering has embraced other indigenous sectoral learnings from various places of the country as well.

It is important to note that with the adoption of sociological and anthropological perspectives in the sanitation sector in Nepal, 'heart-oriented' concept has been gradually expanded across the country. 'Heart-oriented' concept and human emotions have widespread impacts in sector triggering. Sector triggering is the indigenous creation of Nepal. It refers to triggering of various sectoral stakeholders. The method and tools of sector triggering have been used to provide energy in nationwide ODF campaign. Through its successful use, the sanitation promotion has become a 'social campaign' and the coverage of sanitation has grown exponentially in the country in a short period of time.

The favorable environment created by the Master Plan has caused the emergence and wider application of sector triggering. The Master Plan has established the multi-sectoral stakeholders' institutional mechanism at different levels thereby transforming the scattered 'energy' of the stakeholders to 'synergy' and moving ahead from 'project model' to establish 'campaign model' for sanitation promotion. In this sense, Master Plan is the indigenous creation of Nepal while campaign model and sector triggering are the indigenous approaches. The campaign model and sector triggering emerged as the deconstruction of the 'traditional teaching method' and 'community triggering approach' respectively. For example, in sanitation conference, sector triggering largely enables cross-sectoral stakeholders to accumulate their scattered energy and seek their joint commitments in achieving ODF status in an accelerated manner.

It should be noted that even though a systematic promotion of sanitation had begun in Nepal since 1980 while the overall national coverage of sanitation was only 2 percent at that time. Despite efforts of three decades, the sanitation coverage was about 43 percent until 2011 when the Master Plan was implemented. But after seven years of the implementation of the Master Plan, additional 57 percent coverage of sanitation could be achieved at a national level. Now, the country has been declared ODF. This unprecedented success has been achieved through the successful implementation of the Master Plan, adoption of subsidy-free (no subsidy) approach and collaboration of the cross-sectoral stakeholders along with the wider use of sector triggering approach.

Use of Sector Triggering in Nepal

Sector triggering has enabled the broad-based alliance, wider sectoral linkages, comprehensive planning, effective community mobilization, massive resource pooling arrangements and wider political mobilization for scaling up of sanitation in an accelerated manner. Apart from water and sanitation sector, stakeholders from other sectors such as education, health, local development, women and children, environment, general administration and security, mass communication, religious, cultural and other concerned organizations are engaged in sector triggering. Through which, their institutional identity, strength and contribution are highlighted largely and they are collectively empowered and prepared in promoting community sanitation.

Just as the warriors in the battlefield present themselves strongly against the enemy and achieve victory, sector triggering strongly instigates the stakeholders to extensively use their utmost institutional capacity to conduct motivational and aggressive campaigns reaching individual, household and community for triggering each and every individual in eliminating the practice of open defecation. The Master Plan has unified efforts of different sector stakeholders to produce ODF communities in the same manner as a hydro power plant produces electricity through rotation of turbine by water accumulated in a dam from different sources. For achieving ODF situation, the role of sector triggering has remained instrumental because it has energized different level WASH-CCs which has ultimately inspired communities to achieve nation-wide ODF status in an accelerated manner. Use of sector triggering has become a prerequisite for achieving ODF in line with the Master Plan. Therefore, sector triggering is not limited to achieving narrow targets of ODF in small communities. Instead, through this indigenous approach, Rural Municipalities and Municipalities are made ODF at faster speed thereby leading to significant success of making the entire district and then the country ODF in short time.

For example, Nepal's first comprehensive district conference on sanitation held in Accham district in 2012 had played instrumental role to declare the then 11 VDCs of the district as ODF area within a period of 8 months through massive community and political mobilization stimulated through sector triggering approach. So, Accham district worked as the learning center that effectively triggered sanitation campaign in the western part of the country. In the following days, the other hilly and Terai districts had also organized such conferences and adopted sector triggering as a key instrument to stimulate sectoral stakeholders and achieve ODF status. The impact of the TeCoSan, district level conferences and community level indigenous tools remained promising especially in the 8 Terai districts having high population (Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara and Parsa) where average sanitation coverage was below 20 percent in 2010 while these districts could achieve 100 percent coverage by 2019 promoting huge number of household toilets although intensive sanitation mission had commenced there from 2014 only.

Along with the use of sector triggering, many other innovative methods of triggering have been adopted in Nepal. Both 'creative' and 'aggressive' actions of mass media have played a significant role. As a result, continuous and creative publicity of the success and continuous and aggressive monitoring of the failure regarding sanitation has been possible. This has led to creation of extensive psychological stimulus along with heavy positive social pressure in the communities to construct and use toilet. Mass media indicate the bad deed and spread the good deed. For this, there has been constant and collective support and cooperation from the chief and the officials of DCC, members of WASH-CC, the chief and the officials of Rural Municipality and Municipality, politicians, administrators and security personnel, officials of user committee, teachers and students, private entrepreneurs, health personnel, youth group, representatives of civil society, officials of women group, religious and cultural group associated individuals, the facilitators of development partner organizations and the social leaders.

For example, publishing of sensational news such as 'Prime Minister's district still to be ODF', 'open defecation has turned holy streams to sewerage' and 'destruction of temporary toilets by the sanitation activists' through the mass media has brought wider awareness amongst the stakeholders thus leading to successful sanitation campaign in Jhapa district. In a short duration of just a year, thousands of household constructed and used toilets thereby making the district ODF. This district was able to establish itself as ODF by mobilizing the local sanitation activists to demolish temporary toilets by adopting the strategies of 'helping the disabled' and 'psychologically motivating and socially pressurizing the abled' to construct permanent toilets in help and support of the Local Government. In the past, there was a concept that if the community people are made accustomed to use temporary toilets, they will gradually develop the practice of using toilet and therefore construct permanent toilets on their own, which is falsified in the context of Nepal. These are some representative examples of deconstruction of prevailing sanitation promotion approaches in the country.

Similar example has been observed in Morang district as well. In Morang, the people who defecate openly are respectfully invited, greeted with flower garland and offered to have tea and snacks by the Municipalities so as to make psychological pressure on them to construct and use toilets. Similarly, district WASH-CC of Kapilvastu district had issued request letter to those households who were reluctant to construct toilet. In the request letter, the targeted households were humbly requested to construct and use toilets. In Bardiya district, students begging their parents for constructing toilets in the public programs have created positive impact on sanitation promotion in the community. Likewise, great cultural festivals like Chhath have been used as an effective opportunity for sanitation promotion in the Terai districts. Therefore, in Nepal, there is gradual deconstruction in the traditional method of toilet promotion. This deconstruction process emerged gradually through 'appreciation approach' instead of 'punishment approach'. And the process of deconstruction has been flourished in an enabling environment created by sector triggering.

Learning

Due to adoption of sector triggering approach and 'heart-oriented' concept, communities and the concerned sectoral stakeholders have been strongly triggered for eliminating open defecation with the collective feeling of 'we' instead of an isolated feeling of 'I'. As a result, their fame, resource, skill, strength and leadership have been optimally and collectively mobilized producing synergy in sanitation promotion. Such indigenous experiment on sensitization and empowerment has strengthened mutual harmony, support and collaboration among various stakeholders. This conducive environment has thus led to new era of socio-cultural integration, development and transformation in Nepal and also enabled the country's move towards total sanitation in line with the spirit of SDG.



Preparation for ODF Declaration, Declaration Ceremony, Learning and Messages

Different activities were carried out to make Nepal as an ODF nation. This includes establishment of ODF Nepal 2019 Secretariat, formulation of Preparatory Working Group (PWG) and Functional Working Groups (FWGs) and expediting the ODF declaration in districts and promotional activities for the declaration. Description about these activities is presented below:

2.1 Preparation for ODF Declaration

A 17-members PWG including the representatives from the development partner organizations was formed in coordination of Mr. Sunil Kumar Das, the Director General (DG) of Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM). The PWG took the responsibility of coordinating, leading and deciding on overall tasks related to ODF declaration, as well as providing suggestion and direction to various FWGs. A total of 6 FWGs (ODF declaration preparation, ODF declaration ceremony preparation, documentation, reward and recognition, cooperation with the media and resources mobilization) were formed under the PWG. The facilitation in operation of daily work and media engagement was done through a 5-member ODF Nepal 2019 Secretariat. The structure and responsibility of the PWG, FWGs and ODF Nepal 2019 Secretariat have been mentioned in Annex 1 and Annex 2 respectively.

2.2 Declaration Ceremony

The details of ODF Nation and a Step towards Total Sanitation Declaration Ceremony program has been briefed below:

2.2.1 First Session (ODF Nepal Journey Session)

Altogether 6 different activities were included in this session. This session comprised of opening of program, presentation on ODF campaign of Nepal, cultural program on sanitation, speech by representatives of national, international and civil society organizations, reward and recognition and demonstration of a documentary on sanitation. The description of these activities is given as follows:

a. Opening

Mr. Kamal Adhikari, Sociologist of the DWSSM, conducted the opening session. The session was presided over the chairmanship of Mr. Chandra Bahadur KC, Joint-Secretary of MoWS and Chairperson of the NSHCC. Honourable Minister of Water Supply, Bina Magar, was the chief guest of the program. In the beginning of the program, Mr. Kamal Adhikari welcomed all the participants on behalf of NSHCC. He said that the program has been organized to declare the country ODF formally and recognize the individual for their remarkable contribution to sanitation. He further added that the country will move ahead for attaining total sanitation following the path of SDG with full ownership and collaboration of the stakeholders.

b. Presentation on ODF Campaign

Presenting on the ODF campaign of Nepal, Mr. Sunil Kumar Das, DG of DWSSM, highlighted about the contribution of the Master Plan, policy initiations and challenges and opportunities faced during the ODF campaign. During his presentation, he said that despite the natural disasters and socio-economic problems, the sanitation campaign in Nepal got success remarkably by the joint effort of stakeholders, participatory planning, co-financing arrangement and subsidy-free approach.

c. Cultural Program

Emphasizing on sanitation, a cultural program was organized during the ceremony. Ms. Meena Shrestha, Deputy Director General (DDG) and Mr. Ramesh Subedi, Senior Divisional Engineer (SDE) of DWSSM had facilitated about themes of sanitation included in the cultural program. The brief description of the program which is divided in two parts (dance and play) is given below:

i. Folk Dance

A cultural dance was presented by Nepal Cultural Institute, Rastriya Nachghar. In this song, the names of all the districts of Nepal were presented. This song has indicated

date of districts ODF declaration in a sequence. This song has a power to arise the feeling of ownership towards the campaign. The musical aspect of the song was very creative as well. This song has a message that the ODF campaign is a shared program of all Nepalese who have grown up in all kind of ethnicity, languages and diverse geographical environment.

The song has also attempted to include representative folk rhythm from east (Mechi district) to west (Mahakali district) of Nepal. When the folk music was played particularly of a certain part, the participants of the program representing that part apparently seemed to be more excited. The dance was exemplary. The costumes of the performers represented Nepal as a whole. It presented an example of inclusion and belongingness in one song. Overall, the song, music and dance succeeded to deliver lots of messages in a very short time. This also reminds and respects the cultural tools that were used in sanitation campaign in the country.

The dance was performed by Sharda Devi Silwal, Shabnam Silwal, Madan Thapa, Maya Thapa, Sushila Thapa, Geeta Thapa, Sangita Shahi Khadgi, Bipin Ghimire, Tilak Sunuwar, Shabnam Khadki, Ranju Shrestha, Pooja Sunuwar, Baburam Rainchuri, Bishal Thapa, Manisha Hamal, Samana Silwal, Yamuna Magar, Ramila Basnet, Sunita Nagarkoti, Sumitra BK, Sonu Rai, Siddharth Silwal, Pawan Tamang, Sunil Pant, Ujjwal Karki and Surabhi Magar. In this dance, Narayani Pandey arranged the costumes and Sita Tamang KC did the makeup of the performers. Music by Bipin Ghimire and arranged by Jhalak Sangitam, in the song 'Chalyo Abhiyan Yahan Khula Dishamuktako, Swastha Samajko, Afno Swabhiman ko' sung by Bipin Ghimire, Tirtha Raj Pokhrel, Dipendra Bajracharya, Shila Bista, Bhimakala Gurung and Tika Guru, the dance was performed by the artists of the Cultural Institution. It was choreographed and directed by Sharada Devi Silwal. The main message of the song is that the campaign of ODF, the campaign of healthy society and the campaign of self-dignity is progressing here in the country.

ii. Play

After the ODF declaration, our country has entered from the darkness of filth to the light of sanitation. To deliver this message, a play had been prepared and presented by Khulla Sanchar Pvt. Ltd., which played a vital role in making the program more successful. In the drama, a friend from hill comes to a friend's home at Terai Madhesh. While exchanging bond and cordiality between the two while chitchatting, suddenly an incidence about the untimely death of the daughter of a friend from Terai Madhesh occurred due to cholera outbreak. The rest of the play revolves round how the incident relates to the problems that occur due to open defecation and how everything slowly gets sorted after the construction of toilets, giving message on the importance of ODF community.

The first section of the play imparted message such as sad story of Nepalese who lost their beloved children due to the lack of toilets, harmony and unity among people

living in Mountains, Hills and Terai, help and support to each other in sanitation. The first session ended with a question when our country will feel the need and guarantee providing basic sanitation facilities to make and declare country ODF.

The second session of the program started after the Rt.Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal declared Nepal an ODF nation. Below the stage the former performers and students waved flag of Nepal, chanting slogans cheerfully. At the end, small children presented their demand on the sustainability of ODF status and moving forward to total sanitation.

The play was choreographed by Deepika Thapa and directed by Mohan Abhilashi. The play was performed by Chandra Prasad Pandey, Chakra Prasad Pokharel, Deepika Thapa, Amrit Kaucha, Hira Hamal (Mukesh), Shobha Limbu, Kajol Lama, Muna Pandey, Sandeep Bhujel, Arjun Tamang, Amrita Gautam, Avisa Magar, Manarasa Karki, Deepa Pradhan, Suman Smarika, Renu Gahataraj, Mohan Bahadur Shrestha, Totadari Narayan Hainju and Pratiksha Pokharel. Overall, songwriting, singing, music, dance, costume design, script writing and stage performance provided the message of the importance of sanitation. It advocated for national sentiment and unity in the plurality. The presentation had pleased all audiences.

In the mean time, Responsible Media had demonstrated a visual describing changes in sanitation behavior among Chamar community of Aurahi Rural Municipality in Dhanusha district after construction and use of toilet.

d. Speeches

Ms. Tripti Rai, the Country Representative of Water Aid Nepal, congratulated all the stakeholders on the country being ODF and lauded the leadership role of the GoN and coordination of the development partners during the launching of this campaign. She wished for the inclusion and sustainability of sanitation. Similarly, Mr. Rajendra Aryal, the National President of FEDWASUN, said that the ODF campaign has been successful due to close collaboration among stakeholders and suggested that the cooperation and collaboration needs to be continued for achieving total sanitation. He congratulated everyone for the success of the campaign.

e. Reward and Recognition

In the sanitation campaign of Nepal, 'recognition' is considered as an important aspect. In the ceremony, appreciation and recognition was given to the individuals making remarkable contribution in sanitation promotion. Following proper process and criteria, the Reward and Recognition FWG had selected the names of individuals to be recognized. Under this, the individuals significantly contributing in the sanitation sector were honored under 5 categories as Sanitation Champion, Sanitation Activist, Posthumously Recognized Person, Notable Contributor and Sanitation Promoter. In this occasion, their respective contributions were also highlighted.

Mr. Namaste Lal Bhoomi Shrestha was recognized as 'National Sanitation Champion' and Mr. Jagat Raj Regmi was recognized as 'Local Sanitation Champion'. Similarly, Mr. Guru Subedi and Mr. Anil Prasad Kesari were recognized as 'Sanitation Activist'. Mr. Dhruva Karki, Mr. Purna Puri, Mr. Raghuchan Upadhyay and Mr. Dhan Bahadur Dudhupal were recognized as 'Posthumously Recognized Person'. Similarly, names of the people who made significant contribution were mentioned. They were Mr. Abadh Kishore Mishra, Mr. Maheshwor Ghimire, Mr. Hari Datta Poudel, Mr. Madan Kumar Malla, Mr. Ram Chandra Sah, Mr. Nawal Kishor Mishra, Mr. Mukti Pokharel, Mr. Uddhav Timilsina, Mr. Chandra Bhakta Bista, Mr. Bishwa Raj Bhatta, Mr. Zakki Ahmad Ansari, Mr. Bharat Sharma, Mr. Bishnu Koirala, Mr. Khem Bhushal, Mr. Harikrishna Poudel, Mr. Shiva Shankar Rauniyar, Mr. Govinda Pokharel, Mr. Kunj Joshi, Mr. Suresh Prakash Singh, Mr. Som Nath Portel, Mr. Ramesh Kumar Adhikari, Ms. Kalawati Pokharel, Mr. Ganesh Thapa, Ms. Nadira Khwaja, Mr. Rajesh Kushwaha, Mr. Narayan Kafle, Mr. Lokendra Yadav, Mr. Bharat Bhatta, Mr. Sher Bahadur Shahi, Mr. Bhupal Thapa, Mr. Krishna Prasad Sharma, Mr. Lok Bahadur Chaulagain, Mr. Rudra Bahadur Neupane, Mr. Govind Khadka and Ms. Lajana Manandhar. Names of the other sanitation promoters were displayed in the screen. Also, it was declared that the names of every one recognized would be uploaded in the website of the government and the certificate of recognition would be made available through proper means.

f. Demonstration of Video Documentary on Sanitation

In the end of the first session, a documentary on the journey of sanitation in Nepal was demonstrated. The documentary prepared by Media Helpline for the NSHCC showed the development of sanitation campaign and its expansion across the country. The documentary not only portrayed the role of the GoN and community in the ODF campaign but also elucidated the important role of the Master Plan in providing the pace to the campaign.

2.2.2. Second Session (ODF Nepal Declaration Session)

a. Opening

Mr. Jagadish Kharel conducted this session. The session was chaired by Honourable Bina Magar, Minister of Water Supply. Rt'Honourable Prime Minister, KP Sharma Oli, was the Chief Guest of the program. The program was attended by the representative of Federal, Provincial and Local Governments, DCCs, development agencies, media, school and academia. This session comprised of four parts: i) welcome speech, ii) remarks by guests, iii) special remarks and country ODF declaration by the Rt'Honourable Prime Minister and iv) remarks by the chair of the session.

b. Welcome Remarks

The program commenced with the welcome speech by Mr. Madhav Belbase, Secretary of MoWS. He expressed his heartfelt thanks to Rt.Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal,

Honourable Minister of Water Supply and other dignitary on dais, development partners and all stakeholders for their gracious presence in the historical occasion of country ODF declaration. He stated that Nepal is going to be declared as ODF nation as per the established protocol of declaration followed by Province, District and Palika level WASH-CCs. He added that ODF campaign has largely contributed to reduce faecal oral contamination and promote health and dignity of community. According to him, the strategic thought of ‘sanitation for all, all for sanitation’ played instrumental role for successfully achieving ODF status in the country. Finally, he said that ODF declaration would be a basis to establish the constitutional provision of ‘right to water and sanitation to all’ and the government’s dream of ‘Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali’.

c. Remarks by Guests

United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Valerie Julliard, expressed her happiness for the grand success of ODF Nepal. She explicitly stated that the ODF declaration process has followed the due certification protocol. She highlighted the role of CLTS approach and the Master Plan as well as a wide range of stakeholders including government, development partners, media, civil society organizations, local networks, child clubs, mothers’ groups and users’ committee for this grand success. In the meantime, she indicated that maintaining sustainability of hygiene behavior, promotion of safe water and safely managed sanitation system are keys to achieve SDG target. Finally, she emphasized on total sanitation and stakeholders’ collaboration for sustaining the gains thus made.

Honourable Minister of Physical Infrastructure Development of Province No.2, Jeetendra Sonal, expressed his happiness to be a part and witness of the historical and glorious country ODF declaration ceremony. He added that attainment of ODF status is a symbol of dignity and civilization. This is a big success but we have to promote post-ODF intervention to sustain the achievements, he added. He extended thanks to three tiers of government, development partners, security personnel, stakeholders, community and all the concerned stakeholders for their great contribution to ODF campaign.

Honourable Vice Chairman of National Planning Commission, Dr. Pushpa Raj Kandel, congratulated to all the stakeholders for their tireless efforts for country ODF declaration. He added that the GoN is committed towards national development through 25 years long term vision and 5 years plan, which will contribute to achieve a goal of ‘Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali’. He further indicated that safe water and total sanitation are inevitable to achieve SDG by 2030. He also recognized contribution of ODF for promoting public health and country’s socio-economic development.

Honourable State Minister of Health and Population, Surendra Yadav, congratulated to all for achieving country ODF situation. He indicated that ODF has direct positive impact on reducing infectious diseases and promoting health. The role of MoWS is linked with other ministries too. So, collaborative effort is essential for promoting

water and sanitation. Finally, he committed that Ministry of Health and Population will contribute to post-ODF intervention in the days ahead.

Honourable Chief Minister of Karnali Province, Mahendra Bahadur Shahi, proudly shared that Karnali Province is free from open defecation free. He highlighted that ODF status is a symbol of health and civilization. But he emphasized that upgradation of temporary toilet and provision of drinking water should be the prime agenda to sustain ODF in general and in Karnali Province in particular. In the meantime, he shared that special attention is being given to promote appropriate toilet for Raute Tribe residing in the Karnali Province. Honourable Minister for Urban Development, Mohamed Istiyak Rai, appreciated the key role of the three tiers of the government to achieve country ODF situation. He added that attainment of ODF is a great achievement on the way to 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'.

d. Special Remarks and Country ODF Declaration



Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli declaring Nepal as open defecation free nation

Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, KP Sharma Oli, stated that today is an important day for moving one step ahead of success and this event has brought us in a new height and turning point of national development. The Prime Minister gave credit to sanitation intervention to reduce annual child mortality from around 7000 to 1200 (2000-2019) and lime lighted the role of country ODF declaration for the nation to move one step ahead. The Prime Minister opined that the sanitation initiative has contributed to emancipate communities from uncivilized practice of open defecation, reduce child mortality and reduce

cost of medical treatment for communicable diseases. Further, the Prime Minister shared a dream of a clean and healthy household, village, community and nation to be materialized by total sanitation and SDG interventions. The Prime Minister thanked all stakeholders and Nepalese who were engaged in ODF campaign, indicated the need of promoting awareness and framing standards of development and dignity for building the Clean Nation through country's own effort. The Prime Minister urged to make Nepal



a 'human free street' and 'poor free country' as well for materializing 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'. At the end, the Prime Minister declared Nepal as an ODF nation and also urged to all to engage in national level mega campaign of total sanitation for achieving the SDG target by 2030.

e. Closing Remarks

Honourable Minister of Water Supply, Bina Magar, heartily extended thanks to Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister for his gracious presence in the historical country ODF declaration ceremony and also thanked to all stakeholders for their continuous support towards ODF and total sanitation.

The Honourable Minister highlighted that NSW campaign, SLTS and CLTS approaches, IYS 2008 initiative, Master Plan, collaboration of cross-sector stakeholder and community's wider engagement remained instrumental for achieving the remarkable success of country ODF situation even though the sanitation activities were adversely affected by the destructive earth quake and flood, water scarcity, poverty and landlessness and traditional cultural dogmas. She stated that there is need of Total Sanitation Master Plan, total sanitation intervention and educational and awareness raising campaign in order for sustaining ODF status, promoting hygiene behavior, achieving 'Clean Nepal' and thereby SDG. She stated that ODF nation has become a strong basis for 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'.

2.3.1 Learnings and Messages

'ODF Nation and a Step towards Total Sanitation Declaration Ceremony' was the important moment that marked the success of vigorous effort of past two decades to make Nepal ODF. The declaration of whole nation to be ODF does not only reflect the commitment towards toilet and hygiene, it also regenerates our self-respect and self-confidence.

Healthy citizens and civilized societies are the basic conditions of the journey to prosperity. Prosperity is not absolute, rather its indicators are the positive transformations in the way society thinks, development of self-reliant feelings and strength to overcome obstacle. In this sense, through the ODF declaration, it is apparent that we are moving towards prosperity. So, this declaration is also a clear indicator that we are moving forward for 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali' dreamt by the state. Filled with the same spirit, in presence of activists, civil servants, politicians, leaders of the civil societies and general public, this declaration ceremony was grand, not only in the sense of its physical preparation but it was even bigger in terms of sentiments it generated. This ceremony that marked the result of hard work was done and ownership shown by the GoN, civil societies, development partners and citizens.

The ODF campaign was free from any biasedness and prejudices. This is the reason that the participants celebrated it not just as a formal program but as an occasion

which could be clearly seen through their greetings and wishing with each other enthusiastically. During the first session when presentation showing the socio-cultural specialties of the districts and regions were given, the participants were filled with emotions. The documentary portraying the development of the ODF campaign and the booklet on a narration of ODF journey have documented all important events on sanitation since its inception and safeguarded all the promotional efforts alive. On the occasion, the booklet was distributed to every participant.

During the ODF campaign, as the sanitation activist used to reward well-performing individuals and communities, the state similarly honored best of those activists in the declaration ceremony to encourage them. In this regard, the state also honored the late activists through 'Posthumous Recognition'. Talking about the remarkable decline in child mortality through ODF campaign, the Rt'Honourable Prime Minister encouraged all activists to continue working with same zeal and enthusiasm to achieve the target of total sanitation by 2030. Similarly, through the remarks and commitments made by the Honourable Minister of Water Supply and the respective representatives from all three levels of the state, it was assured that the campaign would be sustainable. By the declaration of an ODF nation, we have only come across to the base camp of total sanitation, the journey to the summit is still due. But if we consider it as the final destination, the journey ahead will be challenging. Thus, if we continue with same excitement without getting overwhelmed by this success, the achievements of the past will be preserved and the journey to future will be easier.

COVID-19 has affected the world due to pandemic caused by corona virus infection. In Nepal, thousands of people are being infected and death rate is increasing. Let's hope that continuity of ODF situation and a journey towards total sanitation will prepare a firm basis to promote healthy behaviors at individual, household and community levels as well as in work place to prevent COVID-19 and other pandemic.

Annexes

Annex 1: Members of Preparatory Working Group for Country ODF and a Step to Total Sanitation Declaration Ceremony

S.N.	Name	Designation and Organization
1	Mr. Sunil Kumar Das	DG, DWSSM
2	Ms. Meena Shrestha	DDG, DWSSM
3	Mr. Ramakant Duwadi	DDG, DWSSM
4	Mr. Maheshwor Ghimire	SDE, Department of Local Infrastructure (DOLI)
5	Mr. Gehanath Gautam	Under-Secretary, Centre for Education and Human Resource Development
6	Mr. Tika Prasad Adhikari	Chief of Human Resource Division, RWSSFDB
7	Mr. Kunj Joshi	Senior Public Health Administrator, National Health Education Information Communication Centre
8	Mr. Devendra Kumar Jha	Chief, Sewerage Management and Environmental Sanitation Section, DWSSM
9	Dr. Sudan Raj Panthi	WHO Nepal
10	Mr. Siddhi Shrestha	UNICEF Nepal
11	Mr. Madan Kumar Malla	UN Habitat Nepal
12	Mr. Namaste Lal Bhoomi Shrestha	Member, Monitoring and Action Team
13	Mr. Ratan Budhathoki	SNV Nepal
14	Mr. Kabir Das Rajbhandari	Water Aid Nepal
15	Mr. Rajendra Aryal	FEDWASUN
16	Mr. Nabin Pradhan	Plan International Nepal
17	Mr. Suman Giri	www.ecosamachar.com , Online news portal

Annex 2: Members and Major Responsibilities of Functional Working Group

S.N.	Functional Working Group	Structure	Major Responsibility
1	ODF Declaration Ceremony Preparation	<p>Leadership: Mr. Chandra Bahadur KC, Joint-Secretary, MoWS</p> <p>Focal Person: Mr. Ramakant Duwadi, DDG, DWWSM</p> <p>Member: All members of PWG</p>	Selection of modality of declaration ceremony and overall preparation.
2	ODF Preparation	<p>Leadership: Mr. Maheshwor Ghimire, SDE, DOLI</p> <p>Focal Person: Mr. Namaste Lal Bhoomi Shrestha</p> <p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Mr. Devendra Kumar Jha ☛ Mr. Rajendra Aryal ☛ Mr. Mukti Pokharel, MAT member ☛ Representative of Federation of Rural Municipalities and Municipalities in Nepal 	Identification of the issues related to open defecation, feedback and facilitation for district declaration.
3	Documentation	<p>Leadership: Mr. Chandra Kumar Pan Shrestha, SDE, MoWS</p> <p>Focal Person: Mr. Kamal Adhikari, Sociologist, DWSSM</p> <p>Member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Mr. Kunj Joshi ☛ Mr. Gehanath Gautam ☛ Mr. Ratan Budhathoki ☛ Mr. Surendra Babu Dhakal, UNICEF Nepal ☛ Mr. Rajesh Manandhar, UN Habitat Nepal ☛ Mr. Govind Bahadur Shrestha, Water Aid Nepal ☛ Ms. Namuna Bhoomi Shrestha, CRT 	Preparation of booklet including the efforts and achievement related to sanitation and ODF campaign of Nepal, materials for ODF Nation and Step towards Total Sanitation Declaration Ceremony, 30 September 2019 and documentary related to sanitation in Nepal.

4	Reward and Recognition	<p>Leadership: Mr. Chok Prasad Dhital, SDE, MoWS</p> <p>Focal Person: Mr. Bhojendra Aryal, Sociologist, DWSSM</p> <p>Members: Representatives of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ DOLI ☛ RWSSFDB ☛ UNICEF Nepal ☛ UN Habitat Nepal ☛ SNV Nepal 	Preparation of the modality for reward and recognition and identification of the individuals to be recognized.
5	Media Collaboration	<p>Leadership: Mr. Devendra Kumar Jha</p> <p>Focal Person: Mr. Suman Giri</p> <p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Ms. Manisha Awasthi, WASH Media Forum, Nepal ☛ Mr. P.T. Lopchan, WASH Media Forum, Nepal ☛ Ms. Sarmila Maharjan, DWSSM ☛ Water Aid Nepal ☛ Representative of Federation of Nepali Journalist ☛ Representative of FEDWASUN 	Conducting interactions with media personnel, broadcasting of interviews, publishing success stories, countdown and photo show.
6	Resource Mobilization	<p>Leadership: Mr. Devendra Kumar Jha</p> <p>Focal Person: Mr. Yam Prasad Bhusal, Chief Account Officer, DWSSM</p> <p>Member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Mr. Madan Kumar Malla ☛ Mr. Siddhi Shrestha 	Management and resource mobilization.
7	Secretariat	<p>Leadership: Mr. Devendra Kumar Jha</p> <p>Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Mr. Kamal Adhikari, Secretariat Coordination Officer ☛ Mr. Bhojendra Aryal, Secretariat Coordination Officer ☛ Mr. Nam Raj Khatri, Coordinator ☛ Mr. Bipin Poudel, Consultant 	Operation of daily work, coordination and communication with stakeholders, preparation of program framework, organization of meeting of PWG and FWGs and preparation of report.

Annex 3: Date of District ODF Declaration (B.S.)

S.N.	District	ODF Declaration Date	S.N.	District	ODF Declaration Date
1	Kaski	03.10.2068	23	Lamjung	10.24.2071
2	Chitwan	06.06.2068	24	Ilam	11.14.2071
3	Tanahun	04.03.2069	25	Bardiya	02.29.2072
4	Myagdi	06.23.2069	26	Dailekh	03.07.2072
5	Pyuthan	12.16.2069	27	Nawalparasi (E)	03.15.2072
6	Parwat	12.31.2069	28	Nawalparasi (W)	03.15.2072
7	Achham	01.12.2070	29	Gulmi	03.26.2072
8	Kalikot	02.26.2070	30	Rolpa	09.09.2072
9	Makwanpur	04.04.2070	31	Surkhet	09.14.2072
10	Bhaktapur	07.18.2070	32	Terathum	09.16.2072
11	Mustang	08.14.2070	33	Bajhang	09.16.2072
12	Panchthar	10.12.2070	34	Syangja	09.25.2072
13	Baglung	10.16.2070	35	Udaypur	10.13.2072
14	Dang	02.23.2071	36	Jumla	11.20.2072
15	Dadeldhura	02.24.2071	37	Khotang	02.07.2073
16	Bajura	08.12.2071	38	Taplejung	02.31.2073
17	Arghakhanchi	08.13.2071	39	Salyan	03.17.2073
18	Rukum (East)	09.07.2071	40	Baitadi	03.28.2073
19	Rukum (West)	09.07.2071	41	Manang	03.27.2074
20	Gorkha	09.16.2071	42	Okhaldhunga	03.28.2074
21	Jajarkot	09.18.2071	43	Doti	03.28.2074
22	Dhankuta	09.30.2071	44	Dolpa	07.09.2074

S.N.	District	ODF Declaration Date
45	Humla	08.18.2074
46	Kanchanpur	09.07.2074
47	Rasuwa	09.16.2074
48	Siraha	12.09.2074
49	Saptari	12.21.2074
50	Palpa	12.24.2074
51	Sindhuli	01.13.2075
52	Darchula	01.25.2075
53	Kailali	01.30.2075
54	Lalitpur	02.27.2075
55	Ramechhap	02.27.2075
56	Sankhuwasabha	02.28.2075
57	Mugu	02.28.2075
58	Sunsari	03.19.2075
59	Nuwakot	03.28.2075
60	Banke	03.28.2075
61	Rupandehi	09.06.2075

S.N.	District	ODF Declaration Date
62	Jhapa	09.13.2075
63	Rautahat	09.14.2075
64	Dhading	12.24.2075
65	Kavrepalanchok	03.13.2076
66	Morang	03.21.2076
67	Dolakha	05.12.2076
68	Sindhupalchok	05.20.2076
69	Bara	05.27.2076
70	Parsa	05.28.2076
71	Sarlahi	05.29.2076
72	Dhanusha	05.30.2076
73	Mahottari	05.30.2076
74	Kapilvastu	05.31.2076
75	Kathmandu	05.31.2076
76	Solukhumbu	06.03.2076
77	Bhojpur	06.04.2076

Note: The districts which are declared ODF on the same date have been placed as per date of decision of D-WASH-CC and its letter submitted to NSHCC Secretariat.
(Source: Secretariat of the NSHCC, Nepal)

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