



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

Come Together for Safe & Inclusive Sanitation



Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) within the Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) in Godawari, Attariya

CWISAN/UN-Habitat

To pave path for CWIS program support, amid much fanfare, the Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) on 27 June 2025 signed a memorandum of understanding with seven selected municipalities across seven provinces of Nepal. The goal is to expand CWIS interventions by influencing policy, strengthening data systems, reforming regulations, and building institutional capacity.

The selected municipalities are spread across the country and vary at their readiness level, all unique in their own ways. For example, Godawari Municipality – the capital of Sudurpaschim – now has a state-of-the-art functioning 13,000 liters fecal sludge treatment capacity per day within their Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM). In Shaarada Municipality (Karnali), most of the policies are in place but no solid plans yet for a treatment plant. Ghorahi Sub-Metropolitan City (Lumbini), like most others, has strong political leadership and will likely need upgrading how they are currently managing their sludge. Gorkha Municipality (Gandaki) is far behind despite being the closest to the capital after Lalitpur Metropolitan City (Bagmati) which has an elderly and respectable figure to lead the safe sanitation campaign. Lahan Municipality (Madhesh) is probably where most efforts have already been put on CWIS while Mechinagar Municipality (Koshi) is the most privileged with already two FSTPs.

However, all of them are tied by a common thread: Most of them have human resources one way or the other the Citywide Inclusive Sanitation Alliance Nepal (CWISAN) partners have built and understand the concept of safe and inclusive sanitation.

But the idea is to reach out to more municipalities as possible. For this, CWISAN needs to come together for a much more coordinated effort to raise a civil society voice to check and balance the leadership as well as ensure appropriate and timely technical inputs.

Coordination and cooperation are not limited only between CWISAN members as we realized in the case of ISWM/FSTP Project undergoing in Godawari and Dhangadi (around 13 kilometers apart from each other). As most of us reading this newsletter would assume, the Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS) is the focal ministry for any FSTP Project. However, it is not. Both the Projects in Godawari and Dhangadi are under the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) on a loan from a regional multilateral development bank. Lest we forget, the story is similar in Mechinagar and Charali – both also on the same bank loan and under Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM), MoWS. Another FSTP has also been constructed by DWSSM in Tikapur, Kailali. Hence, inter-ministry coordination and mapping is also the need for more efficient use of resources.

The absence of multisectoral and bilateral coordination has undermined the sustainable operation of FSTPs built through substantial loan-based investments. Urgent mapping of treatment plants across all 293 municipalities, coupled with multisectoral dialogue, is essential to shape a national strategic vision that safeguards the long-term functionality and sustainability of these major infrastructure investments.

It is not at all wrong that more FSTP-ies are being built across the country. However, there also needs to be more focus on capacity building and building the readiness of our local governments as it is ultimately them that have to run these systems efficiently. Are we into this together yet?

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"We are committed to safe and sustainable sanitation"

The mayors of seven municipalities from seven provinces express their commitment to safe and sustainable sanitation by addressing the existing sanitation challenges and adopting the CWIS approach in their respective cities. After signing the MoU with Municipal Association of Nepal on 27 July 2025, they were urged to lead by example and showcase their work on CWIS to other municipalities.

"We are now at a phase where the learnings from our tours (SaniTour), our shared knowledge and the recently signed MoU will converge into concrete actions," said Mayor of Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Chiri Babu Maharjan



DWSSM

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Strengthening Sanitation Regulation Through a CWIS Lens

The Water and Sanitation Regulation 2025 has been critically reviewed through the Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) lens to assess its alignment with CWIS outcomes and functions. While the regulation establishes clear roles across federal, provincial, and municipal levels and introduces performance indicators and licensing requirements, it heavily favors sewerage sanitation systems. Key gaps remain in addressing non-sewered sanitation, which serves 89% of Nepal's population. The regulation lacks a dedicated framework for fecal sludge management (FSM), standards for bio-solids reuse, and licensing provisions for desludging operators. The review calls for stronger integration of GESI principles, clearer institutional responsibilities, and a more balanced approach to sanitation to ensure safe, equitable services for all.

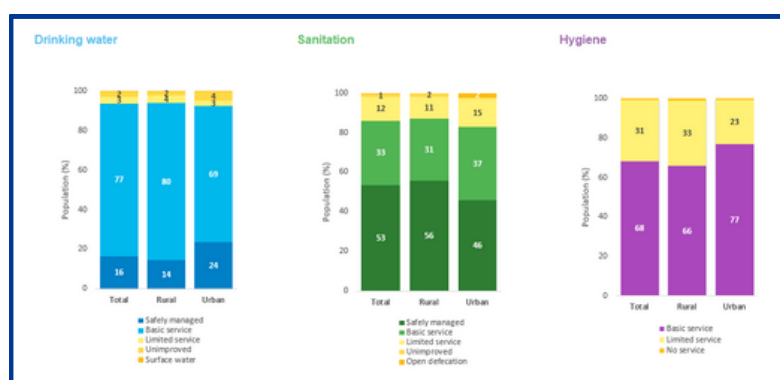
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Safe Sanitation Challenge: Urgent Acceleration Needed

Less than two in five Nepalis still lack access to safely managed sanitation, four in five to safe drinking water, and one in three to basic handwashing facilities. According to the WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report, Nepal must triple progress in water access and increase sanitation efforts eightfold to meet SDG targets by 2030. While open defecation is nearly eliminated, basic sanitation and hygiene services require 3–6 times faster progress. The report calls for intensified national and global action to ensure universal WASH access.

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Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Ladder



JMP 2025/UNICEF & WHO

Capacity Building through Coordination



ENPHO

The National Water Supply and Sanitation Training Center (NWSSTC) in partnership with the Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) hosted a learning and sharing workshop on 7 April 2025 titled "Elevating Capacity Building Through Coordination" at Hotel Le Himalaya, Kathmandu. The event brought together 13 representatives from key government training institutions such as NWSSTC, Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC), Training Institute for Technical Instructor (TITI), Local Development Training Academy (LDTA) creating a platform for exchanging institutional experiences and fostering collaboration. This coordinated initiative marked a significant step toward enhancing the national training ecosystem and building stronger inter-institutional ties in the water and sanitation sector.

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Hetauda's CWIS Assessment



FANSA Nepal Chapter

FANSA Nepal Chapter on 30 April 2025 held a meeting with Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City highlighting the city's sanitation initiatives and the endorsement of the WASH Act 2081 BS. The city has institutionalized a sanitation unit, introduced health insurance for sanitation workers, and have recruited two LGBTIQ+

individuals as sanitation workers. Building on this momentum, FANSA Nepal Chapter also organized a CWIS assessment sharing meeting on 21 August 2025 where findings from Nepal's first CWIS-based sanitation assessment were presented.

[Read about Sanitation Discussion](#)

[Read More on Hetauda CWIS Assessment](#)

ADB Events



FANSA Secretariat

A session titled "Engaging Stakeholders Meaningfully on Sustainable Development Projects" was co-organized by FANSA Secretariat during the Civil Society Program during the 58th Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Milan, Italy from 4-7 May 2025. Similarly, CWISAN members WaterAid Nepal also participated in ADB's Asia Water and Urban Development Forum 2025 held in Manila, the Philippines from 27-30 May 2025.

[Read More for Session Details](#)

[Read More about the event](#)

NWSC Butwal Visit



UN-Habitat

As a part of the Urban Sanitation Policy Support to the Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS), a field visit was conducted to the Nepal Water Supply Corporation (NWSC) Butwal Branch for officials of DWSSM, MoWS by UN-Habitat from 25-27 May 2025. The visit highlighted key infrastructure developments such as the Jhumsa Water Supply Project, the 24-hour water service and strategic expansion efforts of Shankarnagar Water Users and Sanitation Organization (SWUSO) and the Murgiya DEWATS system. This visit is among 12 utilities selected for piloting regulatory reform by MoWS task team

Nepal Sanitation Tour – Volume Four



ENPHO

From 26-28 May 2025, the fourth batch of the Nepal Sanitation Tour was successfully conducted with the participation of 12 municipal delegates, including Mayors, Deputy Mayors, and sanitation focal persons from municipalities such as Belbari, Sunwal, and Surunga. Organized by the Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO), the tour offered hands-on learning experiences by showcasing successful sanitation practices. Over the three days, participants visited seven key sanitation sites across four cities in Bagmati and Gandaki Provinces. The tour provided a valuable opportunity for delegates to learn from practical examples and gather ideas to replicate and adapt within their own municipalities.

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Bandicoot Robot in K-Town



ENPHO

Genrobotics Innovation, India conducted a sharing session at the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM) on 5 June 2025 to showcase the Bandicoot Robot – which the company claims to be the world's first robotic scavenger designed to clean machine holes. Genrobotics is a pioneering Indian company in sanitation technology that has developed the robot integrating advanced engineering and artificial intelligence to eliminate the need for manual entry by sanitation workers, promoting safety and dignity in the profession.

A sample of Bandicoot Robot is still stored at CWISAN member organization, Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO), and interested organizations can reach out to the company for further information.

[Find Out More](#)

SPAN Mission



UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat Nepal is currently coordinating with Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara (SPAN), Malaysia as the mentors and Nepal's Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS), Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management and Water Supply and Sanitation Service Tariff Fixation Commission as mentees to initiate regulatory rollout of Water and Sanitation (WAS) Regulation across 12 pilot service providers in Nepal. SPAN is Malaysia's water and sanitation regulator. Earlier, a delegation from SPAN visited Nepal from 16-17 June 2025 while the Nepali delegation visited Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 26-28 August 2025. The partnership will ensure regular e-meets for progress tracking and problem solving while SPAN will guide in developing a phased national regulatory reform roadmap.

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National WASH Policy Dialogue

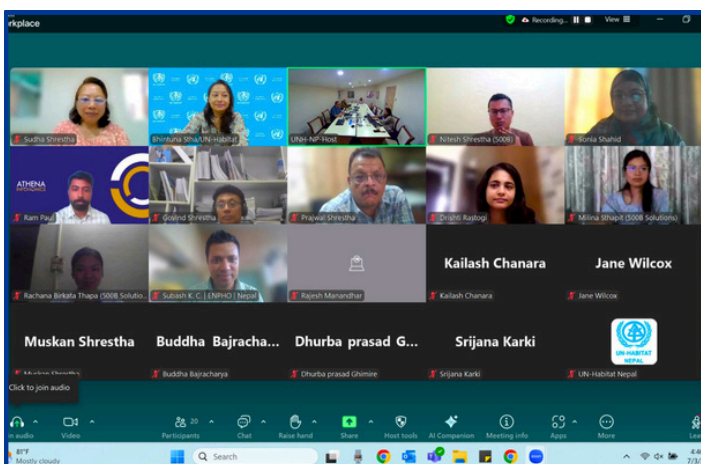


FEDWASUN

A National Policy Dialogue on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) was organized on 25 June 2025 by Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FEDWASUN) at the Square Hotel, Lalitpur. Over 100 stakeholders attended the event that was supported by Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS), and CWISAN member organizations FANSA Nepal Chapter, SNV, UN-Habitat, Water Aid Nepal, Welthungerhilfe, among others. The program aimed to promote inclusive, equitable, and sustainable sanitation systems through dialogue, knowledge exchange, and advocacy. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to equity, transparency, and the inclusion of marginalized groups -- specially women and Dalits -- in WASH governance.

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SSSP: Lakshmpur's CWIS Approach



CWISAN/UN-Habitat

The CWISAN Secretariat and UN-Habitat organized an online sharing session titled "Strategic Sanitation Service Plan (SSSP) Development in Bangladesh using CWIS Indicators" on 3 July 2025. Sania Sahid and Joshua Bryant (both of Athena Infomatics) explained how the plan, using CWIS principles and the EquiServe tool, in Lakshmpur Municipality of Bangladesh addresses infrastructure gaps, financial sustainability, and equity in service delivery. It includes technological upgrades for household toilets, especially for low-income and climate-vulnerable communities, and introduces innovative business models for public toilets, desludging services, and FSTP operations. With strong municipal commitment, stakeholder engagement, and phased implementation, Lakshmpur aims to achieve 100% safely managed sanitation coverage by 2030, setting a replicable model for other towns across Nepal and the region.

CWISAN Member Organizations Honored



CWISAN/UN-Habitat

The Citywide Inclusive Sanitation Alliance Nepal (CWISAN) in its XIX Meeting on 15 July 2025 recognized its 22 member organizations for their valuable efforts and contribution towards safe and inclusive sanitation initiatives. CWISAN is a collaborative body consisting of academia, associations, bilateral organizations, civil societies, I/NGOs, media, private sectors and UN agencies. "We eagerly look forward to moving hand-in-hand to accelerate the adoption of CWIS in Nepal," reads the Certificate of Membership that is signed by UN-Habitat Nepal Office as the CWISAN Secretariat.

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CWIS ToT Refresher Training

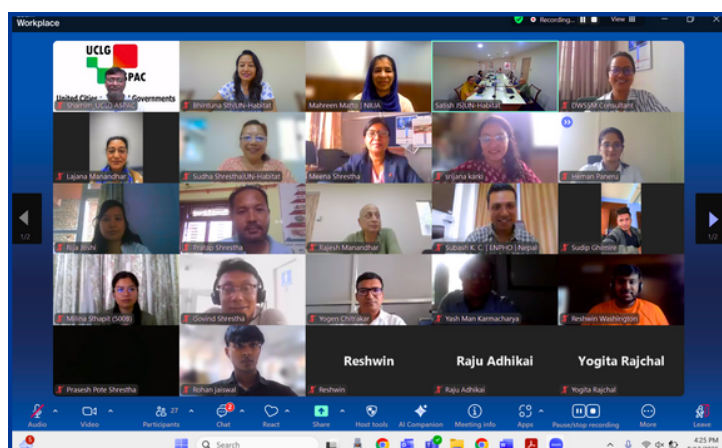


ENPHO

Refresher training for CWIS Trainers (CWIS ToT) was held at the National Water Supply and Sanitation Training Center (NWSSTC) in Nagarkot from 30 July to 1 August 2025. The three-day learning and reflection program brought together participants from CWIS ToT Batches I and II to enhance their knowledge, share field experiences, and strengthen facilitation skills for advancing Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) initiatives.

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Parvat Manthan



CWISAN/UN-Habitat

The Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS), Nepal, along with UN-Habitat, ICIMOD and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), India jointly organized an online sharing session titled "India's Parvat Manthan: Initiatives, Challenges & Potentials for Upscaling Transboundary Agenda" on 12 August 2025. Dr. Mahreen Matto, Team Lead at NIUA, presented their ongoing efforts to strengthen urban sanitation systems through capacity building, policy support, and technical innovation, with a focus on hill states like Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Nagaland.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FROM SOUTH ASIA TO THE WORLD: CWIS
LEARNING FORUM (WEBINAR), ALLIANCES: 16
SEPTEMBER 2025

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT LEADERS
BOOTCAMP 2025, IWK: 22-24
SEPTEMBER 2025

DEWT FOR SOUTH ASIA, ENPHO: 10-14
NOVEMBER 2025

GLOBAL SOUTH CONFERENCE ON WASH
FINANCING AND SUSTAINABILITY, SOPHEN
& WAFON: 1-3 APRIL 2026

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

Coverage timeframe for this issue is from April 2025
onwards, with priority to CWISAN Members who sent in
their submissions.

Please send us your articles/feedback at
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CWIS

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