

NEPAL PROGRAMME EVALUATION

EXECUTING AGENCY (EA) MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Evaluation Title/Year: Nepal Global Sanitation Fund Programme Evaluation/2019

Body responsible for completing management response: UN Habitat (Executing Agency)

Date: 22 November 2019

Overall EA Response to the Evaluation:

The evaluation has been very timely. Given that Nepal currently is at the juncture of transitioning from its Open Defecation Free (ODF) Campaign phase to Total Sanitation Phase, it has provided significant guidance pin-pointing the gaps to be addressed to sustain the results achieved by the programme, including the technological aspects of assuring safely managed sanitation services. However, as Nepal's WASH sector is internalizing the recently issued "*Total Sanitation Guideline*" (TSG) as the base for moving ahead aligning with the SDG commitment, the evaluation had not focused on recommendations how to operationalize the TSG towards institutionalization and its successful operationalization.

Planned Use of Evaluation:

The evaluation recommendations will be utilized for the development of the 2020 extension phase of the GSF supported programme and for general sector learning.

EA response to key recommendation

1. Short-term strategy:

Recommendation	EA Response (Agree/ Partially Agree/Disagree)
In the short term, the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM) and GSF fund commitment to the testing and implementation of the Total Sanitation Guidelines needs to continue to be supported.	<i>Agree:</i> In order to sustain results achieved under the programme, testing of implementation of the Total Sanitation Guidelines will continue in 2020. In the subsequent extension period the EA will be looking into strengthening of local government in target areas, engaging local service providers, entrepreneurs and private sector to enhance the services paying special attention to those left behind. This could include, among others, supporting development local WASH plans, technical support to develop guidance on retrofitting of existing sanitation facilities, and strengthening of private sector involvement in local coordination mechanisms.

2. Medium-term strategy:

Recommendation	EA Response (Agree/ Partially Agree/Disagree)
<p>In the medium term, there is a need to create a bridge from the total sanitation guidelines to the MoWS and WSSCC priority to address the ‘safely managed sanitation’ challenge posed by SDG 6.2 in rural, peri-urban and urban areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In rural areas, the prioritizing of twin alternating offset pit latrines would benefit from a greater understanding of the principles underpinning this technology to ensure that it is always installed in a manner that enables the contents to be ‘safely managed’. 	<p><i>Partially Agree:</i> For the remaining programme period the programme will further promote the use of twin alternating offset pit latrines (incl. retrofitting) as the base for ensuring safely managed sanitation in rural areas. But this will also be complemented with other options including upgrading holding tanks with leach pits and addressing safe emptying, treatment and disposal. In rural areas a focus will be on avoiding and regulating leakage from the pits addressing geological and geographical complexities. Hills and mountains might require different technology compared to more accessible Terai region.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In peri-urban areas, the prioritizing of septic tanks and faecal sludge disposal sites would benefit from a deeper understanding of the high inefficiencies and risks associated with the installation of septic tanks without leach pits that currently operate as holding tanks. 	<p><i>Partially Agree:</i> The OS 2018 indicated that 67% of households use safely managed sanitation facilities within GSF programme target areas, the majority of which are provided through safely containing technology with water sealed and an off-set option, as mandated by the SHMP 2011. These households use septic tanks that in reality are rather holding tanks that require frequent emptying (with high associated costs and related risks if not safely emptied, transported and disposed). Retrofitting with leach pits is the only options for avoiding the frequency of emptying and safely managing the sludge. In addition, building capacity of the local government and supporting local entrepreneurs as well as strengthening the coordination and regulatory frameworks by Palikas (municipalities) are a key focus at the current point in time.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In urban areas, the prioritizing of networked wastewater systems would benefit from a nuanced approach that maximises the opportunities of the existing separation of blackwater and greywater within households (i.e. considers condominial sewers, low cost gravity systems and combined storm water sewers). 	<p><i>Partially Agree:</i> Palika-wide sewerage networks would require huge investments, which is unlikely to be available in the short term. It might be rather feasible that palikas invest their own funds in community or ward wide planning. The larger systems in cities like Biratnagar, Nepalgunj, Janakpur etc are receiving municipal wide financial support from the central government</p>

already, usually through long-term investment in loan and grants modality.

3. Long-term strategy:

Recommendation	EA Response (Agree/ Partially Agree/Disagree)
<p>With the deadline for the declaration of national ODF status rapidly closing, the GSF programme in Nepal is at a crossroad. While the next steps for the sanitation sector will most likely be market driven, the next steps for a national campaign approach may not lie within sanitation sector. In the long term, this will mean that the GSF programme will either need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switch its capacity mix, skill set and implementing partners to engage with the private sector (masons and pit emptier, plumbers and drillers, builders and hardware suppliers, systems designers and micro-financiers) on the delivery of safely managed sanitation services. This will need to encompass the provision of quality sanitation, solid waste, drinking water and drainage infrastructure within and the willingness to pay by households. This will also need to be accompanied by stronger engagement with local and central government systems to regulate the quality of sanitation services (i.e. building codes, design standards, ability to pay). • Switch the focus from the ‘local government’ led campaign to secure ODF status to another campaign wherein sanitation may be a sub-component. This could entail campaigns for 100% attendance in school (where schools must have sanitation facilities), or campaigns to reduce chronic undernutrition (stunting) in children under five (where 	<p><i>Agree:</i> The long-term strategy for continued GSF support will require considering fundamental move away from securing ODF status through locally led campaign as driver behind results. This might indeed require change in capacity mix. Since current extension takes the programme to end of 2020 this will be left open for further discussion in 2020.</p>

WASH is a key component), or campaigns to achieve clean or 'litter free' status (where solid and liquid waste are components).

4. Technological recommendations:

	Challenges	Recommendations	EA Response (Agree/ Partially Agree/Disagree)
Technological	Premature filling of offset pit latrines in Terai are expensive and increase the faecal exposure risks	Introduce perforated rings to improve the deactivation of pathogens	<p><i>Agree:</i> These recommendations are all integrated into the 2019-2020 EA programme plan. The main programme emphasis under the extension is on building the capacity of local governments for planning, monitoring and providing services with a regulatory mandate in collaboration with local service providers. Technology options are intended to be promoted as part of the implementation of the Total Sanitation Guidelines. Some of the key actions included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutionalization of Total Sanitation through WASH plan and capacity building of the Palikas 2. Strengthening the Palika WASH Coordination Committee focussing on its operational, functional and monitoring aspects 3. Strengthening the information / data system of Palikas on Total Sanitation and their monitoring approach 4. Demonstrating Total sanitation with model communities / wards and with community level strengthening <p>Total Sanitation is the overarching government campaign and the EA's</p>
	Urban households fitted with huge septic tanks operating as holding tanks are expensive and increase the faecal exposure risks	As the septic tanks are only receiving blackwater a small leach drain will improve the deactivation of pathogens	
	The removal of faecal effluent from tanks is expensive and the safe disposal is difficult	Removing faecal sludge not effluent from septic tanks & pits will enable the use of earthen drying beds for treatment	
	Existing urban sewerage systems deposit wastewater into the rivers without treatment	As household plumbing separates grey and black water there is an opportunity to optimize the design of network systems	
	Freezing of 'p' traps in offset pit latrines and bad odour from the dry pit latrines in the high mountains	Introduce 'best practice' principles in the application of dry pit latrines for high elevations, festivals, farms, building sites etc.	

			role is to facilitate operationalizing and strengthening the local levels contributing to SDG 6.2.
5. Environmental recommendations:			
	Challenges	Recommendations	EA Response (Agree/ Partially Agree/Disagree)
Environmental	The risks of faecal contamination to drinking water through the ground in Nepal are grossly overestimated driving poor sanitary containment design trade-offs	Undertake research to increase understanding of the contamination risks posed by hygiene / handling versus groundwater transmission	<i>Agree:</i> The sector has frequently discussed this issue but no action has been taken due to the lack of reliable data. The Programme intends to support government to do further research and/or assessments to map the contamination risks. Lobbying through established platforms will be undertaken by the EA.
	The conversion of handpumps to micro-piped water networks can improve access to water for hygiene without burdening women but it can also increase faecal exposure risks	Ensure that improved access to water for sanitation & hygiene in rural areas is accompanied by robust drainage systems that separate black and grey water	
6. Social recommendations:			
	Challenges	Recommendations	EA Response (Agree/ Partially Agree/Disagree)
Social	There is a significant disparity between the knowledge and practice of improved hygiene behaviours	Shift the hygiene behaviour messaging to improve the understanding 'why' improved WASH behaviours are important	<i>Agree:</i> A focus of the programme extension is to translate knowledge further into practice among the target population in order to minimise this gap. Safe child faeces management will be addressed through targeted messaging and monitoring in model working wards, with the intention that Palika authorities will scale up this approach in the long run.
	Improved caregiver hygiene behaviours for children are significantly less than adult hygiene behaviours	Tighten the hygiene behaviour messaging to focus on the reduction of the faecal exposure of children	
Key action(s)		Time frame (or	Responsible Entities
)	Monitoring Update

	deadline)		
<p>1. Short-term strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support a National workshop on Total Sanitation Guideline operationalization for simplifying the TS indicators and developing a uniform approach for the sector • Strengthening the monitoring system at Palika level and cascading to all upper tiers of government for baseline establishment • Support organization of International Conference on Total Sanitation 	Q1 2020	MoWS, DWSSM & DPs	MYR and Annual Report
<p>Medium-term strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting retrofitting single pit into twin pit or increase leaching abilities • Technological options messaging • Capacity building of the Palikas in GSF working areas • Support development of WASH Plans of selected Palikas ensuring collaboration with market and local entrepreneurs 	Q4 2020 (continuous process)	EA	MYR and Annual Report
<p>Long-term strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the M&E system of Palikas • Palikas planning and resource allocation lobbying 	Q4 2020 (continuous process)	Palika WASH CCs, Central government and EA	MYR and Annual Report
<p>2. Technological recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messaging on safely managed sanitation to communities (Though IPs messaging) • Capacity Building of Palikas on technologies 	Q1 to Q4 (continuous process)	EA in coordination with all tiers of Government	MYR and Annual Report
<p>3. Environmental recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government led studies on contamination risks 	Q2	DWSSM and EA	Reports
<p>4. Social recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCC to improve practice in use of facilities and behaviours, including safe child faeces disposal, and behaviours around safe FSM 	By Q4 2020	IPs in Coordination with EA and local government	MYR and Annual Report