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# PROGRAMME FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION IN SINDH (PINS)

In close collaboration with the Accelerated Action Plan, Government of Sindh



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Technical Assistance Partner



Implementation Partners for PINS ER-3 Component



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## Background & Introduction

The South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) is a government-led, biennial ministerial level event held on a rotational basis in South Asian countries since 2003. It provides a platform for interaction on sanitation, enabling learning from past experience and setting the regional agenda for future actions. The objective is to accelerate progress in sanitation and hygiene promotion in South Asia.

The 7<sup>th</sup> South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN 7) was held in Islamabad, Pakistan from April 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan, facilitated the technical session on the themes of Accountability and Regulation (A&R) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Change as a mainstream component of SACOSAN 7. These themes are a part of the overall SACOSAN framework to develop an action plan for South Asia 2030. The purpose of the technical session was knowledge sharing about the best practices in accountability, regulations, monitoring and evaluation and making related recommendations to the SACOSAN Declaration Committee.



The technical assistance in preparing, quality assurance, and moderation, and documentation of the thematic session was funded by the European Union (EU) and Rural Support Programs Network (RSPN), Pakistan.

## Proceedings

The welcome address was delivered by Mr. Ramzan Awan, Secretary, Local Government, Sindh. The concept note for the thematic session was circulated to the participants prior to the conference, highlighting the following questions for discussion:

1. How can people be made accountable when roles and processes are ambiguous? What does promotion of clear roles, team leadership and individual ownership entail?
2. How government agencies be engaged at various levels to improve planning, monitoring and reporting? How can support organizations enhance the capacity of government agencies for participatory monitoring?
3. What ways and means could be used to inform consumers on their rights and obligations?
4. What can be done to How to promote spaces of dialogue and interaction between stakeholders?
5. What can be done to replicate successful models of accountabilities in countries that currently lag behind?
6. Can civil society organizations (CSOs) work simultaneously with state machinery to shape the political will, while working to make communities and officials responsive to their obligations?



Mr. Syed Ayub Qutub, moderator of the session presented the session plan. The two rounds of presentations and commentary moved from deliberations at global and regional to national and sub-national scales on accountability & regulations, and monitoring & evaluation.

### **A&R and M&E at Global and Regional Scales**

Mr. Robert Bain, Statistics Specialist, Joint Monitoring Program, New York, made a presentation on the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) monitoring of [Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.2 and 6.3](#). He said that it was essential to consider the entire sanitation chain to prevent exposure to excreta and to maximize health benefits. A human rights approach to sanitation demands that inequality in exposure to fecal waste was progressively reduced. However, many countries had data gaps, especially for fecal sludge management, wastewater treatment, and industrial wastewater discharges. Furthermore, few countries had established regulatory frameworks to cover the safe management of on-site sanitation facilities. There were opportunities for the safe reuse of treated waste water, (as practiced in some arid countries), but the definitions of “safe reuse” were needed for monitoring purposes.

Professor Robert Chambers, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, presented a paper by Chambers and Myers on timely, relevant and actionable feedback for stronger sanitation programs. He argued that while rural sanitation posed complex problems, the scale of sanitation programs across South Asia region was unprecedented. The pace of change implied rapidly identifying what worked, filling the gaps in knowledge, and finding practical answers. He identified four new approaches: immersive research, rapid topic exploration, crowd-sourcing of ideas and innovations, and rapid action learning workshops to meet the challenges. He mentioned the importance of unbiased exposure for senior policy-makers through unplanned field visits without accompanying staff, both for personal learning and as powerful example.

Mr. Farhan Sami, Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank, Islamabad argued with examples that smart structural, economic and social regulations had delivered sanitation outcomes across the globe. However, key elements of the regulatory cycle were missing in the sanitation sector in South Asia. He urged the creation of independent regulators for framing standards and guidelines, and for monitoring service delivery outputs to nudge consumers and service providers to a higher equilibrium.

### **Commentary on the Global and Regional**

Mr. Kitka Goyol, UNICEF, Pakistan said that partnerships were crucial to effectively achieving shared objectives. For example, the partnership in the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) between UNICEF and WHO, played a key role in monitoring and evaluation for SDG 6.2 at a global scale. Mr. Rolf Luyendijk, Executive Director, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) said that he had started his career as a water and sanitation engineer, but had learnt with experience the importance of combining technical and social aspects in framing regulations, and conducting monitoring and evaluation. Ms. Swathi Manchikanti, WASH Specialist, UNICEF, India said that in India, the opacity lay more in data utilization than in data gathering. So methods such as outlined by Chambers and Myers were crucial to helping central policy-making officials identify local solutions, and assessing what accountability and feedback tools could be scaled-up.

### **A&R and M&E at National and Sub-National Scales**

Mr. Kamran Naeem, UNICEF, Pakistan presented the Pakistan Case Study on A&R and M&E in *An Enabling Environment by Goyol and Naeem*. He identified the missing regulator as the key challenge for an enabling environment, and Planning, Monitoring and Review as the weakest building block for

WASH in Pakistan. He argued that strong political leadership was the starting point for creating an enabling environment. He recommended the alignment of provincial WASH plans with the SDG targets.

Mr. Niazullah Khan, AWF (Private) Limited presented a paper by himself and colleagues on A&R in Punjab, Pakistan. He said that multiple departments were involved in the provision of WASH services, and there were huge disparities in the allocation of financial resources across the districts of the province. There was need for comprehensive review to overcome the dichotomies by drawing up clear roles and responsibilities at different tiers and to reduce the inequities in service delivery. The WASH sector also lacked a structured approach to capacity building, especially in-service training of human resources. He endorsed the earlier recommendations for an independent regulator for the WASH sector at the provincial (state) level.

Mr. Mohammad Bashir Anjum, Rural Support Programs Network (RSPN), Pakistan made a presentation on social accountability in WASH. He noted the huge disparities in the access to improved sanitation across income quintiles, especially for those living in the rural areas of Pakistan. He related it to three challenges namely, a lack of awareness among the poor about sanitation rights, their lack of access to public sector budgets for sanitation, and exclusion from accountability



on WASH results. Mr. Anjum defined social accountability as a citizen-centred approach to building State accountability, with citizen and community voices as key mechanisms to place pressure on policy makers for better governance, and on service providers for better services. The Rural Support Programs of Pakistan have a three-tiered approach to organizing social capital that has been scaled out to reach 47 million people living in 138 out of the 148 districts of the country.

The tiers are responsible for capacity building at village, Union Council and district levels. Based on the learning from the Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS) funded by the European Union, Mr. Bashir recommended re-visiting WASH policies in the light of the social accountability role of communities for results-oriented programs, and working with established community organizations for sustained development interventions.

### **Commentary on the National and Sub-National**

Mr. Joseph Ravi Kumar, WASH Specialist, World Bank, India, appreciated the three tiered approach to social accountability being established across Pakistan, and recommended similar M&E programs elsewhere in the region. Ms. Pamela Minnigh, Acting Chief, WASH, UNICEF, Afghanistan, commented that the lowers don't tell the truth to the uppers, while people in power impose their own narratives on processes and events. As such, M&E efforts have to be careful to assess the reliability and validity of WASH reports from different perspectives. Professor Robert Chambers urged setting up an additional tier of mutual accountability at the level of South Asian countries through forums such as SACOSAN.



## Conclusions and Looking Forward

Mr. Zaheer Gardezi, former Director General, Water and Sanitation, Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Authority (ERRA), Pakistan and Co-Chair of the Technical Session thanked the presenters and panellists for sharing their experiential learning on A&R and M&E. Among others, he noted the importance of timely and accurate data collection, establishing baselines and targets for SDGs 6.2 and 6.3, strengthening participation and social accountability, institutional reforms with specific focus on regulatory frameworks, strengthening monitoring and evaluation, and rapid learning and action on sustainable sanitation and hygiene.

The Chair gave mementos on the occasion to the Co-Chair, Presenters, Panellists, and Moderator. The Co-Chair gave the memento for the occasion to the Chair on behalf of the Ministry of Climate Change and other organizers and sponsors. An audience member also expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the presenters and panellists for an informative and interesting session.

Government of Sindh (GoS) through the Planning and Development Department (PDD) is implementing a six-year multi-sectoral Sindh Accelerated Action Plan for Reduction of Stunting and Malnutrition (AAP), with the objective of reducing stunting rate from the existing 48 percent to 40 percent by 2021.

The European Union (EU), under the EU Commission Action Plan on Nutrition 2014, is supporting GoS in addressing the issue of malnutrition. The EU has approved the Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS) to be implemented in ten districts of Sindh which include Shikarpur, Thatta, Kambar Shahdadkot, Larkana, Dadu, Jamshoro, Matiari, Sajawal, Tando Allahyar and Tando Muhammad Khan.

RSPN is leading the PINS Expected Results (ER) 3 component with four partners: Action Against Hunger, National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) and Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP). This component includes nutrition sensitive interventions i.e. Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Agriculture & Food Security (AFS).



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