

Ethiopia Country Statement of Commitments for Sanitation and Water for All High Level Meeting, 11 April 2014 Washington, DC

1. Key Sector Indicators

Water: Ethiopia has made great strides in increasing access to and use of improved sources of drinking water. According to the Joint Monitoring Program on Water and Sanitation (JMP 2013), Ethiopia is underway to achieve its MDG target (57 % access to improved sources) for drinking water by 2015; 49% of the overall population has now access to an improved water source (JMP 2013)

Sanitation and hygiene: Limited progress has been made in the sanitation and hygiene sub-sector. Though the national sanitation coverage reached 67 per cent (NWI, 2011), only 21 % of the population (JMP 2013) have access to improved sanitation. Open defecation is still one of the biggest concerns in Ethiopia as 45 % of the total population still defecate in the open (JMP, 2013) however the Ethiopia Welfare Monitoring Survey places this figure at 33 %. Less than 20% of the population practices hand-washing with soap or ashes (UAP, II).

Disparities: Large disparities exist in access, especially to sanitation. Open defecation rates are over 53% in rural areas as compared to 8% in urban areas, whereas 78% of the poorest quintile still practices open defecation (JMP 2013). Even in drinking water, where much progress has been made, there are still huge service gaps between urban areas (97% access) and rural areas (39% access) and the poorest (26% access) and richest (91% access) quintiles (JMP 2013).

Impact on health, economy, poverty and other sectors: Economic studies conducted in Africa have shown that impacts resulting from poor sanitation and hygiene cost the economies between 0.9% and 2.4% of annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This translates approximately US\$ 10 per capita per year. WSP has estimated that Ethiopia loses USD 660 billion a year (equal to 2.3% of GDP) because of poor sanitation. WHO (2012) estimates that for Ethiopia, economic benefits are 1.7 times the cost for water supply and 3.0 times the cost for sanitation.

2. Long-term vision and focus for 2016

Vision statement

Ethiopia is working to improve the health and wellbeing in rural and urban areas by increasing water supply and sanitation access and the adoption of good hygiene practices in equitable and sustainable manner. The country is determined to reach the targets set out in the Universal Access Plan (UAP) by 2015, aiming at 98.5% of the population having access to water, it also aims for all Ethiopians to have access to basic sanitation, thereby eliminating open defecation nationwide, and 77% of the population to wash their hands with soap or ash at critical times.

Roadmap

The recently launched One WASH National Program (OWNP) guides WASH actors in achieving the above mentioned UAP targets. Guiding principles in the OWNP are harmonization, integration, alignment and partnership. The OWNP will address disparities in WASH coverage among and within regions and urban areas, and will seek to improve aid effectiveness and promote institutional reforms, with particular focus on capacity development at all levels. This Sector Wide Approach (SWAP) is government owned, thereby increasing accountability, and will be implemented in a cascading, stepped approach, divided in two phases; Phase I from July 2014 to June 2015 and Phase II from July 2015 to June 2020.

Focus between 2014 and 2016

Phase I of the OWNPN focuses on increased harmonization and alignment among and between development partners and the Government of Ethiopia, regarding systems for planning, budgeting, procurement, financial management, and monitoring and reporting. WASH organizations and procedures will be fully established and become operational at all levels, and new WASH programs will be aligned to the OWNPN principles, approaches and plans. The focus is on capacity building for regions, zones, towns, woredas, kebeles and communities to meet implementation 'readiness' criteria.

3. Key bottlenecks

Nationally the main bottlenecks for sanitation and water were identified as:

- lack of recognition of sanitation and hygiene as a subsector of WASH within the Government of Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan;
- lack of dedicated government funding to promote sanitation & hygiene;
- lack of hygiene & sanitation indicators in the Health Management Information System (HMIS);
- low functionality rate of water schemes and lack of any sustainably checks for water and sanitation schemes; and
- lack of coordination among the institutions responsible.

4. Summary of progress on 2012 HLM commitments

Commitment to increase funding for all the components of Universal Access Plan: In 2013, Government finalized the OWNPN which requires a total investment of USD 2.41 billion to achieve the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) targets for water supply and sanitation. USD 1.632 billion has already been committed.

Commitment to strengthen the Enabling Environment through political commitment and sector reforms: With the preparation of the Growth and Transformation Plan in 2010/2011, the UAP had undergone its second major revision in 2012. Hygiene and Sanitation Strategic Action Plan (SAP) was also prepared and aligned with the 4th Health Sector Development Plan in 2012. WASH Memorandum of Understanding and the WASH Implementation framework were reviewed and signed by MoFED, MoH, MoE and MoWE in November 2012 and March 2013 respectively. In 2013, the OWNPN was developed for achieving the universal goals.

Commitment to establish a national baseline on water and sanitation: WASH Inventory was completed in 2012 and results shared for all the regions except Somali Region. The Inventory has helped establish a national baseline. The Somali Region WASH inventory has already been contracted out and the work going on. The inventory for Somali Region will be finalized by end April, 2014.

Commitment to establish a Consolidated WASH Account and through that account finance & implement One National WASH Program: The OWNPN is an ambitious initiative that aims to consolidate fragmented partner efforts in the WASH sector by agreeing on one planning system, one financial management system, one procurement system, one information system, one monitoring and

evaluation system, one reporting system and one budget through contribution towards Consolidated WASH Account.

5. 2014 SMART commitments

- **Visibility of Sanitation:** The Ministry of Health will work with Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ministry of Water, Irrigation & Energy and Ministry of Education to ensure that sanitation and hygiene as a subsector of WASH is well recognized and resourced by having adequate professionals, clear targets and budget within the Government of Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan commencing in 2015.
- **Financing of Water, Sanitation & Hygiene:** The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development will work with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water, Irrigation & Energy, and Ministry of Education to secure internal and external financing to address the One WASH National Program's current funding gap and in doing so increase the available funds from 68% to 100% of the required budget by the end of 2015.
- **Policy and Plans:** The Ministry of Health will work with Ministry of Urban Development and Construction, Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment and Forests to develop, have endorsed and commence implementation of a National Integrated Urban Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy by the end of 2015.
- **National Monitoring System:** The National WASH M&E Management Information System being managed by the National WASH Coordination Office is further strengthened through a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water, Irrigation & Energy and the Ministry of Education through the inclusion of Hygiene & Environmental Sanitation/ Health indicators in the Health Management Information System (HMIS) and linking to the National WASH MIS to enable the accurate tracking of progress towards achieving targets under the One WASH National Program by the end of 2015.
- **Coordination and Alignment:** The Ministry of Water, Irrigation & Energy, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education will work together to strengthen, and where necessary establish, functional coordination structures at all levels as set out under the WASH Implementation Framework (WIF) by mid-2015.
- **Capacity:** The Ministry of Health will provide support to strengthen the capacity of environmental health workers through undertaking capacity gap assessments, enhancing their numbers, imparting appropriate skills and broadening their scope of work at all levels to enable 82% of communities in Ethiopia to be declared and verified as open defecation free by 2016.
- **Sustainability:** The Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy and Ministry of Health will optimize sustainability aspects of WASH through the development and operationalization of O&M Manuals for water schemes, mechanism for sustainability checks for water and sanitation facilities and access to 84% improved latrines by the end of 2016 by rolling out the recently endorsed sanitation marketing guidelines.

6. Validation

The Ministers of Finance & Economic Development; Water, Irrigation & Energy; Education and Health validated this statement. The focal person representing civil society groups participated in the validation exercise.