

Policy Environment in Nepal for Building Climate Resilience in Non-sewered Sanitation

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Presentation Overview

- Climate change and its impacts on sanitation
- Sanitation in Nepal
- Highlights of the key policy/plans reviewed
- Climate change and sanitation integration on policies and plans
- Conclusion and recommendation

Climate change and its impact on sanitation

- Impacts felt in various sectors and evidence of potential impacts on sanitation growing
- Understanding of the potential effects on urban sanitation services and management is limited
- Nepal highly vulnerable and among the high-risk countries to CC impacts
 - Annual trend of temperature rise per decade in Nepal: an average of 0.056 degrees Celsius/year maximum temperature increase
 - Intense precipitation events likely to increase in frequency
 - Mean rainfall decreasing with predictions of a decrease in annual precipitation
- Research exists in sectors like agriculture and health - but absent in sanitation

Sanitation situation in Nepal

- Reduction of OD from 66% in 2000 to 7% in 2022
- Increase in construction of 'septic tanks'
 - Rural areas: from 8% in 2000 to 57% in 2022
 - Urban areas: 41% in 2000 to 60% in 2022
- Low expansion of sewer connection
 - 27% in 2000 to 16% in 2022
- Poorly designed unsealed containments
- Manual emptying predominant
- Informal and unregulated service providers

Source: WHO & UNICEF 2023

Adaptation to Climate Change

- Support “economic growth, public health, reduce marginalisation and poverty and improve water quality” - (Dodman *et al.* 2022)
- An approach to building adaptation - enabling environment through policies for planning and implementing adaptive measures - (Nepal 2019)
- A key action - integration sanitation into NAPs, NDCs and investment in building resilience of services - (World Health Organisation 2022)

Policies and plans reviewed

Climate change policy and plans	WASH policies and plans
National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2019	Water Supply and Sanitation Act (WSSA) 2022
Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) (2020)	National Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy (NWSSHP) 2023
National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2021-2050	

Key policy/plans highlights

- Climate Change Policy 2019
 - does not mention sanitation – mentions management of hazardous waste
 - highlights collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders for climate adaptation and mitigation
- NDC 2020
 - provides for FSM treatment and resource recovery
 - aims to integrate climate assessment in WASH programming and implementation

Key policy/plans highlights

- NAP 2021-2050
 - seeks building capacity to facilitate mainstreaming climate adaptation in policies, plans and budgets and to adopt innovative technologies
 - aims ensuring equitable resource mobilisation through national, and international financing for research, technology and services for climate change adaptation

Key policy/plans highlights

- Water Supply and Sanitation Act (WSSA) 2022
 - ensure the provision of clean and quality drinking water and sanitation services
 - sanitation goal limited to provisions for sewerage and wastewater management
 - does not mention non-sewered sanitation and its management

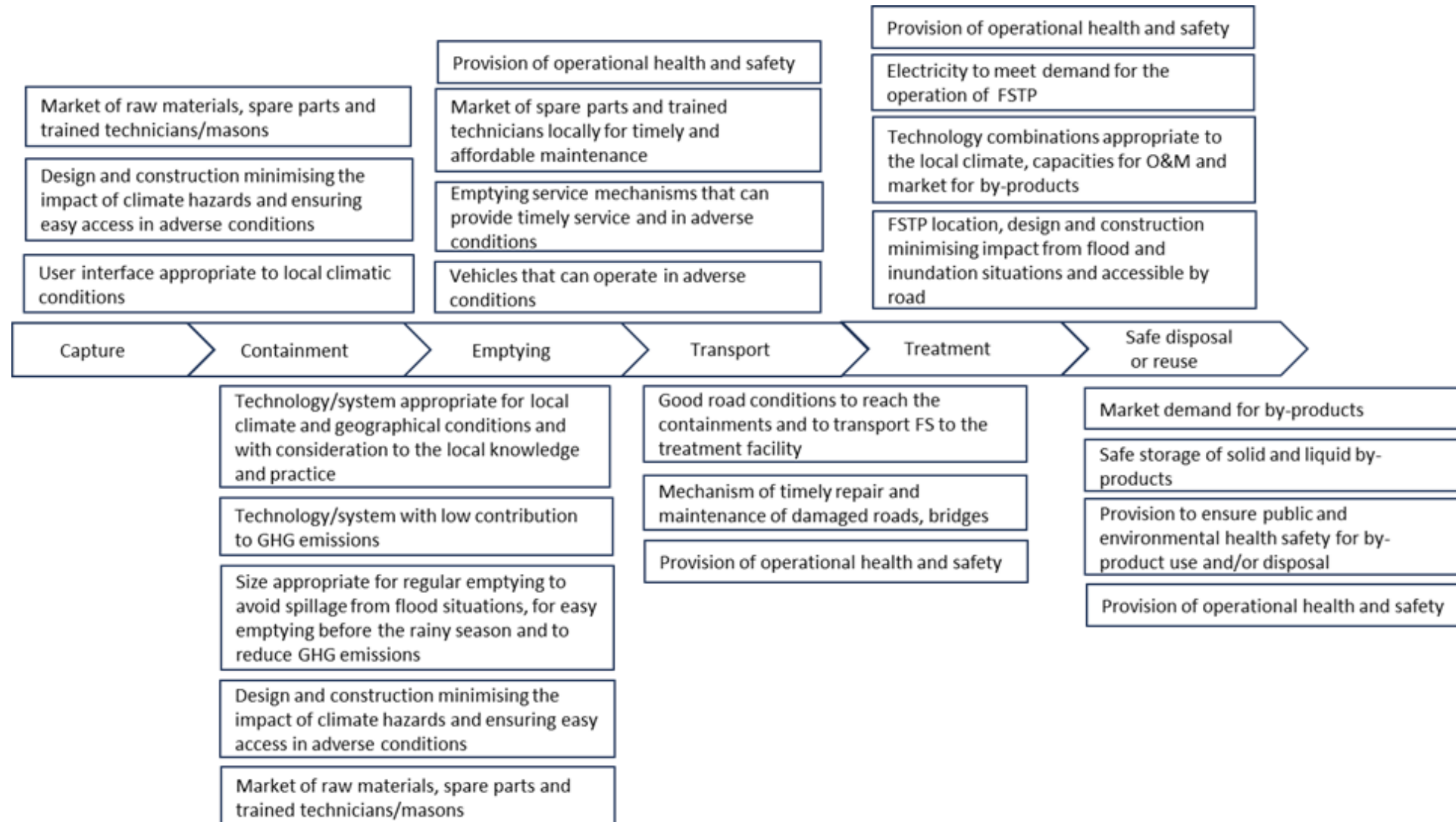
Key policy/plans highlights

- National Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy (NDWSHP) 2023
 - ensure provision of safe and accessible sanitation services to achieve the SDGs target
 - promotes onsite sanitation, construction of FSTP and resource recovery
 - emphasises development of WASH plans and municipality-wide inclusive sanitation (MWIS) plans
 - WASH plan guideline - lacks emphasis on sanitation
 - city-wide sanitation plan guideline - lack clarity for planning at the system and services level
- While the NWSSHP 2023 refers to managing sanitation e.g through FSM, it lacks a coherent approach to addressing the sanitation service chain

Sanitation and CC integration in CC and WASH policies

- Climate change policy provides an opportunity for CC integration in policies, strategies, plans and programme
- The plans provide wider prospects for adaptation and mitigation on sanitation
- WSSA 2020 silent on climate change
- NWSSHP 2023 indicates to make sanitation infrastructure climate adaptive - inadequate direction to achieve it
- NWSSHP 2023 failed to effectively build on what is addressed by the climate change policy and plans
- The WASH plan and MWIS plan development guidelines lack clarity in their process description for resilient sanitation systems and services

CC resilience across sanitation service chain



Conclusion

- Importance of policies for action acknowledged
- Existing climate change and WASH policies and plans are not sufficient to ensure resilience at the systems and services level
- Policy guidance towards resilient sanitation services is unlikely to be achieved soon
- Sanitation not prioritised in the climate change agenda – in the region and beyond
- Global gap in addressing the interplay of climate change and sanitation

Key recommendations

- Integrate resilience in the government and donor-funded sanitation planning and programming
- Establish good practices for informed policy reforms
- Mobilise investments in partnerships with non-profit, academic and private sectors
- Enhance collaboration among the key ministries to initiate policy dialogue towards resilient sanitation
- Capacity development to address climate change in the sanitation sector
- Research to understand impacts and to identify resilient systems and services
- Collaborative learning, sharing of best practices and development of a global community

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Thank You

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