

# SANI BULLETIN

A Quarterly Snapshot of ENPHO's Activities and Impact

## ENPHO Marks Strong Presence at Global South WASH Financing & Sustainability Conference 2026



The Global South WASH Financing & Sustainability Conference 2026, organized by SOPHEN and WAFON in coordination with the MoWS and supported by ENPHO, UN-Habitat, WaterAid, WHO, UCLG-ASPAC, Intellectuals Center, GTFCC, Water Research Commission, GWSC, and AIT, was held from April 1–3, 2026. The conference brought together governments, funders, investors, and sector stakeholders to generate actionable solutions for closing WASH financing gaps and promoting long-term, climate-resilient water and sanitation systems. ENPHO actively contributed to the event with five poster presentations, one of which was also delivered as an oral presentation. In addition, ENPHO organized a side event titled "Financing Dignity: Investing in Health and Safety of Sanitation Workers," which opened with a thematic presentation followed by a panel discussion that convened experts from government, local government, development partners, and sanitation workers themselves. The session was attended by more than 40 participants from different countries, reflecting strong international interest in advancing the rights and welfare of sanitation workers. The discussion explored critical issues including policies for protecting sanitation workers' safety and dignity, strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration, and the role of occupational health and safety in building reliable and sustainable sanitation systems. The panel concluded with a shared recognition that sanitation workers must be placed at the center of financing and policy decisions, with concrete calls for increased investment in worker safety, stronger legal protections, and deeper collaboration among governments and sector stakeholders to ensure dignified, safe, and sustainable sanitation services for all.

## Voices from the Frontline: Bridging Sanitation Workers and Government Stakeholders for Safety and Dignity



An interaction programme between sanitation workers and key sector stakeholders was held on 16 January 2026 at ENPHO under the project "Listening to the Voices of Sanitation Workers", supported by WaterAid UK and implemented by ENPHO in collaboration with Lalitpur Metropolitan City. The programme brought together representatives from Lalitpur Metropolitan City, the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM), and the Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS). During the discussion, sanitation workers shared challenges related to dignity, occupational health and safety, recognition, and fair working conditions, including unsafe work environments, lack of formal identification, and discrimination. The event concluded with a joint commitment from government representatives and stakeholders to address these issues by incorporating them into the upcoming National Occupational Health and Safety Guideline and working collaboratively towards ensuring safer, more dignified conditions for sanitation workers in Nepal.

## From Commitment to Construction: Advancing WASH Improvements at Bhaktapur Hospital



Strengthening WASH, healthcare waste management (HCWM), and infection prevention and control (IPC) services in healthcare facilities took a step forward on 26 January 2026 at Bhaktapur Hospital, under the project “Improving WASH, HCWM, and IPC Services in Healthcare Facilities in Bagmati and Gandaki Provinces,” supported by UNICEF.

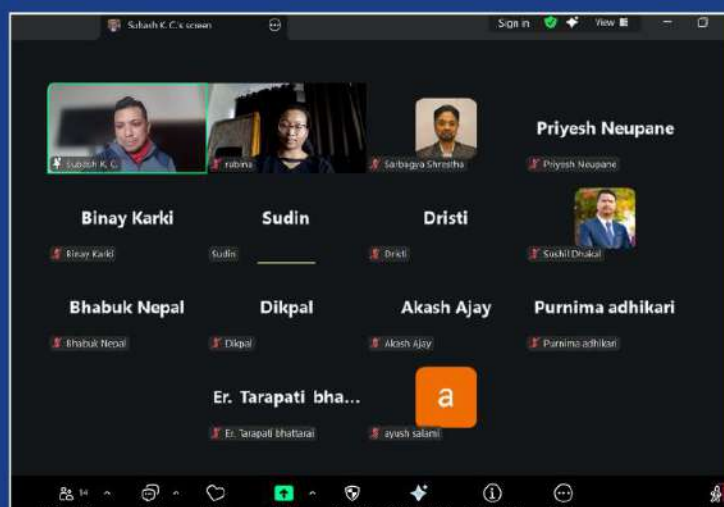
The program marked the formal initiation of construction activities with a Jag/Foundation Puja held at the toilet construction site, attended by the hospital chairperson, hospital officials, and the ENPHO team.

During the event, ENPHO presented the WASH Incremental Improvement Plan for Bhaktapur Hospital, highlighting key findings, priority interventions, and areas of collaboration. The finalized plan was formally handed over to the hospital.

The discussion also included upcoming interventions such as the installation of an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP), user-friendly handwashing stations, and the provision of essential WASH supplies to enhance service delivery within the hospital. The program concluded with a shared commitment from both ENPHO and Bhaktapur Hospital to strengthen coordination and ensure effective implementation of WASH, HCWM, and IPC improvement activities in the coming days.

## Building CWIS Leaders

An online course on the Introduction to the Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) Approach was successfully conducted by ENPHO from 27 January to 8 March 2026 in a virtual format. The six-week training brought together 16 participants, including development partner staff, university students, and individuals interested in the sanitation sector, with the aim of strengthening their foundational understanding of the CWIS approach and supporting them in applying inclusive and sustainable urban sanitation solutions. The course focused on key CWIS principles and practical tools for planning and implementing urban sanitation services, resulting in 7 participants successfully completing the program. The training contributed to enhanced knowledge of the CWIS framework and increased participants' motivation to design and implement sanitation interventions grounded in inclusive and sustainable principles.



## Strengthening Health Systems Through WASH & IPC Training for FCHVs

Strengthening community-level health and hygiene practices took a step forward on 29 January 2026 with the successful completion of a one-day WASH & Infection Prevention and Control training held at Saradanagar Health Post, Bharatpur Metropolitan City.

The training was organized by ENPHO in collaboration with UNICEF and Bharatpur Hospital under the project "Improving WASH, HCWM & IPC Services in Healthcare Facilities in Bagmati and Gandaki Province." Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) from various wards of the municipality actively participated in the session.

The training focused on key WASH and IPC concepts and practices, with emphasis on promoting safe hygiene behaviors and infection prevention at the household and community level.

The session also provided practical understanding to support improved health and hygiene practices within communities. The training is expected to strengthen community awareness and reinforce the role of FCHVs in promoting safer and healthier environments across Bharatpur Metropolitan City.



## Inclusive WASH Facilities Strengthened at Dhaulagiri Provincial Hospital



A user-friendly WASH facility was formally handed over at Dhaulagiri Provincial Hospital under the project "Improving WASH, HCWM and IPC Services in Healthcare Facilities in Bagmati Province and Gandaki Province," jointly implemented by ENPHO, UNICEF, The Pandemic Fund, and Dhaulagiri Provincial Hospital.

The facility includes an inclusive toilet block with three compartments designed for disability-friendly, male, and female users. It is also equipped with sensor-based handwashing stations, safe drinking water access, and essential support infrastructure, including medication trolleys and waste transportation trolleys for both risk and non-risk waste management. The handover was conducted at Dhaulagiri Provincial Hospital with participation from hospital representatives, implementing partners, WASH FIT team members, and stakeholders working on disability inclusion.

The program also included discussions on strengthening the implementation of the WASH Incremental Improvement Plan, including progress toward developing a model ward within the hospital.

The facility was officially inaugurated during the program, marking the completion and operational readiness of the installed WASH infrastructure to improve accessibility, hygiene, and infection prevention practices within the hospital, particularly for persons with disabilities and other service users, while strengthening overall healthcare service delivery.

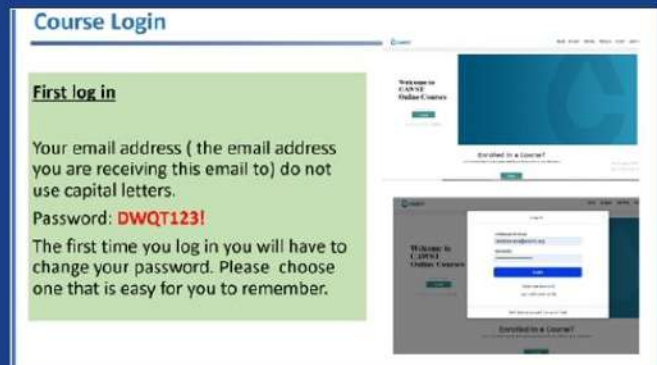
## Protecting Sanitation Workers, Preserving Health and Dignity



Twenty sanitation workers received Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) sets along with a practical safety orientation on 28 February 2026. The initiative was jointly conducted by ENPHO and the FANSA Nepal Chapter, in collaboration with WaterAid, with support from the Nepal Remitters Association through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Organized specifically for sanitation workers, the programme aimed to address urgent occupational health and safety needs while improving overall working conditions. It also underscored the importance of private-sector engagement in supporting marginalized communities. The event led to increased safety awareness, better access to protective equipment, and a strengthened commitment from stakeholders to promote dignity, recognition, and safer working environments for sanitation workers across Nepal.

## Ensuring Every Drop is Safe: Capacity Building on Drinking Water Quality Testing



Ensuring safe drinking water remains a pressing public health priority, and building skilled human resources is central to this effort. In response, an online Drinking Water Quality Testing (DWQT) Training was conducted by ENPHO from 17 February to 10 March 2026, equipping professionals with practical skills to monitor and assess water quality effectively. Delivered through a Learning Management System developed by the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST), the training combines self-paced modules with weekly live Zoom sessions for guidance and interaction.

A total of 33 participants from 16 organizations across government, non-government, academia, and the private sector were engaged and completed the course on time. The course focuses on water sampling, testing, and result interpretation, using portable kits such as Wagtech, Palintest, and ENPHO Kits. It covers key physical, chemical, and microbiological parameters, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of drinking water quality. By strengthening technical capacity, the training supports improved water safety practices and contributes to safeguarding public health.

## Catalyzing Change at the Community Level: Building WASH Facilitation Skills

Improving community-level WASH practices remains a key priority, and strengthening facilitation skills is central to this effort. In this context, the Community WASH Facilitation (CWF) Training was conducted from 16–19 March 2026 in Biratnagar by the ENPHO and Habitat for Humanity, with support from the CAWST.

A total of 21 participants from organizations including Habitat for Humanity, Save the Saptari, Ratauli Youth Club Mahottari, BIDS Siraha, Sahara Nepal, CTC Humanity, and Sankalpa Nepal took part in the training.

The program focused on strengthening participants' facilitation skills to promote improved water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) behaviors at the community level. It also provided a platform for experience sharing and collaboration, enhancing coordination among organizations working in community-based WASH initiatives. The training contributed to building a network of skilled facilitators equipped to drive positive behavior change in their communities.



## Evolving with Experience: Expert Workshop Refines CWIS and Standard Septic Tank Construction for Masons Packages



A significant step toward strengthening the quality of WASH training materials was taken on 25 March 2026 with the Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) Training Packages Review Workshop, organized by the National Water Supply and Sanitation Research Innovation and Capacity Development Center and supported by ENPHO at Godawari Forest Hotel. The workshop brought together 10 sanitation experts and trainers from key institutions, including the Ministry of Water Supply and the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management, to review and strengthen existing CWIS training materials. The session focused on two key training packages — Introduction to Citywide Inclusive Sanitation and Standard Septic Tank Construction for Masons — incorporating expert feedback, updated data, and recent sectoral progress to enhance the relevance and technical accuracy of the materials. Both training packages were reviewed and updated during the workshop, and NWSSRICDC will republish the revised materials to support wider use in capacity-building initiatives across the sanitation sector.

## Strengthening Urban Waste Systems: Waste Flow Diagram Sharing and Kickoff Program



On 25 March 2026, a Waste Flow Diagram (WFD) Sharing and Kickoff Program was held in Banepa Municipality, bringing together municipal leadership, ward representatives, executive members, and technical staff under the “Integrated Water Management in Urban Areas as a Core Task of Municipal Services of General Interest (IUWM)” project, supported by BMZ and BORDA. The program reviewed the findings of the WFD report and officially launched planned waste management activities for 2026. Key discussions focused on source segregation, decentralized waste collection systems, community-managed collection points, integration of recycling actors, and improved organic waste management through composting solutions. The WFD report was presented as a key planning tool to support data-driven decision-making and enhance the efficiency of municipal waste services, reinforcing Banepa Municipality's commitment to collaborative and evidence-based approaches for improved urban waste management.

## Dissemination Workshop Amplifies Voices of Sanitation Workers in National Dialogue



A dissemination workshop under “The Listening Project: Voices of Sanitation Workers” was organized by ENPHO in collaboration with WaterAid Nepal to share key findings, lessons learned, and policy recommendations aimed at improving the rights and working conditions of sanitation workers. The workshop brought together 48 participants, including sanitation workers, government representatives, development partners, private sector actors, civil society organizations, and media personnel. The event highlighted the critical role of sanitation workers in safeguarding public health while also bringing attention to challenges such as unsafe working conditions, limited formal recognition, and social stigma. Lived experiences shared through photos, videos, and personal narratives produced by sanitation workers formed a central part of the discussion.

Representatives from the Ministry of Water Supply, the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management, and Lalitpur Metropolitan City acknowledged the issues raised and expressed commitments toward strengthening occupational health and safety measures and improving policy-level support. As a key achievement of the workshop, sanitation workers were featured as panelists at the Global South WASH Financing and Sustainability Conference 2026, where they shared their lived experiences with a global audience. Their participation contributed to elevating frontline voices in international WASH discussions and strengthening advocacy for inclusive, safe, and dignified sanitation systems. The workshop concluded with a shared call for continued collaboration, evidence-based policymaking, and sustained action to ensure dignity, safety, and recognition for sanitation workers across Nepal.

## Cities Learning from Cities: Advancing Sanitation Through Mentorship



A step forward in inter-municipal collaboration on sanitation was marked on 29 March 2026 at the Mentee City Leaders' Workshop held at Siddhartha Hotel, Tikapur, organized by ENPHO. The workshop focused on introducing the concept of sanitation mentor and mentee cities and promoting peer learning among municipalities.

The event brought together 16 participants, including Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Chief Administrative Officers, and WASH focal persons from seven municipalities—Mahalaxmi, Waling, Godawari (Kailali), Dhangadhi, Tikapur, Birendranagar, and Ghorahi.

The session highlighted the importance of learning from established mentor cities and encouraged municipalities to adopt proven sanitation practices through structured collaboration and knowledge exchange. Representatives from both mentor and mentee municipalities participated in discussions, sharing experiences and exploring opportunities for strengthening sanitation systems through partnership. The workshop contributed to building a common understanding of the mentor-mentee city approach and reinforcing commitment among participating municipalities to advance sanitation improvements through mutual learning and cooperation.

## From Awareness to Action: OHS Training Strengthens Safety and Dignity of Sanitation Workers in Tikapur



An Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) training for sanitation workers was conducted on 30 March 2026 at Siddhartha Hotel, Tikapur, organized by ENPHO in collaboration with Tikapur Municipality. The training brought together 23 municipal sanitation workers to strengthen their understanding of occupational health risks, safe work practices, and the proper use of personal protective equipments. The session covered key aspects of sanitation work responsibilities, workplace hazards, and preventive safety measures to reduce health risks during daily operations. Participants engaged actively in discussions, reflecting on their current practices and sharing field experiences related to sanitation work. The training also encouraged behavioral reflection on hygiene and safety practices. The program resulted in increased motivation among sanitation workers to consistently use PPEs and adopt safer sanitation practices in their daily work, contributing to improved occupational safety within the municipality.

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Environment & Public Health Organization (ENPHO)

New Baneshwor

Tel: (977) 1-5244641 ; 5244051

[enpho@enpho.org](mailto:enpho@enpho.org)

[www.enpho.org](http://www.enpho.org)