

2nd International
WASH PRACTITIONERS' MARKETPLACE AND FAIR
10 - 13 November 2008, Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh

CALL FOR ACTION

We, the participants of the above referenced meeting commit to KEEP SHARING and further strengthen the exchange of WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) knowledge, expertise, experience, products and services regarding change and development mechanisms. We have focussed on sustainable sanitation and declare the following as our priority advocacy messages collectively and individually:

- Sanitation is everybody's business and concerns all Ministries and other autonomous bodies
- Sanitation is a major community responsibility and calls for pro-active initiatives
- Sanitation is more than a toilet and has many approaches and technologies
- Availability of water for sanitation and hygiene practices is essential

Sanitation service provision requires strong political support from all levels of governance, strengthening of local bodies, community leaders, local champions and other stakeholders. Sanitation coverage must be priority one - for the next few years or until 100% coverage is achieved - among the social development projects of governments in line with its pro poor strategies. Local government should have funds to especially support software for implementation. Additionally, observed gaps between coverage and use must be addressed.

There is a need to increase investments, incl. ring fence funds and revolving funds for sanitation. Incentives and support for implementers should relate to software over hardware to support implementation processes to manage new knowledge, strengthen capacity, facilitating the transfer of skills and capacities across a wide spectrum of stakeholders at various levels. Learning should be closely tied with collective action from grassroots to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

As countries push for increased coverage, sanitation, water management and hygiene promotional messages should be anchored on differentiated motivation drivers and take into consideration environmental vulnerability, gender, equity and differences between rural, urban and peri-urban communities. Links to food production, livelihood generation, climate change and personal aspirations are entry points to trigger action for improved sanitation. When appropriate, reduce and recycle sanitation by-products/fractions in a safe manner. School-based sanitation and hygiene education and practices must be supported to make children agents of change. Invest in targeted, innovative communication strategies and social marketing to make use of partnerships with private entrepreneurs and corporations, civil society, academia, media and other stakeholders.

Post project monitoring and support is essential for sustainable sanitation services. Transparency and accountability of procurement and implementation of sanitation services must be strictly observed.

We respectfully request the Secretary Shaikh Khurshid Alam, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives, Bangladesh, and other key actors to assist in delivering this "CALL FOR ACTION" to relevant authorities in Bangladesh and other counties and to SACOSAN III in November 2008, Delhi, India, and to other relevant gatherings.

** The WASH Fair is attended by 148 expert participants and government representatives from 14 countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe.*