

Bandung Call for Action

2025 South and South East Asia City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) Forum

Held in Bandung, Indonesia, 13-14 January 2025

The 2025 South and South East Asia City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) Forum has showcased significant progress, challenges, and opportunities in the realm of sanitation across the region. As we look to accelerate the implementation of CWIS and achieve the goals outlined in the Kathmandu Declaration 2023, we call upon local governments, stakeholders, and regional partners to take immediate and concerted action.

The following **Call for Action** outlines the key strategies to strengthen regional cooperation, foster inclusive sanitation, and embed innovation and gender-sensitive approaches across the region. The goal is to build on the momentum of the Kathmandu Declaration and translate it into tangible, scalable solutions for sustainable sanitation in urban and rural communities.

1. Strengthen Policy Frameworks for Inclusive Sanitation

- **Local Leadership:** Advocate local political leaders to prioritise sanitation and empower local governments to lead the charge in sanitation initiatives. Recognise the importance of integrating sanitation policies with broader environmental and urban planning frameworks, ensuring that sanitation solutions contribute to climate resilience and sustainability.
- **Inclusive Policies:** Design and implement sanitation policies that prioritise the needs of marginalised groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and indigenous communities. These policies should promote accessibility, affordability, and the dignity of all citizens.

2. Leverage Innovation and Technology to Scale Solutions

- **Reinvented Toilets and Smart Systems:** Support the scaling of innovative sanitation technologies such as reinvented toilets, non-sewered sanitation systems, and smart sanitation management systems. These technologies offer sustainable solutions to address the diverse needs of urban and rural communities, improving public health and environmental sustainability.
- **Data-Driven Solutions:** Promote the use of digital platforms and AI to enhance sanitation monitoring, data collection, and resource allocation. Establish regional data-sharing mechanisms to ensure real-time information on sanitation progress and gaps.

3. Promote Regional Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

- **Cross-Border Partnerships:** Strengthen regional cooperation through multi-stakeholder partnerships involving local governments, the private sector, NGOs, and academia. This collaboration should focus on capacity building, technology transfer, and joint research efforts to tackle common sanitation challenges.
- **Knowledge Hubs and Capacity Building:** Expand regional knowledge hubs to facilitate the exchange of best practices, research, and innovations. Foster capacity-building programmes that train local governments and communities on sanitation system management, technology adoption, and policy implementation.

4. Address Financial Gaps and Promote Sustainable Financing

- **Regional Sanitation Fund:** Establish a regional fund to support the development and scaling of sanitation projects, particularly in underserved regions. This fund should be built on the principle of inclusive financing, ensuring that financial support reaches the most vulnerable populations.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Engage the private sector in sanitation projects through partnerships that incentivise investment in sustainable technologies and infrastructure. Encourage innovative financing mechanisms, such as blended finance, to mobilise resources for large-scale sanitation initiatives.

5. Integrate Gender and Social Inclusion in Sanitation Planning

- **Gender-Responsive Sanitation:** Ensure that all sanitation projects are gender-sensitive and address the specific needs of women, particularly in terms of safe and dignified access to sanitation facilities. Empower women leaders to take active roles in sanitation planning and decision-making processes.
- **Social Inclusion:** Adopt participatory approaches in sanitation planning, ensuring that the voices of marginalised groups are heard and integrated into project designs. Ensure that sanitation systems are accessible to all, including those in rural, peri-urban, and informal settlements.

6. Accelerate the Implementation of the Kathmandu Declaration 2023

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish clear, standardised progress indicators to track the implementation of the Kathmandu Declaration's goals. Regularly monitor and evaluate sanitation projects to ensure they meet regional and national targets.
- **Local Government Participation:** Prioritise the active participation of local governments in the implementation of the Kathmandu Declaration. Encourage local leadership to take ownership of sanitation goals and ensure alignment with broader regional and national policies.