

**A Brief Outline  
on  
Strategic Plan and Action Plan (SPAP)  
under SDG-6**



**WASH for ALL:: ALL for WASH**

**Public Health Engineering Department  
Government of Assam**

## **Introduction -**

The agenda for UN declared Sustainable Development Goals-2030 (SDGs-2030) calls for an integrated approach working across sectors, which are universal, interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

### **Sustainable Development Goal – 6 (SDG-6)–**

#### **Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

The SDG- 6 places water and Sanitation at the core of sustainable development, cutting across sectors and regions, thereby highlighting the interdependency between the targets under Goal 6 and other Goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda. It is therefore necessary to capture the multi directionality of the inter linkages: incorporating water and Rural Sanitation in other Goals for the achievement of Goal 6. Moreover, implementation of targets under Goal 6 enables the achievement of a number of other targets across the SDGs-2030.

### **Assam Vision-2030**

#### **Most concisely, the vision is,**

To ensure healthy life and wellbeing of every individual by provision of Safe, adequate, affordable water supply for drinking cooking and other domestic needs on a sustainable basis for all time and in all situation in household level including institutions in rural areas as well as Rural Sanitation facilities for all promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation, with community ownership both individually as well as collectively to ensure the same in an equitable and sustainable manner.

By 2030, it is expected that, the concerted efforts from all stakeholders will facilitate completion of SDG-6 in true perspectives.

### **Strategy Paper and Action Plan (SPAP) for SDG-6 with regard to Assam Vision-**

Keeping in view of SDGs 2030 and Assam Vission-2030, the SPAP has been developed including a 7-Years Strategic Plan (from 2017-18 to 2023-24) and 3-Years Action for achievement of SDG-6, based on Sector Indicators for SDGs / Targets (SDG-6.1 & 6.2), as worked out by the Assam Centre for SDGs.

The Strategic Plan envisages that the concerted efforts from all stakeholders with necessary convergent approaches will facilitate achievement of SDG-6 in true perspectives, with following aspirations.

- **Aspirations in connection with safe drinking water**
- **Aspirations in connection with safe Rural Sanitation Practices for all**

While launching an effective process for achievement of SDGs, under the Vision oriented Strategic Architecture, few essential requirements are as follows -

- Inclusiveness approach in the whole spectrum focusing on 'leaving no one behind'
- Overarching Approach with Integration /Partnership with Community
- Commitment at all level including ownership
- Convergence based approach and Monitoring & Evaluation
- Regular review on impacts
- Organisational Reform with Human Resources / Infrastructural Development

## **Major Issues / Critical Gaps and challenges and a Need Assessment -**

### **a. Expanding access to services-**

#### **Drinking Water**

- Presently as on 2016, coverage of rural population by PWSS is 46% which will be improved to 55% by 2017, with at least 35% home connection.
  - Nos of quality affected habitations will be reduced upto 7.5%
  - Present population as on 2016, covered by household connection is 2% which will be improved upto 35% by 2017.
- **By 2019-20**, Ensure that at least 70% of rural households are provided with piped water supply; at least 70% of rural households with household connection; less than 15% using public taps and less than 35% using spot sources or other safe and adequate private water sources.
- All areas affected by Arsenic and F shall be provided with safe drinking water of adequate quantity by 2019-20,
- Provide enabling support and environment for Panchayat Raj Institutions / Local communities to manage rural drinking water sources and systems.
- **By 2023-24**, Ensure that at least 90% of rural households are provided with access to 70 lpcd piped water supply with 80% home connection and less than 10% using public taps and less than 10% using spot sources or other safe and adequate private water sources.
- All other quality affected i.e. Iron affected areas will be covered ensuring that every rural person have at least 55 lpcd safe water for drinking, cooking, and other domestic needs as well as livestock throughout the year including during natural disasters.
- Provide enabling support and environment for all Panchayat Raj Institutions and local communities to manage 100% of rural drinking water sources and systems.
- **By 2030**, All rural households have access to piped water supply in adequate quality with tap connection providing safe drinking water, throughout the year, that meets prevalent national drinking

water standards. Continuous uninterrupted water supply is an aspiration and effort shall be made to cover all habitations with such aspiration.

Optimum use of rainwater is also likely to be an integrated element in all the three cases.

## **Rural Sanitation**

- As on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, coverage of rural household with sanitary toilet facilities was 52 % which will be improved to 65 % by 2017. This will be further improved upto 100% by 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

### **b. Improving quality and efficiency of public service delivery**

#### **Drinking Water**

- All As and F affected habitation will be covered fully by 2020. Other quality affected habitations will be addressed by 2024.
- All Habitation will be fully covered by 2024.

Efforts will be made to address the need for the marginalized communities like Tea garden labourers and inhabitants of SC/ST dominated areas and Char Areas.

## **Rural Sanitation**

- To improve the delivery of Rural Sanitation services decentralized delivery mechanism shall be put in place with institution building at village level (Village Water and Rural Sanitation Committee in each village). This has been envisioned as a process of community empowerment.
- Focused capacity building of people at village level on low cost Rural Sanitation technologies including Solid & Liquid Waste Management.
- Special initiatives shall be taken to reach out to the marginalized community or groups and hard to reach areas ( Char areas, hilly areas )

### **c. Expanding participation**

#### **Drinking Water**

Keeping the desired levels of services in the forefront, a reform initiative is being fostered by the PHED, Assam, to encourage the community (users) for active participation in the O&M of rural Piped Water Supply Schemes (PWSS). Accordingly, Water Users Committees are formed for each rural PWSS with their major role as to ensure effective O&M of the PWSS, creating social responsibilities in the form of ownership, regular supply of water in liaison with PHED in case of requirement of any technical inputs.

Such endeavour will shift the responsibility and the ownership of the rural PWSS to the community (users / beneficiaries) to ensure the smooth functioning of the PWSS, with people's participation.

### **Rural Sanitation**

In similar manner, Rural Sanitation services shall be provided reaching out to all groups of people (Men and Women, Students and youths) for generating awareness.

#### **d. Fostering Technological innovation**

##### **Drinking Water**

The use of technological innovations for monitoring is the need of the hour to ensure service delivery more efficiently, with sustained focus on issues related to leakage, mechanical breakdown, wear and tear, energy efficiency etc, Advanced technological options like SCADA etc. should invariably be utilized.

##### **Rural Sanitation**

Technological innovations for sanitary toilet, waste management as well as monitoring shall be promoted.

#### **e. Policy and Institutional changes to facilitate service delivery**

##### **Drinking Water**

The National Rural Drinking Water Program Guidelines should be linked with achievement of SDGs with regard to Principles, Goals, Objectives, Water allocation priorities, Per capita supply, Issues on Water Quality / Water Conservation, productive use of Solid and Liquid Waste Management etc. The overall State Water Policy for source protection and maintenance related to water Eco-systems and pollution management etc. will have to be formulated.

Moreover, keeping in view of sustainability of PWSSs, the guidelines for necessary maintenance of water supply arrangement are proposed to be decentralized to the Gaon Panchayat (GP) putting the ownership to the concerned GPs towards support of O&M initiatives through involvement of Water Users Committees. However, the GPs in Assam are to be encouraged to enable them to bear the responsibility.

##### **Rural Sanitation**

As part of institutional strengthening, a Mission Directorate shall be created, which shall be manned by experts on Technology, Communication, Capacity building, Monitoring and Evaluation etc.

Further, a state Rural Sanitation policy shall be developed encompassing all aspects for protecting the environment from further degradation.

## **f. Organisational Reforms**

Strategic Plan for implementation and achievement targets with SDG objective might need an organizational reform –

- (i) With formation of new Districts / Civil Sub-Divisions, there is a necessity for an increase in monitoring scope and also to ensure better coordination.
- (ii) The following aspects also have resulted an increase in scopes and dimensions of works, for which Organisational Reforms is necessary –
  - Environmental Management.
  - Social mobilization and Institutional re-structuring.
  - Externally Aided Projects
  - CSR Initiatives
  - ICT approach
  - Research and development
  - Monitoring and evaluation.

## **Planning for Resource Requirements –**

### **I. Financial Resources**

Necessary arrangement / mobilization of adequate financial resources is quite critical, for achievement of targets envisaged under SDG-6. Hence it is utmost necessary to establish linkage between SDG-6 and NRDWP/SBM-G / Externally Aided Projects / CSR strategies.

### **II. Human Resources**

To meet the scope of service delivery standard as per SPAP with SDG objective, there is a need of an organizational reform, which requires a Human Resource Team, to take care of multidimensional scope of works.

### **III. Infrastructure Requirements**

Necessary infrastructural requirements shall have to be initiated to cater for the need in service delivery to achieve the SDG as per SPAP. To start with, the Quality Control aspect needs to be addressed with an outreach for all activities. All PHE Sections also must have adequate office arrangements, unlike the present condition, to enable a better delivery approach and also to make it even more closer and accountable to the rural community.

## **Roadmap under SPAP:**

## Drinking Water

Considering the proposed scope of services and indicator levels, the approximate assessment of Resource requirement for Rural Water Supply is as follows ---

A strategic action plan to achieve piped water supply with home connection in all rural areas in a specific time period has been drawn up focusing on SPAP and NRDWP guidelines.

After deducting the population to be covered by current on-going schemes, on-going World Bank projects, SAGY schemes, proposed National submission schemes, the net population to be served by PWSS comes to be **134.84** Lakhs.

Assuming an MVS for 5000 population and an SVS for 1800 population,

Requirement of MVS = 510 Nos and SVS = 6055 Nos for covering **134.84** lakhs population.

The per capita cost norm (considering price escalation upto 2022) –

(i) Rs.**6000.00** in case of PWSS with underground source

(ii) Rs.**9000.00** in case of PWSS with surface source

Furthermore, for necessary enhancement of service delivery from 40-55 lpcd to 70 lpcd in case of all 7987 nos. of existing completed PWSS, the approx. cost requirement = Rs.50.00 Lakh per PWSS.

So the total cost requirement under SPAP is as follows –

<i>Sl. No</i>	<i>Type of schemes</i>	<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Population to be served by PWSS in Lakh</i>	<i>Amount required (in cr.)</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1.	Current on-going PWSS	1339	14.07	1791.79	
2.	World Bank projects	7	13.12	589.18	NRDWP share (44.5% of project cost)
3.	National Sub-mission	592	12.56	882.76	
4.	SAGY schemes	21	1.71	128.66	
5.	New MVS	510	25.50	2295.00	
6.	New SVS	6075	109.34	8360.40	
7.	Upgradation of existing schemes	7987	0	3993.50	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16531</b>	<b>176.3</b>	<b>18041.29</b>	

## Rural Sanitation

The Rural Sanitation coverage are proposed as follows

- By 2019-20, 100% rural families shall be provided with low cost sanitary toilet facilities.
- By 2023-24, all newly grown families shall be covered. Waste management interventions shall be continued
- By 2024-30, all newly grown families shall be covered with Waste management interventions.
- Presently unit cost for low cost sanitary household toilet is Rs 12000.

- This cost norm shall be considered till 2019-2020(2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019).
- The unit cost for low cost sanitary household toilet for the period 2020-2023 shall be Rs 15000
- Total fund requirement has been assessed with 5% Communication (IEC&BCC) and Capacity Building Charges, 2% Administrative Charges and 5% Waste Management and Community /Public Toilet Cost

Considering the above cost norms approximate assessment of resource requirement for Rural Sanitation is finalized.

### **Conclusion:**

Assam Public Health Engineering Department envisages fulfilling its mandate of ensuring availability of safe drinking water and sanitation for all by 2030 in the rural areas of the state. For meeting the goal the existing programs shall be re-oriented, re-aligned and re-prioritized. Also, necessary steps shall be taken to re-structure the department to step up its speed up delivery of program objectives. As interlinking with other SDG goals and interdependency are also important drivers for meeting the goal, a well co-ordinated system shall be established.

For ensuring safe drinking water to rural population, the coverage by 2019-20 is expected to be 70% through PWSS with 35% home connection. By 2023-24, the coverage is expected to be 90% through PWSS with 80% through home connection. Finally, by 2030, the coverage is expected to be 100% through PWSS with 100% home connection, Furthermore, all quality affected habitations are targeted to be covered with safe water. The projected cost for meeting the SDG target till 2021-22 is **Rs 18041.31 Cr**

Also, for meeting the goal of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), remaining uncovered 25.88 Lakh families shall be provided with low cost sanitary toilets by 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019. Based on the projected population at the rate of 16.93% as per Census 2011, the incremental growth of families have been taken into account in the plan till 2030 so as to fulfil the goal of sanitation for all. By 2023, the cumulative coverage of families with sanitary toilet facilities shall be 36.23 Lakh. And by 2030, the cumulative coverage of families with sanitary toilet facilities shall be 44.57 Lakh.

Tentative fund requirement for the period 2016-17 to 2019-20 shall be Rs 4308.98 Cr based on the cost norms of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin. Again for the period 2020-21 to 2022-23 fund required shall be Rs 429.81 Cr based on the proposed unit cost of Rs 15000 for each low cost household toilet. However, to establish modern drainage and sewerage system in rural and per urban areas (assuming a portion of rural areas attaining urban characteristics) the estimated cost may be much higher.