



History

The FANSA journey began in 2007. A long and broad based consultation process, led by FAN members in South Asia, was conducted to explore the need for a South Asian regional water and sanitation network which would act as an affiliate of the FAN global network. Over 200 key actors from the water and sanitation sector took part in this consultation process, mostly small and medium sized civil society organizations from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. FANSA was formally launched in Nepal in January 2008. Over 20 representatives from South Asia, nominated at national and sub-national meetings came together to plan joint advocacy activities and take further steps towards building a strong and vibrant regional network. Despite being a nascent Network FANSA demonstrated tremendous potential with its influencing work around the South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN-III, November 2008, New Delhi) in which South Asian governments made a huge forward step by committing to recognize access to both sanitation and drinking water as a basic right. Along with Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and WaterAid, FANSA had organised a civil society pre-meeting that took place before the main SACOSAN-III. After conducting a series of in-country consultation meetings about 100 civil society members represented at this Pre-SACOSAN civil society meeting and contributed to develop a civil society declaration that reflected the WASH issues and aspirations of the people in South Asia. This declaration included a call to the National Governments of South Asia to recognize right to water and sanitation. Civil Society leaders participating in SACOSAN-III have used this declaration to lobby and influence the discussions of this conference which is an important Regional Inter-Governmental platform on sanitation.

FANSA's ability to systematically mobilize civil society around this event demonstrated its distinct edge as consortium of civil society organisations capable of building alliances and projecting unified voice. Through this effort FANSA has also demonstrated that it can manage the major advocacy processes in a true spirit of collaboration with other networks and institutions. In the process, the network gained many supporters who suggested that FANSA should follow up the work with the governments of South Asia to ensure that they deliver on the commitments made during the SACOSAN-III. The network now also needs to build the capacities of communities and their networks to claim their rights. FANSA national networks will continue to work towards ensuring that the right to water and sanitation is in the country level constitutions. FANSA's experience of mobilising resources from varied sources including WSSCC, IRC and WaterAid is also a notable achievement. With the first major event under its belt.

Ongoing Projects:

Governance & Transparency: In partnership with FAN Global and WaterAid, FANSA is implementing UK Aid funded Governance and Transparency Fund Project which is primarily aimed at civil society capacity development for effectively addressing capability, accountability and transparency issues of Governance in WatSan sector.

Strategic Grant Agreement: Under the funding from Strategic Grant Agreement of UK Aid, WaterAid and FAN Global are supporting FANSA to work on its priority themes of Right to Water and sanitation and Climate Change implications to WatSan sector.

This support also enabled FANSA to focus on its organizational development and provide advocacy related capacity building services to its members.

South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN): FANSA is continuing to work in collaboration with FAN Global, WaterAid and WSSCC to follow up on the outcomes of SACOSAN-III and also to mobilize civil societies and community leaders to represent their voices in the forth coming SACOSAN-IV in Colombo.

UN Habitat: UN Habitat Water for Asian Cities Programme South Asia join hands with FANSA supporting in network strengthening and capacity building in climate change adaptation.

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Freshwater Action Network South Asia

Working for the right to water and sanitation by strengthening civil society in South Asia





The Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA) aims to improve governance in WASH sector by strengthening the role of civil society in decision-making. It considers both environmental and developmental aspects as crucial for the realization of the right to water and sanitation for present and future generations.

FANSA was established in 2008 based on the felt need of the civil societies to ensure that their local experiences and voices are represented at the policy-making discussion and fora. The South Asian network is a member of Freshwater Action Network (FAN), a global consortium of civil society networks engaged in implementing and influencing water and sanitation policy and practice.

Vision

A world where water is respected and protected by all as an essential resource for all forms of life and where universal access to water and sanitation is achieved responsibly, equitably and inclusively.

Mission

To empower civil society organizations to engage effectively and influence water governance towards the realization of the right to water and sanitation for present and future generations.

Aim

FANSA aims to strengthen the engagement of civil society in WASH related policymaking and development specifically in the South Asia region. Currently it has national level networks in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan and plans to expand or linkup with existing civil society networks in other South Asian countries.

In particular, it supports initiatives to achieve international targets on water and sanitation, improve regional cooperation between different civil society organizations and increase the number of civil societies to advocate and communicate clearly on water policy issues and the broader agenda.

Objectives

- to establish FANSA as a strong and vibrant South Asian regional consortium
- to build an informed and community rooted advocacy process
- to develop members' knowledge of water and sanitation issues
- to develop collaborative linkages between FANSA and other networks

