
Chapter 7

DRIVING SACOSAN FORWARD: POSSIBLE FUTURE DIRECTIVES

Drawing from the conference objective to: “raise the profile of sanitation, health and hygiene in South Asia”, the Dhaka Declaration on Sanitation committed to: “sustaining collaborative efforts towards achieving the MDGs in sanitation, through the development of a SACOSAN Inter-Country Working Group, to meet annually to share information and exchange ideas on progress in countries across the region”. Given this commitment, and the fact that Pakistan and India have agreed to host follow-up events in 2005 and 2007 respectively, there are a number of implications for the activities that can take place in each country in the lead-up to the next event. There are also implications on the sort of information and ideas that an Inter-Country Working Group of this sort can continue to exchange, well beyond SACOSAN 2003.

Each country will have outlined its own unique approach in its Plan of Action. If it is not already developed or if it needs further work, a simple monitoring framework can be used to identify the scale and type of follow-up that is needed. This need not be an exhaustive review, but rather a study drawn from a suitable sample of participants. This monitoring framework might comprise a small group of key informants (maybe 20 others), identified either at random or by sample.

There are a number of potential areas for follow-up and review. Three are listed below, for consideration:

- 1) Progress/constraints since SACOSAN on Plan of Action development and/or implementation: This might require comments on progress and/or limitations to action since the conference (against key issues identified in the action plans). Delegates should consider where progress has been fastest/furthest, and where action plans require extra support. Progress could be summarized in writing under issue-based heads, used in tandem with a simple matrix to help the process, such as the one below:

Issue	Progress	Limitation
Advocacy	X	
Policy Development		X
Strengthening/revising institutional arrangements		X
Capacity Building	X	
Resource Mobilization	X	
Knowledge/experience sharing	X	
Etc.		

- 2) Political profile of SACOSAN recommendations nationally and locally: Delegates might suggest forums (workshops, formal meetings, training, lobbying, etc) at which SACOSAN and its outcomes could be discussed, detailed and followed up.
- 3) Adoption of SACOSAN recommendations at a strategic level in projects, programmes, guidelines, etc: Delegates might seek out and define evidence that suggests that SACOSAN, its outputs, outcomes can be linked to policy or strategy developments in sanitation and hygiene projects and programmes (at different levels).

Whatever the chosen method of follow-up, it will be useful to allocate someone to coordinate efforts, and then disseminate findings to the coordinating point for Inter-Country Working Group (Pakistan, as the next hosting country, will take on this role in the period leading up to the next event). Support Group Focal Points from each Country, with their heavy involvement in the early stages of SACOSAN, might prove to be a valuable choice.

It will also be useful for Bangladesh to formally 'hand over the baton' to Pakistan. This might entail a brief visit by the Conference Director to Pakistan at some point in the near future.