



Water and Energy Sectors Working Group Secretariat

DPG Report

(February 2023 to September 2023)

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List of Acronyms

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DPs	Development Partners
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
JTR	Joint Technical Review
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoWE	Ministry of Water and Energy
MSF	Multi Stakeholders Forum
NIWRMP	National Integrated Water Resources Management Program
NWCO	National WASH Coordination Office
ODF	Open Defecation Free
OWNP	One WASH National Program
TCs	Technical Committees
ToR	Terms of Reference
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WRM	Water Resources Management
WESWG	Water and Energy Sectors Working Group

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1. Introduction

The Water and Energy Sectors Working Group Secretariat (WESWG Sec) is a joint Government-Donor initiative re-vitalized with an objective to support mainstreaming integrated development and management of water and energy in all relevant sectors. At present there is the need to make the WESWG more visible and have a clear identity. This will enable Development Partners (DPs) and government institutions involved in the water and energy sectors to come together and create a common platform for discussion and aligning their efforts on various issues related to the development of the water and energy sectors in the country. It was originally established in April 2014.

The general objective of the WESWG is to provide a forum for the Government and DPs to jointly promote, support and coordinate sustainable and integrated development and management of water and energy resources for socio-economic development of Ethiopia in line with the 10-year strategic plan and its follow-up on government development plans. More specifically the WESWG has the following objectives:

- a. To ensure the effectiveness of development cooperation by ensuring that aid is fully aligned to the sectoral policies, strategies and plans.
- b. To promote the exchange of information and guide informed policy dialogue among water and energy sector stakeholders.
- c. To function as a knowledge hub for the entire water, sanitation, hygiene, water resources management and energy sectors in collecting and disseminating information on reports, missions, general publications, reviews, assessments, etc.
- d. To organize forums for regular experience sharing, information exchange and mutually review implementation status of projects and programs on the basis of the 10-year development plan objectives and targets, and address challenges.
- e. To jointly discuss, develop, review and propose policies and strategies to be included in the agenda of the relevant (sub) sectors.
- f. To suggest strategies and actions required to mainstream sustainable and integrated water resources management in sectoral development agendas and plans.
- g. To discuss and develop shared solutions and actions to address key implementation issues that may arise around the sustainable, effective and efficient use of Ethiopia's water resources.
- h. To discuss and follow-up the issues of awareness creation, initiatives and coordination and promote sector wide approach.
- i. To ensure formal links between the water sector and other relevant sectors such as agriculture, health, environment and climate change, education, energy and finance.

The WESWG stopped its operation due to COVID and other national issues. It resumed its services starting in February of 2023. The WESWG has three main subgroups: the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), the Water Resources Management (WRM) and Energy for Development that are chaired by the concerned State Ministers and co-chaired by nominated heads of DPs on two years rotational basis. Currently, WASH is co-chaired by USAID and UNICEF, WRM subgroup co-chaired by Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands (EKN) and Italian International

Development Cooperation Agency (AICS). The Subgroups are responsible for providing input and recommendations for policy direction related to programs and associated issues of WASH and water resources management in the country. Under each subgroup there are Technical Committees (TCs) where different experts from DPs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the government participate. However, now most of the technical committees aren't yet operational and most meetings are held at subgroup level.

Water is multi-sectoral in nature and several sectors depend on it to meet their target and successfully deliver their mandate. This is why establishing an effective partnership between key stakeholders - DPs, GoE, CSOs and other partners at different tiers is crucial.

2. Main activities and accomplishments of the WESWG

This report presents the main activities and accomplishments of the WESWG from 1 February 2023 to 30 September 2023, including some key WASH, WRM and Energy sector events.

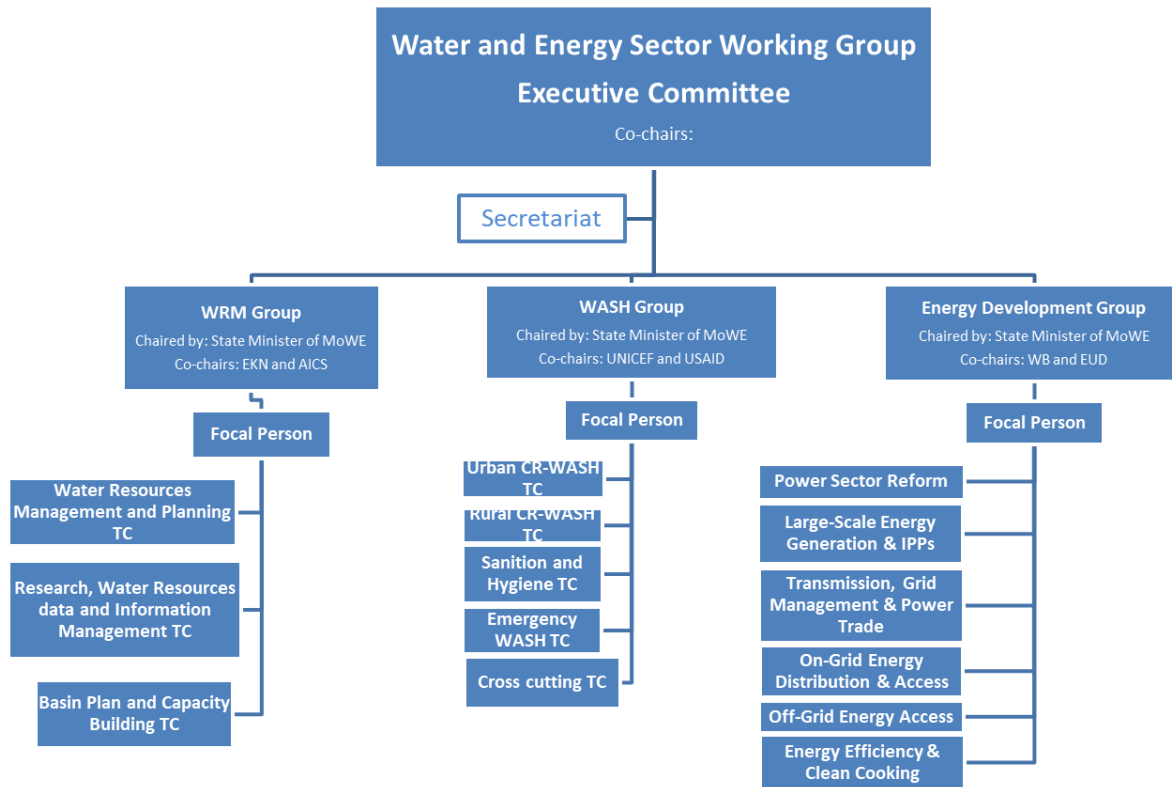
2.1. WESWG re-vitalizing workshop

The revitalization of the WESWG secretariat meeting was held on 6th June 2023 at Getfam Hotel, Addis Ababa. The objective of this meeting was to let all stakeholders know that the WESWG secretariat is re-vitalized and started working with its full potential. The meeting was chaired by H.E Dr Abrha Adugna, State Minister at MoWE and H.E Dr Sultan Wali, State Minister at MoWE. There were three keynote addresses from H.E Dr Abrha Adugna, the Development Partners Group Secretariat based at the Ministry of Finance, Pau Blanquer and Coordinator of the infrastructure pillar, Ms. Xiaoping Wang. The meeting was attended by 35 participants from the government, DPs, CSOs and relevant institutions.



Picture 1 WESWG revitalization workshop at Getfam Hotel, Addis Ababa

Prior to revitalization workshop, several other meetings at subgroup level have been carried out to discuss and arrive at conclusion on the need of revitalization, organizational structure of the WESWG and the technical committees, focal person representation for subgroups etc. Based on the discussions, the following organizational structure haven been debated and agreed.



Picture 2 Organizational Structure of the WESWG

2.2. WRM, WASH and Energy Subgroup meetings

On 5th of September 2023, the Water Resources Management Subgroup meeting was held at the Hilton Hotel in Addis Ababa. The working group meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Abrha Adugna, State Minister of the MoWE and co-chaired by Jelmer van veen from EKN and Fabio Gaggi from AICS, and it was attended by 31 participants from the Government, DPs, CSOs, Universities, and other relevant institutions. During the meeting the following key actions were agreed for follow up:

- WRM subgroup meeting days have been fixed and communicated to the audience, an outlook on the meeting days will be communicated by WESWG Secretariat to all active members of the subgroup;
- Following this, a presentation on the draft National Integrated water resource management Program by Dr Bizuneh, coordinator of IWRMP was made, He explained the evolution of the IWRM at the globe & national level. Objectives of the NIWRM and the nine specific objectives were listed.
- H.E Dr Abrha explained that 5 days are to be given to partners and other stakeholders to send detail comments on the document and by the end of September this document will be endorsed.

- By 15th September document will be sent to partners for review, by 20th September comments will be received, by 25th of September comments will be included and dispatched again to all.
- Annual WRM subgroup meetings were scheduled for September 5th, 2023; 7th November 2023; 6th February 2023; 9th April 2023; 4th June 2023. Joint working group meetings are planned for 15 February and 13 June 2023. Tentative MSF 12 days are also planned for 26th and 27th June.
- Finally, the WRM undertakings of MSF11 have been explained by H.E the state minister and a way forward were given.

Similarly, the WASH Subgroup meeting was held at the Capital Hotel on 17th September 2023. The meeting was chaired by Abiy Girma, Coordinator of the National WASH Coordination Office and Focal Person of WESWG. The meeting was attended by 30 participants from DPs, CSOs and the Government. Representatives from the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the MoH were also in attendance. During the meeting the following key actions were agreed for follow up:

- WASH subgroup co-chairs were elected. Based on this USAID and UNICEF were elected to co-lead the subgroup for the next two years.
- MSF 11 undertakings to be shared to the wider group and responsibilities to be taken by each partner and stakeholder;
- One more subgroup meeting to be organized before November;
- ToR of OWNP Phase III to be shared to the wider group for comment
- Organizational role at the 7th Africa Sanitation (Africa San 7) conference to be held in Namibia from November 6-11:



WaSH subgroup meeting at Capital Hotel and Spa



Picture 3 WRM subgroup visit at the Water and Energy Exhibition at the Science Museum followed by the meeting at Hilton Hotel

2.3. Joint Technical Review field mission

As part of the activities leading up to WRM-WASH-Energy Multi Stakeholder Forum (MSF 11), the WRM-WASH JTR field mission was organized in three different time slots from 16 to 19 May 2023 to SNNPR and Sidama regional states, 21 to 24 May 2023 to Amhara regional state both for WASH and 7 to 8 June 2023 to Awash, Rift Valley, Abay Basins and MoWE for WRM. A total of 18 institutions representing MoWE, MoH, MoE, DPs and CSOs took part in the mission. Participants were able to discuss WASH and WRM issues with various stakeholders at basin, sub-basin and grassroots levels.



Picture 4 WRM JTR mission at the Tana subbasin, Abay Basin, Ethiopia



WASH JTR mission at Sidama and SNNPR regions, welcoming speech by Aleta Wendo Administrator



Picture 5 WASH JTR mission at Sidama and SNNPR regions, Discussion with Wolayta zone Deputy Administrator and JTR team in front of the 200m3 pioneer reservoir

2.4. WASH-WRM-ENERGY MSF

The 11th MSF for WASH-WRM and Energy; and the 1st MSF integrating WASH-WRM-ENERGY Multi-Stakeholder Forum which is the annual sector review platform was held on June 26 and 27, 2023, in Addis Ababa, under the theme “Accelerated Implementation and Improved Impacts towards Achieving SDGs”. The WASH-WRM-ENERGY MSF was opened with a series of keynote addresses from high level stakeholders:

- Civil society organizations (Mr. Yacob Metana, WaterAid, CSO National WASH Forum steering committee)
- Private sector (Eng. Getahun Tagese, Private Sector Representative);
- Development Partners Group (Mr. Timothy Stein, Deputy mission director, USAID, DPs representative and co-chair of WESWG)
- Ministry of Finance (H.E Ms. Semerita Sewasew, State Minister at MoF);
- Address from the Ministry of Health (H.E. Dr. Liya Tadesse, Minister).

After these keynote addresses, His Excellency Dr. Ing. Habtamu Itefa, Minister of Water and Energy, made his opening statement. In his opening speech the Minister stated among other things on “the need for every stakeholder to work together for achieving global and national plans including SDGs. He witnessed that sustainable progress has been made in GTP I and GTP II. Moreover, he stressed that by the end of 2030 all citizens shall get 100% clean water supply and energy. So, we have to work on innovative technology adaptation, rainwater harvesting, fog harvesting, water lifting pump technology, energy technology that work in each home, energy saving technology needs to be implemented, and toilet for multi-purpose we have to teach our community. Innovative approach is highly required for using water and energy. Common effort is important to make better life for everyone”.

The forum was successfully held with active participation of about 300 key WASH and WRM stakeholders from the federal government, regional bureaus, DPs, CSOs, the private sector and research institutions. During the two days of meeting the sector progress and challenges were thoroughly discussed and best practices from the grassroots were also presented. The full forum proceeding is available and was distributed to all participants via their email.

At the end of the forum, seventeen (17) priority undertakings were identified and agreed up on for 2023/24 as below;

WASH Undertakings

1. **Strengthening National WASH Coordination Efforts:** The WASH sector in Ethiopia has long history of strong and improved coordination. This sectoral coordination has evolved from uncoordinated intervention to one plan-one report and one budget. These efforts have also been praised by the different partners. However, improving the capacity of these offices should be undertaken and all the efforts to enhance national WASH services (one plan and one report) shall again be mobilized to this umbrella.
2. **Improved Sustainability and post construction management of WaSH Infrastructures**
Design and strengthen a cluster model that interlinks project cluster leads and cluster urban water utilities, zones, and regions so as to maximize the impact of WASH-related projects. Facilitate networking, cross-learning, and experience sharing across Urban Utilities. Design and implement targeted system strengthening through supporting utilities for developing their own business plans. Establish and strengthen local utility capacities by introducing long-term and ongoing mentorship approaches through matching an international utility. Such tasks require establishing strong coordination among government and development partners, which allows effective utilization of resources as well as minimizing duplication of efforts;
3. **Finalizing WASH Sector financing Strategy** Sector financing needs, possible financing sources, and financing gaps were identified and discussed. Leveraging local financial resources, bringing financial institutions, banks and cooperatives into the WASH sector financing mix as well as assigning appropriate priority to WASH initiatives by GoE institutions will be required. Alternative financing mechanisms for WASH also need to be supported by policy level incentives including tax exemptions, interest rate reductions, customs tariff relief, subsidy, sanitation loan and more. And diversifying sanitation financing schemes to improve affordability of sanitation products and services;
4. **Mobilizing and Integrating Efforts in Establishing Management Information System (MIS) for WASH**
 - Government and development partners should harness existing MIS system project outcomes, which include the center database established at MoWE, available data collection and visualization tools, etc.
 - To address conflicting reports coming from regions and federal government structures, designing, and introducing a harmonized MIS based reporting system is very pertinent.
 - Create and strengthen institutional capacities for enhancing uptake and operationalization of management information systems, tools, infrastructures, etc. across WASHCos, Woreda, Zones, and Federal government-lined departments,
 - There are several ongoing MIS-related projects across the WASH sectors that require designing a comprehensive information system hub that fosters coordination and efficiently utilizes the limited resources
5. **Gender and inclusiveness in WASH**

- The Gender and Inclusive Technical Working Group has been working on developing manuals, tools, and guidelines to support Inclusive WASH planning and implementation. It has been suggested that the government's line ministries should embark on rolling out learning by doing implementation approaches.
 - Establish inclusive WASH programming knowledge management so that any emerging learning and knowledge products are captured and distributed across the board.
 - The Inclusive WaSH advocacy strategies should be mainstreamed instead of considered a stand-alone approach. Development partners and CSOs are highly encouraged to integrate these strategic documents into their respective intervention designs
6. Water harvesting and saving technologies should be considered as one of the strategies for provision of WASH services;
 7. Work toward the establishment of Urban Water and Sanitation Service delivery Regulatory organ
 8. Broaden the Institutionalization of market-based sanitation into government WASH programing at all levels.
 9. Supporting TSEDU Ethiopia Program at all levels and include all stakeholders.

WRM Undertakings

1. Strengthening the National Integrated Water Resources Management Program and its governance (NIWRMP). NIWRMP has been established but requires attention in terms of working at its full capacity. Creating enabling environment and facilitating approval of pending regulations including water tariff, buffer zone management, NIWRMP document update and approval is required. Soliciting additional financial resources and establishing coordination among key government stakeholders towards one plan-one report in water resources management.
2. Strengthen the planning, implementation and regulatory capacity of Basin Development Offices for IWRM. Particular attention should be given to the Basin Development Offices (Abay, Awash and Rift Valley Basin Offices. This can be done though conducting comprehensive capacity assessment and accordingly preparing a 2-3 years capacity building plan which could be financed as part of the NIWRMP.
3. Establish a comprehensive Basin Information Management System (BMIS). BMIS should make MoWE and its existing basin offices information hub for other sectors. This can be done by building on prior information systems such as the groundwater information data base, surface water, water quality and ongoing MoA Irrigation Management Information System. Moreover, linking basin database with the central database system at MoWE is very essential. The BMIS can be financed as part of the NIWRMP.
4. Centralize Water Research. There are a number of efforts of water related research in Ethiopia by different research institutes, universities and others. Those researches are not often used to address key development and growth issues. Those research efforts shall be coordinated and used to feedback policy. This can be through organizing platform of

research institutes and key universities with established water programs and focusing on demand driven research.

Energy Undertakings

1. Necessary for updating of the National Electrification Program 2:0
2. To continue the power sector reform program and establishment of power sector reform unit – for deep structural reform and operational reform to increase the private sector participation for reliable power supply.
3. Amendment of some legal frameworks and finalization of draft Energy policy
4. Strengthening Energy Development Partners Group (Establishment of Energy Development Partners Group Secretariat)



Picture 6 Some participants of MSF11



Picture 7 Ministers and State Ministers attending MSF 11



Picture 8 WASH, WRM and Energy Presenters in panel

2.5. Revision of the National Integrated Water Resources Management Program

The National Integrated Water Resources Management Program (NIWRMP) was developed few years ago, but the development and approval process couldn't be finalized for many reasons. One undertaking of the 11th multi stakeholder's forum (MSF 11) is to finalize the NIWRMG and its governance structures. Consequently, the WESWG Secretariat and its members arranged a subgroup level, the NIWRMP made a presentation, and the document was provided for review. Most active members and the secretariat played critical role in reactivating the document revision and have provided technical and financial support towards the revised NIWRMP.

The revised National Integrated Water Resources Management Program gives due emphasis to nationally harmonized and enhanced water resource management interventions. To this end, building on the findings of the Joint Technical Review (JTR) undertakings and field missions to validate the review process recommendations, The Water Resources Management-Joint Technical Review (WRM-JTR) Mission have identified the following eight components (thematic packages) that are agreed by MoWE and all partners, to kick off the National Water Resource Management Program (NIWRMP), which includes National Integrated Water Resource Management Capacity, Basin and hydro-Met Information System, Water resources development, use and management, water Pollution Prevention and Control, Water use efficiency and productivity, Integrated catchment management, Water resource management regulatory framework and Stakeholder Engagement, communication and knowledge management.

Pictures

2.6. Concept note development on establishment of knowledge repository

The WESWG Secretariat seeks to serve as a national knowledge hub for shared water and energy related information by identifying, documenting, and disseminating best practices and effective technologies hub. It includes all project related documentation that members of the WESWG would like to share.

The WESWG recognizes the Knowledge Repository (KR) as one of the key platforms that should be implemented to enable users find, access, use/ re-use and share knowledge on water and energy in Ethiopia that should remain irrespective of dynamic government structures. The KR will be a 'smart store' for the full text and metadata of the knowledge of shared water and energy related information that will then be accessible and used by others when required. The online repository will hold a wide range of materials and knowledge products in different forms and formats.

A concept note was developed, and an informal discussion was held on the importance of the KR

3. Other Key WASH and WRM Events

Here in this section, we have reported some important meeting the WESWG secretariat have attended and/or involved in the organization:

3.1. Visioning for Strategic Planning: Climate and Water Solution Concept Development

The above meeting gathered Water stakeholders from multiple Ministries, Agencies, research institutions and funders who participated in a 1.5-day workshop convened by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on 19-20 July in Addis Ababa, designed with the following objectives:

- Understand stakeholder vision with respect to a climate adaptive water management system, the role of data and analytics resources, and existing challenges affecting achievement of the vision.
- Assess the role of a shared government resource focused on climate and water informatics in the stated vision, and the demand for such a solution enabling Government partners to access and integrate relevant and timely climate risk and hydrologic information into management strategies.
- If demand and consensus exist for a shared solution, then develop the initial Pathway steps.

Some priority actions include:

- Immediately following the workshop, a survey to be shared with participants to gauge their interest in the next steps of exploring and developing a shared water & climate information system.
- Based on the Survey responses and the Pathways to the Visions that were developed during the Workshop, the following four steps have been identified for next steps on the climate & water informatics shared solution concept:
 - 1) Arrange discussions with key Ministry decision-makers ▪ BMGF will begin reaching out to partners to coordinate these meetings
 - 2) Identify lead points of contact for each participating entity, based on Ministry recommendations where applicable. This group would comprise the working group and would be facilitated by a neutral third party.
 - 3) Conduct systematic needs assessment and stock take, building on information shared by the Ministries during the Workshop ▪ BMGF and World Bank colleagues will develop a TOR for this work, and aim to have the assessment work completed by end of 2023.

3.2. OWNP-CWA II National WASH Steering Committee (NWSC) meeting

The NWSC conducted its 13th regular meeting on August 23, 2023 at the Capital Hotel. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Asfaw Dingamo, State Minister for the Water and Sanitation sub sector of MoWE and Chairperson of the NWSC, in the presence of members of the NWSC from WaSH sector Ministries including H.E. W/o Semerita Sewasew, H.E Dr. Dereje

Deguma, State Minister of MoH and H.E. Dr, Fenta Mandefro State Minister of MoE. In addition, members of the national WASH Technical Team (NWTT) both from sector ministries and development partners have attended the meeting. Furthermore, Desk Heads and PMU members from WaSH Sector Ministries (Water, Health, Education, Finance and Coordination office) participated in the meeting. Agendas discussed includes:

1. Endorsing the National WaSH Steering Committee 12th Meeting held on April 2023; and review of the progress of agreed actions;
2. Review and endorse OWNP-CWA Phase II EFY 2015 Annual Progress Report
3. OWNP-CWA Phase II Remaining Program Period Plan and EFY 2016 Physical and Financial Summary Consolidated Action plan
4. *Briefing on proposed changes on Program Operation Manual (POM) based on recommendation of the MTR and NWSC*

3.3. Sector Learning and Sharing Technical Advisory Group Meeting

This initiative meeting is designed to generate scientific evidence on WASH and MBS-related topics that inform advocacy for changes in policies and practices and creation of enabling environments conducive to MBS scale-up. The initiative will also help to institutionalize sector learning and dissemination capacity within relevant universities and professional associations so that learning, advocacy and adaptation are sustained far into the future.

The purpose of the TAG and the meeting is to provide guidance and technical support for the promotion of sector learning and dissemination initiatives that contribute to the goals of the One WASH National Program (OWNP) and achievement of Ethiopia's Sustainable Development Goals.

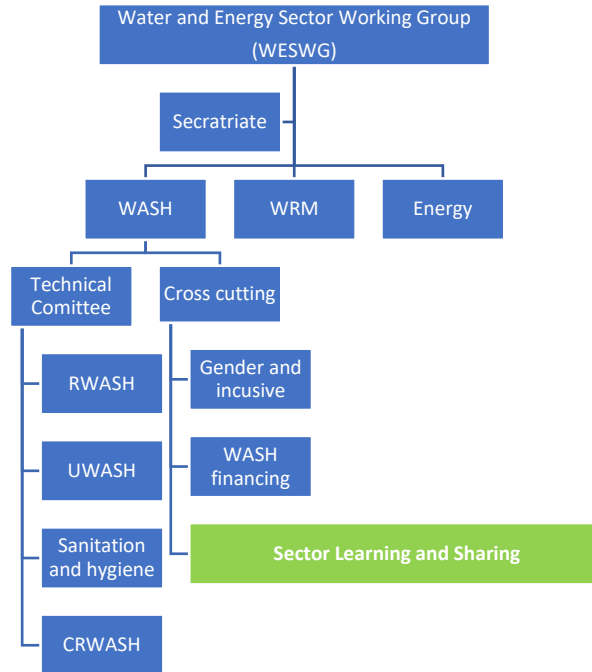
Specific objectives:

- Provide guidance to generate evidence on pre-agreed thematic areas.
- Advise to use the generating evidence to apprise and improve the policy and advocacy.
- Provide direction and support in sectorial knowledge hub establishment/ revitalization and management.

The advisory members are selected to provide a broad representation of universities, professional associations and stakeholders working in sanitation and WASH sector. The membership of the Advisory Group shall be partners or organizations with the ability to contribute technically, materially, and financially to the development, implementation, and utilization of basic and operational research focusing on WASH and market-based sanitation with integrating health system, sectoral financing, infectious disease, communicable and non-communicable disease in the country.

Governance of the TAG

The TAG formed under the Water and Energy Sectors Working Group hosted at MOWE office as one of the cross-cutting committees/ groups as indicated below.



The following is major action points and their time frame.

Major Activities	Responsible	Due date	Remark
Establish Advisory Group	WESWG/TWASH		Done
Refine and endorse the research thematic areas	TAG		Done
Endorse Call for paper/proposal	T/WASH	30 June 2023	Done
Select research proposals and award universities/ professional associations	Review team/ TAG	31 Sep 2023	Assigned technical staff from TAG
Provide technical support to selected universities and review	Review team/ TAG	On going until the research completed	Assigned technical staff from TAG
Dissemination of research findings and learning	TAG	Feb 2024 on wards	
Advice sector policy and strategy change	TAG	On going	
Establish/ revitalize learning hub	TAG	Dec 2023	WAE/PSI/MOWE
Conduct monthly meeting	TAG Chair	On going	

3.4. The 7th Multistakeholder Dialogue on Farmer Led Irrigation

The meeting was organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI)_Ethiopia and brought together key stakeholders to discuss the draft PPP strategy for Small Scale Irrigation (SSI) Development and Management in Ethiopia. It was sponsored by USAID's Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Small Scale Irrigation (ILSSI) project. Insights shared by the participants during the workshop were truly inspiring. The discussions were not only enriching but also set us on a path of progress and collaboration. The event was attended by key individuals and organizations from public and private sectors as well as development partners that possess valuable insights, expertise, and perspectives relevant to Public Private Partnership.



Picture 9 Pictures from the 7th Multi Stakeholders Dialogue on Farmer Led Irrigation