* What are the particular issues to be addressed to achieve gender equality with respect to water, sanitation and hygiene, and what measures are being taken to address these?
* Though WASH services are equally important to both men and women, women are affected disproportionately in its absence due to their distinctive gender roles. In-access to WASH services impede women and girls mobility and expose them to violence and insecurities. Without adequate WASH services, a foundational practical need for women and girls, their ability to freely engage in all other spheres is highly limited. WASH goes beyond just providing practical service, and also contributes to enabling women and girls to opportunities for livelihoods, education, better health and to fighting discriminatory practices associated with untouchability and menstrual hygiene.
* In management and leadership of WASH, unequal involvement of men and women in the decision making processes with regard to planning, implementation and sustainable of management of WASH related services though women play key role in providing drinking water and water for household purposes. Women in rural areas have to sometimes spend up to a day to fetch water where are many urban women spend many hours queuing for water but still their presence in water management committees is negligible.
* In some cases caste based discrimination deprives their right to water and sanitation. E.g. Dalit women are restricted to use communal WASH services
* Women also play the role of primary care giver in the family – thus no water or poor quality water and sanitation services may add additional responsibility on them if they further have to look after their family members suffering from water borne diseases.
* This sort of caregiving roles and household chores for women deprive them of opportunities to gaining knowledge for enabling them to play meaningful representation in decision making positions.
* Where as, absence of sanitation facilities may violate women’s right to dignity and privacy leading to face fear of harassment and sexual assaults
* Lack of sanitation and menstrual hygiene management facilities also result in dropout of adolescent school going girls. It negatively impacts their right to quality education.
* What Measures are being taken to address these? WAN is working with Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) to raise awareness on importance of WASH in Dalit women’s life and empowering them to raise their voices to claim their rights
* WaterAid Nepal is advocating for meaningful participation of women in Water and Sanitation Users Committees, Forums and Network via Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FEDWASUN)
* Running MHM focused MHM Campaigns; and raises issues of WASH and gender via various campaigns
* WASH in School focusing at MHM in community schools in partnership with FEDWASUN, NEWAH and other WAN partners
* In all WASH programmes WAN promotes equity and inclusion. Programmes promote gender friendly facilities in communities and household adopting rights based approach in line with the right to water and sanitation.
* What measures can be taken to accommodate and embrace biological differences (such as menstruation)?
* Raise awareness on Menstrual Hygiene Management; breaking the silence and to empower women and girls to talk about it openly- demystify and help break the myths
* Integrate MHM friendly facilities – functional toilets for girls with proper arrangements for disposing of napkins, changing in privacy; access to water; involvement of school management committee to support such processes in schools, with active engagement of the teachers. in national policy procedures like WASH in School Guideline and educational curricula
* Increase financing for MHM friendly facilities mainly in schools
* Advocate to eliminate harmful practices such as chhaudpadi (exclusion and restriction during menstruation); advocate and lobby for implementation of policies which discourage or even take it as crime for such discrimination
* What measures can be taken to accommodate (assumed) different priorities in the use of water, sanitation and hygiene services?
  + Increase decision making capacity of women and marginalized communities to raise their concerns on their special needs to incorporate in the planning of water, sanitation and hygiene services
  + Advocate for influencing policies, plans and programs to prioritize sector financing for addressing these special needs
  + Promote Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Responsive Budgeting and Planning
* What measures can be taken to combat stereotypes, change harmful practices and challenge socio-cultural norms and prescriptions that disadvantage women and girls with respect to access to sanitation and water?
* Raise concerns over stereotype by using national campaign and awareness raising platforms
* Mainstreaming gender equality in the programmes; WASH, education, health sectors
* Promote Gender Equality and Social Inclusion responsive budget in WASH, Education, Health and other relevant sectors
* Advocacy campaigns from civil society can push governments to implement their international commitments to address such stereotypes and harmful practices
* What role can men and boys play in ensuring gender equality in the context of sanitation and water?
* men and boys sharing responsibilities in household chores including collecting water, care work.
* Understanding MHM is a natural process and help break the myths by taking actions against – untouchablility during periods; taboo to discuss in public, male teachers realize the importance of gender-friendly WASH facilities at educational institution; respect privacy of women and girls
* Promoting women’s participation in various committees related to WASH and technical work
* Men and boys should be more self aware of the gender stereotypes that plague ‘masculinity’ so their own process of empowerment is important to help ensure gender equality in context of water and sanitation
* What measures can be taken to redress existing disadvantage based on entrenched discrimination in the context of sanitation and water?
* Following a human right based approach to programming to raise critical awareness and empower communities
* Conduct critical assessment for understanding discrimination in the context of santiaotn and water
* Sensitize communities both men and women, boys and girls, religious leaders, local authorities, school teachers, health workers about adverse effect in the society and development process due to prevalence of such discriminations, and about benefits to all about adopting principle of equity and inclusion.
* Seek support or mobilize media to disseminate information and to educate public
* What measures can be taken to ensure meaningful and inclusive participatory processes at all levels of decision-making?
* Empower women to claim their rights and to be heard emphasizing on promoting their leadership capacity
* Sensitize relevant authorities on equity and inclusion in WASH programmes; benefits of receiving actual information from the ground by involving women, benefits of receiving expert feedback
* How can an increased role for women and girls translate into actual influence in decision-making?
* Gender responsive programmes on WASH which look into issues of equity and inclusion, rather than just coverage and counting taps and toilets
* Gender responsive budgeting which provides adequate resourcing to ensure needs of women and girls
* Women and girls confidently speak against the myths surrounds women, girls, water and untouchability thus addressing processes for longer term transformation