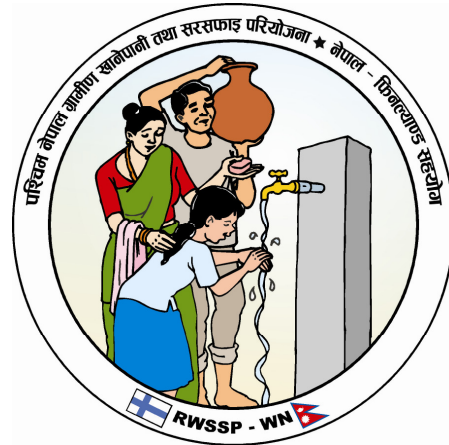


RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT WESTERN NEPAL



Project in Brief

DISTRICT WASH SUPPORT
November

2009

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal

Government of Nepal has committed itself into providing all its citizens the basic level of water supply and sanitation services by the year 2017. Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal (RWSSP-WN) is committed to support Government of Nepal in its task.

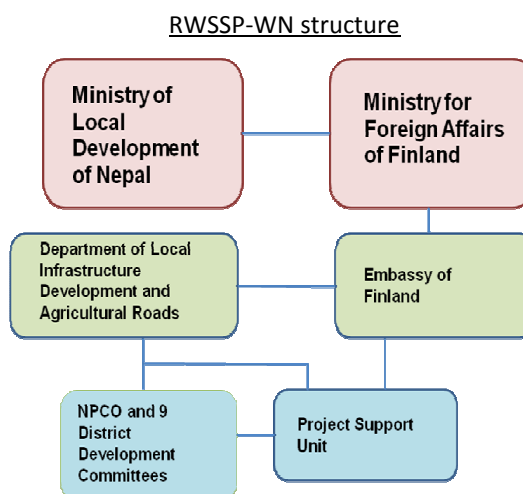
WASH is short form for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene. Many times hygiene related activities are forgotten and concentration is only on water supply and sanitation. However, concentrating on behavioral change in both sanitation and hygienic practices gives great health benefits to people.

Who are we?

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal (RWSSP-WN) is a rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene sector support program funded by the Governments of Nepal and Finland.

The RWSSP-WN office in Pokhara and District Support Advisors based in the districts support and strengthen the local bodies in their work in the Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and in the development of the whole water supply, sanitation and hygiene sector.

The project period is for four years from 2008 until 2012 and the total budget, which includes also local body and community contributions, is approximately 14 million Euros.



Budget of RWSSP-WN

Source	Euro	%
Government of Finland	9,703,000	66 %
Government of Nepal	3,300,893	23 %
District Development Committees	194,058	1 %
Village Development Committees	511,715	3 %
Communities	938,406	6 %
Total	14,648,072.00	100 %

What is our goal?

Our ultimate goal is to increase the wellbeing of the rural people, specifically of the poorest and excluded. The work of RWSSP-WN is based on the notion that fulfilling the needs of the poorest and the excluded regarding water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition, and providing them opportunities to increase their own wellbeing through the local governance system will reduce poverty, and result in higher productivity and income.

Who are our partners?

At central level in Nepal the RWSSP-WN is located under the Ministry of Local Development and under the Ministry in the Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads. Close partners of RWSSP-WN at central level are Department of Water Supply and Sewerage, Ministry of Population and Health, Ministry of Education and National Planning Commission as well as many UN organizations and international and national NGOs. In the districts RWSSP-WN is executed by the District Development Committees and partners are – among others – Water Supply and Sanitation Divisional Office, District Public Health Office, District Education Office, Women Development Office and local civil society organizations.

How do we work?

RWSSP-WN gives high priority on behavioral change in hygiene and sanitation. Present water and sanitation projects in Nepal many times focus mainly on water supply construction with limited and minor inputs to hygiene and sanitation.

RWSSP-WN promotes decentralization. Through the process of decentralization decision making and the public services are brought closer to the people. RWSSP-WN is executed by the local bodies, while the actual implementers of the project at community level are the communities themselves represented by the User Committees. The role of the RWSSP-WN office in Pokhara is solely to support and strengthen the local bodies in the process of WASH sector development and execution and implementation of districts' WASH programs.

Perceptual Lenses

We don't see things
the way they are...



WE SEE THEM AS WE ARE.

Source: *Perceptual Lenses* by UNICEF

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RWSSP-WN is driven by gender equality and social inclusion principles in all its work, including selection of project areas, design of water schemes and sanitation and hygiene programs, staffing, institution and capacity building of the local bodies. At the community level this means that there is 50% women participation and proportionate representation from the traditionally excluded groups. Executive committee out of 9 members (minimum), 4 persons should be women and at least 3 persons from excluded groups. Minimum of one key position in Users' Committee should be woman and one from excluded groups (i.e. Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer).

Gender Equality means that men and women have equal (same) rights, opportunities, status and conditions, and respect, equal voice, equal rights to access and control of natural and financial and other resources and assets /property.

Social inclusion is understood as inclusion of the politically, socially, economically, culturally excluded or self-excluded, discriminated, and poorest groups (mostly but not necessarily poor Dalits, poor ethnic minorities or indigenous people or others, living in remote areas) and individuals, widows, divorcees, single women, female household heads, people living with HIV/AIDS, and the disabled. The concept of Social Inclusion is based on the concepts of equal rights, voice, and equitable treatment and benefits, access to resources, jobs, and decision-making for all, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, social class, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, and abilities. It does not mean exclusion of the majority people and/or the elite and economically well-off.



RWSSP-WN is aligned as much as possible with the Government of Nepal and follows Government of Nepal's own policies, guidelines, planning processes, rules and regulations. RWSSP-WN is working to strengthen the local bodies and the WASH sector in Nepal, and can be seen as a project paving the way for a sector wide approach and increased ownership in WASH. All investment funds (incl. funds from Finland) flow from the central level to the local bodies and finally to the communities using Government of Nepal's regular fund flow mechanisms.

RWSSP-WN is striving towards greater harmonization and integration. All actors working in the WASH sector in the districts should work following the same approach. Greater harmonization and integration will help in avoiding duplication that leads to confusion at all levels and to inefficiency, and that is great burden on the local bodies that presently have to keep track, coordinate and follow different projects with their own guidelines. Thus RWSSP-WN supports the development and implementation of district specific gender sensitive, inclusive and harmonized WASH programs and strategies. In practice this has meant supporting the development of District WASH Implementation Guidelines and supporting in the implementation of WASH activities according to the guideline.

RWSSP-WN endorses Partnership. The project recognizes that each of the stakeholders has an essential part to play in successfully scaling-up WASH, improving performance and ensuring the sustainability of program results.

What do we do?

It is expected that the work carried out will result in,

- well-functioning domestic water schemes that provide safe domestic water to all users and that are managed by inclusive Water Users' and Sanitation Committees,
- changed sanitation and hygienic practices and behavior of people and institutions,
- strengthened institutional capacity of local bodies to facilitate the implementation, operation and maintenance of water, sanitation and hygiene sector, and finally
- in WASH sector policies, strategies and guidelines prepared.

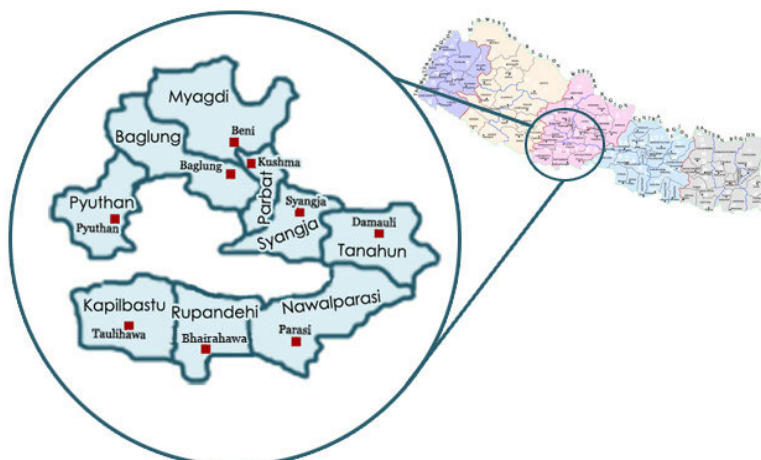
Description	Target	Population
DWIG	1 Model DWIG and 9 district DWIGs	
District WASH plans	9 plans	
VDC WASH plans	51 plans for 459 wards	
Household Sanitation	50,000 households	250,000 people
Institutional sanitation	765 Institutions	
Water supply	120 Gravity schemes, 80 gravity rehabilitations, 200 point source improvements, 120 tube wells, 150 hand dug wells, 360 rainwater harvesting systems	77,800 people
Arsenic mitigation		10,000 people
Kitchen gardens		20,000 people

In order to achieve these results RWSSP-WN implements activities which contribute to the following four result areas:

- Domestic water supply
- Health, hygiene and sanitation
- Inclusive local governance in WASH
- Local WASH Policy and Guidelines

Where do we work?

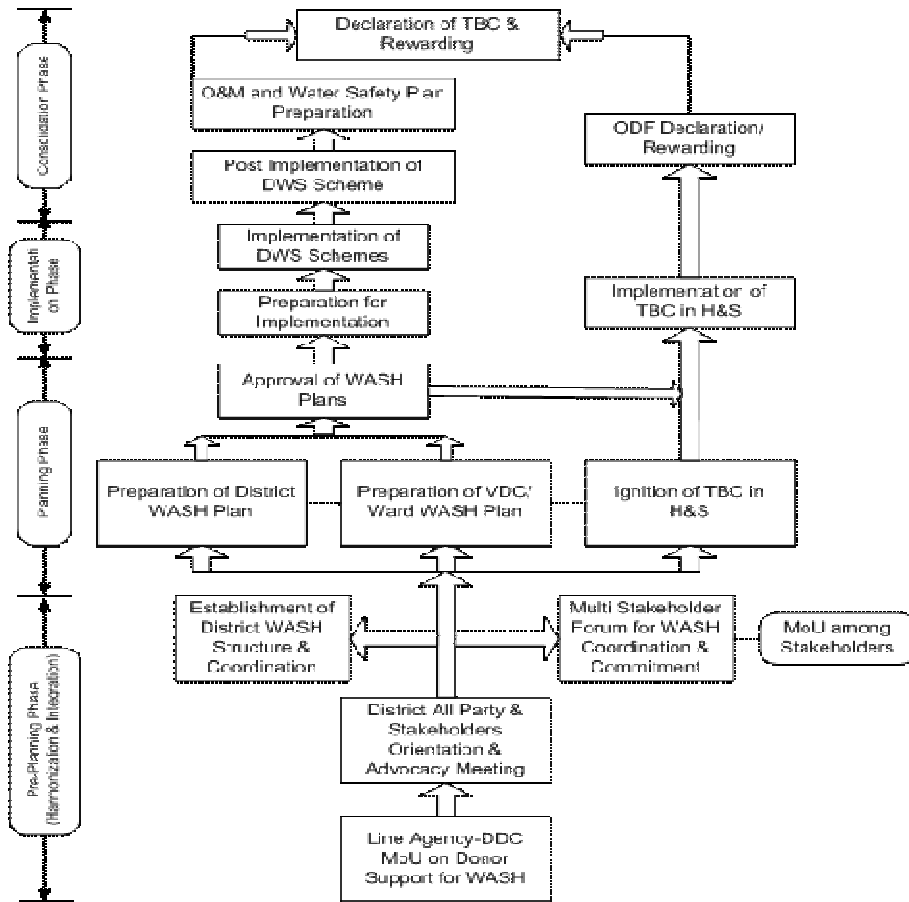
We work in Myagdi, Baglung, Parbat, Tanahun, Syangja, Kapilvastu, Rupandehi and Nawalparasi districts of Western Region and in Pyuthan district in Mid-Western Region of Nepal having a total population of more than 3.2 million. These people reside in 532 VDCs and 4 municipalities.



What is the implementation process followed?

The WASH process starts at the district from pre-planning phase. During this phase all district level stakeholders become aware on the WASH sector concept. In order to achieve consensus and create awareness on the WASH a Multi Stakeholder Forum is conducted. As a result of this forum Memorandum of Understanding of sector coordination and harmonization is signed by the main sector stakeholders. The district also develops a district specific “*District WASH Implementation Guideline*” that is followed by all stakeholders working in the sector.

District WASH Implementation Chart



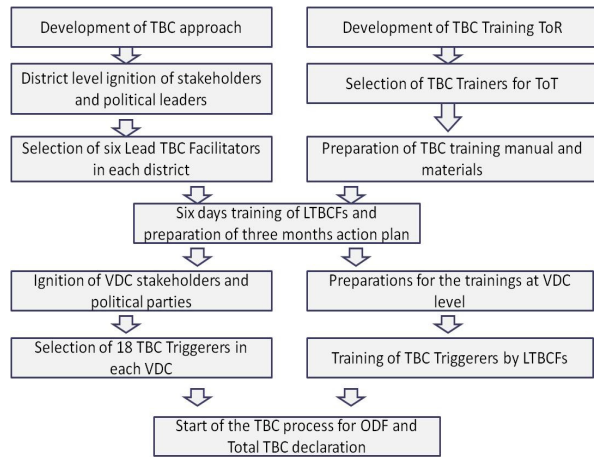
In the planning phase the District Development Committees select Lead Total Behavioral Change Facilitators, who are trained to start Open Defecation Free process in the villages. The District Development Committees may also select other service providers to facilitate the planning and implementation of WASH activities. Simultaneously village level orientations are held and village level WASH plan preparation is ignited. As a result the village level WASH plan is prepared.

In the implementation phase - based on the WASH plan - the Village Development Committee can propose investment projects in WASH sector (for example water schemes, institutional latrines). Simultaneously the total sanitation activities continue and they are reinforced by nutrition program for pregnant and

breast feeding mothers and a process called “Negotiation for Change”. The Negotiation for Change focuses household and individual level hygiene behavior change by introducing Small Doable Actions approach. Also income generation activities are started and Health Fund system to establish local level health insurance system may be tested. Once all these activities have been completed the population of the whole Village Development Committee will have water, and hygienic toilets will be in place and are also used.

In Consolidation phase Open Defecation Free villages will be declared. Later on, also declaration of Total Behavioral Change in Hygiene and Sanitation will take place. Also, in order to ensure continuous good water quality Water Safety Plans are prepared and operation and maintenance management of the schemes organized. The consolidation phase includes massive capacity building programs and training courses.

What is the Community Led Total Behavioral Change Process?



The Community Led Total Behavioral Change Process uses commonly known participatory and community led approaches (Community Led Total Sanitation and School Led Total Sanitation). Further it reinforces the approaches with a behavioral change process and nutrition program for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. It creates hygiene and sanitation awareness at all levels and produces tangible results in terms of toilet construction and in hygienic behavior change. The approach is TOTAL. It means that the entire village has to be free from open defecation and ALL inhabitants follow the minimum critical hygienic habits such as washing hand in critical times, managing the household waste and keeping the drinking water clean at household level.

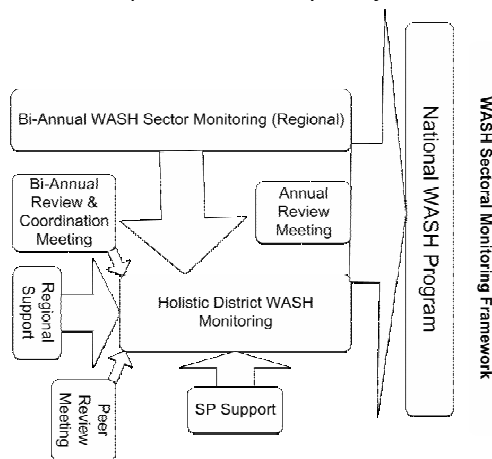
What is WASH planning?

WASH planning process is needed in order to achieve harmonized, effective and coordinated fund utilization for WASH implementation. The WASH plan is a basic document for overall health/hygiene, sanitation and domestic water use related planning and identifies the communities' priorities and needs. The long term strategic plan and the short term annual plan in WASH are prepared both at the district and village level. These plans and the follow-up of their implementation provide adequate information for the decision-makers for funding decisions and utilization. WASH planning process is aligned with the regular planning cycle of local bodies.



How do we monitor the work?

The monitoring of RWSSP-WN WASH support aims to serve as a model for sector monitoring in future and thus it works as a platform to carry out joint sector-monitoring and to share lessons learned in the sector. The district WASH monitoring process is carried out in seven steps by the monitoring team of the district.



How can you be in contact with us?

RWSSP-WN Office address
 30 Veterinary Marg, Hospital Chowk
 P.O. Box 261, Pokhara
 Tel: +977-61-531 883/4
 Fax: +977-61-531 879
 E-mail: rwsspwn@rwsspwn.org.np
 Web: www.rwsspwn.org.np