



Annual Progress Report

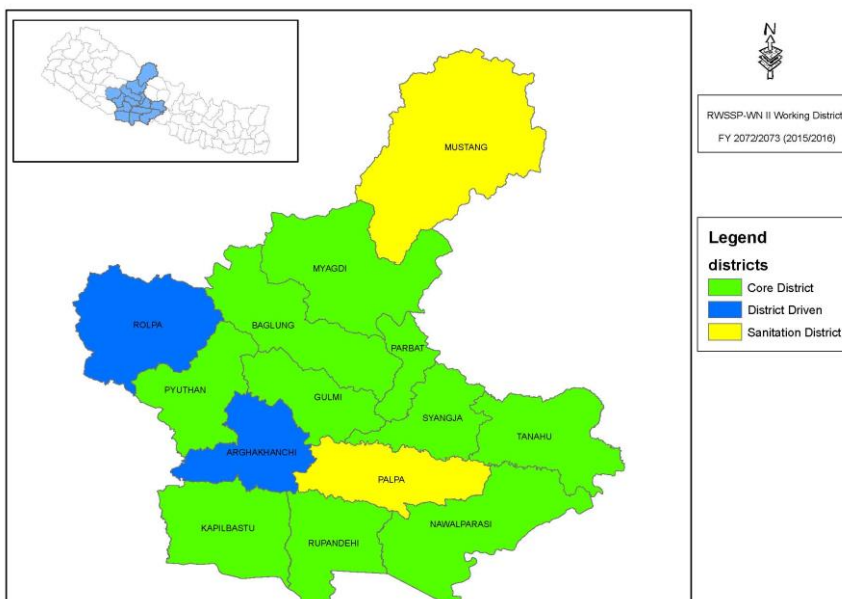
Fiscal Year 03 (2015/2016 – 2072/073)

RWSSP-WN BRIEF 8-2016

Major achievements:

- **Eleven out of fourteen districts** in RWSSP-WN II working area have reached **Open Defecation Free** status since 2012. Two districts, Syangja and Rolpa, declared ODF within the past year. The total population with access to sanitation is **2,7 million**.
- Nearly **70,000 people** have adopted **hygienic behaviours** and use of improved technologies in 164 Total Sanitation declared wards supported by RWSSP-WN II.
- Over **84,000 people** have gained access to improved water supply in RWSSP-WN II supported districts.
- **Sustainability of 397 rural water supply projects** has been improved through rolling out of various **Post-Construction support** activities such as VDC and District PoCo workshops and Water Safety Planning.
- VDC wide WASH planning is the main tool for finding the **unreached pockets and prioritizing water supply** projects; so far **71 V-WASH Plans** have been endorsed by VDC councils.

Working area: 14 districts in Western- and Mid-Western Nepal.



- ➔ RWSSP-WN II (completion phase) is a bilateral WASH project supported by the Governments of Nepal and Finland.
- ➔ The responsible agencies at national level are the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) and its Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR).
- ➔ RWSSP-WN is implemented through the decentralized governance – i.e. the District Development Committees (DDC).
- ➔ The Technical Assistance A consultant for RWSSP-WN II is FCG International Ltd.

This Brief summarizes the Annual Progress Report FY03 in 6 pages.

The brief was prepared by Sini Pellinen, September 16, 2016

The complete Annual Progress Report 2015/2016 (2072-073) for FY03 is available at:
www.rwsspwn.org.np

Access to sanitation and hygiene for all!

More toilets and more people using the toilets

RWSSP-WN has supported the districts' sanitation movement since the Phase I, with the aim of triggering each and every household to construct a toilet and use it. Support to the sanitation movement has yielded results over the years: the first four districts declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) within Phase I in 2012 and 2013, and another seven districts during Phase II, including **two district - Rolpa and Syangja - within FY03**. The population with **access to sanitation** in the 11 districts is **over 2,7 million** (Census 2011).

Three RWSSP-WN II working districts - Kapilvastu, Rupandehi and Palpa – are yet to declare ODF. Rupandehi has taken huge steps towards this by more than tripling the population in ODF declared areas within one year. Success in Rupandehi has many reasons, including active VDC WASH Coordination Committees (V-WASH-CCs), committed local governments and active political parties, while the expectations for toilet subsidies have decreased even if the Indian side of the border still does provide these.

Total behavior change for individual, household and environmental hygiene

After all households have the basic sanitation facilities, the focus shifts to promoting hygienic behaviors under the 'Total Sanitation' framework as outlined in the Nepal National Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011. The key 'Total Sanitation' behaviours are: use of toilet; handwashing with soap; safe handling and treatment of drinking water; maintenance of personal hygiene and; proper solid and liquid waste management. Once V-WASH-CC and D-WASH-CC monitoring teams have verified that hygienic behaviors and use of related technologies such as drying rack, Improved Cooking Stoves or biogas are wide-spread in the ward, the particular ward or VDC is ready to declare for Total Sanitation. So far nearly 70,000 people have adopted more hygienic behaviours and use of improved technologies in 164 Total Sanitation declared wards supported by RWSSP-WN II.

True Behaviour Change is a necessity for lasting results in sanitation and hygiene. Therefore, RWSSP-WN II continues to upgrade its approach to Behaviour Change Communication, with particular focus on how to target messages to different audiences (i.e. appealing to their behavioural drivers and addressing obstacles) and how to utilize different communication channels (i.e. mass communication vs. individual/small group counselling).

Depending on the target group and the strategic approach chosen, there can be even 40 different messages depending on the target group. Some of the new or improved methods include, for example, targeted letters to households to have them commit to construct toilets, seeking the support of local political and other leaders to create an enabling environment and to agree on no-subsidy, more eye-catching posters in carefully thought exposure points, correctly timed monitoring and follow-up visits etc. Many V-WASH-CCs are now better motivated to lead the VDC sanitation and hygiene campaigns.



Total sanitation related behaviours promoted by RWSSP-WN

Access to safe, functional and inclusive water supply services for all!

Drinking water for those who don't have access to improved water supply

By the end of its 3rd fiscal year, RWSSP-WN II has supported **84,221 people to gain access to improved water supply**. In addition to completed rural water supply projects, we have a number of on-going projects with a population of 53,998. Most of our schemes are based on gravity-flow of water in piped water supply system, serving households through community taps shared by a few households. However, there is an increasing demand for lifting water to hardship communities in areas where gravity-based water supply is not feasible; to locations where depletion of water sources in higher slopes (i.e. communities who were earlier served by gravity-based water supply systems) is evident. Other technical options for water supply are rain water harvesting, point source improvements (usually without piped system), and, in the Terai context, wells and overhead-tanks. Construction work in the first half of the fiscal year was slowed down due to the blockade of Nepal-India border and unrest in Terai, but accelerated towards the end of the fiscal year.



Structures of gravity and electric lift water supply schemes

Water User Committees form the backbone of water service in rural areas

By far 314 rural water supply projects have benefited from the post-construction activities. Sustainability of rural water supply systems depends on the capacity and motivation of local water user committees and other duty-bearers to maintain and manage the systems. Participatory, step-by-step approach since the planning of water supply systems and strenuous capacity building of water user committees from planning to post-construction phase lays the foundation for sustainability. Post-construction (PoCo) support consists of three lines of action - individual project level, VDC and district-level - aiming at continuity of PoCo support services and institutional strengthening to ensure sustainability and functionality of rural water supply. PoCo activities cover both Phase I and Phase II water supply systems, with focus on piped water supply schemes (gravity and lift).

District and VDC level PoCo workshops were rolled out in FY03 in eight districts. District-level Post-Construction workshops are a venue to link private sector service providers (technical and financial) and other district stakeholders such as FEDWASUN with representatives water user committees. One of the objectives is to develop common understanding among all stakeholders on PoCo service needs for ensuring functionality of water supply schemes. In VDC-level PoCo workshops the functionality and managerial status of water supply schemes of the VDC are reviewed, which helps to estimate the PoCo support needs of the given VDC. The role of VDC WASH Coordination Committee (V-WASH-CC) in planning and monitoring WASH facilities is discussed in these workshops – if the V-WASH-CC is active, it can take the lead in these activities.

Water Safety concerns both quality and quantity

Water Safety Plan (WSP), which is one of the elements in the Post-Construction phase, is the main tool for maintaining and improving the service level of rural water supply projects. The concept of WSP applied by RWSSP-WN II was revised during the FY02 to mainstream Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction considerations within the plan (WSP+) and to include regular operation & maintenance (O&M) and tariff calculation (WSP++). By the end of FY03, **204 WSPs have been prepared for piped gravity and lift water supply schemes in nine project districts**. Coliform Presence/Absence (P/A) tests during WSP preparation reveal that **40% of water supply systems are contaminated with bacteria**. These results are worrying, and emphasize the importance of WSP++. In case of presence, it is possible that the water is contaminated also with other bacteria, parasites and parasitic worms, although these parameters are not tested.



Runoff diversion wall (above), recharge trench and pond (below)

In the past year, we adapted a ‘**Springshed management’ approach** to guide us in planning suitable recharge intervention in most optimal location.

Depletion of spring water sources is the most severe environmental and climate-induced hazard threatening the functionality of water supply schemes in the hill regions of Nepal. In some VDCs, in more than half of water supply schemes the spring discharge reduces drastically or dries up completely during the dry season.

Technical solutions that improve recharge of groundwater, such as recharge pits/trenches, recharge ponds and plantation can be implemented as part of WSP++, or already in the scheme design phase. WSP++ is also a tool to reduce disasters such as landslides, heavy runoff and erosion by technologies such as check-dams and retention walls. RWSSP-WN II continues to monitor and follow-up the WSP++ implementation, retesting water quality, as well as proper implementation of ‘++’ aspects of WSP.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Representation of women and ethnic/caste groups in Water User Committees is a key indicator for social inclusion. In terms of female representation, we are not far from our target of equal participation, with **women comprising 47% of committee members**. When looking at proportionate representation of different caste and ethnic groups, it shows that **Dalit and Terai Disadvantaged groups are slightly under-represented in the committees**, whereas the ‘Others’ category – who are considered as advantaged – have clearly higher representation than their proportion among beneficiaries requires. Alas, when it comes to women and DAG members holding leading positions, the situation is less affirmative: In only 7% of the committees, the chairperson is female and similarly only 10% of chairpersons are Dalit, while their proportion among all water supply beneficiaries is 20%. This shows that more efforts are needed to promote meaningful participation of women and Disadvantaged Groups.

Strengthened institutional capacity of government bodies

Institutional capacity refers to abilities, skills, resources, attitudes, motivations, relationships, and conditions that enable organizations, sectors and broader social systems to carry out functions and achieve their development objectives. Our focus is on VDC and district-wide institutions, namely V-WASH-CCs and D-WASH-CCs which include VDC, DDC and District WASH unit.

The future of districts – and District WASH Units as we know them now – is very uncertain in the face of the planned Federal Governance restructuring. Which government body/bodies will provide the services and fulfil the role of current Districts-WASH unit? Will the role of V-WASH-CCs be even more significant when the restructuring of local governance proceeds? RWSSP-WN II is eager to contribute to these debates with its lessons learned in working with V-WASH-CCs and D-WASH Units.

District and VDC-wide WASH Plans

District Strategic WASH Plans (DSWASHP) and VDC-wide WASH Plans (V-WASH Plans) guide the WASH programme in the district/VDC level by prioritizing VDCs/household clusters with most water hardship and setting goals and approach for sanitation and hygiene promotion. The planning process brings together different WASH stakeholders in district and VDC levels and is a venue to activate D/V-WASH-CC, which often become dormant after achieving ODF targets. **Two District Strategic WASH Plans (Baglung and Arghakhanchi) were finalized and endorsed within FY03**, while work continues in two remaining new districts (Gulmi and Rolpa). Also **71 out of 91 VDC-wide WASH Plans were completed** during the FY03.

In addition to WASH planning processes, RWSSP-WN II continued working with D-WASH-CC and V-WASH-CC through various sanitation & hygiene and capacity building events, including the District- and VDC-level Post-Construction workshops which were started this year. In the performance assessment of D-WASH-CCs for FY03, **5 out of 10 assessed districts scored 75% or more, while 3 districts scored 30% or less** – leaving much room for improvement. VDC wide WASH monitoring – which is an opportunity to activate V-WASH-CC to know the status of their VDC – is not yet widely carried out in the project districts; **only Syangja district has conducted VDC wide monitoring** in three VDCs.

Reaching the unreached

VDC wide WASH planning is the main tool for finding the unreached pockets that need support for water supply. V-WASH Planning process pays particular attention to including disadvantaged groups through, for example, confidence building workshops for women and disadvantaged, ensuring that information on the planning process and meeting times reaches all, arranging time and venue so that it is suitable for women and poor households, encouraging women and disadvantaged to raise their voice in planning workshops, and, if necessary, conducting separate meetings with women and disadvantaged.

Beneficiary data of water supply projects shows that **87% of all beneficiary households can be defined as previously unreached** – i.e. households who have never received external support for an improved water supply (69%) and households who have received support for water supply but the design period of their scheme is over (18%). This shows that we have been successful in targeting our intervention. One fifth of the beneficiaries belong to Dalit group, which is higher than their proportion in districts' total population (13%). Being one of the most marginalized groups in Nepal, they are likely to have been left out from previous interventions, and are now bridging the gap in universal water supply coverage.

DEFINITIONS

Improved water supply refers to service level 1 in quantity, access, reliability and water quality (QARQ). The QARQ standards set by the Government of Nepal are: quantity 45 litres per capita per day; accessibility - round trip fetching time up to 15 minutes; reliability - year around; and water quality.

Open Defecation Free (ODF): All household members are using sanitation facilities. After this has been verified by a monitoring team, the area (VDC/district) is declared ODF.

RWSSP-WN Phase I lasted from 2008 to 2013, and **Phase II** started in September 2013 and is provisioned to go on until 2018.

Water Safety Plan (WSP): WHO defines WSP as a plan to ensure the safety of drinking water through the use of a comprehensive risk assessment and risk management approach that encompasses all steps in water supply from catchment to consumer. RWSSP-WN II modified the concept to mainstream Climate Change and Disaster Risk considerations within the plans (WSP+) and to include regular Operation and Maintenance (**WSP++**).

REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS available at www.rwsswn.org.np

Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan, Government of Nepal (2011).
Annual Progress Report FY03 (17.7.2015 – 16.7.2016), RWSSP-WN II (2016).
HRBA & GESI Strategy & Action Plan, RWSSP-WN II (2015).
Post-Construction Guidelines, RWSSP-WN II (2015).
WSP++ guidelines, RWSSP-WN II (2015).



RESULTS INDICATORS FOR RWSSP-WN II

Purpose indicator 1: 150,000* previously unserved people benefit from access to improved water supply.

Purpose indicator 2: All water supply schemes supported by the project provide functional, improved and safe water supply services.

Purpose indicator 3: no one practices open defecation (all districts declared ODF).

Result indicator 1.3: # of Wards declared for having achieved total sanitation (wards within which each household complies with at least four out of five main TBC criteria as listed in the National Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan).

Result indicator 2.1: # of water supply schemes supported by the Project fund in the Phase I and Phase II apply a Water Safety Plan with CCA/DRR component.

Result indicator 2.2e: Institutional capacity: # of WUSCs supported by the Project fund in the Phase I and Phase II are inclusive and capacitated to provide sustainable services. WUSC defined as functional fulfils the following criteria: e) WUSC has proportional representation of caste/ethnic/social groups and 50% women.

Result indicator 2.4: Reaching the unreached: # of water supply schemes supported by the Project fund in the Phase II reaching the unreached (previously unserved by improved water supply supported by interventions external to VDC).

Result indicator 3.1 # of districts have D-WASH Plan that is used and periodically updated.

Result indicator 3.2 # of VDCs have V-WASH Plan that is used and periodically updated.

Result indicator 3.3 # of DDCs practicing coordinated and inclusive planning through D-WASH CC as per the D-WASH-CC Terms of Reference.

Result indicator 3.4 # of VDCs practicing coordinated and inclusive planning through V-WASH-CC as per the V-WASH-CC Terms of Reference.

* Target 150,000 if the additional investment budget is available. Target 100,000 with the existing budget.

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal Phase II is a bilateral development cooperation project funded by the governments of Nepal and Finland, and implemented through local governments and users' groups under the Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR), Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development. RWSSP-WN II works in 14 districts in Western and Mid-Western development regions in Nepal.

See: www.rwsspwn.org.np

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