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SAFAA PAANI:

Ensuring Sustainable Community Drinking Water Supply

Despite abundant water resources, Nepal is considered an economically water-scarce country due to lack of infrastructure and a lack of capacity for conserving water. In 2014, its water supply coverage was 83 percent with sanitation coverage of 70 percent¹. Rural drinking water still lacks 1) a proper monitoring system for surveillance of rural drinking water, 2) monitoring of formal service providers, and 3) proper testing of water quality against national standards in Nepal². A growing population and changes in lifestyle require Nepal to invest in water supply and sewage system infrastructure to meet the Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets of universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities for all by 2030.

PROJECT APPROACH

USAID/Nepal awarded the Safaa Paani WASH Recovery Activity (WRA), implemented by Winrock International, with an objective of rebuilding, repairing and improving WASH facilities in two earthquake-affected districts aligning with the USAID development strategy 2013-2018. The activity intended to construct new drinking water supply (DWS) systems, and repair and rehabilitate 200 DWS systems in the Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk districts.

Winrock aimed to provide solutions to ensure collaborative and sustainable water infrastructure in the target districts. This

Fast Facts

DONOR: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
OVERALL OBJECTIVE: Sustainable community drinking water supply
PROJECT PARTNERS: SEBAC NEPAL
TARGET DISTRICTS: Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk



Fig1. Target districts of the project

effort focused on two elements. The first element was quality assurance and monitoring systems for DWS construction. The second was strengthening capacity of the Social Empowerment and Building Accessibility Center (SEBAC) Nepal, by proposing a comprehensive set of interventions to evaluate community based DWS construction under the Safaa Paani Project. Winrock also sought to build the capacity of Implementing Partners (IP) to ensure the quality of construction work.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

- Provide assistance to develop proper monitoring tools (equipment delivery tools, monitoring checklist and indicators), for USAID to monitor construction and assess current construction practices of SEBAC Nepal.
- Strengthen managerial and technical capacity of SEBAC Nepal's team in the field of DWS construction.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Identify strengths and weaknesses of constructed DWS systems in the target districts.
- Monitor and evaluate the quality and condition of the construction materials and construction work of different components and of the management and functionality of the Water User Committee for DWS.
- Develop monitoring tools for quality assurance based on site visits of the construction areas.
- Strengthen capacity of SEBAC Nepal through the development of training modules and materials for quality DWS.
- Conduct quality control training and knowledge exchange programs with SEBAC Nepal management and technical staff on construction of DWS systems and current practices of vendor selection and procurement.

RESULTS

- Developed quality-assured monitoring systems and tools for DWS construction and USAID.
- Enhanced capacity of SEBAC Nepal through technical training and managerial intervention for quality construction, an improved procurement process, and successful and timely implementation of projects.

“These projects are capital-intensive, have a long life and contribute to wider economic livelihood. Quality assurance and control is the most important. Otherwise, such a huge investment is in vain. It poses a huge danger and risk of loss of life and property if it fails.”

- Badri Nath Baral, Director, renewable energy program support office (REPSO)

1 National Management Information Project (NMIP), Nationwide Coverage and Functionality Status of Water Supply and Sanitation in Nepal; Department of Water Supply and Sewerage, Government of Nepal: Kathmandu, Nepal, 2014.

2 World Health Organization (WHO), UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2015