



RVWRMP EVALUATION BY RURAL MUNICIPALITIES



SUMMARY OF VISUAL CLIPS CAPTURED DURING PLANNING AND COORDINATION WORKSHOP ON 5-6 MARCH 2020



The Rural Village Water Resources Management Project, Phase III (2016-2022), jointly funded by Government of Nepal, European Union and Government of Finland together with local governments, provides support to rural communities for clean drinking water, and behaviour change in sanitation, hygiene and nutrition. The project also supports livelihood promotion for income generation, cooperatives and renewable energy. The Project covers 66 remote rural municipalities of Nepal. Capacity building of local governments is a key component of the Project.

The Overall Objective to which RVWRMP III contributes is improved health and reduced multidimensional poverty within the project working area. The Purpose of the Project is to achieve universal access to basic WASH services, and improved livelihoods with establishment of functional planning and implementation frameworks for all water users and livelihoods promotion in the project area. It is estimated that 351,000 people will have basic water supply services with improved systems; 54 000 people will benefit from irrigation systems. Over 170,000 will have changed their cooking stoves to an improved smokeless and energy saving models. 275,000 people will benefit from home gardens, providing their families with better nutrition. Some 60 000 population will use training in income generation to improve their opportunities in agribusiness and small business ventures. Confidence, capacity and equity will improve. The Project's working modality and approach are embedded in the local governments' working modality and the Project is implemented by the Local Governments.

RVWRMP III has crossed the halfway point in its implementation. The project has gained a lot of experience working with local governments since the federalisation process with elections in 2017. The increase in ownership by the RMs has been dramatic. Implementation of the Project under local elected governments has been much more effective than earlier. The RMs have internalized RVWRMP's working modality and approaches. All the RMs have appreciated the transparent and participatory working approach of the Project. The cash contributions from the RMs have been more than anticipated by the Project, and have been paid in a timely manner. When the RMs were first established there was a lack of physical infrastructure at the RM Offices, and they didn't have enough technical human resources. However, this has gradually improved and the RMs are building their capacities in terms of physical and technical strength.

Implementation of RVWRMP is based on the RM's decisions under some pre-defined working approaches (directed by the Project Document). Participation and social inclusion, transparency, quality construction, integration of water with livelihoods, behaviour change on WASH, nutrition and menstrual hygiene management are key approaches of the Project. To put these approaches into action, working modalities are applied that ensure participation of all of the beneficiary community, as well as full transparency of the decision-making process. The project has applied zero tolerance on any type of corruption.

The Project took the opportunity to capture the voices of the RM chair/vice chairs to evaluate the project's working modality and approaches during the RM planning and coordination meeting, organized on 5-6th March 2020. The opinions of the RM representatives have guided the Project to develop a capacity building and institutional supporting strategy for the final years of RVWRMP III.

This document has been prepared based in the opinions expressed by the RM chairs/vice chairs who participated in the workshop. Video clips of the event are available from the Project.

RVWRMP'S EVALUATION BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

"While RVWRMP was started in Dadeldhura, I was member of all party mechanism that represented the DDC Board. This is the best project of the Province which provides direct benefit to the rural and poor people. Performance of the Project is excellent. Provincial Government is interested to collaborate with the Project. Working modality and approaches are effective and replicable and it has addressed real need of the people. We know the Projects don't provide support forever, therefore local governments should be responsible to sustain it which continue the happiness of the people. I expect continuation of the Finnish support for the development of Sudurpaschim province in future as well.



Honorable Pathan Singh Bohara, Minister for Physical Infrastructure Development Sudurpaschim Province.



"One of the key success of RVWRMP support is sanitation and hygiene. It includes personal, school and community hygiene. Sanitation and hygiene promoters are providing training to community and carrying out door to door monitoring of the behavior changes. We have constructed school WASH facilities with CGD friendly structure with sanitary pad changing and disposal provision. Total Sanitation indicators are developed for community sanitation".

Akkal Bahadur Dhama, Chairperson, Chhabis Pathibhera RM, Bajhang

"Sustainability of water supply schemes is taken into consideration in RVWRMP supported schemes, which was not considered by other agencies before. Entire working modality of the Project is replicable and RM will gradual replicate best practices. All the schemes are supported based on the WUMP priority, but out of 38 prioritized schemes, only 8 schemes are completed so far. As WASH is still RM's first priority, we realized that RVWRMP's support should be continued in coming years too"

Bal Bahadur Gurung, Chairperson, Aalital RM, Dadeldhura



"Considering global issue of sustainability of WSS schemes, RM formulated policy to implement water supply schemes with metered yard connection. It has ensured sustainable operation and maintenance of the schemes. Waste water is used for home gardens. RM's learnt scheme implementation Step-by-step process and replicated zero corruption and UC governance measures. Local community's living standard is changed through income generation and improved health status."

Dan Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson, Bhagawatimai RM, Dailekh

"We have scaled up income generation activities by establishing pocket area for fruit, walnut, large cardamom and green vegetables to implement RM's agriculture plan. For vegetable pocket area, we introduced minimum 10 plastic tunnels per settlement in 10 different settlements. 'One house, 30 plants' campaign is being implemented jointly with the Project. Green vegetable collection centers are constructed. Local community has now started getting economic benefit by the Project's support."

Bhuvaneshwor Upadhyay, Chairperson, Thalara RM, Bajhang



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"RVWRMP's community procurement process ensures transparency and zero corruption. Transparency is most important aspect of development. The model should be applied by all the development agencies including federal, provincial and local governments. RVWRMP has provided support to the RM to implement its development policy in infrastructure development, economic upliftment, social transformation through awareness campaigns and different capacity building activities".

Jaman Singh Dhami, RM Chairperson, Marma RM, Darchula



"There are lot of development needs in the village and we alone are not able to solve all of them. We received good support from RVWRMP to invest huge amount in water supply schemes. Project's support in livelihood, sanitation, and other components is more than my expectation. One of the key changes in the village is that girls don't miss their schools during menstruating days. Menstrual Management is time taking process and we have started it from school girls. We have installed sanitary pad vending machine in three schools that encourage girls to attend school all the time".

Kaushila Kumari Bhatta, RM Chairperson, Bhageshwor RM, Dadeldhura

"RVWRMP simplified menstruation naming it as 'dignified'. Menstruation was regarded as sin but now it became holy movement. All RM representatives and women and girls happily participating in the movement. Sanitary pad making, awareness campaigns, women as decision maker workshop has created a lot of changes in the villages. We are implementing adolescence girls' "Now I speak" movement is effective. We realized that simplification of the problem is a way of its solution."

Jhankar Bahadur Saud, RM Chairperson, Ramaroshan RM, Achham



"RVWRMP's working modality and approaches best fit at community level. In my opinion, it is appropriate model for community development. In project's support, we already applied O&M policy and DMM directives. Approaches of participation, transparency and cost sharing model will be applied in all type of schemes in the RM. Most of the youths of Gaumul RM used to work as porter in other RMs but they are now self-employed in their own village. Cooperatives development model is very effective and has changed people's living standard".

Hari Bahadur Rokaya, Chairperson, Gaumul RM, Bajhang

"After federalization, province and federal level activities are not coordinated with the RMs, but RVWRMP's beauty is that it works under the RM. Identity of the villages in Humla before was "shit is smelled reaching villages". Now the identity is changed, all households and schools are using toilet. It has stopped diarrhea and cholera epidemic which was key factor for child mortality. RVWRMP's drinking water, improved water mill, ICS and home garden components are very effective in Humla."

Karna Bahadur Rawal, Chairperson, Kharpunath RM, Humla



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"Step-by-step process of scheme implementation ensures participation of all beneficiaries in key scheme cycles including Users' Committee formation, public audit, scheme level monitoring and community procurement process. Proper participation of the beneficiaries ensures transparency. Mandatory participation and representation of women and DAG makes them empowered. I regard it as excellent approach of the RVWMP and commit to replicate in the RM's other development programs as well".

Karna Singh Saud, RM Chairperson, Shivnath RM, Baitadi

"After declaring the area open defecation free in RVWRMP's support, lot of diseases in the village are controlled. The Project has done number of good works in the RM. Awareness is created through workshops and trainings. Explaining all cost by components to the community before, during and after construction of the scheme is very impressive. It solves most of the potential problems and ensures transparency. We expect more support from the Project in different sector in coming days as well.

Krishna Bahadur Rokaya, RM Chairperson, Sarkegad RM, Humla



"Apart from water and sanitation, livelihood program has remarkably helped poor community to enhance their income level. We have developed green vegetable pocket corridor in Dallek, Sundmund and Bashar settlements. Farmers started to supply green vegetable to district headquarter. We are aware that the Project is going to be phased out and ready to expand the activities in our own effort enhancing agriculture, livestock and other sections of the RM".

Prem Singh Dhami, Chairperson, Naugad RM, Darchula

"We are jointly fighting against Chhaupadi malpractice and became able to declare the RM as chhau-hut free. We have destructed chhau-hut physically but still there are lot of challenges. We jointly organizing awareness programs to ensure that the huts will not be reconstructed again. We will continue collaboration with the Project for training, awareness and capacity building to eradicate such taboos in close involvement of formal and informal social leaders".

Pushpa Raj Sharma, Chairperson, Turmakhand RM, Achham



"Namkha is remotest RM and is bordered to china, most of the parts of the RM remains covered with snow for 4-6 months. In such a difficult place, the project solved drinking water problems and schemes are completed in time with good quality. We are very happy that RVWMP supported for drinking water, irrigation, improved water mill and improved cooking stoves in remotest villages of the RM like Limi and Yari, where none of the other agencies working before. I expect the Project will continue in future as well".

Pema Tamang, Vice Chairperson, Namkha RM, Humla

RVWRMP'S EVALUATION BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

"RVWRMP started in our place in 2008, we found it is a best Project. Through community participation, it has taught people to work together and has increased community cohesiveness. Transparency approach is excellent, public audit is very effective. The project has supported in water supply, cooperatives development, improved cooking stove and sanitation component. People of the RM haven't dreamed that it will be phased out. I thank Finland government for its support to poor and remote community"

Prem Bahadur Budha, RM Chairperson, Bhairabi RM, Dailekh



"Dilasaini is remote RM of Baitadi, we are far from quality education and access to other facilities. RVWRMP provided big support for us in water, sanitation and livelihood together with capacity building. RVWRMP working approaches has supported us to change traditional way of development. People are realizing importance of community participation, transparency and collective decision making process as key aspect of sustainable development."

Ukendra Bahadur Bohara, Chairperson, Dilasaini RM, Baitadi

"WUMP priority ensured water access to dalit and poor. Since we don't have enough resources to construct scheme from long distance, it became possible through the Project's support. After availability of water at village, marginalized people also practicing home garden and changed hygiene behavior, which has enhanced their health and nutritional status. We have learnt sustainability aspects of water schemes such as O&M fund, water tariff, UC governance etc. RM is planning to top up O&M fund for best performing UCs for their encouragement as a reward".

Tej Bahadur Dumrel, Chairperson, Sayal RM, Doti



"Out of many good approaches and working modalities of RVWRMP, I personally very much impressed with transparent and participatory community procurement process. The process started already in preparatory phase by forming procurement committee and training them in procurement process and quality of materials. Collection of sealed quotation through public notice provides opportunity to all interested bidders. Opening of the bid is done publicly in participation of UCs, suppliers, RM and Project representatives. There is no any chance of corruption, we save money from this process. All development actors should replicate this beautiful process".

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