

Semiannual Progress Report

Rural Village Water Resources Management Project, Phase III
2074-2075 (16.7.2017 – 15.1.2018)

Project duration:
03/2016-8/2022

Competent Authorities:

- Government of Finland (GoF)/Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Government of Nepal (GoN)/Ministry of Finance

Implementation:

- Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD)/ Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR)
- Rural Municipalities of Provinces 6 and 7
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List of Abbreviations

AEPC	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre	MoFALD	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
AWP	Annual Work Plan	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation	MUS	Multiple Use Water System
CSIDB	Cottage and Small Industry Development Board	NDHS	Nepal Demographic and Household Survey
DADO	District Agriculture Development Office	NPR	Nepalese Rupee
DAG	Disadvantaged Group	O&M	Operation and Maintenance
DCC	District Coordination Committee	ODF	Open Defecation Free
DDF	District Development Fund	PCO	Project Coordination Office
DoLIDAR	Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads	PSU	Project Support Unit
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	QARQ	Quantity, Accessibility, Reliability and Quality
EU	European Union	RM	Rural Municipality (This abbreviation is used for both municipalities and rural municipalities.)
EUR	Euro	RVWRMP	Rural Village Water Resources Management Project
FY	Fiscal Year	SO	Support Organisation
GESI	Gender and Social Inclusion	SP	Support Person (individual hired by DDC)
GoF	Government of Finland	SvB	Supervisory Board Meeting
GoN	Government of Nepal	TA	Technical Assistance
HH	Household	UC	User Committee (water, sanitation, micro-hydro, irrigation, etc)
HPI	Human Poverty Index	VDC	Village Development Committee
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach	WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
ICS	Improved Cooking Stove	WS	Water Supply
LRP	Local Resource Person	WSP	Water Safety Plan
IWM	Improved Water Mill	WSS	Water Supply Scheme
M	Million	WUMP	Water Use Master Plan
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs (of Finland)		
MH	Micro-hydro		
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management		
MHP	Micro-hydro Power		
MIS	Management Information System		

Executive summary

The reporting period has been characterized by the implementation of the major changes in the local government structure of Nepal. The local government elections were undertaken in June 2017 and the newly elected municipality assembly members took their chairs during July 2017.

Elections of the national parliament and provincial representatives were held in November – December 2017.

A lot of effort was made to align the RVWRMP III to the new local government structure, and all changes have still, in January 2018 not yet taken place.

In initial months of the reporting period, Memoranda of Understanding were signed between 48 local level governments, District Coordination Committees and the DoLIDAR. These MoUs outlined the implementation and support framework, and agreed on cooperation and administrative structures between the Project and the local level government. This was a major undertaking, and all TA staff was involved in this process for the months of July and August.

Bank accounts and new fund transfer modalities were agreed and implemented during the months of August and September.

Major orientation and capacity development effort was undertaken towards the end of the reporting period, involving some 800 local government decision-makers and other key stakeholders.

Ensuring the fiscal accountability and oversight measures was given a lot of attention. Accountants were trained in two separate events, working together with MoFALD.

Institutional structures at the rural municipality level, the project management committees were constituted and made operational. The technical assistance staff from the districts were mobilized to participate in the meetings and undertake financial and other monitoring.

Simultaneously the Project was supporting DoLIDAR, the Embassy of Finland and the European Union to revise the Project Document. Furthermore, the TA team prepared a Human Resources Strategy, which is designed to change the structure of TA and other Project-funded staff to better reflect the local level government's needs.

Physical progress in terms of completed water supply systems and other infrastructure was delayed by one to two months, due to the elections and delays in the fund flow to the rural municipalities.

1 Project Description

The Rural Village Water Resources Management Project (RVWRMP) is supported by the Government of Nepal (GoN), the European Union (EU) and the Government of Finland (GOF). It is a continuation of financial and technical support that GoF has provided to water sector in Nepal since 1989. Phase I (2006-2010) and Phase II (2010-2016), are now followed by Phase III (2016-2022). The European Union started financing the Project in November 2017, through an arrangement of delegated management to Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

The Project is operating in Provinces 6 and 7.

RVWRMP is a water resources management project which, in addition to water supply and sanitation, supports water based livelihood activities.

The implementing partners of the Project are the newly elected local level governments, Municipalities (M) and Rural Municipalities (RM), as well as the residents of these areas through users' committees, cooperatives and other groups formed by the beneficiaries.

1.1 Definition of the intervention

Overall objective: Improved health and reduced multidimensional poverty within the project working area;

Project purpose: Universal access to basic wash services, and improved livelihoods with establishment of functional planning and implementation frameworks for all water uses and livelihood in the project working area;

Result Area #1: Institutionalised community capacity to construct and maintain community managed water supply and adopt appropriate WASH technologies and sanitation and hygiene behaviour;

Result Area #2: Improved and sustainable nutrition, food security and sustainable income at community level through water resource based livelihoods development;

Result Area #3: Increased resilience to disasters and climate change as well as promotion of climate change mitigation and adaptation;

Result Area #4: GoN institutionalised capacity to continue integrated water resources planning and support to communities in implementing and maintaining WASH and livelihood activities.

2 Progress towards the Achievement of the Expected Results

2.1 Reporting period

The reporting period is the 6 month period starting from 15th of July and ending in 15th of January. This follows the Nepalese fiscal year and financial reporting deadlines.

The reporting period of the second half of the calendar year is normally slower in terms of the field activities, as it includes the rainy season and long Dashain and Tihar holidays. This year was particularly challenging, as national and provincial elections were also held in November. **Figure 1** below shows the weeks of active and slow implementation during the reporting period.

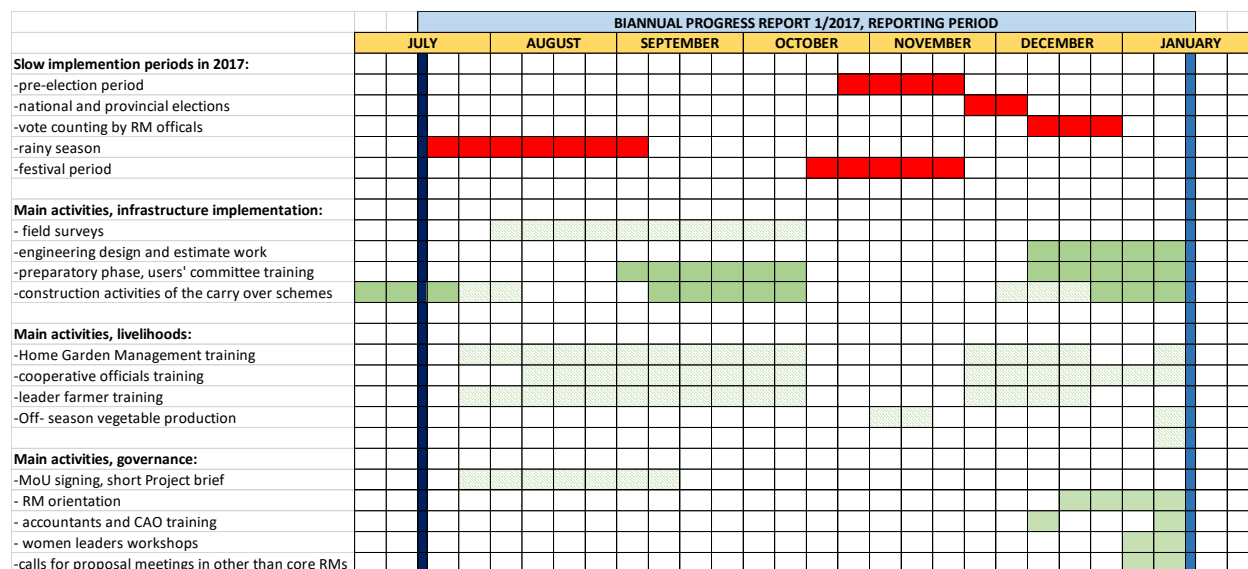


Figure 1. Main activities during the reporting period

The political changes affected the Project in many ways. There was a direct impact on some of the activities during the pre-election period (October-November). Mass meetings, large training events and any recruitment were not allowed. This slowed down some of the scheme implementation activities. This is mainly reflected in the low number of beneficiaries, who are presently in the “ongoing schemes” category. The users’ committee trainings were delayed and implementation contracts are only being signed in the end of January 2017, just outside the reporting period. The overall scheme preparation period takes some 4 months, and approximately a month was lost due to the pre-election period.

2.2 Sweeping political changes in Nepal

The reporting period has been characterized by the implementation of major changes in the local government structure of Nepal. The local government elections were undertaken in June 2017 and the newly elected municipality assembly members took their chairs during July 2017.

Elections of the national parliament and provincial representatives were held in November – December 2017.

2.3 Major effort to align the Project with local level government structures

A lot of effort was made to align the RVWRMP III to the new local government structure, and all changes have still, in January 2018 not yet taken place.

In the beginning of the reporting period, Memoranda of Understanding were signed between 48 local level governments, DCCs and the DoLIDAR. These MoUs outlined the implementation and support framework, agreed on cooperation and administrative structures between the Project and the local level government. This was a major undertaking, and all TA staff was involved in this process for the months of July and August.

Bank accounts and new fund transfer modalities were agreed and implemented during the months of August and September.

Simultaneously the Project was supporting DoLIDAR, the Embassy of Finland and the European Union to revise the Project Document. Furthermore, the TA team prepared a Human Resources Strategy, which is designed to change the structure of TA and other Project funded staff to better reflect the local level government's needs.

A detailed description of result area achievements is presented below.

A complete presentation of the progress with each of the 30 indicators defined in the RVWRMP III Results Matrix is given in **Annex 1**.

2.4 Impact: Improved health and zero hunger

The recently published Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016 (NDHS 2016) has provided the project with access to data, regarding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other indicators in the Project working area. The situation towards the achieving the SDGs has been described in adequate detail (data disaggregated by Province). Achievement of the SDG 2 and improvement of children's health can hence be followed.

A short description of the situation, as described in the NDHS 2016, is presented below:

IMPACT: SDG 2, Zero hunger:

Reduction of hunger is described in the NDHS 2016 with two indicators:

- Prevalence of stunting among children under 5.
- Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5, including wasting and underweight.

The prevalence of malnourishment has been declining steadily in the national context. See **Figure 2** below for the long term trend of malnourishment of children in Nepal.

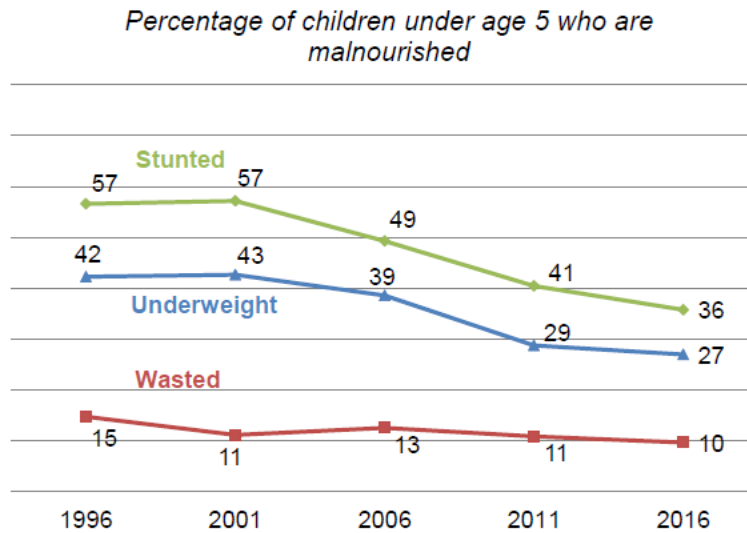


Figure 2 Long-term trend of malnutrition in children of under 5 years old (NDHS 2016).

Also the data from Province 7 shows that the situation is improving. The % of the children under 5 who were stunted in the Province 7 during NDHS in 2001 was 57 %. The 2016 data of the same survey shows that the **stunting has reduced to 36 %**. This is a remarkable reduction in a relatively short period. Possibly the long term effects of the RVWRMP work through Phases I to III have contributed to this development. **Figure 3** below shows the prevalence of stunting in the Provinces of Nepal in 2016.

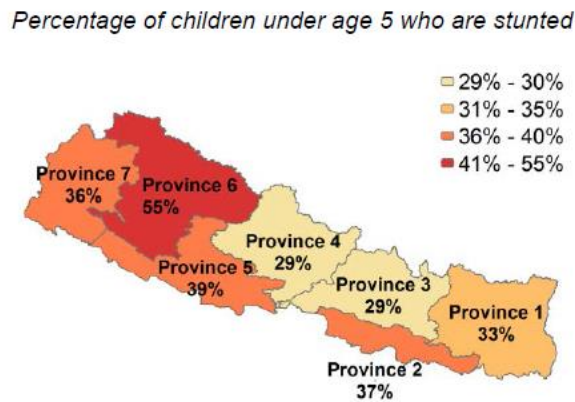


Figure 3 Prevalence of stunting in children of age under 5 in the different Provinces of Nepal in 2016 (NDHS 2016).

IMPACT: Improved child health through water supply and sanitation

The NDHS 2016 also provides an opportunity to monitor the long term impact of the water and sanitation programmes in the Provinces 6 and 7. The increased availability of toilet coverage is visible in the reduced occurrence of the proportion of children with diarrhoea. The indicator measured is the same in both surveys “% of children under 5 who had diarrhoea two weeks preceding the survey”.

Table 1: Change in the percentage of children under 5 with diarrhoea

Surveyed area	% of children with diarrhoea NDHS 2011	% of children with diarrhoea NDHS 2016
Far Western Hill	13.1	
Mid-Western Hill	14.1	
Province 6		6.0
Province 7		6.2

There has been a dramatic reduction of the number of diarrhoea cases in children (more than 50 %). This indicates the overall increase in hygiene practices, but also, that work still remains to be done. The present ranking of the Provinces 6 and 7 is second and 3rd among all the provinces, province 4 having the best record (3.7%) and province 3 the worst (9.0%)

3 Specific Project level indicators



The Project Purpose indicator, describing the overall sanitation status, has been defined in terms of Project Districts declared ODF.

Project Purpose	Target	Achievement by the end of the reporting period
Project area declared Open defecation free (ODF) and follow the post-ODF strategy as per total sanitation guidelines	10 districts	8 districts

The indicator value has changed during the reporting period, as Humla district was declared ODF. This was a major achievement for RVWRMP, as the Project was a major contributor to the District ODF status. The Project supported 19 out of 27 VDCs to declare ODF. Other contributors to the Humla ODF status were provided by DWSS, UNICEF and SNV.

The ODF declaration festivities were held in Simikot on the 5th of December, 2017. The WRA of the Project in Humla, Mr. Birendra Thapa, was the secretary of the committee preparing the occasion and was a major operative.

3.1 RESULT AREA 1: WASH



Main indicators for Results Area 1	Annual target	Achievement of annual target during the reporting period	%	Cumulative achievement	End of Project target	%
1.1 Proportion of water supply schemes fulfill QARQ criteria	97 %	98 %			97 %	
1.2 Number of water supply beneficiaries	73,400	11,068 (40,504 ongoing)	15 %	61,644 (completed only)	351 000	18 %
1.3 Proportion of water supply schemes with WSP		84 %			90 %	
1.4 Proportion of UCs maintain good service level		74 %			85 %	

1.5 Key positions of UCs with women and minority groups		45 % Women 25 % Minority groups			50 % women 24 % Dalit and Janajati	
1.6 Number of institutions/schools / public places supported by the project fund with disabled and gender-friendly toilets and access to hand washing	19	2	11%	13	220	6%
1.7 Number of UCs affiliated with coops		9 %		9 %	40 %	
1.8 Menstruating women to be able to use toilets	70 %	71 %		71 %	80%	
Household Total Sanitation hardware beneficiaries	6,500	2,721	42 %	110,607	110,000	101%

Water Supply Infrastructure development

- Completed water supply schemes benefitted 61,644 **people, by end of the reporting period (cumulative)**
- **40 504** beneficiaries are living in an area of water supply scheme, which is expected to be completed by the end of the Fiscal Year.

The different technology types of water supply systems have been listed in **Annex 2**.

Qualitative indicators of the water services development

All water supply schemes, except point source improvement and rain water harvesting technologies, are designed to fulfil the Quantity, Accessibility, Reliability and Quality (QARQ) criteria (see Results Matrix Indicator 1.1). The point sources and rainwater harvesting systems cannot for obvious reasons be always designed to fulfil the quantity criteria.

During the reporting period only one scheme is rain water harvesting and rest are gravity systems. Analysing the type of the schemes and construction work as per the design, more than **98% schemes have been reported to fulfill the QARQ criteria**.

Result 1.4 in the framework, describes an institutional arrangement of the **users committee (UC) being able to maintain the service level**. As the post-construction work with the UCs progresses, this indicator is improving. In July 2017, 52 % of the UCs were reported to maintain a good service level. This proportion has now **increased to 74 %**.

Water Safety Plan (Result framework, indicator No 1.3) is a comprehensive climate adaptive and risk reduction framework ensuring good quality of drinking water. The WSP field team is trained on risk identification and thereafter they plan and implement the necessary preventive activities, together with the community, to control the hazards that might risk the quality of water. Water safety planning starts already during the engineering design and scheme construction, when intakes are protected from surface

runoff, tanks and other structures are well sealed, pipelines properly buried etc. UCs receive training in maintaining the water safety.

The UC formulates the water safety plan with support from the WSP team and implements it accordingly. The implementation of the WSP is followed up 6 monthly. The Project staff makes spot checks, to see if the WSP is up to date and if problems have been identified and corrected.

Out of 212 completed water supply schemes, 179 (84 %) schemes have water safety plan implemented till date.

Operation and maintenance, role of cooperative savings

The sustainability of the water supply schemes supported by the RVWRMP III has been measured, among other things, through the affiliation of the users' committees with the cooperatives (See indicator 1.7. in the Results Matrix, Annex 1). The cooperatives, which mainly serve as credit and savings groups, have UCs as their members and furthermore, the UCs have opened a savings accounts in the cooperatives. This is important, as the cooperatives then lend out the monies and are able to provide the UCs with a **reasonable interest on their savings**. This prevents the UC's operation and maintenance funds from devaluating.

One of the perceived problems has been that the UCs are reluctant to use the monies in the cooperative accounts for actual maintenance purposes. To better understand the dynamics of the saving/using of the O & M accounts, a survey of 15 cooperatives, having 150 UCs as their clients, was made. In the sample, 30 UCs had withdrawn the monies for the purpose of scheme repair, using a total of 2.5 million NPR for the maintenance purposes. A rough estimate of the scheme value versus the monies spent on maintenance gives a figure of 3 %. This can be considered as a good result, as it is generally recommended that 3 % of capital investment should be annually used for repair and maintenance.

The disaster risk prevention was also demonstrated in the survey. Amraud water supply scheme of Mahakali RM in Baitadi has constructed an additional intake to meet the requirement for drinking water, and to add to the otherwise depleting sources. Many of the UCs have expended on pipeline maintenance damaged by landslides. The cooperatives, providing the reliable source of monies for the users' committees are in actual fact **acting as scheme insurance agents**.

Details of the survey have been presented in the **Annex 3**.

Sanitation

The Project is continuing the sanitation improvement work in the project RMs **also after the declaration of the open defecation free status**. This is referred to as Total Sanitation and Behaviour Change interventions. The improvement sought is a high sanitation and hygiene status in the community, household as well as individual level. The total sanitation programme aims at improving overall village cleanliness, better management of household and animal waste, good drainage, hygienic cooking and washing facilities of the household and personal hygiene, including menstrual hygiene management.

2,721 people were beneficiaries of the total sanitation programme during the reporting period.

Institutional sanitation has a physical target of construction of child-, gender- and disabled-friendly toilets in schools and health posts. This target is proving to be difficult to fulfill, as it is overlapping with the

Ministry of Education's own programme. MoE has a large intervention with abundant funding to build school toilets, which, according to the design guidelines supported by UNICEF, are also gender and disabled friendly. Due to this national programme, RVWRMP III has so far received few requests for school sanitation infrastructure.

Where the Project, however, has been active, is in providing water supply to schools. The overall sanitary status of many schools suffers from poor water supply. Please refer to **Annex 4** for the overall WASH status of the core Project area. It is close to impossible for the schools to maintain hygienic toilets and a level of personal hygiene without an operating water supply.

Whereas a school tap is provided to all schools, falling within the RVWRMP water supply scheme area, still 65 % of the schools lack water supply.

Also, not all schools have any kind of toilet facility - 9 % are still reported not to have sanitation.

Capacity Development of the Users' Committees

As per the annual calendar presented in **Annex 5**, the Preparatory Phase of the new batch of water supply schemes was undertaken during the rainy season, months of August and September.

During this training period the following main activities are undertaken:

- Users' Committee formation is guided, so that it is representative of the community. Special attention is paid to the representation of women, as well as Dalit and Janajati groups.
- Feasibility study of the selected schemes is undertaken. During this phase extensive negotiations with the community about the location of the tap stands and other structures is conducted.
- Actual survey of the pipelines and structures is undertaken.
- Community action plan formation
- Orientation on WSP, O&M and Home Gardening
- Financial management and procurement training

Some 19 700 people participated in **the users' committees and other community level training activities** during the reporting period. The high number of training participants also explains the **high recurrent expenditure**. The main expenditure items are the Support Organizations' salaries and other meetings expenses.

The bulk of the investment expenditure will occur in the beginning of 2018, when the users' committees will undertake the procurement of the materials and equipment.

Menstrual hygiene management

The issue of menstruation stigma continues to be a strong cultural practice in many of the communities in the Project area. Although the sc. chau practice, where menstruating women have many restrictions in their everyday life, has been outlawed, the anti-chau legislation seems to be mainly a symbolic measure. During the reporting period there again was a death of a young woman, which was connected to the practice. She may have perished in the chau hut, where she was sleeping, during a cold winter night.

The education against chau practice is a regular part of the Sanitation & Hygiene promoters work in the RVWRMP communities. The impact of this work is also being followed by sample surveys. One of these is a survey, based on a mobile application. The Sanitation & hygiene promoters ask a number of questions

during their home visits and upload the data directly to a database. Based on the survey, a sample of 700 households has been analysed. The questions “Do all women (in your household) use the toilet during menstruation” is asked. The comparison between the RVWRMP communities and non RVWRMP communities is presented in the **Figure 4**. Caution should be used, when analysing the data, as the issue is very sensitive in many communities. Also the issue of legality is there. It is therefore not easy to get a truthful answer. Additionally different communities have different cultural practices. Some communities do not impose any restrictions to women during their period. So more accurate household background data needs to be used in the analysis, to see the real impact of the RVWRMP behavioural change work. It is possible, that by choosing the hardship areas relating to water and sanitation, the RVWRMP communities have by definition more difficult situation.

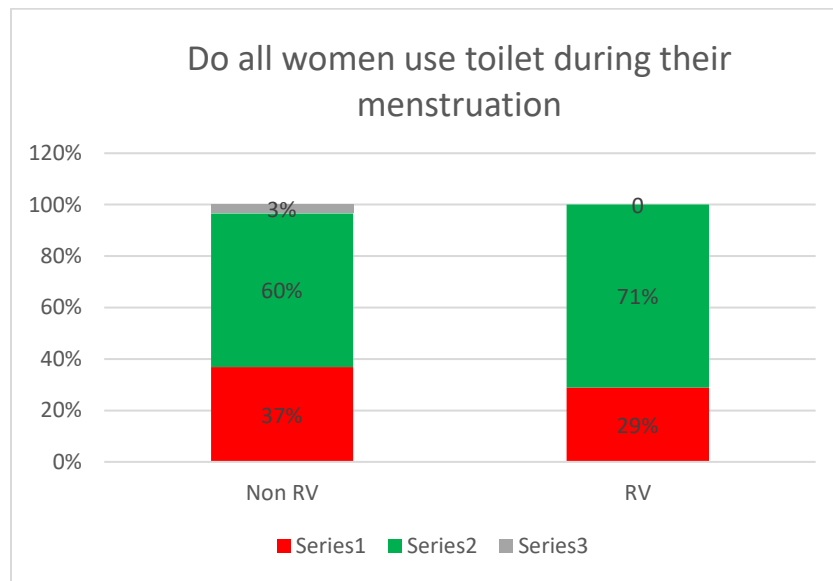


Figure 4 Results of the mobile household survey, question about MHM.

3.2 RESULT AREA 2: LIVELIHOODS



Main indicators for Results Area 2	Annual target	Achievement of annual target during the reporting period	%	Cumulative achievement	End of Project target	%
2.1 Number of Home Garden beneficiaries	50,000	7,200	14%	78,877	275,000	28.7 %
2.2 Percentage of women among home garden trainees and lead farmers			72 %		50 %	
2.3 Percentage of Dalits/Janajatis in HG training			19 %		24 %	
2.4 No. of people receiving rural advisory services	50,000	0	0%	0	500,000	0%
2.5 Families trained in income generating activities	10,000	1,720	17%	2,308	12,000	19,2%
2.6 Percentage of women in coop leadership posts			49 %		50 %	
2.7 % of MUS among the supported schemes	10%	9 %	90%	9.4 %	12%	

Beneficiaries of irrigation schemes	8,500	3,389	40 %	7,489	50,000	15%
Shareholders of cooperatives	7,500	1,551	21%	10,340	20,000	52%

Due to the election period and related restrictions to training activities in the project communities, targets in Result 2 are only partially met. Only 14% of the target for home garden activities has been achieved, which is closely related to the implementation of drinking water infrastructure. This is normal progress considering the time of the year and the water supply implementation cycle. The target is on track for number of home garden beneficiaries.

17% of the target of income generation has been achieved. MUS have proved popular, with 90% of the annual target being achieved, while 39.9% of the annual target for irrigation beneficiaries has been reached. **The inclusion of women and disadvantaged groups is also given a high priority.**

Capacity development

The following main activities took place during the reporting period:

- 4,689 beneficiaries received training on basic home garden management;
- 344 farmers were trained in commercial farms and agribusiness activities;
- 33 multipurpose nurseries were established with fruits, fodder and non-timber forest products, in 22 RMs;
- Support was given to 23 agro-vets established by the project;
- Extending rural advisory services on climate smart low cost agriculture technologies.

The main focus of the reporting period was to develop Leader Farmers, Local Resource Persons and agro-vets to advance home gardens and commercial agriculture.

Cooperative development

Since last FY, the project has begun to enhance the capacity building of 29 cooperatives, following a step-by-step training process. As of January 2018, 27 cooperatives have received the complete cycle of capacity building and are able to conduct their business independently. Two cooperatives are still in the pipeline for strengthening. 18 cooperatives fall within 13 core rural municipalities, and 11 cooperatives operate in other project RMs/Municipalities. Almost all cooperatives are progressing rapidly and performing the business independently as per their statutes and by-laws.

During this year, the project mainly focused on:

- Strengthening the capacity of personnel for transparent book keeping and maintaining the financial systems;
- Increasing the members' and share capital (life blood of the institution);
- Maintaining the membership, loan management etc. systems;
- Expand the business to support other RVWRMP sectors, especially in livelihoods. The cooperatives participated in the improved cooking stove (ICS) and improved water mills (IWM) installation to its members.

As the cooperative are institutionally stronger, better organized and often more business-like than many other voluntary organizations, RVWRMP has prepared plans and guidelines for the cooperatives to take a larger role in livelihoods promotion, agricultural technology, business support and running village level infrastructure such as micro-hydro plants and water supply schemes.

During the year, 25 cooperatives have completed their half-yearly closing and the data presented in the table below (**Table 2**) is from these 25 cooperatives.

Table 2: Achievement of the 25 cooperatives supported by the project

Cooperative Indicators	Baseline	Cumulative achievement	Progress in percentage
Shareholders	6,382	10340	62%
Share capital amount ('000) NPR	3,145	8,022	155%
Deposits ('000) NPR	17,887	34,880	95%
Association with Users Committees (No.)	0	35	NA
Cooperatives having achieved an Operational Self Sufficiency higher than 110% (No)	NA	13	52%
Female Leadership Position	NA	137	49%

Cooperative Act 2048, had provisioned for individuals as shareholders living permanently in the working area, whereas new cooperative Act 2074 approved on 2074/07/01 (18 October 2017) has provisioned in clause 30, sub-section 2, along with individual members, government agencies, cooperative & community school, User groups, local club, non-profit organization and service oriented organization at local level of working area of cooperative can be member and receive all the benefits. Thus users' committees are from now on entitled to receive loans & other services if it necessary. This is an important improvement from the point of view of the RVWRMP supported users' committees and their financial safety net.

Capacity development of livelihood activities

A total of 5033 people participated in various livelihoods training activities during the reporting period.

Table 3 : Disaggregated data on participants in the livelihood training events.

Capacity Building activity	Number of events	Dalit Female	Dalit Male	Janajati Female	Janajati Male	Other Female	Other Male	Total Female	Total Male	Total
Basic Livelihood (Home Garden)	155	433	166	228	56	2,728	1078	3389	1,300	4,689
%		9%	4%	5%	1%	58%	23%	72%	28%	
Advance Livelihood (representative of HHs)	27	24	14	5	4	169	128	198	146	344
%		7%	4%	1%	1%	49%	37%	58%	42%	

Note, that in the table above (**Table 3**) the number of beneficiaries of home gardens is different than the number of trainees. Home garden beneficiaries comprise of all the household members, as trainees are only the members of the home garden groups.

3.3 RESULT 3: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



Result area 3: Increased resilience to disasters and climate change and climate change mitigation and adaptation.						
Main Indicators for Results Area 3	Annual target	Achievement of annual target	%	Cumulative achievement	End of Project target	%
No of households provided with access to sustainable energy services (Improved Water Mills, Improved Cooking Stoves)	12 000 Improved stoves	1001	10 %	5129	40,000	13%
Project investments meet DRR standards and criteria		100%		100%		

Result Area 3 has concentrated on preparing the processes for micro-hydro development, considering the constraints (see chapter “Lessons learnt”).

The best season for the improved cooking stove production in the communities is coming up and preparatory work is being undertaken.

Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

All the water supply schemes have disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities embedded as appropriate in the scheme design and implementation. There are 680 sources used for 271 water supply schemes including MUS with water supply component.

Specific climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction activities and infrastructure elements are presented below:

- 150 animal drinking troughs, of which 71.3 % (107 units) has been completed till date. Animal drinking troughs save drinking water and **help farmers to water their animals during the dry season**, when the natural rivers and ponds are dry. They also keep the tap stand in more hygienic condition, without livestock drinking directly from the tap, so maintain the water safety;
- 56 sources have **source protection activities** of which 46 have been completed. Source protection includes identifying the **recharge area of the source and protecting it** with fencing or community rules, such as restricted grazing and timber utilization. 80 source areas have been declared “grazing restricted area”;
- 4 sources have plantation activities planned and all 4 have been completed;
- 135 sources have **recharge and plantation planned**, of which 87 have been completed. Plantation is done in connection with the livelihoods activities, where **multipurpose nurseries** are set up in the scheme area and **tree seedlings for the catchment area** are produced;
- 38 multiple use sources have water supply component and of which 21 have been completed;
- 16 multiple use schemes sources have conventional irrigation + improved water mill component, of which 9 are completed.

3.4 RESULT AREA 4: GOVERNANCE



Result area 4: GON institutional capacity to continue integrated water resources planning and support communities in implementing and maintaining WASH and livelihood activities						
Main Indicators for Results Area 4	Annual target	Achievement of annual target	%	Cumulative achievement	End of Project target	%
4.1 Roadmap for multi-sectoral regional cohesion policy		No activities so far, due to reorganization of GoN local government			Draft roadmap by 2019	
Mobilization of resources of CSIDB & DADO for joint activities in Project VDCs	80%			59%	80%	74%
Rural municipalities	7%	1%			7%	
RM-WRDF funds are expended against the annual budget	85%	16%			At least 85% of the budgeted funds are expended.	

The work on the Road Map (Result Framework indicator 4.1) has not yet been initiated, as it will require close cooperation of the new Provincial administration. The Provincial administration has been elected and will start operating during the next half of the Fiscal Year.

At present the Project is formulating a guideline on the livelihood implementation plans, to be implemented as a part of the overall RMs planning exercise. The Provincial administration will be engaged and a joint seminar on the livelihood planning will be organized.

The expenditure against the Annual Budget has been relatively low during the reporting period. This is mainly due to the major reorganization of the funding arrangements, putting in place oversight systems and training of the financial operatives. The actual physical movement of finances, depending on opening of bank accounts, presence of accountants and fast turnover of accounting officers (Chief Administrative Officers) in the rural municipalities, **could only start in September/October 2017, half way through the reporting period.**

The first half of the Fiscal Year normally has lower expenditure rates, due to the infrastructure implementation cycle (rainy season).

RMs still getting set up

The rural municipalities in the Provinces 6 and 7 are still in the process of setting up office and other facilities and recruiting staff. A survey of 45 RMs shows, that the working conditions in the RMs still have room for improvement.

Almost none of the RMs have an office of their own, operating from rented or temporary office. 3 RMs have a temporary tin shack. Internet facility is a rarity. Road access is mostly seasonal (24 RMs), which means that vehicles cannot reach the RM during the rainy season. 9 RMs do not have any kind of motorable road access. Most of the RMs have a motorcycle or a vehicle.

The staffing situation is still critical, with 16 RMs not having a permanent Chief Accounting Officer.

Detailed information on the RMs' facilities is presented in **Annex 6**.

Capacity development and setting up operational procedures with the local governments

Major efforts have been put in the capacity development and creating relationships and dialogue with the rural municipalities. The following major actions were undertaken during the reporting period:

- **Memoranda of understanding and short briefings.** As a first exercise, MoUs were signed with 48 rural municipalities of the Project area. The MoUs defined the roles and responsibilities of each party, and commitments from both sides. The MoUs also provide a legal basis for the support provided through the donor and central government funds.

The main commitments from the rural municipalities side was to commit to the RVWRMP III operational procedures, such as implementation through the users' committees, transparent and accountable financial and procurement procedures and timely reporting. Procedures on the selection and recruitment of the outsourced staff under the rural municipality (i.e. the support organizations) were also agreed.

The RVWRMP III committed to supporting financially an agreed package of interventions in the 27 core rural municipalities. Additionally the Project committed to staff support and technical assistance.

Short briefing was organized. Some 600 people were participating these briefings.

- **Orientation of the rural municipality elected members and officials.** During December – January 2017 all 48 rural municipality representatives were invited to a three day orientation meeting. This exercise was done in several batches. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Chief Administrative Officer were invited from each rural municipality. **Altogether 161 local government operatives** (both decision-makers and employed officials) participated the orientation workshops, out of which **35 (22 %) were women**. The participation of women is remarkably high, compared to the previous DDC based crop of operatives. **12 (7 %) participants were from Dalit or Janajati groups**. Mostly the reception of the local level government decision-makers and officers was positive and many co-operation needs were expressed. During the training events, the Project staff emphasized **the constitutional responsibilities of the local level government and supportive role** of the donor/central government funding and TA. The local governments are on the driving seat in the RVWRMP III supported activities. Comprehensive report on the training events is presented in Annex 7.
- The main issue **of fiscal accountability** was tackled early in November, when the local level accountants were called for training in Dhangadhi. 44 accountants participated in a one-day orientation about RVWRMP III fiscal procedures. In early January, a three-day training was organized on the accounting software, developed by the MoFALD for the use of rural municipalities. Participants were the same 44 accountants.
- Altogether the local government administrative changes required a lot of work from the TA and other Project staff. On the other hand, the enthusiasm of the new elected members was felt and the Project made utmost efforts to engage the elected members and newly appointed officers.

Working with women leaders

Special effort was made to involve the newly elected female members. For that purpose, a workshop for women decision-makers was designed and piloted. The intention was to design a planning workshop, where the local female leaders from different walks of life will sit together and asses the gender issues of the RM. Based on that, they will make a gender based action plan and budget for the RVWRMP III supported sectors, WASH and livelihoods.

A detailed description of the pilot workshop is presented in **Annex 8**.

After the pilot was found to be successful and popular, several other RMs requested a similar activity. By the end of January, two more “Women in decision-making” workshops were held. Altogether more than 100 female decision-makers and community leaders have participated these workshops.

Social accountability

RVWRMP has a unique system of checks and balances and social accountability. The fund flows for all infrastructure development are channelled through the users' committees, but also UCs are put under the entire community's scrutiny.

As an example of the extent of this system, some figures of the people participating in the accountability activities, called "Public Audits" are presented in **Table 4** below.

Table 4: Participants of social accountability meetings

Stages of Public Hearing / Audit	Number of events	Dalit, female	Dalit, Male	Janajati, female	Janajati, male	Total Female	Total Male	Total Participants
Public Audit - I	245	1,115	985	720	728	6,811	7,124	13,935
Public Audit - II	200	872	1,006	680	784	5,768	6,325	12,093
Public Audit - III	109	506	476	148	202	2,579	2,943	5,522
Grand Total	554	2,493	2,467	1,548	1,714	15,158	16,392	31,550
%		7.9%	7.8%	4.9%	5.4%	48.0%	52.0%	

The data shows, that more than 31,000 people participated these meetings during the reporting period.

4 Resources and budget

As described in other chapters, the financial performance of RVWRMP III has been reduced compared to previous years, due to the enormous upheaval of the local government structures in Nepal. In hindsight, it could be stated, that **the stakeholders were probably over-optimistic about the absorption capacity of the newly formed administration**, and the budgets are very high. RVWRMP III is however optimistic and working hard to complete the targets and utilize the budgets.

The expenditure of investment and technical assistance funds is presented in **Table 5** and **Table 6**

Table 5: Expenditure of the investment funds by the stakeholders during the reporting period.

Rural Municipaliteis Water Resources Development Funds (RM WRDF)	13.7.-31.12.2017 Year 3, 1st half Actual	Budget Yr 3 74/75	% 74/75
Government of Finland + EU (RM WRDF)	NPR	NPR	
Result 1 WASH	87,334,900	342,499,000	25%
Result 2 Livelihoods	17,048,876	84,472,000	20%
Result 3 DDR/CCA	492,500	20,772,000	2%
Result 4 Governance	5,990,855	39,651,000	15%
Total in NPR	110,867,131	487,394,000	23%
Total in Euro	964,062	4,238,209	23%
Government of Nepal (RM WRDF)	NPR	NPR	
Result 1 WASH	17,989,994	225,499,000	8%
Result 2 Livelihoods	6,726,816	58,701,000	11%
Result 3 DDR/CCA	492,500	14,400,000	3%
Result 4 Governance	1,892,574	27,554,000	7%
Total in NPR	27,101,884	326,154,000	8%
Total in Euro	235,669	2,836,122	8%
Rural Municipalities	NPR	NPR	
Result 1 WASH	52,907		
Result 2 Livelihoods	198,591		
Result 3 DDR/CCA			
Result 4 Governance	224,000		
Total in NPR	475,499	62,755,000	1%
Total in Euro	4,135	545,696	1%
Total during the reporting period, NPR	138,444,514	876,303,000	16%
Total during the reporting period, EUR	1,203,865	7,620,026	16%

The technical assistance expenditure is on par with the budget, as a lot of technical assistance work and capacity development was required during the reporting period, as described in, for example, Result 4. Communicating the working procedures, agreements, etc. have now been more or less completed and the investment will hopefully move more smoothly.

The technical assistance budget is presented in relation to the present TA service provision contract with FCG International Ltd. It does not correspond with the budgetary requirements of the technical assistance presented in the Project Document, October 2017, as the technical assistance requirement has been increased due to the EU funding. This has been reflected in the Project budget, but not in the technical assistance budget in the service provision contract,

Table 6: Technical assistance expenditure during the reporting period.

Technical assistance budget	FY 72/73 (Inception Period)	FY 73/74	FY 74/75	FY 74/76	FY 74/77	Phase III		
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 3	Year 3	Total		
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual/Budget %	Total Expenditure	Budget	% Actual/ budget
Technical Assistance (International & National)	236,754	867,028	794,170	367,660	46%	1,471,442	3,135,812	47%
Plans and Studies	26,164	137,654	169,391	44,102	26%	207,921	400,000	52%
Capacity Building	67,937	315,885	812,391	367,660	45%	751,482	1,300,000	58%
Operational Costs	75,017	354,554	290,000	161,696	56%	591,267	1,300,000	45%
Reimbursable Costs	72,170	214,304	168,000	95,713	57%	382,188	800,000	48%
Contingencies							264,188	0%
GRAND TOTAL	478,043	1,889,425	2,233,952	1,036,831	46%	3,404,300	7,200,000	47%

5 Assumptions and Risks

The assumption in the beginning of the reporting period was, that the major upheaval of the local government system in Nepal would bring constraints and delays. This indeed happened, and in the follow-up of the Project's performance indicators this is evident.

However, the Project staff has very much appreciated and been encouraged by the positive reception and energy of the newly elected local government members and officials. The new administration has welcomed the RVWRMP III and numerous cooperation activities have been planned and started.

It is early days, but at present the RVWRMP III is piloting and modifying its operating procedures to best align with the rural municipalities. And the outlook is positive.

The table below (**Table 7**) analyses the risks outlined in the work plan for the running fiscal year.

Table 7: Risks, Likelihood and Mitigations Measures Applied

ISSUES AND RISKS	OCCURRENCE & IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURES APPLIED (During the reporting period)
Natural calamities and climate change	Likelihood High- Impact Medium. Some landslides expected in the monsoon season. Depletion of water sources will continue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RVWRMP applies the Climate Resilient Water Supply Development Guidelines developed recently by Department of Water Supply. Special design and technology options have been implemented in RMs suffering from source depletion and low rain. Cooperatives are providing financial back-up to the users' committees in the situation of disaster. The Project has started tracking the long-term source yields, giving the communities better coping mechanisms, and also tools for better

		engineering designs to cope with water scarcity.
Political instabilities and anarchy	Likelihood High- Impact Medium. During the reporting period, the electioneering for the National and Provincial elections was ongoing. The electioneering was in most cases peaceful and elections were held in a peaceful manner in December 2017. Code of conduct was enforced and observed by the Project.	The Project published its own code of conduct as soon as the elections were announced. The code of conduct was adhered to and this delayed many of the large training events as well as orientation and induction of the new RM leaders and officials. They were busy and were only available for RVWRMP III orientation workshop in the end of December 2017.
New administrative structure delayed	Likelihood High – Impact High Local body restructuring (especially mergers of VDCs to form Rural municipalities) affects the project working modality, selection of new working areas and preparation of WUMPs. As a result of changing RVWRMP working area from previously selected 61 Core VDCs (where the work had already been started and cannot be abruptly discontinued) to 27 Core Rural municipalities will cause a delay in the completion of project targets.	The restructuring took place and indeed delayed the achievement of physical targets. Good progress was however made in aligning the RVWRMP working procedures and capacity building of the RMs.
Limited political will to decentralize	Likelihood Medium- Impact Medium. The competence and mandates of Provinces have been taken as a political tool, especially by the Madhesi population. Significant delays are expected in decisions on mandates and restructuring of Provinces. As the Province will be the major GoN body to receive RVWRMP's legacy, a further delay may hamper the phasing out process.	The Provincial elections were held in December 2017 and the Provincial administration is in the process of being formulated. The realization of the risk is still to be seen.
Limited support from local level	Likelihood High – Impact Medium. The elected bodies' tenure is for five years, which gives a continuity of RVWRMP activities until the very end of the project. The District Technical Offices in the Project working areas were thinly staffed. The situation will probably be much worse at Rural municipality level, especially in the beginning of their tenure. There is likely to be problems both in the presence of technically	RVWRMP III is well prepared for this risk. The Human Resources Strategy , prepared in November 2017 is proposing a gradually diminishing support to the RMs. The implementation of the HR strategy will commence immediately after the approval by the Supervisory Board.

	qualified staff and in their motivation (especially the senior staff who have worked previously at District Level).	
Limited capacity of SOs and SPs	Likelihood High - Impact Medium. Lack of qualified technical human resources in the labour market continues to be a problem. The minimum requirement for SOs/SPs a Rural municipality would be 10 persons, which would mean a minimum of 270 in core Rural municipalities only. SOs fail to retain qualified human resources, especially the Sub-Engineers and Technicians.	A successful intern programme for technical staff has been and is continues to be implemented. RVWRMP III has been able to engage batches of young sub-engineers and engineers, in the hope that they will stay in the region and will later be employed. This is already happening with the first intern batch.
Delayed or missing contributions	Likelihood Medium – Impact Medium. There may be delays in establishment of Rural municipality level administration including opening bank accounts and establishing fund flows. GoN couldn't mobilize the additional budget approved by 3 rd SvB on 7.2.2017.	The risk did indeed materialize and the establishment of fund flow mechanisms and oversight measures took time. The fund flow could only start after half of the reporting period had already gone.
Political pressure on expansion	Likelihood Medium- Impact Low. After a long absence the political pressure for expansion surfaced or rather there was political resistance to abandon the ex-Core VDCs to favour the work in Core-Rural municipalities, which from the Project point of view is a similar case as it is spreading the available human resources thinly in the working area.	This is a manageable risk. Indeed, as the investment fund has increased considerably with the European Union funding, a controlled expansion of the project area is justified. RVWRMP III has devised a method of demand based and competitive resource allocation, which limits the overstretching of the commitments.
Devaluation of Euro (EUR) against Nepalese Rupee (NPR)	Likelihood High – Impact Medium. The budget in the Project document has been calculated with an exchange rate 1 EUR = 130 NPR, whereas the real value is about 110 NPR. As the planned investments are almost double of the previous year, the impact is growing bigger.	There is nothing RVWRMP can do to counter exchange rate losses. They can only be recorded to justify corrective actions to be taken in the future.

6 Sustainability

6.1 Sustainability of water supply systems

A scheme is considered to be sustainable when it functions throughout its design period with the expected service level. To ensure the sustainability of water supply schemes, the Project should ensure the technical functionality, institutional, social, environmental and financial indicators.

In connection with the phase III interventions there are 212 completed water supply schemes and multiple use schemes with a water supply component completed as of the first half of FY 2074/75.

Sustainability status of the schemes is shown below in **Table 8**.

Table 8: Functional status of RVWRMP III water supply systems.

District	Total number of schemes	Beneficiary HHS	Beneficiary Pop.	Functional status			Regularity of UC meeting	SMW(VMW) appointment and mobilization	O&M regulation implemented	O&M plan prepared	WSP implemented	Annual general assembly conducted	Proper management of spare parts and tools	Book keeping and documentation	Affiliation with Cooperatives	Establishment of O&M Fund	O&M fund (NRS)	Status of O&M Fund				Remarks
				Fully	Partial	Closed down												Locally mobilized	In Bank and Cash	Bank	Cooperative	
Achham	34	1930	12860	33	1	0	31	34	31	32	30	32	34	34	0	34	649,700.00	0	0	34	0	
Baitadi	13	750	4901	13	0	0	13	11	13	12	12	12	11	11	3	13	764,400.00	3	0	10	0	
Bajhang	11	549	3582	11	0	0	11	11	11	11	11	5	11	11	0	11	338,908.00	5	0	6	0	
Bajura	39	2395	14908	39	0	0	39	38	34	38	33	10	37	37	9	39	3,711,331.00	7	0	29	3	
Dadeldhura	10	465	2901	10	0	0	10	10	8	1	1	10	10	10	3	10	1,135,384.00	0	0	7	3	
Dailekh	30	1591	10412	29	1	0	28	30	30	29	29	20	30	29	4	30	1,253,914.00	0	0	25	5	
Darchula	17	825	5351	17	0	0	14	15	0	13	13	14	14	14	0	17	1,188,175.00	0	0	17	0	
Doti	15	661	4253	15	0	0	14	14	15	14	9	12	15	14	0	14	957,278.00	6	0	8	0	
Humla	24	1429	8240	24	0	0	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	0	24	332,640.00	0	0	24	0	
Kailali	19	620	3823	19	0	0	19	19	19	17	17	0	19	17	0	19	2,358,990.00	0	0	19	0	
Total	212	11215	71231	210	2	0	203	206	185	191	179	139	205	201	19	211	12,690,720.00	21	0	179	11	

The various features of sustainability are:

Technical Sustainability: As of the reporting period, 99% of water supply schemes are fully functional and two schemes of Achham and Dailekh are partially functional. Maintenance workers are mobilized in 97% schemes. Similarly, 96% UCs have managed spare parts and tools in the schemes.

Institutional Sustainability: User committees (UCs) of 95% schemes have regular meetings and 94% have maintained book keeping and documentation. 87% of schemes have prepared an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) regulation. Out of total the number of schemes supported in Phase III, 9% are affiliated with cooperatives. As the cooperative development process is going on and existing cooperatives are not yet viable, the volume of schemes affiliated with cooperatives seems low. The Annual General Assembly has been conducted in 65% schemes.

Financial Sustainability: As of the present time, more than 12 million NPR has been collected as O&M funds. Out of a total of 211 schemes with an O&M fund, 85 % of UCs have deposited in a bank, 10% have mobilized locally and 5% have deposited their fund in cooperatives.

Sustainability to Climate and Disaster Risk: Implementation of a Water Safety Plan (WSP) with CCA/DRR components in all water supply systems is mandatorily provisioned. As of the period, 84% schemes are implementing their WSP. In order to maintain sustainability from the climate and disaster risk point of view, the project has been paying attention starting from the design phase. In this line, safety measures for source protection, plantation and construction of protection drains, gabion protection structures, water recharging pits and animal troughs, etc. have been undertaken.

6.2 Sustainability of livelihood activities

The Project facilitates the development of formal Home Garden Groups (HGG) for training and project implementation purposes. A total of 583 groups have established and are in various stages of registration at the respective RM. After registration, the groups are eligible to receive agricultural inputs, such as subsidies towards fruit tree saplings, mushroom seeds, small machinery and extension services, etc. The Project supports the groups with refresher trainings and climate smart technical advice during their regular events. For sustainable services, the project establishes new or strengthens existing agro-vets in the project communities. The project establishes multipurpose nurseries in each ward of the RM to ensure availability of fruit, fodder and non-timber-forest-product saplings for home gardens and environmental conservation. Local Resource Person (LRP) development at RM level is the main approach that the project has been adopting to support all the livelihood interventions.

The Project supports establishment of cooperatives for sustainable services in terms of micro finance, agricultural extension and marketing along with operation and maintenance of the constructed infrastructures. RVWRMP III is linking income-generating agricultural activities with cooperatives where feasible, and these activities will be intensified in future as the project supported cooperatives get stronger, have more members and receive more capacity building trainings. Two cooperatives have started agro-vet services and collective input procurement.

7 Visibility

The Project has during the reporting period, prepared a Draft Visibility Plan, which is attached here Annex 9. for the stakeholder's comments and discussion.

The Project will in the future progress reporting follow the communication indicator presented in the "Communication and visibility plan matrix" which is part of the Draft Visibility Plan.

Based on the structure and numbering of the Matrix, the following communication activities took place:

1. Public communication through social media. This is the main channel for the Project to communicate with global and local audience. Weekly posts have been done on the Project Facebook page, Instagram or Twitter.
2. Networking. One newsletter was produced during the reporting period in cooperation with the RWWSSP-WN, the sister project in Pokhara.
3. Public communication and networking. Provincial or national level events were not organized. The reporting period was not conducive to large events, due to the electioneering period and rules imposed on public gatherings.
4. Communication on the project objectives. Radio programme with short musical pieces was produced relating to the sanitation. FM radio communication was undertaken by a local radio station. Long term contract was still ongoing to play the sanitation related jingles during the reporting period.
5. Knowledge development. A new MIS system will be developed, to include the rural municipalities. This work was not yet started as the RMs were in formation stage. This will be a major exercise as the objective in the future is to hand over the MIS to the RMs. The present Project MIS needs to be changed to meet the needs of the RMs.

6. Visibility. The Logo of the Project does not accurately convey participation of all cooperation partners (it only has the flags of Nepal and Finland). New logo is presently been developed. Also a branding guideline with all the aspects of visibility is under design.

8 Lessons learnt, conclusions and recommendations

Rural municipalities will make good partners

The enthusiasm and energy of the new local government is tangible and all initial activities with the RMs have been positive. The message of the RVWRMP III is that the Project is supporting the municipalities to undertake their constitutional service provision tasks. This is already happening in many levels:

- Planning. The RVWRMP developed water use master plans (WUMP) and the methodology of participatory and inclusive planning has been well received in the municipalities. Many RMs are requesting the RVWRMP III to undertake the **WUMP and expand it to other sectors**. The costs of additional data collection are covered by the RMs themselves. The RM operatives recognize the need for planning data and are interested to undertake an integrated planning process, in cooperation with RVWRMP.
- Based on the above, the **Livelihood improvement plans** are also better undertaken as an **integrated process with the WUMP**.
- Infrastructure implementation is also interesting for many rural municipalities outside the core project area. Various proposals, many with 100 % RM investment and only technical assistance from the Project have been discussed. For the purpose uniformity, **meetings on proposal preparation** have been organized on district level. Proposal formats for water supply and micro-hydropower have been prepared.

Subsidy to water supply infrastructure must be intelligently planned

As the water supply coverage of Provinces 6 and 7 is approaching 100 %, the realization of the Project is that there are **no more so called green field sites**. Most of the communities have had an improved water supply system of one kind or another, at some point. Many **communities are nevertheless requesting support** for new water supply infrastructure and **master plans are reporting hardship areas**.

The situation in the field is more multifaceted than simple hardship ranking in the master plan can describe. The following questions can be asked:

- The community has a water supply system, which is operating poorly and serves a minority of households. Should they be given full subsidy for a new system?
- The government (Department of Water Supply and Sanitation) has proposed a guideline, where all new water supply systems should be designed to serve individual households with private connections (yard tap). What should be the subsidy for these?

These issues were widely discussed with the RM representatives during the orientation workshops.

RVWRMP III is preparing new Project Implementation Guidelines, where these issues are tackled.

Mostly the consensus is that **private connections should be favoured**, but with **higher user contributions**. The **donor support is only extending to basic water supply** and service level improvement over the basic level should be paid by users.

Many schemes should be classified as rehabilitation schemes, with lower subsidy level from the Project. This is important, as using **the “do no harm” principle**, the communities should be sent a message, that **non-maintenance of a water supply infrastructure is not rewarded** with a new system. The rehabilitation subsidy will be very low, 10% to 20% to investment with full technical assistance. Low levels of investment subsidy can be justified, as otherwise the project does not have a stake and cannot guarantee the procedures used and quality maintained.

A water supply scheme could only be classified as “new” with full subsidy, when the existing scheme in the community has outlived its design period.

Low demand for micro-hydro power in many areas

The national grid electrification is moving fast in the Provinces 6 and 7. Many of the areas, previously with good potential for micro-hydropower plants, are fast being connected to the national grid. Large hydropower plants are being completed in the area, for instance, three new plants in Chomelia River, feeding adequate power into the national grid.

Micro-hydropower will still be interesting in some pocket areas where the grid doesn't reach, and the Project has opened a wide call for proposals to find interested rural municipalities and communities to construct a micro-hydropower plants.

There are however, a number of non-operational micro-hydropower plants, for which the rural municipalities are asking for rehabilitation support. The Project will consider a low subsidy/technical assistance approach to these cases, in a similar manner to that of water supply.

A lot of attention will be paid to the **institutional development of the hydropower plants**. A more **business-like approach**, with hydropower cooperatives or companies with **shareholders and proper technical management structures, will be promoted**.

The objective is to encourage the rural municipalities to do things on their own

The aim of the Project is to encourage the rural municipalities to use and replicate the many tested methodologies – WUMP planning, step-by-step implementation and others. A lot of effort is used to ask the rural municipalities to commit to schemes and interventions with their own funds and the technical assistance from the Project. This is seen as the best way to truly empower the RMs and not provide interventions and infrastructure on their behalf.

Annex 1. Results Matrix

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines	Annual targets	Achievement of Annual Target during the reporting period	Cumulative Achievement	End of Project target
Outputs	Result Area #1 Institutionalized community capacity to construct and maintain community managed water supply and adopt appropriate technologies and sanitation and hygiene behaviour	1.1 Number of water supply schemes supported by the Project fund in Phase III provide improved water supply services defined as improved and functional fulfils the QARQ criteria.	(update baseline)	97 %	98%		97% (2022)
		1.2 Number of water supply (WS) beneficiaries	0	73,400	11,068 (40,504 ongoing)	61,644 (completed only) (18%)	351 000 (2022)
		1.3 Number of water supply schemes supported by the Project fund in phase III apply a Water Safety Plan with CCA/DRR component.	0		84%		90% (2022)
		1.4 Percentage of User Committees (UCs) of water supply schemes in the project	0%		74%		85% UCs (2022)

core VDCs are active and able to maintain service level					
1.5 Key positions (chair, vice chair, secretary, joint secretary and treasurer) in UCs of improved water supply schemes in the Project core VDCs are held by women and by minority populations			45% Women, 25 Dalits & Janajatis		50% women 24% Dalits and Janajati (2022)
1.6 Number of institutions/schools/public places supported by the project fund with disabled and gender-friendly toilets and access to hand washing		19	2	13	200 Child and Gender friendly school toilets, of which 20 are Disabled friendly. And 20 public Disabled and Gender friendly toilets(2022)
1.7 Drinking water supply schemes in project core VDCs have affiliation with cooperative to proliferate their capital	0		9%	9%	40% of schemes are affiliated with cooperatives (2022)
1.8 Menstruating women able to use the toilet in project core VDCs	59% in Dadeldhura & Baitadi	70%	71%	71%	80% (2022)
Household total sanitation hardware beneficiaries		6,500	2,721	110,607 (101%)	110,000 (2022)

Result Area # 2 Improved and sustainable nutrition, food security and sustainable income at community level through water resources based livelihoods development	2.1 Number of Home Garden Beneficiaries		50,000	7,200	78,877	275 000 (2022)
	2.2 Percentage of women among home garden training recipients, trainers of trainers and Lead Farmers			72%		50% (2022)
	2.3 Percentage of Dalit and other socially excluded groups in home garden training.			19%		24% Dalit and Janajati (WUMP and project coverage HH) (2022)
	2.4. Number of people receiving rural advisory services	0 (2017)	50,000			500 000 (2022)
	2.5 Families trained in income generating activities	0	10,000	1,720	2,308	12 000 (2022)
	2.6 Percentage of leadership posts of project supported cooperatives held by women			49%		50% (2022)
	2.7 Percentage of Multiple Use Systems (MUS) among the RVWRMP supported schemes	5.4%	10%	9%	9.4%	12% (2022)
	Beneficiaries of irrigation schemes		8,500	3,389	7,489	50,000 (2022)
	Shareholders of cooperatives		7,500	1,551	10,340	20,000 (2022)

<p>Result Area #3</p> <p>Increased resilience to disasters and climate change as well as promotion of climate change mitigation and adaptation</p>	3.1 Renewable Energy generated through micro-hydro power plants	0	NA	New Indicator since Feb 2017. Not reported in this fiscal year		700 kW (2022)	
	3.2 Number of households provided with access to sustainable energy services	0	12,000 (improved stoves)	1,001	5,129	40 000 (2022)	
	3.3 User Committees (UCs) of micro-hydro schemes are active and able to maintain service level as verified by presence of a paid maintenance worker, public audit at least once a year and affiliation with cooperative.			NA			90% of constructed micro-hydro UCs user committees (2022)
	3.4 Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated by the use of sustainable technologies, e.g. cooking stoves, improved water mills	TBE		NA	NA New Indicator since Feb 2017. Not reported in this fiscal year		TBE
	3.5 Number of trained beneficiaries on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation(DRR)	0		NA	New Indicator since Feb 2017. Not reported in this fiscal year		TBE
	3.6 Project investments meet DRR standards and criteria	0		NA	100%	100%	DRR standards applied in all project investments

Result Area #4 GoN institutional capacity to continue integrated water resources planning and support communities in implementing and maintaining WASH and livelihood activities	4.1 Roadmap for multi-sector regional cohesion policy: Contribution to policies designed for poverty reductions in remote and mountainous areas either under Agriculture Development Strategy or at provincial level				No activities so far due to reorganization of GoN Local government	Draft roadmap by 2019
	4.2 National and Provincial authorities in WASH, agriculture and small industries sectors informed on RVWRMP experiences					Six documents produced and six national level conferences organized (2022)
	4.3 Local Government ownership demonstrated by cash contribution to the Water Resources Development Fund (WRDF)		7%	1%		Minimum 7% contribution (2022)
	4.4 Number of trained local bodies to promote effective access to energy, markets, irrigation and WASH services.		NA			All local bodies trained (2022)
	4.5 Mobilization of resources of Cottage and Small Industries Development Board (CSIDB) and District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) for joint activities in the Project VDCs		80%		59%	At least 80% of the annual budget expended (2022)

	4.6 DWRDF funds are expended against the annual budget		85%	16%		At least 85% of the budgeted funds expended (2022)
	4.7 Necessary technical and administrative support is provided without delays by District Technical Office (DTO), DADO and other relevant offices.					At least 10 annual District Management Committee (DMC) meetings in each Project District (2022)
	4.8 See 4.3 and 4.5					
	4.9 Percentage of community contribution in cash and kind towards construction water and irrigation systems, power plants, etc.					20% (2021)

Annex 2. All infrastructure by type of schemes

Number of schemes (Cumulative, Phase III)

Sector and scheme type	Implementation Phase Completed (IPC)	Implementation Phase Completed, pending financial clearance (IPC*)	Implementation Phase Ongoing (IPO)	Grand Total
Environmental sanitation	8		6	14
Improved cooking stoves (ICS)	8		6	14
Irrigation	8	4	5	17
Conventional irrigation	6	4	4	14
Lift			1	1
Non-conventional irrigation	2			2
Improved water mills (IWM)	2	1	3	6
Multiple water use systems	16	3	9	28
Conventional irrigation + improved water mill	7	2	6	15
Water supply + conventional irrigation			1	1
Water supply + non-conventional irrigation (drip, pond, etc.)	9	1	2	12
Sanitation	18	1	3	22
Household sanitation	6			6
Institutional sanitation	12	1	3	16
Water supply	144	24	91	259
Gravity	143	23	90	256
Rain water harvesting	1			1
Solar lifting system			1	1
Source improvement		1		1
Grand total	196	33	117	346

Annex 3. Use of the savings funds for the maintenance purpose by users committees.

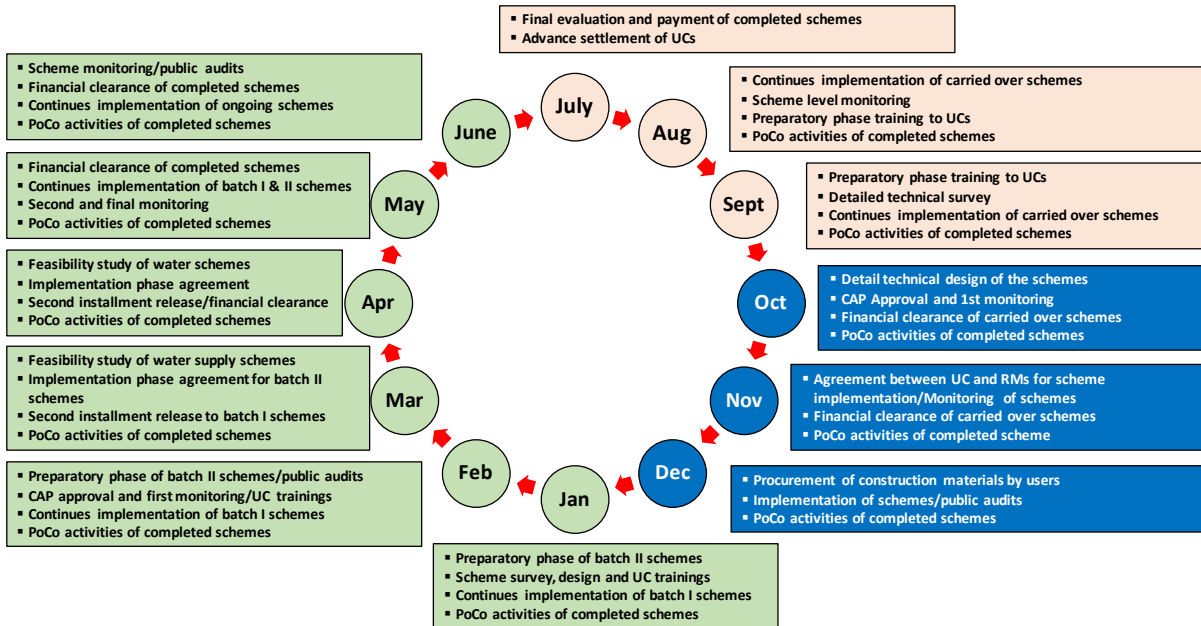
Withdrawal of deposits by UCs for minor operation & maintenance of water supply scheme (as of Jan 2018)									
S.N	Name of cooperative	Located at	District	Affiliated UCs in cooperative	Withdrawal of deposits by UCs from affiliated cooperative			Remarks	
					No. of UCs	Withdrawal amount in NPR	Purpose		
1	Lalikanda Ag. Multipurpose coop.Ltd	Lalikanda	Dailekh	15	2	16,650	pipeline maintenance & payment of VMW	newly developed by RV	
2	Sirsha Sana Kisan Ag. Coop.Ltd	Sirsha	Dadelghura	23	7	1,546,100	New scheme construction, Pipe line & intake maintenance, irrigation	newly developed by RV	
3	Kuwakot Sana Kisan Ag.coop.Ltd	Kuwakot	Baitadi	10	1	15,000	Intake maintenance & replace pipe	newly developed by RV	
4	Bishapur Ag. Multipurpose Coop.Ltd	Bishapur	Baitadi	5	3	154,200	Intake maintenance, pipe procurement, replace tap	newly developed by RV	
5	Saypatri Mahila Sana Kisan Ag. Coop.Ltd	Mastmancu	Dadelghura	3	0	-		newly developed by RV	
6	Gatishil Agr. Coop. Ltd	Bhatakatiya	Accham	14	3	200,000	MH maintenance, FUG operational cost FUG	newly developed by RV	
7	Jaymahakali Agr. Coop. Ltd	Manakali	Baitadi	8	1	70,000	Construction of new additional intake	newly developed by RV	
8	Chhatra Agr. Coop. Ltd	Chhatra	Bajura	5	1	42,000	MH maintenance (procure new belt)	newly developed by RV	
9	Ujjallo Sana Kisan Ag. Coop.Ltd	Kusapani	Dailekh	12	7	10,700	Intake & pipeline maintenance	newly developed by RV	
10	Masta Sana Kisan Ag.coop.Ltd	Masta	Bajhang	7	NA	NA		newly developed by RV	
11	Hannu Agr. Coop.Ltd	Sipti	Darchula	11	NA	NA		newly developed by RV	
12	Belapur Mahila Bikas Ag. Coop.Ltd	Belapur	Dadelghura	4	NA	NA		newly developed by RV	
13	Lekbesi Ag. Coop.Ltd	Rupal	Dadelghura	15	3	443,700	support for road construction, maintenance pipeline	re-deposited the supported amount, newly developed by RV	
14	Simchaur Sana Kisan Ag. Coop.Ltd	Simchaur	Doti	13	1	50,000	Maintenance of pipeline damaged by landside	newly developed by RV	
15	Kalayanika Mahila Multipurpose coop.Ltd	Pauwagadhi	Bajhang	5	1	600	to replace tap	granted cooperative	
	Total			150	30	2,548,950			

Annex 4. Survey of School WASH status

Number of Schools			Students	Number of school having functional WASH Facilities					Number of hygiene training Sessions
Primary (1-8)	Secondary (9-12)	Total		Water Services	Toilet facilities	Disabled friendly toilet	Toilet Sufficiency (1 door:50 students)	Hand washing place with soap	
51	15	66	14,220	31	65	8	9	14	36
41	9	50	8,527	27	47	2	28	25	12
46	14	60	4,519	25	45	9	28	30	25
54	21	75	13,499	59	74	0	57	40	64
59	12	71	10,252	46	66	3	38	32	18
71	16	87	17,330	44	78	7	62	27	36
56	9	65	8,712	52	63	0	52	63	69
30	17	47	8,984	34	45		33	43	18
22	5	27	4,061	19	27		7		24
81	17	98	16,002	81	81	2	50	33	7
511	135	646	106,106	418	591	31	364	307	309
				65%	91%	5%	56%	48%	

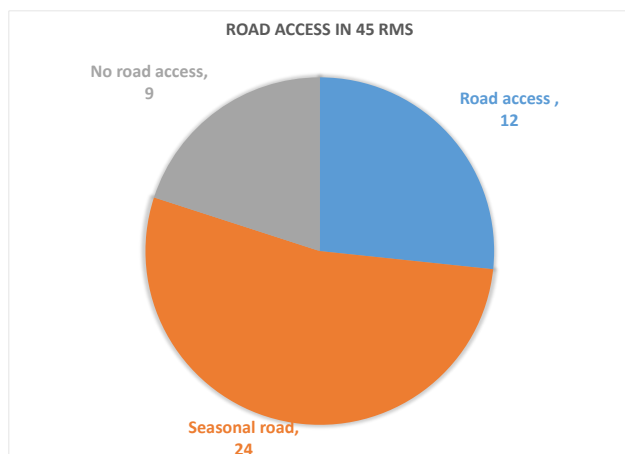
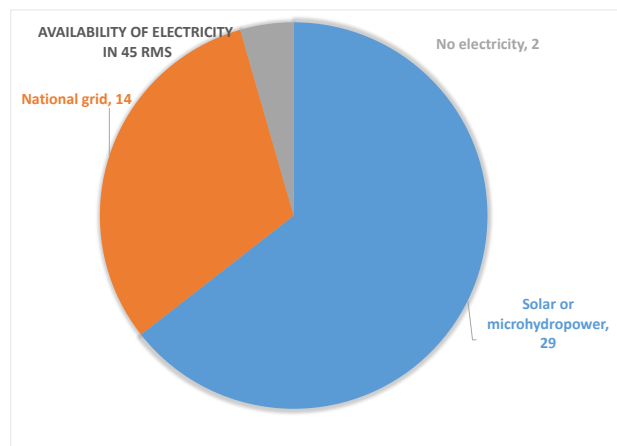
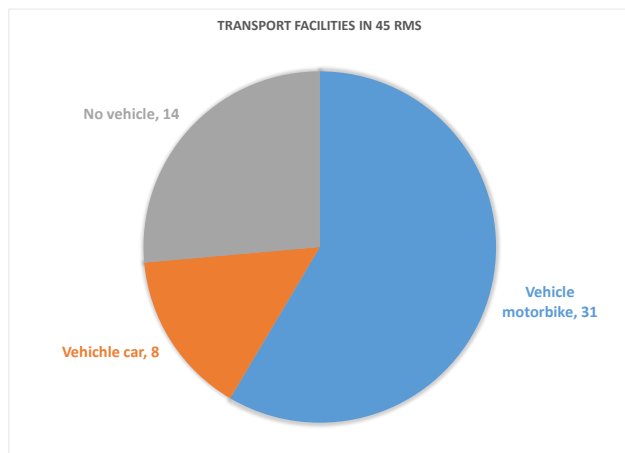
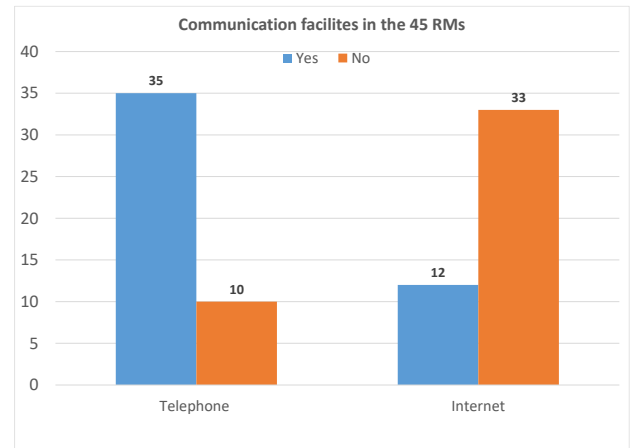
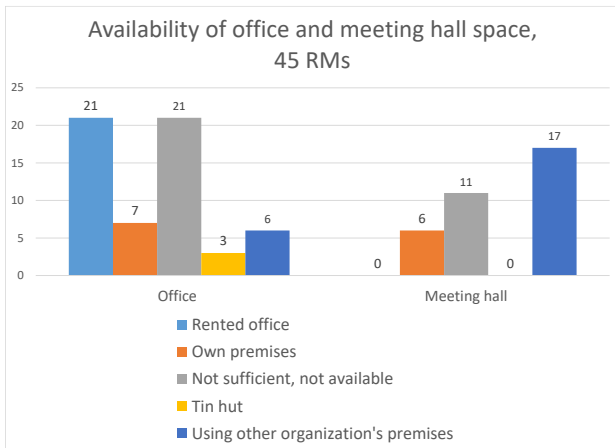
Annex 5. Annual Calendar of the Scheme Implementation

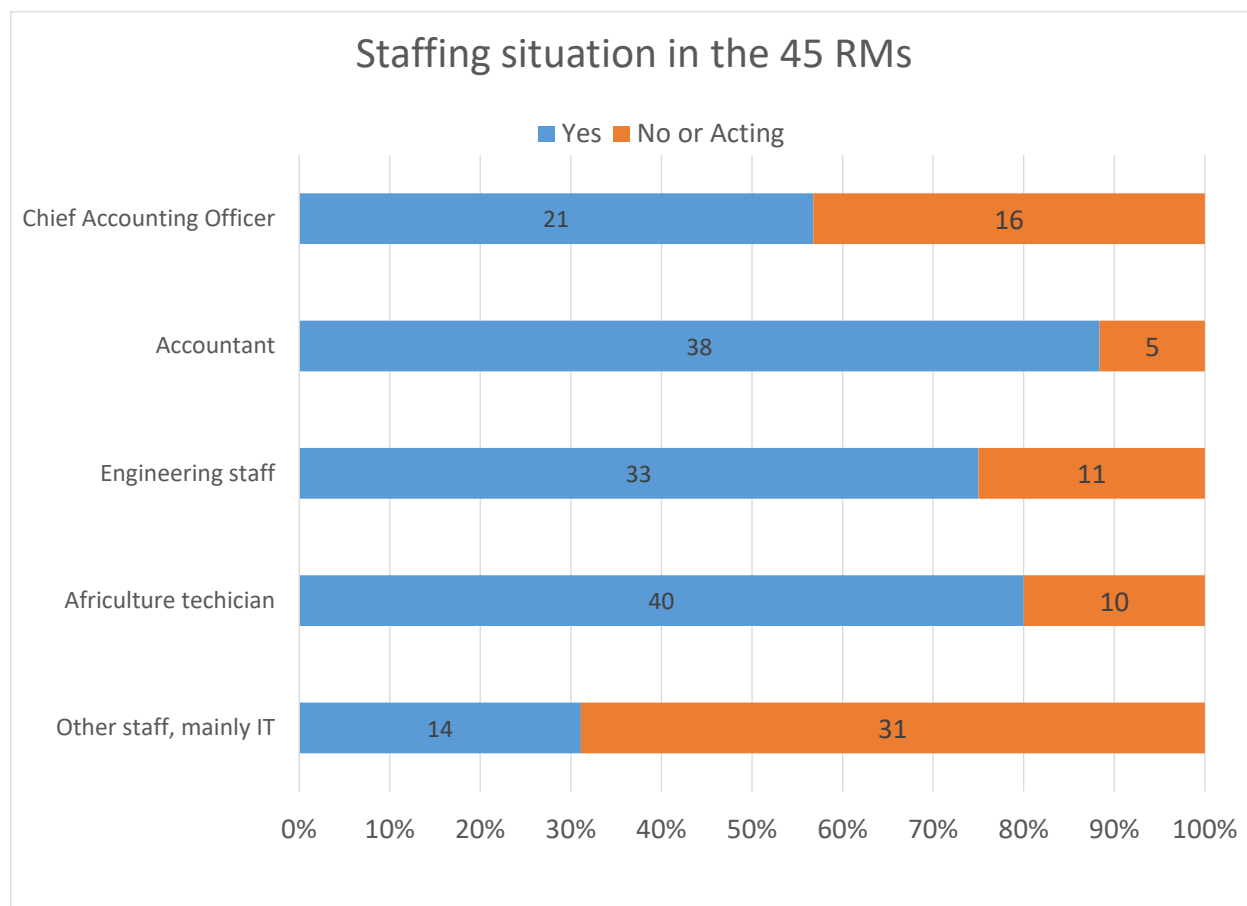
WATER SCHEME IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR



Annex 6. Status of the Rural Municipalities in Terms of Offices and Staff

A survey of 45 rural municipalities was made to assess their physical facilities and staffing situation.





ANNEX 7

RMPMC ORIENTATION FOR RVWRMP WORKING LOCAL LEVELS

December 2017 and January 2018

FACT SHEET

Name of the Training		RVWRMP Phase III Orientation to Rural Municipality/Municipality Project Management Committees							
Funding source	PSU-CB Fund, RVWRMP, PSU								
Budget code	C4.01 (FY 2074/075)								
Objectives of the Training	<p>The overall objective of the event was to orient the RMPMC members on project working modality in changing environment, other specific objective were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief introduction of RVWRMP and Sharing the project working modality, • Discussion and consensus on role & responsibilities of stakeholders • Feedback on project implementation guideline • RM & users investment contribution in different technology • Realization of social responsibilities of RM/Ms. 								
Training Coordinator	Sushil Subedi, Sanitation and Hygiene Specialist, RVWRMP III, PSU Dadeldhura								
Organizer	RVWRMP, PSU, Dadeldhura								
Date of the Training	Dadeldhura : 20-22 Dec 017 Doti : 24-26 Dec 017 Achham : 24-26 Dec 017 Bajhang : 27-29 Dec 017				Bajura/Kailali : 27-29 Dec 2017 Baitadi : 31 Dec 017 – 2 Jan 017 Darchula : 31 Dec 017 – 2 Jan 018 Dailekh : 4-6 Jan 018				
Venue	Rato Gurans Resort Dadeldhura (Dadeldhura, Doti, Bajura/Kailali, Baitadi) Syaubari Resort Dadeldhura (Achham, Bajhang, Darchula) Hode De Namaste, Surkhet (Dailekh)								
Participants	Chairpersons/Mayors, Vice-Chairpersons/Deputy Mayors, Chief Executive Officers, Technical Section Chief and Focal Persons of Project Working Local Levels. (WRA of the respective districts participated as observer)								
Number of participants	Expected Participants : 207 (excluding WRAs)								
	Actual Participants : 161								
	Dalit		Janjati		Others		Total		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
1	3	1	7	33	116	35	126	161	
Cost of the Training	Estimated NPR		3,198,400.00		Actual NPR		2,518,601.00		
	(Including Humla)				(Excluding Humla)				
Facilitators	Internal from the Project								
	Narayan Wagle, DTL Raju Tirwa, SIDS Roshan Shah, RES Deokrishna Yadav, MF&CS				Parikshit Shrestha, TS Sushil Subedi, S&HS Chakra Chand, SLS Pallab Raj Nepal, MIS Specialist				
	External Resource Person (One session in each group) :								
	Mr Rajesh Babu Ghimire, District Coordination Officer, DCC Dadeldhura Mr. Durga Prasad Chalise, District Coordination Officer, DCC Surkhet								

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Decentralization and empowerment of the local government in central theme of Rural Village Water Resources Management Project. The Project is being operated directly under the local governments from its initial

starting. After administrative restructuring of the country and establishment of local government as "Rural Municipality" and "Municipality", the Project Supervisory Board decided to implement the Project under local governments (Gaopalika and Nagarpalika). Based on the memorandum of understanding signed between respective local levels, DCC and the DoLIDAR project starts its operation through RMs from the beginning of the fiscal year 2074/075. As per the MoU signed, RMs are entirely responsible for planning, implementation and day to day operation of the project at RM level. To facilitate RME in decision making, RMPMC is constituted in chairpersonship of RM chairperson and represented by RM vice-chair, Chief Administrative Officer, Infrastructure section chief and WRA of the project. The committee is also represented by different sectoral sections of the RM.

Since the implementation responsibility of the Project lies to the RMPMC, it was felt necessary to orient to RMPMC members in project working modality, approach and operating principles. Thus orientation events were organized from Dec 017 to Jan 018 in different 8 groups. Orientation event in Humla is yet to be organized.

In order to achieve the objective of the workshop, content of the orientation was developed accordingly and the contents were facilitated by respective sector experts. It is anticipated that the orientation workshop was very much interesting to the participants and they expressed happiness after getting basic ideas to implement the project in their respective RMs.

There were 161 participants from 48 local levels including Chair and Vice Chair, CAO and/or Focal Person assigned to the project by the RM/M, Engineer or Sub-Engineer from participated the orientation. Composition of the participants is present in the charts.

Total of 161 participants from 43 local levels participated the orientation, includes 35 RM Chairpersons/Mayors, 39 Vice Chairpersons/Deputy Mayors, 5 Ward Chairpersons, 54 Chief Executive Officers/Focal Persons, 28 Engineers/Sub Engineers. Out of the total participants 35 (22%) were female and 12 (7%) were from Dalit and Janjati communities.

All the participants praised the working modality of the Project. They felt that the orientation provide knowledge on the different aspect and it will support them on local level planning, implementation and post construction activities. Community procurement model and transparency was highly appreciated and many RMs committed to replicate the model in other RM funded activities in future. The participants suggested the Project not to discriminate the RMs branding 'core' and 'non-core'. The RMs expected continued support from the project for water resources/livelihood and other aspects of overall RM development especially in MIS establishment at RM level.

The participating RMs representatives shown their interest to contribute for RVWRMP schemes and suggested to increase RM contribution by decreasing community kind contribution.

BACKGROUND





Rural Village Water Resources Management Project currently working with 48 rural municipalities/municipalities of 10 project working districts. As per the MoU signed between respective local level and DoLIDAR, Rural Municipality Project Management Committees are responsible to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate the Project activities at local level. RMPMC are the decision making body for the overall operation of the Project. Since the RMs are newly established and people's representatives are newly elected, they are not much familiar with the Project working modality, fund flow, reporting and project components. Therefore, to aware RMPMCs on above said matters RMPMC orientation organized for all RMs of Achham, Baitadi,

Bajhang, Bajura, Dadeldhura, Dailekh, Doti, Darchula and Kailali. Training of Humla RMPMCs will be organized in April. The orientation program also utilized to receive suggestion of the project working local levels to update Project Implementation Guidelines (PIG).

Members of Rural Municipality Project Management Committee that includes RM chairperson, RM vice chairperson, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief of Technical Section and focal person were invited in the orientation. Since many of the RMs don't have technical people and focal persons yet to be nominated the number of participants were less than expected. Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Chief Executive Officers were present from almost all of the RM/Ms.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ORIENTATION

The overall objective of the event is to orient the RMPMC members on project working modality in changing environment, other specific objective are;

-  Introduce the RMPMC members on project working modality, indicators, approaches, fund flow, reporting and other relevant aspects of the Project.
-  Discuss on the role and responsibilities of different stakeholders including users, users' committees, RMPMC, DCC, central level authorities and the Project.
-  Receive feedback from the RMs on the project implementation guidelines and proposed MIS at RM level.
-  Discuss on current contribution pattern by different stakeholders and receive willingness of RM for their investment and expected subsidy in different technologies.

CONTENT AND DISCUSSIONS

In order to achieve the objective of the workshop, content of the orientation was developed accordingly and the contents were facilitated by respective sector experts. The key contents were as follows;

Table 9: Contents of the RMPMC Orientation

Sn	Session	Description of presentation and discussions
1	RVWRMP Introduction:	Working modality, Fund flow/Request process/Payments, auditing of WRDF, Accountability, Project management at RM, Project/SO staffing, RM-CB at RM, WRDF monitoring/Annual Performance Evaluation
2	Legal Status of Local Level	Devolved programs/authority to RMs, roles and responsibilities of local levels according to constitution and local government operation act 2074, role of DCC and coordination between RM/M and DCC.
3	Water Use Master Plan	Introduction of WUMP, principles, planning process, working approach, role and responsibilities, cost sharing pattern
4	Step by Step Approach	Step by step approach of scheme implementation in RVWRMP, sustainability measures and need and importance of post construction phase, role and responsibility of different stakeholders in scheme implementation.
5	Implementation Facilitation at local level	SO selection process, mobilization of SOs, number of staffs in SO, Role and responsibilities, terms of reference of SO staffs, GPO selection and mobilization, annual performance evaluation
6	GESI/HRBA approach in RVWRMP	GESI/HRBA strategy and action plan of the Project, inclusion of GESI/HRBA in scheme cycle and other activities, project indicators regarding GESI/HRBA
7	Community Procurement Process	Detailed steps and procurement process of external construction materials by community, public auditing of expenditures, store and book keeping

8	Livelihood	Introduction of basic and advanced livelihood interventions, process of implementation, project indicators and formation process of Livelihood Implementation Plan (LIP)
9	WASH Service level, Technological options in RVWRMP	Introduction of basic water service and improved water service, project indicators on WASH service level. Different technical options adopted by RVWRMP in water and sanitation.
10	Energy options	Introduction on renewable energy related policies, MHP selection process and support mechanism, and implementation procedure of improved cooking stoves and improved water mills. Role, responsibilities and contribution pattern.
11	Cooperative	Introduction and need of institutional development and micro finance at RM level and its role in WASH/livelihood service improvement/sustainability.
12	Total Sanitation	Concept of Total Sanitation, RVWRMP working approach and plan of action for total sanitation, key indicators of the project.
13	Stakeholder Contribution	A group work to propose contribution from RM, Users and expected subsidy from the Project to implement different type of interventions at community level.

All the above sessions provided detail knowledge on RVWRMP and explored feedbacks on the upcoming revised Project Implementation Guideline (PIG). A session on constitutions, laws, bi-laws and local government (by District Coordination Officer), though beyond the PIG issue, also found important to solve or minimize the policy versus implementation misunderstanding or issues.

- The sessions provided detail knowledge on RVWRMP and explored feedbacks on the upcoming revised Project Implementation Guideline (PIG).

- A session on constitutions, laws, bi-laws and local government (by District Coordination Officer), though beyond the PIG issue, also found important to solve or minimize the policy versus implementation misunderstanding or issues.
- Almost all M/RMs found more interested on SO and SP selection process.
- M/RMs also found interested on the community procurement process/model followed by the project and some of them said that they can replicate this model in their other activities also.
 - M/RMs liked the product: WUMP and Livelihood Implementation Plan (LIP) and wanted to get support on this.

METHODOLOGY

The workshop followed the participatory methods as follows;

- Power Point Presentation and lecturing
- Brain storming and discussion
- Visual Aids, Group Works, citing case of different project working areas.
- Opinion of the participants was collected through written questionnaires on MIS and Sanitation and Hygiene.

COMPOSITION OF PARTICIPANTS

There were 161 participants from 48 local levels including Chair and Vice Chair, CAO and/or Focal Person assigned to the project by the RM/M, Engineer or Sub-Engineer from participated the orientation. Composition of the participants is present in the charts.

Out of 161 participants, 79 were the elected representatives (35 Chairperson/Mayor, 39 Vice Chirperson/Deputy Mayor and 5 Ward Chairpersons) actively participated the events.

VENUE AND DURATION

The Orientation was conducted in different groups in the following venue;

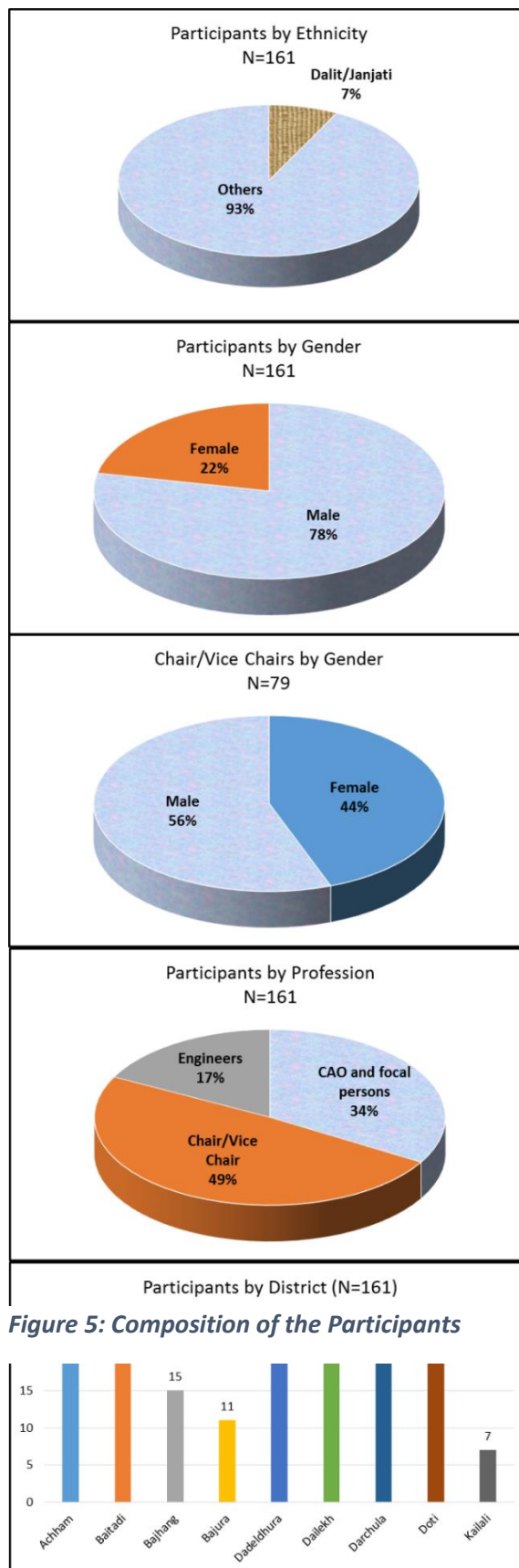


Figure 5: Composition of the Participants

Table 10: Venue and Date of the Training

District	Date	Venue	Participants
Dadeldhura	20-22 Dec 2017	Rato Gurans Resort Dadeldhura	22
Doti	24-26 Dec 2017	Rato Gurans Resort Dadeldhura	18
Achham	24-26 Dec 2017	Syaubari View Resort Dadeldhura	19
Bajhang	27-29 Dec 2017	Syaubari View Resort Dadeldhura	15
Bajura/Kailali	27-29 Dec 2017	Rato Gurans Resort Dadeldhura	18
Baitadi	31 Dec 017 – 2 Jan 018	Rato Gurans Resort Dadeldhura	23
Darchula	31 Dec 017 – 2 Jan 018	Syaubari View Resort Dadeldhura	23
Dailekh	4-6 Jan 2018	Hotel De'namaste, Surkhet	22
	Total		161

IMPRESSION AND FEEDBACKS TO THE PROJECT

Opinion from the participants was collected through written questionnaires, group work and open discussions. The feedback provided by the participants will be point references for the project future planning and PIG finalization.

Overall Feedback to the Project

1. Support to RM to implement the Project by the orientation workshop
 - From this orientation, we got the knowledge on different aspects of RVWRMP's works and it will support on local level planning, implementation and post implementation process, including O&M for the sustainability.
2. Most liked aspect of RVWRMP working modality
 - We found quality, transparency and accountability on the project implementation guideline.
 - We impressed on the participatory approach in every steps of the project: planning, implementation and post implementation.
 - Community Procurement Process is highly impressive and effective to maintain transparency in the Project implementation.
 - Dedicated staff at the field is key of success.
3. Area to be improved in the Project modality and working approach.
 - It would be good to expand the project's core working area.
 - It would be good to increase software activities to enhance the ownership of users' committee and other direct stakeholders.
 - Good to promote self-monitoring among the schemes.
 - Good to establish cooperative in all wards.
4. Aspects to improve at RM level for further effectiveness of the Project
 - Increase the number of training to M/RMs staff that will enhance the capacity of staff and also increase the ownership at the local level (willingness, self-responsibility).
 - To increase investment budget to benefit more household beneficiaries.
 - Increase the coordination with local level and elected representatives.
5. Projects working modality/approach that is replicable to the RMs own program
 - Community procurement modality and public auditing procedures
 - Cooperatives formation and institutional development

- Sustainability measures
 - Participation/representation of females and all ethnic groups in the committees.
6. Expectation from the Project
- Support to develop/consolidate M/RM level WUMP.
 - Support to eradicate “Chhaupadi Pratha” and promote total sanitation
 - Support on Cooperative development.
 - Support on schemes i.e.: WS, renewable energy, IWM, Irrigation, School WASH and ICS.
 - Support for livelihood interventions
 - Support to establish MIS System.
 - Support to promote GESI in all activities.
 - Orientation / Trainings to M/RMs staff.
7. Other Comments/Suggestions
- Such orientation sessions should be conducted frequently.
 - The dual concept of “Core” and “Program” RMs should be ended.
 - Some of the participants opined that the RM should have lead role while selecting Support Organizations/Support Persons and special privileges should be given to working staffs while selecting new staffs.
 - There should be a provision to hire short term technicians directly by the Users’ committees as per the work load in the schemes.
 - After the detail design/estimate, the budget of schemes has been increased that create deviation in the AWP budget. LMBIS revision should be done.
 - Need training to technical persons of M/RMs, especially on design and GIS.
 - If RMs ask for WQ report during the renewal of schemes, this may be sustain and conscious about WQ and develops the accountability of UCs
 - Some existing SOs demonstrated political biasness during the local election. This should be minimize and those SOs should be punished
 - There is a knowledge about the dirtiness of menstruating female, but knowledge should be transfer about how to clean and make safe them through MHM awareness.
 - Is there any process / room to apply Joint-venture for SO application in the M/RMs.

RM level MIS

1. M/RM’s realization for the importance of M/RM level MIS:
- To update M/RM level information and activities regularly along with the accounting and vital registration linkages.
 - To make M/RM level information accessible to the citizen and promote transparency
 - To develop policy strategy based on the real information available at the M/RM level
 - To materialize the concept of E-governance and also communicate information of development partners of M/RMs
 - To centralize the information in one-door system and develop dashboard in the M/RMs’ official sites.
 - To prioritize M/RMs’ activities / schemes according to the identification of hardship / most needy people and optimize the resources minimizing the duplication of resources.
 - To identify current problem and their possible solutions.

2. M/RM's recent efforts on M/RM level MIS:

- Due to the new structure, M/RMs are in the process to make their efforts to develop infrastructures.
- Getting developed information and communication section and assigned information focal person of M/RM.
- M/RMs are following up respected offices and departments for the uninterrupted electricity / telephone / internet facilities.
- In some M/RMs, information is being kept manually in excel in their computers.
- M/RMs are entering vital registration and social security allowance information online basis, but not have permanent records in their own system.
- M/RMs' profile development is under process.
- M/RMs have been developing social pages and flowing their information through it.
- Vacancies are being published for the post of IT Officer.

3. M/RMs expected MIS:

- MIS that is directly linked with the official web-site that has up to date of all household level information and easy to update regularly.
- Establishment of information center at each wards.
- MIS that clearly updates the coverage of different services (water supply, sanitation, irrigation, education, etc.)
- Information should be easily accessible to the citizen of the M/RMs.

4. Possible area of collaboration:

- **M/RMs' side:** Financial collaboration; Human Resource Mobilization; Policy / Strategy and HR's capacity building; Publicity
- **Expected from Project's side:** Support to develop Policy/Strategy; Technical and Financial support to establish MIS and Necessary/Important Equipment if required.

8.1 Contribution by RM and Users

The Project is applying the contribution pattern for scheme implementation as approved by the Project Supervisory Board. In the new context, the opinion/willingness of the RMs was collected from the RMs to analyze need of level of subsidy for implementation of different components. Key findings of the group work is as follows.

- As a local Government, most of the RMs with the opinion that current community contribution in the project is high and it should be subsidized from RM/project side, many of the RMs proposed their contribution also to subsidize community to cover their contribution part, but some of the RMs proposed only their contribution not subsidizing on current RVWRMP community contribution model. So the proposal from the RM is largely varied from RM to RM.
- Non-core RMs found more interested to have a project in their local level for longer run so most of them proposed more contribution from RM side.
- Municipalities found wise that the RMs for contribution in their schemes, for instance, Dipayal Silgadhi (district headquarter municipality) proposed 50% contribution in all the components (including community contribution).
- Summary of the Proposal Submitted by the project working local levels is presented in the table below.

Table 11: Summary of Community/RM contribution suggested by the RMs.

Proposed Contribution by RM and Users		Max	Min	average
<i>Water Supply</i>	Basic	60.00	5.00	26.44
	Private	60.00	5.00	27.73
	Rehab	85.00	5.00	33.49
	RWH	60.00	7.00	29.28
	Source Improvement	90.00	5.00	30.85
	Lifting Schemes	50.00	5.00	27.93
<i>Irrigation</i>	Conventional Irrigation	60.00	5.00	28.21
	Non-Conventional Irrigation	60.00	3.00	28.55
	Rehab of Irrigations	70.00	2.00	29.64
	Pond Irrigation	60.00	3.00	30.05
	Private Pond	70.00	5.00	29.50
	Lifting	60.00	2.00	28.56
<i>Sanitation</i>	School Toilet	60.00	5.00	31.08
	other Institutional Toilet	60.00	3.00	29.43
	Public Toilet	80.00	2.00	36.85
	TS Structures	70.00	5.00	31.38
<i>Micro Hydro Power</i>		60.00	5.00	27.67

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the context of new working modality and newly established RMs, the orientation found very fruitful for the smooth implementation of the project in future. The RMs understood the project's working modality, approach and the working procedures. They highly appreciated to have RVWRMP activities in their local level. Some of the key conclusions/recommendations are summarized below;

- Chairpersons are the key decision makers in the local level. Their participation in such workshops is always vital. 7 chairpersons/mayors found absent in the workshop, 4 from Dadelhdhura, 1 each from Bajura, Darchula and Bajhang. Decided venue outside the district is found effective. **Participation of chairpersons in such programs should be ensured in future.**
- Sharing of experiences/practices and learning from each other through mutual interaction is very fruitful for the success of the project, therefore, **learning and sharing cum progress review meeting is recommended in each district at least in every six months.**
- Considering the less number of staffs at RMs, projects technical input should be increased at the beginning and it should be gradually reduced mobilizing RM staffs. **To internalize the Project at RM level, capacity enhancement and mobilization of RM internal staffs should be continued.**
- Number of suggestions/feedbacks received by the RMs in the orientation, the valid recommendations are to be incorporated in the Project Implementation Guidelines.
- The RMs found very much interested on establishment of MIS system. In the context of having IT Officer in each RM, the project should provide technical support to all interested RMs, at least in core RMs, in MIS establishment also visioning other required information to the RMs in future.

- The level of interest to contribute in RVWRMP activities found varied RM by RM, Core RMs felt more secure to have project and non-core ones are also found interested to continue the project. Therefore, the Project should think only to support most hardship water schemes in core RMs and deviate the funding to other RMs selected through competitive evaluation of the Proposals.
- The RMs found interested to have more contribution but as a general politics they want to subsidize community contribution. Some RMs even wish to provide the water and livelihood services free of cost to the community. But ownership by the community is equally important and certain level of community contribution must be maintained to ensure sustainability of the developed infrastructures. Thus, following contribution pattern is proposed to include in the PIG of the project.

Table 12: Recommended Community Contribution based on the RMs Proposal

Contribution From		RM (Cash) (Min)	Users (Cash+Kind) (Min)	Project (Max)	Remarks
<i>Water Supply</i>	Basic	12	26	62	Community contribution is 1% in cash for investment and 1% for operation and maintenance. In case of community kind contribution, it's managed through allocation of community contribution components. The contribution from RM and community is minimum and the Project is maximum.
	Private	20	30	50	
	Rehab	40	30	30	
	RWH	20	15	65	
	Source Improvement	20	30	50	
	Lifting Schemes	20	20	60	
<i>Irrigation</i>	Conventional Irrigation	20	30	50	
	Non-Conventional Irrigation	20	30	50	
	Rehab of Irrigations	30	30	40	
	Pond Irrigation	30	20	50	
	Private Pond	30	50	20	
	Lift Irrigation	20	20	60	
<i>Sanitation</i>	School Toilet	30	20	50	
	other Institutional Toilet	50		50	
	Public Toilet	50		50	
	Total Sanitation Structures	20	60	20	
<i>MHP</i>	New	15	35	50	
	Rehab	50	30	20	

Annex 8 Pilot Workshop Report “Women as Decision Makers” Gender Responsive Plan by Women**Introduction:**

RVWRMP recognizes that gender equality is a central concern in water resources management as a part of the gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) approach. Therefore, RVWRMP promotes social change by empowering women and disadvantaged groups through an inclusive development process. In phase III, the projects is entitled to emphasize the GESI mainstreaming approach more effectively connecting the SDG 5 that is about achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

In order to empower the women to raise their voices breaking the silence, special attention should be paid to involve them in project cycle that is planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation process of development activities.

Considering newly establishment of local Governing with elected representatives, the project has emerged the concept for empowering women in decision making process with formulation of gender responsive plan. In this regard, the Project has initiated to conduct the workshop on “Women as Decision Maker”. In this line a three day workshop was piloted in Ajayameru Rural Municipality of Dadeldhura district and followed by Marma and Naugad Rural Municipality of Darchula.

Elected RM female members, female social leaders, female leader farmers, FCHVs, female UC members, mother’s group representatives, CO and cooperative representatives, RM female staffs, women network members and female teachers were the participants of the workshops. **Table 1** presented below shows the sector wise detail of the participants in three separate events.

Table1: Participants by Sector

Ajayameru RM		Marma RM		Naugad RM	
Sector wise participants	No	Sector wise participants	No.	Sector wise participants	No.
RM Members	12	RM Members	11	RM Members	14
Leader Farmers	5	FCHVs	6	Leader Farmers	4
FCHVs	2	MUS and Water Supply UC Representatives	2	FCHVs	6
Water Supply UC Representatives	8	Teachers	7	Water Supply UC Representatives	3
Teachers	6	Local Resource Person (HGM)	1	Teachers	4
Social Mobilizer	1	Mother’s Group Representatives	3	Health Post Representative	1
Total	34	RM Staffs	2	CO Representative	1
		Local Facilitator	1	Mother’s Group Representative	1
		Cooperative Representative	1	Women Network Representative	1
		Women Network Representative	1	Total	35
		DCC Representative	1		
		Total	36		

There were 34 participants in Ajayameru RM of Dadeldhura, 36 in Marma and 35 in Naugad RM of Darchula district. All participants were female. Among all the participants, there were 19 to 21 percent Dalit which is near about the proportionate with the Dalit households in the RMs. Ethnic composition of the participants is presented below in **Figure 1**.

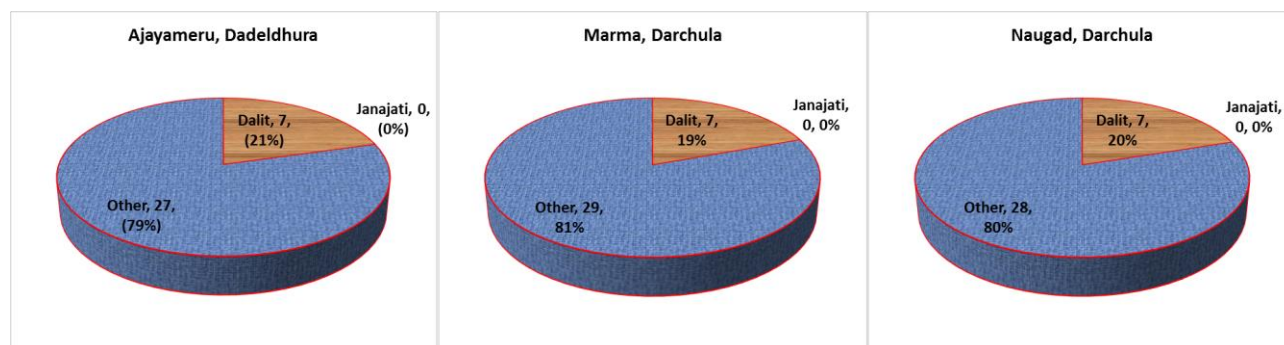


Figure 1: Participants by Ethnicity

In addition, RM executives were also attended in the workshop on first and last day in Ajayameru and Marma RMs. Field Support Persons/SO staffs were also participated the workshop with supporting role. The Workshop was facilitated by RVWRMP crews.

The major objective of the workshop was **to empower women for decision making process and involve them to formulate gender responsive plan** of the Rural Municipalities.

Workshop activities were accomplished with equal and meaningful participation of each participant. The workshop was focused more in group exercises. Icebreaking games like quiz, Deuda song etc. were also entertained during the workshop.

In order to achieve the major objective of the workshop that is to formulate gender responsive plan, followings topics were focused:

- Conceptual clarity on sex and gender roles
- Group division in five thematic areas of women's concern.
- Situation analysis by each thematic group (with problem tree method)
- Issues and problem identification by thematic groups individually
- Presentation by each groups
- Discuss on way forward and listing the possible interventions
- Combination of identified activities by each group.
- Formulation of gender responsive plan
- Commitment by RM for implementation of the plan

In order to achieve the output, following activities accomplished during the workshop.

- The workshop was organized in two sessions as opening session and technical session. After having introduction among the participants, objective of the workshop and project introduction were presented.
- The technical session was started formulating five different thematic groups as narrated below:
 - Group 1: Women at Home*
 - Group 2: Women and Service Provision*
 - Group 3: Women and Money*
 - Group 4: Women as Leaders*
 - Group 5: Women in Agriculture.*
- In order to introduce the group members to each other and make feeling on gender's role and its impact, a question was asked in each group that was "Would you have wanted to be born as a man

or a woman? Why?" The participants expressed their two views. Some of them wanted to be born as man and some of them as woman. Their views were influenced from situation of the gender role.

- After discussing their views on their desire to be born as woman and man, the participants were clarified the sex & the gender with impacts of the gender roles.
- The introduction of situation analysis via problem tree method was discussed and the participants were asked to analyze the gender based issues and problems of women in problem tree.
- Five groups performed the group works on situation analysis in line with the given theme. They found out the issues/problems and causes and plotted in the problem tree.
- After completion of problem tree analysis by all groups, each group presented the group work. The presentations were discussed and suggestions were incorporated.
- In order to see the way forward, all groups were assigned to find the possible activities to address the identified problems. Then all groups prepared the activities planning with participatory group working.
- Each group presented the work plan with budgeting. Comments by the participants were incorporated.
- After the presentations, the five thematic plans were combined in one template and shared in the presence of RM executives. The work plan comprised the activities in connection of five different themes. Most of the activities were directly related to women's concern and few were indirectly related. The planned activities were mainly related to capacity building, awareness raising, skill development, entrepreneurship development, study and exposure, implementation and follow-up of existing policies, establishment of good governance and infrastructure development/construction.
- After completion of the workshops, leader women were found encouraged to have gender responsive plan of the RM prepared by themselves.

Followings were the major issues raised by the participants:

Women at Home
Menstruating women are not allowed to stay inside the house. They stay at 'Goth'
Menstruating and post-partum women are not allowed to use toilet and tap. They are not given nutritional food.
Less participation in social gathering due to menstruation based discrimination during the period
Women do not have enough time to take care of children
No time to take rest during pregnant period and even sick time
Poor sanitation and hygiene of women
Only women are entitled to handle the kitchen
Only women are entitled to take care of cattle
Physical and health problem of women
Work load of households activities
Poor economic condition/Poverty
Illiteracy
High reproduction rate to seek the son
Multi marriage
Uterus prolapse
Less literacy in family planning and reproductive health
Child marriage
Gender based violence
Discrimination between son and daughter

No control over the assets
Dowry system
Women are dominated by women
Women as Leaders
Women are not so educated
Women cannot explore their voices, lack of self confidence
Women are not allowed to go outside freely
Less involvement in leadership
Less trust in women's capability
Less participation in WUC and key posts
Lack of leadership skill
Men headed social structure
Women's voices are not listened
Family members (male) do not help women
Women's right is not assured by the government
Women are compelled to handle the in-house activities
Less involvement of women in politics and other social initiatives
Women in Agriculture
Vegetable and grain/food production is low in respect to the labour contribution
Lack of marketing management
No commercial farming
Modern technologies and seed varieties are not used in agriculture
Seeds are not available in time
Women do not participate in financial business
No agricultural marketing management
Loosing other opportunities due to busy in agriculture
Women and Money
Only male have rights in the home-based business and women's participation in income-sharing work is low due to work load in household management.
Women do not have access to get involvement in social and development activities
Women are not professional for income generating activities
Women do not have access to financial management
Women have less access to the basic needs from financial management point of view
Women do not have money
Women are given priority for saving in the groups
Women are not been self-reliance
Less risk bearing capacity for money handling
Women are not aware on their right
No ownership of women in property
Women and Service Provision
Lack of pure drinking water and sanitation
Menstruating girls get problem to maintain MHM in the school
Women are not given opportunities
Poor implementation of women related policies
Lack of total sanitation
Women do not have access to higher and technical education
Less access to nutrition
Less representation in service providing agencies

Less access to communication facilities
Unemployment
Women have less access to government services
Less access to quality education

Enthusiasm of the participants:

As the workshop was targeted for leader women of the RMs for gender responsive planning, active and inspiring participation was anticipated. Besides of few participants, all participants were found active with the passion problem analysis and plan formulation. One of the participants of Marma RM’s workshop named Ms. Narmada Singh said, “We were not asked during the planning. In the past, whatever budget used to come in the name of women could not be matched with priority of the women, because that was not planned by women. Now with this workshop, it has been good opportunity to analyses our own problem and plan the activities for way forward.” Similarly, during the workshop, vice chairperson of Ajayameru RM Ms. Kalawati Bhand said during the workshop, “It is a starting of women’s participation in development mainstreaming process. We should not be limited in planning only. We should be quite attentive for effective implementation of the plan.”



Group photographs in Ajayameru, Dadeldhura

The participants were found inspiring with the workshop. Summarizing the overall observation of the workshop the participant’s passion was found impressive.

Perception of the RMs

RM executives were found excited to have the workshop in their RMs. Linking the workshop with the provision of gender and social inclusion in the Local Government Operation Act, the RM executives took it as the very good initiation for women empowerment and gender responsive planning. RM chairperson of Ajayameru RM, Dadeldhura delivered his remarks with commitments of implementation of the gender responsive plan. He praised the importance and relevancy of the workshop that was piloted in Ajayameru RM. He further elaborated the importance of women’s participation in development process that involvement of women in development cycle impacts the successful completion of the activities maintaining the transparency. He connected his experience with the workshop and said that the workshop on ‘Women as Decision Maker’ has energized the women leaders of Ajayameru to contribute themselves in



Group Working in Marma RM

favour of women of Ajayameru pulling the resources from RM and other agencies. With his important remarks, he gave his special attention with commitment to implement the plan prepared by the women.

Connecting the importance of workshop for problem identification and plan formulation by women, the chairperson of Marma RM, Darchula said, “We are very glad to see the women’s workshop in Marma, though



Participant’s attention in Naugad RM

I could not participate fully due to my busy work schedule. Although RMs are not established well from HR and infrastructure management point of view, we will have enough budget for women and will allocate according to the plan prepared by the workshop. We expect coordinative support from RVWRMP for out sourcing even from other agencies.” He also shown his full commitment to implement the plan. Similarly, Chief Administrative Officer of Marma RM, Darchula said, “We appreciate your participation in the workshop and thanks to have value addition to RM for planning process.

We do not have budgetary problem to implement the plan. Budget is not only a solution. Capacity for proper utilization to address the problem should be taken in account. So, RM’s capacity enhancement in planning, implementation and evaluation process is vital. This workshop has produced good output and we are committed to convert the output in outcome.”

In summary perception of RM executives found extraordinary and they have taken the workshop as milestone for women development.




Impression:

The workshop on ‘Women as Decision Maker’ in RM level for gender responsive planning was conceptualized newly as a part of GESI mainstreaming process in the project. It was realized that, the leader women of the respective RMs were found active and their role in all activities of the workshop was remarked as worthy. Women’s plan formulation by the women themselves remained as a major output of the workshop.

Recommendation and Conclusion:

Based on the experience and learning from the three different workshops, followings are the major recommendations to make the initiation fruitful.

- 🗨️ RM should ensure the full participation of RM executives in last day to know about the RM’s gender responsive plan and to have commitments for implementation.
- 🗨️ District should pick up the relevant activities from gender responsive plan and should incorporate in the RM’s work plan of the project annually. Follow-up for implementation of the plan by RM itself and other agencies should also be taken in place.
- 🗨️ RM should have one door policy to streamline the interventions by likeminded agencies.
- 🗨️ In the workshop, it was observed that the participants were not nicely capable in budgeting of the planned activities. So RM should organize training to RM members for budgeting of the planned activities.
- 🗨️ Planning should be categorized in two part considering the type of the activities. Directly and indirectly concerning to women. Format should be developed and used in the workshop to be held in other RMs.

-  As the RMs are autonomous local Governments, RMs should take ownership of the plan and should have plan of implementation annually.
-  Some of the elected women representatives are not so literate. So, RM should think to have orientations on development literacy for them.
-  Workshop should be replicated in other local levels as well.

Analyzing the overall observation of three different workshops, it is concluded that women's involvement in decision making process for plan formulation has proved that women can be the important part of the development process and should not be excluded.

ANNEX 9

DRAFT COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY PLAN

DECEMBER 2017

1. Background

Rural Village Water Resources Management Project (RVWRMP) is a water supply and livelihoods project working in the remote areas of Province number 6 and 7 in Nepal. The Overall Objective, to which RVWRMP 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. The third phase will continue the implementation modality, where the beneficiaries, through forming users committees, cooperatives and other local organizations will achieve full ownership of the outputs.

The Project was started in 2006, with joint funding from the Governments of Finland and Nepal. Phase III implementation period was started in March 2016 and will continue until 2022. The third and final phase includes EU support channelled through the Government of Finland as delegated co-operation. All EU funded projects require a Communications and Visibility Plan which follows the EU Communication and Visibility Manual.

2. Objective of the Communication and Visibility Plan

The objective of this Communication and Visibility Plan is to communicate about the Project results, share success stories and lessons learnt to the audiences relevant for the Project. It is also about raising awareness on the Project objectives among the beneficiaries and giving acknowledgement to the financiers. This plan defines the overall objectives of communication actions, as well as the target groups (national and international) with specific communication objectives for each target group in order to send tailored messages. It also explains the used tools and human resources needed for the actions to take place.

An essential annex to this document is the Branding Guide, which gives the project detailed information on how to make a unified look on all project materials, whether it is promotion materials, project materials (reports and power points) or IEC materials (posters and flip charts etc.). In addition to this, project has professionally custom-made materials such as letterheads, scheme plates, reporting templates, stickers, hoarding board templates all annexed in the Branding Guidelines.

3. Main Communication Objectives with Target Groups

3.1. Public Communication: International Audience

The International audience is divided into two groups based on their respective points of interest. The Finnish and EU taxpayers, who should be informed about the outcomes of the Project, will be targeted as one group and the Development Professionals (along with the staff of Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland), who will have an interest in the Project findings, will form the other targeted group.

Objective of communication:

“Accountability to tax payers”

- Modes of communication:
- Tweets with useful hashtags
- Instagram with useful hashtags
- Videos shared on YouTube
- Paid Facebook advertisements in order to reach larger audiences
- Writer’s comments in local newspapers
- Hosting of foreign journalists visiting the Project

For the purpose of informing the tax paying citizens about the development cooperation in Nepal, the Project should produce material which the audience finds interesting. Therefore case studies, short stories and audiovisual material will be used in communicating about the outcomes of the Project supported by the taxpayers.

The new social media channels, Instagram and Twitter are shared with the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal. With the use of hashtags new audiences can be reached through these medias. Twitter is an appropriate tool for effective, short messaging, retweeting and sharing of documents. It is also possible to link Twitter users to the Project webpage and/ or blog. Instagram is also a very effective way of communication, since it is possible to link the Project hashtags to other discourses and visualize the results for the audience.

All Twitter and Instagram messages should be written in English, but the hashtags can be both in English and Finnish. This will broaden the scope of discourses the tweets and Instagram posts connect with in the social media.

The following hashtags could be used for connecting with relevant topics:

#ihimisoikeudet	#HBRA	#waterandsanitation
#kehitysyhteistyö	#humanrights	#WASH
#Nepal	#NepalFinlandcooperation	#menstruation
#kehitystulos	#Breakthestigma	#womensrights
#developmentcooperation	#SDGs	

Thematic information about the Project will be posted on International Days:

- International Women's Day (8 March)
- World Water Day (22 March)
- World Health Day (7 April)
- International Day of Families (15 May)
- Menstrual Hygiene Day (28 May)
- World Environment Day (5 June)
- National Sanitation Week (5-11 June)
- Int. Day of Older Persons (1 October)
- Sanitation Week
- World Handwashing Day (15 October)
- World Toilet Day (19 November)
- Human Rights Day (10 December)
- Renewable Energy Week

All posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are targeted for the Finnish, Nepalese and International audiences who are assumed not to be familiar with the project. Their interests should be considered and therefore all communication should focus on the outcomes of the project and the beneficiaries, rather than the processes, such as trainings, and the people doing it. Posted pictures should be explained well and no abbreviations should be used at any time (with the exception of the commonly known abbreviation WASH). Below is an example of a non-media friendly post and a media-friendly post.

Tips for posting on social media:

- Focus on what is interesting for the general audience; project outcomes, beneficiaries, inviting topics and appealing pictures
- Post high quality pictures only. Pictures can be edited with free photo editors, such as befunky.com
- Use the limited space to describe the event or the outcome of the picture, rather than explaining the precise geographical location
- Don't use abbreviations, they are not familiar to all

- Use popular hashtags to connect the issue with other discourses in the social media
- Pictures of trainings, ceremonies and field visits should be avoided, especially if they focus on project staff instead of the beneficiaries

3.2 Public Communication: International Development Professionals

Objective of communication:

"Sharing lessons learnt"

Modes of communication:

- Writing a blog on development and cultural issues, shared on Facebook and Twitter
- Publications in Journals
- Tweets with useful hashtags
- Instagram pictures with useful hashtags
- Articles in relevant media through hosting journalists
- Sharing lessons learnt with the development workers on newsletters in Finnish language

International Development Professionals should be reached in order to share the lessons learnt and the modalities tested by the Project. This international audience consists mainly of Finnish development professionals and staff of Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, but can reach a wider audience too, for example through tweeting about Project outcomes and participating in international conferences and seminars. Communication targeted for the development professionals should include more statistical data than case studies.

Special emphasis should be placed on communication about the practical implementation of the human rights based approach in the Far- and Mid-Western Nepal, about access of the target population to basic assets and resources, that impact - people's lives and livelihoods.

Here too, collaboration with the RWSSP-WN Project is done in reaching the Finnish audience more effectively. The biannually published newsletter (in Finnish language) is the main communication channel when reaching the Finnish development professionals. Some lessons learned from both Projects can also be shared on the Finnish *kehitysmalli* emailing list which is targeted for the Finnish development professionals.

Preparing presentations to international conferences, such as Stockholm Water Week, and participation of staff in academic seminars enhances the sharing of lessons learnt and best practices. In addition to this, the project will encourage project staff to write articles in journals and different publications. One established publication where RWVRMP has been very active is the Society of Engineers for Rural Development Nepal (SERDeN) publication.

3.3. Public Communication and Networking: Communication on local, provincial and national level

Objective of communication

"Networking, contributing to policy dialogue and exchanging information"

Modes of communication:

- National or provincial level seminars
- Press releases
- Meetings and networking
- Facebook and Twitter
- Media mobilization

The Results Area 4 of the Results Framework: "Government of Nepal institutionalised capacity to continue integrated water resources planning and support to communities in implementing and maintaining WASH and livelihood activities" is closely linked with the third Communication objective as communication on national and provincial level will be a major tool in transferring the information from Project to Rural Municipalities, District Coordination Committees and Provincial authorities in view of phase out. The Project will work in closely with the newly formed Rural Municipalities giving them support and capacity building on all Project implementation levels.

RVWRMP will also actively participate in provincial and national policy forums, as well as organize six provincial or national level forums, in order to inform the relevant authorities in WASH, agriculture, small industries and MHM sectors about RVWRMP experiences. To enhance the capacity of relevant government agencies, international learning sharing visits and participation in international forums will be organised.

The Project can take part in the national and regional level events regarding water, local governance and livelihoods development or organize events jointly with other sectoral actors or Finnish projects to communicate about these issues to wider audience.

In communicating about the success and lessons learnt the Project will work through the print and digital media in Nepal. This information can also be shared in Finland and in the EU. An important part of the communication plan is to provide information on the demonstration activities of the Project. These include micro-hydro, Multiple Use of Water –schemes and livelihoods as well as the integration of the WUMPs into these village level plans. This could be organized through exposure visits from other RMs to the demonstration sites. These demonstration activities should also be part of the issues to be communicated at the national level in order to attract other stakeholders' attention to the demonstration and gain larger funding base for the activities in those RMs, which are not covered by the Project.

The Project will invite local and central level news reporters in the field visits of the high level dignitaries to have media coverage of the Project. Additionally press statement can be released of each visit and shared in different media channels.

3.4. Communicating toward the Project objective: Beneficiaries

Objective of communication:

"Raising awareness and promoting total behaviour change"

Modes of communication:

- Printed materials: leaflets, posters, stickers
- FM Radio: programs, public announcements and jingles
- Participatory communication: Street drama, cultural events
- RM level inception meetings/workshops

Effective communication has a vital role in total behaviour change (TBC) in hygiene and sanitation as well as in nutrition in the Project catchment areas. The Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) materials should be delivered in local languages through different information sources. The public will be reached by encouraging newspaper articles on issues by journalists who have been sensitized, producing radio jingles, public announcements and programs, printed materials (posters, comics and stickers), community activities in connection with festivals and specific celebrations, and organizing street dramas etc.

Messages to be given include:

- Use of toilets and taps during menstruation
- Menstrual hygiene and use of sanitary pads/materials
- Hand washing with soap and cleaning agents at critical times
- Safe disposal of faeces
- Handling water and food properly
- Regular nail cutting, bathing, clothes washing, brushing teeth, daily combing
- Home gardens for nutrition & food security
- Proper waste management in and out of the home
- Eating nutritious food
- Active participation of women and disadvantaged groups in project activities

The beneficiaries or the rights holders of the Project should be sensitized in the Human Rights Based Approach. Through creating access to information and human rights awareness on the rights to clean water and sanitation and who is responsible for providing the services in the communities, as well as the responsibilities of community members, the lines of accountability between the duty-bearers and right-holders will be strengthened and empowered respectively.

The Project supports empowerment through understanding gender and social inclusion (GESI). It is important to promote GESI also through communications. Social inclusion will be considered at all stages of communication especially when communicating about equal use of water resources and access to other assets. Gender equality and the issue of Chhaupadi will be addressed through communication and sharing information about menstrual hygiene management (MHM). People with Disabilities also have the right to access water and sanitation, and their opinions and experiences should be included, as one of the disadvantaged groups that the project deals with. Participatory communication such as organizing street drama events or including the issues in festivals will be used in raising awareness on GESI issues.

3.5 Knowledge Management

The project has at the moment an operating MIS system, which provides adequate data for the management of the RVWRMP III. But as the Project is now working within the new local government structure, the MIS need to be developed so, that in the future it also serves the RM's decision making. This work is underway and will be started first thing in January 2018.

Another way to transfer knowledge is to frequently update the project website and have all relevant materials available to the local and provincial level authorities. The website will continue existing even after phase out in order to keep the sharing of knowledge possible.

3.6 Visibility of the Project: Beneficiaries and other stakeholders

Objective of visibility:

“Acknowledging the financiers and branding of the Project”

In phase III special focus will be paid on visibility of the project. This means that the financiers will be acknowledged by using appropriate logos wherever the project is implementing activities and is having its schemes. The appropriate logos will be attached in all produced material, office stationeries, infrastructure, promotional products and vehicles in order to acknowledge the financiers and as a basic rule of transparency.



In all materials produced by the Project, the RVWRMP-logo will be placed in a visible place. Also the emblems of the Government of Nepal, the EU logo and the logo of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland will be placed in a visible place. All the emblems will enjoy an equally prominent place and size as portrayed below accompanied with the phrase; “This project is funded by the European Union”.

RVWRMP will pay special attention to increase visibility on scheme level. The water schemes will have an RVWRMP identification plate with the financiers acknowledged. Likewise, hoarding boards presenting the water schemes and the livelihoods activities in the community should be displayed in prominent places in the communities.

The EU is not responsible for the contents of communication material prepared by contractors, implementing partners or international organizations. These must therefore include the following disclaimer in their publications:

“This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of RVWRMP and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.”

Some local level staff have established rural municipality level Facebook sites for RVWRMP. This is a very positive aspect and promotes transparency of project actions on rural municipality level. However, the local level project sites should have a disclaimer highlighting that these sites are not the official sites of RVWRMP, therefore the Nepali government, the EU, the MFA, nor the project itself is responsible for the content published on the Facebook site.

For more detailed information regarding visibility, please see the Branding Guide.

4. Strategic Actions for Project

- Serden Articles on lessons learnt
- Weekly social media update and monthly blog

2018

- Project Launch party with press release January 2018
- One national or provincial level forum organised
- Biannual Newsletter
- Serden Articles
- Weekly Social media update and monthly blog

2019

- Project Launch party with press release January 2018 Project Brochure, cardboard folder, promotional material, power point template, Roll-ups and flex banner ready
- One national or provincial level forum organised
- Biannual Newsletter
- Serden Articles
- Weekly social media update and monthly blog

2020

- Project xxx event
- Biannual Newsletter
- One national or provincial level forum organised
- Serden Articles
- Weekly social media update and monthly blog

2021

- Xxx opening ceremony of solar lifting scheme
- Biannual Newsletter
- One national or provincial level forum organised
- Serden Articles
- Weekly social media update and monthly blog

2022

- Project Closing party with press release
- One national or provincial level forum organised
- Biannual Newsletter

5. Budget

Year 2018 Product	Design Cost, EUR	Unit print cost	Number of pieces	Communication Cost
Project brochure, English	43	2	200	443
Project brochure, Nepali	43	2	1000	2,043
Roll Ups (General, WASH, Livelihoods, GESI)	43	100	12	1,243
Technical leaflet	43	2	200	443
Handout template	43	2	-	-
Annual Reporting Cover- A4 template	26	30	-	-
RVWRMP manual Cover- A4 template and A5 template (booklet)	26	10	50	526
RVWRMP Guidelines Cover- A4 template	26	10	50	526
Roll-ups 4 different types (general, WASH, Livelihoods, GESI/MHM) English	43	100	50	5,043
Roll-ups 4 different types (general, WASH, Livelihoods, GESI/MHM) Nepali	43	100	50	5,043
Power point template	43	50		43
Training flex template English and Nepali	43	10	50	543
Scheme hoarding board (guidelines only, boards are hand painted locally)	43	70	100	7,043
Promotional hoarding board (guidelines only, boards are hand painted locally)	43	70	100	7,043
Tap stand brading item	87	100	100	10,087
Project poster – English	43	5	100	543
Project poster – Nepali	43	5	100	543
Envelope (size C4, C5, DL)	17	2	100	217
Letterhead	17	2	100	217
Training Certificate	17	1	500	517
Business cards	9	0.5	100	59
Cardboard folder	17	3	500	1,517
Calendar	87	5	1000	5,087
Promotional item for female staff	17	10	100	1,017
Stickers for project vehicle	43	50	20	1,043
Note book	43	4	500	2,043
Pens	9	1	500	509
Logo stickers	9	2	500	1,009
Human Resources				
Part of salary of JTA for communications	3000			3000
Total Communications Costs for 2018				57,398

Annex 1. Communication and visibility plan matrix

Type of communication	Target audience	Objective	Tools	Comments	Main indicator	Responsible
Public communication	European, Finnish and Nepalese citizens (tax payers)	Accountability to tax payers	Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Newspapers, blog, Newsletter	Reaching new audiences through short appropriate hashtags on Twitter and Instagram. Hosting journalists and sending readers' comments in local newspapers. Inviting reporters on site to cover stories in local newspapers.	Weekly posts on Twitter/ Instagram/ Facebook	Websites: PSU. Newspapers: PSU (central and provincial level) District staff (Local newspapers). Publicized visits: PSU. Social Media and video: PSU,
Public communication and networking	Finnish and other development professionals	Sharing lessons learnt	Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, newspapers, blog, studies, seminars and conferences	Information and research publications, hosting of development oriented journalists, updating Project website, newsletters on email lists	Biannual newsletter sent to Finnish development professionals, min four articles published annually (eg. SEDReN)	Research Publications: PSU and district level staff (SERDEN etc.) Newsletters: Finnish speaking staff. Websites: PSU. Newspapers: PSU (central and provincial level) District staff (Local newspapers). Publicized visits: PSU. Social Media and video: PSU,
Public communication and networking	Local, provincial and national level: Stakeholders such as government agencies, other subject specific projects, local donor funded projects	Networking, policy dialogue and exchanging information	Workshops, seminars, printed media, meetings, Facebook,	Include the local and central level news reporters in the field visit of the high level dignitaries. Participation in seminars and workshops where sharing the lessons learnt and best practices	Six provincial / national level seminars organised or co-hosted during and six national / provincial level documents produced during phase III.	PSU
Communicating on the Project objectives	Community members, public authorities, political leaders	Raising awareness, promoting participation and inclusiveness, and promoting total behaviour change	Jingles, programs and public announcements on radio. Printed materials: leaflets, brochures. Participatory communication: street drama, cultural events.	Empowerment through HRBA and GESI as a cross-cutting issue. Message delivered in local languages through different media. Participatory production of communication.	Min. 50 radio shows/jingles aired annually and min xxx SMS sent annually on WASH/livelihoods or MHM issues	Jingles and radio programs: Production by PSU and contracts with radio stations by district. (Some district specific cases district level responsible, but with coordination with PSU). Printed materials: PSU Awareness raising events: PSU and district level staff, RM level staff. SMS Campaign: PSU Newspaper and sensitizing journalists: District level staff.
Knowledge Management	Project staff, Rural Municipalities, DCC, Provincial authorities	Avoiding loss of knowledge. Making information available to all stakeholders Transferring knowledge from Project to Rural Municipalities, DCC and Provincial authorities in view of phase out	Developing Project and local government websites. Making information publicly available at RM/DCC Establishing MIS at RM/DCC		Management Information System established	MIS system and website support: PSU (towards the end of Project)
Visibility	Beneficiaries, stakeholders, general public	Acknowledging the financiers	All materials produced by the Project	Adding Project logo and the logos of the financiers in visible places. Retrospectively adding logos is possible to earlier noticeboards or publications where missing.	A Branding Guide is produced and followed, all new tap stands and infrastructure identified with logos,	PSU produces the materials and gives specified instructions in the Visibility Guideline & Branding Guide. Inclusion of logos in scheme information boards: district staff