

RVWRMP III in Sudurpaschim (Far-west) and Karnali Provinces, Nepal
RURAL VILLAGE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT
Key messages for better livelihoods



Supporting Rural Municipalities with improving the wellbeing and health of the population through:

- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Improved Cooking Stove
- Diversified Home-Gardens
- Cooperative Development
- Micro Hydro Power
- Improved Water Mills
- Agro-Entrepreneurship



GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL



EUROPEAN UNION



Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland



Many years working hand-in-hand with local organizations have informed seven key messages for greater self-reliance.

Key message 1: Start with Joint analysis and planning

Water Use Master Plans (WUMP) and Livelihood Implementation Plans (LIP) are the stepping stones for local organizations to lead the preparation and implementation of projects. Joint analysis of the situation, decision making, prioritization and planning at the local level builds a basis of trust among the people. The plans are aligned to the National Sanitation Master Plan. Disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation measures are built-into the plans.

Key message 2. Use practical Step-by-Step approaches

Use the Step-by-Step approaches as self-help guides for local organizations and community groups to give the people understanding and control over their own projects. The methodology is based on participatory planning, implementation and monitoring of projects. The Step by Step implementation builds capacity and creates a strong sense of ownership of the community. Rural Municipalities copy the Step-by-Step approaches because of the high success rate and sustainability of the projects.

Key message 3. Make water key for development and climate resilience

Integrate water management in multi-purpose solutions. Value and preserve the traditions of: terracing, soil management, agro-forestry, and community forest management, hill-irrigation. Recycle domestic waste water in home-gardens for year round vegetable production. Use the specially developed community friendly water safety “risk assessment check-lists”. The check-list can be filled by illiterate Village Maintenance Workers (VMW) with reading support from his/her grandchildren.

Key message 4: Home-grown cooperatives for management of O&M funds

Use local cooperatives for managing Operation and Maintenance funds for water and energy. This is good for the O&M and empowers micro-finance services of the cooperatives. Money keeps circulating in the community and stimulates entrepreneurial activity. The cooperative is also the interface for contract-farming arrangements as well as training activities in value-chain development and agro-vet services.

RVWRMP uniquely works through 27 core Rural Municipalities and has projects in many other RMs of Sudurpaschim and Karnali (Districts of Humla and Dailekh).

The four result areas are:

- Sustainable access to WASH
- Improved food security and nutrition
- Increased climate and disaster resilience
- Institutional capacity for service delivery at RM level

RVWRMP is embedded in Nepal's government structures. The Project started in 2006 and is planned to end in 2022.

Project interventions include drinking water supply, rainwater harvesting, source improvement and protection, sprinkler, and drip irrigation, policy development, campaigning. Renewable energy is addressed through micro-hydro power, improved cooking stoves, water mills and solar power solutions. Home gardens and agro-entrepreneurship are supported to improve nutrition and strengthen household economies.

RVWRMP is funded by the Government of Nepal (GoN), the Government of Finland (GoF), and the European Union (EU).





Key message 5. Invest in diversified home-gardens

Diversified home-gardens (vegetables, spices, fruits, fodder) have an incredible impact in nutrition and food security situation of families in remote areas. High productive organic home-gardens use recycled domestic water and household waste, and bio-pesticides. The vegetables are highly appreciated in the changing diet. Excess production is sold on local markets. Home-garden groups learn through a system of Local Resource Persons and Farmer-to-Farmer extension. Additionally, upcoming agro-entrepreneurship around potential high value crops like off-season vegetables, ginger, and cardamom and forest products is supported by the Project.

Key message 6. Build drinking troughs for cattle

Women manage water within the household and they also have to carry water for animals. Animal drinking troughs reduce the women's drudgery. These troughs should be located close to source, reservoir or public tap stand to capture-overflow and water spills from the tap.

Key message 7. From Open Defecation Free to Total Sanitation

Total sanitation is about the dignity of the family, community and environment. Washing platforms and elevated cement drying racks are popular additions to the water supply schemes. Out of respect for women and girls, the RVWRMP works closely with Provincial Authorities, the RMs and women on awareness and action in relation to the Chhaupadi practice



Core Principles of our Strategy and Action Plans:

- Gender equality
- Climate adaptation and resilience
- Water and sanitation as a basic right
- Social inclusion
- Environmental protection

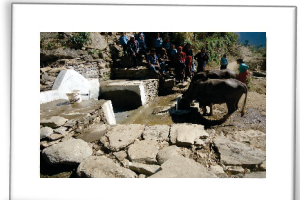
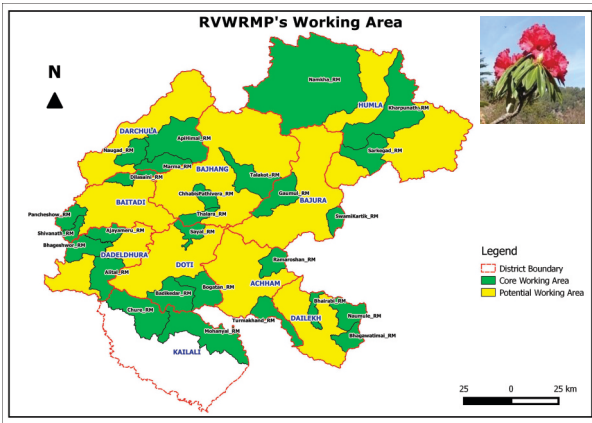
Women as Decision Makers

training empowers women to raise their voices, analyse the gender situation, identify and discuss gender issues, and draft gender action plans with budgets in the Rural Municipality.

"We strictly follow the rules of the Project. When a meeting does not have the mandatory 50% women participation, the meeting is postponed" Raju Tirwa, Social & Institutional Development Specialist.

Climate Adaptation

The Project maps disaster prone areas (landslides, water depletion, river scouring) and plans for source protection, conservation, river-training works, landslide protection. Where possible water supply schemes designs include home-garden irrigation. Drought and flood tolerant crops are promoted.



Rural Village Water Resources Management Project III develops institutional capacities at Rural Municipality and community level to improve the livelihoods of the people.

Drinking water, basic sanitation and nutritious food are human rights and form the basic conditions for a meaningful life. We believe in equal opportunities and choices for everybody. Therefore, the Project specifically focusses on inclusion of women and disadvantaged groups so they can benefit from the different activities.



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