

RVWRMP III in Sudurpaschim 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 Stoves/ Improved Water Mills/ Solar power / Disaster Risk Reduction  
Diversified Home-Gardens and Nutrition/ Agro-Entrepreneurship/  
Cooperative Development



GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL



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Ministry for Foreign  
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### **Key message 1: Start with joint WASH governance and planning**

Joint analysis of the situation, decision making, prioritization and planning at the local level builds a basis of trust among the stakeholders. Municipalities play a central role in WASH service delivery and water governance. RVWRMP supports them by establishing WASH Management Boards as the responsible body for service delivery and management. Water Use Master Plans (WUMPs) and Livelihood Implementation Plans (LIPs) are developed as stepping stones for local organizations to lead the preparation and implementation of projects. Implementation should be done in cooperation with the local governments.

### **Key message 2. Develop approaches to enable local inclusion and transparency**

Community participation and ownership is the starting point of water project implementation. The Step-by-Step approach (see <https://www.rvwrmp.org.np/project-guidelines>) is a helpful tool to enhance local understanding and control over their own projects. The methodology is based on participatory planning, implementation, public auditing, and monitoring of projects. The Step by Step implementation process 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 multiple uses of water resources possible by design**

While the first priority is drinking water, integrate multi-purpose water use solutions to water system design. Add waste-water management designs, animal troughs, and direct overflow to irrigation. Add possibilities for flexible water use in design.

### **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 cooperative. 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 works through 27 core Rural Municipalities and has had projects in almost all parts of the hilly areas of Sudurpaschim Province, and in Districts of Humla and Dailekh in Karnali Province. 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 (targets) include drinking water supply (357,500 beneficiaries), irrigation (69,677), rainwater harvesting, source improvement, school WASH (180 schools) and hill-, sprinkler, and drip irrigation. Livelihoods interventions include home gardens (281,500 beneficiaries), income generating groups, agribusiness area support (20) and value-chain support (5). The interventions improve nutrition and strengthen household economies.

Governance interventions involve close cooperation with RMs, RM-level support units, RM-level WASH Management Boards, policy development, and campaigning. For instance, Municipalities contribute 30% share to project investment costs.

Renewable energy is addressed through improved cooking stoves, water mills and solar power solutions (195,000 beneficiaries).







**Key message 5. Integrate climate change resilience and disaster risk management viewpoints to all implementation**

Value and preserve resilience and adaptive capacity: Remember terracing, soil management, agro-forestry and community forest management, and hill-irrigation. Use the specially developed community-friendly water safety “risk assessment check lists” and facilitate Water Safety Planning. Recycle domestic waste water in home-gardens for year round vegetable production. Renewable energy saves nature and your wallet: Improved Cooking Stoves, water mills, and solar power pumps can make a difference.

**Key message 6. Add integrated home-gardens and income generation**

Diversified home-gardens (vegetables, spices, fruits, fodder) have an incredible impact on the nutrition and food security situation of families in remote areas. Highly productive organic home-gardens use recycled domestic water, household waste and bio-pesticides. 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 7. Behaviour change, sanitation and hygiene in all activities**

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. To support the rights of



women and girls, RVWRMP works closely with the RMs and women on awareness-raising and action in relation to the Chhaupadi practice & Dignified Menstruation Management.

**Cross-cutting Core Principles:**

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

**Women as Decision Makers**

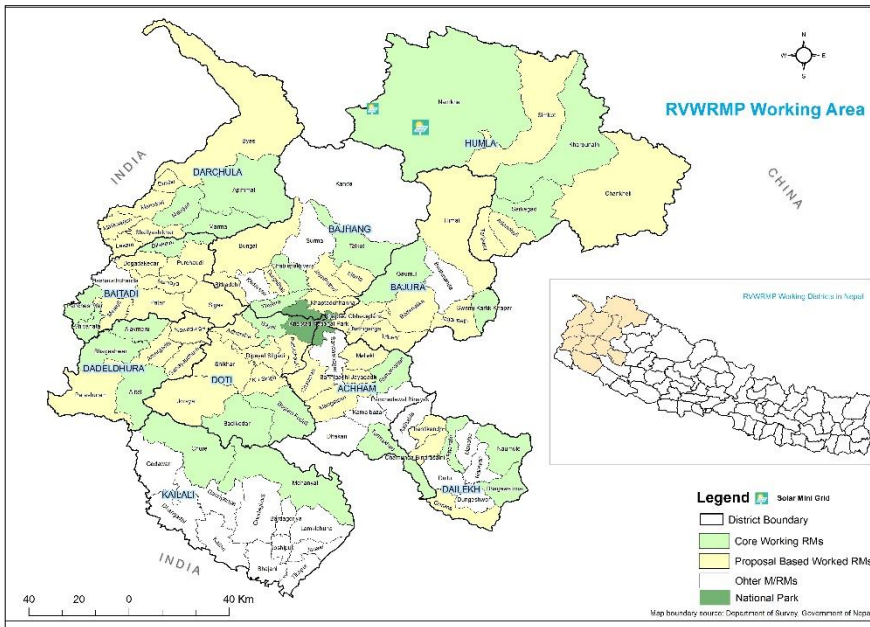
training empowers women to raise their voices, analyse the gender situation, identify and discuss gender issues, and draft gender action plans with budgets in the Rural Municipality.

*“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, governance expert.

**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 drip irrigation. Drought and flood tolerant crops are promoted.





The 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 focuses on inclusion of women and disadvantaged groups so they can benefit from the different activities and achieve their rights.



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