

Water, environmental sanitation and hygiene programme for urban poor

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UN-HABITAT

**Water for Asian Cities Programme-Nepal,
UN-HABITAT**

Pulchowk, Lalitpur

P.O. Box : 107, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel +977-1-5542816

Fax +977-1-5539877

e-Mail: wac.nepal@unhabitat.org.np



WaterAid in Nepal

Kupondole, Lalitpur, Nepal

P.O. Box: 20214, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977-1-5552764/ 5552765/5011625

Fax: +977-1-5547420

e-Mail: wateraid@wateraidnepal.org.np

Web Site : www.wateraid.org/nepal



**A joint initiative of WaterAid in Nepal and UN-HABITAT,
Water for Asian Cities Programme Nepal**



Background

The current global trend of urbanisation is putting pressure on our eco-system and is linked to poverty. Nepal is struggling with the most rapid urbanisation trend in the South Asian Sub-continent with approximately 15% of its total population living in 58 designated urban areas. This urban population is expected to reach 23% by 2016. It is increasing at a rate of 6.6% per annum reflecting both an increase in migration to towns as an escape from rural poverty, conflict and the reclassification of emerging towns from villages to municipalities.

The rapid but unplanned growth of the urban sector coupled with the inability of the government to keep pace with the demand for infrastructure and services for the urban population has caused a number of urban environmental issues, especially in the central region of Nepal. Urban land is polluted due to the haphazard disposal of human waste, uncontrolled growth, chaotic physical development, and institutional failure to respond to these challenges. In addition, the inadequate provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene education has resulted in the spread of disease, particularly in underprivileged and vulnerable communities.

In response, as envisaged in its Country Strategy Paper (2005-2010), WaterAid in Nepal has placed emphasis on supporting its partner Non Governmental Organisations(NGOs) in increasing access to safe water, affordable sanitation services and hygiene promotion to poor and vulnerable communities. WaterAid in Nepal has encouraged its urban partners to embrace a collaborative programme designed on the principle of community based water resource management. This incorporates the major issues of source sustainability, pollution control and safe water quality.

UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme Nepal is a key development partner supporting the government, International Non Governmental organisations (INGOs), Non Governmental organisations(NGOs) and civil society in addressing urban water and sanitation management issues. Focus is placed on the delivery of water and sanitation services to poor and vulnerable communities in a number of municipalities, small towns and peri urban areas of Nepal.



Water, environmental sanitation and hygiene programme for urban poor

There are significant similarities within the working areas of WAN and the WAC Programme Nepal. A joint programme “**Water, environmental sanitation and hygiene (WESH) programme**” has therefore been initiated after the formal signing of a cooperation agreement between WaterAid in Nepal and UN-HABITAT WAC Programme Nepal on 30 November 2006. This Programme helps to address water and sanitation needs through the implementation and demonstration of community-

managed urban water supplies, environmental sanitation and hygiene programmes for slums, squatters and poor settlements of 3 diverse locations of urban poor i.e. **Bharatpur Municipality (Chitwan), Narayan Tole (Kathmandu) and Lubhu VDC (Lalitpur)**. The WESH Programme aims to provide safe water and affordable sanitation and hygiene practices to benefit 9,025 and 12,000 population of poor urban communities in water and sanitation respectively by the end of 2008.



Programme objectives and outputs

Objectives	Outputs
<p>Objective 1 To support urban partner NGOs in providing increased access to water supply, environmental sanitation and hygiene promotion services to poor and vulnerable groups of urban and peri-urban communities</p>	<p>Output 1.1 Poor and vulnerable communities in the selected urban or peri urban centers have increased access to and control over a safe and adequate water supply, environmental sanitation services and improved hygiene practices</p> <p>Output 1.2 Appropriate options and innovations on technical, financial, social and institutional aspects of urban water supply, sanitation and hygiene explored and promoted</p>
<p>Objective 2 To enhance the capacity of partners and community based organisations for programme development, management, monitoring and evaluation, research and advocacy</p>	<p>Output 2.1 Capacity development plan formulated based on organisational assessment of key partners</p> <p>Output 2.2 Partners effectively and efficiently support Users Groups for enhanced programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation with improved sustainability, quality standards and impact</p>
<p>Objective 3 To influence and advocate improved policies and practices on urban water, environmental sanitation, hygiene based improved programme management, research, innovations and lessons learnt</p>	<p>Output 3.1 Citizens' voices, choices, and actions promoted to make service providers more responsive and accountable to their tasks.</p> <p>Output 3.2 Improved information management system instituted for documenting programme results</p>

Programme approaches

- 1. Urban water demand management:** The programme adopts a demand responsive approach to better manage demand and improve efficiency and equity of water supply whilst ensuring benefits for those who are currently deprived of water and sanitation. Similarly, the programme gives high priority to the ability and willingness of the community and local people to contribute for the effective implementation of the programme and operation and maintenance.
- 2. Pro-poor urban water governance:** The programme management embraces good governance principles. These include increased focus on the needs of the poor, particularly women and vulnerable groups; decentralised and transparent procedures with heightened accountability; community empowerment; linkages with local government and sector agencies etc.
- 3. Pro-poor approaches:** The programme adopts a pro-poor approach with affirmative action in targeting communities to ensure inclusiveness of socially discriminated and disadvantaged groups within the community. This is done by encouraging them to meaningfully and proactively engage in the programme activities as well as in rooted advocacy initiatives.
- 4. Technological options:** The programme provides a wide range of safe, affordable, appropriate and environmental friendly technologies that meet the needs of the urban poor. Furthermore it concentrates on environmental sanitation, ensuring that complex and interrelated problems on sanitation and environment are addressed.
- 5. Promoting community water resource management:** Due consideration is given to the falling water tables, water pollution (both surface and ground water), the serious problem of water quality and competing demands for water and sanitation. Taking these into account, the programme helps to provide a better understanding of a community based water resource management (CWRM) approach. Greater emphasis is placed on this concept whilst the programme is implemented. The programme ensures source sustainability, safe water quality and the avoidance of contamination

in water bodies as far as possible.

- 6. Strengthening local governance:** In line with the spirit of the Local Self Governance Act, the programme works with Local Governments (Municipalities and Village Development Committees(VDCs)) to better plan water & sanitation needs of poor and vulnerable communities. The implementing partners have experiences of delivering water and sanitation services in urban communities as well as in facilitating a dialogue between the community, Municipalities and service providers, thus enhancing pro-poor water governance in urban areas.
- 7. Advocacy:** The programme also helps to promote citizens' actions for making the

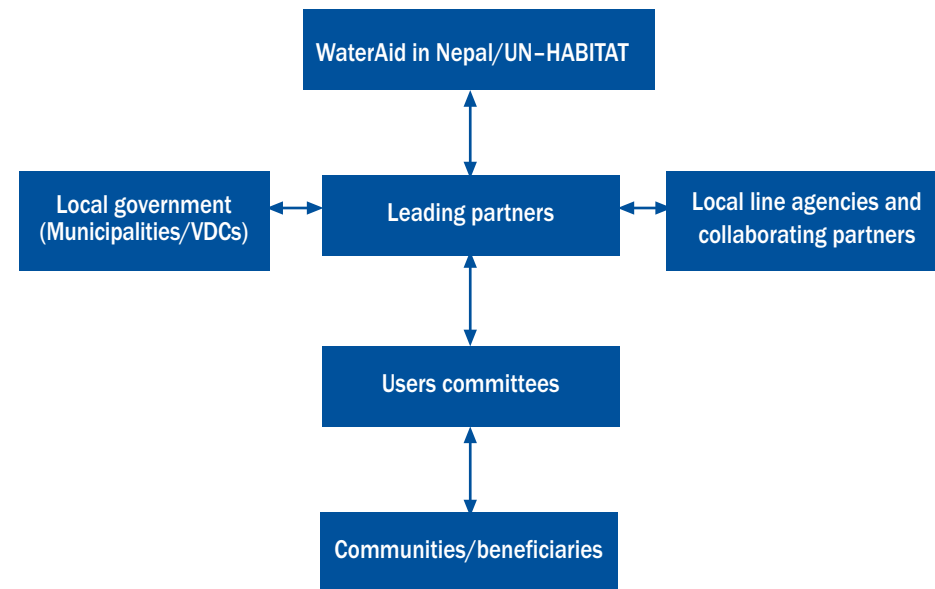
citizens to understand their water and sanitation situation and make them engaged to make service providers and government agencies more responsive and accountable towards their functions.

- 8. Capacity building initiatives:** Support on the capacity building of the implementing partners is based on: (a) their capacity assessments, and (b) helping them to address prioritized institutional development needs. It is expected that this kind of structured framework would help them to better undertake their tasks as responsible, professional and accountable national level NGOs.





Programme implementation approach

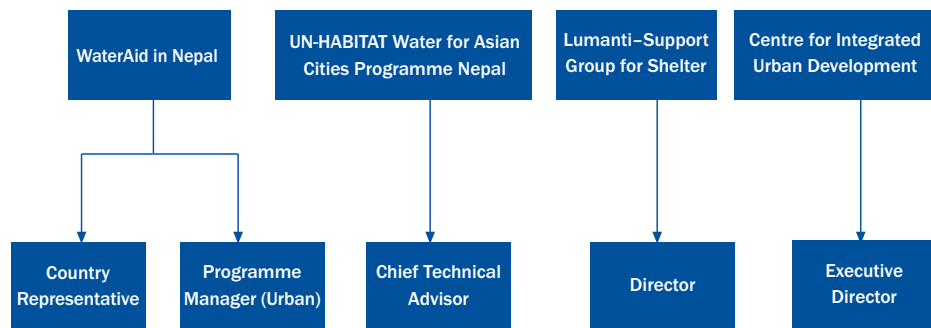


Programme management

An Executive Committee (EC) is formed to provide oversight and support to the implementing partners, namely Lumanti and CIUD to effectively implement Bharatpur and Narayan Tole and Lubhu Programmes respectively. In addition, EC helps to guide the

programme development, management, implementation, and discussion on key issues that arises during programme implementation and monitoring.

Composition of executive committee (EC)



Programme implementing partners



WESH Programme in Bharatpur & Narayan Tole

Lumanti – Support Group for Shelter

Kupondole, Lalitpur, Nepal

P.O. Box: 10546, Kathmandu, Nepal

Phone: (977-1) 5554635; 5544926

Fax: (977-1) 5541037

e-Mail : shelter@lumanti.wlink.com.np

Web Site : www.lumanti.com.np

WESH Programme in Lubhu

Centre for Integrated Urban Development

Gusingal, Sanepa, Lalitpur

P.O.Box: 5134, Kathmandu, Nepal

Phone: (977-1) 5528226

Fax: (977-1) 5012549

e-Mail: ciud@mail.com.np

Web Site : www.ciud.org.np



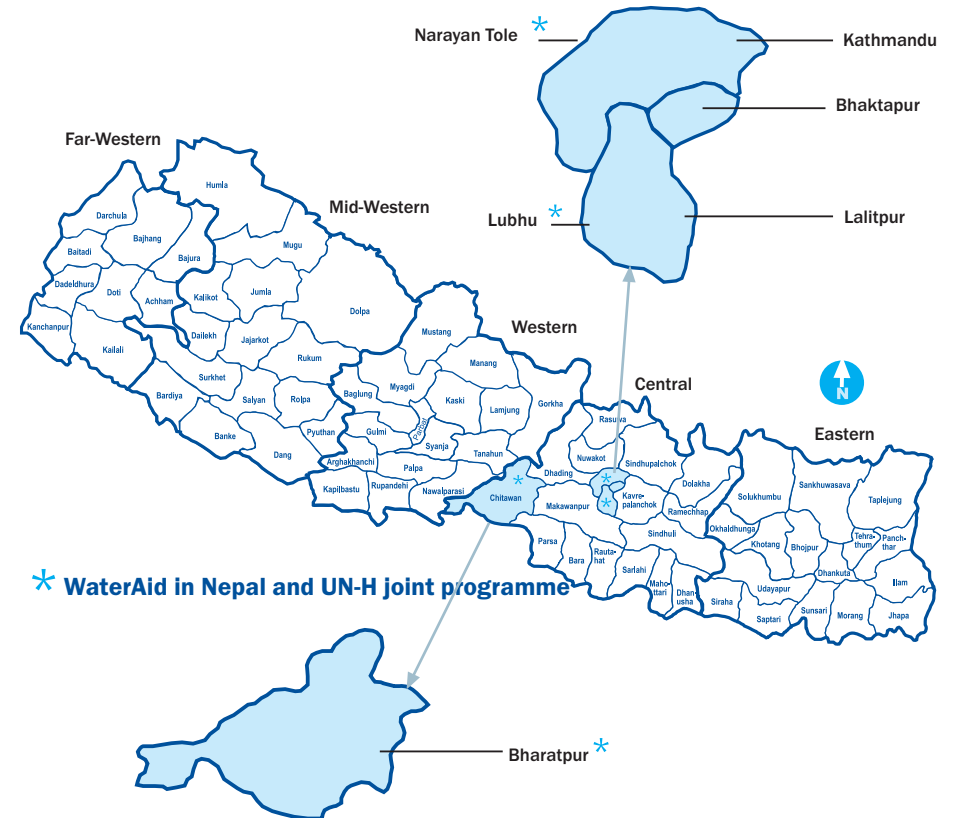


Brief information of programme areas

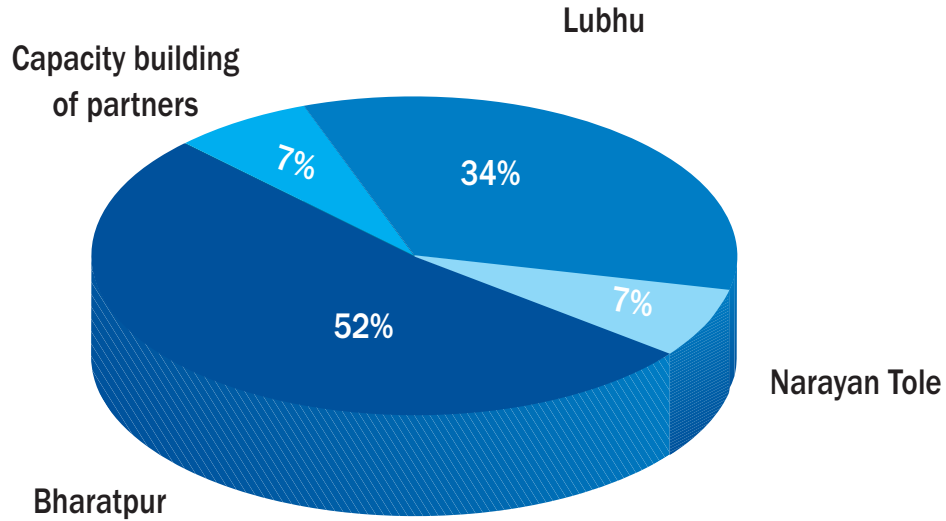
Program areas	Bharatpur	Lubhu	Narayan Tole
Locations	Bharatpur Municipality, Chitwan District (Situated at centre of the East-West Highway and North-South Corridor and therefore considered as a regional hub and trade centre)	Lubhu VDC, Lalitpur District (Situated about 7km east of the North-East ring road of Kathmandu valley. Previously it used to be east bound transit location of Kathmandu valley)	Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Kathmandu District (Situated about 3 km south of the central Kathmandu)
Population	94,574 (15,654 HHs)	5,143 (1,115 HHs)	800 (130 HHs)
Partners	Lumanti	CIUD	Lumanti
To be covered by programme	Ward no: 1 - 5, 8, 11 & 12 of Bharatpur Municipality Population: 1,234 HHs (8% of total population) Ethnic groups: Chhetri, Newar, Magar, Tamang & Gurung	Ward no: 9 wards of Lubhu VDC Population: 820 HHs (74% of total population) Ethnic groups: Traditional Newar communities	Ward no: Ward no. 3 & 6 (partially) of Kathmandu Metropolitan City Population: Narayan Tole (ward 3): 27 HHs (175) Khadipakha (ward 6): 103 HHs (625) Ethnic groups: Dalit, Janajati, Brahmin, Chhetri, Newar etc
Nature of settlement	Basically slums and squatters of 12 clusters/communities deprived from basic facilities of water and sanitation	Traditionally and historically old core town but gradually urbanising area of Newar communities	Slums and squatter communities deprived from basic water and sanitation facilities

Program areas	Bharatpur	Lubhu	Narayan Tole
Major activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of toilets, drainage systems, waste water management and pavement Construction and improvement of water supply system Advocacy Capacity building and skill development Environment, sanitation and hygiene education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of quality and supply of water Construction and improvement of toilets, drainage management Management of solid waste and drainage systems Advocacy Capacity building and skill development Environment, sanitation and hygiene education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of retaining wall, toilets and drainage systems Improvement of drinking water and sanitation Piloting waste water management through action research Advocacy Capacity building and skill development Environment, sanitation and hygiene education
Capacity building of implement-partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisational development assessment (ODA) of the partners for strengthening their institutional capacities Training to the partners based on ODA recommendations for building their capacities. Development of water quality (WQ) protocol, WQ testing and mitigation. Publication of learning and evidence based documents. 		

Location of WESH programme areas



Programme budget (in US\$)



Total programme budget \$703,592

The WESH programme for urban poor is funded by both WaterAid in Nepal and Water for Asian Cities, UN-HABITAT on equal sharing basis along with the contribution from the community/ stakeholders in cash or in kind.

Programme beneficiaries

