

Universal access to sanitation and drinking water for all: municipal areas of Nepal by 2017

The Government of Nepal has committed itself to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all in Nepal by 2017.

The Government of Nepal has committed itself to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This means that it plans to ensure 73% water coverage and 53% sanitation coverage by 2015.

The Government of Nepal is a signatory to the Declaration of the Fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN IV – April 2011) that calls for progressive realisation of the right to sanitation in programmes, projects and legislations. The Government of Nepal committed itself to have time-bound plans with adequate resources, context-driven equitable and inclusive sanitation and hygiene programmes, and harmonised monitoring mechanisms with clearly defined responsibilities and indicators.

Taking rights seriously

Nepal Drinking Water Quality Standards - 2006 has set standards for water quality in water supply projects, especially in the urban areas.

The Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Policy 2009 puts emphasis on cost recovery in operation and maintenance of the system.

The urban Water Supply and Sanitation Policy 2009 ensures poor people's access to sustainable basic services at affordable prices and grants them a voice in service related decision-making. As such, squatter and slum settlements residing within service areas of water systems shall not be systematically excluded from basic services.

Water supply systems will be augmented and developed as necessary to ensure that all urban populations have access to reliable and potable drinking water services, either through a yard connection or through a communal water point at an accessible distance not further than 100 metres from their dwellings. (Urban Water and Sanitation Policy 2009)

The District Development Committee (DDC), municipality and Village Development Committees (VDC) will allocate funds annually on hygiene and sanitation promotion as per requirement. The allocation is reflected in the annual and periodic planning. (Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011)

The Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011 emphasises a total sanitation approach as the basic norm to promote hygiene and sanitation in a given area, with access to improved and sustainable toilet facilities for every household and institution. Open Defecation Free (ODF) status must be the basic minimum and first criteria of total sanitation. (Source: Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011)

Taking Nepal's municipal situation on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) seriously

Urban toilet coverage has stagnated at around 80% since 2000. The trend analysis shows that if the present trend continues, toilet coverage will be only 80% against the national target of universal coverage in 2017. (Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011)

Only 12% of urban households are connected to sewer systems or to open drains. (Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011)

Only 19.7% of urban households treat their drinking water using an appropriate method such as boiling, chlorination, filtration and solar disinfecting. (The MICS survey 2010)

Liquid waste that is drained through sewers is disposed into rivers without prior treatment. (Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011)

Provision of toilet facilities must be made mandatory to all new houses in urban, semi-urban and district areas. (Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011)

Bacteriological quality tests of drinking water in 28 towns reported that 80% of the samples tested positive for E.Coli and that 69% of water sources were liable to microbial risks. (ENPHO, 2009)

Urban water demand is increasing rapidly at between 6% and 9% per annum – around three times the national population growth rate. This place strain on existing urban water supply and sanitation services. (Urban Water and Sanitation Policy 2009)

The Nepal Water Supply Corporation Act Second Amendment (2007), Water Supply Management Board Act (2006) and Water Supply Tariff Fixation Commission Act (2006) established the legal basis for private sector management of schemes and independent fee setting and regulation and are applicable to all urban schemes. (Urban Water and Sanitation Policy 2009)

Output Based Aid, a strategy for using explicit performance-based subsidies will be introduced to promote connection of poor and disadvantaged groups to water supply and sanitation systems. (Urban Water and Sanitation Policy 2009)

Basic coverage of water supply and sanitation (%) of municipalities in Nepal (2010)

Municipality	a	b	c	d	e	f
	Population	Access to sanitation	Population without access to sanitation	Access to water supply	Population without access to a water supply	Rank by access to sanitation
Ratnanagar (Chitwan)	52,997	100%	0	92%	4,471	1
Dharan (Sunsari)	1,31,867	100%	0	100%	0	1
Lekhnath (Kaski)	55,975	100%	0	88%	6,874	2
Pokhara Sub Metropolitan (Kaski)	2,14,611	100%	0	98%	4,726	3
Bharatpur (Chitwan)	1,23,909	100%	0	90%	11,848	4
Byas (Tanahun)	36,848	100%	0	90%	3,515	5
Ilam (Ilam)	22,452	98%	553	73%	6,103	6
Lalitpur Sub Metropolitan (Lalitpur)	2,20,243	95%	9,978	98%	3,977	7
Kathmandu Metropolitan (Kathmandu)	10,15,100	95%	50,123	100%	1,218	8
Waling (Syangja)	25,687	94%	1,512	82%	4,513	9
Kirtipur (Kathmandu)	60,284	93%	3,920	98%	1,091	10
Panauti (Kavre)	33,646	91%	3,157	87%	4,442	11
Madhyapurthimi (Bhaktapur)	65,350	89%	7,154	99%	239	12
Butwal (Rupandehi)	97,541	87%	12,790	100%	0	13
Hetauda (Makwanpur)	92,217	86%	12,881	92%	7,361	14
Tikapur (Kailali)	55,476	86%	7,767	100%	0	15
Bhaktapur (Bhaktapur)	97,670	85%	14,574	97%	2,718	16
Baglung (Baglung)	27,007	84%	4,222	100%	0	17
Siddhartha (Rupandehi)	73,180	83%	12,206	100%	0	18
Nepalgunj (Banke)	81,091	81%	15,250	96%	3,106	19
Banepa (Kavre)	22,106	79%	4,539	73%	5,901	20
Bidur (Nuwakot)	27,822	79%	5,737	82%	4,888	21
Putalibazar (Syangja)	37,553	79%	7,844	92%	2,897	22
Tansen (Palpa)	27,311	78%	5,908	96%	1,178	23
Dhankuta (Dhankuta)	27,156	77%	6,306	90%	2,742	24
Itahari (Sunsari)	62,116	76%	14,667	61%	24,062	25
Dhulikhel (Kavre)	15,420	76%	3,747	80%	3,108	26
Gorkha (Gorkha)	33,003	75%	8,189	72%	9,334	27
Bhimeshwor (Dolakha)	30,951	75%	7,748	85%	4,563	28
Biratnagar Sub Metropolitan (Morang)	2,22,217	73%	60,371	99%	784	29
Damak (Jhapa)	67,858	72%	18,709	100%	0	30

Biredranagar (Surkhet)	42,711	71%	12,387	89%	4,633	31
Birgunj Sub Metropolitan (Parsa)	1,53,872	70%	45,915	99%	1,461	32
Janakpur (Dhanusha)	1,14,057	70%	34,246	100%	0	33
Tulsipur (Dang)	46,077	70%	13,886	78%	9,953	34
Dhangadhi (Kailali)	97,344	68%	31,186	96%	3,804	35
Ghorahi (Dang)	61,709	67%	20,168	70%	18,233	36
Amargadhi (Dadeldhura)	24,004	66%	8,117	89%	2,560	37
Khandbari (Sankhuwasabha)	28,556	63%	10,450	73%	7,803	38
Rajbiraj (Saptari)	40,129	62%	15,186	99%	10	39
Malangawa (Sarlahi)	30,870	62%	11,839	100%	0	40
Dasharathchand (Baitadi)	23,942	61%	9,404	78%	5,192	41
Narayan (Dailekh)	25,007	57%	10,726	91%	2,279	42
Bhadrapur (Jhapa)	23,349	56%	10,182	100%	0	43
Kamalmain (Sindhuli)	43,685	55%	19,598	67%	14,335	44
Mechinagar (Jhapa)	58,625	54%	26,726	84%	9,447	45
Gulariya (Bardiya)	63,886	54%	29,529	84%	10,079	46
Inaruwa (Sunsari)	31,690	53%	14,860	94%	2,025	47
Kalैया (Bara)	43,071	52%	20,459	100%	0	48
Lahan (Siraha)	36,014	50%	18,105	98%	584	49
Gaur (Rautahat)	34,228	48%	17,785	84%	5,345	50
Dipayal Silgadhi (Doti)	29,022	46%	15,646	90%	2,830	51
Bhimdatta (Kanchanpur)	1,13,749	46%	61,812	96%	4,738	52
Jaleswor (Mahottari)	29,682	41%	17,444	100%	0	53
Triyuga (Udaypur)	74,608	39%	45,593	61%	28,939	54
Siraha (Siraha)	31,937	38%	19,855	100%	0	55
Kapilbasu (Kapilbasu)	36,572	38%	22,751	100%	0	56
Ramgram (Nawalparasi)	30,726	36%	19,655	100%	0	57
Total	45,25,787	78%	9,21,769	94%	2,59,923	

	Sanitation	Water
Hill municipality coverage	88%	94%
Terai/plain municipality coverage	69%	93%
<small>(1 relatively best access; 58 relatively poorest access)</small>		

Sources:

- Adjusted from municipality wise population projection data, Central Bureau of Statistics 2011 and total urban population data, National Population Census 2011.
 - NMIP, DWSS, 2010
 - Calculations from a and b
 - NMIP, DWSS, 2010
 - Calculations from a and d
 - Rank based on b (1 relatively best access; 58 relatively poorest access)
- Note: Access to sanitation of Ratnanagar, Dharan, Lekhnath, Pokhara, Bharatpur and Byas municipalities are adjusted to 100% according to ODF declaration dates/ National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee, Nepal.

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Taking municipal responsibilities on WASH seriously

As per the Local Self Governance Act (LSGA) 2055 (1999), the functions and duties to be performed mandatorily by the municipality shall be:

- To carry out plans on drinking water and drainage in the municipal areas and operate, maintain and repair or cause to be operated, maintained and repaired the same. (LSGA, 1999)
- To preserve rivers, streams, ponds, deep water, wells, lakes, stone water taps and utilise or cause them to be utilised properly. (LSGA, 1999)
- To carry out or cause to be carried out sanitation programmes in the municipality area. (LSGA, 1999)

Serious benefits that contribute to Nepal's development

It has been estimated that the economic returns in terms of health, education and livelihood benefit from every 100 rupees invested in water and sanitation are worth about 900 rupees (Source: WHO 2008. Sanitation generates economic benefits, fact sheet).

Educating people about hygiene and promoting the practice of hand-washing with soap is a simple and cost effective measure that can help prevent diarrhoea by 45%. (Source: Fatal Neglect Report, WaterAid, 2009)

September 2012



WaterAid transforms lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities. We work with partners and influence decision-makers to maximise our impact.

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MuAN

MuAN promotes urban governance by ensuring rights and enhancing capabilities of municipal government to make cities autonomous, prosperous and self-reliant. Develop municipal governments as capable and strong institutions to provide urban services effectively are one of the core objectives of MuAN.

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Note: Please contact us if you have any suggestions.