



Annual Report

2013 — 2014



Mohan Magar, 32, at an intake construction site in Hardeni, Udayapur District. He has been working as a mason on NEWAH projects for several years now. He takes great satisfaction in his work: "The best moment of the project is when the construction work is complete and the community people praise us as they bid us farewell. It feels so good to see happy faces and sweet smiles. The gratitude of the community cannot be compared to anything else."

WaterAid/Mani Karmacharya



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Our Vision

WaterAid's vision is of a world where everyone has access to safe water and sanitation.

Our Mission

Our mission is to transform 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.

Our values

Our values derive from WaterAid's global values, and form the foundation of our approach to work in water, sanitation and hygiene.

Inclusive **Collaborative**
Accountable **Always learning**
Inspiring **Courageous**

WaterAid/Mani Karmacharya

Chameli Lama, 15, has to fetch water at least three times a day. Though the source is 15 minutes away from her home in Nagarkot, Bhaktapur District, she has to wait up to an hour for her turn.

Message from the Country Representative

WaterAid has been working in Nepal for three decades, transforming lives by ensuring access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for the most marginalised people across the country. In 2013/14, with our partners, we supported over 80,000 people with safe water and 104,800 people with safe sanitation; over 138,000 people participated in hygiene promotion programmes. These basic services are human rights, and are essential for healthy, dignified and productive lives.

Our work in Nepal across 26 districts, 12 municipalities and 7 small towns is based on a programmatic approach combining service delivery, capacity development, research and advocacy. This helps bring about the changes needed so that everyone, everywhere in Nepal has access to WASH services, in line with the Government of Nepal's target to provide all Nepalis with access to basic water and sanitation by 2017.

The momentum on sanitation continues to build, bringing together government, entrepreneurs, NGOs and development partners to support the efforts of local people to declare their communities, villages and districts open defecation free – the foundation for a healthier, more prosperous Nepal. The Government has also recognised the importance of targeting districts that are lagging behind with the formation of the Terai Sanitation Task Force, of which WaterAid is a member. Nepal's sanitation drive took centre stage in October 2013 as the Government hosted the fifth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN), in close collaboration with WaterAid and other agencies.

Significant challenges exist, and no one organisation can deal with them alone. WaterAid

works with stakeholders across the WASH sector, including the Ministry of Urban Development. Through such collaborative efforts a common agenda has been identified to produce a Sector Development Plan to reach the 2017 targets for universal basic coverage and beyond. We are delighted to have forged new partnerships this year with NGOs that focus on the most excluded communities, including Dalits, women, ex-bonded labourers, and those living in remote areas. Water, sanitation and hygiene also have an important role in other areas of development such as education and health. So we work closely with the education and health sectors, for instance by raising awareness of the need for separate, girl-friendly toilets, and by promoting hygiene to mothers of newborn children as part of the national immunisation programme.

The year 2015 will see the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals and a new global development framework focused on Sustainable Development Goals. WaterAid will also launch its Global Strategy 2015-2020. This has a greater focus on sustainable WASH services and tackling the underlying causes of inequalities in access, further integrating the WASH sector with other development sectors. During 2015 we will be developing our new Country Strategy to ensure that WaterAid continues to lead the WASH sector in Nepal. We look forward to working with our partners and stakeholders, without whom our vision of a world where everyone has access to water, sanitation and hygiene will not be possible.

Therese Mahon
Interim Country Representative
WaterAid Nepal



Ritu Kumari Shah, 10, is a fifth grader in Lahan, Siraha District. As a girl, going to the toilet used to be fraught with danger. "We have lots of snake bite cases in the Tarai," she explains, "Whenever I went in the open to the toilet, I was fearful of snakes." The lack of privacy was also embarrassing, but she had no choice. After the installation of a handpump by WaterAid Nepal partner UEMS at her school, she says: "With water now easily available, the toilet is also clean and I can use it. It has become a habit now. I will tell my parents to build a toilet at home as well."



WaterAid

Established in 1981, WaterAid is an international non-governmental organisation focused on improving poor people's access to safe water, improved hygiene and sanitation in developing countries. It works on the basis that water and sanitation are human rights, and are essential services vital for health, education and livelihoods. By 2013/14, WaterAid had reached 20 million people with safe water and 18 million people with sanitation across the world.

WaterAid has been working in Nepal since 1987. In this landlocked, mostly mountainous country of 29 million,

access to safe water and sanitation is a real challenge. In the mountains, distances to water sources can be great and in the southern plains, wells are often highly polluted. Official figures state that in 2011, 85% of Nepalis had access to improved water sources, up from 46% in 1990. But coverage plummets to just 53% if one considers functionality (without accounting for water quality). Toilet coverage rose from 6% in 1990 to 62% in 2011, but improved coverage is only 27%. Given the low standards of hygiene, water contamination remains among the most serious public health problems in Nepal: every year 9,000 children are killed by diarrhoea.

In Nepal, our initial aim was to provide support for water, sanitation and hygiene services in rural areas. We soon expanded from a single rural partner to nine partners



Bal Kumari Karki, 11, is a second grader in Hardeni, Udayapur District. But she has other responsibilities as well – every morning, before she goes to school, she ferries several vessels of water from the source to her home: “I have to get to school at 8 in the morning so I have to finish carrying the water before this. I do this to help my mother. But it is tiring, I’m mostly late for school and the teacher scolds me.”

WaterAid/Mani Karmacharya

to reach small towns and cities: together we have implemented over 500 community projects in rural and urban areas, directly serving more than 553,580 people. In the last decade, we have taken on a more public role through our research and advocacy work, as well as our involvement in pro-poor policy reform. We help our partners improve their ability to deliver, and have set up forums and networks for communities to voice their opinions on water, sanitation and hygiene policy and projects.

Our current Country Strategy (2010-2015) provides a stronger emphasis on universal access, with an explicit focus on equity and inclusion. To achieve this, we work with local authorities and children, youth and community organisations. We also seek to reduce the impacts of water-related

conflicts, natural disasters and climate change. Our leading role in the fifth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN V, Kathmandu, October 2013), highlighted our pivotal role in advocacy in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector both nationally and regionally.

Looking ahead, we seek to address the significant challenges that remain. WaterAid Nepal will focus on sanitation in the Tarai plains and the continuation of the Open Defecation Free (ODF) movement to push towards the national goal of total sanitation for all by 2017. We will also focus on linking water, sanitation and hygiene issues with health and education. To this end we have strengthened our relationships with local and international development partners as well as the Government of Nepal.



Buddhi Sipai with his granddaughter Gyan Maya Sipai, Thimi, Bhaktapur District, with produce grown using compost from a latrine: "We mix up our household waste with compost from the toilet and use it for our plants. I use it to grow onions, coriander, carrots and radish – everything grows well now and the taste is even better. Using this compost takes more time than chemical fertiliser but it's healthier and tastier. I don't want to urinate or go to the toilet anywhere else now, I can't do without it at all! When I go to the river I worry as some people still defecate there. I hate that place now."

WaterAid/Marco Betti



1/3 of all deaths
in Nepal are of
under-5 children,
and half of these are due
to diarrhoea



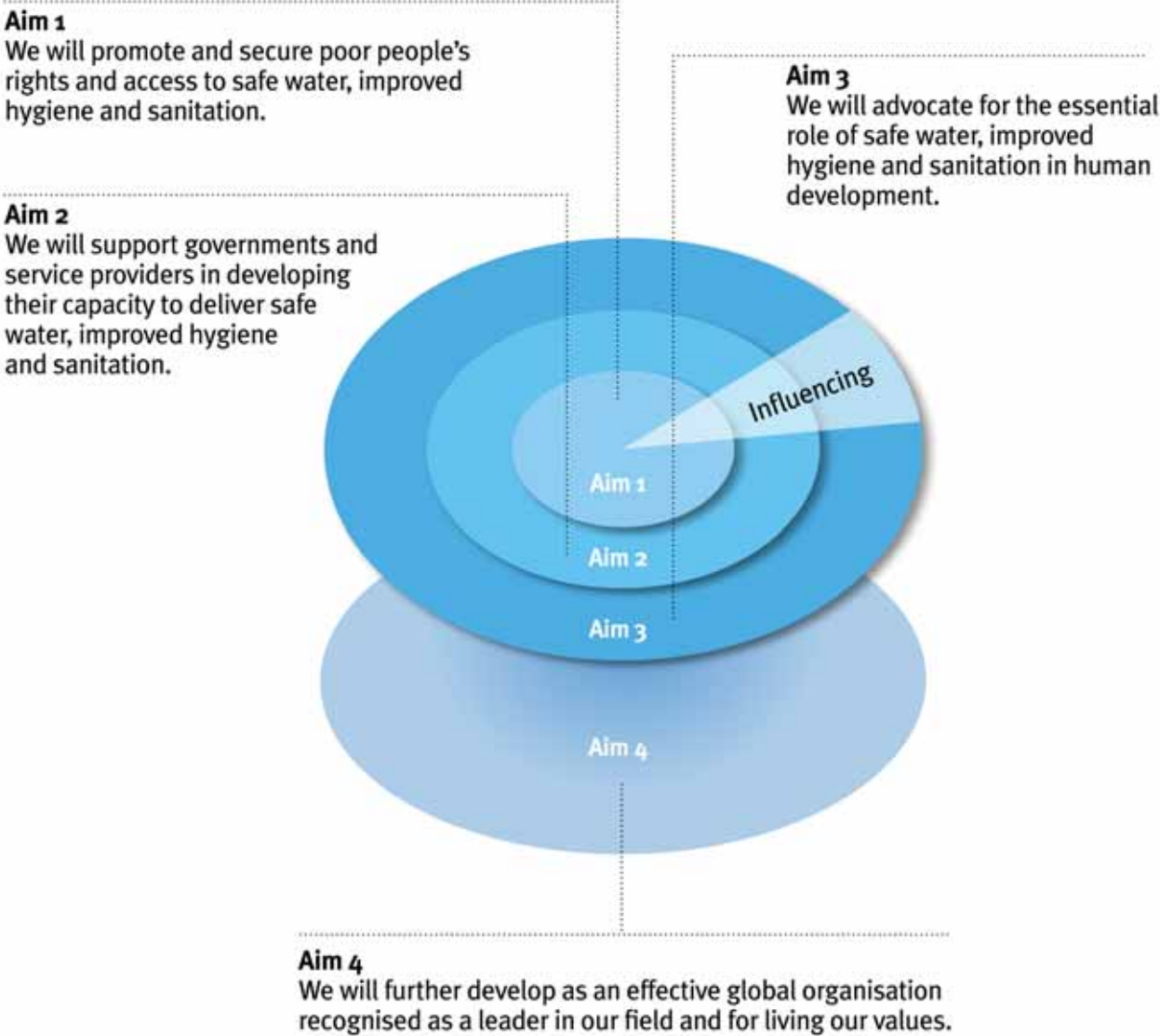
1,671
VDCs out of 3,915,
15 districts and
18 municipalities in Nepal
have been declared open
defecation free (ODF)



Since **1987**, WAN
has implemented over
500 projects for over
553,580 people

What we do

Strategically, our work in Nepal is guided by the four aims of WaterAid's current Global Strategy.



How we work

Our programmes

Urban

With Nepal's urban population growing at a rate of 17%, a significant focus of our work is in water, sanitation and sewerage in small towns and cities, using new technologies. We target vulnerable communities living in slum and squatter settlements in and around the capital, Kathmandu, and towns in the southern Tarai plains.

Rural

In Nepal's mountain villages, gravity-based methods are needed. Installing latrines and providing access to safe water can be difficult, so we work closely with dispersed communities to find the most appropriate, low-cost and low-maintenance solutions. We also work with communities to improve hygiene (including menstrual hygiene) so the health benefits of improved water and sanitation services are maximised, for example through educational programmes in local schools.

Influencing and advocacy

WaterAid Nepal advocates for rights and equity to amplify its message on water, sanitation and hygiene. We organise local and national events to highlight campaign themes like school sanitation and menstrual hygiene management. We plan to run local, regional and national campaigns on sector financing, water rights and conflict issues.

Our approach

Programmatic approach

WaterAid aims to bring about lasting change through an integrated, holistic programmatic approach that fosters increased cooperation within the organisation and across sectors. Our work makes up a coherent package of service delivery and advocacy activities, delivered in partnership, from community level to national and international levels.

Sustainability

Our work aims to widen access and extend impact while keeping services working, to bring lasting change to people's lives. In our work with partners, we will advocate for practices and policies for water and sanitation services and changes in hygiene behaviours to continue providing benefits indefinitely.

Equity and inclusion

Our programmes seek to reach the poorest and most vulnerable people across Nepal. Our urban work focuses on slums and squatter communities. Our rural programme focuses on geographically remote communities and the most marginalised groups, such as Dalits living in the Tarai. We are also active in organising job fairs for disabled people.

Our partners

Working in partnership with communities, local and national organisations, and government agencies means that locally owned solutions can be developed and institutional arrangements set up so work can continue without WaterAid's direct engagement. We invest in our partners to strengthen the capacity of the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. Typically, we provide financial support, training and technical advice and help with planning, budgeting and institutional development.

Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH) is the first national-level NGO specialising in water and sanitation in rural Nepal. An innovative organisation committed to networking and advocacy, NEWAH has provided safe water and sanitation services to about 1.4 million rural people.
newah.org.np

Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FEDWASUN) is a volunteer organisation that represents over 2,500 community-level Water Users Committees in Nepal.
fedwasun.org

Lumanti Support Group for Shelter specialises in water and sanitation service delivery through local partners, as well as saving and credit groups with a focus on urban slums, squatters and poor communities.
lumanti.org.np



Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) is a scientific research organisation involved in technological innovation and promotion in the water and sanitation sector, including Eco-san toilets, SODIS, bio-sand filters and wastewater treatment.

enpho.org

Centre for Integrated Urban Development (CIUD) focuses on urban planning, waste management, land management, promotion of public-private partnerships, water management and urban research.

ciud.org.np

Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS) is dedicated to people-centred sustainable urban development, particularly with marginalised communities.

uems.org.np

Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center (KIRDARC) works in the remote, underdeveloped Karnali region, where low sanitation coverage is a major factor behind the high burden of water-borne diseases.

kirdarc.org

Backward Society Education (BASE) provides literacy, livelihood support and health services to former bonded labourers, mostly in the western Tarai region.

nepalbase.org

Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)

works on rights for Dalits, a group that suffers from extremely poor access to sanitation.

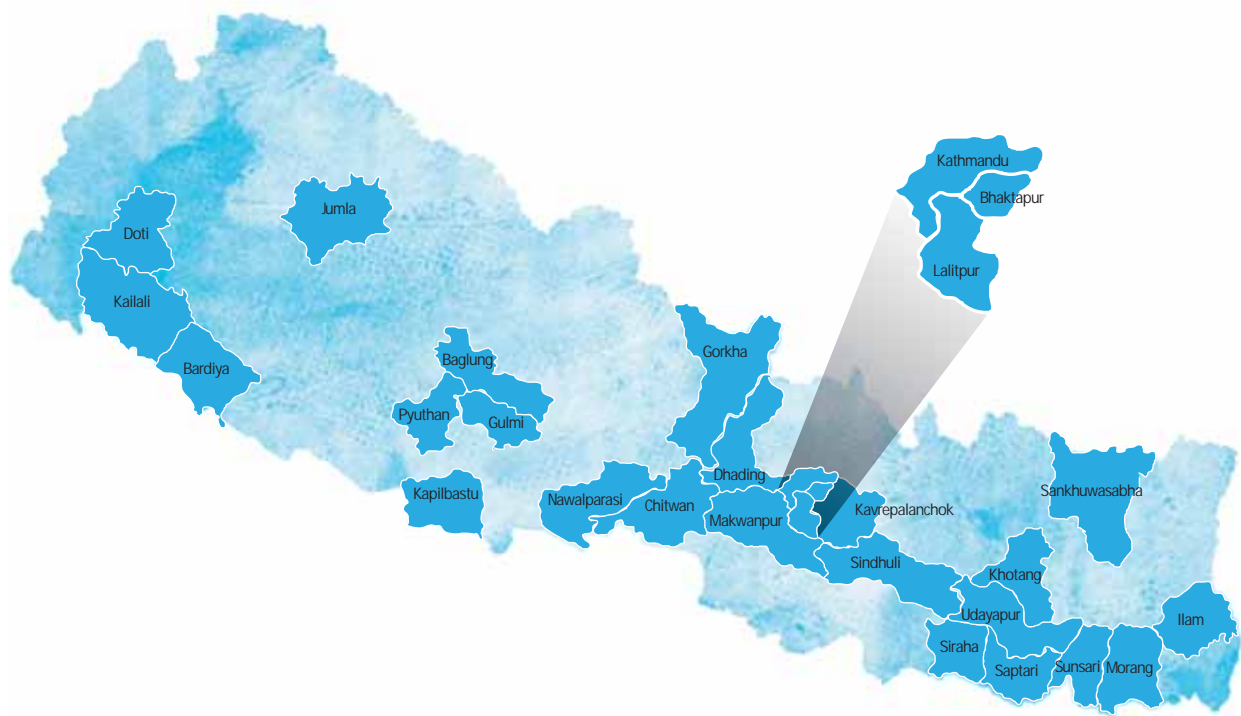
fedonepal.org



Third graders at Shree Primary School, Lahan, Siraha District, responding to the question: "How many of you do not have a toilet at home?"

Who we reached

We work in 26 districts across five regions in Nepal. In rural areas, we work with NEWAH, BASE and KIRDARC. In urban communities, we work with Lumanti, CIUD, UEMS and ENPHO. In advocacy, we work with FEDWASUN and FEDO.





Ten-year-old Debendra Kumar Mahato of Lahan, Siraha District, is a fifth grader at Shree Bhanu Primary School. Prior to the installation of a hand-pump with a bio-sand filter by WaterAid Nepal partner UEMS, there was no water at the school. "I was very happy to see the water coming from the pump," Debendra says. "Now I can wash my hands and feet after playing. The filter water doesn't have any smell; I'm sure it's safe to drink."

WaterAid/Mani Karmacharya

WaterAid/Mani Karmacharya

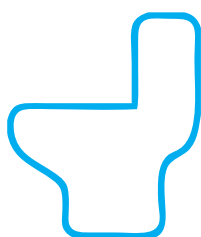
Sujata Dhakal, social technician with WaterAid Nepal partner NEWAH, works in Hardeni, Udayapur District. She explains how they look to the community to resolve any disputes: "Sometimes people demand public taps closer to their homes, but we follow our planned survey design. If the dispute persists then we put the matter before the community and the final decision is taken by the community. So far we haven't had any problems."



Highlights of 2013/14

In 2013/14, we served:

201 rural communities in **42** VDCs in **9** districts
80,725 water users
53,524 rural **27,201** urban



104,803 sanitation users

86,383 rural **18,420** urban

Rural programme achieved **26** ODF VDCs and
145 ODF communities

Urban programme achieved **11** ODF wards.

138,476 users for hygiene
109,465 rural **29,011** urban
76.5% adopted improved hygiene practices



Of these users **78.5%**
 in water and **89.61%** in
 sanitation were ultra-poor
 or poor



213 Users Committees
76.5% of members were
 from poor and marginalised
 communities, **47%** were women.



Chet Kumari Basnet of Hardeni, Udayapur District, feels like a new person since the building of a tap close to home: "Water plays an important role in maintaining personal hygiene. Having to take a bath in a public place, far from home, was so embarrassing I cannot express it in words. The scarcity of water made it more difficult to clean ourselves, to clean the toilet. Now the tap is quite close and I can carry water easily to take a bath at home. I am clean, I feel fresh and energetic. I feel I am more beautiful than before."

WaterAid/Mani Karmacharya



Other achievements in 2013/14

- Participation in the second Joint Sector Review with about 50 other agencies from the sector
- Signing of an MoU with the Ministry of Health and Population to integrate hygiene promotion with the national immunisation programme
- Health Scoping Study to identify the major factors linking health with water, sanitation and hygiene
- Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health dataset, to identify the districts most in need of services
- Open Defecation Free (ODF) toolkit in the form of an illustrated booklet
- Post Implementation Monitoring Survey (PIMS) to provide information about the functionality and sustainability of WaterAid Nepal projects
- Water and sanitation point mapper (WSPM) in service delivery projects to monitor water and sanitation coverage

Spotlight: influencing change

WaterAid Nepal's work in 2013/14


reached beyond providing infrastructure and services. In order to create and sustain stronger links with the water and sanitation sector in the country, we scaled up our influencing work and partnerships at local, regional and global levels.

SACOSAN V: WaterAid Nepal took active part in the fifth South Asian Conference on Sanitation, held in Kathmandu from 22 to 24 October 2013. Our staff were in five working groups to prepare for SACOSAN V, and contributed to the theme of equity and inclusion, highlighting issues of disability. The Government of Nepal subsequently recognised our work across Nepal to bring water and sanitation to areas of low coverage. The conference ended with the

Kathmandu Declaration, with a commitment to end open defecation across South Asia by 2023.

Joint Sector Review II: The Joint Sector Review (JSR) is a national forum for performance assessment and policy guidance for a coherent approach to planning and budgeting in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. WaterAid Nepal had a significant role in drafting position papers and action plans for the eight thematic areas of JSR II, organised by the Ministry of Urban Development in March/April 2014.

Public outreach and lobbying: We took up WaterAid's "Keep your promises" campaign with other civil society organisations in the run-up to the national elections in



Lila Bahadur Magar and Kumar Ghimire working in a ferro cement tank in Nala, Kavrepalanchok District.



November 2013, and received assurances from 19 political parties that they would prioritise universal access to water and sanitation in Nepal. We also helped collect 19,000 signatures to petition the head of state for access to water and sanitation for all by 2017.

On 22 March, World Water Day 2014, we handed over an appeal to the Constituent Assembly of Nepal for the right to water and sanitation to be enshrined in the new constitution. Further, we were successful after a long period of lobbying (including by raising awareness of students in 596 community schools in 13 districts) in convincing the government to direct schools to allocate resources for separate girl-friendly toilets so female students feel comfortable coming to school during menstruation.

Links with other sectors:

An MoU was signed with the Ministry of Health and Population to pilot a project that integrates hygiene promotion with the national immunisation programme in four districts of Nepal. This is the first such programme in the world – if successful it will be scaled up nationwide.

WaterAid Nepal also signed an MoU with the Department of Education to set up water, sanitation and hygiene programmes in schools, with an advocacy project beginning in 13 districts this year. Local partner FEDWASUN will be lobbying for toilets in schools with the involvement of communities, and sharing the lessons from this so local government and other agencies can help fill the gap.



UEMS/Prajwol Shrestha



Case studies

Washing prejudice away

Mina Shrestha, 24, lives in Triyuga municipality, Udayapur District. She works as a Community Change Maker for WaterAid Nepal partner, the Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS). She believes she has been transformed as much as her community as a result.

"I feel that I have become more capable, efficient and self-confident. I've been given the opportunity to explore my potential. Now I can put forward my opinions, and conduct trainings on health, hygiene and sanitation. The cooperation and respect from the

community has been a motivating factor," Mina says, adding, "Whenever I see positive changes in the behaviour of community people, I feel that all my hard work has paid off."

Mina trains adolescent girls and housewives on the importance of using toilets, washing hands, treating water and maintaining menstrual hygiene. In particular, UEMS has sought practical solutions to the difficulties faced by women in communities with discriminatory attitudes towards menstruation. As Apsara Khatri, 16, explains: "Before the project came in, awareness about sanitation and hygiene, especially menstrual hygiene, was very low. Most women and girls, including myself, used old cotton clothes as sanitary pads, as it was too expensive to buy them from the market. Using old clothes was ineffective and uncomfortable. I used to feel ashamed during menstruation, and I was missing out on school, but I was too shy to talk to my parents about these problems."

Awareness programmes and training for homemade sanitary napkins made a world of a difference to girls like Apsara: "I've learnt about health and hygiene. I personally liked the training on menstrual hygiene. Now, I don't feel shy to talk about menstruation. I also learned how to make homemade sanitary pads. They are comfortable, and I feel clean and healthy. The training was a life-changing event." Apsara is now the secretary of the Sungava Girls Group set up under the UEMS programme. This year, 27 menstrual hygiene trainings were delivered in Triyuga, attended by 399 people.

Transforming lives

For Ratna Maya Tamang of hilly Risku VDC, Udayapur District, collecting water was not just sheer drudgery, it also took her away from her shop – her family of five's main source of income. She recalls:

"It took me up to three hours to fetch water; half my day was spent carrying water from the source to my house. My business was severely affected, as I had to close the shop while I was away. I lost customers and income, and this made me very frustrated and sad."

What's more, Ratna Maya was well aware that the water from the source was not clean. Colds, diarrhoea and cholera were common, and people in the village spent a lot on both traditional and modern medicine. Two children even died of severe diarrhoea. Then WaterAid partner Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH) began a project to build taps and raise awareness about sanitation and hygiene. Many communities have since been declared Open Defecation Free.

"All our water worries are over now," smiles Ratna Maya. "I cannot express my happiness in words. Public tap stands have been put up throughout the community, and the time I save on collecting water I now use to look after the shop and take care of my children. My income from the shop has doubled."

Diseases associated with poor water and sanitation have also gone down, according to Ratna Maya, to the extent that her brother-in-law is considering closing his pharmacy!





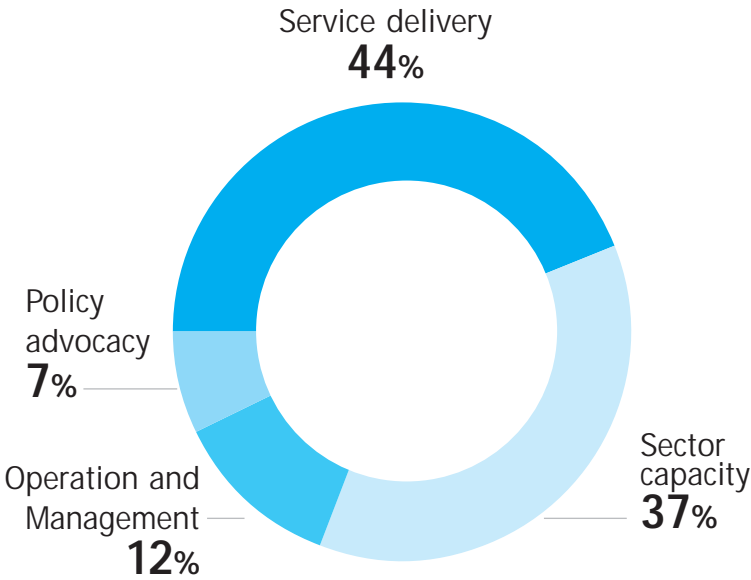
Ratna Maya Tamang, 35, filling water at a tap stand built by WaterAid partner NEWAH, Risku, Udayapur District.

WaterAid/Mani Karmacharya

Financial summary

Programme Type	Spending (NPR)
Rural Programme	163.8 Million
Urban Programme	79.1 Million
Sector Influencing (Advocacy)	18.8 Million
National	41.6 Million
Total	303.3 Million

2013/2014



Local partners generated NPR **7.6** million as matching funds from local government institutions and VDCs

213 user committees collected NPR **10.9** million from rural and urban users.

WaterAid/Mani Karnacharya





Mason Kul Bahadur Pakhrin, 52, works on intake construction in Toshramkhola, Sindhuli District.

WaterAid/Mani Karmacharya




Amrita Gyawali, 25, WaterAid Nepal consultant: "With time I have come to realize that being in a wheelchair is not an obstacle for me; the real obstacles are inaccessible infrastructure and misconceptions towards people with disabilities. WaterAid Nepal's positive attitude towards people with disabilities has removed all my worries. They have built a completely disabled-friendly toilet on their premises, and the overall disabled-friendly environment that my colleagues here have created has helped me work effectively."

Bhim Bahadur Basnet, 30, carrying crushed stones to a construction site in Hardeni, Udayapur District. He is the Secretary of the Siruwani Sajbote Drinking Water Sanitation and Hygiene Users Committee. The committee is working with WaterAid Nepal partner NEWAH. Bhim explains that the terrain is so difficult that people think it is impossible to carry out works. "Even so," he declares, "We have to take the lead. If we cannot encourage the community with positive energy the project may fail. It is the committee's responsibility to set an example."

WaterAid/Mani Karmacharya





Thank you

We would like to thank all our supporters and partners for helping WaterAid Nepal meet its goals in 2013/14.



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Cover image: Sabita Adhikari, 13, at a tap stand built by WaterAid partner NEWAH in Toshramkhola, Sindhuli District.
(WaterAid/Mani Karmacharya)