

 **WaterAid**
Nepal
Country Strategy
2017-2021



Lari Tamang, 57, at the temporary tapstand near her home, after the 2015 earthquake, in Nagarkot, Bhaktapur.
WaterAid/ Miguel Samper

We are WaterAid

Our vision

is of a world where everyone, everywhere has safe water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030.

Our mission

is to transform lives of the poorest and most marginalised people by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.



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Executive summary

Background

WaterAid's global vision is to reach everyone everywhere with safe water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030, helping them to live healthy and dignified lives.

WaterAid Nepal's goal over the next five years is to ensure that marginalised groups and individuals, and people living in vulnerable situations in Nepal have access to safe water and improved sanitation facilities, and are able to practise good hygiene behaviour. This is where our work can have the most impact, and it is the next crucial step towards achieving our overall vision.

In recent years, Nepal has made impressive progress in its WASH development, yet there are still 2.3 million people living without access to safe water and 15 million people with no access to sanitation facilities. Water and sanitation-related diseases are among the top ten most serious public health issues and the top five reasons for death in children under five.

Nepal faces major challenges in access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) because of its extreme political, social, geographical and economic barriers. Without proper WASH infrastructure in place, critical areas like health, education and economic growth are also affected, holding back the country's development.

Nepal is vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters such as floods,

landslides and earthquakes. In April and May 2015 the country was devastated by two huge earthquakes, which damaged thousands of homes and buildings, and heavily affected WASH facilities.

Our approach

WaterAid Nepal has been working on WASH issues since 1987. We team up with local partners, technical experts, governments and communities to support the delivery of integrated WASH services in hard to reach communities, helping to transform lives.

In our last strategy period, alongside our partners, we focused on delivering these essential services to the most vulnerable people in Nepal. We designed and implemented sustainable and appropriate solutions tailored to meet the WASH needs of communities and their surrounding environments.

Over the next five years, we will focus on supporting the delivery of such critical services primarily to the most marginalised groups and individuals, while also working to empower people, so that they manage WASH resources sustainably and take actions for their rights to water and sanitation.

We will work to influence, promote accountability and support local and national governments for delivering WASH services to the people of Nepal, and encourage them to respond to the needs of vulnerable groups.

Joshna Khatri, 7, and Sarita Lamichhane, 8, at the tapstand in Kamalamai Municipality, Sindhuli.
WaterAid/ Mani Karmacharya

We will seek to partner with like-minded organisations inside and outside the sector, for mutual benefits and to effect wider change. We will raise awareness of water, sanitation and hygiene as fundamental building blocks for all areas of development, with a specific focus on integration with the health and education sectors, where WASH is critical to success.

We will invest in new research and technology that is cost effective, sustainable and locally relevant, so that we can be flexible and adaptable, demonstrate sustainable models for WASH, and to ensure that we are always using the best approach.

The change we want to see

WaterAid Nepal has identified **four key objectives** for the next five years to make change happen:

- Enable marginalised communities and individuals, and people in vulnerable situations to take action for their rights to water and sanitation.
- Promote greater accountability and effectiveness for delivering WASH services.
- Influence and demonstrate WASH as foundational to all aspects of development, with a focus on health and education.
- Apply new research, holistic approaches and innovative technology to WASH.

To support these objectives, **four interconnected flagship programmes** have been designed:

- Reaching the Unreached
- Recovery and Resilient WASH
- Hygiene
- Sector Effectiveness

Where we work will be determined by need, based on the Human Development Index (HDI).

We plan to work in 16-20 districts between 2017-2021, if funding is secured. We will focus on the areas with the lowest ranking HDI number and severe water and sanitation issues, compounded by social discrimination through gender and the complex caste system.

We will know our strategy has been successful if:

- Marginalised groups and individuals, and people in vulnerable situations are living healthier and more dignified lives as a result of their sustainable access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Governments put policies and mechanisms in place to help exercise the right for everyone in Nepal for equitable access to safe water and sanitation.
- The WASH sector is working together and demonstrating leadership.
- WaterAid Nepal is well-known as a champion for the rights to water and sanitation of marginalised groups and individuals in Nepal.

To deliver our strategy, we will build on the strengths and potential of our organisation and team, who are passionate about achieving our goals. We will invest in our four flagship programmes to help us reach as many people as possible with WASH.

We hope to secure funding for longer-term projects that will help to rebuild and maintain the local infrastructure and economy, and support us in reaching the people of Nepal with safe and sustainable WASH.

Introduction

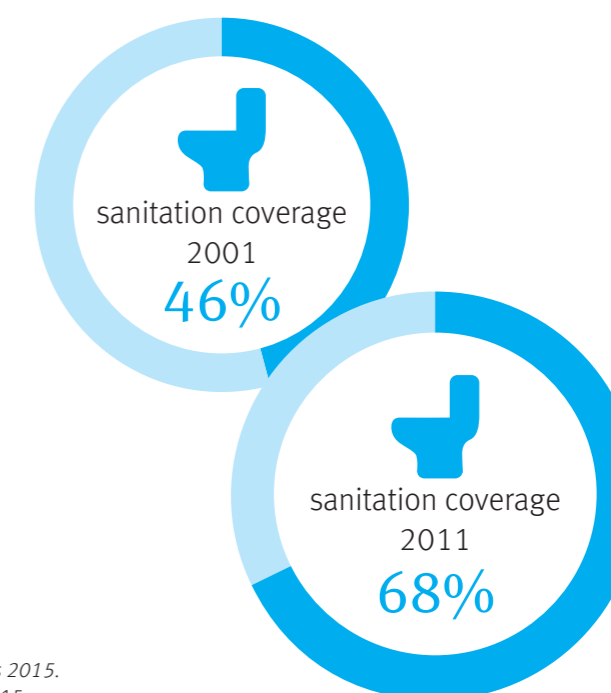
WaterAid Nepal has been in operation since 1987. We are part of the global WaterAid family, which works in 37 countries and has a vision to reach everyone everywhere with safe water, sanitation and good hygiene by 2030. Over the past five years, WaterAid Nepal has helped to transform the lives of more than 317,915 people with access to safe water, 455,379 people with sanitation facilities and 241,754 with hygiene promotion.

In our last strategy period, from 2010 to 2015, significant gains were made in the national WASH sector. Nepal ranked third overall¹ amongst countries making remarkable progress in basic sanitation coverage, moving from 46% in 2001 to 68% in 2011,² and water infrastructure and services have now reached 85% of the total population.³ This success in sanitation coverage can be attributed to effective leadership from the Nepal Government, and coordination and determination from within the sector.⁴

Nepal is an active member of a number of global initiatives dedicated to improving and delivering equitable access to WASH for all. This commitment to change, coupled with Nepal's new constitution, which was announced in September 2015 and recognises access to water and sanitation as a fundamental human right, signals positive progress for the country.

In the same year, the first WASH Sector Development Plan was drafted and the Ministry of Water and Sanitation was formed, with water and sanitation gaining attention as a national development priority. Globally, the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by the United Nations, presenting a unique opportunity through Global Goal 6: "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all".

This is a huge step forward for WASH development and it creates an immense opportunity for WaterAid Nepal as we continue to strive for our vision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene for all. This strategy outlines our plans for the next five years as we work with communities, partners, governments and sector actors to make change happen.



1. WaterAid (2015) *It's No Joke: The State of the World's Toilets 2015*.

2. WHO/UNICEF (2015) Joint Monitoring Programme report 2015.

3. Nepal census data 2011 (however, there is variable data on coverage in different government and sector reports).

4. Success can be attributed to the Nepal Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011 and Joint Sector Reviews adopted in 2011, which created synergy, purpose and government leadership.

Our role and niche

WaterAid Nepal is considered a leading expert on WASH issues, through our work with partners and communities, as well as through contributing to global policies and initiatives. We are recognised by governments, partners, communities and supporters for our contribution to the WASH sector, and are often invited to play an active role in formulating national-level WASH policies and strategies.

We specialise in delivering **integrated WASH** in one distinct programmatic approach. We are confident delivering programmes in challenging environments and circumstances. We have worked with some of the most marginalised and vulnerable groups in Nepal to successfully deliver these three critical components, helping to transform lives.

In the past we have focused on delivering basic water and sanitation services in hard to reach communities, whether the barriers are geographical, socio-cultural or economic. Over recent years more emphasis has been given to **influencing governments** because we believe that ensuring the delivery of robust WASH services is ultimately the Nepal Government's responsibility.

We know from experience that if our projects are to succeed, we have to work closely with communities, helping them to understand their rights to water and sanitation and enabling them to take ownership of their future. To create sustainable systems, we will act as a **support network** for communities and partners contributing to local and national

government efforts, providing technical support, guiding decision-making and monitoring projects to ensure they are still functioning years from now.

We will continue to be a **driving force**, bringing together communities, sector actors, governments, partners and other like-minded organisations to effect change through collective leadership. We will identify opportunities to work collaboratively with different sectors, building relationships to deliver complete and long-lasting systems. We must be **well-connected** within the sector and outside, working with governments, communities and movements, and be a **facilitator to bridge connections** of local, national and global WASH initiatives to influence greater change. We will devote time and energy into maintaining these networks while strengthening their ability to reach and influence others.

We are a transparent and communicative organisation. We will provide regular updates and insight into our work for governments, the sector and our donors, audiences, partners and supporters. As a **learning organisation** we will share our successes, challenges and lessons learned through reports, stories and images. We will also seek to learn from others.

We will continue to **invest in new research, approaches and technology**. We need to be at forefront of change, working as an agile organisation. We must be adaptable and make sure the work we do is relevant and timely, so that we can stand up to new challenges whenever they arise.

Raju Shrestha, 35, project supervisor, inspecting the newly constructed reservoir tank in Hardeni, Udayapur. WaterAid/ Mani Karmacharya

Opportunities and challenges

Over the past five years, Nepal has made good progress against its water and sanitation goals, and in September 2015 the country adopted a new constitution that recognises access to water and sanitation as a fundamental human right: **“Every citizen shall have the right to access clean drinking water and sanitation”**. But there is still a long way to go. Nepal remains one of the poorest nations in Asia, ranked 145th in the United Nations HDI, with 21.3%⁵ of its population living below the poverty line.

The national economy is fragile and at risk from natural disasters and continued political instability. The country is **struggling to recover** from extensive losses in local trade, transport, tourism and financial services caused by two huge earthquakes in 2015 and an acute fuel crisis in September 2015.⁶ Nepal’s gross domestic product (GDP) fell to 3% in 2015, from 5.1% in 2014, and is predicted to grow by only 1.7% in 2016. Meanwhile, inflation continues to undermine living standards.⁷

Since 2002, there have been frequent changes to the national government and no elected local bodies, making progress slow and difficult. The announcement of the **new constitution**, although a positive step, also signals further political unrest. It proposes a reworking of Nepal with several new federal states divided into

smaller areas – a move that is contested by different political groups. These changes to the country’s structure are likely to impact on the way international organisations such as WaterAid operate at the local, state and national level.

The country faces **serious socio-cultural issues**, and common beliefs and practices affect access to WASH. Women and girls often face the biggest challenges when it comes to education, health and citizenship, and they are excluded from society during menstruation. In poorer communities, women and girls might spend two or three hours a day collecting water for their families, hampering their development. This is made more complicated by a deep-rooted and prevalent caste system.

Despite progress, the water and sanitation situation remains poor. **More than 2.3 million people have no access to clean water and 15 million live without safe sanitation** and although national water and sanitation coverage has risen in recent years, the proportion of services that are safe and properly functioning is much lower. Toilet coverage is reported to have risen from 30% in 2001 to 61% in 2011,⁸ but improved coverage is only 27%.

Water and sanitation-related diseases are among the top ten most serious public

5. Government of Nepal National Planning Commission (2015) Nepal Earthquake 2015: Post Disaster Needs Assessment. (Volume B: Sector Reports). Kathmandu, Nepal. Available at http://www.npc.gov.np/images/download/PDNA_volume_BFinalVersion.pdf

6. Guardian (2015) ‘Nepal border blockade ‘threatens the future of the country itself’, says UN’. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/nov/18/nepal-border-blockade-india-threatens-future-un-unesf> (accessed 7 November 2016).

7. The World Bank (2016) Nepal country data. Available at: <http://data.worldbank.org/country/nepal> (accessed 8 June 2016).

8. Nepal census data 2011.



Balkumari, 11, washing her hands at the tapstand in Sajbote Siruwani, Hardeni, Udayapur.
WaterAid/ Mani Karmacharya



(L-R) Sapani Rai, Gangamaya Jimi, Kabita Lamjel, Sarita Rai and Khakumari BK working on the community pipeline project in Aankhibhui, Sankhuwasbha. WaterAid/ Mani Karmacharya

health problems and the top five reasons for death in children under five. In 2011, 86% of people in Nepal were reported to have access to water supply,⁹ but these figures hide whether the services are properly functioning and the quality of water being delivered.

In **urban areas**, waste is dumped into open drains or waterways, polluting groundwater and water sources. The growing population puts a strain on water and sanitation services, causing environmental pollution and water quality issues. Safe drinking water is available, but at extortionate prices. In remote villages people often have to walk long distances in dangerous conditions to collect water from unsafe sources. The harsh and mountainous landscape makes water systems expensive to build and

difficult to deliver.

Nepal is the fourth most **vulnerable country** in the world to climate change, and its **diverse terrain** leaves it at risk from natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and landslides. In April and May 2015 Nepal was hit by **two major earthquakes** killing more than 8,500 people and injuring 22,000. Houses were destroyed across 14 districts and, as a result of the quakes, another 3% of the population has been pushed into poverty. The total damage is estimated at \$6.6 billion, while the recovery and reconstruction of water and sanitation infrastructure and services is estimated at \$165 million.

Around 1,570 **water supplies have been completely destroyed**, and

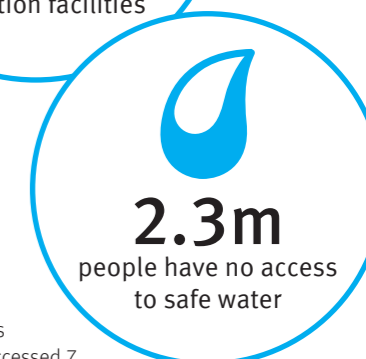
another 3,500 systems are in need of repair. In some places, sources have dried up entirely, and water quality issues have increased because of the damage. Around 220,000 toilets were left broken and unusable.¹⁰ The Nepal Government has allocated a substantial budget for reconstruction, but has not been able to meet the needs of those affected quickly enough. Weak governance and limited capacity have hindered rehabilitation and development plans.

The annual government spend on WASH is around 3% of the national budget, with **a funding gap** of 30 billion Nepalese rupees (approx. \$280 million¹¹) to meet current needs. The government has made

use of only 70% of the annual national WASH budget over the last four years. Numerous government policies have been designed to address water and sanitation issues, but with the arrival of the new constitution, these need to be reviewed and mechanisms put in place to ensure citizens' rights to water and sanitation¹² can be progressively realised.

Responsibilities for delivering WASH are complex. Multiple government bodies support different components, and there is little integrated working and no proper processes in place to address issues such as the competing demands and usage of water for drinking, agriculture and energy or urban sanitation challenges. Despite a number of strong development actors¹³ in the WASH sector, effective collaboration, robust planning and rigorous processes for gathering useful data and monitoring progress are still lacking, as are the resources and funds needed to deliver against commitments for equitable and sustainable WASH. Cross-sector coordination remains sparse.

Hygiene behaviour change continues to be overlooked as a critical element of many basic WASH, health and education programmes, and there is no proper data available to reasonably assess the hygiene situation.



9. Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (2014). Nationwide Coverage and Functionality Status of Water Supply and Sanitation in Nepal. (NMIP, 2014). Kathmandu, Nepal. Retrieved from <http://www.seiu.gov.np/index.php/blog/36-nmip-launched-latest-report-on-water-and-sanitation-status-in-nepal>

10. Government of Nepal National Planning Commission (2015) Nepal Earthquake 2015: Post Disaster Needs Assessment. Available at: http://www.npc.gov.np/images/download/PDNA_volume_BFinalVersion.pdf (accessed 7 November 2016).

11. Nepal Water Sanitation and Hygiene Sector Development Plan (2015) Chapter 9: Cost estimate and investment plan. Retrieved from: <http://www.seiu.gov.np/index.php/documents/download-file?path=SDP%2B-%2BFinal-%2BEng.pdf>

12. On 28 July 2010, through Resolution 64/292, the United Nations General Assembly recognised the human rights to water and sanitation, and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realisation of all other human rights. Nepal's constitution 2015 recognises access to water and sanitation as a human right.

13. WaterAid Nepal (2015) Assessment of the WASH sector.

Change and how it will happen

Nepal faces some critical challenges to meet its water, sanitation and hygiene targets by breaking through its complex socio-cultural, political, geographic and economic barriers.

It is most often people from marginalised groups or in vulnerable situations, such as women and girls, people from lower castes, people with disabilities, and urban and rural poor communities living in remote parts of the country who struggle to access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

Over the next five years our goal is to ensure that **these marginalised groups and individuals, and people in vulnerable situations have access to equitable safe water and improved sanitation, and practice good hygiene behaviour so that they can lead healthy and dignified lives.**

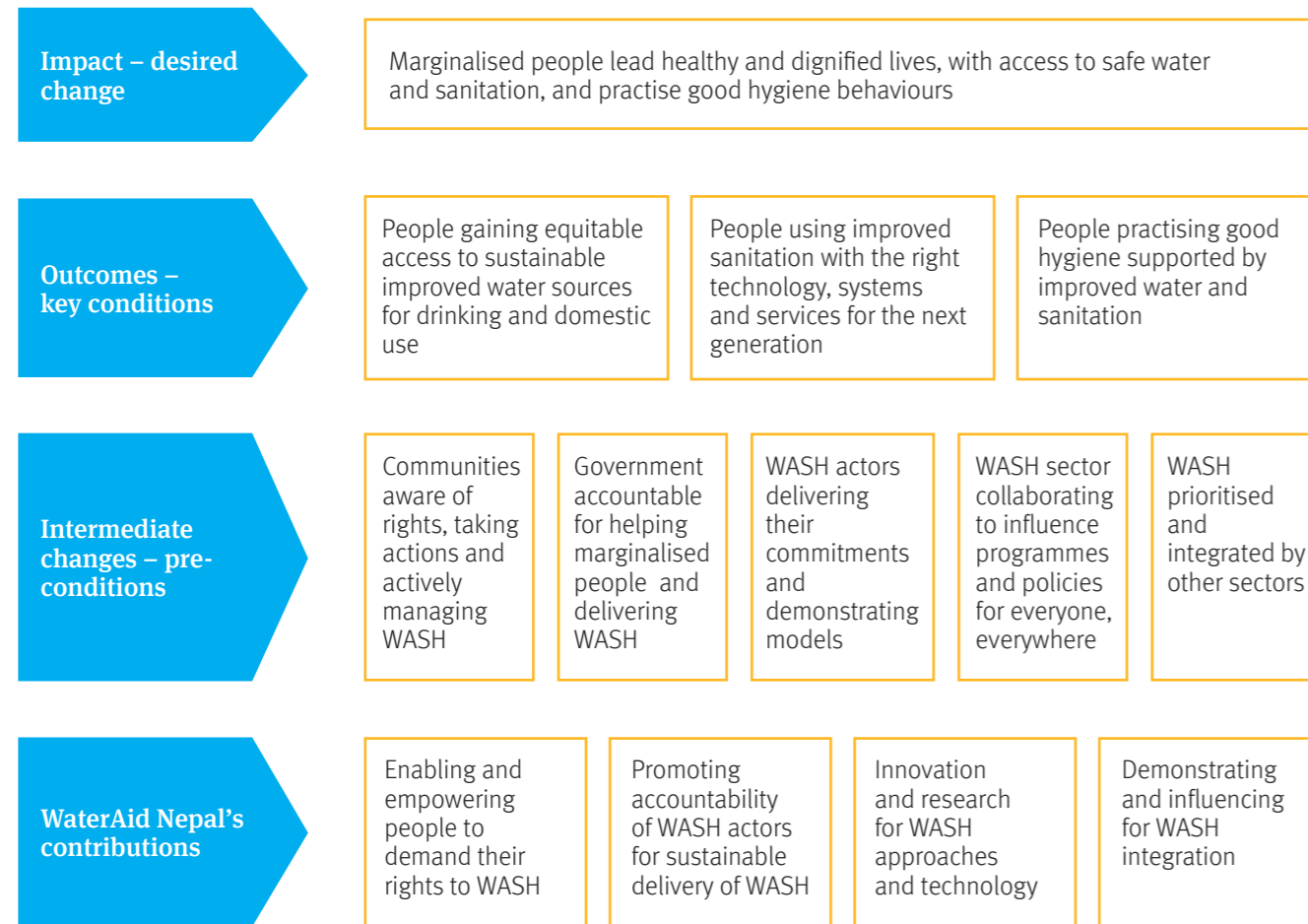


We believe this change is a crucial step in helping to realise WaterAid's vision of a world where everyone everywhere has access to safe water and sanitation by 2030. We consider the following conditions as essential for this change to be achieved.



Students washing their hands at the newly built tapstand at a school in Sajbote Siruwani, Hardeni, Udayapur. WaterAid/ Mani Karmacharya

How change will happen



The **three key conditions** needed to reach everyone everywhere with safe water, sanitation and hygiene are:

1. Accelerated, equitable and increased access to sustainable, improved water sources for drinking and domestic use.
2. Increased numbers of people using improved sanitation with the right technology, systems and services for the next generation.
3. Good hygiene practice becoming commonplace in communities, supported by improved water sources and sanitation facilities.

To ensure these conditions are possible, **five intermediate changes** must come about:

1. **Marginalised groups and individuals,¹⁴ and people in vulnerable situations must be aware of and take action for their rights to water and sanitation, as well as actively managing their WASH systems and services,** motivated by the will to keep their homes and local environments clean and safe.
2. **The government must be active and ultimately accountable for the delivery of sustainable WASH services to the people of Nepal,** leading on the processes needed to reach the most deprived groups and ensuring access to improved water and sanitation remains affordable.
3. **The WASH sector actors must deliver against their commitments, monitor progress, demonstrate model ways of working,** contribute to strengthening systems and capacity to deliver and sustain services, generate evidence to influence pro-poor programmes and policies, and test new technology and approaches.
4. **WASH must be prioritised in other sectors' policies and programmes,**

such as health and education, to make it more effective. If healthcare centres and schools adopt best practice WASH standards, the overall hygiene and health of communities is improved, and education and well-being are enhanced.

5. **WASH sector actors must collaborate meaningfully** to overcome challenges, promote mutual benefits and efficient use of resources, develop high impact approaches, and bring about change. It is important to reach outside the sector to help make WASH a priority and to emphasise its critical nature for the success of other key development areas such as health, education, nutrition, the economy and livelihoods.

Underpinning our theory of how change can happen are some assumptions we have made about the key stakeholders in the change process:

1. Communities, including marginalised groups and individuals, and people in vulnerable situations, will prioritise their WASH needs within other areas of development and be part of the process.
2. The government will be willing to respond to the WASH needs of marginalised groups and individuals. (Although it may have limited capacity, it should be actively working on these issues).
3. WASH sector stakeholders will be open to and support each other to drive change.
4. NGOs and like-minded institutions will proactively engage with the issue.
5. There will be a willingness from other sectors and actors to recognise the importance of including WASH plans across all areas of development, and they will work together to achieve this.

14. WaterAid (2015) Steps to inclusive WASH. Available at: www.wateraid.org/~media/.../Steps-to-inclusive-WASH.pdf?la=en. Accessed 7 November 2016.

For any of this to be successful, we will need to develop **a working understanding** of the underlying issues of inequality and discrimination faced by people who lack access to water, sanitation and hygiene. There has to be continuous analysis to ensure our interventions are relevant and effective enough to bring change. We should help design approaches, systems and methods to **deliver inclusive WASH services** that are built to last. For example, if a toilet is constructed that cannot be used by someone with a physical disability, or without private space for women and girls to safely manage their periods, then it is not possible to say that everyone everywhere is being reached. In addition, we need to support communities to sustain these changes in the long-term and, given the volatile environment, to **develop systems that are resilient to climate change, disasters and shocks.**

The Nepal Government, NGOs working on WASH, sector actors, the private sector, and civil society groups have a huge **responsibility to support communities to achieve their development ambitions.** These groups should work together to encourage each other to respond to WASH demands and be accountable for ensuring that sustainable and equal access services are put in place.



A community meeting at Shree Arunodaya Secondary School in Sirthauli, Sindhuli. WaterAid/ Mani Karmacharya

Our approach

Our vision is of a world where everyone everywhere has safe water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030.

Our mission is to transform lives of the poorest and most marginalised people by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

Our goal is to ensure that marginalised groups and individuals, and people in vulnerable situations have equitable access to safe water, improved sanitation and are practising good hygiene behaviour, so they can lead healthy and dignified lives.

We chose to focus our goal on reaching marginalised groups and individuals first because this is where we believe our work can have the most impact, in terms of progress towards our overall vision. We will be guided by our **programmatic approach**, which puts human rights at its core and is comprised of three main components: empowerment, sector strengthening and partnerships.

The central idea of **empowerment** stresses the direct participation of marginalised groups and individuals, and people in vulnerable situations, with human development as its fundamental concern, so people can take action for sustainable WASH through an informed

understanding of their rights to water and sanitation.

Sector strengthening builds on our belief that to deliver sustainable services, an accountable and responsive WASH sector, which has the capabilities to deliver at scale, is needed. We will focus on the essential building blocks for a well-functioning sector,¹⁵ promoting a sector-wide approach¹⁶ at the national level and a district-wide approach¹⁷ at the local level.

For sustainable and equitable WASH to reach everyone everywhere, we believe **partnerships** play a fundamental role. We will seek to work with a diverse range of actors to promote sustainable

15. WaterAid (2008) *Aid Compacts Built around National Plans*. Available at: <http://www.wateraid.org/~media/Publications/aid-compacts-national-plans-discussion-paper.pdf> (accessed 8 November 2016).

16. The sector-wide approach is an approach to international development that “brings together governments, donors and other stakeholders within any sector. It is characterised by a set of operating principles rather than a specific package of policies or activities. The approach involves movement, over time, under government leadership towards broadening policy dialogue; developing a single sector policy (that addresses private and public sector issues) and a common realistic expenditure programme; common monitoring arrangements; and more coordinated procedures for funding and procurement.” (World Health Organization, World Health Report 2000)

17. The district-wide approach provides a platform for WaterAid to scale up interventions and support the development of the conditions necessary for universal WASH coverage at the district level. Attaining district WASH coverage then becomes the foundation of influencing national policy.

Lila Bhattarai, female community health volunteer, explaining the importance of practicing good hygiene in Ramnagar, Nawalparasi.

WaterAid/ Mani Karmacharya



Pratik Shrestha, 6 outside the newly-built toilet at his home in Ugrachandi Nala, Kavre.
WaterAid/ Mani Karmacharya

development and access to WASH. We will create partnerships based on a common interest for WASH development in Nepal, to help support our strategic vision.

Our programmatic approach will allow us to work with a spectrum of stakeholders to identify the needs of communities, work with partners, and contribute towards

strengthening the sector's effectiveness and its capacity to deliver services. We will aim to enable, facilitate and, where crucial, deliver WASH services to improve the situation of the marginalised groups and individuals, and people in vulnerable situations, while contributing to and influencing policies and programmes to reach everyone everywhere.

Our strategic objectives

Building on our understanding of how change will happen, our four key objectives will help to bring about the key conditions and intermediate changes necessary to achieve safe water, sanitation and hygiene for marginalised groups and individuals, and people in vulnerable situations in Nepal. These interconnected objectives will inform all of WaterAid Nepal's work over the next five years.

Objective 1

Enable marginalised communities and individuals, and people in vulnerable situations to take action for their rights to water and sanitation.

We know there are many different barriers to accessing WASH, such as social exclusion, gender, geographical location, age and economic status. We will apply a comprehensive analysis of these issues to our designs and programmes, making them more inclusive. Along with our partners, we will help people to understand their rights to water and sanitation, making sure their voices are heard where it counts and helping them take action to realise their rights and play an active role in improving water and sanitation management. We will help build capacity and promote hygiene so communities are motivated to adopt improved practices, change their behaviour and practise good hygiene.

Objective 2

Promote greater accountability and effectiveness for delivering WASH services.

There are many different organisations focused on WASH in Nepal, but they typically work in isolation. We need to encourage sector actors to work collaboratively and contribute to our common goal to reach everyone everywhere with safe and improved WASH. We must play a part in strengthening government leadership and capacity to accelerate progress on their WASH commitments. We will advocate for the conditions needed for people to realise their rights to water and sanitation. We will look to work together with sector actors to drive change, encourage investment, strengthen systems and capacity for sustainable delivery of WASH, monitor performance, learn from each other and ultimately speed up the WASH development process.

Objective 3

Influence and demonstrate WASH as foundational to all aspects of development, with a focus on health and education.

WASH must be prioritised in other areas of development if we want to reach everyone everywhere by 2030. We need to partner with other sectors, putting emphasis on the importance of inclusive WASH in public places, such as schools and healthcare facilities, where a lack of these basic services and good hygiene practice would be detrimental. By developing plans and actions together, we are more likely to achieve overall success.

Objective 4

Apply new research, holistic approaches and innovative technology for WASH.

We should be continuously adapting our approaches, so that we are always using the most appropriate solution or system for any context or situation. We will develop and strengthen holistic approaches; test new technologies that are cost effective, sustainable and locally relevant; run critical research; and adopt water security measures and designs that can stand up to climate change and natural disasters. We will build on the local knowledge of communities, helping them be more resilient to emerging challenges.

How we will deliver on these objectives: Our flagship programmes

We have designed four interconnected programmes that work together to support our main objectives and contribute to the change we want to see.

Reaching the Unreached

We will analyse barriers to access and inequities within the different local contexts we work in that affect access to WASH for excluded and vulnerable groups, such as social, geographic and cultural barriers, and economic deprivation. This will inform our designs and programmes to make sure they are working for everybody.

We will enable marginalised communities and individuals, and people in vulnerable situations to take action for their rights to water and sanitation and play an active role in improving water and sanitation management. We will work with governments and stakeholders to help protect and realise those rights, ensuring sustainable delivery of WASH services. We

will champion unheard voices and support people to become agents of change in their communities. We will work to design and deliver WASH services in partnership with these communities, while also ensuring they are able to manage their own water and sanitation resources over time.

We will work to influence and contribute to improved sector effectiveness in reaching the unreached, through contributing to sector capacity, accountability and building on our experiences on the ground.

Our Reaching the Unreached programme will cover rural, urban and peri-urban areas.

Recovery and Resilient WASH

We will work to provide access to safe WASH for excluded and vulnerable people in places most affected by the 2015 earthquakes. Our projects will continue to cover four affected districts – Kavre, Lalitpur, Gorkha and Bhaktapur – with plans to work in more districts according to need.

We will design systems, tools, technology and approaches to WASH, so that communities are able to cope with natural disasters when they occur. Through our recovery work, we will demonstrate approaches to strengthen water security, explore new, resilient technologies, and share what we learn to contribute to resilient WASH development for others.

Hygiene

Good hygiene is vital to people's overall health and well-being, but is often missed out of basic WASH programmes and health and education initiatives. This new programme puts hygiene first, especially in relation to health and education. It is not enough to have access to clean water and sanitation facilities alone; without proper hygiene practice, communities will still be susceptible to disease and infection.

We will focus on building understanding around critical hygiene behaviour, such as handwashing with soap before meals, after using the toilet and after touching waste or dirt. We will develop the materials and facilities needed to support these changes. We will also look at the safe and hygienic disposal of critical waste, safe management of water for domestic use, and food hygiene.

To support our hygiene work, two programmes are running across seven districts. The first looks at integrating the

promotion of good hygiene behaviour within routine government immunisation programme. The second promotes safe menstrual hygiene management for women and girls, allowing them to manage their periods in a secure environment.

Sector Effectiveness

We want to make sure the sector is working in the best way it can to reach everyone everywhere with safe water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030. This means holding governments and other sector actors, including ourselves, to account for delivering basic services and using inclusive approaches for communities and public places where water and sanitation systems are needed.

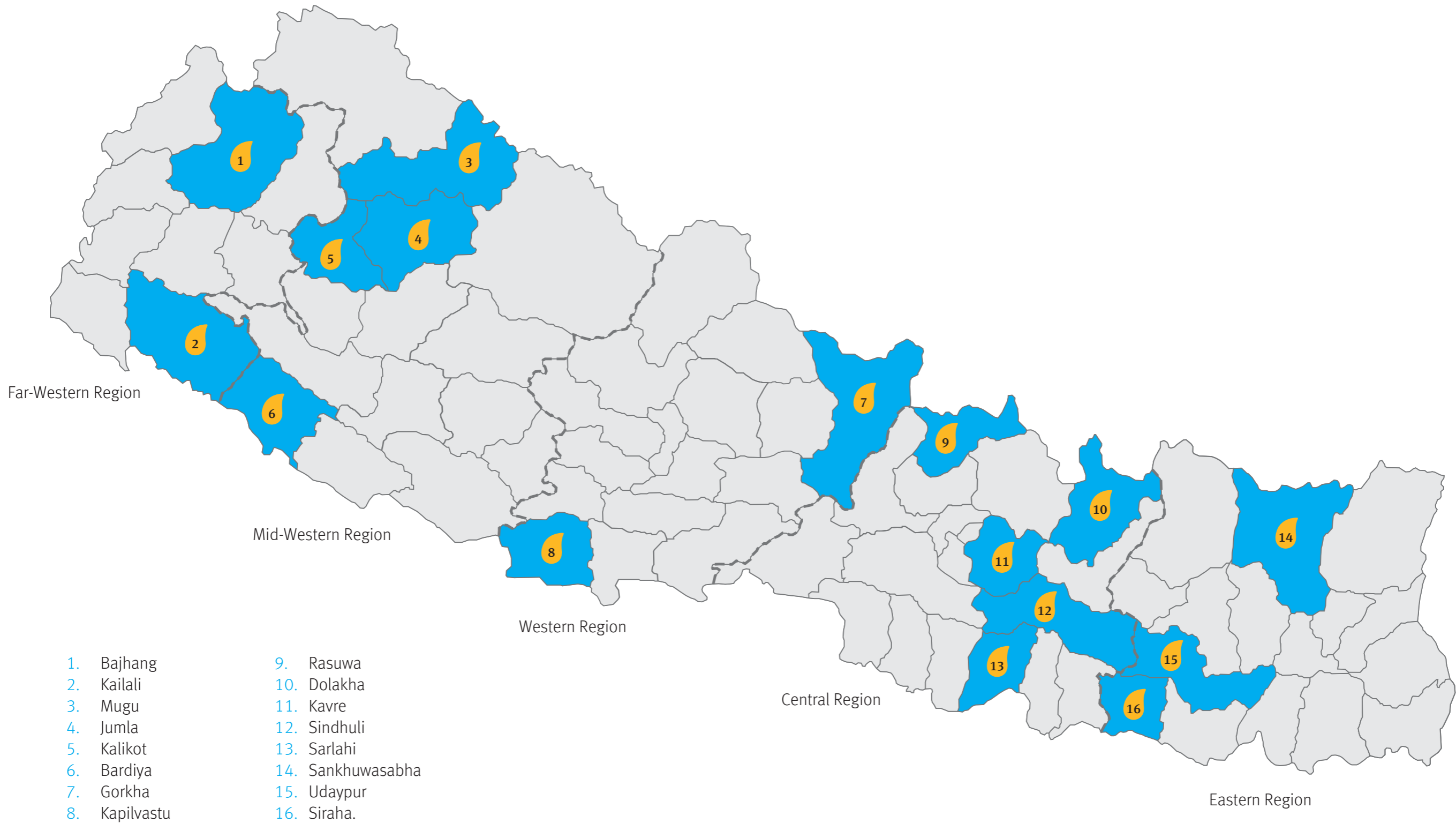
We will do this by influencing within our own sector, as well as promoting the importance of WASH to other areas, such as health and education, and developing joint policies and frameworks for greater impact and reach.

We will prioritise our work on sector performance with a focus on sector financing, gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) and sector performance monitoring. We will seek collaboration with sector actors and key stakeholders, including the government, to enhance our efforts and joined-up actions towards common WASH goals.

We recognise that WASH sector stakeholders should have both the willingness and capacity to deliver and sustain services, so while promoting accountability we will actively engage in contributing to strengthening sector capacity as well.

Where we will work

We plan to work in 16 districts over the next five years, extending to a further four districts if funding is secured.



Achieving our vision

Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation Ensure availability and sustainability management of water and sanitation for all.		
WaterAid's global aims	Country objectives	Flagship programmes
Equality We will tackle and challenge the inequalities that prevent the poorest and most marginalised people from realising their rights to safe water and sanitation.	1. Enable excluded and vulnerable people to take action for their rights to water and sanitation. 4. Apply new research, holistic approaches and innovative technology for WASH.	Reaching the Unreached Recovery and Resilient WASH Sector Effectiveness
Sustainable services We will support governments and service providers to strengthen the systems and capabilities required to deliver sustainable WASH services.	2. Promote greater accountability and effectiveness for delivering WASH services. 4. Apply new research, holistic approaches and innovative technology for WASH.	Sector Effectiveness Recovery and Resilient WASH Reaching the Unreached
Integration We will work with others to develop plans and activities that accelerate change by integrating WASH into sustainable development.	3. Influence and demonstrate WASH as foundational to all aspects of development, with a focus on health and education.	Hygiene Sector Effectiveness
Hygiene We will positively influence hygiene behaviour to maximise the benefits of access to safe water and sanitation.	3. Influence and demonstrate WASH as foundational to all aspects of development, with a focus on health and education. 4. Apply new research, holistic approaches and innovative technology for WASH.	Hygiene Sector Effectiveness

What does success look like?

The marginalised groups and individuals, and people in vulnerable situations we work with are living healthier and more dignified lives as a result of their increased access to safe water and sanitation services supported by the government. They are informed on their rights to water and sanitation, speaking out about their rights to decision makers, independently managing their own resources, practising good hygiene and sharing these lessons. People and communities proactively hold governments and other organisations to account for their water and sanitation provisions.

Governments have put policies, provisions and mechanisms in place to help everyone in Nepal exercise their right to access safe water and sanitation. This translates to clear roles and responsibilities, planning and budgeting effectively for the delivery of national and local WASH services that respond to the WASH needs of excluded and vulnerable people and communities. The government is better resourced, with greater capacity and more funding for WASH, with demonstrated leadership.

WASH sector actors demonstrate collective leadership.¹⁸ The WASH sector promotes and enables collaborative work, and other sectors, such as health and education, are successfully working together in pursuit of their common goal

of people leading healthy and dignified lives.

WaterAid Nepal is well-known as a champion for the water and sanitation rights of marginalised groups and individuals, and is recognised for its good quality work and innovative solutions. We are a partner of choice for WASH issues, and work with different and diverse partners to make our work as effective, sustainable and far-reaching as possible.

How success will be measured

To ensure we are making good progress against our strategic aims, we will embed rigorous planning, monitoring, evaluation and collaborative learning processes for measuring success.

We will run detailed baseline analyses with our partners before any project begins to make sure we are always working in the areas most in need of WASH and to reach the marginalised groups and individuals of Nepal.

We will use a results tracking system and perform quality sample assessments across all of our programmes. We will schedule quarterly reviews to make sure our projects are on track and work with independent agencies for a final evaluation of our country strategy.

¹⁸. Sanitation and Water for All (2015) SWA Collaborative Behaviours. Available at: <http://sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/the-four-swa-collaborative-behaviours/>. Accessed 7 November 2016.

Our organisation and resources

Our values

Respect

We treat everyone with dignity and respect, and champion the rights and contribution of all to achieve a fairer world.

Accountability

We are accountable to those whose lives we hope to see transformed, to those we work with and to those who support us.

Collaboration

We work with others to maximise our impact, respecting diversity and difference in pursuit of common goals.

Courage

We are bold and inspiring in our actions and words, and uncompromising in our determination to pursue our mission.

Innovation

We are creative and agile, always learning, and prepared to take risks to accelerate change.

Integrity

We act with honesty and conviction, and our actions are consistent with openness, equality and human rights.

Our people and culture

To deliver our strategy, we will build on the strengths and potential of our people. We will seek to retain, attract, develop and engage people who are passionate about driving and delivering our work. We will develop our culture based on our values and invest in skills development, employee engagement, management and leadership at all levels. We will promote diversity in our organisation. We will ensure our organisational policies are designed to be relevant, serve a purpose and enhance systems, so that they are efficient and agile enough to enable quality programme delivery.

Financial resources

We will project reasonable and manageable growth of our organisation so that we can continue to work effectively. We will invest in our four priority programmes – Reaching the Unreached, Recovery and Resilient WASH, Hygiene and Sector Effectiveness – to help us reach as many people as possible with WASH.

We will focus our resources on enhancing our programme work to go beyond basic services, ensuring that the systems we build are sustainable and can be easily managed by communities. We will

develop collaborative methods that help to grow community skills and capacity so that people can operate their services independently of our team and partners in the future. We will put time and effort into strengthening government processes so that they can best support WASH development in communities.

We will develop inclusive designs so that we can provide accessible water and sanitation services for the excluded and vulnerable people of Nepal, for example, accessible toilets, or private washrooms for women and girls.

We will create quality standards for our projects to make sure the water and services we deliver to communities, homes and public facilities are consistently measured and safe to use.

Funding priorities

With the current economic climate, and especially given the fragile post-

earthquake status of the country, WaterAid Nepal hopes to secure funding for longer-term projects that will help to rebuild and maintain the local infrastructure and economy.

Our fundraising will be facilitated and supported by our international fundraising offices, and we are keen to work with individual donors, trusts or partners who are interested in supporting our programmes and the national WASH development plans in Nepal.

Locally, we will seek to partner with institutional donors who provide the majority of development funding in Nepal, channelled through the government, local and international NGOs and the private sector.

Corporate partnerships could provide a great opportunity for WaterAid Nepal, although the sector is not very well developed and options for funding in this area are currently limited.

Risk management

Nepal has only recently emerged from a decade-long armed conflict and still faces political instability. The political parties continue to struggle to find common ground for rebuilding and restructuring the country. There is much civil unrest in response to the formation of the new constitution, often resulting in violent protests.

WaterAid Nepal must ensure it has a good understanding of the political situation, and employ an agile and flexible approach, so that it can continue to function successfully in this unpredictable environment.

Nepal is extremely vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods and landslides. Following the major earthquakes in 2015, managing operations in the country has been challenging. This is coupled with the fragile state of the economy, unstable political conditions and an ongoing power crisis.

Our team should be trained and prepared to carry out project work effectively, even in these difficult situations. We will be an active member of relevant working groups set up to deal with emergencies, and will partner with other NGOs and the government to further strengthen support networks. We will ensure operations are maintained with adept risk and crisis management, and remain vigilant for staff welfare and security.



Dhruba Shrestha, 63, head mason, works on a new disaster resilient water tank in Lele, Lalitpur.
WaterAid/ Miguel Samper

The announcement of the new constitution and several new federal states is likely to result in additional local-level policies and procedures being put in place, as well as increased bureaucracy. This may have an impact on the way that international development agencies are able to operate in Nepal, by creating lengthy legal processes and further

slowing development progress. WaterAid Nepal should be aware and ready for these changes, and seek legal advice if necessary.

To ensure accountability as a development actor in Nepal, we will have to update organisational policies and keep abreast of changing government policies and legal

compliances, taking steps to comply with relevant changes.

Log frame

Narrative summary	Performance measures	Means of verification	Key assumptions
<p>Impact: Marginalised people and those in vulnerable situations lead healthy and dignified lives, practising good hygiene behaviour and having access to safe water and sanitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Prevalence of waterborne and sanitation-related diseases ✔ Status of child and maternal health ✔ Evidence of reducing inequities in access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Government data and reports International donors, UN and INGOs data and reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Conducive political environment and supportive government
<p>Intermediate result 1: People have equitable access to long term improved water sources for drinking and domestic use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Proportion of population who have access to an improved water source for drinking and domestic use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Research and studies by reputed institutions and agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Availability of sufficient funds and resources
<p>Intermediate result 2: People use improved sanitation facilities with the right technology, systems and services for the next generation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Proportion of population who have access to improved sanitation facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Country strategy review and end line study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Active participation of marginalised and vulnerable people
<p>Intermediate result 3: People practise good hygiene, supported by improved water and sanitation facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Appropriate evidence and measures for critical hygiene behaviours 		
<p>Outcome 1: Marginalised people and those in vulnerable situations are aware of their rights and are taking action for WASH service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Communities aware of their rights to water and sanitation ✔ Communities demanding and taking action for WASH services from local government and other stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Programme review and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Meaningful collaboration and coordination among WASH actors
<p>Outcome 2: Government and WASH actors accountable for effective delivery of WASH services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Evidence of government policy, procedures and systems in place at different levels to deliver WASH services ✔ Collaborative efforts by WASH actors ✔ Status of WASH financing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ WaterAid and partner studies and reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Positive attitude of education and health sectors
<p>Outcome 3: Integrated WASH services in the health and education sectors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Health and education policies and plans are integrated with WASH plans ✔ Number of health institutions with integrated WASH services ✔ Number of schools with integrated WASH services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ WaterAid capacity in research and technological demonstration
<p>Outcome 4: New research, holistic approaches and innovative technology being used in WASH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Number of research and studies initiated in the sector ✔ Innovative approaches and technology demonstrated ✔ Evidence of adoption of innovative technology 		



www.wateraid.org

WaterAid is a registered charity:

Australia: ABN 99 700 687 141.

Canada: 119288934 RR0001.

Sweden: Org.nr: 802426-1268, PG: 90 01 62-9, BG: 900-1629.

UK: 288701 (England and Wales) and SC039479 (Scotland).

US: WaterAid America is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organisation.

Front cover image:

WaterAid/ Mani Karmacharya

Prabin Khatri, 3, playing at the tapstand near his home in
Sajbote Siruwani, Hardeni, Udayapur.