

# Nepal

## HSBC Water Programme Highlights Report

2017-19



1. Kalikot
2. Jumla
3. Kavrepalanchowk (Kavre)

**In 2012, HSBC launched its Water Programme to tackle the global water crisis, bringing together the expertise of Earthwatch, WaterAid and WWF.**

**During its eight years, WaterAid strengthened systems for clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene, changing normal for communities in six countries: Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Nepal, Nigeria and Pakistan.**

## Nepal

In phase one of the programme (2012-2016), WaterAid Nepal improved clean water, sanitation and hygiene services by connecting community committees with government institutions accountable to them.

Phase two (2017-2019) worked to further improve these services for rural communities. This was done by establishing water and sanitation roles and responsibilities with clear accountability among government institutions and community members.

This report summarises the achievements from the second phase of the HSBC Water Programme.

▼ Chandra Kumari Tamang, 21, second from left, stands with other community members as they dig the trench for the main pipeline in Birtadeurali, Kavre.



WaterAid/Mani Karmachaya



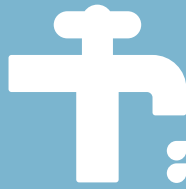
## The challenge

In 2015, Nepal recognised access to water and sanitation as a fundamental human right. But there's a long way to go to make this normal for everyone, everywhere in the country. Nepal's rugged terrain, the threat of climate change and the challenges of a new local government structure all mean that water and sanitation services in many areas are still lacking. Women and girls can lose hours each day collecting water, and nearly half the population still needs a decent toilet.

Phase two of the HSBC Water Programme was implemented in the hard-to-reach rural areas of Kalikot and Jumla in Karnali region, and the earthquake-affected area of Chaurideurali in Kavre. These areas struggle with a lack of basic utilities, poor health services and high rates of infant and maternal mortality. A study in 2017 revealed significant challenges around water and sanitation, with 9 in 10 water systems not in working order and many households living without improved toilets.

The project took a rights-based approach to address these challenges. This involved enhancing people's understanding of their rights and supporting local government to plan and manage services better, including introducing innovative technologies resilient to difficult environmental conditions. Building on this foundation, we are advocating at local, provincial and national levels to scale-up sustainable solutions that protect the right to clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene for all.

## Results



**More than 7,800 people reached with clean water in households and communities.**



**More than 2,200 people reached with decent toilets.**



**Nearly 5,000 people reached with good hygiene messaging.**



**Water and Sanitation Bill tabled in Parliament and plans developed for 3 rural municipalities.**



**More than 5,300 people supported to claim their rights.**



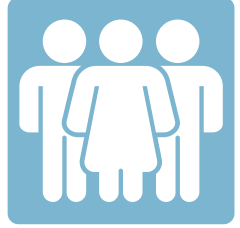
**Over 2,000 students reached with clean water and 1,800 with gender-specific toilet blocks.**



WaterAid/KIRDARC

◀ Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) rights session delivered in the rural municipality of Palata, Kalikot district.

## Community action leads progress



We provided comprehensive training on the human right to water and sanitation to more than 5,300 community members and 350 local government representatives.

As a complementary measure, we also introduced practical exercises like community scorecards and Jal Kachahari, or 'water courts'. The community scorecards brought people together to collectively evaluate the state of community water and toilet facilities, and to provide constructive feedback to those responsible for their upkeep. At the Jal Kachaharis, community members can now interact with government members to discuss local development priorities and question them about gaps in public services.

We also conducted Participatory Action Research. In this unique, citizen-led process, community action groups identify vulnerable and under-served populations, then work with decision-makers to ensure local planning and budgeting addresses their needs.

These activities have led to a visible change in state-community dynamics, empowering vulnerable groups including women, Dalits and indigenous people to voice their demands to local authorities. And authorities are, in turn, better able to respond through strong, evidence-based, participatory processes.

We also supported the Government by providing inputs on Human Rights to Water and Sanitation while drafting federal water and sanitation Bill (2018-19). WaterAid Nepal further supported to ensure all water and sanitation elements are present in the draft, following which the water and sanitation bill is tabled in the Parliament.

▶ **"In the past few years, water supply scheme projects were more concentrated on power politics, but now the local government has taken the initiative and has found a way out to solve the water issues. We ensure that every individual will have access to clean drinking water within a year."** Laxman Bahadur Bam, RM Chair, Palanta

## A tap for every home

Chaurideulrali, Hima and Palanta Municipalities have become models for the national One House, One Tap campaign. This government programme aims to provide clean water at the doorstep of every house as part of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6, clean water and sanitation for all.

**"On behalf of the Hima Rural Municipality, I commit to allocate the budget to solve water issues and ensure every household has a tap connection in the next three years."** Raja Bahadur Shahi, Chair of Hima Rural Municipality



## Resilience and sustainability are key



Our commitment to clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene for the most marginalised people took us to remote and challenging areas. Landslide-prone Chaurideurali was devastated by the 2015 earthquake, while Hima and Palata municipalities are both in drought-stricken regions. Ensuring that facilities and technologies in these areas are resilient and can withstand any future disasters were therefore a priority.

We strengthened local systems in these areas to ensure skills, funds and plans were in place for the sustained improvement of services even after the project's end.

By providing basic technical training to community caretakers and user committees, they are now able to manage the regular operation and maintenance of their own services. We also supported local government and user committees to develop water and sanitation plans with disaster risk reduction measures.



▲ Climate-resilient, sustainable WASH is discussed at a community planning meeting in Birtadeurali, Kavre.



The 23 water supply schemes we built were registered at the local municipal level to ensure institutional support, with operation and maintenance funds provided from monthly tariffs and the budget to ensure they do not become non-functional in the same way previous schemes did.

The budget allocated to these schemes has increased from as little as 5% of the total municipality budget to 33% over the last three years, demonstrating the municipalities' commitment to investing in resilient water, sanitation and hygiene systems.

◀ Deepak Prasad Panta, 52, a WASH Users committee member and caretaker, working at the water source in Birtadeurali, Kavre.



## Changing behaviour, changing lives

While Nepal has made tremendous strides in eliminating open defecation, it is clear that much more needs to be done to ensure families are healthy and disease-free. We therefore adopted hygiene behaviour change as a core way to improve the health, wellbeing and dignity of communities.

We understand behaviour change is a challenging task, so we conducted research to understand which hygiene behaviours people were neglecting, and how they could be motivated to make a positive change.

Based on our findings, we designed the 'Clean Family, Happy Family' campaign, which encouraged people to practice key hygiene behaviours and become an inspirational 'ideal family'. Since its launch, more people have started practicing good hygiene behaviors, helping create open defecation free communities. We have also supported the rehabilitation of toilets demolished by the 2015 Earthquake, which helped Chaurideurali Rural Municipality achieve open defecation free status in March 2018.

Palata region authorities have now extended the campaign to new areas, and with our support are training female community health volunteers to roll it out.



▼ Kanchhi, 51, in her kitchen garden in Birtadeurali, Kavre, holding the vegetables she has grown.



## Home is where the health is

The Clean Family, Happy Family campaign targets six key behaviours – food hygiene, water treatment, use of toilets, handwashing at critical times, menstrual hygiene and environmental sanitation.

These are targeted through a mix of demonstration aids, games, storytelling, competitions, and certification for mothers/guardians who complete the programme.



◀ Community women learn how to make pads and practise safe menstrual hygiene in Kusadevi, Kavre.

## Future vision

In phase two of the HSBC Water Programme, we supported rural municipalities as they took on water and sanitation service delivery for the first time under Nepal's newly formed federal structure.

We demonstrated how to ensure equitable and sustainable services through empowerment, mutual accountability and shared responsibility between communities and government to address gaps in services.

Our experience also helped contribute to national policymaking, including the upcoming Water and Sanitation Act, which will shape Nepal's water and sanitation sector for years to come. Together we have changed the future of communities across Nepal by ensuring their rights and access to clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

**Over the two phases and eight years of the global HSBC Water Programme, we have reached:**

- 1.72 million people with clean water
- 2.7 million people with decent toilets
- 3.5 million people with good hygiene

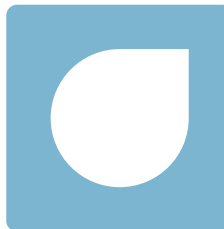
**With the support of HSBC, WaterAid has changed normal for millions of people for good, helping communities, care givers and governments build a prosperous future.**

We are an international not-for-profit, determined to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere within a generation. Only by tackling these three essentials in ways that last can people change their lives for good.

[wateraid.org](http://wateraid.org)



WaterAid/Mani Karmacharya



▲ **“For a young girl like me, having easy access to water at home is very important, as it would not only help to keep me healthy and hygienic, but also provides an opportunity to study well for a better future.”**

Rekha, 18, uses the tapstand that has recently been constructed outside her home in Birtadeurali, Kavre, as her mother, Kanchhi, looks on.

