



Presentation from
**2015 World Water
Week in Stockholm**

www.worldwaterweek.org

© The authors, all rights reserved

Access to water and sanitation for all in Nepal?

Pamela White



RVWRMP II
Nepal-Finland Cooperation



Introduction

Finnish-funded bilateral projects working with water resources management, water supply, sanitation and hygiene in Nepal

- Rural Village Water Resources Management Project – RVWRMP

<http://www.rvwrmp.org.np/>



- Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project – Western Nepal – RWSSP-WN

<http://www.rwsspwn.org.np/>



What are the WSS targets in Nepal?

Water supply –

Nepali target – water for all by 2017

MDG target – (73% by 2015)

reached already

Coverage now (NMIP 2014) – 83,5%

(but only 15,3% high quality water) – or Census 2011 – 85%



Sanitation –

Nepali target – sanitation for all by 2017

MDG target – (53% BY 2015) ??

Coverage now – useable toilet - NMIP 2014-70% or Census 2011-62%



Efforts to reach 100% water coverage sustainably

What are the barriers?

- **Physical barriers** – remote locations, water scarcity, households located uphill from water sources
- **Social barriers** – due to caste, ethnicity, religion, menstruation status, disability
- **Behavioural** – willingness to pay, maintenance, dependency on donors
- **Environmental** – damage from earthquakes, landslides, drought, flooding
- **Financial** – very poor households, lack of cash, investment issues (how to manage O&M funds?)
- **Organisational** – insufficient institutional development & support, business as usual



Efforts to reach 100% sanitation sustainably

What are the barriers?

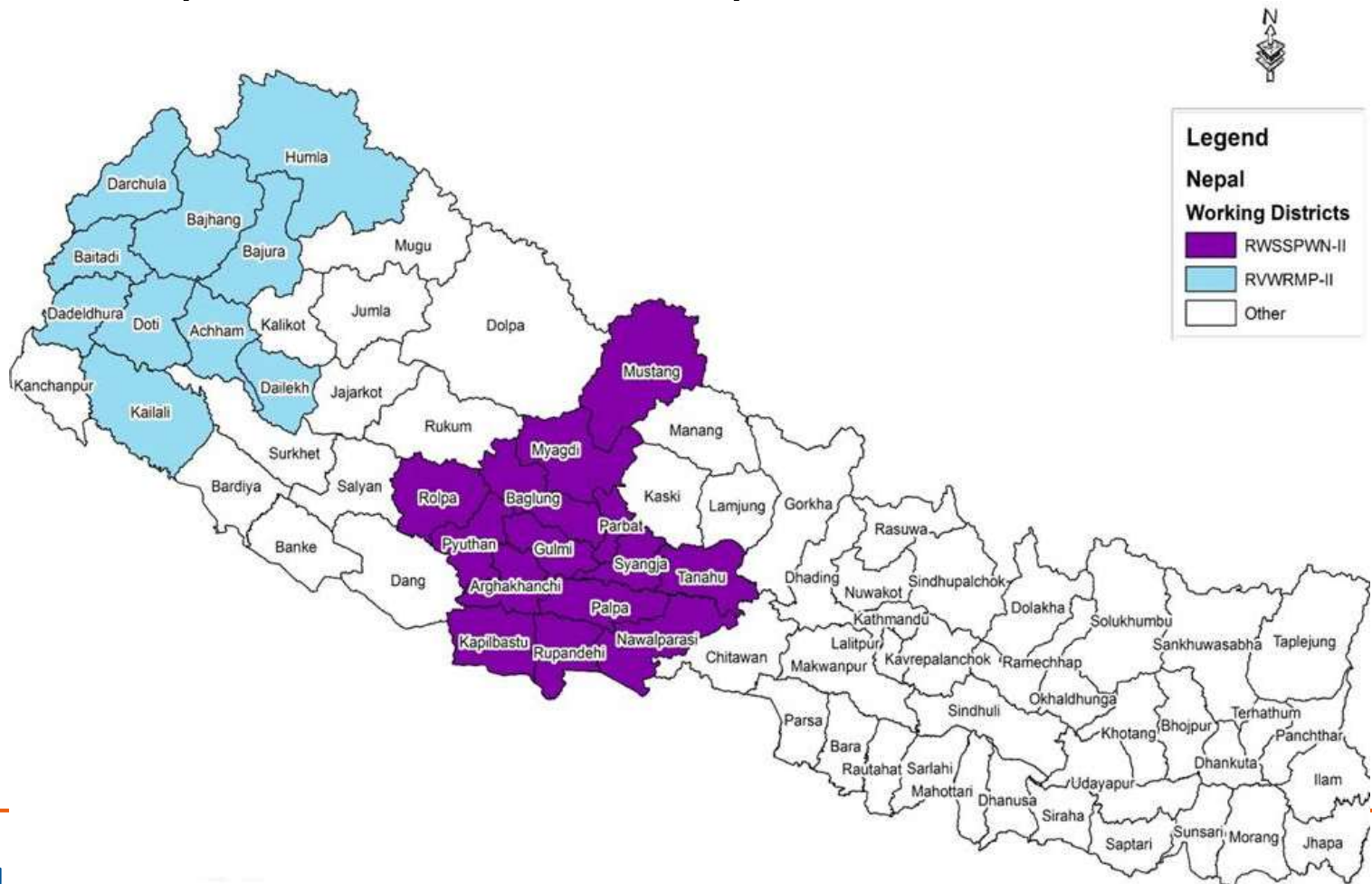
- **Behavioural** – changing attitudes to ODF, dependency, willingness to pay, maintenance (emptying)
- **Social barriers** – due to caste, menstruation status, daughter-in-law & father-in-law
- **Physical barriers** – more difficult/costly in Terai, people with disabilities
- **Financial** – very poor hh, lack of cash, reward versus subsidy
- **Organisational** – insufficient institutional development & support, conflicting policy versus local government behaviours
- **Environmental** – damage from earthquakes, landslides, floods





Finnish Bilateral projects in Nepal

- MFA Finland support for TA projects enables hands-on support
- Finnish projects operate through local government systems & at scale (24 districts out of 75)



Key features of MFA Finland bilateral projects

- **Choice of VDCs & schemes - Reaching the unreached**
- Align with GON's RWSS, GESI Strategy and Policies of MoFALD & MoUD + Right to Water & Sanitation
- Empowerment & confidence building of women, poor & excluded through participatory WASH planning / WUMPs, coaching and training
- Sensitization and awareness to safeguard the rights of unreached population & to avoid elite capture and conflict
- Capacity building of duty bearers – WUSC, VWASH-CC, DWASH Unit, VDCs and DDCs
- Linking beneficiaries to the government bodies – to be able to claim their rights
- Using local & international technical assistance & intensive support



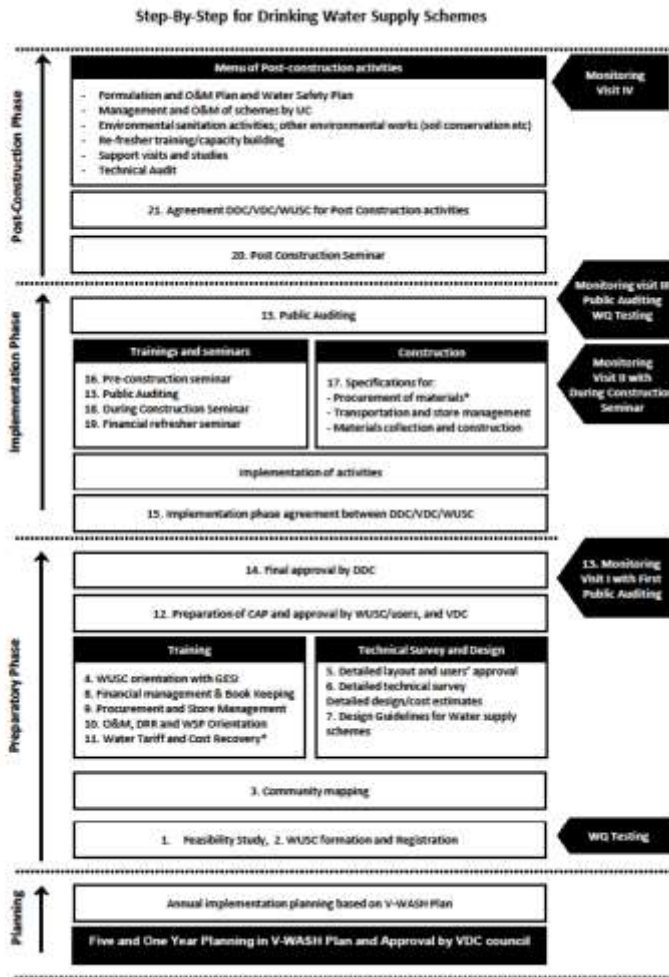
Good practices contribute to the water sector policy dialogue in Nepal at large ... & functionality locally



VDC POST-ODF GUIDELINE AND MODEL PLAN



Project Support Unit
FCG International Ltd
6/18/2015



HRBA & GESI STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH AND GENDER EQUALITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR



Presence in the field is important – national & international TA

National policy level work, and also NGO/CSO level work are important, but bilateral projects are key to link these levels:

- Presence of technical expertise
- Service delivery authority/duty bearer is DDC – but in current political situation in Nepal... this is problematic
- Close monitoring to ensure quality construction
- Step by Step, Water Safety Plans, etc. contribute to sustainable functionality
- Serving the unserved & inclusive targeting ensured
- Cooperation across different government line agencies & across sectors – embedded in local planning
- Future? Study on private sector financing of water schemes



Thank you



GESI & HRBA in Nepal – Water for All

- UN declaration- **WASH as human right enforced in Nepal in 2010**
- Interim constitution of Nepal states all citizens' fundamental right is to live in a hygienic place (Section 3 article 16) – accepted as part of **draft new Constitution** also
- Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) are considered in various policies, strategies & action plans at national level (eg. MoUD GESI Guidelines)
- The **National Water Plan** (2002-2017) sets the target for providing access to water supply and sanitation for 100 % of the population by 2017
- **Sanitation Master Plan** (2011) stresses the importance of gender and social inclusion and emphasises the child-, gender and differently-abled features as well as poverty aspects in project implementation
- **Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Policy** (2004) stipulates that all water projects must aim for universal access for sanitation

Human right to water

- **Availability:** Ensuring a minimum sufficient quantity and a continuous supply of domestic water. Ideally 45 litres per capita per day
- **Accessibility:** The Nepali standard is considered to be 15 minutes for the round trip & collection time
- **Quality/safety:** Water should be free from faecal bacterial contamination or arsenic
- **Affordability:** Must be balanced against the needs to collect adequate user fees to cover operation and maintenance costs (and thus permit sustainability of supply). Water isn't free!
- **Acceptability:** Priorities of local people are identified in the WUMP and VWASH plans - preferences for types of scheme, location of tap stand, etc. in Step-by-Step process. Some physical limitations exist



Human right to sanitation

- Everyone has access to sanitation which is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable, provides privacy & ensures dignity
 - However, this does not mean subsidies for household toilet construction!
 - Rewards should be targeted to those ultra-poor households, or with disabled persons, female headed households, etc.
 - Designs/advice for assisting household owners to make their toilet accessible for disabled or frail elderly
 - In Far West in particular, toilet use during menstruation is problematic still. GoN and project campaigning



Cross-cutting criteria

- Non-discrimination, participation, accountability, impact, sustainability
- *Participation in decision-making processes; access to information of hydrology, water quality, water permits; and access to judicial redress mechanisms to safeguard the rule-of-law, fairness, and non-discrimination.*
- Particularly important for VDCs and districts
 - Ensuring participation of **all** in planning, procurement, implementation, monitoring, auditing
 - Quotas for committees and training, genuine participation
 - Ensuring information is widely shared - transparency
 - Access to justice – who is the contact point for community?
 - Quality construction & O&M, with true involvement of community supports functionality & sustainability

Equal does not mean “the same”

- Human rights law requires equal access to basic services, but this does not mean that everyone benefits from the same technical solutions or the same type of service.



- HRBA is the right to **progressive realisation** – not to have something immediately
- We have to make choices as to where we will work, and what activities
- Rights holders also have responsibilities
- Everyone must have access to basic water and sanitation, irrespective of gender, age, disability, caste, ethnicity, religion, etc.
- Consider affordability for disadvantaged
- We must focus on reaching the unreached!