

**Nepal**

## **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

Thematic report

**January - December 2018**



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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWSSM	Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management
ODF	Open Defecation Free
SACOSAN	South Asian Conference on Sanitation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDP	Sector Development Plan
SWA	Sanitation and Water for All
VfM	Value for Money
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WinS	WASH in Schools

## Executive Summary

Nepal continued its remarkable progress in sanitation in 2018. According to routine government administrative data sanitation coverage (inclusive of shared toilets and slippage of about 5 per cent) increased to over 98 per cent in December 2018, from 95 percent in December 2017. In addition, 11 districts achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) status during 2018 increasing the total ODF districts to 60 (of the total 77 districts in Nepal). province 4, 6 and 7 have achieved 100 per cent coverage on sanitation. In light of this success the Government of Nepal recently announced 100 per cent sanitation coverage will be achieved by 2021. There is commitment across all levels of the Governments to achieve ODF status and total sanitation status. However, there has been concerns about the quality and sustainability of ODF. For example, a sustainability study carried out by UNICEF and Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM) shows that 90 per cent of the ODF declared communities have 10 per cent slippage rate. About 75 per cent of the ODF declared communities are likely to retain their ODF status. UNICEF has been working closely working with the Government and other sector stakeholders to agree on the definition of ODF retention and coming up with the independent mechanism to check the reality of ODF status. In addition, a significant proportion of the population are using shared toilets. NDHS (2016) estimates use of shared toilets to be 22 per cent. As part of total sanitation initiative, efforts are being made to improve quality of toilets at household level to meet global definitions on standard sanitation facilities

The critical technical support and financial assistance provided to the Government and other partners through Thematic Funding contributed the achievement of major results at the national level. These include results for i) water supply ii) sanitation and hygiene and iii) system strengthening at national and sub-national level. Global WASH Thematic Funding remained a major source of funding (e.g., the Government of Finland) for continuation of the recovery and reconstruction programme in the 2015 Earthquake affected districts. This programme focussed on reconstruction of water supply schemes and sanitation facilities in communities, schools and health posts.

Over 2018, UNICEF supported the government to reach unreached populations with access to safe water supply through i) construction and rehabilitation of 97 water supply systems and 46 water safety plans (WSP) ii) reconstruction of 92 water supply schemes in 11 earthquake districts. Combines, these initiatives benefited more than 32,666 people (16,209 males and 16,457 females) and 27,377 children (14,219 girls, 13,158 boys) in 175 schools and Transitional Learning Centres (TLCs). Focus was given to sustain water supply schemes through capacity building of water user committees and improving the quality and functionality of the system., UNICEF and the government commissioned a sustainability check study to assess 40 water supply schemes in eight districts. The study aimed to assess the situation of water supply systems supported by UNICEF set a simplified framework for sustainability to be carried out by partners on a yearly basis and help design a support package to ensure sustainability. In

addition, under the earthquake reconstruction work, UNICEF also carried out sustainability checks of 63 water schemes.

UNICEF continuously supported in strengthening enabling environment at all government levels through capacity development in the context of federalization and advocating for finalization of a new WASH Act, WASH sector development plan and WASH Policy including development of local government level WASH plans in UNICEF supported local governments.

With its key role as WASH Cluster Co- lead, UNICEF continued to get itself well prepared to respond to an emergency by prepositioning of emergency supplies for 10,000 households and establishing Long Term Arrangements (LTA), standby partnerships and supporting cluster coordination mechanisms.

UNICEF in collaboration with the government partners is identifying technical support required for capacity development at all three levels of the new government structure. Since many government functions are still being determined traditional, earmarked donor funding would not allow UNICEF to have the capacity to react appropriately to the evolving WASH landscape of Nepal. As such, the flexible funding provided by thematic funds is essential to respond to the emerging needs of the WASH sector. UNICEF would like to extend its heartfelt thanks on behalf of the children of Nepal to the donors of the thematic funding pool for WASH. To date, UNICEF Nepal has utilized 1,661,880.13 over the total pool fund in 2018.

## Strategic Context of 2018

Nepal has adopted a federal governance system, two years after the promulgation of the Constitution with local elections completed in May 2017 and province and parliamentary elections held in November and December 2017. Nepal has been restructured into seven provinces and 753 local governments units. The government's institutional structure/arrangements for WASH sector at Federal, province and local government levels are now finalised. Federal government's line agencies at sub-national level have reduced from 77 divisions to 15 units. At the provincial level, 28 offices have been established under the seven different provincial governments. As it took long for finalisation of those institutional arrangement finalisation as a part of state restructuring, and frequent changes of leadership and high-level officials in the Ministry contributed to delay in completion of ongoing upstream works including finalization of the WASH Sector Development Plan (SDP) and the WASH Act.

In the last 25 years, Nepal has made significant progress in expanding the coverage of improved water supply, sanitation and hygiene practices. However, although 93 per cent of household's report using improved sources of drinking water, the time to collect water from tap-stand continues to be a burden for women and girls. Apart from access issues, drinking water functionality and quality remain priority concerns as 71 per cent of water sources are reported to show presence of E. coli (bacterial contamination) and only 25 per cent of the water supply systems are reported to be fully functional.

Water, sanitation and hygiene are priority areas under the Fourteenth National Development Plan (2016-2019) of the Government of Nepal. UNICEF's WASH programme will support the national priorities set out in the government's plan, which are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in particular, SDG 6 - 'ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all'.

Nepal is ranked as the fourth most vulnerable country in the world to the impacts of climate change (Maplecroft Report 2011). Furthermore, Nepal has experienced increased frequency of extreme weather events such as landslides, floods and droughts resulting in the loss of human lives as well as high social and economic costs. The 2013 study on Economic Assessment of Climate Change in Key Sectors (agriculture, hydropower and water-induced disasters) has estimated direct cost of current climate variability and extreme events equivalent to 1.5 to 2 per cent of current GDP/year (approximately US\$ 270-360 million/year in 2013 prices) and much higher in years such 2017, when there were major natural disasters.<sup>1</sup> Overall, Nepal is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, water-induced disasters and hydro-meteorological extreme events such as droughts, storms, floods, inundation, landslides, debris flow, soil erosion and avalanches. Based on National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) 2010, out of 75 districts, 29 districts are highly vulnerable to landslides, 22 districts to drought, 12 districts to Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) and nine districts to flooding. Earthquake and climate-induced disasters have accelerated vulnerabilities and risks to water, sanitation and food security resulting in further aggravation of country's vulnerabilities to climatic hazards.

## Results in the Outcome Area

### Water Supply

*UNICEF's direct support resulted in reaching 34,000 people with access to improved sources of drinking water. UNICEF also provided strategic support to the government on water quality monitoring, generating evidence and improving functionality and sustainability of water supply schemes under the new federal structure.*

During the reporting period, 33,793 people were reached with improved sources of drinking water through construction/rehabilitation of 97 water supply schemes (including 10 schemes meeting SDG indicator 6.1). This includes 92 water supply schemes reconstructed in 11 earthquake affected districts benefiting 32,666 people. In addition, 27,377 children in 175 schools/TLCs located in the earthquake affected districts benefited from provision of improved water supply schemes. To ensure sustainability through improved management, 420 user committee members and 162 plumbers were capacitated on management, operation and maintenance of water supply schemes. Under the flood recovery work, UNICEF ensured safe drinking water to 37,394 people through recovery and rehabilitation of damaged water supply

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<sup>1</sup> Although there is no indication that the extensive flooding in 2017 was directly linked to climate change.

systems in seven highly affected flood districts. Water quality tests of 88 water supply schemes reconstructed with UNICEF support were also conducted to ensure safe drinking water while as part of cholera prevention activities in Kathmandu valley, 4,200 water sample were also tested to generate awareness and to promote the use of safe water.

UNICEF continued its generate evidence and address issues related to functionality, sustainability and water quality. Sustainability checks of 40 water schemes (implemented over the past five years) were conducted which revealed 75 per cent functionality rate. In addition, sustainability check of an additional 63 water supply schemes were conducted through regular monitoring mechanisms during the reconstruction of the earthquake affected districts. All of these water supply schemes are functioning. Water Safety Plan (WSP) were implemented in 46 schemes, of them 26 are from the earthquake recovery programme. A consensus has also been reached on how to establish a simple water quality monitoring mechanism at local government level, which will be implemented once the capacity of the local governments is high enough to sustain the WSP gains. UNICEF also provided support to the government to equip three mobile vans for water quality monitoring.

Local government/provincial government agencies for WASH are still in transition with limited human resources. Hence, setting up provincial/municipal level water quality monitoring/surveillance and information management and response systems in the current federal set up needs extra effort.

## Sanitation and Hygiene

*Through UNICEF direct support, an additional 174,533 people (116 per cent of the target) were reached with basic sanitation while five district achieved Open Defecation Free Status. Strong evidence was generated on slippage and use of toilets through a baseline survey, geared to provide a basis for improved sector planning and monitoring.*

Five UNICEF supported districts achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in 2018, reaching 174,533 people with basic sanitation facilities. The process included capacity building and mobilization of WASH Coordination Committees (CCs), schools and local networks for sanitation social movement. Efforts were also made to support the (re)construction and repair of toilets in four earthquake affected districts.<sup>2</sup> Dolakha achieved 100 per cent coverage and Kavre districts is nearing 100 per cent sanitation coverage. 16 local governments<sup>3</sup> have started total sanitation campaigns. One ward of Baitadi achieved total sanitation status while one ward from Mugu self-assessed and reported total sanitation status. 71 schools and 49 health facilities were supported to enhance the service level of WASH facilities and promote healthier behaviour including hand washing, menstrual hygiene management and point of use, amongst others.

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<sup>2</sup> Ramechhap, Sunsari, Nuwakot and Lalitpur districts.

<sup>3</sup> In Baitadi, Bajura, Humla, Doti, Achham, Mugu, Surkhet, Jumla, Mugu and Tanahu districts



Hygiene promotion in communities supported the maintenance of healthy/hygienic behaviour such as hand washing, point of use, cleanliness of toilet was conducted through schools and health care facilities. Training/orientation on safe disposal of child faeces was provided to 5,530 people including mothers and caretakers under the total sanitation programme. Local governments have started allocating funds for implementation of institutional WASH in their constituencies. However, their existing capacity is low as the sector ministry has yet to send the technical personnel in the provincial and local government.

UNICEF supported launching a report on 'Analysis of Menstrual Hygiene Practices in Nepal- The role of WASH in Schools programme for girls' education' in two events during MHM days celebration by chair of house of representatives and minister of water supply.

Sustainability of ODF status in the community is still a challenge especially in the mountains and Terai regions where maintenance and use of toilet in some communities need to be consistently reinforced. UNICEF generated data on slippage (reverting to open defecation) in the ODF districts and strongly advocated the establishment of an independent monitoring mechanism to track ODF retention and sustainability. Meeting some of the total sanitation indicators is a great challenge. Formulation of a WASH plan- the first step towards total sanitation will be scaled up once the government endorses the findings of piloting in the seven local governments. Under the earthquake recovery works, 27,421 people were reached through reconstruction of sanitation facilities. Furthermore, 30,068 people and school children also reached sanitation facilities rehabilitation works in seven flood affected districts to support elimination of open defecation. Additionally, 6,011 people were educated on hygiene behaviours in earthquake affected communities and 141,647 people in flood affected districts focusing on critical hygiene behaviours such as hand washing, menstrual hygiene, use of toilet, water purification etc.

## System Strengthening

*UNICEF continued to strengthen enabling environment at all government levels through capacity development in the context of new federal structure by advocating to finalize and operationalize a new WASH Act, WASH sector development plan and WASH Policy including development of local government level WASH plans in UNICEF supported local governments.*

The WASH institutional structure/arrangements at Federal, province and local government levels has been confirmed. The Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM) downsized by 40 per cent while 28 District Water and Sanitation Divisions Offices were created. Local governments are responsible for delivery of sanitation and community water supply services. Delays to federalization and frequent transfer of senior government officials hampered upstream system strengthening.



UNICEF's continued its support to the sector. A dedicated consultant was placed at the Ministry of Water Supply to initiate process for Joint Sector Review (JSR). Initial consultations with partners have been completed and the JSR is expected to take place in first half of 2019. The WASH Sector Development Plan (SDP) is still in the final stage of endorsement and the WASH Act and WASH Policy have come to the final-draft stage. The development of SDG # 6 national indicators/targets have been finalized. UNICEF continued high level advocacy for creating enabling environment through completion of upstream works including SDP, JSR, Policy. etc.

The Department of Education and UNICEF developed operational procedure for "WASH in School", now approved where three-star approach to school WASH has been adopted. The Department of Health Service has drafted the WASH in Health Care Facility standards with input from development partners, with guideline to follow.

Support was provided to develop local government WASH plans integrating climate resilient development and risk management. This will provide model WASH plans, to be scaled up in 2019. Strengthening of WASH monitoring mechanism at national and subnational levels continued during the reporting period with establishment of local monitoring systems in 44 local governments in province 2 and updating National Management Information Programme to update coverage and status of water supply in the country. The report will be published July 2019. Further, UNICEF continues support to the modification of, and capacity building for, reporting systems in line with the new federal structure.

The capacity of the selected 22 local governments in province 2 was developed on emergency preparedness and response. 141,647 people were reached with WASH services during flood response and recovery. UNICEF continued to support WASH Cluster as a co-lead at national level, however, there is a need to provide additional local support.

WASH programme local government' newly elected representatives and government staff were oriented on the importance of WASH, especially to children which helped them to allocate programmes/funds to WASH meaningfully. All 44 local government in province 2 that UNICEF support have developed individual implementation plans and committed to implementation of Phase II for Accelerating Sanitation and Water for All Programme.

UNICEF Nepal supported a ministerial delegation to attend the International Mahatma Gandhi Sanitation Conference in New Delhi and a governmental delegation to attend SACOSAN in Pakistan, and a Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) conference in Morocco.

UNICEF also provided financial assistance to two government engineers to pursue MSc's in Engineering in Nepal as part of future leadership development strategy.

## Results Assessment Framework

UNICEF Nepal designed and operationalized a Result-Based Allocation Framework (RBAF) for better management of results in 2015. This innovative approach towards Result Based Management (RBM), allows UNICEF to do result-based budgeting upfront and to work with implementation partners towards pre-agreed targets. The RBAF application was stipulated as having potential to be a UNICEF global innovation in the recommendation for Value for Money (VfM) Study conducted in 2015.

Output 1: Increased capacity to improve water quality and functionality and to deliver and sustain access to safe water (especially in schools and health-care facilities)						
No.	Standard Output Indicators	Baseline		Target		Status/Value, 2018
		Year	Value	Year	Value	
1	Number of water supply schemes with water safety plans operationalized	2017	500	2018	200	46
2	Number of local bodies (Gau/local government & Nagar/local government) with water quality surveillance mechanism operationalized	2017	0	2018	0	0
3	Number of local bodies (Gau/local government & Nagar/local government) with action plan developed, and operationalized for improving functionality of water supply system	2017	0	2018	5	0
Output 2: Improved sanitation and hygienic behaviour and sector stakeholders have enhanced capacity to provide access to safe and sustainable sanitation and hygiene facilities in homes and institutions						
No.	Output Indicators	Baseline		Target		Status/Value, 2018
		Year	Value	Year	Value	
	Sector performance monitoring system in place	2017	0	2018	process initiated	Process initiated
	WASH plans integrating climate resilient development and/or risk management strategies available at national and sub-national level.	2017	0	2018	1 national	0
	WASH Sector Development Plan operationalized at national and sub-national level	2017	0	2018	1 national	0
	WASH in School and WASH in Health Care facilities guidelines developed, endorsed and operationalized nationwide.	2017	0	2018	1 WASH in School Guideline	1 WASH in School Guideline
	Existence of functioning cluster coordination mechanism for water, sanitation and hygiene in humanitarian situations	2017	initiating	2018	initiating	Initiating
Output 3: Increased capacity to legislate, plan and budget to improve WASH systems, including mainstreaming disaster risk management						
No.	Output Indicators	Baseline		Target		Status/Value, 2018
		Year	Value	Year	Value	
1	Capacity development master plan developed and rolled out at provincial and Local Governments levels	2017	0	2018	1 national	Process initiated

2	Sector performance monitoring system in place	2017	0	2018	process initiated	Process initiated
3	WASH plans integrating climate resilient development and/or risk management strategies available at national and sub-national level.	2017	0	2018	1 national	0
4	WASH Sector Development Plan operationalized at national and sub-national level	2017	0	2018	1 national	0
5	WASH in School and WASH in Health Care facilities guidelines developed, endorsed and operationalized nationwide.	2017	0	2018	1 WASH in School Guideline	1 WASH in School Guideline
6	Existence of functioning cluster coordination mechanism for water, sanitation and hygiene in humanitarian situations	2017	initiating	2018	initiating	initiating

## Financial Analysis

Table 1: Planned/Funded Budget by Outcome Area

Planned/Funded for the Country Programme 2018 (in US Dollar)		
Programme Area	Funding Type	Planned/Funded Budget
Output 5.1: Increased capacity to improve water quality and functionality and to deliver and sustain safe water (especially schools and health care facilities)	RR	66,250
	ORR	1,111,682
Output 5.2: Improved sanitation and hygiene behaviours and sector stakeholders have enhanced capacity to provide access to safe and sustainable sanitation and hygiene facilities in homes and institutions.	RR	196,304
	ORR	1,550,395
Output 5.3: Increased capacity to legislate, plan and budget to improve WASH systems, including mainstreaming disaster risk management	RR	312,323
	ORR	238,595
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>3,475,550</b>

Table 2: Country-level Thematic contributions to thematic pool received in 2018

Donors	Grant Number*	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
Global - Water Sanitation & Hygiene THEMATIC FUND	SC189906	1,661,880.13	1,553,159.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,661,880.13</b>	<b>1,553,159.00</b>

Table 3: Expenditures in the thematic sector by results area

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount*			
	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
06-01 Data and Child Protection	-	-	-	-
06-02 Child Protection systems	6	63,650	28,157	91,513
06-04 Justice for children	34	464,319	2,998	467,352
06-05 Birth registration	9	74,150	83,730	157,889
06-06 Child Protection and emergencies	-	-	-	-
06-08 Child Protection # General	103	1,296,741	672,443	1,969,287
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1,898,560</b>	<b>787,329</b>	<b>2,686,041</b>

Table 4: Thematic expenses by results area

Row Labels	Expense
Other Resources - Emergency	2,373,279
24-01 Water	325,131
24-02 Sanitation	1,451,363
24-03 Disaster Risk Reduction	596,093
24-04 Children in Urban Settings / Local Governance	692
Other Resources - Regular	3,680,741
24-01 Water	1,264,998
24-02 Sanitation	2,073,818
24-03 Disaster Risk Reduction	257,614

24-04 Children in Urban Settings / Local Governance	84,312
<b>Regular Resources</b>	<b>2,508,154</b>
24-01 Water	496,071
24-02 Sanitation	1,055,393
<b>24-03 Disaster Risk Reduction</b>	<b>569,558</b>
24-04 Children in Urban Settings / Local Governance	387,131
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,562,174</b>

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes

Row Labels	Expense
<b>Other Resources - Emergency</b>	<b>1,695,657</b>
24-01 Water	268,363
24-02 Sanitation	923,218
24-03 Disaster Risk Reduction	503,744
24-04 Children in Urban Settings / Local Governance	332
<b>Other Resources - Regular</b>	<b>1,597,488</b>
24-01 Water	773,929
24-02 Sanitation	781,260
24-03 Disaster Risk Reduction	21,365
24-04 Children in Urban Settings / Local Governance	20,934
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,293,145</b>

Table 6: Planned Budget for 2019

WASH Output	Funding Type	Planned Budget	Funded Budget	Shortfall
5.1 SAFE WATER SUPPLY	RR	138,281.00	138,281	0
	ORR	1,024,618.00	801,692	222,926
5.2 SANITATION AND HYGIENE	RR	183,455.00	183,455	0
	ORR	1,144,804.29	1,527,866	-383,061

5.3 SYSTEM STRENGTHENING & POLICY SUPPORT	RR	234,895.00	234,895	0
	ORR	647,806.29	927,956	-280,150
<b>Sub-Total Regular Resources</b>		<b>556,631.00</b>	<b>556,631.00</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sub-Total Other Resources (Regular)</b>		<b>2,817,228.58</b>	<b>3,257,513.32</b>	<b>-440,285</b>
<b>Total RR and ORR</b>		<b>3,373,859.58</b>	<b>3,814,144.32</b>	<b>(440,284.74)</b>

## Future Work Plan

UNICEF Nepal aims to ensure children and their families have improved and equitable access to, and use of, safe and sustainable drinking water, sanitation services and improved hygiene practices. The programme is guided by the recent WASH Sector Development Plan (2016- 2030), which is in a draft form with the Ministry of Water Supply to be implemented by the sector. Support will be provided to improve water quality through implementation of water safety plans at scale and developing a guideline on water quality monitoring by the local governments. Access to quality water in schools and health care facilities will be improved through inter-sectoral collaboration. The sanitation social movement will come to an end, and the Total Sanitation programme will be scaled-up. For this, the concept of a “water safe community” is emerging and UNICEF is providing support to the government for this initiative. Access to gender and disability-friendly WASH facilities in health centres, ECD centres and schools will be advocated through the child-friendly school initiative and some schools will become demonstration sites for accessible WASH. The provision of WASH facilities in schools will be scaled up nationally, building upon the lessons learned from the previous programme. Support will be provided to the Government to formulate a new WASH Act and its instruments to realise act at local level. The implementation of new guidelines for WASH in schools and health care facilities will be supported. As the Global WASH Cluster co-lead, UNICEF will provide support to government for WASH preparedness and response, Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), especially in mainstreaming DRR and CCA into existing policies, strategies and plans, and multi-hazard risk analyses, risk-informed programming and capacity building.

The total fund requirement is US\$ 18 million (RR+OR). UNICEF has already secured US\$ 9.5 million (53 per cent) and has a funding gap of US\$ 8.5 million . UNICEF is advocating for co-financing of the programme to achieve critical results targeted at the most at need children and women of Nepal.

### Expression of Thanks

UNICEF Nepal Country Office would like to thank the Finnish Government, and other partners providing fund to UNICEF thematic fund to achieve the above-mentioned results for children and women in Nepal and look forward to continued collaboration.





## Annexes: Human Interest Stories and Donor Feedback Form

### Annex 1: Human Interest Stories

#### A matter of dignity

##### *In Nepal, UNICEF supports schools in improving their sanitation*

**Baitadi, Nepal** – Narendra Bhatt, head teacher at Siddheshwor Secondary School, remembers feeling ashamed of the sanitation situation in his school. Located in Patan Municipality in Baitadi District in far-western Nepal, the school did have toilets but these were in a poor state.

“The water supply was not regular, and we had no hand-washing stations,” Narendra recalls. “One of our staff would bring in the water manually. It was not ideal.” This was especially hard on the girls, who made up 47 per cent of the student population, according to Narendra. “We knew something had to be done but weren’t sure where to start.”



*A student washes her hands at one of the hand-washing stations set up at the Siddheshwor Secondary School in Baitadi District. The school has recently received a three-star rating for the improvements it has made to its water and sanitation facilities with support from UNICEF and the Government of Nepal.*

That starting point was when UNICEF, through the Bhimeshore Community Development Organization (BCDO), conducted a training in the area for teachers, child clubs and school management committee members on better sanitation in schools. As part of the training, Narendra and his team assessed the situation at Siddheshwor Secondary School as per a star-rating system. The result was grim.

“We came to understand that proper toilets and hand-washing stations are not just essential to the health of students and staff, but a matter of rights and dignity,” Narendra shares. “It was clear that we were doing them a disservice.”

The school management held discussions on what could be done. Then, with the support of UNICEF, its implementing partner, the Water Supply and Sanitation Division Office (WSSDO) of the Government of Nepal, and the BCDO team, a number of improvements were initiated.

The toilets were foremost remodeled, keeping in mind the needs of children in general, but more specifically girls and students with disability. This included incinerators to dispose of sanitary napkins in the girls' toilets, and an emergency stock of menstrual hygiene products. A water connection was set up for regular supply and hand-washing stations established in several spots, complete with soap. Moreover, each classroom in the school was equipped with a water filter to provide students with safe drinking water.



*Students at the hand-washing stations set up at the Siddheshwor Secondary School in Baitadi District. The school has recently received a three-star rating for the improvements it has made to its water and sanitation facilities with support from UNICEF and the Government of Nepal.*

In addition to this, the school was also supported in managing and funding the new facilities. For instance, a focal teacher has now been assigned specifically for looking after water, sanitation and hygiene issues. Child clubs and committees have also been formed to hold orientations and demonstrations in the school and the community.

“A big part of the process is to change attitudes, which is an ongoing effort. We knew that unless students and community members really internalized these ideas, it was not going to work,” Narendra says.

An example of this is how the school has declared Tuesdays 'Sanitation Day', to be marked with regular demonstrations and other activities to promote good sanitation and hygiene. Each class is also responsible for cleaning and collecting their own trash and disposing of it in separate biodegradable and non-biodegradable pits. Female students are regularly oriented on menstrual hygiene management and trained to make reusable sanitary napkins.

Ninth-grader Rekha Mahara says that the environment at the school is very different from what it used to be. "We feel like the management has given much more thought to the students, especially the girls," she says. "The toilets are so much more comfortable now and suited to our needs."

Thanks to all these efforts, Siddheshwor Secondary School has received an impressive three-star rating from the School Water Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee and the School Management Committee. Narendra also points out that the upgrades have led to improvement in students' performance. "There has been a rise in overall grades last year, and we hope that will continue in the coming days," he says.



*Two students wash their hands at a hand-washing station installed outside the toilets at the Siddheshwor Secondary School in Baitadi District. With support from UNICEF and the Government of Nepal, the school has improved its toilet facilities, keeping in mind the needs of all children, including girls and students with disabilities.*

## Annex 2: Donor Feedback Form

[English](#)

[French](#)