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**ACCESS TO SANITATION AND SAFE WATER:
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND LOCAL ACTIONS**

**WATSAN in partnership with NGOs and
communities of Nepal**

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The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board (The Board) has been implementing WAT-SAN schemes in Nepal since March 14, 1996 under assistance from World Bank/IDA and DFID. The Board delivers Demand Driven Community based water supply and sanitation projects to promote cost effective and sustainable services to the rural people of Nepal. Under the Board fund presently 165 NGOs partner together with local communities in 71 districts of Nepal to deliver safe water and sanitation services. Communities in the four phased project cycle spend twelve months for health and sanitation knowledge, practices and also develop fourteen community actions plans (CAP) to graduate their scheme for construction. Health KAP base line and Impact studies has shown that in 90 percent of houses people practice hand washing during critical juncture. Study on Total Sanitation in randomly selected 241 completed projects showed that 33 percent are in total sanitation status and 40 percent fall under 75-95 percent advanced towards 'no open defecation practice'. The Board has significant contribution in MDG and National Plan in WATSAN sector.

Coverage and partners

RWSSFDB covers all the households in the project area with special focus on social inclusion (Gender, cast/ethnic and disadvantaged people). The summary of implemented and ongoing schemes in second project shows complete cluster coverage in 1254 schemes which benefits 153665 households and 882167 populations. Local, Global partners and stakeholders play their role to lead these projects towards success.

Implementation of 1254 community led schemes is facilitated by 165 Support Organization (NGO/SO) while 8 Service Agencies, as private organizations provide monitoring and evaluation (M&E), technical support and training NGO to cover work in 71 districts. Gender is central concern therefore in each contract negotiation Gender balance and social inclusion in SO staffing is critically observed for hiring and retaining them. Line Ministries, Line agencies, Political Parties, User Groups, Federation of water and sanitation users (FEDWASAN), NGO federation/Coalition and CBOs contribute abundantly to success RWSSFDB program.

RWSSFDB PRA Tool SARAR

In the year 2004, UNICEF Nepal formally approached RWSSFDB. A combined team worked to develop PHAST (by modulating RWSSFDB Pictorial PRA tool SARAR, the original of Lira Srinivasan (1990). PHAST (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) was developed for specific purpose of water and sanitation message communication while Board's SARAR (Self esteem, Associative strength, Resourcefulness, Action planning, Responsibility) is more comprehensive and suitable both in emergency or development phase use. PHAST is exercised globally at present as it proved suitable in disseminating sanitary messages in emergency and relief works.

As global funding partner the World Bank and DFID (in past two Batches) provided fund and strictly monitored RWSSFDB to verify physical and financial progress of the program. UNICEF has coordinated for developing school sanitation guideline and development of PHAST from SARAR. WHO coordinates for WASH, School Sanitation and Point of Use (POU), the water quality management technique.

Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) by inviting member staff of RWSSFDB in conferences and regularly channeling global learning and success tips on Gender issues, has also contributed as partner to RWSSFDB.

Strategies for accelerated toilet construction and basic sanitation improvement in community

RWSSFDB practices some typical strategies for toilet construction and basic hygiene sanitation improvement in any scheme community.

Community Action Planning (CAP): In community twelve month software program is there followed by thirteen month months of software plus construction program in the RWSSFDB model. Entire WATSAN program is captured within fourteen, (A1-A14) Community Action Plans (CAP) which is developed, refined in exercise with community and at final stage endorsed for agreement by entire male and female persons of the community. Under CAP-#2 community develop a suitable toilet building modality and act on it.

Non Formal Education to Women (NFE): In a country with as low women literacy rate as 13% RWSSFDB educates them with *Non Formal Education (NFE)* as optional activity. This aware mass is better prepared to carry out toilet building and basic sanitary and implement WATSAN in their community.

Health and Sanitation Classes to Women (HSE): In the RWSSFDB program, 18 classes are conducted under *Household Sanitation Education (HSE)* component to the females of each Mother and Child Tapstand Group (MCTSG) in small cluster. This knowledge transfer has empowered the community in hygiene and sanitation and gender role management.



Photograph 1. No open defecation board in scheme area, Laxmibazar Gorkha

WATSAN Tools for Community: Communities are capacitated for hygiene sanitation and WATSAN activities by use of different tools. Tools are audio, video, electronic web, CD and paper based materials. The '*KHASKOSH*' is radio program and news letter to disseminate success and lesson learn to various stakeholders.

Village Health Promoter (VHP): This role is provided to a women selected by the community. VHP motivates community in to improve their personal, domestic and environmental hygiene and sanitation situation. In 334 projects of Batch five there are 325 Female trained VHP and 5414 Mother and Child Tap Stand Groups (MCTSG)

Training to NGO and Community: Human resource in WATSAN has been developed in community by imparting five major trainings to Village Maintenance Worker (VMW), VHP, Water User Committee/Group (WSUC/G) and School Teacher Student Group. According to Annual Report of 2005 total 22507 person have been trained in various skills.

Gender and Social Inclusion for Sustainable WATSAN Program: The MIS data shows that the program has systematically approached to increase Indigenous People and minorities as WATSAN beneficiaries. In the facilities like Self Help Revolving Loan distribution for toilet building or for women income generating group loan disbursement, social inclusion has been taken into account by the community. Under social safety plan of World Bank program, RWSSFDB has 'Livelihood and Social Inclusion Policy (LSI)'² for total participation.

Cost Effective Service Delivery: DFID Peer Review Group Report (Dec 2005)³ states Cost comparison with other organization RWSSFDB provides most cost effective services. RWSSFDB Per Capita Cost is \$ 49.97, NEWAH-\$ 69.23 and Gorkha Welfare-\$ 96.98 where 1 USD is equal to 65 Nepalese rupees. People are attracted to RWSSFDB for similar services in less cost.

Process and achievements

RWSFDB have been able to achieve success results and establish sustainable process in the implementation of sanitation program. Some results are discussed here as process and achievement.

Toilet building and basic sanitation modalities developed by community

Total toilet coverage and sanitary activities are accelerate by additional arrangement of social cross subsidy, use of District Development Committee (DDC), Village Development Committee (VDC) fund, use of SOs sanitation block revolving fund, Community Forest user's fund etc. In critical ultra poor HHs cases as identified by Well Being Ranking, Water and Sanitation User Committee (WSUC) makes separate decision for such HHs, like exempting Sanitation Revolving Loan Fund (SRLF) for them. Ongoing status of 334 Schemes of Bach five shows toilet needed in 30787 HH. Progress till April mission report shows all water sealed latrine built by self help 4655 and by SRLF 5981. After total toilet coverage SRLF amount is deposited in Operation and Maintenance Account, to add on existing fund. There is also monthly contribution.

Community led total sanitation study results on no open defecation

CLTS focus on No Open Defecation by toilet construction in all houses¹. An in-house study to identify No Open Defecation schemes was conducted during April 2007. A structured questionnaire was prepared and used in randomly selected 241 projects of RWSSP-I and RWSSP-II. The data shows that 33 % communities are found to have 100% permanent type latrine constructed.

Table 1. Status of total sanitation (no open defecation)

Total no. of sample project	100% latrines constructed	75 – 99% latrines constructed	51- 74% latrines	Below 50% latrines constructed
	No. of project	No. of project	No. of project	No. of project
241	80 (33%)	97 (40%)	55 (23%)	9 (4%)

Source: HRD/PD Division, April 2007

It is targeted to achieve 100% result in rest of the schemes within a year. In present Batches community target total toilet construction within a year where as in RWSSFDB-I it took three to four years for full coverage.

Towards community led basic sanitation for all

CLBSA focuses to sanitise a village community up to some standard by launching various activities. Sanitary



Figure 1. Community safe water and sanitation

activities are structured in various components. Progress by effective staff input and result delivery is monitored and checked by the Board as payment compliance. Support Organization facilitate on following:

Personal Hygiene and Sanitation: The school program students and mother groups are educated in Personal Hygiene and Sanitation. Hygienic practice such as washing, bathing, brushing, nail clipping, cleaning etc. These activities have been found dramatically changed after the program input⁴.

Household Hygiene and Sanitation: Basis sanitation is improved by conducting house hold sanitation status survey at regular interval of three months. Women of tap stand committee conduct inter cluster surveys in all HHs of the community. Within twenty four indicators status is categorised in poor, moderate and good stage and in door head plate result is marked by three colour codes.

Village Environment Sanitation: Under social mapping and baseline survey area for improvement is identified. Regularly each month one Sanitation Campaign is launched for environmental improvement. Bush cutting, Drainage Management, Sweeping, Plantation and Cleaning are some activities.

Sanitary Units: The HH survey encourages the community people to build various sanitary units while the SO staff, Community Technician (CT) supports by technical input. The sanitary units are Utensils Washing Platform, Drying Platform, Garbage pits, Smokeless Stove.

School Health Sanitation Program: In the school within the community a Teacher Student Group is formed. The HSE education is imparted to this group. They design several programs to show to the community like, Duets, Poem recital, Discussion, Street Drama, Rally, Art show etc. these activities conducted in a manner to sensitize community in health sanitation, Gender, environment and other aspects of program. Gender friendly institutional latrine is built in the schools with separate toilet and urinal for girl student. In ongoing Batch five, 275 schools are there in 334 schemes of which 117 have build institution latrine under RWSSFDB Water Sanitation program. A polythene water tank ensures sufficient supply of water. Low height multiple taps are provided to drink safe water in Tiffin time, for the kid students.

WASH: Above 90% (base line 14.7%) people are washing hand with soap at 4 critical junctures as outlined in outcome impact indicators. Two community manufactured local soap.

Lesson learnt

- RWSSFDB- NGO-Community and Private Sector Partnership Model brought success results.
- Temporary pit latrines are unhygienic and not promoted even in CLTS, CLBSA.
- Only ignition PRA is not effective for CLTS and CLBSA, rather holistic approach like RWSSFDB model can equally deliver success results in toilet building and community basic sanitization.
- The program is sustainable due to Operation Management Fund and monthly cash contribution.
- The twenty five month program duration helps to effectively launch range of software activities and also improve quality of construction works.
- Additionally the background of Gender and Social inclusion and delivering cost effective service makes RWSSFDB WATSAN program most public demanded model and best practice in National Perspective.

Conclusion

Government of Nepal introduced four policies in WATSAN sector through National Plan based on input concluded from lesson learn of RWSSFDB-I first project. RWSSFDB-II successful results have urged the Nation's Government to take initiative to permanently institutionalize RWSSFDB by bringing it under regular Government funding. The act is prepared and waits to be forwarded to the cabinet while all line ministries have positive notion to it. Once under regular funding it will expand its services from 71 to 75 districts as National coverage for Nepal. With Big Support Organization concept it aims to scale up services in future. After regional management team field visits, in the World Bank Headquarter on December 6, 2007 RWSSFDB-II is being presented as successful Program. Therefore owing to the success results and innovativeness, it can be concluded that RWSFDB model is highly commendable and replicable for other agencies in WATSAN sector.

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