

Nepal Red Cross Society

Sanitation, Hygiene and Water Management Project (SHWMP)

Context

1. Extensive collaboration with village and municipal bodies of government by Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) district chapter project team resulted in the development of a joint Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plan and operational plan for maintenance of drinking water schemes as well as a post ODF plan for maintenance and sanitation upgrades. Strong relationships at local government levels have enabled provision of child, gender and disability-friendly WASH facilities in communities and schools.
2. Government's commitment to total sanitation through their *Total Sanitation (5+1)ⁱ* strategy provides an enabling environment for the SHWMP and clear guidelines for achieving sanitation outcomes.
3. Local government is taking the initiative to announce *Child Friendly VDC/ Municipality* based on the *Child Friendly Local Governance 2068 National Strategy*. Our project is actively supporting this initiative in our project area.

i. Total Sanitation (5+1) strategy refers to: 1. Proper use of toilet, 2. Handwashing using soap, 3. Safe Drinking Water, 4. Safe Food, 5. Clean Household, 6. Clean Environment.

Things to share

1. As children are a particularly vulnerable group in the community, the *Child Risk Analysis Tool* has been developed and used to build capacity among change agents to identify risks to children within the context of the project and has encouraged collaboration on risk mitigation activities. The successful use of this tool in our project area has led to its use in other NRCS projects.
2. In working towards equitable access to water and sanitation, the SHWMP team has worked closely with the National Federation of Disability Nepal networks at both central and district level to ensure the inclusion of PLWDs in design and construction of appropriate facilities.
3. Indications of long-term sustainability of the user-led drinking water scheme have been observed, e.g. formation of functional user's committee, establishment of operation and maintenance (O&M) fund, system for collecting water tariff and development of trained masons and plumbers. Although anecdotal, it suggests the participatory approach – used since the planning phase – has captured community buy-in. The core components of this approach participation of community in decision-making of the entire water scheme construction, right from design phase to construction and O&M phases.

Highlights of the approach

1. Increase the access of people living with disabilities (PLWD) to WASH facilities
2. Behavioural change leading to Open Defecation Free (ODF) and Total Sanitized Communities
3. Reaching the community through quarterly bulletins and radio programs



Things to learn

1. Beyond Post ODF related software/hardware working methodologies
2. Climate change friendly WASH interventions and design
3. Sustainable behaviour change tools and drivers



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Let's celebrate!

Involvement of women, children and people living with disability from planning to implementation phase is empowering them in their communities.

