



Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All (SSH4A-II) Nepal



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Project objectives & approaches

Strengthening government capacity for leading district-wide improvement in sanitation and hygiene has been at the core of SNV's SSH4A Programme. Evidence from research studies (hygiene; supply chain analysis; gender, social inclusion and disabilities; willingness to pay for faecal sludge emptying service) have been used to support the district institutionalisation processes and develop responsive, locally contextualised, and inclusive strategies for sanitation demand creation, private sector strengthening for sanitation supplies and services, and sustaining behaviours. As a result 190,000 additional people are using improved sanitation facilities, 45 Village Development Committees and 4 districts have achieved 100% sanitation coverage (Open Defecation Free) and 310,000 additional people have handwashing facility with soap in their household.

Lessons learnt

- The southern plain areas (*terai*) of Nepal are a highly conservative society with little participation of women in the public sphere. These areas have also lagged behind in sanitation access. Through supporting meaningful participation of women in the village WASH coordination committees (WASH-CC), mobilising women to lead the village sanitation campaigns, and targeting women through house-to-house visits after community triggering, women have increasingly become the force behind the rapid increase in sanitation access in the *terai* districts.
- Women have also been at the heart of the progress towards total sanitation in the hill districts. Whereas the interest of men may decline in sanitation after achieving village ODF, mobilising women through women-led forums has led to a steady improvement in hygiene behaviours as well as environmental sanitation.
- Community-wide triggering and follow up have been successfully used to create demand in the community as a whole (including different castes and wealth quintiles) and mobilise households to construct their own toilet without any subsidy. After the majority of households have built a toilet, the village WASH-CC identifies the bottlenecks for the ultra-poor and collectively develops solutions such as organising youth to provide labour, allocating public land for toilets, purchasing materials from village funds or private donations. At the same time, the remaining non-toilet owners who can afford to build a toilet, are motivated through peer pressure.
- Although every household has a toilet (with 1-2% sharing a toilet) in the ODF declared villages, the challenge remains to ensure toilets are usable by all family members (disabled, etc.)

A challenge

The gender study showed that the toilet layout impacted the comfort level of women using a toilet in the *terai*; women did not feel enough privacy if the door of the toilet was facing towards the courtyard. Therefore, household decision-making about toilet construction should also address the appropriate **direction** for the toilet, and not just the type of toilet.

Program sustainability

- Capacities built of government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders at village, district and regional levels for implementing and steering sustainable sanitation and hygiene.
- Impact and evidence from village and district level interventions contributed to the development of regional framework and vision for sustainable sanitation and hygiene for the coming 5 years with a focus on post-ODF and universal coverage.
- Project learnings used for national advocacy through multi-stakeholder events on FSM and BCC, active participation in sanitation working groups, inputs to national guidelines (total sanitation), and co-leading joint monitoring missions.

We are proud of:

Regional WASH-Coordination Committee of the mid-western region (6 out of 15 are project districts) adopted a declaration (with strategies) on sustainable WASH focusing beyond ODF through a government-led, multi-stakeholder process which was strongly supported by project technical assistance and also built on project learnings on sanitation and hygiene.



Women group representatives entertain and inspire a crowd with educational messages on hygiene and sanitation through a street drama during the National Sanitation Week celebrations in Bagchaur Bazaar, Salyan.



Hygiene keeps improving after ODF: dish drying racks, washing slabs, waste disposal areas indicate some of the progress towards total sanitation in Rolpa.

