



**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



**ENPHO**  
Creating Eco Societies

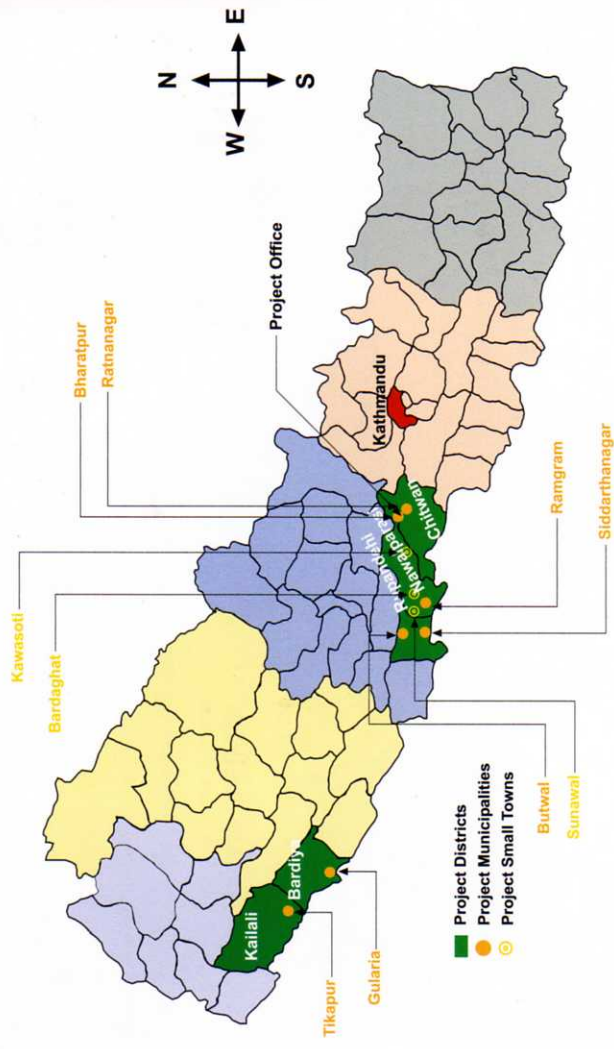
**PRACTICAL ACTION**  
Improving Urban Services in Nepal

## SWASHTHA Project: Clean environment for a healthy life



### Background

Urban population in Nepal is expanding rapidly, placing enormous pressure on urban basic services like shelter, safe drinking water and sanitation, drainage and sewerage, transportation and waste management. Environmental health risks from unsafe drinking water, poor hygiene behaviour, lack of sanitation and prolonged exposure to indoor air pollution (IAP) in poorly ventilated kitchens is very high in Nepal. This situation is deteriorating with rapid and haphazard urbanisation as urban poor are often forced to live in very crowded and unhygienic settlements. Municipal authorities who have limited resources are struggling to meet the increasing demands for environmental health services - water, sanitation and household (HH) energy. Within this background, a project "SWASHTHA - Strengthening Water, Air, Sanitation and Hygiene Treasuring Health" has been developed by Practical Action Nepal Office to improve the health and well being of the urban and peri urban settlements of emerging towns and municipalities of Nepal.



The four year (2009-2012) project will be implemented in seven municipalities namely Ratnanagar, Bharatpur, Ramgram, Siddharthanagar, Butwal, Tikapur and Gulariya and three small towns - Sunawal, Bardighat and Kawasoti which are potentially growing to become municipalities along the western highway corridor. This project is funded by the European Union (EU) and co-funded by UN-HABITAT's Water for Asian Cities Programme and ISLE of Man Government. The project's implementing partners are Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) and Environment and Public Health Organisation (ENPHO) as Non State Actors (NSA), respective municipalities and concerned Village Development Committees (VDCs) of Small Towns as Local State Actors.

## Objective of SWASHTHA

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to sustainable improvement in health and well being of vulnerable population especially, women and children residing in urban and periurban settlements of Bharatpur, Butwal, Gulariya and Tikapur Municipalities.

## Expected results

1. Improved access to safe drinking water in 16 communities
2. Improved access to better sanitation facilities in 16 communities
3. Improved hygiene practices among 30,000 women and children
4. Improved indoor air quality standards in 10,000 HHs and
5. Institutionalisation of environmental health improvement measures through improved linkages between state, non-state and private sector actors

