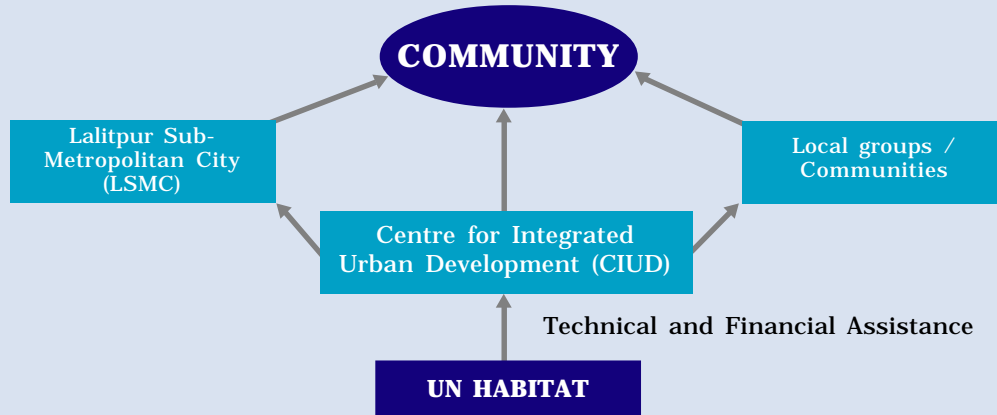


4. Maintenance and improvement of stone spouts

Out of 56 recorded stone spouts in Patan, more than half are in poor condition. At least 3 such spouts will be improved in collaboration with local community as a demonstration activity.

Implementation Approach



Community is at the core centre of this programme as the objective of this project is to build the capacity of local community in managing local water management system. Community will lead the implementation of the project where it will also be responsible for mobilising the local people and generating cash and in-kind contributions.

As a facilitator CIUD will facilitate the process and organise the management activities. The LSMC will work as a facilitator of the larger project while provide physical support to the project activities. Overall coordination and supervision are done by LSMC. As a main donor of the project, UN HABITAT will monitor the activities and supervise the overall performance of the project.

Project Duration

The project duration is 18 months from May 2008 to October 2009.

Conserving Traditional Stone Spouts in Lalitpur City



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UN HABITAT



Introduction

Stone spouts are special identity of the civilization of Kathmandu Valley. Started from the Kirat period, stone spouts were developed to its form during the Lichchhavi Period and was further extended during the Malla Period. With the introduction of piped water supply system, this traditional water system was highly neglected in the past few decades. This neglect lead to destruction and encroachment of the components of water system like ponds and water distribution channels.

Today, with the increasing water stress in the Kathmandu valley, a large portion of its population is reverting to the forgotten water in the stone spouts. People, understanding the need to preserve and utilise this traditional water source, have come up with local innovations. Alkow Hiti of Patan exemplifies itself for the community management of the stone spout and piped distribution of the water in the community.

To expand these local initiatives, further develop water management system, make the system sustainable, and improve the flow in the stone spouts; it is necessary to build and strengthen the capacity of local people. In this context, Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan City (LSMC) and Centre for Integrated Urban Development (CIUD) joined hands with UN HABITAT, the Water for Asian Cities Programme to assist selected communities in Patan in preserving and managing the local stone spouts and in replicating the Alkow Hiti system.

Around 5,000 people will be directly benefitted from this initiative. The overall beneficiaries will be in much more larger number.



Objectives

The main objective of the project is to address the shortage of water supply through community based sustainable water management system in traditional stone spouts.

1. Establish community based water distribution and management system for three stone spouts for distribution of water in the community targeting the poor.
2. Build capacity of the communities on water management issues at local level.
3. Support local initiatives of maintaining and improving stone spouts as alternative water source for urban poor, and
4. Build the capacity of the municipal staff on planning, supervision, conservation and management of traditional stone spouts.

Proposed Activities

1. Establish community based water management system in three traditional stone spouts
A community based water management and distribution system will be established in three selected stone spouts viz. Sundhara (Nugah Hiti), Amrit Hiti and Tapah Hiti. In addition, information management system will also be installed for these three systems and for the Alkow Hiti system to ensure sustainable and efficient management of the systems.
2. Build capacity of local communities
Community skills and knowledge will be strengthened for the effective and efficient operation and maintenance of the established water supply systems. Furthermore, awareness raising activities will be conducted on water quality issues including sources of contamination, testing and simple household level treatment methods.
3. Build capacity on conservation and management of traditional stone spouts
At least 15 communities with stone spouts will be trained on water conservation and water quality issues including stone spout conservation. A training will also be organized for municipal staff on the technical and management issues of stone spouts.