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Water for Asian Cities Programme NEPAL



Government of Nepal



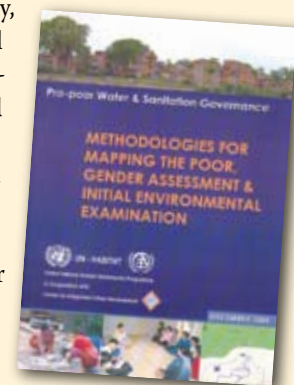
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Governance for Pro-poor Urban Water and Sanitation

Promoting pro-poor urban governance to provide an enabling framework for pro-poor urban water supply and sanitation investments is the major component of the WAC Programme. Priority is given to promoting institutional frameworks that focus on the needs of the poor; provide decentralised, simplified and transparent procedures accessible to the poor; foster community empowerment and community partnership; adopt rights-based approaches to the provision of water and sanitation, and include specific mechanisms to address the needs of women.

Initiatives have been taken to develop pro-poor tools for mapping the poor, gender assessment, and initial environment examination (IEE). Similarly, preparation of detailed land use map will facilitate in preparing an integrated long-term plan to provide equitable water and sanitation services in the Kathmandu Valley and urban development plans and programmes of the Valley. In addition, the programme is also assisting the GoN in formulating policies and guidelines for the urban water and environmental sanitation sector.



The Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme is a collaborative initiative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and several governments of Asia. The WAC Programme was officially launched at the Third World Water Forum (WWF) on 18 March, 2003, and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between ADB and UN-HABITAT on the same day in Osaka, Japan. The WAC Programme supports the implementation of the water and sanitation-related millennium development goals (MGDs) in Asian cities, specifically promoting:

- pro-poor governance,
- water demand management,
- increased attention to environmental sanitation, and
- income generation for the poor linked to water supply and sanitation.

The Programme seeks to achieve its aims by mobilising political will; raising awareness through advocacy, information and education; training and capacity building; promoting new investments in the urban water and sanitation sector; and systematically monitoring progress towards fulfilling MDGs.

The WAC-Nepal programme was started in the mid of 2005 by intervening small initiatives to demonstrate innovative water and sanitation activities in the peri-urban communities of Kathmandu Valley. These activities have been the stepping stones for UN-HABITAT to establish itself as a major stakeholder in urban water and sanitation sector. With the signing of a MoU with Government of Nepal (GoN) in the end of 2006, WAC Nepal has taken programmatic approach to implement the Water for Asian Cities Programme. GoN has set up a steering committee under chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Physical Planning and Works to provide guidance and to backstop the programme.

Working Area

In collaboration with GoN, the WAC programme conducts its activities in the Kathmandu Valley and other parts of Nepal. In addition, it also conducts its activities in the Kathmandu Valley and other parts of Nepal, working in two small towns under the Integrated Urban Development programme through out the arsenic affected districts and other areas.



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Urban Water Demand Management

The Programme supports in introducing alternative water sources to address water scarcity in urban centers with a special focus on poor communities without access to adequate water supply. The Programme aims to introduce demand responsive and demand management strategies to improve the efficiency and equity of water supply and water use.

In this context, rainwater harvesting has been adopted as an alternative to offset the problem of inadequate water supply and the prevailing water crisis in urban centers, particularly in Kathmandu Valley. The Programme helps build the capacity of the GoN, local authorities and the civil society to harvest rainwater.

Similarly, water bottling and distribution system has been promoted as another intervention to address water scarcity, especially among urban poor communities. Such system is intended to provide safe and affordable drinking water to urban poor at an affordable cost.

Further, the Programme also assists water authorities in developing and implementing water demand management strategy in small towns and municipalities.

Integrated Urban Environmental Sanitation

The Programme aims to demonstrate appropriate technical options to improve urban environmental sanitation, promote public, private and NGO partnership for scaling up sanitation facilities and to develop innovative financial mechanism for mobilization of local funds for sanitation services particularly at poor communities.

The Programme has successfully demonstrated community based decentralized wastewater treatment system which is now acting as a demonstration site to replicate in other municipalities particularly in municipalities under the UEIP. A comprehensive wastewater management plan has been developed which will be a reference for all municipalities to adopt integrated urban environmental sanitation practices through comprehensive wastewater management plans. ECOSAN toilets and household composting are being promoted as sustainable sanitation options that recycles and reuse human excreta and other waste as a fertilizer.

Onsite sanitation systems are often a problem as they normally lack efficient designs and as a proper faecal sludge management system is not in place. To combat this situation, the Programme has conducted an assessment of the current situation of the faecal sludge management (FSM) system in Kathmandu Valley so that it can devise a well-defined action plan for its management, treatment and disposal.

The Programme is also promoting biogas as a viable technology to address the sanitation problem and at the same time to provide natural fuel using biodegradable wastes, including human and animal waste, thereby curtailing dependency on non-renewable sources of energy.

activities to supplement ADB assisted projects viz. Small and Environment Improvement Project (UEIP). In especially in the peri-urban areas. Further, it will be a key component of the National Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Programme of the GoN, Arsenic mitigation in high risk areas with request from the GoN and the local authorities.





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Investments in Pro-poor Water and Sanitation

The Programme aims for pro-poor water and sanitation investments in selected peri-urban centers and small towns to provide sustainable, safe and adequate water and sanitation facilities for the poor communities living in those areas. Integrated water and sanitation projects have been implemented in selected peri-urban communities in the Kathmandu Valley which has made a great impact on the living conditions of these communities. The fast track community based project at Siddhipur has provided the community with safe drinking water facility and total sanitation coverage in the area. Additionally, the community has got a face lift due to the neighbourhood environment improvement. Similar integrated projects are being implemented in other peri-urban communities like Narayan Tole, Tigni, Lubhu, Khokana in Kathmandu Valley and small towns like Hetauda Municipality, Kalaiya Municipality and Bharatpur Municipality.

Value-Based Water Education

Value-based water, sanitation and hygiene education (VBWSHE) is a process whereby individuals gain awareness of their living environment; acquire knowledge, skills, values and experiences; and also display the determination to solve present and future water, sanitation and hygiene-related problems. To facilitate this process, a VBWSHE teachers' manual has been developed which includes lesson plans for pupils of different age groups. Further, the Programme is planning to incorporate VBWSHE in the education sector in partnership with the Ministry of Education.

