



Government of Nepal



European Union



Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs of Finland

# **SUSTAINABLE WASH FOR ALL IN NEPAL**

## **(SUSWA)**



September 2022

Project Document Revised Version  
Approved by the Supervisory Board on 29 September 2022

Project number 66014276

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ANWR	Annual National WASH Sector Review
BCHUD	Building, construction, housing and urban development
CATN	Centre for Appropriate Technology Nepal
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CBT	Capacity Building Training
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CDMC	Community Disaster Management Committee
CEDAW	Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
cfu	Colony-forming unit
CGD	Child, Gender and Disabled (friendly)
CoC	Code of conduct
CTA	Chief Technical Adviser
DAG	Disadvantaged group
DDC	District Development Committee
DDRC	District Disaster Response Committee
DP	Development partner
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
DWSSM	Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro
E. coli	Escherichia coli
FWSSMP	Federal Water Supply and Sewerage Management Project
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)
GESI	Gender Equality, and Social Inclusion (GESI)
GoF	Government of Finland
GoN	Government of Nepal
HDI	Human Development Index
HPI	Human Poverty Index
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICIMOD	as International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
INGO	International NGO
INSEC	Informal Sector Service Centre
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JSR	Joint Sector Review
JSR2	Second Joint Sector Review
LAPA	Local Adaptation Plans of Action
LDCRMC	Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Management Committee
LIP	Livelihood Implementation Plan
LMBIS	Line Ministry Budget Information System
MCA	Multi Criteria Analysis
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MEUR	Million EUR
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MIS	Management Information System
MNPR	Million NPR
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
MoPID	Ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development (provincial)
MoSD	Ministry of Social Development (provincial)
MoUD	Ministry of Urban Development
MoWS	Ministry of Water Supply
MoWSS	Ministry of Water Supply and Sanitation
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MTE	Mid-term evaluation
MUSD	Million USD

M-WASH-CC	Municipal WASH Coordination Committee
M-WASH Unit	Municipal WASH Unit
MWF	Municipal WASH Fund
MWRC	Municipal Water Resources Committee
MWRED	Ministry of Water Resources and Energy Development (Provincial)
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NMIP	National Management Information Project
NPC	National Planning Commission
NPR	Nepalese Rupee
NSHSC	National Sanitation and Hygiene Steering Committee
NWASHSC	National Water Sanitation and Hygiene Steering Committee
NWASHSCC	National Water Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee
ODF	Open Defecation Free
O&M	Operation and maintenance
PAYU	Pay-As-You-Use
PCO	Project Coordination Office
PD	Project Director
PWD	Person with disability
PSEA	Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse
PSU	Project Support Unit
P-WASH-CC	Provincial WASH Coordination Committee
QARQ	Quality, Access, Reliability and Quantity
RM	Rural municipality
RVWRMP	Rural Village Water Resources Management Project
RWSSIP	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project
RWSSP-WN	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal
SB	Supervisory Board
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDP	Sector Development Plan
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SEIU	Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit
SNV	SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
SO	Service Organisation
SP	Service Provider
SUSWA	Sustainable WASH for All
SUTRA	Sub-national Treasury Regulatory Application
TA	Technical assistance
TDF	Town Development Fund
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	(United Nations Children's Fund
USD	United States dollar
VDC	Village Development Committee
V-WASH-CC	Village WASH Coordination Committee
WASH	Water supply, sanitation and hygiene
WASH-MC	WASH Management Committee
WB	The World Bank
WSP	Water Safety Plan
WSP+++	Extended WSP to address climate change adaptation disaster risk reduction, O&M, water fee collection and inclusion
WSSD	Water Supply and Sanitation Division (provincial)
WSST	Water Supply and Sanitation Technician
WUSC	Water Users and Sanitation Committee
WUA	Water User Association
W-WASH-CC	Ward WASH Coordination Committee
4WD	Four-wheel drive

## PROJECT FACT SHEET

Project Title:	Sustainable WASH for all in Nepal (SUSWA)
Project Number:	66014276
Sector:	Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
Geographical Coverage:	Karnali province, 42 municipalities selected
Duration:	66 months
Starting Date	November 1, 2021
Impact Statement	Improved well-being and inclusive communities with sustainable WASH services and behaviours through local governments' improved capacity to achieve equal rights to WASH for all.
Outcome Statement	People supported by the Project Municipalities have improved and equitable access to safe and sustainable drinking water and adequate sanitation services, dignified menstruation and improved hygiene practices paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
Project Financing:	European Union: MEUR 10.1 Government of Finland: MEUR 9.0 Government of Nepal: MEUR 5.0 Municipalities (estimate): MEUR 5.0 User contribution (estimate) MEUR 2.0 <b>TOTAL MEUR 31.1</b>
Beneficiaries:	OA1 Strengthened enabling environment and governance for sustainable WASH services and GEDSI in Project Municipalities (42)  OA2 Climate resilient, safe and functional water supply in Project Municipalities (262 500 beneficiaries)  OA3 Sustainable S&H and dignified menstruation management (483 600 beneficiaries)
Competent Authorities:	Ministry of Finance, Nepal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
Agencies supporting implementation:	Ministry of Water Supply, Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management Federal Water Supply and Sewerage Management Project
Executing Agencies:	Partner Municipalities in the Karnali province

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nepal has been experiencing gradual shift in its administrative system after the Parliament passed the new Constitution in September 2015. Local and general elections were held in 2017 in line with the new Constitution. The number of local administrative units was decreased from over 4,000 in the country to 753, comprising 460 rural municipalities, 276 municipalities, 11 sub-metropolitan, and 6 metropolitan local governments.

The Government of Nepal has prioritised water supply service level upgrading in National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy, and the 15th Development Plan is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the country. Nepal is committed to pursuing and achieving SDGs by 2030 including those relevant to water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH): 6.1 (achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all) and 6.2 (achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations).

The core goal of Finland's development policy is to eradicate extreme poverty, to reduce poverty and inequality, and the realisation of human rights. Gender equality, non-discrimination, climate resilience and low emission development are crosscutting objectives in Finland's development cooperation. The aim is also to strengthen the capacity of individuals and authorities to promote human rights as well as to assure that development cooperation is not discriminatory, and people have an opportunity to participate in decision-making.

Finland has been an active partner in the water sector in Nepal since 1989. The most recent projects in the WASH sector are Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal (RWSSP-WN), phased out in July 2019, and Rural Village Water Resources Management Project (RVWRMP) implemented until 2022. As a continuation of Finnish long term support, the new Project called Sustainable WASH for All (SUSWA) is designed which can learn much from these projects, build on their experience, and make use of procedures, manuals, etc. developed by them.

Karnali Province is the working area of Sustainable WASH for All (SUSWA) project. It is the only province in the country, which is in the hilly and mountainous regions with no land area in Terai. Karnali is the largest province of Nepal with an area of 24,453 km<sup>2</sup> and the lowest population density. There are 25 urban municipalities and 54 rural municipalities (RMs) in the province. Karnali was one of the zones left out of the development mainstream of the country up to the first years of the 21st century. Hence, Karnali is the least developed province measured by the most common development indices.

There are around 200,000 rural people who are without water supply and about 250,000 people who have no technically acceptable water supply in Karnali. Water insufficiency is another issue realised by most of the people throughout the region. The situation is likely to get worse under the climate change scenario, which is expected to influence the water availability and vulnerability of people. Deeply rooted discriminatory cultures and practices (based on gender, caste, disability, economic status, etc.) are among the explaining factors for the issues with access. Functionality problems of water supply schemes in Karnali are higher than in other provinces: 41% of schemes in Karnali need major repair, rehabilitation, or reconstruction.

The Government of Nepal (GoN) declared Nepal an open defecation free (ODF) country in September 2019, meaning that all 753 local units in the country are ODF. ODF is achieved when whole communities shift to using toilets instead of open defecation. While ODF has been declared in Nepal, the situation on ground is less encouraging. Without water supply facilities in place, preventing the behaviour of shifting back to open defecation—even in minor scale or temporarily—is a serious behaviour change challenge.

Women in traditional Hindu society are considered ritually impure and are given strict rules to follow. During menstruation, many women are not allowed to enter the kitchen and temples, wear flowers, have sex, or touch other people. Women themselves are deemed impure and polluted, are often isolated as untouchables, and are unable to stay with their family for the length of their period. The

situation in Karnali province is among the worst, ostracising, humiliating, and discriminating dignified life of menstruating women and girls during their periods.

### **Project Scope**

SUSWA will work through and with the municipalities and follow the community-based approach of the previous WASH interventions supported by Finland. Earlier, the construction of new schemes has tended to receive higher priority than the rehabilitation of existing schemes. Rehabilitation is substantially faster, generally involves less technical and labour inputs, and is cost effective. Hence, SUSWA will continue to construct new schemes, but focus more on functionality of existing systems. The Project targets to support establishment of an efficient and transparent WASH governance at a municipal level that would be capable to ensure safe, sustainable, inclusive WASH services and conditions for all. The municipal level must first internalise the concept of lifetime services (and costs) of schemes. The principles of lifetime management shall also be rooted at the community level. Attainment of this target is the main key to the long-term sustainability.

Taking into account that the financial and human resources are limited and there are some other actors developing WASH in Karnali, SUSWA has defined its working area (i.e. partner municipalities) in collaboration with others stakeholders. 42 Municipalities will be the main implementer of the programme together with communities. The selection of municipalities has been based on the main criteria of non-overlapping with other major WASH interventions in the province (USAID, WB, FCDO, FWSSMP, Helvetas), to avoid duplication of planning and workload in Municipalities.

Based on this criterion, 37 Palikas in Karnali have been excluded from baseline data collection. The SUSWA project intends to collaborate with all Urban and Rural Municipalities in Karnali Region that are currently not receiving WASH support from any major development partners.

The list of the Palikas eligible to become partner of the SUSWA project area is showed below.

S. N.	District	Municipalities/RMs	Ward Nos.	No of HHs	Population
1	Dolpa	Dolpo Buddha Rural Municipality	6	543	2,462
2	Dolpa	She Phoksundo Rural Municipality	9	818	3,717
3	Dolpa	Mudkechula Rural Municipality	9	1,206	5,875
4	Dolpa	Tripurasundari Municipality	11	2,636	12,300
5	Dolpa	Thuli Bheri Municipality	11	2,380	10,187
6	Dolpa	Kaike Rural Municipality	7	926	4,124
7	Dolpa	Chharka Tangsong Rural Municipality	6	320	1,713
8	Dolpa	Jagadulla Rural Municipality	6	600	2,581
9	Mugu	Mugukarmarong Rural Municipality	9	1,399	7,301
10	Humla	Chankheli Rural Municipality	6	1,196	6,625
11	Humla	Kharpunath Rural Municipality	5	1,545	6,975
12	Humla	Simkot Rural Municipality	8	3,007	12,130
13	Humla	Sarkegaad Rural Municipality	8	2,211	11,040
14	Humla	Adaanchuli Rural Municipality	6	1,481	8,110
15	Humla	Tajakot Rural Municipality	5	1,176	6,110
16	Humla	Namkha Rural Municipality	6	868	4,506
17	Jumla	Patrasi Rural Municipality	7	3,374	16,881
18	Jumla	Kanakasundari Rural Municipality	8	2,786	13,687
19	Jumla	Sinja Rural Municipality	6	2,427	12,744
20	Jumla	Hima Rural Municipality	7	2,104	12,804
21	Kalikot	Palata Rural Municipality	9	2,895	17,658
22	Kalikot	Pachaljarna Rural Municipality	9	2,509	13,683
23	Dailekh	Gurans Rural Municipality	8	4,562	21,284
24	Dailekh	Naumule Rural Municipality	8	4,517	20,589



25	Dailekh	Bhagwatimai Rural Municipality	7	3,627	18,366
26	Jajarkot	Junichande Rural Municipality	11	4,356	23,823
27	Jajarkot	Bheri Municipality	13	8,962	38,370
28	Jajarkot	Nalgaad Municipality	13	6,064	28,858
29	Rukum West	Aathbisakot Municipality	14	7,603	35,929
30	Rukum West	SaniBheri Rural Municipality	11	5,313	24,778
31	Rukum West	Triveni Rural Municipality	10	4,375	20,466
32	Rukum West	Chaurjhari Municipality	14	6,791	29,255
33	Salyan	Darma Rural Municipality	6	4,270	19,998
34	Salyan	Kumakha Rural Municipality	7	5,582	24,858
35	Salyan	Bangad Kupendi Municipality	12	7,893	33,758
36	Salyan	Siddhakumakha Rural Municipality*	5	2,892	13,135
37	Salyan	Chhatreshwori Rural Municipality	7	5,135	21,368
38	Salyan	Baghachaur Municipality	12	7,539	34,053
39	Salyan	Kalimati Rural Municipality	7	4,994	22,498
40	Salyan	Triveni Rural Municipality	6	4,375	20,466
41	Salyan	Kapurkot Rural Municipality	6	3,978	17,548
42	Surkhet	Bheriganga Rural Municipality	13	11,599	48,581
			354	154,287	711,825

A key instrument to apply when developing new schemes as well as for ensuring the sustainability of existing schemes is the extended Water Safety Plan (WSP+++). The WSP+++ concept supplements the conventional Water Safety Plan (WSP) by also addressing climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (+), operation and maintenance (O&M) and water tariff collection (++), and social inclusion (+++). Hence, in addition to ensuring technical sustainability, WSP+++ also ensures that the voices of vulnerable members of the society are heard and their WASH needs and rights are considered in the WASH planning process and scheme O&M.

SUSWA will be implemented through a period of five and half years (66 months), and following the fiscal calendar of Nepal.

### **Impact and Outcomes**

The impact statement of SUSWA is:

*“Improved well-being and inclusive communities with sustainable WASH services and behaviours through local governments’ improved capacity to achieve equal rights to WASH for all.”*

The Outcome statement is:

*“People supported by the Project Municipalities have improved and equitable access to safe and sustainable drinking water and adequate sanitation services, dignified menstruation and improved hygiene practices paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations”.*

The achievement of the expected outcome and impacts is built on four outcome areas:

- OA1 Strengthened enabling environment and governance for sustainable WASH services and GEDSI in Project Municipalities
- OA2 Climate resilient, safe and functional water supply in Project Municipalities
- OA3 Sustainable S&H and dignified menstruation management

Outcome area 1 focuses on development of the capacity of the selected municipalities in the WASH sector towards the achievement of relevant SDGs and towards implementing gender friendly and inclusive policies and plans. Through its outputs, municipalities will be made able to manage the WASH sector and provide support to Water Users and Sanitation Committees (WUSC) in maintaining the functionality and sustainability potential: ensuring safe water quality, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction, proper O&M, adequate water tariff collection and inclusion. It

is necessary to strengthen the overall enabling environment for sustainable WASH service delivery WASH by addressing different structural and institutional factors, and capacitating and linking different actors for effective WASH implementation towards the SDG targets and to ensure good communication, information sharing, and learning between these levels.

Outcome area 2 focuses on physical improvement of water supply in Project Municipalities—in terms of coverage on the one hand and functionality, safety, service quality and sustainability on the other. The Project aims to reach approximately 262,500 beneficiaries. Completely new drinking water schemes will reach 10,000 beneficiaries. Reinvestment of water schemes will be done, reaching 40,224 beneficiaries, whereas functionality of drinking water schemes will be improved for 212,276 beneficiaries.

Outcome area 3 aims to ensure the sustainability of the ODF status and upgrade sanitation and hygiene to achieve safely managed sanitation and total sanitation status as applicable. It covers households as well as institutional sanitation and expands the scope of sanitation to address faecal sludge management as well. The estimated amount of beneficiaries is 483,600 and 300 institutional toilets will be improved/constructed. In addition to general progress towards total sanitation, it pays particular attention to women's right to dignified menstruation. It focuses on the underlying discriminatory social norms that affect menstruating women and girls and persons with disabilities. This result area will focus on analysing the gendered norms, identifying social barriers for persons with disabilities, finding alternative ways to ensure ritual purity during menstruation and child birth, and provide alternative ways to ensure good fortune for the community, as an example. This result area related to dignified menstruation will be implemented in close partnership with women groups, religious leaders, local decision-makers, as well as organisations of persons with disabilities.

The number of beneficiaries depends on the investment level. Table 1 below presents estimated beneficiary numbers with Government of Nepal (GoN) and Government of Finland/ European Union (GoF/EU) funding.

**Table 1 Estimated beneficiary numbers and targets:**

	<b>Total results</b>
Beneficiaries on Water Supply (WS) re-investment (Rehabilitation and Major repair of NON-functioning water systems)	40,224
Beneficiaries on WS new investment (Construction of new water systems to reach unserved communities)	10,000
Beneficiaries on WS functionality (Minor repair and service upgrade of PARTIALLY-functioning water systems)	212,276
Multiple use water systems (MUS)	35 schemes
Municipalities	42
Institutional toilets	300
Sanitation and hygiene beneficiaries	483,600

### ***Project Budget and Financing Options***

The project document is prepared to plan the implementation using joint financing of Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and Government of Nepal, agreed upon in the Country Agreement. The total budget of SUSWA is MEUR 31,1. See Table 2.

This budget includes a joint funding from the Delegation of the European Union to Nepal as part of the Team Europe Initiative on Green Recovery. The sources of funds and division between budget lines are presented in the following table.

The EU grant management would continue the same modality as in RVWRMP, following Busan principles of effectiveness and division of labour. This entails that EU funds to support SUSWA will be channelled through the MFA as indirect management (delegated cooperation). This constitutes an implementation modality where the managing partner (MFA) is designing and implementing the project using its own modalities and procedures, and reporting to the EU.

The structure of this document already incorporated the implications of the additional EU financing. The scope of the delegated EU funding amounts to 10.1 million Euro (MEUR) whereby the total GoF and EU funding combined is 19.1 MEUR. Government of Nepal is committed to contribute 5 MEUR.

**Table 2 SUSWA Budget with tentative Outcome Area wise budget allocations**

	SUSWA Budget (EUR)	Total	EU/GoF	GoN***	Municipality (Estimated)	Users (Estimated)
<b>1</b>	<b>Programme implementation cost by</b>	<b>23.800.000 €</b>	<b>11.900.000 €</b>	<b>4.900.000 €</b>	<b>5.000.000 €</b>	<b>2.000.000 €</b>
OA1	<b>Strengthened enabling environment and governance for sustainable WASH services and GEDSI</b>	<b>7.418.000 €</b>	<b>4.518.000 €</b>		<b>2.900.000 €</b>	
	<i>Municipality WASH Fund</i>	<i>7.209.000 €</i>	<i>4.309.000 €</i>		<i>2.900.000 €</i>	
	<i>TA Capacity Dev., Planning and M&amp;E*</i>	<i>209.000 €</i>	<i>209.000 €</i>			
OA2	<b>Climate resilient, safe and functional water supply in Project Municipalities</b>	<b>12.883.000 €</b>	<b>5.583.000 €</b>	<b>4.200.000 €</b>	<b>1.300.000 €</b>	<b>1.800.000 €</b>
	<i>Municipality WASH Fund &amp; Users Contr.</i>	<i>12.670.000 €</i>	<i>5.370.000 €</i>	<i>4.200.000 €</i>	<i>1.300.000 €</i>	<i>1.800.000 €</i>
	<i>TA Capacity Dev., Planning and M&amp;E*</i>	<i>213.000 €</i>	<i>213.000 €</i>			
OA3	<b>Sustainable S&amp;H and dignified menstruation management</b>	<b>3.499.000 €</b>	<b>1.799.000 €</b>	<b>700.000 €</b>	<b>800.000 €</b>	<b>200.000 €</b>
	<i>Municipality WASH Fund &amp; Users Contr.</i>	<i>3.301.000 €</i>	<i>1.601.000 €</i>	<i>700.000 €</i>	<i>800.000 €</i>	<i>200.000 €</i>
	<i>TA Capacity Dev., Planning and M&amp;E*</i>	<i>198.000 €</i>	<i>198.000 €</i>			
<b>2</b>	<b>Contingency (non-allocated funds)</b>	<b>574.427 €</b>	<b>574.427 €</b>			
<b>3</b>	<b>TA Fees and Reimbursables*</b>	<b>4.370.110 €</b>	<b>4.370.110 €</b>			
	<i>TA Fees international</i>	<i>1.422.760 €</i>	<i>1.422.760 €</i>			
	<i>TA Fees national</i>	<i>1.896.350 €</i>	<i>1.896.350 €</i>			
	<i>Reimbursables</i>	<i>1.051.000 €</i>	<i>1.051.000 €</i>			
<b>4</b>	<b>Running cost*</b>	<b>1.210.000 €</b>	<b>1.210.000 €</b>			
<b>5</b>	<b>Establishment cost (one time)*</b>	<b>400.000 €</b>	<b>400.000 €</b>			
<b>6</b>	<b>Remuneration of indirect costs to MFA</b>	<b>645.463 €</b>	<b>645.463 €</b>			
<b>7</b>	<b>PCO/DWSSM Administratives and management costs</b>	<b>100.000 €</b>		<b>100.000 €</b>		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>31.100.000 €</b>	<b>19.100.000 €</b>	<b>5.000.000 €</b>	<b>5.000.000 €</b>	<b>2.000.000 €</b>

\* through the TA accounts

## 1. BACKGROUND

### 1.1 Country Context

Nepal is located mainly in the Himalayas, but also includes parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plain. A Himalayan country, Nepal has diverse geography from fertile plains in the South called Terai to middle mountains (Pahad) and high mountains (Himal). Nepal is bordered by India in the South, East and West and China in the North. Nepal experiences five seasons: summer, monsoon, autumn, winter and spring. According to the latest census in 2021, its population is 29.2 million. The religion of 81.3% of population is Hindu while 9% follow Buddhism. Nepali is the official language while there is wide diversity of ethnic groups and languages spoken in the country.

According to the member fact sheet Nepal of Asian Development Bank (ADB), the country has made notable economic progress in recent years: literacy rates have increased, poverty rates declined, and gender disparities narrowed. Nepal now strives to graduate to a lower middle-income country status. Nepal has achieved significant progress in health and sanitation, school enrolment, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and tuberculosis prevention. The country has achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)<sup>1</sup>. For example, Nepal managed to halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015.

The Government of Nepal (GoN) has prioritised water supply service level upgrading in National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy, and in the 15th Development Plan is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the country. Nepal is committed to pursuing and achieving SDGs by 2030, including those relevant to water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH): 6.1 (achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all) and 6.2 (achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations). They are inherent in the country's constitution and guided by Nepal's WASH sector development plan draft (SDP 2016-2030). The National Planning Commission (NPC) published a national monitoring framework for SDGs in Nepal's Sustainable Development Goals, Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030.

GoN has expressed vision in the draft SDP 2016-2030: adequate and convenient sanitation and water services to all citizens, for health, dignity, and socio-economic progress. Improved public health and living standard of people of Nepal through safe, sufficient, accessible, acceptable, and affordable water, sanitation and hygiene services, at any time, for everyone and everywhere is GoN's major development goal.

Nepal is undergoing an administrative reform after the Parliament passed the new Constitution in September 2015. Local and general elections were held in 2017 in line with the new Constitution. Currently, there are 77 districts in seven (7) provinces (states) in the country. A reform of local units is being implemented and the number of municipalities and Village Development Committees is decreased from over 4,000 units in the country to 753 local units in total, comprising 460 rural municipalities (Gaunpalika), 276 urban municipalities (Nagarpalika), 11 sub-metropolitans (Upmahanagarpalika) and 6 metropolitans (Mahanagarpalika) with a total of 6,743 wards (the smallest administrative unit). Karnali Province is the working area of Sustainable WASH for All (SUSWA). The province borders China to the north, Gandaki Pradesh to the east, Sudur Paschim Pradesh to the west, and Lumbini Pradesh to the south. Birendranagar in Surkhet district is the Karnali capital. Karnali is in the hilly and mountainous regions with no land area in Terai

On April 25 and May 12, 2015, the central and surrounding regions of Nepal were ravaged by major earthquakes, which cost nearly ten thousand lives and caused massive damage to physical infrastructure. The country is still struggling with post-disaster recovery and reconstruction. In addition, the Covid-19 crisis during the year 2020 is having an impact on Nepal and its economy. Covid-19 is also emphasizing the importance of sustainable water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

## **1.2 Karnali Province**

### ***1.2.1 Population and Geography***

Karnali is the largest province of Nepal with an area of 24,453 km<sup>2</sup> and the lowest population density. There are 10 districts, 25 urban municipalities and 54 rural municipalities in Karnali. Humla, Jumla, Mugu, and Dolpa are more remote districts with predominantly mountainous geography and low population density. Surkhet, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Rukum West and Salyan are located in the hilly region, and Kalikot comprises both hilly and mountainous environment. The province does not extend to Terai in the South.

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<sup>1</sup> Nepal and the Millennium Development Goals, Final Status Report 2000–2015. National Planning Commission. GoN, December 2016

**Table 3 Characteristics of districts in Karnali Pradesh (province)**

District (district capital)	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Typical elevation (m)
Rukum West (Musikot)	1213	800-6,000
Salyan (Salyan)	1462	300-2,000
Surkhet (Birendranagar)	2451	500-2,000
Dailekh (Dailekh)	1505	500-4,000
Jajarkot (Khalanga)	2230	1,000-4,000
Dolpa (Dunai)	7889	1,500-7,600
Jumla (Jumla)	2531	1,000-4,600
Kalikot (Manma)	1741	1,000-4,800
Mugu (Gamgadhi)	3535	1,200-6,700
Humla (Simkot)	5655	3,000-6,000

According to the 2021 census, the total population of the province is 1.69 million. See more information in Table 4.

**Table 4 Population (old and new Census) sex ratio, average family size and population density**

S. N.	District	Total Population (2011)	Preliminary Population 2021								
			Census House No.	Family No.	Total Population	Male	Female	Sex Ratio	Average Family Size	Population Density	Annual Population Growth Rate (%)
1	Dolpa	36,700	7,995	9,429	42,959	21,276	21,683	98.12	4.56	5	1.51
2	Mugu	55,286	11,791	12,535	66,658	33,448	33,210	100.7	5.32	19	1.8
3	Humla	50,858	10,313	11,484	55,496	27,982	27,514	101.7	4.83	10	0.84
4	Jumla	108,921	22,405	24,501	119,377	59,836	59,541	100.5	4.87	47	0.88
5	Kailikot	13,6948	22,929	26,956	144,917	72,243	72,674	99.41	5.38	83	0.54
6	Dailekh	261,770	48,776	55,708	253,319	121,675	131,644	92.43	4.55	169	-0.31
7	Jajarkot	171,304	34,309	38,054	189,365	93,795	95,570	98.14	4.98	85	0.96
8	Rukum - West	155,383	34,007	37,708	166,354	81,063	85,291	95.04	4.41	137	0.65
9	Salyan	242,444	51,984	55,400	238,668	114,953	123,715	92.92	4.31	163	-0.15
10	Surkhet	350,804	87,312	99,350	417,776	202,036	215,740	93.65	4.21	170	1.68

Source: Census 2021/selected data base

The vast majority of Karnali (94.9%) population speaks Nepali, while the remaining population speaks Magar, Tharu, Tamang, Kham, Gurung and Sherpa languages. The annual per capita income in Karnali is USD 806 and the average life expectancy is about 66 years. Dolpa and Humla districts are without a road connectivity network, and roads in many other Himali districts are in bad condition. There is potential to develop tourism and hydropower in the province along with other natural resources. A map of Karnali province is shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1 Map of Karnali province**

### 1.2.3 Socio-economy

Karnali was left out of the development mainstream of the country up to the first years of the 21st century. Hence, Karnali is the least developed province measured by the most common development indices: Human Development Index (HDI), Human Poverty Index (HPI) and Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). HDI is calculated based on life expectancy, adult literacy and mean years of schooling, and per capita income. HPI includes percentages of people not expected to survive to age 40, adult literacy rate, percentage without safe water, percentage of children under age five who are malnourished and deprivation in economic provisioning. MPI measures three key dimensions: health, education, and standard of living. A comparison between provinces is presented in Table 5.

**Table 5 Human Development Index (HDI), Human Poverty Index (HPI) and Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) by province**

Province	HDI (2019)	HPI (2014)	MPI (2019)
Province 1	0.58	29.6407	0.066
Madhesh Pradesh	0.51	41.7725	0.109
Bagmati	0.661	30.8423	0.028
Gandaki	0.618	27.0664	0.035
Lumbini	0.563	31.9383	0.078
Karnali	<b>0.538</b>	<b>42.7830</b>	<b>0.169</b>
Sudur Paschim	0.547	38.1533	0.105

**Source: GoN: Nepal Human Development Report 2014 and 2020**

Within the province, HPI in the most remote mountainous districts are above the average, reflecting more severe socio-economic situation, whereas the situation is better in the hilly districts, as seen in Table 6.

**Table 6 Human Poverty Index (HPI) in the districts of Karnali**

District	Health	Education	Income	HDI	HPI
Rukum West	0.723	0.204	0.343	0.431	39.02
Salyan	0.730	0.211	0.344	0.441	40.57
Surkhet	0.705	0.258	0.369	0.476	36.36
Dailekh	0.717	0.204	0.321	0.422	41.35
Jajarkot	0.691	0.180	0.302	0.393	44.20
Dolpa	0.603	0.169	0.391	0.401	44.56
Jumla	0.636	0.174	0.385	0.409	42.09
Kalikot	0.644	0.169	0.393	0.374	45.20
Mugu	0.676	0.167	0.360	0.397	45.22
Humla	0.653	0.148	0.346	0.376	49.26
<b>Average</b>				<b>0.412</b>	<b>42.78</b>

**Source: Nepal Human Development Report 2014<sup>2</sup> (GoN)**

In terms of caste/ethnicity, the proportional Dalit population in Karnali is the highest in Nepal. Within the province, Rukum West has the highest Dalit population, followed by Jajarkot, Dailekh and Kalikot. Table 7 below shows caste/ethnic comparison in the project area.

According to the national population census 2021, in terms of caste / ethnicity, the biggest population in SUSWA working is of Chhetree (47.33%). In the area, there are 8.87% Thakuri and 4.78% Brahman – Hill.

**Table 7 Castes and ethnicity in the project area (%)**

Caste / Ethnicity	%
Chhetree	47.33%
Brahman - Hill	4.78%
Magar	12.30%
Tharu	0.03%
Tamang	1.78%
Newar	0.12%
Musalman	0.06%
Kami	15.28%
Yadav	0.00%
Rai	0.00%
Gurung	0.60%
Damai/Dholi	3.51%
Thakuri	8.87%
Sarki	1.82%
Teli	0.02%
Chamar/Harijan/Ram	0.01%
Sanyasi/Dashnami	1.47%
Sonar	0.01%
Brahman - Tarai	0.00%
Kathbaniyan	0.01%
Gharti/Bhujel	0.01%
Kumal	0.09%
Lohar	0.17%
Majhi	0.01%
Bhote	0.04%
Thakali	0.00%
Bangali	0.01%
Gaine	0.03%
Badi	0.27%

<sup>2</sup> District wise data not available in 2020 report

Raji	0.04%
Byasi/Sanka	0.38%
Raute	0.01%
Rajdhob	0.00%
Dolpo	0.63%
Others	0.16%
Dalit Others	0.06%
Terai Others	0.05%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The average literacy rate of women in the province is only 51%, the lowest figure being in Humla where only one third of women are literate.

**Table 8 Literacy rate (%)**

District	Literacy rate (%)	
	Overall	Female
Rukum		
West	62.1	56.7
Salyan	64.0	58.9
Surkhet	73.1	67.9
Dailekh	62.5	56.3
Jajarkot	57.3	52.9
Dolpa	54.1	44.5
Jumla	54.7	44.5
Kalikot	56.8	50.3
Mugu	51.3	41.8
Humla	47.8	35.7

Source: Census 2021/selected data base

The food security situation is alarming in Karnali: 77.5% (highest among all provinces) households still remain food insecure with 17.5% severely food insecure, compared to the national average of 48.2% and 10% respectively (Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, 2016).

### 1.3 Policy Framework

The main policy level framework for Nepal's water supply and sanitation sector includes:

- Constitution of Nepal (2015);
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in Nepal;
- Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan (2011); and
- Draft WASH Sector Development Plan (SDP 2016).

The federalisation policy is clearly formulated in the Constitution, and the administrative reform has started as elected Assemblies. Main office holders have been nominated and have started the work. Nepali Fiscal Year 2017/18 was the first time that the municipalities assumed their role also in managing budget and development work in their areas. Provincial governments started later, in the spring of 2018, and are still in the process of organising themselves and taking over the designated role and duties. Many provincial and local level by-laws, rules and regulations are still being drafted. Furthermore, the beginning of transition is challenged by shortage of competent staffing. The period of moving from the old administrative structure to the new one could possibly take years. Despite this, a lot of powers and responsibilities have already been vested in the local governments.

The federalisation process brought the delivery of many basic public services to the municipal level. The three-tier government system (federal, provincial and municipal) decentralised power and functions to 753 rural and urban municipalities and seven provinces. Municipalities have progressively assumed responsibilities for maintenance and improvement of municipal infrastructure, e.g. water supply, solid waste management, schools, local roads, etc.



The Government of Nepal has prioritised water supply service level upgrading in National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy, and in the 15th Development Plan in line with SDGs of the country. SDGs form a universal call to end hunger and poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people can enjoy peace and prosperity. Nepal, as a member state of the United Nations (UN), is a part of this global initiative and has formulated its own targets and indicators for SDGs. Nepal is committed to pursuing and achieving SDGs by 2030, including those relevant to WASH: 6.1 (achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all) and 6.2 (achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations). They are inherent in the country's constitution and guided by the draft SDP 2016-2030.

Improved public health and living standard of people of Nepal through safe, sufficient, accessible, acceptable, and affordable water, sanitation and hygiene services, at any time, for everyone and everywhere, is the major development goal of the Government of Nepal. SDP has an unofficial status for the time being. However, with the implementation of the SDP the sector would adopt one WASH Act, one national WASH policy framework, one National WASH sector development plan executed by one Ministry, and one WASH performance report. This would result in an effective, responsive, transparent, and accountable WASH sector.

The strategic elements in WASH development as listed in the SDP are:

- GoN to ensure—through enabling policy environment, technical assistance, financing arrangements, capacity building and a regulatory framework—that the citizens of Nepal have access to and use of proper sanitation facilities and safe water for consumption, adequate for hygiene and general cleanliness;
- adequate and functional services should be available to households and institutions such as hospitals, clinics and schools;
- where required, appropriate public facilities in sanitation and water should be available in markets and other public places frequented by a larger mass of people;
- adequate arrangements should be in place for the disabled, elderly, and vulnerable;
- ensure equitable use and distribution of water resources for water supply, and maintain a tariff structure that enforces Pay-As-You-Use (PAYU) above reasonable basic requirements;
- protect natural resources in water, water bodies and wetlands by updating and enforcing environmental and public health regulations;
- at district and national level capacity is to be assured for emergency water supply and sanitation. This capacity refers to common concerns such as annual flooding and diarrhoea outbreaks in low-coverage districts or municipalities, as well as to damage to WASH services caused by landslides or earthquakes; and
- GoN to ensure through enabling policy environment, technical assistance, financing arrangements, capacity building and a regulatory framework compliance with environmentally sound practice for the collection, treatment and safe disposal and discharge of all categories of waste and wastewater.

At the time of drafting SDP (2015-16), WASH sector issues were mainly looked through the lenses of the central government. Because of the federalisation, GoN comprises of three tiers of governments with their designated roles and responsibilities. It is noteworthy that, due to decentralisation, SDP no longer has such a strong ownership within the government, and there is a risk that it might be abandoned. Therefore, the national policy principles incorporated in SDP should be included also in provincial planning documents.

Integrity, accountability, and anti-corruption principles have been incorporated into SDP since they form a basis for accountable WASH projects and service delivery. Decentralisation processes are often assumed to have positive impact in reducing corruption and increasing integrity, due to their potential for increased representation in decision making. In Nepal, new government agencies are now being set up in the provinces, where more than 60% of the elected representatives are new. A considerable amount of money is going to flow into these institutions, which will be responsible for providing essential services, including water and sanitation. As this process takes place, it would be important to ensure that strong legislation and regulation are implemented, and that governance is

transparent. It is also crucial that roles and responsibilities are made as clear as possible, since uncertainty on roles and resource transfers have been shown to create integrity risks. If there are weak governance mechanisms in place, corruption, malpractices, and collusion will thrive, and public trust in the new structures will erode. Thus, to capitalise on past learning and get on track to achieve SDG 6, it is also necessary to focus simultaneously on SDG16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and tackle governance issues to strengthen institutions.

The Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan 2011 provides clear guidelines for nationwide open defecation free (ODF) movement and total sanitation. This master plan helps the concerned stakeholders in effective planning, budgeting, human resources mobilisation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and follow up of hygiene and sanitation programs and projects. The plan adopts improved sanitation facilities (toilets), total sanitation, child, gender and differently abled friendly features, ultra-poor households, stakeholder joint plan, universal sanitation coverage, and universal access to sanitation at conceptual and operational level. The goal of the master plan was to attain universal access to improved sanitation by 2017 for better hygiene, health, and environment. The master plan gives the due focus on sustainable changes on hygiene behaviours, including the proper use of toilet and waste management practices in urban and rural areas. The master plan is also in need of revision to highlight total sanitation and issues of the urban sanitation.

SDP was prepared for a period of fifteen years (2016-2030) by the Ministry of Water Supply and Sanitation (MoWSS), which is now the Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS), following the recommendations made by the Joint Sector Review (JSR) in 2014. The primary focus of SDP is to improve the public health and living standard of the Nepali through the provision of safe, sufficient, accessible, acceptable and affordable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. The SDP foresees to provide WASH services in three phases:

- Phase I/Short Term (2016-2020): Universal access to basic WASH services, improved service levels (medium 25%, high 15% population, reconstruction);
- Phase II/Medium Term (2021-2025): Improved service levels (medium 40%, high 30% population), functionality and sustainability improvement; and
- Phase III/Long Term (2026-2030): Improved service levels (medium 50%, high 50% population), impact assessment.

SDP defines water supply service levels as standard, basic, medium, and high, based on quantity, quality, accessibility, reliability (duration and continuity) and service satisfaction. Similarly, service levels of sanitation have been defined as no service, limited, basic, and improved, based on accessibility, facilities, use, reliability, and environmental protection. SDP presents an opportunity for sector development by providing a shared vision and coherent strategy around national priorities. The Plan provides a programming framework and direction for action to all stakeholders in the realisation of universal access to safe water and sanitation services. SDP needs updating to align it fully with the federalisation context.

#### **1.4 Urbanisation**

Rapid inland migration from rural areas to the towns and urban centres is taking place in Nepal. People from rural villages come to emerging towns located mainly along the highways, starting small business or looking for work opportunities. These emerging towns play very important role, connecting urban and rural people and gearing up economic activities in surrounding areas. However, this has a significant bearing on governance, programming, and management for WASH services. Such semi-urban areas need to be identified and some of them could be piloted however taking into account the scope and resources of SUSWA. The working municipalities will be selected during the inception period.

## 1.5 Sector Development Needs and Challenges to be Addressed

### 1.5.1 Water Supply Coverage and Functionality

According to the project database, there are around 194,000 people in the project area who are using water from unprotected sources, either because they belong to an unreached section of society so far or because they have returned to unprotected sources as their water system is not functioning.

Deeply rooted discriminatory cultures and practices (based on gender, caste, disability, economic wealth etc.) are among the explaining factors. SDP 2016-2030 lists that the exclusion dimensions related to WASH services are gender, caste/ethnic groups/religious minority (social), poverty and remoteness, and that they are all equally important, relevant, and interlinked to each other. Another reason is that organisations often prefer to work in settlements that are not the remotest of remote in both rural and urban context of Nepal.

With the encouraging accomplishment of MDGs in terms of water and sanitation, Nepal is committed to achieve global SDGs. The priority needs to be focused more on quality, functionality and sustainability, and the development works need to better target to reach the hardest segments of the society—those who have been excluded from development and those who have been overlooked. According to MoWS, access to basic water supply is 91% in Nepal in mid-2020.<sup>3</sup> Only 49.6% of the households have access to piped water supply and 25% of the population has access to safe drinking water according to the National Review of Sustainable Development Goals 2020.<sup>4</sup>

Table 9 summarises water supply coverage and functionality status in November 2018 in all seven provinces and separately in all ten districts of the Karnali province. If the functionality of the schemes is considered, out of the total 42,039 water supply schemes recorded in the National Management Information Project (NMIP) database, only 28.1% are technically well-functioning, 38.1% would need minor repair, and the remaining 33.8% need major repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction or are non-repairable. The statistics in Table 9 show that the portion of well-functioning schemes is at the range of 26% to 29%. Province number 2 has only 251 piped schemes and the majority of water supply is arranged by tube wells. Thus, the (technically) well-functioning share of the total is higher (45%) than in other provinces. Functionality problems in Karnali are clearly higher than those in other provinces. In total, 41% of schemes in Karnali need major repair, rehabilitation, or reconstruction while the national average is 33.8%. The gap to the national average is 7.2%. In addition, the need of reconstruction alone is clearly higher than in any other province. Physical functionality in this set of data describes the technical status of schemes, with no information about water quality

No quantitative data on the reasons of non-functionality is available in Karnali province. The most common reasons, suggested by different stakeholders include:

- source depletion;
- disasters, such as landslides and floods;
- substandard scheme design (inadequate source surveys, overly complicated and costly systems and structures, ignorance of ease of maintenance, etc.)
- weak management/ Water Users and Sanitation Committees and limited fee collection;
- low motivation especially when alternative sources are available within reasonable access;
- migration and loss of VMWs as few females have been trained to be VMWs;
- lack of or inadequate post-construction support;
- lack of Water Safety Plans (WSPs); and
- inadequate technical human resources and O&M budgets fund in municipalities.

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<sup>3</sup> Quarterly report of Ministry of Water Supply 2076/77, Government of Nepal

<sup>4</sup> Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission

**Table 9 Physical Water Supply Status in Nepal and by district in Karnali**

Physical functional status of piped water supply schemes in districts of Karnali (source: NMIP database, DWSS, Nov 2018)											
Province, District	Demographic		Coverage of scheme			Physical functional status of schemes					
	Total household	Total Population	HH covered by Piped water (%)	HH covered by piped, RWH and tubewell (%)	Total number of piped schemes	Well Functioning Scheme (%)	Need minor repair (%)	Need major repair (%)	Need Rehabilitation (%)	Need reconstruction (%)	
<b>Province No 6</b>	315 279	1 644 269	80,90	84,18	3 417	29,1	30,0	13,3	15,9	11,8	
1 Rukum 6	30 634	154 366	84,29	85,09	114	28,1	20,2	7,9	20,2	23,7	
2 Salyan	46 311	240 612	78,02	82,28	950	35,1	15,1	20,0	20,0	9,9	
3 Surkhet	81 777	385 495	79,05	85,74	487	27,9	45,0	10,1	10,1	7,0	
4 Dailekh	47 863	255 245	79,14	83,19	642	25,1	35,0	12,0	16,0	11,8	
5 Jajarkot	33 545	187 293	86,16	87,03	470	30,0	30,0	10,0	11,9	18,1	
6 Dolpa	8 175	39 560	82,24	82,37	95	20,0	45,3	14,7	10,5	9,5	
7 Jumla	21 686	121 482	81,86	82,00	194	23,2	35,1	10,8	19,1	11,9	
8 Kalikot	25 647	152 253	80,86	82,30	204	29,9	24,0	9,8	20,1	16,2	
9 Mugu	9 516	54 348	84,83	85,00	139	20,1	46,8	10,1	15,1	7,9	
10 Humla	10 125	53 615	82,89	82,99	122	30,3	40,2	9,8	10,7	9,0	
<b>Province No 1</b>	974 096	4 424 401	44,84	85,28	9 011	28,6	40,4	9,3	15,7	6,0	
<b>Province No 2</b>	931 311	5 369 281	10,46	87,85	251	45,0	23,1	12,0	13,5	6,4	
<b>Province No 3</b>	1 295 231	5 557 132	73,93	89,89	9 331	26,5	38,4	10,4	17,2	7,5	
<b>Province No 4</b>	570 769	2 344 835	84,23	89,92	8 789	28,1	37,6	10,8	14,4	9,1	
<b>Province No 5</b>	907 334	4 596 171	42,22	88,57	6 497	28,2	41,3	7,1	15,5	7,9	
<b>Province No 6</b>	315 279	1 644 269	80,90	84,18	3 417	29,1	30,0	13,3	15,9	11,8	
<b>Province No 7</b>	505 915	2 714 652	45,84	86,53	4 743	29,0	36,2	10,5	16,8	7,5	
<b>Nepal</b>	<b>5 499 935</b>	<b>26 650 741</b>	<b>51,69</b>	<b>87,88</b>	<b>42 039</b>	<b>28,1</b>	<b>38,1</b>	<b>10,0</b>	<b>15,9</b>	<b>7,9</b>	

In the project area, from the 77.7% of people who are currently receiving water from an improved water system, a small minority (3%, accounting for 20,700 users) have a water tap in premises and less than half (45.2%) receive a level of service consistent with the original design of their facility, due to the low functionality (Data from project baseline, 2022).

The needs of water supply development in the project area are huge. Based on the project baseline data, and including both rural and urban areas:

- new schemes needed for around 154,000 people in 33,000 households who have no access to at least basic water supply (unreached section of society so far);
- Additional around 40,000 people are using water from unprotected sources because their water system is not functioning;
- major or minor repair is needed in the 51% of the existing infrastructure, supplying water to around 273,000 people (in 58,000 households); this includes the service upgrade to yard connection (when feasible) and improvement of water quality/safety.

The project aims, to the extent possible, to make all schemes meet the standards of “safely managed” drinking water services as per the SDG indicator. “Safely managed” refers to improved basic drinking water source which is located on premises, available when needed, and free of faecal (and priority chemical) contamination. In the project area, having all drinking water sources on premises and available even during dry season is however not feasible. **Therefore, the project will focus on ensuring all schemes meet functionality and water quality standard; yard connections will be installed in all the new systems, and where rehabilitation or major repairs are needed.** The targets are set in coherence with the SDP service levels defined below in Table below.

**Table 10 Parameters for water supply service level (SDP 2016-2030)**

Parameters			Service Level			
			Substandard	Basic	Medium	High
System Performance	Needs	Quantity (LPCD)	25 - 45	45 - 65	65 - 100	100 - 150
		Hygiene	Not possible (unless practiced at source)	Hand washing and basic food hygiene possible; laundry/ bathing difficult to assure unless carried out at source	All basic personal and food hygiene assured; laundry and bathing also assured	All hygiene needs met
	Quality		Potable	Meets NDWQS (Rural criteria)	Meets NDWQS	Meets NDWQS
	Accessibility		Less than 25% consumers having private connection	More than 25% consumers having private connection	100% consumers having private connection	100% consumers having private connection
Institutional Performance	Reliability	Duration of supply (hrs/day)		8 (Peak hour)	12 (day hours)	24 (Round the day)
		Continuity (Number of interruption events)		Not more than 1 interruption event in one month	Not more than 1 interruption event in three month	Not more than 1 interruption event in a year
	Resiliency(service restoration period)			Service restored in 2 days	Service restored in 1 day	Service restored in 1 day
	Service Robustness				System can withstand 10% of additional sudden demand without compromising its service standards	System can withstand 10% additional sudden demand without compromising its service standards
	Service Satisfaction Level (Annual Survey)				75%	90%

The involvement of users has significantly increased the coverage from 6% in 1990 to 82% in 2015 and to 99% by the end of 2018 in basic sanitation and, similarly, from 46% in 1990 to 86% in 2015 and 89% by the end of 2018 in water supply. While coverage figures are impressive, the actual functionality of the water systems has become a major challenge. There are different studies and estimates that reveal that only 30-50% of schemes can be claimed as “somehow functional” but poor water quality is a problem also in many of those schemes. Shortcomings are typically in water quality, scarcity of water due to depleting sources, damage of structures caused by natural hazards, poor operation and maintenance (O&M) skills and lack of funds, increasing water demand when old community taps have been replaced by private taps etc.

Besides disparity in access and inequality, ensuring quality, functionality, and sustainability of WASH services has become a serious challenge for achieving SDG 6 by 2030. As such, reinvestments to existing schemes are essentially required in addition to new schemes. Reinvestments need strong sustainability elements (social, institutional, environmental, technical, financial, and knowledge), including establishment and empowerment of user committees. The underlying causes of the low rates of functionality can be attributed in part to inadequate O&M.

Just 32% of schemes have a Water Supply and Sanitation Technician (WSST), only 38% of the schemes have registered WUSCs and less than 5% have an O&M fund (FCG 2013, World Bank (WB) study on functionality). It should also be noted that many functionality issues directly relate to natural disasters. The same WB study revealed that out of somehow functional schemes many are

partly out of order. In this regard, only 38 % of all water taps in the western provinces (then Far Western and Mid-Western regions) were working and providing water. In the other three regions the figure was slightly better (42 %).

The sector has become more inclusive with more and more women and members from marginalised groups represented in WUSCs. Even then, reducing disparity in access, inequality in services, quality of water, functionality, and sustainability of system and quality of services provided remains key challenges. The Napa-WASH study carried out by WaterFinns in Nawalparasi district revealed that transparency and performance of WUSCs are, by far, the most decisive sustainability factors. The sector financing is largely imbalanced in respect of an unequal regional distribution of resources, resource gap and heavy dependency on donor contributions. Many policies, fragmented institutional set-up, multiple actors working with project driven modalities and an absence of harmonisation efforts have led to duplication of roles and overlapping responsibilities at the national and lower levels. To address these challenges, the Nepal WASH sector has realised the need for a strategic framework and approach that can serve as a foundation for improved performance and effectiveness in the sector leading to effective and functional WASH services. It is evident that municipality-led WASH development will offer good opportunity to better coordination and efficient use of resources.

### ***1.5.2 Water Sector Budget and Financing***

The estimated water supply and sanitation expenditure of the country for the fiscal year 2021/2022 is MEUR 288.11, consisting of GoN's own funding (MEUR 209.56), grants (MEUR 14.44) and loans (MEUR 64.10). In comparison to two previous fiscal years estimated total water supply expenditure MEUR 334.94 and MEUR 331.54 is decreased in fiscal year 2021/2022. The budget for the fiscal year 2021/2022, about 73% of the funds is expected to come from internal sources, 22% as external loans, and 5% as external grants.

Eleven areas of development have been identified under the draft SDP. Accessibility and utilisation (availability) of WASH services has been of the major concern followed by functionality and sustainability. These two areas require 66% of the total budget for all areas. SDP intends to review, refine and adapt its programming, approaches and technologies to make sure that the work is sustainable, innovative, relevant and effective and without discrimination between urban and rural, and continuous quality improvement. SDP emphasises establishment of sector management information system (MIS) and national sector review to be carried annually. SDP assumes that 25% of the SDP cost is contributed by the users, 27% by development partners (DPs), and rest by government budget along with private water entrepreneurs. SDP also reflects the current GoN policy of decreasing dependency on foreign aid also in the WASH sector. GoN aims to decrease DP contributions from over 50% in 2003-2015 to 27.2% by the end of the SDP period (2030).

### ***1.5.3 Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Management***

Nepal is among the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change, and its diverse terrain leaves it at risk from natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods and landslides. Climate change increases the frequencies and magnitudes of natural hazards making disasters fiercer and more disruptive. These hazards affect functionality and sustainability of water supply schemes, including also the water quality. Climate change will likely change the availability of water resources having impact on ecosystems, agriculture and drinking water services. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) are considered compulsory and integral components of development activities also in the WASH sector. CCA/DRR/DRM must be mainstreamed in SUSWA.

Nepal has been actively implementing climate change activities since 1994. Since the preparation of the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), Nepal has been working in reducing risks and increasing adaptation capacities of vulnerable communities. GoN formulated a National Framework for Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA) in 2011. Similarly, community based adaptation plans (CAPA) have been implemented at the community level with support from community based organizations, civil society organizations, private sector, and other organizations. An expert led Climate Change Council has been formed and operational under the chair of the Prime

Minister Since 2010. In 2019, Nepal released a Climate Change Policy with the goal of contributing to socio-economic prosperity by advancing capacity on CCA, developing ecosystem resilience, promoting green economy by adopting low carbon economic development concept, mobilizing national and international financial resources, making effective the information service, mainstreaming climate change into relevant policy, strategy, plan and programmes, and also mainstreaming gender and social inclusion, including in climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes. Nepal is in the process of preparing a new National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

A Climate Change Management Division in the Ministry of Forests and Environment has been functioning as the focal point for UNFCCC and for coordination between different levels and sectors on climate change. The National Planning Commission has been using a distinct climate budget code for programmes related to climate change. Nepal has been utilizing opportunities and fulfilling delegated responsibilities towards Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goals. The Nationally Determined Contributions - NDC, submitted in 2016 and a process has been initiated to facilitate direct access of the governmental, non-governmental, and private sector organizations to international climate change finances.

All those policy papers and legal provisions focused towards climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and management; low carbon development, climate resilience; access to financial resources and utilization; enhance communities' capacity, participation and empowerment; study and research; technology development, transfer and utilization; climate-friendly natural resources management. Still Nepal's climate change policy, programmes, and plans are in the beginning phase and need to be developed further with strong institutional, financial and technical support to implement these policies. The local stakeholders—specifically rural municipalities and user committees—should get their deserved position in all these national level policies. At national level, Nepal has to maximize its efforts to achieve the desired outcomes by 2030.

GoN has made emergency response arrangements in the districts and local level. At the district level, there is a District Disaster Response Committee (DDRC). At the municipal level there is a Local Disaster and Climate Resilient Management Committee (LDCRMC), and at the Ward level a Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC). At the time of disaster, SUSWA can participate in the work of national WASH Cluster in an applicable way. WASH cluster is led by the Ministry of Water Supply and co-led by UNICEF and it coordinates the work of WASH actors for the disaster preparedness and response.

Many municipalities and rural municipalities have allocated budget for DRM in their annual plan. However, budgets are rather limited so far and annual budgeting is not the best way of funding for DRM as volume of funding needed is difficult to predict. Similarly, at least some provinces have also budgeted DRM/DRR funds that can be used on demand basis. The Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) has in August 2018 proposed an improved model of Disaster Management Fund (Operational) Procedure for risk reduction and management of natural and human-induced disasters at the local (municipal) level. A separate account will be opened at a financial institution where the local government has its consolidated fund to collect income and mobilise expenditure. The income would come from three levels of government as well as from various governmental and non-governmental agencies. Individuals and private sector are also encouraged to donate to the fund.

Climate resilience and disaster risk reduction are crosscutting themes in SUSWA at the community and municipal levels. At local level, visible climate change and disaster risks include floods, droughts, change in temperature (heat- and cold-waves), rainfall intensity and change in duration of rainy season and so on. As a result source depletion (drinking water and irrigation), changed water consumption and use pattern, damaged infrastructures, water quality degradation, disputes in water use, loss of productive land, change in land use pattern and decrease in agriculture production can be experienced by the communities.

Based on the experience and the identified climate change adaptation needs and barriers, SUSWA can promote climate resilient facilities and empower small communities for climate resilient water resources management. The project can identify measures for improved water availability and water use efficiency, enhance technical capacity of municipalities and communities, strengthen



community-based mechanism for planning, monitoring and maintenance of resilient water supply infrastructures, source and catchment protection, scheme level water safety planning and coordination with municipal and ward level on climate resilient water resources development. SUSWA will design climate and disaster resilient structures to suit the local environment, study sources from the climate and disaster perspectives, and introduce Multiple-Water Use Systems (MUS) schemes, reuse of household waste water, drip irrigation and so on.

Apart from RWSSP-WN and RVWRMP learnings, SUSWA could also utilise learning related to WaterAid Nepal's WASH resilient communities on how to enhance communities' capacity to take their own actions to maintain and sustain the WASH facilities both before and after a disasters, as well as International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development's (ICIMOD) experience on piloting Climate Smart Villages approach in the mountain areas.

The Ministry of Forestry and Environment's guidelines and risk ranking<sup>5</sup> will be incorporated into selection and planning phases with Municipalities, and collaborations with existing initiatives promoting climate-resilient economic growth like the "Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems<sup>6</sup>" will be fostered.

#### **1.5.4 Sanitation and Hygiene**

GoN declared Nepal as Open Defecation Free (ODF) country on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, meaning that all 753 local units of 77 districts have ODF status. ODF is achieved when whole communities shift to using toilets instead of open defecation. The national campaign was launched in 2011, and was initially introduced in the school and district levels and gradually to the national level. The GoN issued in 2011 the National Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan, comprising two phases: achieving ODF and achieving the total sanitation. The plan targeted declaring the country ODF already in 2017 but it was delayed by two years, due to various reasons. The plan was based on widespread stakeholder consensus on minimum criteria and coordination mechanisms.

Government-led, multi-stakeholder WASH coordination committees established at national, sub-national, and local levels, involving representatives from across sectors and political and development actors, supported the processes for planning and budgeting, coordination, sharing, adaptive learning, and transparent monitoring and ODF verification. It was essential that these coordination committees at local levels became platforms to mobilise all for sanitation, having local leaders, champions, civil society (including non-governmental organisations, journalists, media, women's groups, people with disabilities, school groups, cooperatives, religious institutions, etc.), private sector actors, police and other security forces, administrators and other government personnel.

While ODF has been declared in the Nepal, the situation on ground is less encouraging. Preventing the behaviour of shifting back to open defecation, even in minor scale or temporarily, is a serious challenge for sustainability. The slippage (going back to open defecation) is estimated to range between 3.5 to 8.3 per cent at national level<sup>7</sup>. According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2019), 94.5% of population are using improved sanitation facilities. Gender issues have been widely excluded from the ODF movement in the form of open defecation during menstruation because women are not allowed to use the same toilet with others during menstruation. Field studies of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal (RWSSP-WN) reveal that taboos and discriminating traditions regarding menstruation are common. According to a RWSSP-WN survey, 64% of the people in locations declared ODF report that they sometimes defecate in the open.

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<sup>5</sup> Vulnerability and Risk Assessment and Identifying Adaptation Options in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector in Nepal. of Nepal. Kathmandu, Nepal. MoFE. (2021).

<sup>6</sup> LPED-GRAPE, Local and Provincial Economic Development – Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems funded by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), European Union (EU), Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

<sup>7</sup> Global Sanitation Fund in Nepal, Annual Report 2019.



Another sustainability risk to the ODF achievement is that the single pit toilets are becoming full and their emptying should be managed safely. Therefore, there is a need to shift attention to maintaining ODF status along with striving towards total sanitation. Safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap are crucial for achieving the SDG target 6.2.

Urban and rural municipalities are in charge of retaining the ODF status. They are also the main promoters and leading authorities in seeking for the total sanitation status. Municipalities do not provide cash or hardware subsidies to households for their toilets. They provide infrastructural support to institutional sanitation. The total sanitation concept, maintaining ODF status, ensuring hygienic environment, safe solid waste management and household water safety are all issues that municipalities need to start taking responsibility for at the local level.

RWSSP-WN has used a step-by-step approach to sanitation and hygiene change of behaviour, merging the elements from the SaniFOAM framework and RANAS. FOAM stands for Focus, Opportunity, Ability, and Motivation and RANAS for Risks, Attitude, Norms, Abilities and Self-regulation. They also incorporated a structured monitoring system by using mobile phones for having site-specific accurate and real-time data. The step-by-step approach is based on continuous self-analysis and self-adjustment by those directly involved in the process, if the identified change of behaviour is not happening. Similar approach to analyze the behavioral and contextual factors related to sanitation and hygiene and menstruation management behaviour and to support the needed change in behaviour could also be used in SUSWA added with integrated disability inclusion using the methodology of the Washington Group short set of questions.

#### ***1.5.5 Dignified Menstruation***

In Hinduism, menstruating women are traditionally considered ritually impure and given strict rules to follow. During menstruation, women are not allowed to touch taps, enter the kitchen and temples, wear flowers, have sex, touch other people, or use the same toilet with others. Women themselves are deemed impure and polluted, and are often isolated as untouchables and unable to return to their family for the length of their period. This practice is called Chhaupadi in some parts of western Nepal and is mostly linked to caste cultures (Brahmin, Chhetri, Dalit), while not so widely practiced among Janajatis in the area (Magar, Tharu, Tamang, Kham, Gurung and Sherpa etc.). The situation in Karnali province is among the worst regarding the ostracising, humiliating, and discriminating dignified life of menstruating women and girls during their periods.

Chhaupadi was outlawed by the Supreme Court of Nepal in 2005, but the tradition has been very slow to change. A survey conducted by Action Workers Nepal 2017 revealed that 60% of the Karnali people were unaware of Chhaupadi being banned. In 2017, Nepal passed a law punishing people who force women into exile during menstruating with up to three months in jail or a fine of 3,000 Nepalese rupees. According to the baseline survey conducted in the project area, 38% of households responded that there are restrictions regarding staying in isolation during menstruation.

The situation with chhauhut is very alarming. Women stay in chhauhut during post-partum for 9-11 days. The connection between neonatal mortality due to cold or unhygienic conditions and staying in chhauhut or animal sheds has been explored only by a few newspapers.

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) has gotten increasing attention in recent years also in Nepal. A policy on civil code of conduct on dignified menstruation and against menstruation taboos are in the process of formulation together with an MHM Master Plan. Four Ministers as well as the speaker of the lower Parliament signed a seven-point declaration on MHM in 2018. A national MHM Alliance including around 40 entities, media, and other influencers has also been formed to share learning, strategic programmes, and support to the government in formulation of policy and strategic programmes on MHM. MHM, or dignified menstruation management (including the cultural dimension), is presently discussed more openly in some parts of the country, and many development projects have incorporated MHM into their action plans.

Most adolescent girls suffer from inadequate toilet arrangement at home as well as in institutions, particularly at schools. Girls experience fear, confusion, and concern at the time of menstruation. The issue is of utmost importance as safe and effective menstrual hygiene management is a critical component of adolescent girls' sexual and reproductive health. As stated in UNICEF's study (2016) on menstrual hygiene practices in Nepal, at a practical level, in order to manage menstruation hygienically, women and girls must have access to water and sanitation and convenient disposal/cleaning facilities. They require somewhere private and safe to change their sanitary cloths, as well as facilities for safely disposing of used materials or a place to wash and dry them if reusable.

The intersection of gender and disability is crucial to consider in order to ensure dignified menstruation management for all. Women and girls with disabilities may face specific barriers when it comes to MHM, such as physically inaccessible WASH facilities and suitable sanitary products due to e.g., lack of data and budgeting to inform inclusive infrastructure and supply chains, inaccessible information on MHM, e.g., only written or only spoken communication, communication only reaching those attending school, and reliance on caregivers to provide a dignified environment for MHM and harmful attitudes preventing them from practicing dignified menstruation management.

MHM should be included in all WASH activities as a mainstream component, a vital part of the crosscutting GEDSI approach. According to the national policy paper (draft), "Dignified Menstruation" is a matter of human rights and it should be adopted in all policies at all levels. Thus, SUSWA, in cooperation with MHM Alliance, can and should promote awareness on dignified menstruation and take supportive actions to facilitate health and hygiene management. These actions should include women and girls with disabilities and ensure that awareness about dignified menstruation reaches persons with disabilities and their caretakers equally. To ensure this, SUSWA shall also co-operate and build partnerships with national and local organisations of women with disabilities.

Massive awareness raising campaigns, and addressing religious authorities and the community (especially old aged women and mother-in-laws) as a whole is important as well as supporting the municipalities to formulate their own chhauhut eradication plans to support the new legislation.

Dignified menstruation needs to be incorporated appropriately and entirely into the curricula, empowering all adolescent girls, including those with disabilities, with accessible information and support, with clear linkages of dignified menstruation to family planning, sexual and reproductive health, and future wellbeing. Both the government agencies and organisations centred on education should collaborate directly with the teachers and students themselves to design and conceptualise education to best impart the knowledge needed for comprehensive dignified menstruation. Advocacy campaigns are required to combat the deeply ingrained religious and cultural malpractices, restriction, and taboos related to menstruation. Female teachers should be encouraged to stay at work and practice all the regular activities during their own menstruation to act as positive role models to the adolescent girls. Increasing access to hygiene absorbents and disposal of MHM items should be addressed and MHM friendly WASH facilities must be made available at schools. Further, it is critical to ensure that those not attending school are not forgotten, such as PWDs or their caregivers, when planning training and education on MHM.

## **1.6 Project's Previous Phases**

Nepal has been one of Finland's main development cooperation partners, focusing largely on the water sector. Finland is the largest donor in rural WASH in Nepal and has been active in strengthening coordination in the sector. Finnish support is currently channelled through 1) Rural Village Water Resources Management Project (RVWRMP 2006 – 2022) co-financed with the EU and 2) UNICEF's Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) until 2022.

SUSWA is a new initiative but, at large, designed on the experience and lessons learnt from earlier interventions. SUSWA also aims to focus on good governance of WASH services in the new context of the three tiers of government mainly at the local level. RWSSP-WN and RVWRMP both have worked with and through rural and urban municipalities with encouraging outputs and results.

## 1.7 Relevant Other Projects and Donor Coordination Arrangement

In the urban WASH sector, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are the biggest donors. ADB supports mega projects in the Kathmandu Valley and has been active in water supply and sanitation in small, emerging towns. The latter is particularly interesting as 70 towns have got improved WASH service, and the loan concept to WUSCs ensures partial investment recovery through water fees. The Town Development Fund (TDF) manages loans that typically have a re-payment period of 20 years. ADB supports the Urban Environmental Improvement Project, which has a WASH component. JICA is active in Pokhara and is planning to start renovation of main parts of the water supply system in the urban areas.

World Bank (WB) is active in the urban development sector in general but has no urban WASH ongoing in the country. The portfolio concentrates on education, livelihoods and safety nets, energy, roads, health, agriculture and irrigation, water, and state-building and country systems. In rural WASH, WB has funded Water Supply and Sanitation Development Fund Board (called briefly Fund Board). The operation of the Fund Board is unclear beyond 2020. WB is funding (loan) the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project (RWSSIP). The Project has two components. Component 1 is for new schemes having 90% of the total budget of MUSD 90. Fund Board implements this component in the whole country. Component 2 is for functionality improvement with a budget of 9 MUSD. It started in one district in each of the five Development Regions in 2015. The focus was at the district level as District Development Committees (DDCs) were to coordinate and support community level schemes. In 2017, the focus was shifted to the municipal level; two new districts/municipalities were chosen to cover all seven provinces with this piloting. Component 2 aims to support institutional structure of WASH at the municipal and WUSC levels.

The USAID funds Karnali Water Security Activity (KAWAS), which seeks to create healthy, resilient, and water secure communities at the watershed level through strengthened water and sanitation governance. The objectives of KAWAS include increased sustainable access to safe drinking water and water for productive use, use of sanitation through faecal sludge management and strengthened conservation of water related biodiversity and water governance. KAWAS will be implemented in Rara, Tila, middle Karnali, and lower Karnali watersheds, covering nine districts and 14 municipalities and Bardia National Park. SUSWA will seek close coordination with KAWAS.

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom (UK) is not directly involved in the WASH sector. However, it supports, e.g. WASH projects implemented by Gorkha Welfare Trust around the country. European Union (EU) supports RVWRMP Phase III, focusing on livelihoods and energy. EU provides sizeable support to the Multi-sectoral Development Plan on WASH, nutrition and food security (GoN 5-year plan) and the Agriculture Development Strategy.

Green Climate Fund (GFC) is funding the project "Improving Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Communities and Ecosystems in the Gandaki River Basin (2020-2026)" with a total GCF financing of 27.4 MUSD. This project is being implemented through GoN and IUCN Nepal and aims to mainstream and operationalise a sustainable river-basin approach for watershed management to achieve resilience of climate vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the Gandaki River Basin. This will be achieved through the planning and implementation of climate change adaptation measures across impacted ecosystems and communities both upstream and downstream across the landscape.

SNV Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV), WaterAid Nepal and Helvetas Nepal are the most important INGOs working in the WASH sector. Functionality and WASH governance are the key themes of SNV, along with supporting small towns in planning and implementing low-cost Faecal Sludge treatment plants that will offer an opportunity to SUSWA to explore and pilot innovative solutions. WaterAid Nepal focuses, inter alia, on climate change/DRR issues in WASH. Helvetas Nepal is implementing water resources and livelihoods projects (including WASH).

Special attention will be paid to coordinate and network with agencies and CBOs in implementing the project GEDSI strategy, and according to the project targets. A list of relevant organizations and their main operational focus include:

- CBM – Overseas disability charity; (disability inclusion);
- Aawaaj (NGO working against discrimination against women and children in midwestern Nepal, has an office in Surkhet, works in Surkhet and Dailekh);
- SAC, Social Awareness Center (NGO dedicated to uphold the rights of marginalized and excluded communities);
- Feminist Dalit Organisation;
- Women For Human Rights, single women's group (works against discrimination based on marital status, e.g., widows in Nepal are extremely vulnerable)
- Justice and Rights Institute, JuRI (UN Women worked 'through' JuRI for all activities on disabilities)
- National Federation of the disabled NFDN (to come in contact with grass-root and community-based groups supporting PWDs)
- CAD, Collaborative Action for Dignity - Jumla member-based organisation advocating for increased access to services/strengthening democracy, has e.g., organised awareness training on menstruation, campaigned against chhaupadi and GBV, works in Jumla, Mugu, Kalikot, Dolpa, Humla).

Additional projects relevant to the SUSWA activities are:

- PLGSP – the Provincial and Local Government Support Programme, implemented by MoFAGA, facilitates the self-assessment of capacities in Municipalities; guidelines include the assessment of WASH sector regulatory capacity;
- USAID-funded Nepal Health System Strengthening (HSS) Program is supporting Municipalities in preparing health and sanitation policies and working with community-based volunteers' networks to raise awareness on health and sanitation-related topics;
- LPED-GRAPE, Local and Provincial Economic Development – Green Resilient Agricultural Productive Ecosystems implements, among other activities, small irrigation systems and community training on agriculture. SUSWA will collaborate by constructing MUS systems while GRAPE will foster the livelihood component in selected communities;
- Nepal Climate Change Support Programme Phase 2 (NCCSP2), led by the Ministry of Forests and Environment and supported by DFID to foster climate change adaptation among the most vulnerable communities in Nepal, and is working in several of the SUSWA partner Municipalities. SUSWA will harmonize approaches at municipal level in planning and monitoring adaptation interventions and will seek complementarity in community-based infrastructure financing.

iDE, International Development Enterprises, and NEWAH, Nepal Water for Health, have been added as sub-contractor of the TA and will support the PSU in the following fields:

- iDE have experience from more than 500 MUSs in Nepal, including in Karnali, and piloted sanitation market in the Terai region; iDE will conduct feasibility studies and pilot MUS and sanitation market activities to adapt and replicate best practices in Karnali;
- NEWAH has comprehensive experience in supporting WSUCs and training Municipalities in WASH and Water Safety planning, and TAP (specifically social auditing); NEWAH will support the SUSWA introduction to Municipal teams and WASH plan preparation; the scope is to facilitate Municipalities to comply with eligibility criteria and being able to quickly join the project.

At national level, SUSWA needs to closely coordinate with other WASH sector actors and be active in sector dialogue, exchanging experiences and, when possible, participating in the formulation of different WASH sector policies and guidelines. There is a Donor Coordination Group in WASH sector, which is the platform to ensure smooth information flows and timely exchange of information, experiences, and plans. The Embassy of Finland participates in the Donor Coordination Group and is the link between the projects and the forum.

The Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit (SEIU) was established in 2009 within the Ministry of Water Supply. It is responsible for promoting sector coordination, policy development, information

management and communication, and for provision guidance and information on water supply and sanitation programmes of GoN. It is a unit of the Water and Environment Division of MoWS. SEIU has been inactive for some time. MoWS has interest to re-activate the unit. The second Joint Sector Review (JSR2) was undertaken held in 2014. There is need to organise the next review soon. The administrative reform has drawn GoN's main attention in recent years, which seems to be the main reason for postponed joint reviews.

In Karnali, the PSU has mapped 5 stakeholders that are implementing WASH Projects and have already committed resources in 37 Palikas (USAID, WB, FCDO, FWSSMP, Helvetas); their area of intervention is listed in the table below.

**Table 11 Area of intervention of main WASH stakeholders in Karnali Province**

S. N.	District	Municipalities/RMs	Supporting agencies
1	Mugu	Chayanath Rara Municipality	KAWAS, BHAKARI
2	Mugu	Soru Rural Municipality	KAWAS, BHAKARI
3	Mugu	Khatyad Rural Municipality	KAWAS, BHAKARI
4	Jumla	Tila Rural Municipality	KAWAS, BHAKARI
5	Kalikot	Narharinath Rural Municipality	KAWAS, BHAKARI, Helvetas, PLAN
6	Kalikot	Khadachakra Municipality	KAWAS, BHAKARI, Helvetas, UNICEF
7	Kalikot	Tilagufa Municipality	KAWAS, BHAKARI
8	Kalikot	Mahavai Municipality	KAWAS, BHAKARI
9	Kalikot	Kalika Rural Municipality	KAWAS, BHAKARI, Helvetas
10	Dailekh	Bhairawi Rural Municipality	KAWAS, RVWRMP, BHAKARI
11	Dailekh	Thatikandh Rural Municipality	KAWAS, RVWRMP, BHAKARI, SNV (Functionality)
12	Dailekh	Aathbis Municipality	KAWAS, BHAKARI
13	Dailekh	Chamunda Bindrasaini Municipality	KAWAS, BHAKARI
14	Dailekh	Dullu Municipality	KAWAS, BHAKARI, Helvetas
15	Surkhet	Barahatal Rural Municipality	KAWAS, WASH Alience, BHAKARI
16	Surkhet	Panchapuri Municipality	KAWAS, BHAKARI
17	Kalikot	Raskot Municipality	Helvetas, UNICEF, PLAN
18	Kalikot	Sanni Tribeni Rural Municipality	Helvetas, PLAN
19	Dailekh	Mahabu Rural Municipality	Helvetas, SNV (Functionality)
20	Dailekh	Dungweshwor Rural Municipality	Helvetas, SNV (Functionality)
21	Dailekh	Narayan Municipality	Helvetas, UNICEF, PLAN
22	Jajarkot	Barekot Rural Municipality	Helvetas
23	Jajarkot	Kuse Rural Municipality	Helvetas
24	Jajarkot	Chedagadh Municipality	Helvetas
25	Jajarkot	Shivalaya Rural Municipality	Helvetas
26	Surkhet	Simta Rural Municipality	Helvetas, UNICEF
27	Surkhet	Chingad Rural Municipality	Helvetas
28	Surkhet	Lekhesi Municipality	Helvetas
29	Surkhet	Bheriganga Municipality	Helvetas, WASH Alliance
30	Jumla	Chandannath Municipality	Federal GoN Project, UNICEF, SNV (Urban sanitation),
31	Jumla	Guthichaur Rural Municipality	Federal GoN Project, UNICEF, SNV (Urban sanitation),
32	Jumla	Tatopani Rural Municipality	Federal GoN Project, UNICEF, SNV (Urban sanitation),
33	Rukum West	Musikot Municipality	NCCSP2
34	Rukum West	Banfikot Rural Municipality	NCCSP2

35	Dailekh	Narayan Municipality	NCCSP2
36	Surkhet	Gurvakot Municipality	NCCSP2
37	Surkhet	Birendranagar Municipality	WB/FB, UNICEF, (SNV Urban sanitation)

### 1.8 Rationale vis-à-vis Finnish Policies, Strategies, Value-added and Complementarity

The core goal of Finland's development policy is to eradicate extreme poverty and to reduce poverty and inequality. The realisation of human rights is another key framework and goal in Finland's development policy. The aim is also to strengthen the capacity of individuals and authorities to promote human rights as well as to assure that development cooperation is not discriminatory and people, including persons with disabilities have an opportunity to participate in decision making. Gender equality, non-discrimination with a specific focus on persons with disabilities and climate resilience and low-emission development are crosscutting objectives in Finland's development cooperation. Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA), GEDSI with focus on disability inclusion and climate resilience will be important crosscutting considerations in SUSWA.

Finland has been an active partner in the water sector in Nepal since 1989. The most recent bilateral projects including WASH, supported by Finland, are:

- Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal (RWSSP-WN), Phase II, 2013-2019, phased out in July 2019; and
- Rural Village Water Resources Management Project (RVWRMP), Phase III, 2016-2022 working also in two districts of Karnali Province: Dailekh and Humla; (co-funded by the European Union)

HRBA/GEDSI mainstreaming and specific activities have been well developed and practised in RVWRMP and RWSSP-WN. Related manuals, guidelines, and training curricula of these projects form a good basis for the same in SUSWA. They should be reviewed, modified, and mainstreamed based on lessons learnt from the previous projects as well as baseline study results on unreached population and marginalised groups in SUSWA project area (conducted in the beginning of the project). Non-discrimination of persons with disabilities and climate resilience are crosscutting issues that need further integration and mainstreaming at all levels of municipal and community-based WASH management, planning, and implementation. CCA, DRR and DRM receive increasing attention in Nepal and are integral components of development activities. The CCA/DRR/DRM strategy including background, implementation, and monitoring aspects to address the relevant challenges of Karnali Province will be developed by the TA team.

Finland's development policy is outlined in the Government Report on Development Policy (2016). The policy has five priorities, which SUSWA aims to contribute to as shown in Table 12.

**Table 12 SUSWA's response to the priority areas of the Finnish development policy**

Finland's development policy priority area	SUSWA's response in the priority areas
Strengthening the status and rights of women and girls, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and rights.	Social safeguards assessments and actions; GEDSI/ HRBA as a crosscutting issue with specific activities and mainstreaming; MHM is among key focus areas in SUSWA;
Education, especially the quality of education, participation of persons with disabilities, and gender equality.	Applying the three Star Approach in School WASH; GEDSI balance in training opportunities and recruiting. Social inclusion activities will include a focus on addressing discrimination against persons with disabilities.
Sustainable economy and decent work, especially innovations, the role of women in the economy and female entrepreneurship.	Positive health impacts from improved water service and quality; Businesses benefit from adequate water services and can provide more job opportunities; Entrepreneurs and individual service providers have more opportunities due to outsourcing many functions in WASH development and operations

Peaceful, democratic societies, especially the development of tax systems in developing countries, and support for democracy and the rule of law.	Municipality-led WASH governance will further strengthen local democracy and transparency, and increase ownership/willingness to pay due tariff for water.
Climate change and natural resources, with an emphasis on strengthening adaptation alongside mitigation of climate change; food security and water; meteorology and disaster risk prevention; forests and safeguarding biodiversity.	Increased access to safe affordable water; sustainable use of natural resources through planning and monitoring/ controlling water production, use and conservation.

SUSWA is also in line with the Finnish international water sector policy “Finnish Water Way” (2018), which has a vision of water-secure world by 2030, describing Finland’s commitment to do its part to reach SDG 6 for water supply and sanitation. The Country Strategy for Finland’s Development Cooperation in Nepal 2015-2019 (extended to 2020) also confirms water/WASH as one of the priority sectors of cooperation, HRBA/GEDSI being crosscutting issues in all interventions. WASH will continue to be one of the focus areas also in the new Country Strategy 2021-2024.

Finland supports (2018-2022) UN Women in Nepal to promote women’s economic empowerment and participation in politics, governance, and decision-making structures. The support focuses on monitoring the implementation of legislation, policies, and plans aiming to change practices that are discriminating against women and put an end to harmful practices. SUSWA could utilise gained experience and learnings and see possible synergies with the programme, especially regarding Gender Responsive Budgeting. Similarly, considering SUSWA’s school WASH work, there might be relevant learnings to be captured from the education sector work, which has also been supported by the Government of Finland (GoF). Finland supports the education and WASH components of the UNICEF CPAP (2018-2022) and relevant synergies should be strengthened between the UNICEF and SUSWA.

Several Finnish civil society organisations are active in Nepal and their expertise could be useful for SUSWA; i.e. Abilis Foundation supports people with disabilities to implement their own projects, and it has a country office in Nepal with comprehensive expertise on disability inclusion.

### 1.9 EU Development Cooperation in Nepal

The EU’s assistance to Nepal started in 1977. The EU is the largest donor to Nepal. The current EU development programme, the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) was adopted in 2021. The MIP amounts for the initial period of 2021 to 2024 a total of €290 million and has been aligned with the priorities of the Government’s National Development Plan. The priority sectors include Inclusive Green Growth, Human Capital Development and Good Governance.

The Team Europe Green Recovery Alliance for Nepal envisions Nepal on a trajectory that creates jobs and growth by sustainably developing its natural resources, developing resilience to future shocks and minimizing environmental impacts. In September 2020, the EU with all Development Partners in Nepal developed a compact outlining on mobilizing the required financing to support COVID-19 Relief, Recovery and Resilience through Green Growth. The Government expressed the commitment to prioritize green recovery for Nepal.

European Partners have a joint policy agenda and collective means to support Nepal towards green recovery. The proposed initiative for a Team Europe Green Recovery Alliance for Nepal covers the following sectors; renewable energy; agroforestry/biodiversity; Green Economy; Risk Management and Climate Policy; and Technical & Vocational Education and Training.

## 2. CONTEXT AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

### 2.1 Governance and Institutions

Restructuring is still in process for completing the federalisation within the municipalities. New institutional arrangements and the roles of different stakeholders in the changed federal context have been partially defined by GoN. Hence, SUSWA needs to have flexibility to adjust project structures and approaches to fit new policy provisions and regulations/ decisions, which may emerge.

At this stage, assigning clear functions for the involved bodies and gearing the minds of the personnel thereto is a precondition for sustained WASH services. This calls for revisiting/developing relevant institutions and human resources for the ensured and transparent service provision:

- Water User Associations (WUAs) represented by WUSCs in service provision at the community level, and other community level user groups or committees dealing with WASH;
- municipal bodies and committees representing autonomous local government in planning, budgeting/financing, monitoring and reporting;
- private sector service providers (firms, individuals, NGOs and community based organisations (CBOs)) supporting WUSCs on commercial or voluntary basis;
- district level coordination;
- provincial government and structures as regulators and sources of some funding in WASH sector in the future; and
- federal level policy making, guidance and assistance and contributing to municipal budgets.

Municipalities are autonomous local governments having a wide range of powers and duties, e.g. WASH related matters (Local Government Operation Act 2074). Municipal power includes, among other things the following WASH related matters (Local Government Operation Act 2074):

- municipal and village (ward) councils;
- local taxes and service fees;
- local level development projects;
- drinking water supply;
- conservation of water resources, wild life, mines and minerals;
- basic and secondary level education;
- basic health and sanitation;
- cooperative institutions;
- local roads, village roads, agriculture roads and irrigation;
- disaster management;
- local statistics, and
- operating local FM radio.

All WASH projects within the municipal boundary belong to Municipalities to plan, finance, monitor and construct. Municipalities support WUSCs in operating the schemes. Similarly, municipalities arrange public toilets and organise their management in market places, bus stops, etc. Sanitation and hygiene in primary and secondary schools and basic health stations (posts) are now directly under the municipal umbrella as planning and financial support to institutions come via Municipalities. No organisation can work in a municipality without agreement with the local government. Hence, municipalities will be the main implementer of the SUSWA project.

Within municipalities, the key institutions are the Municipal Councils, the Executive Committee, the WASH Management Committee (WASH-MC), and the Ward offices. The Local Government Operation Act, 2074 Clause 14 gives mandate to municipalities for the formation of WASH Management Committee (WASH-MC). Similarly, Rural/Municipality can formulate the policies to regulate water supply systems for sustainable services according to the clause, 11, sub-clause 2 (Dha) of Local Government Operation Act, 2074.

In the planning phase, WASH-MC will play a central role in developing and updating Municipal WASH Plans, in collaboration with communities and Ward offices. By following the participatory rules of Municipal WASH planning and the “7 steps of local government budget planning/prioritization”



Municipalities will ensure that communities and wards are involved in the decision-making process. Additional efforts will be paid by the SUSWA project to develop WASH-MC capacities to connect and support WUSCs in operating and maintaining the water schemes.

The WASH-MC structure proposed in this document, incorporates learnings from RVWRMP; additional information are provided in part 4.1 (Implementing Agencies and Arrangements) of this document.

In Nepal, the terms “Service Provider” (SP) and “Service Organisation” (SO) are commonly used collectively for individuals, NGOs, cooperatives and companies that support WUSCs/communities. They provide technical support, training, management support and awareness raising, etc. Municipalities should take full advantage of this “private sector” support by linking WUSCs to available local services, knowledge and skills. External service requirements and needs, arrangements, compensation principles, cost sharing and other issues should be considered and established at the municipality level. Municipalities should also enhance the capabilities of SPs/SOs by providing training opportunities to them.

At state level, the powers of provinces are listed in Schedule 6 of the Constitution and further explained in several its articles and clauses. These include, inter alia, the use of forest and waters and management of environment within the state, health services, state universities, education, libraries and museums, state electricity, irrigation and water supply services and operation of banks and financial institutions in accordance with the policies of Nepal Rastra Bank, cooperative institutions, foreign grants and assistance with consent of the centre. The latter indicates that provinces will have an important role in projects supported by donors, but the current one-window policy through the Ministry of Finance (MoF) is strictly practiced by the federal government. Municipal and provincial governments are not allowed to directly negotiate and agree about development funding and projects with donors. However, federal government is not directly involved in the implementation of municipal level development project. MoF provides the funding of the Government of Nepal (GoN) to states and municipalities, based on certain criteria and annual budgets of the local governments. Municipalities and states have also own income/revenue.

Provinces have the mandate to develop WASH policies, acts, and facilitate WASH services at the local level. Provinces provide specific funding and technical support on demand basis to municipalities and have a budget allocation for emergency response and matching fund for water schemes. In Karnali province, WASH mandate falls under the newly created Ministry of Water Resources and Energy Development (MWRED), that plays a central role in coordinating sector stakeholders, ensuring Municipalities develop WASH Plans and are informed about WASH policy and the regulatory framework.

The Provincial WASH Cluster was activated during the Covid-19 preparedness and response in Karnali. The main role of WASH Cluster is to ensure coordination among the WASH stakeholders in the province. The WASH Cluster meetings are chaired by the Secretary of the MWRED, who facilitates provincial WASH plan and profile and WASH sector reviews, as well as monitoring the performance of sector activities (taking into account the GEDSI approach).

SUSWA actively participates to WASH Cluster meetings and coordinates with stakeholders; a preliminary list of topics in 2022 includes:

- Disaster Preparedness Plan of Karnali Province,
- School WASH implementation Procedure,
- WASH IEC Materials,
- WASH Radio Program,
- Orientation on WASH to Newly Elected Local Body,
- ToT Training on N-WASH Application,
- Information sharing on Total Sanitation Program.

Additional topics that can be discussed by the WASH Cluster could include:

- preparation of the regional profile of hygiene and sanitation and strategic Master Plan;

- encouragement of and support to the municipalities in formulation of their Master Plans for hygiene and sanitation;
- support to municipalities in implementation of their hygiene and sanitation programmes;
- monitoring of the performance of hygiene and sanitation activities in the province;
- rewarding and recognition of various individuals/institutions that have made noteworthy contributions to promoting hygiene and sanitation in their communities, as well as recognising them as *sanitation champions*;
- organising seminars and conferences to review the performance of local bodies in sanitation promotion and disseminating good practices;
- organisation of annual WASH sector review workshops;
- linking, coordinating and integrating concerned stakeholders so that they plan, implement, monitor, evaluate and report the outcomes together using agreed procedures and tools;
- establishment and keeping a regional WASH resource centre and data base updated;
- organising regional multi-stakeholder forums to share experiences among partners;
- monitoring of gender sensitive, inclusive sanitation programmes of concerned regional level offices;
- resource mapping and stakeholder analyses for the effectiveness of programmes;
- organising periodic meetings for planning, programming and appraisal of sector activities;
- organising exchange visits for Municipal bodies for better knowledge sharing; and
- carrying out innovative and creative activities as appropriate.

At the federal level, MoWS is the key ministry related to SUSWA. The Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM) under MoWS, with responsibility for planning, implementation, operation, repair and maintenance of water supply and sanitation systems throughout the country is the lead implementing agency of the WASH sector whereas MoWS is the lead executing agency.

DWSSM has established 20 Federal Water Supply and Sewerage Management Project (FWSSMP) offices in the country; two of them in Karnali in the districts of Surkhet and Jumla. The FWSSMP offices have responsibility over water schemes serving communities with a population exceeding 5,000 in the hills, and exceeding 1,000 in the mountains.

The FWSSMP also supports the provincial government in coordination of WASH stakeholders, including:

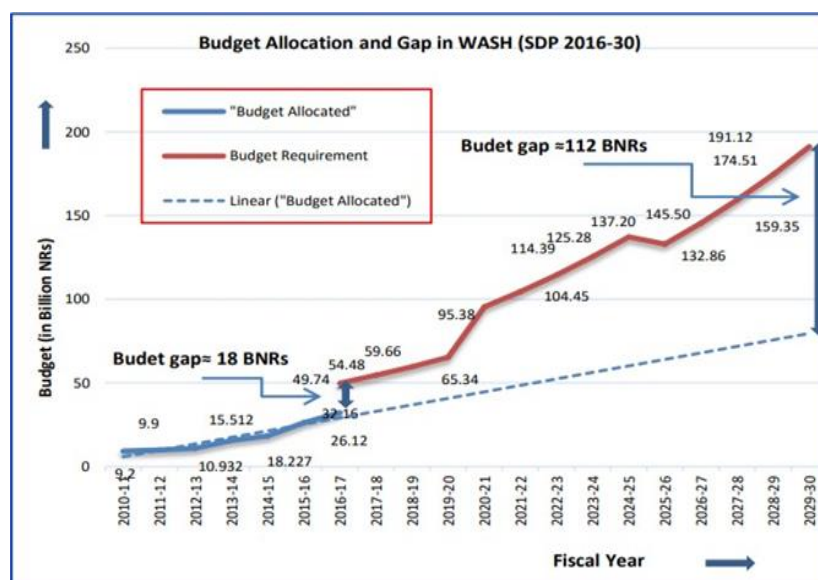
- dissemination of sector policy, strategy, plan etc. to MWRED for further dissemination to the sector actors in provinces,
  - coordination of activities of various actors in the sector at the macro-level to avoid duplication of efforts and waste of resources; and
  - promoting objective criteria for the selection of schemes, based on needs – not on interests.
- Under the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM), the N-WASH Unit provides guidance and assistance to provinces and municipalities on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in compliance with N-WASH standards; the Municipal WASH Plans are uploaded into the N-WASH online system, and Municipalities have login credentials to access and modify data through their own account. N-WASH system provides water supply and sanitation coverage, as well as monitoring of scheme sustainability and achievements in regard to SDGs.

The mandates and roles of the stakeholders are presented in Section 4.

## 2.2 Financial Environment for Operations

SDP recognises a budget gap of 18 billion rupees at the beginning of the plan period (2016/2017), which is projected to expand up to 112 billion rupees by the end of the SDP period. According to an analysis of WaterAid Nepal on WASH financing in Nepal in the fiscal year 2018/2019 (WAN leaflet July 2018), it will take several years beyond the targeted 2020 to have basic level WASH services for all. At the same time, demand for re-investments and functionality improvements increase. It is estimated that 67% of the WASH budget in 2018/2019 goes to the urban sub-sector and only 7% to rural projects. Another 26% of the budget is allocated to projects without clear separation between

rural and urban (WAN 2018). Three mega projects in the Kathmandu valley will use 43% of the budget. The financing gap is illustrated in Figure 2 below.



**Figure 2 Budget estimation and allocation in WASH sector**

As the municipalities and WUSC will be responsible for water service provision according to the legislation and national goals, they need to be also financially capable to operate. This calls for realistic strategic planning for achieving WASH sector SDGs, a routine of annual operational and financial planning and, importantly, adjusted financial allocations from various sources of provinces and the federal government, as well as from collected tariffs that increase gradually, synchronised with the on-going development. Municipalities support community-based WASH schemes—new schemes as well as re-investment, rehabilitation and major repairs. Examples of WASH budgets for the fiscal year 2018/ 2019 in some Karnali municipalities are presented in Table 13.

**Table 13 Examples of WASH budgeting in selected rural municipalities**

Rural Municipality, District	Total budget FY 2018/2019 MNPR	WASH budget FY 2018/2019 MNPR	Share of WASH budget (%)
Sanibheri, Rukum West	384.8	9.29	2.4
Kalimati, Salyan	431.8	10.0	2.3
Barahatal, Surkhet	238.2	8.5	3.6
Thantikandh, Dailekh	225.7	11.0	4.9
Barekot, Jajarkot	147.1	18.5	12.6
Tatopani, Jumla	185.8	10.0	5.4
Chharka Tangsong, Dolpa	161.6	1.95	1.2
Mugumakarmarog, Mugu	220.7	4.6	2.1
Namkha, Humla	195.0	7.5	3.9

WASH represents 1.2–12.6% of the total annual budget, typically between 2% and 5%. Budget figures are relatively low considering the huge needs in the WASH sector in virtually all municipalities. External support, e.g. SUSWA can speed up WASH development and, simultaneously, build municipalities' capacity in organising, managing and financing the sector.

### 2.3 Overview of Gender, Disability and Human Rights in WASH Sector

Nepal is a signatory to the various international human rights conventions and instruments. Human rights were given a high priority in the formulation of Nepal's Constitution in 2015. The Constitution addresses human rights from all aspects of personal freedom and basic rights, e.g., right to equality,

right against untouchability and discrimination, right to practice any religion, language, culture and juridical rights. Rights related to basic human needs such as food, education, housing and employment are acknowledged. It also distinguishes the rights to social justice for all disadvantaged and socially marginalised groups, including e.g. Dalits, women, senior citizens, children, indigenous people and nationalities, minorities, and persons with disabilities.

Nepal started to enforce the National Human Rights Action Plan in 2005/6. The government has prepared the 5-year-long “Fifth National Human Rights Action Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24” in 2020 that will guide the implementation of the Constitutional provisions and those in other laws. This framework aims at improving the situation of human rights in Nepal and has been viewed positively. This framework encompasses 20 different sectors related to human rights, including education, healthcare, human resource development, child rights, minority rights, empowerment principles, human rights awareness, employment, prison reform, transitional justice, institutional strengthening, among others and also indicates the programs that would be undertaken towards improving the human rights situation. Also, as part of the framework, the government has committed itself to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030) in areas of ending hunger, providing food for all, ending gender disparity, providing safe water and sanitation, providing safe housing, and for facilitating equal access to justice. The National Human Rights Commission monitored the implementation of the Human Rights action plan in most of the districts and found some positive results on its implementation. Nepal Human Rights Year Book 2021, published by Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC) concluded that there was little progress towards developing policies and regulations for ensuring the implementation of laws drafted to operationalize the fundamental rights listed in the Constitution and other laws. This led to difficulties in the implementation of fundamental rights provided by the Constitution. The recent 30th edition of the Human Rights Year Book of 2022 mirrors this, highlighting suspicion of political instability, as well as discriminatory policies and laws and a weakening of the accountability of law enforcement agencies, indicating a sense of indifference of the state institutions to protect human rights, especially gender based violence which was a fundamental challenge for human rights protection in 2021.

Essential human right concerning the WASH sector is the United Nations Resolution on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation (2010), Nepal voted in favour of this resolution in 2010; additionally, Nepal’s Constitution (2015) recognizes the right to water under health care (Art. 34 para. 4). Right to water and sanitation gives the normative criteria for WASH sector; availability, accessibility, quality/safety, affordability and acceptability. Nepal has also ratified ‘Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW), which has ‘right to freedom from discrimination against women in rural water especially in the context of rural WASH’.

Nepal enacted the Disabled Protection and Welfare Act in 1982. Following this initiative, series of different legislation Education Act 1992, Child Rights Act 1992, Local Self Governance Act 1999 have particularly addressed disability related issues. Nepal has ratified the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2009 and passed a disability rights act 2017 that has significantly contributed towards the implementation of UNCRPD and disability related constitutional provisions. Although Nepal has ratified the CRPD, and although the Constitution prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities, multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination are common. Persons with disabilities continue to face numerous barriers in their communities: they lack of access to services such as education, health, employment and WASH, and they are underrepresented in decision-making and political participation.

### ***2.3.1 Human rights-based approach and gender equality, disability and social inclusion in SUSWA***

Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) is a conceptual framework for the process of human development normatively based on international human rights standards and principles and operationally directed to promoting and protecting human rights. It seeks to analyse inequalities and redress discriminatory practices and unjust distributions of power that impede development progress. It identifies right-holders and their entitlements, corresponding duty-bearers and their obligations, and works towards strengthening the capacities of rights-holders to make their claims and duty-bearers to meet their obligations. In HRBA, both the realisation of the rights and the process of implementation are equally important. The normative human rights standards give the minimum

acceptable level of a desirable outcome. The human rights principles (such as non-discrimination, participation, empowerment and accountability), in turn, give the criteria for an acceptable process.

The HRBA principles like universality, non-discrimination and equality, participation, and empowerment create enabling environment for all to be involved in maintaining the WASH services. In addition, it is important to promote productive use of water and sanitation complementing family income for operation and maintenance, as well as synergy building with other on-going WASH sector projects for amplifying resources and ensuring new learning.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, GESI can be seen as part of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to programming in Nepal that recognizes the diversity of people and focuses on identifying harmful social norms, stigma and discrimination and addresses barriers in a way that ensures equal participation in decision-making and realization of human rights in the provision of WASH facilities and services.

The discussions on GESI have long roots in Nepal, with an emphasis on the importance of gender equality and social inclusion in the realisation of human rights. Nepal has voted in favour of various international human rights conventions and instruments. Human rights were given a high priority in the formulation of Nepal's Constitution in 2015. The Constitution addresses human rights from all aspects of personal freedom and basic rights, e.g., right to equality, right against untouchability and discrimination, right to practice any religion, language, culture and juridical rights. Rights related to basic human needs such as food, education, housing, employment as well as WASH are acknowledged. It also distinguishes the rights to social justice for all disadvantaged and socially marginalized groups, including e.g. Dalits, women, senior citizens, children, indigenous people and nationalities, minorities, and persons with disabilities.

Nepal has also voted in favour of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the 'Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW)', which includes 'right to freedom from discrimination against women in rural water especially in the context of rural WASH'.

A Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion, GEDSI, approach supports the promise of inclusive state envisioned in the Constitution of Nepal and is essential in achieving the SDGs, where a central principle is "leave no-one behind". GEDSI in WASH entails gender, caste/ethnic groups, poverty and remoteness as well as functional capacity/disability of the people. Social equality, child-gender-disability (CGD) friendly facilities, dignified menstruation management and financial feasibility are key issues in WASH regarding GEDSI. WASH services need to move beyond technical solutions towards a more GEDSI oriented approach that considers existing unequal power relations between men and women, including between persons with and without disabilities and between social groups. It is important to follow up on how these inequalities influence access to resources and participation in decision-making processes.

Mainstreaming GEDSI in SUSWA requires a systematic analysis of power relations between genders, persons with and without disabilities, and Dalit and other cast people as an example and the intersectionality of these different systems of oppression. It means a systematic commitment to promote equal participation, decision-making roles and access to services in all actions of SUSWA. It also requires, at minimum, a systematic collection and use of sex and disability disaggregated data (disability disaggregation shall be carried out by using the best available methodology – the Washington Group Short set of questions).

GESI is considered in various policies, strategies, and action plans at the national level, for instance in Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Operational Guidelines by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) in 2013. The objective of these guidelines is "to ensure that a gender and social inclusion responsive approach is adopted in MoUD and monitored accordingly. It also wants to ensure that GESI issues are addressed and institutionalised throughout the whole project life cycle in all infrastructure-based project interventions. There are guidelines for mainstreaming GESI in different sectors: institutional level arrangements, project cycle steps, WASH and in the building, construction, housing and urban development (BCHUD) sector. The Ministry of Women, Children

and Senior Citizens has developed a Gender Equality Policy that will be applicable throughout the country. Due to the federal structure and the new Constitution, several policies on GEDSI/HRBA are being developed both at local and central levels and they are taken into account in SUSWA.

It is essential that SUSWA will integrate HRBA/GEDSI strategies and action plans in all plans and manuals as well as in the manual for step-by-step process for water supply schemes for ensuring systematic, inclusive planning and implementation processes at local levels. The integrated strategies, action plans, and manual(s) should be based besides on the existing materials and lessons learnt of the RWSSP-WN and RVWRMP, also on baseline study results on unreached population and marginalised groups in the project area (conducted in the inception period) as well as on the fact that SUSWA's focus is slightly different compared to the previous projects. During the inception period SUSWA prepared a desk review covering gender, social inclusion and disability for developing a Nepal and Karnali specific strategy for addressing inequality and exclusion in project implementation. During the implementation of SUSWA, further studies analysing the norms and root causes of discriminatory practices will be conducted to monitor progress towards transformative change. Through implementation and adoption of the strategy, an environment, in which all community members including women, disadvantaged castes, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and other socially excluded have equitable opportunities to pursue their right to water and sanitation can be created. SUSWA must also integrate HRBA/GEDSI in the local government's planning cycle by ensuring inclusive planning at all levels. Similarly, advocacy and all types of awareness raising to change attitudes and behaviour are continuously necessary.

SUSWA will focus on strengthening the human rights/social model of disability, which stresses the role of duty bearers and authorities to take measures to remove all barriers (physical, social communication related) to ensure that persons with disabilities, including from rural areas and indigenous or Dalit backgrounds have access to human rights and basic services as well as equal participation. For the purposes of SUSWA, the project adopts a functional capacity approach by which it can approach the concept of disability by identifying persons that have serious limitations in their physical and sensory or self-care related functioning capacity using the Washington Group questionnaire.

The shifting focus from building new schemes to repair/rehabilitation/reconstruction can bring different challenges when considering social inclusion. Attention should also be paid on climate change, gender, and marginalised groups nexus, e.g., how climate change will affect quality, functionality and sustainability of WASH and what implications it can have on women and marginalised groups. The intersectionality of gender, disability and caste must be considered by SUSWA throughout implementation, e.g., by providing clear guidelines for inclusion in project manuals. Continuous advocacy and all types of awareness raising to change attitudes and behaviour related to social inclusion issues are also necessary. The checklist in Annex 3 describes the incorporation of human rights in this Project Document.

#### **2.4 Detailed Stakeholder Analysis**

Water supply and sanitation services are considered as basic human rights. WASH services must be available, accessible, adequate, safe, and affordable. Thus, the key right-holders in the SUSWA-project context are people and their households (women, men, girls and boys, including persons with disabilities), civil society organisations representing various interest groups of people (NGOs, CBOs, Youth Clubs, organisations of persons with disabilities etc.), institutions such as schools, hospitals and government offices, and commercial consumers (businesses, industries).

Groups in marginalized and vulnerable position shall be identified in each municipality and community where SUSWA works. In general, women and girls, Dalits and Janajati ethnic groups and persons with disabilities belong to such vulnerable groups. Poverty, disability and remoteness of the people make them vulnerable irrespective of gender or social status/ "cast" or ability. Social equality, child, gender and disability friendly facilities, and ensuring dignified menstruation are the key issues in addressing the needs of persons in vulnerable positions. Alarming, girls, burdened by household chores and societal restrictions, are at a high risk of dropping out of school before even completing primary education. In addition to weaker position of women and girls, serious

inequalities in human rights materialisation still exist, e.g., for ethnicity/ cast, religion, language and remoteness. This is true not only between individuals, but also between communities and regions/ areas. Water and sanitation services vary significantly according to the wealth quintile, ethnicity, and level of education.

The key duty-bearers in municipalities are the municipal councils. Municipalities as autonomous local governments have a wide range of powers and duties, e.g. WASH related matters (Local Government Operation Act 2074). Municipal councils hold the decision-making power, responsibility for long-term planning and funding of WASH development and operations. In addition to municipal councils, WASH or water resources committees (such as the WASH-MC proposed in this document, and the Water Boards as implemented in RVWRMP III) have an important role in bringing up the voice of local population and coordinating between clusters in development planning and implementation. The key institutions are Municipality, Ward and the Water Users' and Sanitation Committees (WUSCs), nominated/elected by the members of the concerned Water User Associations, who have operational responsibilities over service delivery.

In the bottom-up approach, the lowest level of duty Water and Sanitation bearers—who are simultaneously rights holders—are Water User Associations (WUAs). According to the National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy (2014), WUSC is a legal entity registered with the local authorities as per the Water Resource Act. It is responsible for the operation and management of WASH facilities but ownership of the assets lies with rural municipality. At local level Municipal Water Resources Committee (MWRC) maintains a water scheme register, develops and facilitates water by-laws and policy at the local level. Some municipalities have started their operation.

Other stakeholders include provincial and federal level relevant ministries and authorities, development partners/donors, and private sector service providers. Main rights and responsibilities, benefits gained, and roles/action needed from all right holders, duty bearers and other stakeholders are summarised in Annex 5.

### **3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

#### **3.1 Project Overview**

##### ***3.1.1 Project Rationale***

In the global policy setting, such as Agenda 2030 and SDGs, and SDP 2016-2030, aspects related to water quality, sustainability and functionality are becoming increasingly important in WASH. In Nepal, reinvestment in WASH structures has already begun. Alongside with attending the remaining about 10% unreached of population, major repair or rehabilitation of deteriorating schemes is required as well as due allocation of funds for O&M – currently largely neglected. The main challenge of the new federal set-up is the low capacity of local level decision makers to plan, budget and monitor WASH schemes, due to shortage of competent professional human resources. Most of the administrative and technical positions at the local level are fulfilled; however, some municipalities are managing their financial matters either with reduced number of staffs or responsibilities are shared with other municipalities. Local governments have sufficient budget funds available and there are funding mechanisms at the provincial and federal levels to support schemes on demand basis (so called matching funds). Local governments are able and keen to attract projects with professional staffing to assist in mobilising own resources and improving services to people. Support and assistance are needed to establish a functional institutional structure with competent personnel at the municipal level and below.

RWSSP-WN II and RVWRMP III were working through and with the newly established municipalities. Experience has been encouraging. As a result, local governments' contribution has drastically increased and often exceeds the contribution requested by these projects. The key elements of the modality are Municipal WASH Fund (MWF) and WASH units established to enable the implementation and operation of municipal level "sub-projects".

SUSWA will follow the community-based approach and logic practiced in RWSSP-WN II and RVWRMP III but shifting the focus from construction of new schemes to re-investment and functionality of existing systems. Details of the working modality, including guidelines and manuals, of these two projects are well documented and shall form the basis for SUSWA implementation. Nepal's federal system is progressing and many issues may arise prior to the start of SUSWA, and during implementation, including the inception period. Therefore, it is mandatory to closely follow the transition and aligning the Project with all latest policies, rules and regulations.

The Project targets to support establishment of efficient and transparent WASH governance at municipal level that would be capable to ensure safe, sustainable, inclusive WASH services and conditions for all. The municipal level must internalise the concept of life-time services (and cost) of schemes. The principles of life-time management shall also be rooted at the community/WUSC level. Attainment of this target is the main key to the long-term sustainability.

SUSWA shall seek a role of an active partner within the WASH sector, regarding the development and consolidation of an enabling environment for WASH governance and implementation. This means regular interaction with sector partners, exchange of experience and lessons learnt, participating sector events, such as JRSs, and supporting relevant WASH sector research/ studies.

The Project will work in the WASH sector. As such, it also deals with environment and climate change, water resources, overall water sector development, social and economic development and GEDSI/ human rights. SUSWA aims to strengthen good governance of WASH services at the municipal and community levels and extend support for sector development and enabling environment as applicable. Municipalities, rural and urban, are solely responsible for ensuring access to safe drinking water to all, at affordable price. Similarly, they are responsible for healthy living environment within their boundaries, i.e. sanitation and hygiene among many other things.

### **3.1.2 Geographical Scope and Duration**

Karnali is a particularly challenging working area and, thus, suitable for joint efforts of GoN and GoF because of:

- having more functionality problems of water supply systems than other provinces;
- requiring specific attention to improve the situation of women and girls due to deeply rooted discriminatory cultures (including chhaupadi practise), and
- disadvantaged groups (DAGs) – in particular Dalits and Janajati – constituting a relatively large portion of population, requiring their rights and participations being ensured.

The needs of water supply development In Karnali are huge. As estimated in Section 1.5.1, at least 194,000 rural people are without water supply (either unreached or because relying to non-functional water facility), 273,000 people are covered by water schemes that need repair and 214,000 people by water schemes that should be improved from basic to the medium level of water service.

During the inception phase the TA collected the average costs from similar projects and areas in 2021, and calculated the following per capita cost estimates:

**Table 14 Estimated costs in Upper Karnali and remote areas (in EUR) in 2022:**

	Cost per beneficiary	Total investment estimated to have 100% population coverage and 100% functionality restored
Minor repair of partially functioning water schemes and water quality improvement	36 EUR	€9,957,800
Major repairs and rehabilitations of not-functioning water schemes with distribution points on premises	80 EUR	€3,233,416
New water schemes with distribution points on premises	108 EUR	€16,581,355



Assuming that both, demand from communities and national standards would require that SUSWA provides water distribution points on premises in new water schemes as well as in rehabilitations/extensions of existing non-functioning water schemes, the estimated needs would require an investment estimated of around 30 MEUR.

Moreover, it is likely that reaching the unreached is increasingly expensive, deterioration of schemes will continue (in spite of efforts to improve O&M), and raising the service level from basic to the SDG 6.1 level (universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all) will substantially add to the unit cost.

Priority interventions aligned to the project outcome statement and targets in outcome area 2, and consistent with SUSWA budget, will allow to cover 100% of the major repair and rehabilitations, 78% of the minor repairs and water quality improvements, and 6% of the new water schemes. The situation is summarized in the table below:

**Table 15 SUSWA water targets and budget estimation (infrastructures only):**

	Estimated need (# people)	SUSWA target beneficiaries (and % of need covered)	Total budget estimated
Minor repair of partially functioning water schemes and water quality improvement	272,989	212,276 (78%)	€7,743,164
Major repairs and rehabilitations of not-functioning water schemes with distribution points on premises	40,224	40,224 (100%)	€3,233,416
New water schemes with distribution points on premises	153,926	10,000 (6%)	€1,077,231
Total estimated		262,500 (56%)	€12,053,811

This estimation would allow SUSWA to cover 56% of the population unserved or served by water schemes that are not properly functioning in the 42 Municipalities. Both rural and urban municipalities may be selected. For the first fiscal year, 8/10 municipalities will be selected. Based on the experience and lessons, 12 new municipalities will be selected in years 2 and in 3; the last 8 Municipalities in the project area will be covered in year 4.

The selection of working municipalities will be based on criteria that address the socio-economic factors, including poverty situation, proportion of marginalised groups of the population, gender and other social inclusion issues, water supply coverage and functionality, and – importantly, municipality's commitment to provision of financial inputs and other resources required for the project. An additional basic requirement is that the municipality is able to use the Sub-national Treasury Regulatory Application (SUTRA), GoN's accounting software for financial management in all aspects: allocation, booking, budgeting, etc. – also ensuring zero tolerance for fraud and financial mismanagement. It is important to avoid overlapping with other interventions (possibly applying different delivery modalities) in the same area and, to the extent possible, have clustered municipalities for cost-efficiency.

SUSWA is a human rights progressive bilateral project building on and continuing the WASH sector cooperation of GoN and GoF. SUSWA will be implemented in Karnali province through a period of five and half years (66 months) and following the fiscal calendar of Nepal. In the beginning, the Project will have an inception period that covers the first six months of the Project. Decisions of possible phasing-out or follow phase will be made in the course of implementation, depending on the success of the Project, findings of the mid-term evaluation (MTE), and availability of funding. MTE will have to provide an assessment on the water targets for each category of Table 16 to adjust the targets for the remaining project period based on the real data on per capita cost, budget availability, M-WASH plans and other additional information.

### 3.1.3 Technical Scope

SUSWA will focus on strengthening the municipalities' WASH institutions, human resources capacity, providing training and management tools, improving the water supply structures and upgrading/equipping the operation and maintenance function for an effective and efficient water service provision taking into account risks caused by climate change.

At the community level, tested technologies will be applied depending on the local conditions. SUSWA will focus on functionality improvement and/or reinvestment in gravity schemes and lift-schemes, particularly focusing on water quality and climate change related issues, O&M, Water Safety Planning and post-construction support (life-time O&M). Regarding new schemes, investments will prioritize the most isolated of the unreached communities.

The current GoN policy "one household one tap" will be followed in new schemes as well as in currently non-functioning water schemes. Exception to this norm is allowed only if sufficient yield of water is not available at the old and potential new sources. It has been noticed in many studies that one of the main functionality problems is uncontrolled private taps built afterwards without proper design or consent within the community.

Design improvements shall be done in close coordination with relevant GoN agencies and DPs. The designs should address also the accessibility for children and persons with disabilities. Disaster resilient structures/systems in water supply shall be further developed. This concerns both the water supply structures from the intake to the taps and the source catchment area. Catchment protection – when found necessary during planning/design – shall be part of the scheme design and implementation and not left to be done later. Spring recharge activities will be included in the designs where appropriate as well as the multiple use systems (MUS) to enable the use of water for both drinking and productive purposes when increasing the overall sustainability and climate resilience of the schemes.

A key instrument to be applied when developing new schemes as well as for ensuring the sustainability of existing schemes is extended Water Safety Plan (WSP+++). The WSP+++ concept supplements the conventional Water Safety Plan (WSP) by also addressing climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (+), O&M and water fee collection (++) and inclusion (+++). Hence, in addition to ensuring technical sustainability, WSP+++ also ensures that the voice of weaker members of the society is heard and their WASH needs and rights are considered in the WASH planning process and scheme O&M.

SUSWA will follow the national "Three Star" model for achieving and measuring the WASH improvements in schools. Each star is composed of a set of indicators that need to be achieved before a next star can be obtained. The School Sector Development Plan (2016 – 2023) of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has a School WASH strategy and procedure under health and nutrition components to "Improve WASH behaviour and infrastructure, including gender and disability friendly facilities in schools to improve health and nutrition outcomes." SUSWA will coordinate and share learnings with other actors working in the school WASH in Karnali. In terms of the WASH in health centers and other institutions, SUSWA will apply the child-gender-disability friendly approach. Dignified menstruation will be integrated into all institutional WASH activities.

The National Sanitation Master plan aimed to achieve ODF in communities with permanent hygienic toilets. The double-pit toilet is the recommended type as it will not create faecal sludge problem by a pit filled up. Many people have, without subsidies and to save money, built only a single-pit toilet. Even some NGOs have supported this idea with an intention "to build the second pit later". The main structural designs of toilets recommended to the households and institutions should be revised to be more earthquake-resilient.

Further consideration is needed in waste management, such as faecal sludge and solid waste from institutional and public toilets. This is both a technical and management issue. SUSWA will pilot feasible solutions in this regard; especially upgrading of single-pit toilets to double-pit toilets will be piloted.

SDG indicators measure safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water. Therefore, SUSWA will address the technical and behavioural issues around the safely managed sanitation services and hand washing in both private and public contexts to support achievement of SDG targets and progress towards total sanitation.

## 3.2 Results and Key Strategies

### 3.2.1 Project Impact, Outcome and Theory of Change

The impact statement of SUSWA is: *“Improved well-being and inclusive communities with sustainable WASH services and behaviours through local governments’ improved capacity to achieve equal rights to WASH for all.”* The desired impact of the project focuses on a holistic and inclusive well-being of the community. Holistic well being is envisioned in a community where the local governments can provide quality services to all people in a democratic and inclusive manner. Good hygiene and sanitation behaviours promote health and overall well-being, free from discrimination and taboos. The people are empowered and aware of their rights and discriminating cultural practices are reduced. This is verified through the following indicators:

- The local governance performance index
- Gender inequality index of the HDI
- Incidence of diarrhoea in under-5 children reduced
- Neonatal mortality rate
- Verified change of living conditions among the population of the project municipalities regarding the implemented human rights and inclusion to the development of all community members, and women, girls and disadvantaged groups in particular

The Outcome statement is: *“People supported by the Project Municipalities have improved and equitable access to safe and sustainable drinking water and adequate sanitation services, dignified menstruation and improved hygiene practices paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations”*. The project envisions that the Project Municipalities can provide safely managed drinking water services, increasing also the basic water supply coverage from partially and non- functioning infrastructures. The Municipalities also provide safely managed sanitation services paying special attention to women’s needs. The following main indicators will measure the outcome:

- Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
- Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a handwashing facility with soap and water
- Capacity level of municipalities for achieving the WASH SDG targets.

The achievement of the expected outcome and impacts is built on three outcome areas:

OA1 Strengthened enabling environment and governance for sustainable WASH services and GEDSI in Project Municipalities

OA2 Climate resilient, safe and functional water supply in Project Municipalities

OA3 Sustainable S&H and dignified menstruation management

A description of the theory of change from outputs to the impact is presented in the form of a results framework in Annex 1. Human rights, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), DRR and climate resilience are cross-cutting issues and mainstreamed in all result areas. The result areas are described below together with the underlying logic for contribution to the stated outcome and impact.

The municipality specific results will be achieved in the Project Municipalities to be selected. The baseline situation will, therefore, be left to be surveyed and assessed during the inception period. Similarly, the numerical targets of many indicators can only be set after having the baseline analysed. The targets related to the outcome statement have been defined in percentages, consistently with the relevant national SDG targets for the year 2025. The target values will be further developed once more detailed baseline data is available. All relevant data shall be disaggregated by gender, cast,

disability and other relevant aspects. The baseline study analysing the situation of unreached population and marginalised groups will provide important knowledge on the relevant disaggregation of data in the project Municipalities. During the inception period the results framework and its indicators as well as targets have been revised as required considering the EU funding option and increased focus on climate resilient water resources management.

### **3.2.2 Outcome Area 1: Strengthened enabling environment and governance for sustainable WASH services and GEDSI in Project Municipalities**

**Outcome area 1** focuses on development of the capacity of the selected Municipalities in the WASH sector towards the achievement of relevant SDGs. Through its outputs the enabling environment for sustainable WASH services will be improved and municipalities will be made able to manage the WASH sector and provide support to WUSCs/WUAs in maintaining the functionality and sustainability potential: ensuring safe water quality, climate change resilience and disaster risk reduction, proper O&M, adequate water fee collection and inclusion of all people. The outcome area also focuses on inclusive governance with gender friendly budgeting.

**Output 1.1** (*the Project Municipalities are able to mobilise and direct human and financial resources to support WUSCs in provision of equitable, safe and affordable drinking water; and able to facilitate access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene*) has five indicators that reflect different aspects of the institutional and operational capacity and its quality:

- percentage of filled posts versus positions in WASH organizational structures
- percentage of implemented schemes versus WASH implementation plans
- percentage of requests/queries of WUSCs/WUAs responded to
- stakeholder satisfaction; and
- number of municipalities having incorporated Municipal WASH Units (M-WASH-Units) into permanent organizations

It is necessary to strengthen the municipalities' capacity to implement, maintain and further be able to achieve the SDG targets. SUSWA will closely work with the newly elected representatives and executive officers to facilitate and train them on the sustainable WASH governance. The WASH Unit is the key entity to ensure effective WASH implementation. The commitment of the municipalities is demonstrated by their financial contribution towards achievement of WASH related SDGs.

**Output 1.2** (*Municipal Councils, WASH management committees and WUAs/WUSCs in the Project Municipalities able to manage the WASH sector providing safe and inclusive services in a sustainable manner*) reflects the ability of Municipalities to support maintaining the safety of drinking water and inclusiveness and complementarity of WASH activities. The indicators of Output 1.2 are:

- number of Municipalities being able to perform basic water quality tests
- number of Municipalities having up-to date strategic and inclusive municipality WASH plans approved by relevant authorities
- key positions (chair, vice chair, secretary, joint secretary and treasurer) in UCs of improved water supply schemes in the Project Municipalities are held by women, persons with disabilities and by minority populations

Water quality testing is mandatory before commissioning new water supply schemes. Testing of water supply schemes should focus on observing increased risks of pollution problems, especially at critical points identified in WSP+++. Testing may be less important if there are no major risks identified in WSP+++. Sanitary inspections are among the essential elements of an effective drinking water quality surveillance and control.

Municipality WASH plans will be prepared in the Project Municipalities. The preparation of such plans is going on in various municipalities in Nepal and the information has been collected applying the N-WASH system launched by the Ministry of Water Supply. SUSWA will facilitate the Project municipalities to prepare the municipality WASH plans if not done yet, and these plans will guide the selection of schemes and focus of the activities. The plans will integrate climate resilience aspects.

**Output 1.3** (*up-to-date financial and management and MIS tools in active use in the Project Municipalities*) is an important building block in the capacity of Municipalities to monitor physical progress and expenditure and provide updated data and information on the status of WASH in their respective areas. The indicator of Output 1.3 is:

- number of Municipalities systematically using MIS for WASH information

Municipalities will be improving their WASH data management and SUSWA will facilitate that in the applicable way. Municipality WASH plan is the starting point to update the current status. Suitable and user-friendly digital data collection tools will be promoted as part of the data management process. The updated data on the status of WASH is very important for Municipalities themselves as well as for relevant actors at all levels. The data shall be collected, managed and distributed in a nationally agreed format and using the official WASH MIS system.

Municipalities shall prepare and disseminate financial reports on a regular basis. SUTRA, GoN's accounting software for financial management, is a mandatory tool and will also ensure zero tolerance for fraud and financial mismanagement. In terms of budgeting SUSWA will facilitate the municipalities to plan their annual budget for project supported activities, in order of it to be included in the Line Ministry Budget Information System (LMBIS).

**Output 1.4** (*Project municipalities develop and implement evidence-based gender and disability-responsive laws, plans and budgets*) indicators are:

- number of municipalities with gender responsive budgets
- number of municipalities having a plan for eradication of harmful chhaupadi practice
- number of project municipalities that involve disability organizations in the WASH planning and monitoring

Participation of women, girls, persons with disabilities and other groups in vulnerable positions is crucial to ensure in order to achieve SDGs. Therefore, SUSWA will facilitate municipalities to improve their planning and implementation to consider those groups better. The activities will aim at supporting municipalities to formulate and implement the policies and plans more effectively so that there will be equitable access to services for all.

**Output 1.5** (*Efficient knowledge sharing and linkage building with relevant actors for strengthened enabling environment for sustainable WASH services*). Indicators are:

- Municipalities in Karnali province well informed about WASH sector developments and capacitated to adopt changes.
- Number and type of strategic partnerships and initiatives between the SUSWA supported WASH programme and other actors related to gender, disability, dignified menstruation, CCA, DRR in Karnali province

All Project Municipalities should be aware of relevant policies, regulations, etc., and provided with new manuals, tools, software, etc. published by MoWS/DWSSM and trained to use them). SUSWA will develop essential partnerships with sectorial and other actors. Targets for the specific activities will be set in Annual Work Plans. Ideally, the manuals developed under SUSWA would be adopted and disseminated throughout the country by MoWS.

### **3.2.3 Outcome Area 2: Climate resilient, safe and functional water supply in Project Municipalities**

**Outcome area 2** focuses on physical improvement of water supply in Project Municipalities – in terms of coverage on the one hand and functionality, safety, service quality and sustainability including the climate resilience on the other.

Under **Output 2.1** (*Functionality and safety of drinking water supply improved*) describes the number of people benefitting from improved water supply, people have already been served by improved basic level water supply, which has become non-functional. SUSWA will support to rehabilitate/repair and upgrade water supply to comply with GoN's service level standards as a priority measure to increase the number of people really having adequate and safe water supply. The target is 252 500 people. The indicator of Output 2.1 is:

- number of people served by non-functional schemes made functional and safe (disaggregated by service level, gender, cast, disability)

**Output 2.2** (*Functional and safe drinking water supply extended to unreached people*) extends water supply that complies with GoN's service level standards to the unreached. The target is 10 000 people. The indicator of Output 2.2 is:

- number of people served by new water supply scheme (disaggregated by service level, gender, cast, disability)

The targets above have been derived from the per capita costs and available budget. The stronger emphasis on safety and reliability of water supply in SDG 6.1 as well as the objective to bring water closer to premises will affect the choice of technology. All water resources development and scheme designs will address applicable climate resilience and DRR measures for sustaining water supply in the context of changing climate.

For the implementation the following principles are applied. The Municipalities plan and budget all WASH interventions in their annual budget and manage the fund flows to WUSCs. WUSCs supported by the municipality will implement the infrastructure works. Funds will be channelled to the WUSCs' accounts, and they will undertake procurement of materials and equipment. Necessary technical support will be provided to WUSCs.

While the subject of Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 is clearly construction, rehabilitation and major repair, **Output 2.3** (*Extended Water Safety Plans (WSP+++)* introduced, prepared and implemented) adds the post-construction sustainability including climate resilience in the whole picture, built around WSP+++ — from the plan itself to its monitoring and action. The indicators of Output 2.3 are:

- number of WUSCs having up-to-date WSP+++
- number of schemes monitoring water safety and taking measures if necessary
- number of WUSCs maintaining scheme functionality
- number people trained on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

SUSWA will develop instructions and manuals for the use of WSP+++ as one package in the preparation of new water supply schemes as well as for the adoption of WUSCs to manage existing schemes. The WSP++ documentation of RWSSP-WN can be used to the extent possible.

### **3.2.4 Outcome Area 3: Sustainable S&H and dignified menstruation management**

**Outcome area 3** aims to ensure the sustainability of the ODF status and upgrade sanitation and hygiene to the total sanitation level. SDG emphasises the safely managed sanitation and hand washing. Outcome area 3 covers households as well as institutional sanitation, dignified menstruation, and expands the scope of sanitation to address also faecal sludge management.

In addition to general progress towards total sanitation, **Output 3.1** (*Personal and household sanitation and hygienic behaviours improved*) pays particular attention to women's right to dignified menstruation. The total target is 483.600 people that includes:

**Table 16 SUSWA sanitation and hygiene targets**

	Households	People
Additional permanent/non-shared toilets	19,400	90,300
Additional basic latrines in household practising OD	4,600	21,300
Additional toilets not causing FSM problem or provided with support to proper FSM	103.900	483.600
Additional hand-washing stations	30,600	142,200

The indicators of Output 3.1 are:

- number of people having permanent access to improved sanitation facilities and using them
- number of additional people with access to basic toilets
- number of municipalities with action plan developed, and implemented for achieving total sanitation status
- number of households with handwashing facilities on premises with availability of soap and water
- number of households fulfilling total sanitation criteria

**Output 3.2** (*Institutional such as school, health station, public sanitation facilities and their maintenance improved in the Project Municipalities*) includes both physical improvements, increasing the number of safe facilities and, especially, improving the maintenance and cleanliness and, consequently, consistent use of institutional toilets. The total target is 300 institutions. The indicators of Output 3.2 are:

- number of improved institutional toilets with water supply (disaggregated by the type of institution, CGD friendliness of facilities, and for schools the 3-star approach categories)
- number of institutions having a functional hand washing facility with water and soap

**Output 3.3.** (*Dignified menstruation promoted*) Focuses on menstrual hygiene management and works against harmful chhaupadi practices by promoting dignified menstruation in the Project working area to reduce stigma and remove harmful social and cultural norms on menstruation. Dignified menstruation is part of the institutional sanitation and hygiene. All women and girls should be able to use also for example school toilets during menstruation.

- number of religious and community leaders, youth network representatives and teachers mobilized against harmful chhaupadi practice
- percentage of women using toilets during menstruation
- number of people trained on dignified menstruation management, including sanitary pad making

**Output 3.4** (*Faecal sludge management promoted*) will raise awareness among municipalities to address the implications of simplified toilets that do not produce stabilised faecal sludge. Ideally, the problem could be avoided by double-compartment toilets or latrines, which would decompose the sludge and make it suitable to be used as an organic fertiliser. The indicators of Output 3.3 are:

- on-site faecal sludge management options reviewed, assessed, piloted and introduced to Project Municipalities – target 2-5 feasible options introduced to all Project Municipalities;
- faecal sludge issues incorporated into toilet design and O&M manuals

### 3.3 Risk Assessment and Risk Response

A preliminary risk assessment has been carried out and attached in Annex 2 of this document. The risk assessment is presented in the form of a risk matrix that presents also ways for addressing,

mitigating or eliminating the arising negative impacts. The risk matrix has been revised during the inception period. The major risks are related to:

- slow pace of local capacity development and competence, in particularly difficulties in attracting professional (technical) staff to attract to work at local level; and
- natural disasters (heavy rains, flash floods, flooding, etc.) that have become more frequent in Nepal due to climate change.

Nepal's economy has slowed down significantly and this will have medium- and long-term socio-economic implications in all sectors. SUSWA will contribute to improvement of WASH facilities and hygiene behaviour change thus reducing the risk related to potential future epidemics as well. SUSWA will also consider in its action preparedness for epidemics.

## **4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

### **4.1 Implementing Agencies and Arrangements**

The Competent Authorities of the Project are the Ministry of Finance of Nepal and Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland. The Competent Authorities, both separately have a veto right in the decision-making.

Selected Municipalities are responsible for the planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of the WASH programmes in their area – both SUSWA supported as well as all other WASH activities. Within SUSWA, each Municipality has its own sub-project, jointly funded by GoN, GoF, EU, Municipality and users. The following steps will be taken for this purpose:

- an agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between each partner municipality, SUSWA and DWSSM/FWSSMP will be signed defining roles and responsibilities of each party;
- MWF will be established (a separate ledger of the municipality account) in each partner Municipality;
- a WASH Management Committee (WASH-MC) will be established in each partner Municipality for overall management, coordination and supervision of municipality-wide WASH activities in each partner Municipality. Elaboration of WASH-MC concept is described under 4.1.1.
- a Municipal WASH Unit (M-WASH Unit) will be established in each partner Municipality; elaboration of M-WASH unit concept is described under 4.1.2.

#### **4.1.1 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Management Committee (WASH-MC)**

Sustainability of WASH services should be ensured in the long run. To retain sustainable WASH services, local governments should have strategic and viable management for operation and maintenance (O&M) and management of water supply systems, as well as for implementing Total Sanitation and Dignified Menstruation Management.

As provisioned in the constitution of Nepal and Local Government Operation Act 2017, local governments are responsible for the WASH service delivery to the citizens. To perform this function, local governments need to develop local regulations, institutions and partnerships.

To institutionalize governance in WASH, the project will develop the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Management Committee concept together with Municipalities. The concept will be shaped as the way forward for sustainable management of WASH services. The concept also will result in the formulation of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Management Directive of the Municipalities. The Directive will be formulated based on provision of Local Government Operation Act, 2017.

Key Points of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Management Committee Concept will be:

- WASH Management Committee in the Municipalities



- M-WASH Unit
- Municipality Level Scheme Repair Fund
- Registration and Renewal of WUSCs
- WUSC Network
- Effective operation of M-WASH MIS linking to the N-WASH MIS
- Commitment to SDG

WASH-MC consists of seven members: (1) the Municipality Mayor/Chair, (2) the Municipality Vice Mayor/Vice Chair, (3) Municipality Chief Administrative Officer, (4) Municipality Civil Engineer, (5) M-WASH Unit Chief / WASH Focal Person, (6) Wash Coordinator and (7) a representative of SUSWA. The Municipality Chief Administrative Officer will act as the member secretary of this committee. Municipality will have right to add few more members in the committee as per the local context. The Municipality Council is the ultimate decision-making body above WASH-MC, in all matters related to implementation of the sub-project.

Apart from the above core team members, the WASH-MC may also invite the Chiefs of relevant sections of the municipality e.g., Education, Public Health, Social Development, Women and Children etc. to participate in the WASH-MC meetings.

#### **4.1.2 Municipal WASH Unit (M-WASH unit)**

The M-WASH Units must have at least six staff members that includes as follows:

- 1 WASH Unit Chief/WASH Focal Person
- 2 WASH Coordinator (including post construction support)
- 3 WASH Engineer (as per the need/on sharing basis)
- 4 MIS Officer
- 5 Water Supply and Sanitation Technician/Technical Facilitator (Sub-Engineer)
- 6 WASH Facilitator (DMM, BCC or social background)

Other staff can be hired as needed. M-WASH Unit staff are temporary and paid from MWF in the initial phase of the Project. It is expected that Municipalities will integrate the unit and staff in their regular organisations in the course of the Project implementation.

#### **4.2 Management and Decision-making**

The Supervisory Board (SB) is the highest decision-making body of SUSWA. Its Terms of Reference (TOR) is in Annex 6. SB is chaired by the Secretary of MoWS and its voting members comprise Joint Secretary of the MoWS, Director General of DWSSM (Member Secretary), a representative of MFA (represented by Embassy of Finland) and a representative of EU (represented by EUD). SB has an authority to invite other participants as needed to attend meetings such as the PCO, PSU, municipality or Karnali provincial government representative. SB meetings will be held in English.

Regarding any SB decisions leading to changes in the Project Contract between the Government of Nepal and Government of Finland, the Ministry of Water Supply will involve the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of Nepal in the decision-making process. The Ministry of Finance is the ultimate authority to approve Line Ministry Budget Information System (LMBIS) which reflects the annual project activities and budget and therefore MoF's additional approval for the Project's Annual Work Plan prepared by the TA consultant is not required. Similarly, SB is authorised to approve the Annual Progress Report of the Project prepared by the TA consultant since the Project Municipalities report their financial and physical progress as per the Government of Nepal system. The main duties of the Supervisory Board are:

- approval of major strategic and policy issues directly relevant for the Project;
- approval of any changes in the Project Document including Project scope and objectives, the organisational structure and management as well as any other changes to the Project which will have major financial implications

- SB is authorised to revise and approve the Project budget including any changes between the budget lines, however, only under the total budget ceiling determined in the Project Document; MoWS will involve MoF in the decision making if the contribution of GoF and/or GoN are increased from the agreed contributions as per the Project Contract between the Governments.
- approval of the annual work plans, budgets and annual progress reports
- approval of the Project policies, guidelines and implementation principles developed during the project implementation; and
- any other (policy) decisions which have financial implications.

The main office of SUSWA, comprising the TA team in the Project Support Unit (PSU), will be located in Birendranagar. A project coordination office (PCO) will be appointed by the DWSSM and will report to it.

The PCO's primary duty is to ensure smooth release of GoN funds for the project municipalities and reporting of the use of funds that are released by both Governments to support WASH implementation. PCO shall communicate with the local authorities in relevant matters related to Project implementation, ensuring GoN-led facilitation.

To perform its duties, the PCO has a provision of 0.1 Million Euro budget. Three staff positions under the PCO office will be recruited: one WASH Engineer, one Accountant, and one Computer Operator, for the monitoring and support activities related to SUSWA. Additional funds if required will be provided by GoN to operate the PCO office.

As the head of PSU, CTA will provide support to municipalities in planning, coordination and management of WASH programmes, compile annual work plans and support project municipalities in preparation of their work plans related to the use of funds from GoF and GoN. CTA leads and is responsible for PSU and its international and national experts and support staff as described in Section 6.

The PCO and PSU collaborate to the overall reporting of SUSWA, to prepare Line Ministry Budget Information System (LMBIS) and to facilitate SB meetings.

CTA is also responsible to report to the Government of Finland. Decisions related to the selection of the national Technical Assistance (TA) personnel will be subject to no objection of the Embassy of Finland. CTA will ensure that the Project is smoothly implemented, outputs achieved and funds managed efficiently and effectively in accordance with the Project Document and approved LMBIS, work plans and budgets. The SB can delegate powers to the PCO or to the CTA as necessary and appropriate. The SB shall, however, retain the authority to approve budgets and progress reports.

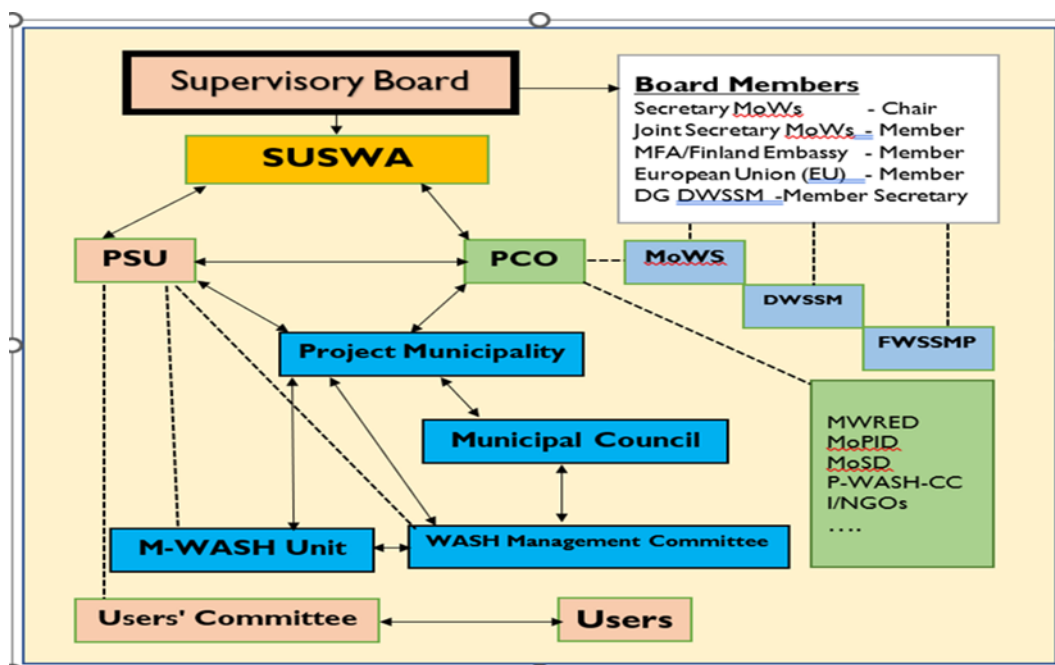
PSU has a Management Team that includes

- Technical Assistance Team Leader/Chief Technical Adviser: Chair,
- PSU Specialist assigned the role of Deputy Team Leader: Member Secretary,
- Chief Administrative and Financial Officer: Member,
- Field Specialist: Member.

Management Team is authorised to:

- initiate and draft TORs for short-term consultants (both national and international);
- select and approve short-term national consultants;
- approve tender documents, assess quotations, and authorize the Team Leader to proceed with TA related procurement, as planned in annual work plan;
- review and approve TORs, manuals and bidding documents for studies and subcontracts to be outsourced and participate in the selection process of service provider(s);
- ensure that the Project is implemented with appropriate coordination and co-operation between the different agencies and stakeholders involved;
- review technical documents of the Project before submission to SB, and provide guidance to the efficient, effective and participatory implementation of the Project; and
- keep the concerned authorities in the Project area informed by reporting on decisions taken.

- any other tasks delegated by Supervisory Board.

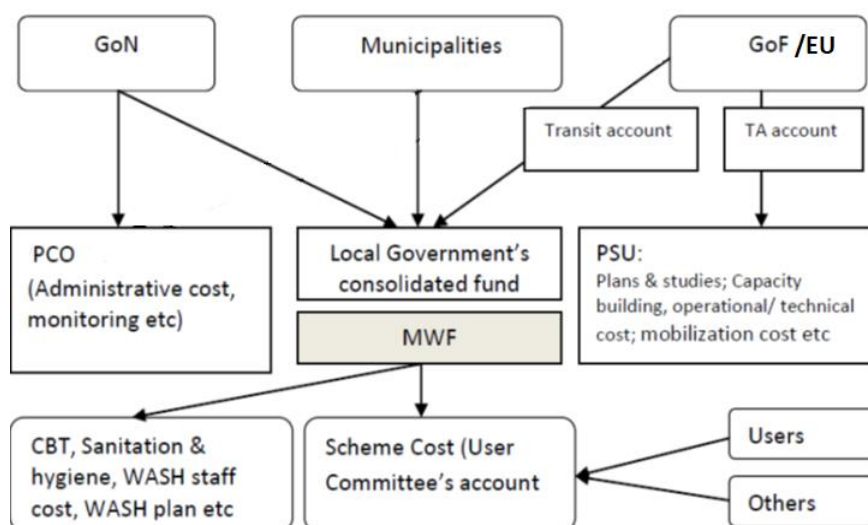


**Figure 3 Institutional setting of SUSWA**

#### 4.3 Budgeting and Financial Management

The sources of funding in SUSWA are EU, GoF, GoN, municipalities and users. Money for annual WASH implementation of the project municipalities will be transferred to Municipality WASH Fund (MWF). In RWSSP-WN and RVWRMP, GoF has sent money directly to MWF via the TA consultant. The same fund flow mechanism as in RWSSP-WN II and RVWRMP III will be used in SUSWA, as illustrated in the following Figure 4. Similarly, MoF transfers the GoN contribution directly to MWF as well as the municipality its contribution. Actually, the money is with the municipal treasury and a separate ledger is maintained in the project municipality's account for MWF. Funds under MWF are for financing of the SUSWA specific annual work plan for the respective municipality. Programme activities that concern various municipalities or strengthening enabling environment for WASH services are planned by the TA team and financed through the TA accounts as per the annual work plan.

Users contribute in cash and kind to the implementation cost as per the project's norms for contributions. During the inception phase the Project will prepare the detailed contribution pattern for its different activities. Different subsidy levels may be suggested for different categories of water supply coverage, service levels and technologies. The GoF contribution not spent within each fiscal year will not be frozen at the end of fiscal year but carried forward to the next fiscal year



**Figure 4 Fund flow mechanism**

Municipalities receive financial resources from the federal government as conditional and unconditional grants. Municipalities have also their own revenues. The annual budgeting frame is controlled by MoF. The annual budget frame for SUSWA will be jointly set in LMBIS by PSU/PCO, DWSSM/MoWS and project municipalities. The annual programmes will be planned within this budget frame, based on long-term WASH plans and annual plans from the ward level. This budget is shown in the Annual Budget of the Government of Nepal (the Red Book) and reflected in the online LMBIS of the Ministry of Finance.

CTA is primarily responsible for budgeting the Government of Finland funds for TA, running costs of PSU/project and for other purposes allocated to come through the TA consultant. The PCO is responsible for budgeting the administrative and running costs to be covered by GoN.

All procurement funded from MWF will follow the GoN rules and regulations for local governments and WUSCs. The major procurement (water supply) will be carried out in a transparent manner at the lowest appropriate level which is the WUSC level, accountable to water user groups. Funds from MWF will be channelled to the WUSCs' accounts, and they will undertake procurement of materials and equipment, collection of local materials, supervision of construction activities etc. The community procurement model of RVWRMP III and RWSSP-WN II will be applied also in SUSWA so that all the scheme related procurements will be carried out by the user committees only. Public audits at the community level are among the key instruments for the transparency and accountability.

Accordingly, monitoring and audits will follow the GoN system. Joint monitoring of MWFs by PSU and PCO will also be carried out regularly in terms of both financial and progress matters.

Procurement using the TA and related funds must follow GoF's rules and are subject to auditing accordingly. Also, the Nepal procurement rules can be applied to the extent possible as long as they do not contradict with the Finnish rules. This matter shall be addressed in the Project Administrative Manual to be prepared in the inception period.

Planning and budgeting of local government follows the Planning and Budgeting Guideline – Local Government Units, Nepal (2017). The planning process will be inclusive/participatory.

In Karnali province, in the new institutional setting, a critical assessment of the financial management capacity is necessary to ensure proper utilisation of the Project funds. A basic requirement is that the municipalities should be able to use SUTRA. Most municipalities do not have dedicated accountants or they have one accountant working for two to three municipalities. There is also a tendency of frequent transfers. In addition, there is a high risk of losing trained staff in remote municipalities. Absence of the regular and trained staff may hamper release of funds, proper financial

management and reporting on time. As part of the WASH governance improvement, the financial management capacity at the local level should be strengthened as applicable, and the TA team should pay specific attention to the financial planning and reporting of the MWF to prevent possible mistakes or misconducts.

#### 4.4 Coordination and Cooperation with Other Actors and Interventions

Municipalities are responsible for planning and coordinating with all other actors within their boundaries. This concerns both federal governments funded programmes and provincial government funded activities as well as I/NGOs and donor supported programmes.

PCO and PSU are jointly responsible for coordination and cooperation at national and provincial levels. Close cooperation with all WASH related GoN agencies and DPs and programmes is required and considered one of the regular Project activities related to the Output 1.5.

According to the strategic actions to be taken as per SDP, the National Water Sanitation and Hygiene Steering Committee (NWASHSC), led by MoWS, shall be reconstituted to integrate water, sanitation and hygiene. Irrespective of the aid modalities used while ensuring a clear institutional accountability, NWASHSC will work in close cooperation with local development, health and education, to provide direction and oversight to WASH development. Likewise, National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee (NWASHCC), led by the Joint Secretary of MoWS, shall be reconstituted to allow for a more comprehensive and engaged planning for better coordination in the sector. The Coordination Committees at the respective local levels will be strengthened to undertake their planning and coordination functions in more effective manner.

SDP has provided new steering and coordination committees at different levels to have an effective coordination mechanism, shown in Table 17.

The areas where P-WASH-CC can support SUSWA include:

- updating the status of water supply services in the province by mapping out various actors supporting water supply and sanitation activities;
- supporting M-WASH-CCs to collect and provide information on the status of water supply and sanitation service coverage in municipalities in collaboration with wards and WUSCs;
- maintain close collaborative linkage with WSSD; and
- facilitating cross-visits of WUA and WUSC members to nearby WASH interventions to share experiences and learn from each other.

**Table 17 Coordination mechanisms in the WASH sector in Nepal:**

LEVEL	NAME	LEAD
National	National Water Sanitation and Hygiene Steering Committee (N WASH SC)	Secretary, MoWS
National	National WASH Coordination Committee (N WASH CC)	Joint-Secretary, MoWS
National	11 Sector Thematic Working Groups aligned to SDP themes	GoN; co-lead Development Partners
Provincial	Provincial WASH Coordination Committee (P WASH CC)	Secretary MWRED; co-lead
District	District WASH Coordination Committee (D WASH CC)	DCC chair
Municipal	M/RM WASH Coordination Committee (M/RM WASH CC)	Mayor/ RM chair
Ward	Ward WASH Coordination Committee (W WASH CC)	Ward chair

## 4.5 Communication and Dissemination

During the inception phase, the Project will develop a budgeted communication plan. The plan will follow the EU communication and visibility guidelines. The overall objectives of communication actions and the national as well as international target groups will be defined. The measures shall be taken to ensure the maximum impact of communication efforts, such as: timely completion of activities, use of accurate information, proper coordination among partners for conducting activities, targeting right audiences with messages of interest; and carrying out activities that are appropriate in terms of resources used, timing and expected impact. Besides, the Project will follow the “Nepal WASH Sector Communication Strategy, 2015” for effective sector dialogue and communication.

All produced materials, conducted events and constructed schemes will be branded with the logos of the funding partners (Government of Nepal, Government of Finland and the EU). Vehicles, supplies and equipment will also feature prominently the donor logos. To increase project visibility, promotion materials like calendars, t-shirts and pens will be produced. All publications, like websites, videos and manuals will be marked with the EU-disclaimer.

The main types of communication, the target audiences, objectives and examples of possible tools are presented in Table 18 (RVWRMP III Project Document).

**Table 18 Communication, target audiences, objectives, tools and indicators**

Type of communication	Target audience	Objective	Tools	Indicators
Public communication and advocacy	International and national stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy influence and coordination</li> <li>Sharing of lessons learnt</li> <li>Positive publicity for cooperation between Finland and Nepal in both countries</li> </ul>	Information and research publications, websites, newspapers, publicised project visits, social media, digital newsletters	Number of published articles, publications etc.
Campaigning towards the Project objectives	Community members, public authorities, political leaders and journalists in the Project districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting empowerment through understanding of HRBA and GESI</li> <li>Raising awareness on CCA and DRR issues</li> <li>Affecting behaviour change (ODF, TBC) and building support to Project activities</li> </ul>	Encouraging newspaper articles on issues by sensitising journalists, producing radio ads/programmes, printed materials (posters, comics), and community activities in connection of festivals etc.	Number of posters, events, radio programmes visuals etc. produced
Knowledge management	Project staff, RMs, DCC, provincial authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoiding loss of gained knowledge</li> <li>Making information easily available to all stakeholders</li> <li>Transferring knowledge from Project to RMs, DCC and provincial authorities in view of phase out</li> </ul>	Developing Project and local government websites, making information publicly available at RMs, establishing management information systems (MISs)	Number of established MISs
Visibility	All stakeholders	Increase of visibility and recognition to the funding agencies	Logos added in all produced materials, production of promotion materials	Number of produced promotion materials

## 4.6 Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation, is one of the SDG targets. Finland

has supported the UN's strategies to prevent and end sexual exploitation and abuse, and has joined the voluntary compact on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA).

SUSWA will develop a policy and a code of conduct (CoC) for the protection from SEA within the Project area in line with the SDG target. The policy and CoC should apply to all SUSWA staff and implementing partners. The SUSWA staff will be personally and collectively responsible for maintaining the standards and expected to act in accordance with the principles and values stated in the policy and CoC. The main actions could include:

- development of policy and CoC concerning protection against sexual exploitation and abuse;
- training of staff and implementing partners on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and the content of the policy and related CoC (including prevention, reporting procedures in case of a breach of the Code);
- development of procedures, which will properly consider and treat with discretion of all reports and concerns as well as develop the procedures for taking necessary actions in case of a breach of the Code; and
- creating and maintaining working environment conducive to upholding the standards in CoC.

## **5. WORK PLAN AND MAIN ACTIVITIES**

The first activities prior to the launch of SUSWA include (i) signing of the inter-governmental agreement on SUSWA; (ii) tendering for the consulting services; (iii) signing of the consultancy contract.

After mobilising the Project, the priority activities include (i) arrangement of the office(s), (ii) introduction of the Project to the province, Municipalities and relevant stakeholders, (iii) procurement of facilities and vehicles; (iv) preparation and approval of the plan for the inception period, Project Implementation Manual, contribution pattern, and other relevant documents; (v) mobilisation of baseline studies and analysis on GEDSI, CCA/DRR, etc. (vi) signing of necessary MoUs. Towards the inception period, the first group of partner Municipalities shall be selected and the first full Annual Work Plan prepared and approved. The length of inception period (six months) is explained by the need to carry out studies before the selection of Municipalities to start with. The first step is to assess how much of required information can be obtained from available data (secondary sources), followed by identification of data gaps and flaws. The lack of WASH knowledge and access to information on local WASH plans and projects can undermine involvement of women, children, and marginalised groups in decision making. There is a need to generate data disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, persons with disabilities and social and economic background.

An indicative work plan for the Project, built on the outputs, is attached in Annex 4. This plan shall be updated during the inception period and annually when preparing Annual Work Plans.

## **6. RESOURCES**

### **6.1 Human Resources**

The implementation of SUSWA will require human resources from many partners. The TA team will include the following experts.

- long-term international experts;
  1. Chief Technical Advisor, 57.75 p/m,
  2. Field Specialist (Junior Technical Adviser) 2 persons, 48 calendar months in total,
  3. Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Preparedness Specialist, 21 p/m;

- long-term national experts in PSU (one of them Deputy Team Leader):
  1. Monitoring and Evaluation/Coordination Specialist, 57.75 p/m,
  2. Non-discrimination/Behaviour Change Specialist, 57.75 p/m,
  3. Sanitation and Hygiene Specialist, 57.75 p/m,
  4. Technical Specialist, 57.75 p/m,
  5. Governance Specialist, 47.25 p/m;
  6. Management Information System (MIS), 57.75 p/m,
  7. Municipal WASH Advisers (6 persons, 57.75 p/m each, total 346.5 p/m),
  8. Municipal WASH Advisers (2 persons, 42 p/m each, total 84 p/m)
- short-term international experts (total 6 p/m); and
- short-term national experts (total 12 p/m).

The workload of the TA team is very high at the beginning of a new intervention with new partners – municipalities – in a less developed province. A robust monitoring system, based on up-to-date baseline data and able to produce data on the achieved results, has to be developed and established. At least some of the international short-term resources are likely to be required to ensure the quality and applicability of this system. Thereafter, national experts (and partners) will assume more responsibilities. Experience from RVWRMP and RWSSP-WN has proven the validity of this approach. The job descriptions of the long-term experts are in Annex 7. During the inception period, the Project will prepare the overall Human Resource Strategy for approval of the SB. The short-term expert TORs will be separately prepared for the specific assignments. The number of posts and their respective person months will be carefully reviewed at the inception phase in order to strategically plan the human resources to meet the requirements of the Project.

Other human resources in PSU include Chief Administrative and Financial Officer, support staff in the office, drivers and security personnel. They will be covered from the TA budget (salaries and related costs, field expenses, etc.). For smooth implementation it is recommended that all the TA staff, experts and support staff, will follow GoN's system of working days and working hours. This means that a full working month (person-month) comprises in average 25 working days. However, weekly working time is normally 40 hours and the invoicing follows MFA's standard terms whereby the monthly fee rate is based on a month being equal to 25 working days and one working year equal to 10.5 person months. The Project follows the rules and regulations of the Nepali labour codes, general labour and employment acts, such as the Labour Act of 2074.

In addition there will be the home office backup in the form of Home Office Coordinator (12 p-m/year as defined in the "Standard terms for Payment of Fees and Reimbursement of Costs").

An Account Monitoring Officer may be included in the TA team from the support staff TA allocation. S/he would support Municipalities and, to a limited extent, WUSCs in financial matters: backstopping and on-the job training, and should have authority to spot check financial transactions/ bookkeeping. This arrangement should also solve problems in using SUTRA and reduce risk of fraud and mismanagement of funds, unsettled amount of released advances and support timely reporting.

The partner municipalities have management and technical staff related to WASH. They will be involved in SUSWA as part of their regular duties. Additional technical staff will be recruited to the M-WASH Unit.

At the WUSC and community level, human resources will be mobilised in regular scheme operations, management, social mobilising, etc. mainly on voluntary basis.

## **6.2 Office and Material Resources**

The SUSWA office will be equipped with adequate office furniture and equipment, back-up system for continuous electric supply (solar), etc. The project has temporarily received 9 vehicles handed over by the RVWRMP Project; these vehicles will be used and maintained by the project until the MoF recovers them. After that, the Project will procure four new 4WD vehicles and arrange



transportation from the private market for additional transportation needs. The vehicles will be located at PSU and used only for official Project purposes. The procurement of vehicles is subject to prior approval of MoF, which is the norm in Nepal.

### 6.3 Financial Resources

The total budget of SUSWA is MEUR 31.1, comprising MEUR 10.1 from EU, MEUR 9 from GoF, MEUR 5 from GoN, estimated MEUR 5 from Municipalities, and estimated MEUR 2 from users, the latter in cash and kind. Additional funding may later be possible to be mobilised, e.g., from other DPs, federal, provincial and the local government. Also, the result targets will be revised accordingly to reflect the increased contributions. The composition of the budget by the main cost categories and funding sources is presented in Table 19.

The office space and running cost of PCO as well as M-WASH unit offices are included in the total budget estimate. As well, the PSU costs are included in the total Project budget. The Government of Nepal will cover the salaries, administrative and monitoring costs related to PCO, DWSSM, MoWS and other GoN actors.

Justified changes on allocations can be accepted by the Supervisory Board in connection to annual work planning and reporting.

**Table 19 Budget by source of funding and cost category**

	SUSWA Budget (EUR)	Total	EU/GoF	GoN***	Municipality (Estimated)	Users (Estimated)
<b>1</b>	<b>Programme implementation cost by</b>	<b>23.800.000 €</b>	<b>11.900.000 €</b>	<b>4.900.000 €</b>	<b>5.000.000 €</b>	<b>2.000.000 €</b>
OA1	<b>Strengthened enabling environment and governance for sustainable WASH services and GEDSI</b>	<b>7.418.000 €</b>	<b>4.518.000 €</b>		<b>2.900.000 €</b>	
	<i>Municipality WASH Fund</i>	<i>7.209.000 €</i>	<i>4.309.000 €</i>		<i>2.900.000 €</i>	
	<i>TA Capacity Dev., Planning and M&amp;E*</i>	<i>209.000 €</i>	<i>209.000 €</i>			
OA2	<b>Climate resilient, safe and functional water supply in Project Municipalities</b>	<b>12.883.000 €</b>	<b>5.583.000 €</b>	<b>4.200.000 €</b>	<b>1.300.000 €</b>	<b>1.800.000 €</b>
	<i>Municipality WASH Fund &amp; Users Contr.</i>	<i>12.670.000 €</i>	<i>5.370.000 €</i>	<i>4.200.000 €</i>	<i>1.300.000 €</i>	<i>1.800.000 €</i>
	<i>TA Capacity Dev., Planning and M&amp;E*</i>	<i>213.000 €</i>	<i>213.000 €</i>			
OA3	<b>Sustainable S&amp;H and dignified menstruation management</b>	<b>3.499.000 €</b>	<b>1.799.000 €</b>	<b>700.000 €</b>	<b>800.000 €</b>	<b>200.000 €</b>
	<i>Municipality WASH Fund &amp; Users Contr.</i>	<i>3.301.000 €</i>	<i>1.601.000 €</i>	<i>700.000 €</i>	<i>800.000 €</i>	<i>200.000 €</i>
	<i>TA Capacity Dev., Planning and M&amp;E*</i>	<i>198.000 €</i>	<i>198.000 €</i>			
<b>2</b>	<b>Contingency (non-allocated funds)</b>	<b>574.427 €</b>	<b>574.427 €</b>			
<b>3</b>	<b>TA Fees and Reimbursables*</b>	<b>4.370.110 €</b>	<b>4.370.110 €</b>			
	<i>TA Fees international</i>	<i>1.422.760 €</i>	<i>1.422.760 €</i>			
	<i>TA Fees national</i>	<i>1.896.350 €</i>	<i>1.896.350 €</i>			
	<i>Reimbursables</i>	<i>1.051.000 €</i>	<i>1.051.000 €</i>			
<b>4</b>	<b>Running cost*</b>	<b>1.210.000 €</b>	<b>1.210.000 €</b>			
<b>5</b>	<b>Establishment cost (one time)*</b>	<b>400.000 €</b>	<b>400.000 €</b>			
<b>6</b>	<b>Remuneration of indirect costs to MFA</b>	<b>645.463 €</b>	<b>645.463 €</b>			
<b>7</b>	<b>PCO/DWSSM Administratives and management costs</b>	<b>100.000 €</b>		<b>100.000 €</b>		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>31.100.000 €</b>	<b>19.100.000 €</b>	<b>5.000.000 €</b>	<b>5.000.000 €</b>	<b>2.000.000 €</b>

\* through the TA accounts

## 7. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Monitoring and reporting of the Project will be result-based and focused on achieving the planned outputs, outcomes and impacts<sup>8</sup>. The tentative indicators and targets are presented in Annex 1. During the inception period, the PSU team will prepare the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plan and describe in detail the indicators, and if necessary, revise them, for consistent measurement of the results throughout the Project period.

The progress of the Project will be reported to MFA and GoN in accordance with the Manual for Bi-Lateral Programmes (MFA 2018) using the Nepali calendar and Fiscal Years, with an annual cycle from mid-July to mid-July. The semi-annual reporting time is in January. This reporting will provide MFA, GoN, local and provincial governments with up-to-date situation of the implementation in English including among others:

- progress against the SUSWA's physical and financial plans; payment status;
- achievement of targeted outputs and outcomes (and impacts);
- foreseen changes to the time schedule;
- early warnings related to the realisation of risks and risk update; and
- visibility and communication plans, activities and results.

The TA team includes a M&E Coordinator who is responsible for developing the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan for the project. This M&E Plan and framework is acting as the basis for a digital M&E solution.

To handle the monitoring data collection in a systematic and transparent way the PSU develops a Monitoring and Evaluation platform for the SUSWA M&E related actions. The digital platform will provide the programme data-driven insights on the status of the indicators and prompt consequent actions to low performing outcome areas.

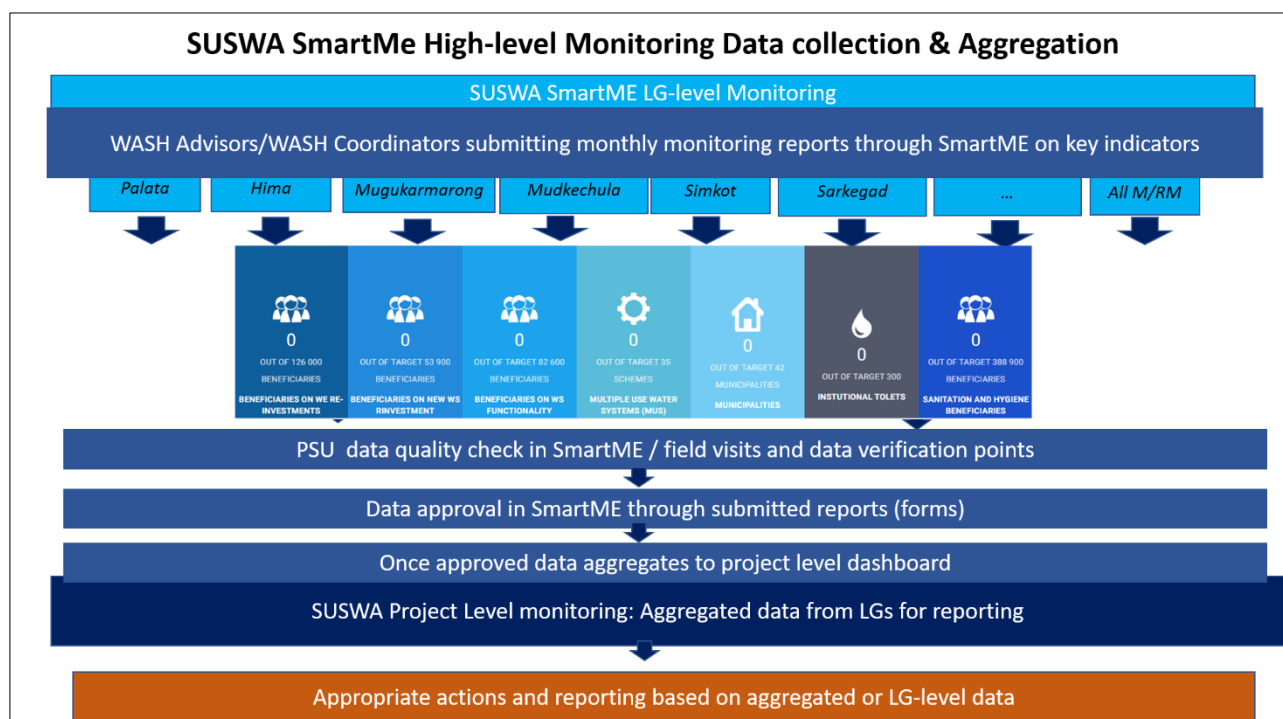
The main components in the system are:

- 1) SUSWA Digital Results Frameworks and Indicators baselines, target values and disaggregation,
- 2) SUSWA Monitoring View and Indicator data grids,
- 3) SUSWA Digital Forms and Submission Workflows,
- 4) SUSWA Dashboards,
- 5) SUSWA User Management & Role Management,
- 6) SUSWA Municipality data rooms.

The below image describes the flow of data designed for SUSWA:

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<sup>8</sup> Impacts will be reported always when there is data available; as a minimum, once prior to the mid-term evaluation and once at the end of SUSWA.



**Figure 4 Data flow of SUSWA**

## 8. SUSTAINABILITY

### 8.1 General

A sustainable water and sanitation system must be economically viable, socially acceptable and technically and institutionally appropriate (MoWS, 2016). This is fully in line with SDGs to ensure availability and sustainable management of safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene for all by 2030. In addition to SDGs, SDP and municipal WASH plans gear the efforts of the various stakeholders towards sustained development. A practice for long-term strategic plans would be needed to create holistic perspective for the municipalities to guide and coordinate the development needs among their largely scattered settlements.

The service can be operational only under conditions where human, material and financial resources are available and properly managed. Municipalities and service providers as well as the users must be in full control of the operations well in time before the project support ceases. The growing land use will guarantee that new challenges will be faced that need action to keep in control. The five key areas of sustainability to safeguard the results of the Project are presented below.

### 8.2 Financial Sustainability

Financial sustainability ensures the delivery of products and services related to water, sanitation and hygiene. This implies that – in the long run – the activities do not depend on external support. Financial sustainability calls for strategies to promote mechanisms that create incentives for stakeholders and beneficiaries to contribute to the financing, reflecting to activities for:

- empowerment of communities to express their needs and demands to their concerned authority for adequate budget allocation and use;
- covering investment costs as much as possible from local funding sources such as consumers, fee systems, tax, etc.;
- funds for regular operation and maintenance are maintained by applicable ways
- timely collection of water fees;
- ensuring the payment system for local service providers;

- maintaining regular auditing and financial transparency;
- strengthening cooperatives for transparent, sustainable and reliable services;
- developing insurance products for schemes; and
- ensuring access to commercial finance from cooperatives or micro-finance.

### **8.3 Institutional Sustainability**

Institutional sustainability implies that the WASH systems, institutions, policies and procedures at the local level are functional and that the users' demands are being met. Furthermore, beneficiary households and other users, authorities and service providers at the local, provincial and federal level need to understand their duties and responsibilities and be able to act accordingly. The following aspects require attention:

- ownership, utilisation and promotion of municipal WASH plans, SDGs by the local government and authorities;
- institutional strengthening of WUSCs, cooperatives and other community groups through formation, registration, regular meetings, general assembly and renewal of these bodies;
- ensuring clear division of roles and responsibilities of committee members and all WASH actors;
- supporting proper coordination and cooperation among the representatives of municipalities and other relevant authorities working on WASH sector at different levels through coordination meetings, joint-monitoring, etc.;
- promoting an integrated approach to WASH through mobilisation and organisation of the communities in terms of their right to WASH;
- capacity development of the sector actors at all levels aimed towards better and sustainable WASH service delivery;
- facilitation of multi-stakeholder platforms to ensure that all stakeholders and actors clearly understand their roles and responsibilities, learn from each other and their interactions, and work together towards filling the implementation gap and aiming for sustainable WASH service delivery; and
- inclusion and involvement of women and women groups, Dalits and groups in vulnerable positions in decision making and at local level to scale up the interventions.

### **8.4 Environmental Sustainability**

Environmental sustainability refers to management of water, sanitation and hygiene resources across current and future generations, addressing the inter-generational equity. WASH interventions are placed in a broader context of natural environment and implementing integrated and sustainable approach for WASH services management and delivery. The environmental sustainability requires:

- climate and natural disaster resilient designs to be adopted for all infrastructure works;
- the recharge-retention-reuse approach to be adopted, i.e., for water resources;
- the reduce-reuse-recycle approach to be adopted, i.e., for waste flows;
- giving preference to low cost, low maintenance environmental friendly technologies;
- water source protection to be ensured;
- drainage to be improved;
- groundwater recharge to be ensured; and
- ecosystem services approach to be adopted, i.e., to maintain resources and services of natural environment crucial for communities.

### **8.5 Technical Sustainability**

Technical sustainability of WASH services require that the technology and the hardware needed for the infrastructure and services are regularly maintained, repaired and replaced by the involved duty bearers: WUSCs look after overall O&M with adequately capacitated and trained members. Furthermore, the environmental aspects of exploitation and pollution of water resources must be controlled. For technical sustainability the following issues need to be considered:

- capacity of key stakeholders and actors to be strengthened to make informed and locally suitable technology choices;
- regular capacity building of local service providers, committees/groups to enhance their capabilities in O&M and responding to demands, opportunities and ideas from beneficiaries and other stakeholders;
- orientation of local service providers about relevant and concerned government bodies at local, provincial and central level in order to communicate and coordinate with them for support and guidance as deemed necessary;
- application of WASH technologies that are locally appropriate, context-specific, affordable, climate and disaster resilient, durable and demand-driven;
- adoption of WSP+++ by all WUSCs and designers; and
- having mechanisms for monitoring sustainability and functionality.

## **8.6 Social Sustainability**

Social sustainability requires interventions to be demand-driven, inclusive, equitable, gender friendly, culturally sensitive and rights based. Suitable social conditions and prerequisites are to be maintained so that the current and future generations can have healthy and liveable communities. Aspects of social sustainability can be promoted by:

- encouragement of participation of women, disadvantaged and marginalised, including the persons with disabilities, in all stages of project formulation and implementation to ensure that all groups will benefit and to minimise chances of internal conflicts;
- ensuring that understanding of the harmful and discriminatory social norms and barriers for the sustainability of WASH is utilized in the implementation processes and communication strategies;
- management of source disputes or conflicts by proper cooperation and coordination with concerned members and authorities;
- interventions to be based on actual demands of the community/people to ensure participation and ownership that lead to proactive attitudes towards addressing any issues related to the service;
- interventions to be based on strategies and approaches that are locally and culturally sensitive in order to ensure people's acceptance of services and adaptation to possible changes; and
- interventions to be rights based with equitable service provision in the society and geographical areas, leading to acceptance of the intervention and ownership.

## **8.7 Knowledge Management**

The knowledge management aspect of sustainability involves questions of (i) periodic capacity development and training of local governments on project objectives, modalities, planning cycle and financial transparency; (ii) training of WUSCs and other CBOs on project management, procurement, accounting, business planning, sustainability, public auditing/hearing, WSP+++ and other relevant plans; and (iii) training of WASH-CCs at different levels on developing strategy and action for total sanitation and water supply, sustainable management of existing water supplies. In addition, regular monitoring, evaluation, budgetary support and technical support should be provided by M-WASH Units and other relevant local, provincial and central level agencies. Knowledge management should aim to ensure the continuous learning and improvement of the work with evidence-based approach.

## **9. REVIEWS, EVALUATIONS AND AUDITS**

Independent MTE shall be conducted around the end of the second year or beginning of third year of the Project. MTE shall assess the extent to which the objectives and results have been achieved and verify the quality of outputs on a random basis. MTE is expected to provide clear recommendations for the remaining Project period.

All organisations receiving financial support from the Project, and managing funds, are subject to regular audits in accordance with the requirements of GoN and GoF who may also assign special auditor(s) to assess the conformity of the Project to the established procedures, norms and criteria. Formal annual auditing will be carried out by the Project to further strengthen internal controls.

Auditing the technical assistance funds, managed by the selected TA consultant, will be done in the consultant's headquarters as per the audit arrangements of the consulting company, as a part of their annual audit in accordance with the international Standard on Related Services 4400. The Consultant shall provide annually auditors' statements about the financial performance of the project to MFA.

The investment funds channelled through the MWFs include contributions from the federal and local governments of Nepal and from Finland. These will be audited as per the prevailing financial rules and regulations of GoN. All the records, book-keeping and accounting of the MWFs must strictly adhere to the financial rules and regulations of GoN and applicable to the local governments and WUSCs.

Since local governments must get their MWFs audited by the Office of the Auditor General a separate audit at the WUSC level is not required. However, the municipalities shall ensure that the WUSCs follow the suggested book-keeping and auditing system, and monitor that the funds are used as intended. In case municipality or PSU/PCO finds necessary to get any WUSC's accounts audited, municipality can manage either special financial monitoring or a separate audit. PSU will provide a summary report of the Municipalities audit findings as part of the regular reporting.

Public audits of the funds released to WUSC are mandatory before releasing the final instalment from MWF, as will be provisioned in the Project's Step-By-Step Manual for the scheme implementation. Three public audits and public hearing are recommended in a course of a scheme – new as well as re-investment.

SUSWA has zero-tolerance against corruption. This has two implications: (i) procedures and modalities are designed to eliminate corruption to the extent possible and (ii) prompt action is taken in alleged corruption cases.



## Results Framework

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
<b>Impact Statement:</b> Improved well-being and inclusive communities with sustainable WASH services and behaviours through local governments' improved capacity to achieve equal rights to WASH for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local governance performance index</li> <li>• Incidence of diarrhoea in under 5 children reduced</li> <li>• Neonatal mortality rate</li> <li>• Gender inequality index of the HDI</li> <li>• Verified change of living conditions among the population of the rural project municipalities regarding the implemented human rights and inclusion to the development of all community members, and women, girls and disadvantaged groups in particular</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 55%</li> <li>• 13.2%</li> <li>• 29/1,000 (deaths/live births)</li> <li>• 0.56</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincial and municipal statistics</li> <li>• MICS</li> <li>• Specific studies at before mid-term and end of first phase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity and willingness of Municipalities to participate and contribute in funding is high also beyond SUSWA</li> <li>• The upcoming MICS is collecting information on neonatal mortality in Karnali province level/Mid-Western Hills</li> <li>• People are willing to replace harmful social norms</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome Statement:</b> People supported by the project municipalities have improved and equitable access to safe and	<u>Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population using safe drinking water (%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.9% of population using safe drinking water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 65% of population using safe drinking water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SUSWA Annual Reports</li> <li>• National SDG monitoring database</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity and willingness of Municipalities to participate and contribute in funding is high - also beyond SUSWA</li> </ul>



Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
sustainable drinking water and adequate sanitation services, dignified menstruation and improved hygiene practices paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Households with access to piped water supply (%)</li> <li>Basic water supply coverage (%)</li> <li>Households with E-coli risk level in household water &gt;1 cfu/100ml (%)</li> <li>Households with E-coli risk level in source water &gt;1 cfu/100ml (%)</li> </ul> <p><u>Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a handwashing facility with soap and water:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Households using improved sanitation facilities which are not shared (%)</li> <li>Proportion of population using toilets (%)</li> <li>Sanitation coverage (%)</li> <li>Households with toilets not causing faecal sludge management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>73.5% of households with access to piped water supply</li> <li>Basic water supply coverage 77.7%</li> <li>54% of households with Escherichia coli (E. coli) risk level in household water &gt;1 colony-forming unit (cfu)/100ml</li> <li>47% of households with E. coli risk level in source water &gt; 1 cuf/100m</li> <li>73% households using improved sanitation facilities which are not shared</li> <li>89% of population using latrine</li> <li>92%</li> <li>6% of households with toilets not causing faecal sludge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>76.5% of households with access to piped water supply</li> <li>Basic water supply coverage 95%</li> <li>Maximum 27.4% of households with E. coli risk level in household water &gt;1 colony-forming unit (cfu)/100ml</li> <li>Maximum 23.7% of households with E. coli risk level in source water &gt; 1 cuf/100m</li> <li>85.7% households using improved sanitation facilities which are not shared</li> <li>92% of population using latrine</li> <li>95%</li> <li>74% of households with toilets not causing faecal sludge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial and municipal statistics</li> <li>M-WASH Plans</li> </ul>	

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
	<p>(FSM) problem or provided with support to proper FSM (%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of population using handwashing facility with soap and water (%)</li> </ul> <p><u>Capacity level of municipalities for achieving the WASH SDG targets</u></p>	<p>management (FSM) problem or provided with support to proper FSM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>46% of population using handwashing facility with soap and water</li> <li>19%</li> </ul>	<p>management (FSM) problem or provided with support to proper FSM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>66% of population using handwashing facility with soap and water</li> <li>100%</li> </ul>		
<b>Outcome Area 1: Strengthened enabling environment and governance for sustainable WASH services and GESI in Project Municipalities</b>					
<b>Output 1.1:</b> The project Municipalities are able to mobilize and direct human and financial resources to support WUSCs in provision of equitable, safe and affordable drinking water and able to facilitate access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of filled posts versus positions in WASH organizational structures</li> <li>Percentage of implemented schemes versus WASH implementation plans</li> <li>Percentage of requests/queries of WUSCs/WUAs responded to</li> <li>Stakeholder satisfaction</li> <li>Number of Municipalities having incorporated M-WASH-Units into</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>36% of positions filled</li> <li>9% of schemes implemented</li> <li>67% response rate</li> <li>41% of stakeholders are satisfied or highly satisfied</li> <li>19% of Project Municipalities have</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 90% of positions filled</li> <li>At least 90% of schemes implemented</li> <li>At least 90% response rate</li> <li>At least 70% of stakeholders are satisfied or highly satisfied</li> <li>At least 80% of Project Municipalities have</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUSWA Annual Reports</li> <li>Municipality reports</li> <li>Annual M-WASH-Unit reports</li> <li>P-WASH-CC</li> <li>Independent customer surveys at inception and end of SUSWA Phase I</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment of selected Municipalities in place</li> <li>Adequate human and financial resources made available in selected Municipalities</li> </ul>

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
	permanent organizations	permanent M-WASH-Units	permanent M-WASH-Units		
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Municipal Councils, Water Boards/MWRCs and WUAs/WUSCs in the project Municipalities able to manage the WASH sector providing safe and inclusive safe services in a sustainable manner	6. Number of Municipalities being able to perform basic water quality tests 7. Number of Municipalities having up to date strategic and inclusive Municipality WASH Plans approved by relevant authorities 8. Key positions (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Joint Secretary and Treasurer) in UCs of improved water supply schemes in the project core program Municipalities are held by women, disabled and by minority populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12% of Project Municipalities having test kits, trained people to use them and sustainable supply of reagents</li> <li>21% of Project Municipalities</li> <li>24% of women, 9% of Dalits, 8% of Janjati 8% and 1% of PWD in average in the project area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Project Municipalities having test kits, trained people to use them and sustainable supply of reagents</li> <li>All Project Municipalities</li> <li>50% women and proportionate participation of Dalits and Janjati (target set per district level census) xx % disabled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUSWA Annual Reports</li> <li>Municipality reports</li> <li>Annual M-WASH-Unit reports</li> <li>P-WASH-CC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment of selected Municipalities in place</li> <li>Administrative barriers limiting Municipalities' recruitment eliminated</li> </ul>
<b>Output 1.3:</b> Up-to-date financial and management and MIS tools in active use in the project Municipalities	9. Number of Municipalities systematically using MIS for WASH information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12% of Project Municipalities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Project Municipalities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUSWA Annual Reports</li> <li>Annual Municipality reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National monitoring/data base system in place</li> </ul>
<b>Output 1.4:</b> Project Municipalities	10. Number of Municipalities with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>62% of Project Municipalities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Project Municipalities by the end of NFY 82/83</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Municipality reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment of selected</li> </ul>

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
develop and implement evidence -based gender and disability-responsive laws, plans and budgets	gender responsive budgets 11. Number of Municipalities having a plan for eradication of harmful <i>Chhaupadi</i> practice 12. Number of Municipalities that involve disability organizations in the WASH planning and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21% of Project Municipalities</li> <li>35% of Project Municipalities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Project Municipalities by the end of NFY 82/83</li> <li>All Project Municipalities by the end of NFY 82/83</li> </ul>		Municipalities in place
<b>Output 1.5:</b> Efficient knowledge sharing and linkage building with relevant actors for strengthened enabling environment for sustainable WASH services	13. Municipalities in Karnali Province well informed about WASH sector developments and capacitated to adopt changes 14. Number and types of strategic partnerships and initiatives between the SusWA supported WASH programme and other actors related to gender, disability, dignified menstruation, CCA and DRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>43% of Project Municipalities</li> <li>0</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Project Municipalities aware of relevant policies, regulations, etc., and provided with new manuals, tools, software, etc published by MoWS/DWSSM and trained to use them</li> <li>4 strategic partnerships on Gender, disability, DMM, CCA/DRR are covered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUSWA Annual Reports</li> <li>Annual Municipality report</li> <li>DWSSM reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DWSSM adopted mechanisms developed/proposed by the project</li> <li>Willing partners available in Karnali Province</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome Area 2: Climate resilient, safe and functional water supply in Project Municipalities</b>					
<b>Output 2.1:</b> Functionality and safety of drinking	15. Number of people served by non-functional schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>313,213</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional 252,500 people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUSWA Annual Reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate demand for improvement, including</li> </ul>

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
water supply improved	made functional and safe (disaggregated by service level, gender, caste and disability)	(Disaggregation of data is provided in the baseline report)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual M-WASH Unit reports</li> </ul>	community contribution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSP in all schemes in action</li> </ul>
<b>Output 2.2:</b> Functional and safe drinking water supply extended to unreached people	16. Number of people served by new water supply schemes (disaggregated by service level, gender, caste and disability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>153,926 (Disaggregation of data is provided in the baseline report)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional 10,000 people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUSWA Annual Reports</li> <li>Annual M-WASH Unit reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate demand for improvement, including community contribution</li> <li>Availability of feasible and affordable options</li> </ul>
<b>Output 2.3:</b> Extended Water Safety Plans (WSP+++) introduced, prepared and implemented	17. Number of WUSCs having up-to-date WSP+++ (WSP that also address climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, O&M and water fee collection, and inclusion) 18. Number of schemes monitoring water safety and taking measures if necessary 19. Number of WUSCs operational and maintaining scheme functionality 20. Number of people trained on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12% of WUSCs in the Project Municipalities</li> <li>15% of WUSCs in the Project Municipalities</li> <li>15% of WUSCs in the Project Municipalities</li> <li>44</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All partner WUSCs</li> <li>At least 80% of partner WUSCs</li> <li>All Project Municipalities and partner WUSCs by the end of NFY 82/83</li> <li>At least 3 people in all Project Municipalities and partner WUSCs by the end of NFY 82/83</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUSWA Annual Reports</li> <li>Annual M-WASH Unit reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected Municipalities monitor extended WSPs</li> </ul>

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
<b>Outcome Area 3: Sustainable S&amp;H and dignified menstruation management</b>					
<b>Output 3.1:</b> Personal and household sanitation and hygienic behaviours improved	21. Number of people having permanent access to improved sanitation facilities and using them 22. Number of additional people with access to basic toilets 23. Number of Municipalities with action plan developed and implemented for achieving safely managed sanitation and total sanitation 24. Number of households with handwashing facilities on premises with availability of soap and water 25. Number of households fulfilling total sanitation criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>513,270</li> <li>NA</li> <li>7</li> <li>68,101</li> <li>16,581</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>591,544</li> <li>20,708</li> <li>42</li> <li>97,700</li> <li>32,934</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUSWA Annual Reports</li> <li>Annual M-WASH Unit reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some HHs have only temporary toilets or no toilet at all</li> </ul>
<b>Output 3.2:</b> Institutional (school, health station, public) sanitation facilities and their maintenance improved in the Project Municipalities	26. Number of improved institutional toilets with water supply (disaggregated by type of institution, CDG friendliness of facilities, and for schools the 3-star approach categories)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70% of surveyed schools and 94% of surveyed HCF</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>300</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUSWA Annual Reports</li> <li>Annual M-WASH Unit reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>M- WASH- CCs in place</li> </ul>

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
	27. Number of institutions having a functional handwashing facility with water and soap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>42% of surveyed schools and 74% of surveyed HCF</li> </ul>			
<b>Output 3.3:</b> Dignified menstruation promoted	28. Number of religious and community leaders, youth networks and teachers mobilized against harmful <i>chhaupadi</i> practice  29. Number of women using toilets during menstruation  30. Number of people trained on MHM including sanitary pad making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>264 in all Project Municipalities</li> <li>78%</li> <li>687</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>750 in all Project Municipalities</li> <li>90%</li> <li>3,000 people trained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event Reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Religious and community leaders willing to cooperate</li> </ul>
<b>Output 3.4:</b> Faecal sludge management promoted	31. On-site faecal sludge management options reviewed, assessed, piloted and introduced to Project Municipalities  32. Faecal sludge issues incorporated into toilet design and O&M manuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NA</li> <li>NA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-5 feasible options introduced to all Project Municipalities</li> <li>All relevant manuals (or HHs &amp; institutions)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUSWA Annual Reports</li> <li>Annual M-WASH Unit reports</li> <li>Relevant manuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>





## Risk Matrix

Risk Factor	Likelihood of risk	Judgement for likelihood	Foreseen impact	Judgement to foreseen impact	Mitigation strategy of the Project
<b>CONTEXTUAL RISKS</b>					
The progressing federalisation causes unrest among population groups	<b>Low</b>	The situation has become relatively steady but occasional demonstrations etc. may happen	May delay staff movements as traffic often obstructed during demonstrations, i.e. some delay of implementation	Not expected to be significant, unless prolonged	Good public relations strategy implemented
Local capacity does not develop as the federalisation would require	<b>Medium</b>	Availability of competent professionals reduced by funds, competed simultaneously by various municipal sectors	Capacity creation of the personnel will slow down Mismanagement of funds	More new tasks are shared by a fewer number of employees, low capacity to manage and control use of funds	Increased awareness of the benefits at all levels of the government; clear job descriptions and performance definitions; widely informed zero tolerance for fraud and financial mismanagement, mandatory use of SUTRA, a short-term Account Monitoring Officer to be included in TA audits
Continued inequality among population causes unrest	<b>Low</b>	Situation quite stable	Possible delays to implementation	Not expected to be significant	Good public relations strategy implemented
Fund allocations to municipalities deficient	<b>Medium</b>	No fast improvement of the current situation in the horizon	Minor impact during the Project period but adverse post-project impacts must be considered	Funds available only for approved priority Projects	Increased awareness of the benefits at all levels of the government; improve long-term sustainability by showing good operational performance resulting from the Project
Natural disasters, such as floods, landslides, drought, earthquakes	<b>Medium</b>	Municipal funds and personnel temporary directed to emergency operations	Project operations financed by local funds may delay the Project implementation. Functionality of schemes can deteriorate and lead to economic losses.	Local works can be planned to allow some delay, amount of targeted schemes can be reduced.	Respond to this risk in planning of the implementation; disaster-resilient technologies; Karnali has a budget for disaster risk management, provisions for emergency supplies, including water and medicine, and a plan for group insurance.
Pandemics	<b>Medium</b>	Current situation	Delays to implementation especially due to lockdowns. Reduction of funding due to economic depression.	Works can be planned to allow some delay, amount of targeted schemes can be reduced.	Social distancing measures, improved hygiene and vaccination to Project personnel and key persons of partners

Risk Factor	Likelihood of risk	Judgement for likelihood	Foreseen impact	Judgement to foreseen impact	Mitigation strategy of the Project
<b>PROGRAMMATIC RISKS</b>					
Federalisation delays/disturbs the progress as there is lack of local competence	<b>High</b>	Availability of competent professionals reduced by funds, competed simultaneously by various municipal sectors	Capacity creation of the personnel will slow down	More new tasks are shared by a fewer number of employees	Increased awareness of the benefits at all levels of the government; clear job descriptions and performance definitions
Complicated governance structure with several bodies at different levels	<b>Low</b>	Decentralised decision making still emerging but already at the municipal level functioning well Experiences from other WASH projects	Temporary or minor delay for implementation	Milestones considered safeguarded	Inception period will analyse the current institutional structure
Poor environment for prompt decision making	<b>Medium</b>	Decentralised decision making still emerging	Temporary minor delay for implementation	Milestones considered safeguarded	Work planning considers the critical path and safeguards timely related operations
Conflicts in prioritising the investments	<b>Medium</b>	Technical personnel, decision makers and right holders likely to have interests to defend	Temporary minor delay for implementation	Milestones considered safeguarded	Work planning considers the critical path and safeguards timely related operations
Local fund allocations for HRD/operational costs remain deficient	<b>High</b>	Other activities given higher priority as funds are simultaneously competed by various municipal sectors	Capacity creation of the personnel will slow down. Maintenance will suffer.	More new tasks are shared by a fewer number of employees and between more tasks	Increased awareness of the benefits at all levels of the Province; clear job descriptions and performance definitions, promotion/demand generation
Lack in required local competence	<b>Medium</b>	Low financial benefits limit the number of candidates	Capacity creation of the personnel will slow down	More new tasks are shared by a fewer number of employees and between more tasks	Increased awareness of the benefits at all levels of the Province
Stakeholders remain passive	<b>Low</b>	Willingness to cooperation for new technologies expected rather high	Project personnel's role grows	Capacity of stakeholders to act in their new role low	Selection of stakeholders' representatives checks also their commitment

Risk Factor	Likelihood of risk	Judgement for likelihood	Foreseen impact	Judgement to foreseen impact	Mitigation strategy of the Project
<b>INSTITUTIONAL RISKS</b>					
Functioning federalised governance/decision making hampered due to bureaucracy	<b>Low</b>	Decentralised decision making still emerging but already at the municipal level functioning well	Temporary minor delay for implementation	Milestones considered safeguarded	Work planning considers the critical path and safeguards timely related operations
Required, qualified human resources not in place	<b>Medium</b>	Availability of competent professionals reduced by funds, competed simultaneously by various municipal sectors	Capacity creation of the personnel will slow down	More new tasks are shared by a fewer number of employees	Increased awareness of the municipal benefits; clear job descriptions and performance definitions
Sustainability of capacity building in RMs not guaranteed	<b>High</b>	The Project is not fully integrated in GoN system, post-project support of RMs weak	SDGs (2030) will not be achieved	RMs not able to maintain progress	Institutionalised support options to be developed and subsequent decisions made by GoN
Partnership with key stakeholders deficient	<b>Low</b>	Willingness to cooperation expected rather high	Project personnel's role grows	Capacity of stakeholders to act in their new role low	Selection of stakeholders' representatives checks also their commitment
Right holders', the vulnerable/special groups' role neglected	<b>Medium</b>	Development of services may be considered primarily technical	Users' needs not properly considered	Likelihood that all groups will not be addressed at all	Manuals prepared and trained to ensure inclusion of all user groups

## Human Rights Assessment - Checklist

### Human Rights Based Approach - Checklist

Basic info	
Title	Sustainable WASH for all in Nepal (SUSWA)
Country/ region	Nepal
Sector/theme	Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
Partners	Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS) Provincial government of Karnali Pradesh Municipalities of the Project Area Water and Sanitation User Committees (WSUCs) of the Project Area
Budget	<u>Total budget: 21,0 M€:</u> Government of Finland 9,0 M€ Government of Nepal 5,0 M€ Local governments (mainly municipal level) 5,0 M€ Users/ beneficiaries 2,0 M€ (cash and kind)
Starting date and duration	4 years

### Human Rights Based Approach and Gender Mainstreaming

**Assessment of whether a Human Rights (HR) Based Approach and Gender mainstreaming has been applied in the programme:**

Human Rights Assessment and Standards			
Issues:	yes	no	Explain:
1. Have human rights and gender equality been part of the situational analysis for the intervention?	x		1). Situation analysis presented in Chapter 1.5.5. (Dignified Menstruation), in Chapter 2.3. and 2.4.
2. Which human rights are relevant for the intervention?	x		2). Referring to Universal Declaration of Human Rights, especially Articles 1, 2, 18, 25 and 26 are relevant to the project: (1) Right Equality, (2) Freedom from discrimination, (18) Freedom of Belief and Religion linked to freedom of discrimination, (25) Right to adequate living standard e.g. access to safe drinking water, (26) Right to Education, and (29) Community duties essential to free and full development;
3. Which are the main concerns relevant for the intervention brought forth in this analysis?	x		<b>WASH</b> as itself is a specific, declared human right.
4. Are the risks related human rights and gender equality mitigated?	x		3). Equal rights of women and girls; social inclusion, i.e. no discrimination based on sex, caste/ethnicity, religion, disability or other reasons; Girls' right to education; 4). HRBA/GESI are fully embedded in the step-by-step processes of WASH implementation and planning. They are cross-cutting themes in all activities.

<b>Stakeholder analysis</b>			
Have the duty bearers, right holders and other responsible actors and their roles been identified?	x		Chapter 2 in the PD presents a stakeholder analysis and related roles are identified more detailed in chapter 2.4. as well as in the Annex 7.
Are there marginalized groups which should be taken into account?	x		Vulnerable groups are identified in general in chapter 2.4. Population outside the current water supply service and easily marginalized sections of population are identified in the chapter 1.5. The PD strongly recommends carrying out a baseline study on unreached population and marginalized groups in the project area during the inception phase.
Have the basic needs and strategic interests of women and men been taken into account	x		The PD express the need for the specific focus on women's and girls needs in WASH activities (1.5.5., 1.8., 2.3., 2.4., chapter 3) and the results of the project emphasizes universal and equal water and sanitation services. In general, the services within the water supply context do address customers in a gender-neutral manner.
<b>Assessment of whether Human Rights Principles and Gender Sensitivity have been applied in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the programme</b>			
<b>Issues:</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>Explain:</b>
<b><u>Equality &amp; Non-discrimination</u></b>			
Have women and men been targeted equally by the intervention?	x		The project follows human rights-based approach, thus addressing needs and rights of all groups. Chapter 2.3. elaborates the integration of HRBA/GESI in WASH projects.
Do all rights holders including marginalized groups have equal access and benefit from the intervention?	x		Marginalised groups are identified in general in chapter 2.4. Based on the earlier WASH sector experience and baseline study results, the project will develop its HRBA/GESI strategy and action plan for ensuring systematic, inclusive planning and implementation processes to achieve the project results emphasising equal access to wash and sanitation services.
Are there special measures in place to ensure non-discrimination?	x		Inclusive WASH services are provided through Project Municipalities (Chapter 3). OA2 and OA3 (Chapter 3.2.3. and 3.2.4.) targets to reach the communities previously unreached.
Is sex-disaggregated data collected?	x		Table 7. in the PD shows data about women's situation in the Karnali province (population, literacy, caste/ethnicity) and Table 10 between the areas (women experiencing severe discrimination during menstruation periods). This is a clear reasoning for the project working area selection.
<b>Participation and inclusion:</b>			
Do right holders participate in the decision-making processes relating the intervention?	x		Inception report must include baseline situation analysis, thus including right holder's views on household and institutional levels (Chapter 3.2.

Is there gender balance in decision-making?	x		OA2 and OA3). Community participation is inbuilt (e.g. Step-By-Step procedure).
Have marginalized groups been consulted in the planning process?	x		The project will develop HRBA/GESI strategy and action plan, which will include the support for women's participation in decision-making.  Only partly in this stage of the project planning (due to time limitations during the appraisal) but will be consulted in the project area in the further planning and thereafter.
<b>Transparency &amp; Accountability:</b>			
Is information related to the objectives, decision-making processes and results of the intervention freely disseminated?	x		Information related to the project's planning and implementation will be made freely available in accordance with Project communication strategies.
Is information related to the intervention and produced in appropriate format and accessible for all rights holders, (language, geography, gender, marginalised groups)?	x		Will be available as per the above strategies.
Are there mechanisms in place to ensure responses to problems and claims during the implementation of the intervention?	x		Communication and Users relation strategies; permanent items on agendas of management meetings.
Is compliance with human rights principles and cross-cutting objectives monitored during the intervention?	x		Through the management information systems, e.g. progress reports and status studies.
<b>For progressive level: Results/Indicators</b>			
<b>Issues:</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>Explain:</b>
Does the intervention have targets on human rights and gender?	x		HRBA/GESI is cross-cutting issue in all SUSWA activities. Women's and vulnerable group's rights are addressed (Chapter 1.5.5. , 2.3. and 2.4. in the PD).
Have sector-specific quality criteria related to human rights been used?	x		Chapter 3. concentrates on technical issues and quality criteria on WASH.
Have human rights and gender capacity gaps (e.g. legislation, policy, resources, political will etc.) been identified and are they addressed by the intervention	x		Partly in the PD and will be addressed as principles of further planning. The selection of working areas (chapter 3.1.2.) will identify these gaps. Gender capacity gaps are addresses inclusively in all RAs.
Are key challenges and opportunities for gender equality identified and addressed as part of the expected results (including distribution and control of resources, gender roles, norms and values, participation and decision-making power, discrimination and gender-based violence)?	x		The challenges are addressed as the step-by-step process of WASH implementation integrates HRBA/GESI approach (Chapter 2.3.)

Does the intervention include affirmative action to address identified inequalities?	x		Since the project aims to universal and equal WASH services, affirmative actions will be needed. These will be included in the HRBA/GESI strategy and action plan.
Are there any specific objectives, activities and indicators designed to monitor the integration of the human rights principles? Equality & non-discrimination Participation & Inclusion Accountability & Transparency	x		The project results aim the universal and equal WASH services, and this is also reflected in the indicators and targets of the project, especially under OA 2 and OA 3. The monitoring data will be disaggregated by gender, cast, disability and other relevant aspects. Accountability and transparency are especially reflected in the indicators of OA1.
<b>Stakeholder analysis</b>			
Does the intervention build capacity on human rights and gender among stakeholders?	x		The OA1 focuses on development of the capacities of the stakeholders in the selected municipalities. The human rights and gender will be addressed in the training opportunities and project processes like Step-By-Step.
Does the intervention support national or local gender equality policies, laws, or strategies?	x		HRBA/GESI principles are addressed in the GoN's SDG targets, National SDP (WASH Sector development plan) as well as in SUSWA (Chapter 1.5.5., 2.3. and the project results chapter 3.2.).
<b>For transformative level: Results/Indicators</b>			
<b>Issues:</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>Explain:</b>
Are there identified root causes of non-fulfilment of human rights or discrimination targeted by the intervention?			
Does the intervention address the root causes different levels (legislation, policy, customs, traditional practices, attitudes, knowledge)?			
Are there clearly defined objectives and strategy for policy dialogue or advocacy supporting the objectives of the intervention?			
Are the human rights principles and gender equality systematically included in expected results, indicators and targets?			
Do the M&E systems monitor and evaluate the impacts of the intervention on the fulfilment human rights quality criteria?			
Are gender equality indicators aligned with national targets on gender?			

## SUSWA Inception Phase Work Plan

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22

### Contractual arrangements

Consultancy contract signed							
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### Mobilisation

International long-term staff mobilised in accordance with the staffing plan							
Local specialist staff mobilised in accordance with the staffing plan							
Availability of legal services organised for securing project logistics and operations							
Banking services operational for financial transactions							
Readiness for contracting of local short-term specialist and labour to the project office established							
Job descriptions of project employees finalised							
Project Office established and equipped							
Project ( <i>Administration</i> ) manual prepared, relevant guidelines and manuals reviewed and adapted							

### Project management, planning and monitoring systems

Project management bodies established and roles of various partners confirmed							
Open questions of the project document agreed upon and defined							
Kick-off meeting held with main stakeholders							
Work-plan for inception period confirmed							
Project implementation manual drafted and shared with stakeholders							
Procurement plan for inception period and the remaining first year prepared							
Result-based reporting and monitoring system established							
Draft inception report, including relevant plans, prepared and distributed for comments							
Inception report discussed in the inception workshop and approved by SvB							

### Project approach and monitoring system

Result chain and framework reviewed and finalised							
Baseline study							
Risk matrix reviewed and finalised							
Project plans reviewed and completed with regard of cross-cutting subjects							
Inclusiveness of project decisions/operations checked and put in place							

### Selection and preparation of fast-track group municipalities



Preparation and validation of fast-track selection								
Field pre-identification								
Project intro and commitment negotiation								
Project services demand assessment								
Planning Process and Budget Incorporation in LMBIS (FY 79/80)								
Signing 8 MoUs								
MoU and Municipal Annual Plans endorsed by Municipal councils								
Set-up of WASH Management Committees								

## SUSWA 5.5 years Work Plan

	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
	FY 79/80				FY 80/81				FY 81/82				FY 82/83				FY 83/84			
	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
<b>Activities implementation in 8 (Fast-Track) Municipalities</b>																				
Outcome Area 1: Strengthened enabling environment and gov. [...]																				
Outcome Area 2: Climate resilient, safe and functional water supply																				
Outcome Area 3: Sustainable S&H and DMM																				
Follow up of activities and support to the Municipal teams																				
<b>Activities preparation in 20 Municipalities</b>																				
WASH Plan preparation, MoU signature and Municipal Plans preparation																				
<b>Activities implementation in 12 Municipalities</b>																				
Outcome Area 1: Strengthened enabling environment and gov. [...]																				
Outcome Area 2: Climate resilient, safe and functional water supply																				
Outcome Area 3: Sustainable S&H and DMM																				
Follow up of activities and support to the Municipal teams																				
<b>Activities preparation in 9 Municipalities</b>																				
WASH Plan preparation, MoU signature and Municipal Plans preparation																				
<b>Activities implementation in 12 Municipalities</b>																				
Outcome Area 1: Strengthened enabling environment and gov. [...]																				
Outcome Area 2: Climate resilient, safe and functional water supply																				
Outcome Area 3: Sustainable S&H and DMM																				
Follow up of activities and support to the Municipal teams																				
<b>Activities implementation in 8 Municipalities</b>																				

[illegible]

## Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder group	Rights/responsibilities	Benefits gained	Actions required
<b>Right-holders</b> Communities and households (especially women and children)	<b>Right</b> to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for full enjoyment of life and all human rights <b>Responsibility</b> for payments for water based on tariff set for the type of service <b>Responsibility</b> for maintaining household level sanitation & hygiene, handling wastewater and other waste in a proper manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustained and increased access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene</li> <li>Decreased child and maternal mortality rates</li> <li>Stunting reduced</li> <li>Improved safety of women and children</li> <li>Water available inside the property (yard or in-house)</li> <li>Stable, regulated water price</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All-inclusive program with special attention to women, children and marginalized</li> <li>Tariff/subsidies to be adjusted to enable the service level in general and services also to the poorest</li> <li>Need to increase attention to hygiene related activities, specifically via Total Sanitation and MHM</li> <li>Need to increase attention to disaster preparedness as a cross-cutting issue</li> <li>Improved/ sustainable WASH services in health posts and schools</li> </ul>
Girls at schools, health posts and other public facilities	<b>Right</b> to education and the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health <b>Right</b> to privacy and personal security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benefits from basic and advanced WASH services improved at institutions and servicing disadvantaged groups</li> <li>Access to sustained water services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criteria for deciding on institutions responsibility for arranging their own water supply</li> <li>Special attention to ensuring sustained WASH services for schools and health posts</li> <li>Need to increased attention to proper management of institutional latrines</li> <li>Need to increased focus on latrine design and facilities, specially thinking of needs of women/ girls and differently abled</li> </ul>
Institutions (especially schools and health posts)	<b>Regulated right</b> to join and enjoy the services as per conditions in the agreement with the service provider (WUSC, R/U/municipality) <b>Responsibility</b> for payments related to the connection to the service and tariff set for the water <b>Responsibility</b> for handling the waste water in a proper manner as per local level and national norms, and instructions of the municipal authorities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criteria for deciding on businesses responsibility for arranging their own water supply</li> <li>Guaranteed service level to be stated in the consumer agreement</li> </ul>
Businesses (cottage industries, workshops, hotels, restaurants, etc)	<b>Regulated right</b> to join and enjoy the services as per conditions in the agreement with the service provider <b>Responsibility</b> for payments related to the connection to the service and tariff set for the water <b>Responsibility</b> for handling the waste water in a proper manner as per local level and national norms, and instructions of the municipal authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to sustained water services at a regulated tariff</li> </ul>	
<b>At municipal level:</b>			
Water User Associations/ Water and Sanitation Users Committees (WUA/WSUCs)	<b>Responsibility</b> for production and provision of safe water for all users in the service area, including but not limited to day-to-day management, operation and maintenance <b>Right</b> to collect tariffs from users based on agreement in the WUA, or as regulated by the municipal authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizations responsible for water production and provision will have the preconditions to operate and service the clients up to the targeted standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operators' capacity building</li> <li>Improvement of water supply structures</li> <li>Tariffs management</li> </ul>

Stakeholder group	Rights/responsibilities	Benefits gained	Actions required
Duty-bearers			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Water Boards / Municipal WASH Coordination Committee (M-WASH-CC)/Village WASH Coordination Committee (V-WASH-CC)/Ward WASH Coordination Committee (W-WASH-CC)</li><li>Municipal councils</li></ul>	<p><b>Responsibility</b> for municipality-wide planning, coordination and supervision of all water utilities and WUA/WSUCs</p> <p><b>Right</b> to function as stipulated in the constitution of the Water Board set by the municipal council</p> <p><b>As the high highest decision-making body in the municipality, responsible</b> for ensuring balanced inclusive WASH sector development and services in the R/U/municipality area</p> <p><b>Right</b> to set water tariffs</p> <p><b>Rights and responsibilities</b> to be clarified later during the inception phase of the project</p> <p>P-WASH-CC is yet to be established, as well as its’ rights and responsibilities, but its main role would be to ensure coordination among WASH stakeholders in the province.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Water Boards/ M-WASH-CC/V-WASH-CC/W-WASH-CC capacitated to run their supervisory role</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Municipal Councils implement their role in improvement of the water supply services</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Municipal Councils’ capacity building</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Water Board’s / M-WASH-CC/V-WASH-CC/W-WASH-CC status establishment</li><li>Water Boards/ M-WASH-CC/V-WASH-CC/W-WASH-CC capacity building</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Municipal Councils’ status and role establishment in relation to water supply services</li><li>Municipal Councils’ capacity building</li></ul>
<i>The Provincial governments, especially Provincial WASH Coordination Committee (P-WASH-CC)</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provincial Governments’ /P-WASH-CC implement their role in improvement of the water supply services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provincial Governments’ / P-WASH-CC status and role establishment in relation to water supply services</li><li>Provincial Governments’ / P-WASH-CC capacity building related to WASH</li></ul>
<b>At the central level:</b>		<p>Provinces and municipalities supported and monitored in implementing the national water supply and sanitation policies and strategies in their federalized role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ministry’s role establishment</li><li>The roles of DWSSM/FWSSMP offices to confirmed</li><li>National monitoring and management of R/U/municipalities’ data on WASH</li><li>DWSSM capacity building when relevant</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ministry of Water Supply (MoWS) and the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management (DWSSM)</li></ul>	<p><b>Responsible</b> for facilitating an enabling environment for the provinces and municipalities to improve the WASH services particularly concerning big schemes/projects</p> <p><b>Right</b> to formulate and set sector policies, norms and regulations for federalized WASH administration at the national level</p>		

## **Terms of Reference for Supervisory Board**

### **Supervisory Board**

The Supervisory Board (SB) is the highest decision-making body of SUSWA. The main duties of SB are:

- approval of major strategic and policy issues directly relevant for the Project;
- approval of any changes in the Project Document including Project scope and objectives, the organisational structure and management as well as any other changes to the Project which will have major financial implications;
- SB is authorised to revise and approve the Project budget including any changes between the budget lines, however, only under the total budget ceiling determined in the Project Document; MoWS will involve MoF in the decision making if the contribution of GoF and/or GoN are increased from the agreed contributions as per the Project Contract between the Governments.
- approval of the annual work plans and budgets; approval of the annual progress reports;
- approval of the Project policies and implementation principles developed during implementation; and
- any other (policy) decisions which have financial implications.

The decisions of SB will be clearly recorded in the meeting minutes. The SB meetings will be held in English.

While SB has the full authority to deviate from the Project Document when approving annual work plans. However, any such deviations should be clearly brought to its attention when the draft annual work plans and budget are submitted to SB, and such deviations have to be clearly recorded in the meeting minutes of SB.

The Composition of the Supervisory Board is:

- Secretary of MoWS (Chairperson);
- Joint Secretary of MoWS (Member)
- Director General of DWSSM (Member Secretary);
- Representative of MFA/Embassy of Finland;
- Representative of the EU.

SB has authority to invite other participants as needed to attend meetings such as PD, CTA and a Karnali provincial government representative. The PCO and CTA perform as resource persons presenting issues to be discussed and decided. However, their presence in the actual meeting is not mandatory and by invitation only.

SB will meet at least once a year to approve the annual budget and related work plan and annual progress report, and more often as needed. SB may also make decisions through official correspondence.

SB aims at consensus in decision making. Regarding any SB decisions leading to changes in the Project Contract between the Government of Nepal and Government of Finland, the Ministry of Water Supply will involve the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of Nepal in the decision making process. The Ministry of Finance is the ultimate authority to approve Line Ministry Budget Information System (LMBIS) which reflects the annual project activities and budget and therefore the MoF's additional approval for the Annual Work Plan is not required. SB is authorised to approve the Annual Progress Report of the Project prepared by the TA team since the Municipalities report financial and physical progress as per the Government of Nepal system. For possible issues that could have considerable implication, especially financial, the Competent Authorities will have veto-right.

## **Job Descriptions**

### **Chief Technical Advisor (International)**

**Duration:** 57.75 person-months (5.5 calendar years)

**Education:** Master's degree in Water Supply and Sanitation, Civil Engineering, Environmental Science, Social Science or another relevant field

**Language:** Fluency in both spoken and written English

#### **Experience and skills:**

- Minimum 5 years relevant international working experience;
- Minimum of 10 years of work experience in fields related to environmental management, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, water supply or sanitation, rural development, or other relevant field;
- Extensive experience of leading multidisciplinary teams in short or long-term assignments in developing countries;
- Experience in project cycle management in donor supported programmes in Asia;
- Experience in water supply and sanitation in developing countries;
- Good intercultural and communication skills;
- Capacity and ability to promote gender equality and social inclusion;
- High professional integrity and proven ability to work in difficult conditions;
- Excellent interpersonal and leadership skills: and
- Prior knowledge of Nepalese development and social context will be an advantage.

#### **Duties:**

- Human, material and financial resources to implement the Project;
- Preparation of TORs and proposing experts for international short term and national short and long-term consultants not approved in the tender;
- Preparation of necessary manuals and guidelines needed to operate and manage PSU;
- Development of performance monitoring criteria and conduct performance evaluation of staff on annual basis, and if necessary, decide on necessary actions;
- Compilation of annual work plans and budgets;
- Training, technical support and advise at all levels;
- Coordination and compilation of financial and progress reports;
- Transfer of knowledge to the local bodies personnel and other relevant stakeholders;
- Follow-up the proper use of funds provided by GoF and GoN;
- Management of funds allocated through the PSU for Program implementation and monitoring of the use of investment and operational funds used at the municipal level;
- Development of capacity building and M&E plans for SUSWA/PSU supported capacity building programmes;
- Development of institutional and governance capacity development programmes;
- Development of M&E systems for Municipality and community levels;
- Development of performance monitoring parameters and monitor the Project performance of all levels; and
- Ensuring effective coordination and sharing of lessons learnt between stakeholders at different levels.

**Place of assignment:** Project Support Unit (PSU)

## **Field Specialist (International Junior Technical Adviser)**

**Duration:** 24 calendar months per person, 2 persons and in total 48 calendar months

**Education:** Master's degree in Environmental or Social Sciences or any other relevant discipline

**Language:** Fluency in written and spoken English and Finnish

### **Experience and skills:**

- Minimum 2 years of work experience in fields related to environmental management, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, water supply or sanitation, rural development, or other relevant field; and
- Prior experience of working in a developing country (either as a volunteer, trainee or in paid employment) an asset.

**Duties:** (Detailed duties to be described in tender and further confirmed during the inception period to fit in the personal training plan (as a junior) and to complement the competence of the TA team.

- Organisation of trainings and raising of awareness in WASH;
- Participation in the review/preparation of manuals, plans, guidelines, strategies, documents and TORs;
- Monitoring and evaluation of WASH implementation in Municipalities with particular focus to her/his field of experience/ duties;
- Contribution to relevant workshops and conferences in Nepal;
- Assistance in planning and implementation of planning and M&E workshops at all levels;
- Development and maintenance of the Project website and preparation of Project information, education and communication materials strategy;
- Preparation and updating of Project communication plan and security/emergency plans;
- Participation Project administration, finance and property management;
- Liaison with NGOs and projects working in the WASH sector in the Project area; and
- Other duties as assigned by CTA.

**Supervisor:** CTA

**Place of assignment:** Project Support Unit (PSU)



## **Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Preparedness Specialist (International)**

**Duration:** 21 person months, 2 calendar years

**Education:** Master's degree with substantial relevant experience in water and sanitation, environmental engineering, or other relevant disciplines

**Language:** Fluency in written and spoken English

### **Experience and skills:**

- Minimum 15 years relevant work experience;
- Extensive experience in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of water resources development;
- Proven experience in DRR and climate-resilient water supply and water resources management in Nepal;
- Training and facilitation skills; and
- Good communication and report writing skills in English

### **Duties:**

- Updating and Integration of climate change and disaster risk reduction/preparedness related indicators into MIS/M&E system;
- Development and incorporation of environment/CC/DRR in the project implementation manual (PIM) and insert in project documents;
- Developing the climate-resilient water resources development including source protection, watershed management, spring recharge approaches and update CC/DRR in the project implementation manual (PIM) and insert in project documents;
- Integration and updating of CC/DRR preparedness dimensions in the project implementation manual (PIM) and insert in project documents;
- Impart training (MToT) to PSU and Municipal WASH Advisors on environment/CC/DRR;
- Impart training to technical expert on review and development of designs of climate vulnerability resilient WASH structures;
- Update the project implementation manual (PIM) and project documents by inserting relevant training materials on CC/DRR related to water supply planning, design, construction, quality control, and WSP+++
- Other duties as assigned by CTA

**Supervisor:** CTA

**Place of assignment:** Project Support Unit (PSU) with frequent travel to Project municipalities

## **Monitoring and Evaluation/Coordination Specialist (National)**

**Duration:** 57.75 person-months (5.5 calendar years)

**Education:** Master's degree with substantial relevant experience, in economics, rural development, social science or any other relevant field.

**Language:** Fluency in written and spoken English and Nepali

### **Experience and skills:**

- Minimum 6 years of relevant work experience;
- Experience of developing M&E systems and conducting monitoring and evaluation assignments;
- Experience of working with government institutions capacity building in support of decentralised management;
- Good intercultural and communication skills;
- Capacity and ability to promote gender equality and social inclusion and human rights-based approach to WASH;
- Training and facilitation skills;
- Prior experience in water supply and sanitation sector;
- Experience in team management; and
- Good communication and report writing skills in English and Nepali.

### **Duties:**

- Coordinating the SUSWA work planning at Project and municipality levels
- Development of results and performance based approaches and indicators into M&E plans of SUSWA supported WASH capacity building programmes;
- Ensuring that gender and social inclusion aspects are monitored, and policies/strategies/ activities are responsive to monitoring findings;
- Development of indicators and monitoring of climate change and disaster risk preparedness related aspects in planning, implementation, post-construction and monitoring processes, including WSP+++;
- Coordination of a mid-line and end-line study in line with the completion strategy;
- Implementation of results and performance based monitoring and evaluation;
- Periodic review, monitoring of trimester, biannual and annual progress and evaluations, contributing to all progress reports, studies and evaluations;
- Monitoring of Project performance of all levels;
- Facilitation of the work of external evaluators, reviewers and planners;
- Project administration, financial and property management of the Project in the absence of CTA as Deputy Team Leader<sup>9</sup>; and
- Other duties as assigned by CTA.

**Supervisor:** CTA

**Place of assignment:** Project Support Unit (PSU) with travel to Project municipalities

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<sup>9</sup> Monitoring and Evaluation/Coordination Specialist is the most obvious position to take the duty of Deputy Team Leader but if necessary, another national expert can take this duty.

## **Non-discrimination/Behaviour Change Specialist (National)**

**Duration:** 57.75 person-months (5.5 calendar years)

**Education:** Master's degree, or Bachelor's degree with substantial relevant experience, in Social or Cultural Anthropology, Sociology, Behavioural Sciences or other relevant discipline

**Language:** Fluency in written and spoken English and Nepali

### **Experience and skills:**

- Minimum 5 years of relevant work experience;
- Extensive experience of working with communities in issues related to gender equality and social inclusion including the persons with disabilities
- Experience of working with community mobilisation and analyse harmful social norms
- Training and facilitation skills;
- Demonstrated experience designing, implementing, managing, and evaluating behaviour change interventions, preferably programmes with a social marketing component;
- Demonstrated experience using theory and evidence to design, monitor, and evaluate behaviour change interventions and action related to discriminative social norms
- Excellent social skills, ability to work and communicate in communities of diverse cultures;
- Experience in cooperation with development partners;
- Experience in human rights or social development related issues will be an advantage;
- Good communication and report writing skills in English and Nepali.

### **Duties:**

- Coordination of social development, gender, social inclusion, disability issues and rights based aspects of planning and implementation;
- Coordination of project level and support to provincial and local level social and geographical targeting
- Follow-up, development and participation in incorporation of human rights, social inclusion, gender equality, good governance in all relevant processes, guidelines and manuals;
- Coaching and training of PSU experts, WASH Units and WASH-CCs to develop and achieve social mobilisation and GEDSI targets at Project, provincial, Municipality and community levels;
- Integration of GEDSI aspects into WSP+++, WASH plans and strategies;
- Liaison with other projects and actors to share the best practises in GEDSI and HRBA;
- Integration of gender and social inclusion into all working modalities of local actors and other sector partners;
- Coordination of and support to GEDSI monitoring of WASH plans, implementation and results;
- Preparation of community level training modules related to schemes and ward/Mun. level functionaries and training of sector partners to undertake these trainings;
- Monitoring and reporting regularly social inclusion and gender equality in beneficiary selection, WASH planning as well as the composition of various committees;
- Development, coordination and monitoring of MHM related programmes/activities
- Preparation of comprehensive dignified menstruation training package, and organisation of regular interaction with and trainings to communities
- Building of behaviour change capacity in Municipalities;
- Other duties as assigned by CTA.

**Supervisor:** CTA

**Place of assignment:** Project Support Unit (PSU) with travel to Project municipalities

## **Sanitation and Hygiene Specialist (National)**

**Duration:** 57.75 person-months (5.5 calendar years)

**Education:** Master's degree, or Bachelor's degree with substantial relevant experience, in public health, health education, sanitary engineering or other relevant discipline

**Language:** Fluency in written and spoken English and Nepali

**Experience and skills:**

- Minimum 7 years of relevant work experience;
- Deep understanding of complex social, gender, cultural, and economic challenges and social norms affecting sanitation promotion and community mobilization;
- Extensive working experience in the sanitation business, Sani - mart promotion, and market-based approaches to deliver goods and services to rural households.
- Minimum five years direct experience in selling sanitation products in peri-urban and rural areas;
- Extensive experience in private sector development required; Business background and direct experience strongly preferred;
- Familiarity with using innovative financing tools and facilities, and linkages to financial institutions;
- Experience providing capacity building and technical assistance, particularly to local organizations and local government/utilities preferred but not required;
- Good communication and report writing skills in English and Nepali

**Duties:**

- Advice and support to Municipality and community-level partners/actors in planning, conducting and monitoring post-ODF and total sanitation activities and related monitoring;
- Support to Municipalities in managing and implementing sanitation and hygiene activities;
- Development of strategies, plans, processes and methods to promote and facilitate hygiene education in Municipalities, wards, communities and schools;
- Development of strategies, plans and capacity building for the improvement of sustainable sanitation coverage and hygiene habits;
- Ensuring appropriate social mobilisation and sustainability in institutional latrine construction and management;
- Sanitation and hygiene behaviour change capacity building for relevant Municipalities staff; Support to supervision, monitoring and relevant reporting related to sanitation, and hygiene in the Project Municipalities;
- Preparation of training materials and training stakeholders in sanitation and hygiene, monitoring of sanitation and hygiene training;
- Development of sanitation/social marketing strategies and other innovative approaches related to post-ODF actions;
- Preparation of capacity building programmes and tools for institutional water sanitation, and hygiene facility maintenance; Managing sanitation and hygiene data;
- Development of conducive environment for WASH business (mainly SaniMart) and waste management (including faecal sludge management);
- Design and test adequate business models to deliver sanitation products and services to isolated communities;
- Strengthen supply chains for sanitation products by linking businesses to Sani-Mart Centers and other key regional distributors;
- Organizing relevant training programmes for the capacity development of municipalities, promotion of the private sector, and linkages with financial institutions;
- Other duties as assigned by CTA.

**Supervisor:** CTA

**Place of assignment:** Project Support Unit (PSU)

**Technical Specialist (National)**

**Duration:** 57.75 person-months (5.5 calendar years)

**Education:** Master's degree, or Bachelor's degree with substantial relevant experience, in water and sanitation, environmental engineering or other relevant discipline

**Language:** Fluency in written and spoken English and Nepali

**Experience and skills:**

- Minimum 5 years of relevant work experience;
- Extensive experience in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of water supply and its O&M
- Demonstrated computer skills including MS Excel, MIS systems, databases and GIS mapping;
- Experience in water quality issues
- Experience in DRR and climate resilient water supply
- Training and facilitation skills; and
- Good communication and report writing skills in English and Nepali.

**Duties:**

- Advice on technical aspects of gravity water supply systems, lift systems, rainwater harvesting and drainage systems;
- Review/development of technical designs and guidelines on CGD friendly hygiene and sanitation facilities at institutions and public places and development of technical designs on MHM hardware facilities at schools;
- Improvement of working guidelines and manuals to be user friendly at local and WUSC level concerning all technologies and systems that villagers need to construct and maintain;
- Integration of GEDSI and HRBA principles into technical planning, design implementation and O&M;
- Integration of climate change and disaster risk preparedness dimensions into relevant technical planning, design, implementation, post-construction and monitoring processes, including WSP+++ at scheme and ward/Municipality levels;
- Review and development of designs of climate vulnerability resilient WASH structures;
- Technical auditing of existing systems for improvement and rehabilitation;
- Checking of designs and tender documents and following up, guiding and improving tender procedures;
- Supervision of construction of water supply and institutional sanitation facilities;
- Development of training materials and training of WASH sector implementers in water supply planning, design, construction, quality control and O&M;
- Advising WUSCs, WASH-CCs and other community and Municipality level actors on technical planning, design, implementation and O&M aspects;
- Monitoring and quality control of WS schemes;
- Maintaining database of the status of completed schemes, contributing to development of the Project MIS; and
- Other duties as assigned by CTA.

**Supervisor:** CTA

**Place of assignment:** Project Support Unit (PSU)

## **Governance Specialist (National)**

**Duration:** 47.25 person-months, 4,5 years

**Education:** Minimum Bachelor's degree but preferably Master's degree with substantial relevant experience in governance, WASH, environmental engineering, or other relevant disciplines

**Language:** Fluency in written and spoken English and Nepali

### **Experience and skills:**

- Minimum 10 years of relevant work experience;
- Extensive experience in planning, implementation, and monitoring of WASH projects, including WASH governance and Water Safety Planning
- Demonstrated experience in dealing with local government in the governance of water supply and water safety planning;
- Proved extensive training and facilitation skills;
- Excellent communication skills in Nepali; additional local languages preferred;
- Good command of English, including report writing skills

### **Duties:**

- Development of capacity building plans for the SusWA/PSU supported capacity building programmes;
- Planning, coordinating the implementation, and supporting Municipalities and communities in implementing WSP+++ at scheme levels;
- Supporting Municipalities, wards, and WSUCs in enhancing and strengthening WASH governance;
- Development of institutional and governance capacity development programmes;
- Implement training and other capacity development programmes to the project staff and the officials of Municipalities, WSUCs, and communities;
- Involve in organizing training on public hearing and public auditing to the Municipality officials and WASH Advisors for maintaining transparency and accountability in programme implementation; and
- Other duties as assigned by CTA.

**Supervisor:** CTA

**Place of assignment:** Project Support Unit (PSU)

## **Management Information Systems Adviser (National)**

**Duration:** 57.75 person-months (5.5 calendar years)

**Education:** Master's degree or Bachelor's degree with substantial relevant experience in Information Technology or relevant fields

**Language:** Fluency in written and spoken English and Nepali

### **Experience and skills:**

- Minimum five years of relevant work experience;
- Proven experience in monitoring water service delivery either with urban water utilities or private service delivery organizations;
- Experience in operation and maintenance supervision, over technical and management aspects;
- Technology-wise, experience in managing remote monitoring technologies or MIS systems;
- Excellent computer skills, including MS Excel and GIS mapping tools; and
- Good communication in English and Nepali.

### **Duties:**

- Initiation and coordination of and support the Project and partners at all levels in accessing, using and feeding a user-friendly MIS;
- Initiation of and support to compilation, analysis and maintenance of household, community, Municipality/ward and Project data as per monitoring plan, including regular scheme and local level progress data and related monitoring practices;
- Ensuring regular update of results for each result framework targets and indicators; Integration of gender and social inclusion indicators into MIS; ensuring that GESI and human rights based approach related indicators are systematically monitored and reported;
- Regular training and remote support (problem-solving) to both Municipal officers and project WASH Advisors in O&M Water supply and water service delivery;
- Collection and analysis of functionality data from calls and sensors;
- Measuring performances and supporting WSUCs and municipalities in post-construction operations and maintenance,
- Coordinating and supervising the deployment of a maintenance system in Karnali Region, including remote support to service delivery by a call center ;
- Preparation and coordination of functionality maps and alerts system by using GIS-based tools and remote monitoring;
- Other duties as assigned by CTA. Other duties as assigned by CTA.

**Place of assignment:** Project Support Unit (PSU) with travel to Project municipalities

## **Municipal WASH Advisers (National)**

**Duration:** 57.75 person-months x 6, in total 346.5 person

**Education:** Master's degree or Bachelor's degree in Water and Sanitation, Engineering, Social Science, Public Administration or other relevant discipline

**Language:** Fluency in written and spoken English and Nepali, command of local languages of working area is an additional asset

### **Experience and skills:**

- Minimum 5 years of relevant work experience;
- Extensive experience in training and capacity building with public official and communities;
- Excellent community mobilisation and community skills;
- Training and facilitation skills; and
- Good communication and report writing skills in English and Nepali,

### **Duties:**

- Support to Municipality in planning, coordinating and funding of WASH sector activities;
- Assistance to M-WASH Units in implementing and monitoring WASH projects/schemes/activities;
- Facilitation and monitoring of operations of MWFs' on behalf of SUSWA;
- Follow-up of activities and performance of all partners in her/his working area in the WASH sector and identification of needs for further institutional support and capacity building;
- Facilitation of regular planning and reporting of the Project in Municipalities and to GoN and GoF;
- Assistance to Municipalities and communities to apply SUSWA support and in setting priorities and selection of water supply schemes for implementation through strategic and periodic WASH sector planning;
- Training of and assistance to Municipality personnel in the training SOs, WUSCs and other WASH actors, including WASH-CCs;
- Mainstreaming of GEDSI principles into all monitoring and capacity building activities, ensuring that decisions are based on GEDSI principles and include DAGs in decision making;
- Support to preparation of WSP+++ and mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk reduction into WASH planning;
- Assistance in monitoring of all aspects of Project progress and finances; regular Municipality/ward and scheme level monitoring and updating of MIS;
- Preparation and submission of monthly, biannual and other status reports as needed to PSU; and
- Other duties as assigned by CTA.

**Supervisor:** CTA

**Place of assignment:** Designated office in selected Municipality (covering a cluster of Municipalities)



## **Municipal WASH Advisers (National)**

**Duration:** 42 months x 2 persons, in total 84 person months

**Education:** Master's degree or Bachelor's degree in Water and Sanitation, Engineering, Social Science, Public Administration or other relevant discipline

**Language:** Fluency in written and spoken English and Nepali, command of local languages of working area is an additional asset

### **Experience and skills:**

- Minimum 5 years of relevant work experience;
- Extensive experience in training and capacity building with public official and communities;
- Excellent community mobilisation and community skills;
- Training and facilitation skills; and
- Good communication and report writing skills in English and Nepali,

### **Duties:**

- Support to Municipality in planning, coordinating and funding of WASH sector activities;
- Assistance to M-WASH Units in implementing and monitoring WASH projects/schemes/activities;
- Facilitation and monitoring of operations of MWFs' on behalf of SUSWA;
- Follow-up of activities and performance of all partners in her/his working area in the WASH sector and identification of needs for further institutional support and capacity building;
- Facilitation of regular planning and reporting of the Project in Municipalities and to GoN and GoF;
- Assistance to Municipalities and communities to apply SUSWA support and in setting priorities and selection of water supply schemes for implementation through strategic and periodic WASH sector planning;
- Training of and assistance to Municipality personnel in the training SOs, WUSCs and other WASH actors, including WASH-CCs;
- Mainstreaming of GEDSI principles into all monitoring and capacity building activities, ensuring that decisions are based on GEDSI principles and include DAGs in decision making;
- Support to preparation of WSP+++ and mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk reduction into WASH planning;
- Assistance in monitoring of all aspects of Project progress and finances; regular Municipality/ward and scheme level monitoring and updating of MIS;
- Preparation and submission of monthly, biannual and other status reports as needed to PSU; and
- Other duties as assigned by CTA.

**Supervisor:** CTA

**Place of assignment:** Designated office in selected Municipality (covering a cluster of Municipalities)