

ONE WASH
ANNUAL REPORT 2014
WASH Section, UNICEF Nepal Country Office



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February 2015

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EXPRESSION OF THANKS

UNICEF extends its sincere appreciation to the Government of Finland and to the UK's Department for International Development (DfID) for the support they have provided for the WASH programme. This support has provided benefits to many poor families and children in Nepal and has proven vital for the implementation of UNICEF's Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) for 2013-2017. The funding has also contributed to UNICEF's work in securing children's rights to clean Water, hygiene and sanitation.

UNICEF thanks the Government of Finland and DfID for their generosity in funding which works to save the lives of young children and to protect vulnerable communities. By supporting the Government's efforts to reach a wide range of stakeholders across the country, UNICEF has taken the lead in ensuring that co-financing funds create both direct benefits in the 32 UNICEF programme districts, and that these results are leveraged to benefit the whole nation.

While working to support the Government of Nepal in achieving its goal of Water and Sanitation for all by 2017, UNICEF programmes have netted well-balanced and well-coordinated results at both the national and local levels. Indeed, in 2014, more districts than ever before declared themselves Open Defecation Free.

At the national level, the WASH programme document and the completion of the second Joint Sector Review have steered stakeholders towards a clear course of action. In addition, improvements in UNICEF's financial planning and reporting systems have helped the WASH section to manage double the amount of funds that it did in 2013 without additional human resources. Furthermore, the WASH section has developed a robust monitoring and evaluation system and Result Based Allocation Framework that will provide for further efficiencies in the future.

The positive changes and coordinated results witnessed in 2014 would not have been possible without the support of the Government of Finland and DfID. This is particularly true for this One WASH Annual Report, and the monitoring and evaluation framework mentioned above.

Finally UNICEF WASH would like to express its gratitude for the continuous support and constructive input that the Government of Finland and DfID provided during the WASH programme implementation process, including monitoring visits to WASH programme districts.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CATS	Community Approaches to Total Sanitation
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
DACAOW	Decentralized Action for Children and Women (UNICEF)
DDC	District Development Committee
DfID	Department for International Development (UK)
DWSS	Department of Water Supply and Sewerage
DoLIDAR	Department of Local Infrastructure and Agricultural Roads
FEDWASUN	Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer
iDE	International Development Enterprises
INGO	International Non Governmental Organization
MAF	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
NMICS	Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
NDHS	Nepal Demographic Health Survey
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PCA	Programme Cooperation Agreement
SNV	Netherlands International Development Agency
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNICEF ROSA	United Nations Children's Fund Regional Office for South Asia
VDC	Village Development Committee
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Country:	Nepal
Country programme:	Country Programme Action Plan 2013-2017
Programme:	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
Donor reference:	PBA SC/2011/0105 (MFA Finland) PBA SC/2013/0518 (DfID United Kingdom)
Type and period of report:	Joint annual report for all contributing agencies for year 2014 (Jan-Dec)
Report due date:	Saturday 28 February 2015
CPAP planned amount:	US\$ 14,001,000 (total originally planned for 2013-2017)
Revised CPAP planned amount:	US\$ 25,000,000 (total revised planned for 2013-2017, to be confirmed at Mid-Term Review in 2015)
MFA Finland:	EUR 1,900,000 (planned for 2014), app. 2,606,420 US\$ App. US\$ 2,412,083 (programmable for 2014) App. US\$ 194,336 (Management fee for 2014) US\$ 2,973,430 (total expenditure in 2014, excluding commitments approximately. US\$ 600,000) Actual Expenditure level 114 per cent Actual Expenditure plus Commitment level 137 per cent
DfID United Kingdom:	US\$ 2,150,000 (planned for 2014) US\$ 1,488,689 (expenditure in 2014) Expenditure level 69 per cent
UNICEF Regular Resources:	US\$ 525,223 (planned for 2014) US\$ 503,653 (expenditure in 2014) Expenditure level 96 per cent
UNICEF Emergency Resources:	US\$ 329,034 (available in 2014) US\$ 329,034 (expenditure in 2014) Expenditure level 100 per cent
Geographical area:	32 districts
Focus population:	Senior decision and policy makers at national, regional and district level. The most disadvantaged and vulnerable rural communities, especially those most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in the Mid- and Far-Western Development regions and the Terai. School children, their parents and school administrators.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The Government of Nepal aims to achieve universal access to improved water supplies and sanitation systems by 2017. While the national census of 2011 reported access to improved water supplies at 85 per cent and to improved sanitation systems at 62 per cent, the Key Findings report of January 2015 from the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey shows figures of 93 per cent and 60 per cent respectively. The 2011 census also reported that the rural open defecation rate stood at 45 per cent and was rapidly declining; this is a great achievement and reflects the success of the Social Movement for Sanitation which has received support from multiple government Offices, donor organizations and international / local NGOs.

As part of its core mandate, UNICEF works to address the needs and to promote the well-being of women and children; UNICEF support spans the period from infancy to adolescence. The child is at the core of the UNICEF Nepal Country Programme Action Plan for 2013-2017, and as a humanitarian agency, UNICEF's overriding principle is to safeguard the rights of the child during emergencies. The immediate delivery of WASH services is a key life-saving component of any emergency response operation. In Nepal, UNICEF co-leads the emergency response group for the WASH cluster. In addition to emergency WASH response, UNICEF works in WASH disaster risk reduction and

resilience. This is particularly important for Nepal, which is feeling the impacts of climate change, in the form of increasingly variable and unpredictable hydrological conditions.

In terms of programming, the majority of funding is allocated to sanitation service delivery and, to a lesser extent, water supply. In addition, UNICEF and its partners pay special attention to accelerating the momentum of the Social Movement for Sanitation, particularly in the Terai region.

The convergences of WASH programming with programmes working on nutrition, education, communication for development and adolescent development, are integral to the section's modus operandi. Although there is scaled support for service delivery and communication for development, policy work is the de facto heart of the programme, as we work to empower our Nepali partner agencies to take responsibility for the ownership and management of the sector in the decades to come. UNICEF works to bring together stakeholders from Village Development Committee (VDC) to global level to promote the WASH sector and align activity with the goal of government ownership and service delivery. The WASH sector will achieve this through the ONE WASH Sector Development Plan which uses a sector wide approach to WASH programming, and places responsibility for WASH sector reform firmly on the shoulders of the government.

This report brings together the achievements in 2014 made possible with funding from Finland, the United Kingdom, and UNICEF. In addition to presenting overall results, the report classifies programme outcomes by donor agency. Inevitably, the use of this approach means that the 2014 report is longer than those of preceding years. For the remainder of the current CPAP (2015-2017), there could be significant efficiency gains if a switch from source specific reporting to a system that counts results per contribution without attribution was applied. UNICEF would then report only on overall results; these could then be split to reflect percentages of partner financing.

The Joint Mid-Term Review (carried out by Orgut Ltd.), the Internal Audit (carried out by the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations), the Joint Limited Evaluation (carried out by KMPG Ltd.) and reports from several donor field missions all indicated that guaranteed and sustainable large-scale financing for the entire programme period is essential. In addition, recommendations were made to redesign planning, monitoring and evaluation systems to facilitate the production of a ONE WASH Annual Report for 2014. This report contains data from the newly set up monitoring and evaluation system.

Programme Management

For UNICEF, 2014 included a number of extensive reviews and audits, intensive result-based planning initiatives and rapid movement towards a Sector Wide Approach. In addition, the WASH Section continued to provide coordination for WASH cluster responses to humanitarian crises in Nepal.

In order to better manage results at the planning and budgeting stages (February-March) of the programming process, a Result-Based Allocation Framework for use by all implementing partners was designed and introduced. This was followed by the complete revamping of the monitoring and evaluation system in the last quarter of 2014.

Also in 2014, UNICEF successfully secured its minimum funding base for the period 2013 – 2017 by bringing in the European Union as a new and like minded partner. Although the European Union has agreed to provide funding for both 2016 and 2017, UNICEF is seeking a further US\$ 5 million from its long-term partners to enable it to capitalize on its delivery effectiveness during the same period. UNICEF gives priority to thematic funding at the global, regional or country level which is in line with the UNICEF global strategy and its Paris Declaration commitments.

Despite tackling almost double the previous year's level of financing, the WASH section was able to deliver results in 2014 without significantly increasing the deployment of human resources. Indeed, the only additional members of staff recruited during the year were three national WASH Specialists. UNICEF's Senior WASH Specialist was temporarily seconded to the Syria Emergency Response initiative during 2014 and the WASH Chief provided cover during the four month absence of the Deputy Representative. The WASH Chief also filled in for the UNICEF Country Representative for a short period of the year. The human resource situation in the WASH section was largely positive, with only one post (Junior Professional Officer) remaining vacant throughout the year.

Emergencies in Nepal during 2014 included: extensive flooding in Surkhet, Bardia, Dang and Banke districts; a severe landslide in Sindhupalchowk district; and a slew of diarrhoea outbreaks in the Terai in May and June. The period from August – October 2014 was particularly critical in terms of providing a coordinated and life-saving, WASH response.

UNICEF Nepal's WASH Section operates in a multi-partner environment. To support the sustainability of WASH programming initiatives, UNICEF has worked with its partners and other WASH sector stakeholders to ensure Government of Nepal ownership and leadership in the sector.

Policy Progress

The draft ONE WASH Sector Development Plan was shared with all concerned stakeholders in 2014 and inputs sought for any necessary revisions. At the same time, the Terms of Reference for the Financing Strategy was approved by the Government and is now ready for the Technical Assistance tendering process. These achievements were possible thanks to the successful completion of Second Joint Sector Review, which drew together sector specific thematic priorities in the form of a resolution. This resolution was used to inform Nepal's position and commitment at the global ministerial level Sanitation and water for All meeting in Washington DC during 2014. UNICEF also provided the government with support and advice during the revision of the national WASH policy and WASH Act during 2014.

Programme Progress

UNICEF supported WASH programme results against the nine core indicators listed below are very encouraging:

- * With UNICEF support, a total of 5 districts were declared Open Defecation Free in 2014.
- * A total of 214 VDCs across the areas where UNICEF works were declared Open Defecation Free in 2014, benefiting some 482,665 people. In addition, five municipalities in UNICEF supported districts were declared Open Defecation Free. Marginalized people have been served with 12 schemes with improved drinking water services.
- * A total of 11,302 marginalized people across 12 separate schemes are benefitting from improved drinking water services.
- * In collaboration with the Government of Nepal and the Federation of Water and Sanitation Users Nepal, UNICEF has supported the implementation of water Safety Plan in 235 schemes to improve water quality. Implementation is now complete on 63 schemes.
- * UNICEF in collaboration with the Federation of Water and Sanitation Users Nepal supported 100 schemes for improving the functionality, sustainability and management of water supply services across the country.
- * As part of the UNICEF supported WASH in Schools initiative, 111 schools installed WASH hardware during 2014 while installation processes are ongoing in an additional 400 schools.
- * The life-skills based sanitation and hygiene education package has been rolled out in a total of 455 schools (136,000 children) as part of the software element of the WASH in Schools initiative.
- * In its efforts to promote hand washing with soap in 2014, UNICEF provided hygiene education to 24,239 mothers and caretakers of children under five in programme districts.
- * Life-saving WASH humanitarian response operations reached a total of 192,034 people (including 80,654 children) in nine disaster affected districts in 2014.

Despite the very good progress against the core indicators listed above, challenges for the sector remain; these are made clear by robust, new monitoring and evaluation data, the results of the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014 (NMICS 2014) and other evidence. Outstanding issues such as the handling of infant/child faeces and water quality have programme implications for both UNICEF and other WASH sector actors.

Financial Progress

WASH Programme expenditure for 2014 totalled US\$ 5,294,430 (commitments excluded), which represents over 17 per cent of total UNICEF Nepal Country Office expenditure for the year. The UNICEF WASH section (in collaboration with

UNICEF Zonal Offices) managed to utilize 94 per cent of funds during the reporting period; a remarkable achievement considering the increase in total WASH Programme expenditure between 2013 (US\$ 2,858,374) and 2014 (US\$ 5,294,806).

Although the WASH Programme results presented in this report could not have been achieved by UNICEF alone, it focuses exclusively on UNICEF's work. It should be noted, however, that to achieve these results, UNICEF has worked closely with multiple partners at different levels. With this in mind, UNICEF is proud to acknowledge the contributions of its government, donor, I/NGO, private sector and academic sector partners; these are very much our joint results.

Year 2014 in US\$	Allocation for UNICEF NCO	Annual Expenditure	Annual Unspent	Annual Overspent	Expenditure Rate	Note
MFA Finland	<i>2,606,420</i>	2,973,430		<i>367,010</i>	<i>114%</i>	Italics are estimates
DFID United Kingdom	2,150,000	1,488,689	661,311		69%	
UNICEF Regular Resources	525,223	503,653	21,570		96%	
UNICEF Emergency Resources	329,034	329,034			100%	
Total Expenditure:	<i>5,610,677</i>	5,294,806	682,881	367,010	94%	
<i>*all amounts in US\$</i>		Unspent:		315,871		