



# SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FY04 2073/74 – CY2016/17 (17.7.16-13.1.17) RWSSP-WN BRIEF 1-2017

## SUMMARY

This Semi-Annual Progress Report for the first half of the fourth Fiscal Year (FY04) covers the six-month period of Nepali FY2073/074 (July 17, 2016 to January 13, 2017). This report presents the progress of both the district programmes funded through the District Development Funds (DDFs) and the work funded through TA accounts.

RWSSP-WN II is well on track. Having reached 65% of the available time, the Project has utilized 61% of the DDF budget (GoN and GoF) and 59% of the TA budget. Regarding the sanitation results, only three working districts out of 14 remain to be declared 'Open Defecation Free' (ODF), and 64% of the planned 220 public, school and institutional toilets have been constructed. Regarding drinking water supply (DWS), 59% of the targeted 150,00 beneficiaries have been reached. In addition, the project has given capacity development training to 64 % of the targeted 250,000 beneficiaries.

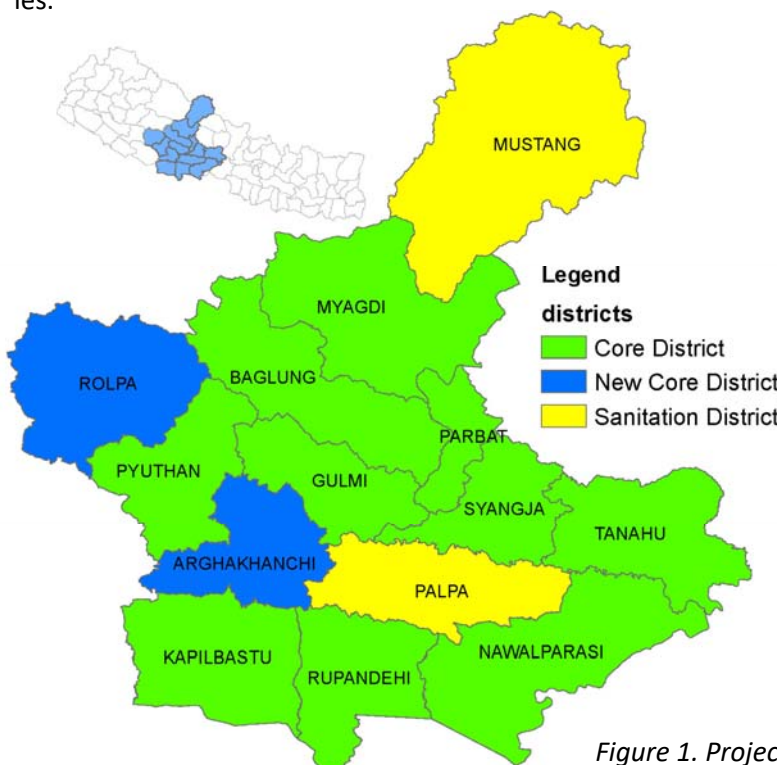


Figure 1. Project working area

## Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal Phase II (RWSSP-WN II)

**Project duration:**  
09/2013-09/2018

**Competent Authorities:**

- ◇ Government of Finland (GoF)
- ◇ Government of Nepal (GoN)
- ◇ Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD)
- ◇ Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR)
- ◇ Technical Assistance (TA) consultant: FCG International (Finnish Consulting Group Ltd.) [www.fcg.fi](http://www.fcg.fi)

**Report type:**  
Semi-Annual Progress Report  
FY04 (2073/74 – CY2016/17)

**Prepared by:**  
Project Support Unit (PSU)

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**Report distribution:**  
Public

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

RWSSP-WN II works for *improved health and fulfilment of the equal right to water and sanitation for the inhabitants of the project area through a decentralized governance system.*

**RWSSP-WN II has three main result areas to achieve the long-term impact:**

**Result 1.** Access to sanitation & hygiene for all achieved and sustained in the project working districts.

**Result 2.** Access to safe, functional & inclusive water supply services for all achieved and sustained in the project working Village Development Committees (VDC).

**Result 3.** Strengthened institutional capacity of government bodies to plan, coordinate, support and monitor the Water Users and Sanitation Committees (WUSC) and other community groups in the implementation, operation and maintenance of domestic water, sanitation and hygiene programmes in a self-sustainable manner.

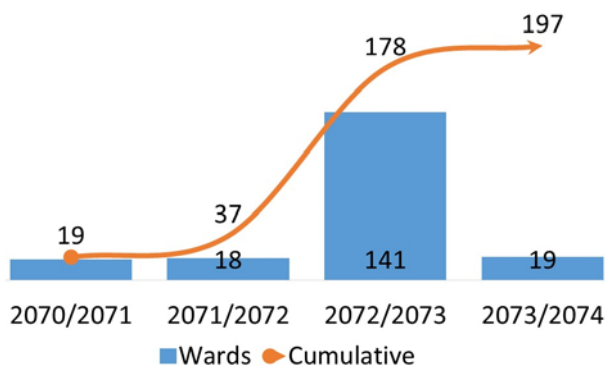
**RWSSP-WN II** works in Arghakhanchi, Baglung, Gulmi, Kapilvastu, Mustang, Myagdi, Nawalparasi, Palpa, Parbat, Rupandehi, Syangja & Tanahun (Western region) and in Pyuthan and Rolpa (Mid-Western region). Palpa & Mustang are supported for sanitation & hygiene.

## PROGRESS

### RESULT AREA 1. SANITATION

By the end of the reporting period, 94% of the 702 working VDCs had declared ODF covering 4,001,902 people. Still, there are 40 VDCs to declare ODF (Rupandehi 3, Palpa 8, Kapilvastu 29). RWSSP-WN II promotes Total Sanitation (TS) in all its 14 working districts. This far 197 wards have declared TS (Figure 2) covering 37,188 people. Total 141 out of planned 220 public/institutional/school toilets were completed.

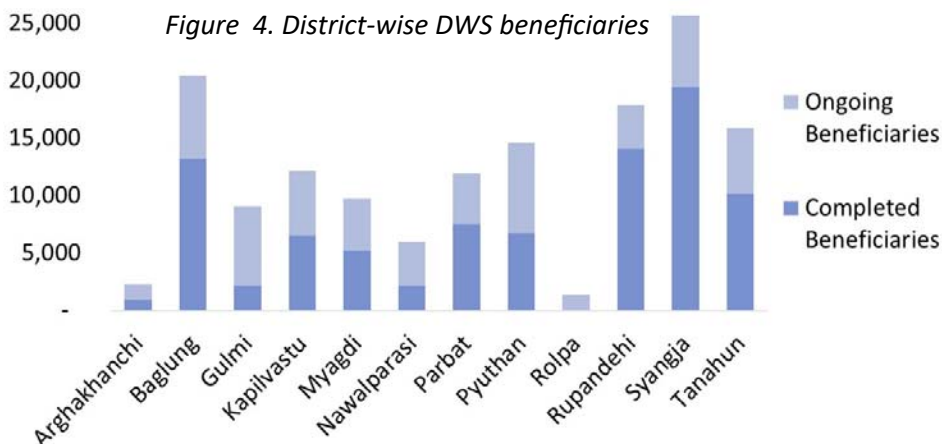
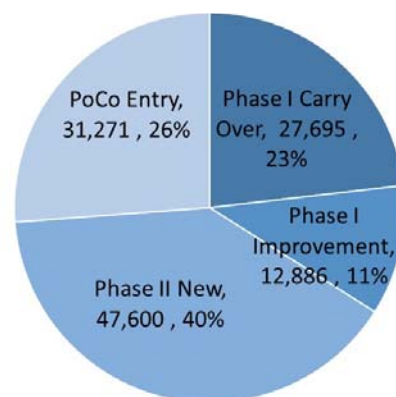
Figure 2. Total Sanitation declared wards by FY



### RESULT 2. WATER SUPPLY

RWSSP-WN II supports both new DWS schemes as well as Phase I schemes that were either not finished during the Phase I or that require improvements. RWSSP-WN II provides also hardware & software post-construction (PoCo) support to selected schemes constructed under other programs. Figure 3 shows that PoCo Entry scheme users are an important beneficiary group — even if they do not show in the actual new DWS beneficiary data of RWSSP-WN II. By far, there are 88,181 beneficiaries in the 188 completed DWS schemes and 58,948 in the 171 ongoing DWS schemes in the whole working area (excluding PoCo Entry Schemes). See Figure 4 for the district-wise differences.

Figure 3. DWS beneficiaries by scheme entry-point



Following the human rights based approach (HRBA), the objective of RWSSP-WN II is to “reach the unreached”, to ensure the previously unserved households (HH) access to water and sanitation. This far of all the RWSSP-WN II DWS scheme beneficiaries, 69% have not received any previous external support (Figure 5). This means that the Project has fulfilled well its objectives. Figure 6 shows the share of different caste/ethnic/social groups by district. As per the HRBA & GESI Strategy and Action Plan, RWSSP-WN II collects data of the representativeness of Dalit, Abidasi Janajati (AJ), Disadvantaged Tarai Groups (DTC), Religious minorities (RM) and ‘Other’ HHs.

Figure 5. Household categories served by DWS schemes

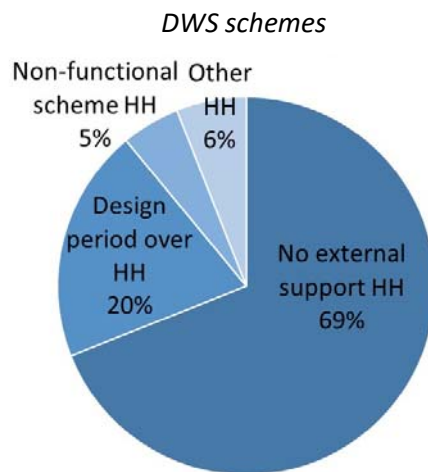
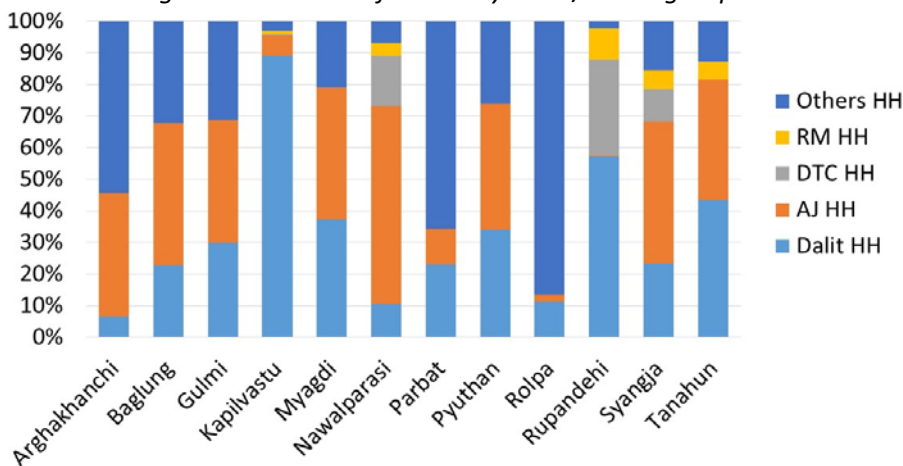


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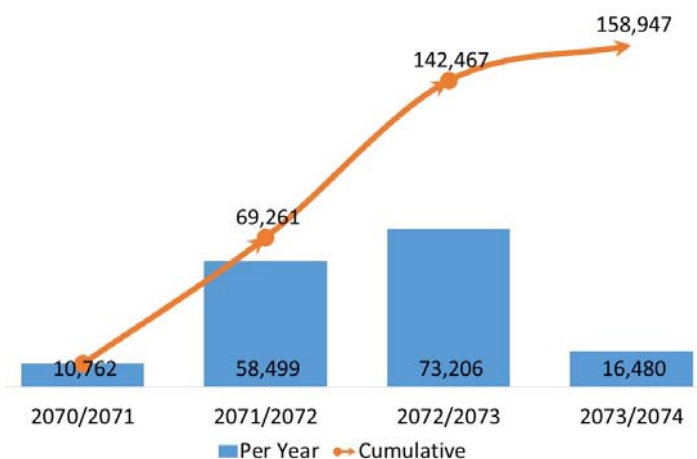
Figure 6. DWS beneficiaries by caste/ethnic group



### RESULT 3. STRENGTHENED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

RWSSP-WN II organizes numerous capacity building events covering a wide range of thematic areas. All DWS beneficiaries follow a coordinated Step-by-step approach that includes various capacity-building events. This far 64% of the targeted 250,000 capacity building beneficiaries have been reached. (Figure 7). Under this result area, the project conducts also the annual performance assessments of all staff, Support Persons, District programmes, V-WASH-CCs and D-WASH-CCs.

Figure 7. Capacity building event participants by FY



### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

RWSSP-WN II is implemented through local institutions strengthening their capacities in providing sustainable WASH services.

District Development Committees (DDC) manage DDF, through which most of the project funds flow. The project is implemented by the District WASH Units (D-WASH Unit) under DDC. WUSCs have the everyday responsibility of the WASH management.

To ensure the poorest and excluded households’ access to WASH, the working VDCs are selected based on decisions of the village and district level coordination committees (D-WASH-CC, V-WASH-CC).

D-WASH-CCs prepare District Strategic WASH Plans to target the VDCs in most need and similarly V-WASH-CCs prepared V-WASH plans and coordinate WASH implementation at the local level.

List of VDCs that completed V-WASH plans during the reporting period all from Syangja district:

1. Aruchaur
2. Arukharka
3. Benethok Deurali
4. Birgha
5. Chinnebas
6. Daraun
7. Fedikhola
8. Kalikakot
9. Kichanash
10. Kolma Barahachaur
11. Malyangkot
12. Nibuwakharka
13. Pelakot
14. Rapakot
15. Shorek
16. Shreekrishna Gandaki

## HUMAN RESOURCES

By the end of the reporting period, the Long Term Experts' actual Phase II total available person months spent are as follows:

- 70%** International experts
- 72%** PSU-based experts
- 85%** District-based experts

With present budget available for the National Long Term Experts, this Fiscal Year is the last one for all District-based staff. There has been no Short Term Experts during this reporting period.

## DDF MONITORING

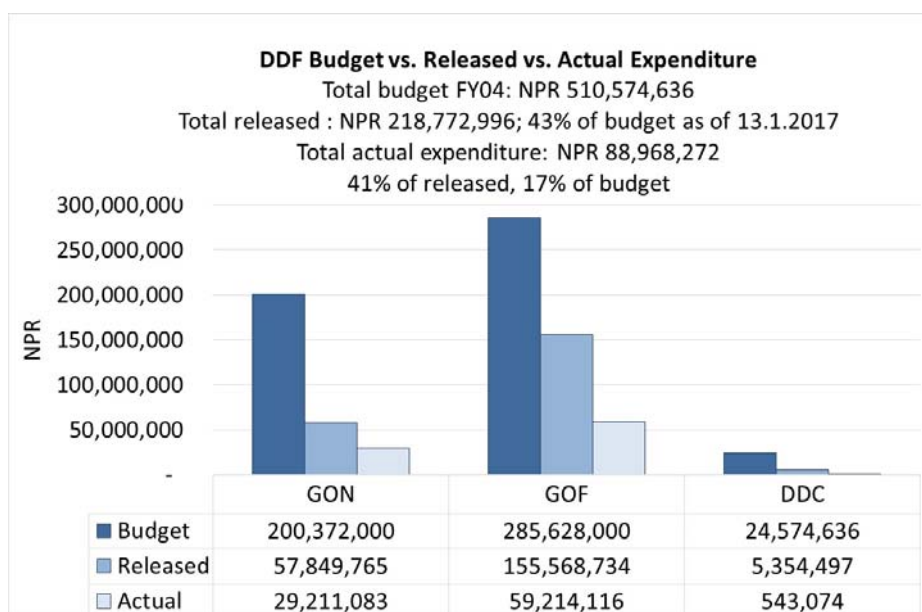
The following DDF monitoring was conducted during this reporting period; all reports are available from the PSU:

- Myagdi 5.12.2016*
- Parbat 4.12.2016*
- Baglung 2.12.2016*
- Pyuthan 25.11.2016*
- Rolpa 24.11.2016*
- Kapilvastu 23.11.2016*
- Rupandehi 22.11.2016*
- Nawalparasi 15.11.2016*
- Arghakhanchi 5.1.2017*
- Gulmi 6.1.2017*
- Palpa 8.1.2017*
- Syangja 9.1.2017*
- Tanahun 10.1.2017*

## FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The total FY04 budget as in the GoN Red Book is NPR 486,000,000 (EUR 4,050,000). Figure below shows the status of the entire budget through DDFs as of 13.1.2016 (end of *Poush* month). The reallocation in between the districts will take place towards the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester to reflect the performance and actual absorption capacity in the different districts, and for this year, also the additional investment funds. At this point there are no changes in the district-specific budgets as presented in the Annual Work Plan FY04.

**Figure 8. Contributions through the District Development Funds (DDF)**



GoF contributions in EUR are shown in Table 1, both for those flowing through DDFs and those flowing through Technical Assistance accounts. The TA funded “*Capacity building & Governance*” is the most critical sub-budget heading that would need additional funds from the overall contingency. Such critical human resources as the Technical Facilitators are funded from this heading, as well as such costs as Steering Committee and Project Coordination Office.

**Table 1. Contributions by the Government of Finland (EUR)**

Government of Finland contributions only (EUR)  Rate EUR:NPR 120 as of 17.8.2016 – this rate applied across the entire AWP FY04	FY04 (CY2016/17 - 2073/74)			Cumulative FY01-FY04		Total Phase II budget
	Budget	Actual	Actual/budget	Actual	% of total Phase II	
<b>Total through DDF</b>	<b>1,930,107</b>	<b>866,334</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>4,619,871</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>7,444,700</b>
TA*	825,500	377,070	46%	2,841,499	57%	5,000,000
Running Costs	250,000	123,480	49%	693,622	58%	1,200,000
Capacity building & Governance	100,780	45,992	46%	410,513	88%	465,300
Evaluation & Monitoring	15,000	2,656	18%	42,301	28%	150,000
<b>Total through TA accounts</b>	<b>1,191,280</b>	<b>549,198</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>3,987,935</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>6,815,300</b>
Overall contingencies	0	0	0%	-	0%	440,000
<b>Grand total through TA &amp; DDF</b>	<b>3,121,387</b>	<b>1,415,532</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>8,607,806</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>14,700,000</b>

## RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The risks and assumptions presented in the previous Annual Progress Report FY03 Annex 5 remain valid. The latest Steering Committee on 13.1.2017 discussed and gave its recommendations on 12 of the total 20 risks of the risk matrix.

Significant changes in the project environment relate to the future of districts: the project is essentially district-based and embedded into local governance structures. Any changes in these will evidently have great impact on the project. Hence, the newly identified assumptions relate to the future of the districts: it is still not known how the public services now available at the district level, will be provided in the future. While the working VDCs are already now being merged into bigger units, sometimes as wards of a large municipality, there is no changes in the staffing of a VDC office, for instance. RWSSP-WN II is now focusing on WUSCs and V-WASH-CCs, linking the VDC-wide monitoring and VDC exit into this exercise. V-WASH-CCs will have to take more active role in both post-ODF and DWS service functionality issues than what they are now taking.

Similarly, the organisational framework in the WASH sector is changing, while the future role of DoLIDAR is not clearly spelled out in the WASH Sector Development Plan. It is not likely that any radical changes will take place immediately, during the project duration and the project will continue to be operated under DoLIDAR. Yet, at the time of handing over, this will need attention: if there are no more DDCs/DTOs/D-WASH Units, the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage needs to be willing to take over the schemes that are not completed within the project time. Alternatively, the project needs to take a very strict decision, effective from the next revision of the Annual Work Plan, not to accept anything that cannot be completed within the project period.

## SUSTAINABILITY

**Sustainability of sanitation (Result 1):** Total Sanitation at the post-ODF stage is critical for ensuring the sustainability of the sanitation achievement. Completing toilets and their use by all family members is not to be taken for granted. Also in water scarce areas the practices seem to be slipping. The work on behaviour change communications (BCC) continues this year. The project is introducing a BCC Step-by-Step approach supported by mobile data collection to contribute to more targeted and hence efficient BCC.

**Sustainability of water supply schemes (Result 2):** During the reporting period, a functionality study covered 156 mainly Phase I drinking water supply schemes. This information supports the post-construction phase activities that are getting an increasing attention in the project, linking into VDC-wide monitoring and VDC exit, as well as to targets set for WSP++. Many springs in the Nepal mid-hills are declining, posing a serious risk on sustainability. Yet, there are various relatively simple technologies for improving recharge of groundwater (See RWSSP-WN Brief 9).

**Sustainability of institutional structures (Result 3):** D-WASH Units: the project works on both its monitoring practices and MIS, as well as conducts performance assessments of all stakeholders. All these are inherently linked into improved sustainability, also at the institutional level.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Natural hazards and climate change pose a considerable risk on rural DWS in Nepal. Main challenges are water quality issues, physical damage due to floods and landslides as well as depleting water sources.

To tackle water scarcity, RWSSP-WN II has launched a seven-step methodology to assess spring recharge area and plan recharge structures to improve source yields. The project has published [brochures](#) and organized district level trainings to improve knowledge on recharge issues.

Water safety planning is an integral part of RWSSP-WN II. The project has launched its own [WSP++](#) tool and as part of [PoCo](#) support, each and every user committee of the project receives WSP training and prepares their own water safety plan.

WSP++ tool helps the communities to protect their scheme from springshed area to household level. To ensure the financial sustainability, the tool also helps communities to set their water tariff on a sustainable



Figure 9. An example of community risk mapping — a compulsory part of each RWSSP-WN II WSP++ training

## CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVES

RWSSP-WN II considers itself as a Human rights transformative project. People's access to water and sanitation is recognized as a human right by United Nations General Assembly and RWSSP-WN II contributes fully to this.

Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) and HRBA are mainstreamed across all project policies and activities. Brochures on [Principles of GESI/HRBA](#), [Key actions for integrating HRBA/GESI](#) and [Accessible Sanitation](#) translate the key points of the HRBA and GESI Strategy and Action plan.

Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are considered in [V-WASH Plans](#) and in DWS scheme planning and maintenance. [WSP ++](#) is the key tool to for both risk mitigation and adaptation.



Figure 10. New smart phone applications open exciting opportunities for spatial analysis and impact studies. Ko-Bo Toolbox was used to collect data for [RWSSP-WN Briefs 10 and 11](#).

## LESSONS LEARNT, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

**What works? What does not work? Why? How do we know about it?** RWSSP-WN II launched a new series in CY2016 titled 'RWSSP-WN Briefs'. The briefs provide synopsis of various studies and data, with a range of lessons learned and recommendations.

[RWSSP-WN Brief 1-2016](#) studies 316 public, institutional and school sanitation facilities constructed in 2009-2013, exploring what we have learned from the past and what to recommend for the Institutional Management Committees of these facilities.

[RWSSP-WN Brief 2-2016](#) re-visits the findings from the sanitation related behaviour change communications (BCC) study made in 2015 in three Tarai districts. It focuses on three key behaviours of interest: 1) Ending open defecation, 2) Toilet investment and construction; and 3) Consistent toilet use. To what extent our BCC strategy works?

[RWSSP-WN Brief 3-2016](#) findings relate to water tariff collection, WUSCs financial management practices and O&M fund management. Its entry point is that Water Users and Sanitation Committees (WUSCs) need to be able to collect some cash for their operation and maintenance (O&M) needs, and this cash needs to keep its value.

[RWSSP-WN Brief 4-2016](#) presents lessons learnt from WSP++. For RWSSP-WN, water safety is not only about safe quality, but also water quantity and reliability of service. WSP++ integrates activities that aim at good water quality as well as maintenance activities necessary for scheme functionality in one plan.

[RWSSP-WN Brief 5-2016](#) summarizes the findings of 'Analysis and mapping of climate and source yield in Tanahun district'. It compared source yield changes and climatic changes between years 2004 and 2014. Altogether 2,387 water sources were analyzed in the study.

[RWSSP-WN Brief 6-2016](#) outlines the top-line findings whether the areas declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF) truly are ODF. The study was made in 19 VDCs and 4 municipalities, in 27 Wards of which 23 Wards were declared as ODF, in Western Nepal. The total sample included 5,517 household observations.

[RWSSP-WN Brief 7-2016](#) provides step-by-step clarity into the procurement process. The brief is based on the RWSSP-WN II Project WASH Implementation Guideline (2016) and Step-By-Step Guidelines (2015). Water Users and Sanitation Committee has three options for procurement.

[RWSSP-WN Brief 8-2016](#) summarizes the project's annual progress for FY03 (July 2015/ July 2016).

[RWSSP-WN Brief 9-2016](#) introduces the seven-step methodology for assessing the spring recharge area (or the springshed) and for planning recharge structures.

[RWSSP-WN Brief 10-2016](#) shows how Silautiya Ward 1 changed within 12 months. It explored the success factors that influenced the change, contributing to further improvement of approaches and tools for sanitation promotion.

[RWSSP-WN Brief 11-2016](#) presents a study which covered all 764 households of Baluhawa VDC in Kapilvastu district. The study reveals interesting facts behind toilet construction subsidies and their impact on household latrine construction and use rate.