

# WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY TO ACHIEVE WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL!

## FRONT COVER PHOTOS

1. Equal opportunities in paid labour. Women make excellent Village Maintenance Workers.
2. Successful WUSCs are transparent and accountable; they hold public audits and annual general meetings.
3. Elder citizens and other groups (e.g. differently abled, pregnant women) may have different needs in regard to water and sanitation – these must be respected.
4. Water tariff is collected to cover operation and maintenance costs; it must be affordable but also sustainable.



Everyone has right to water in sufficient quantity and safe quality. Water supply must be accessible, affordable and acceptable to all.



HRBA & GESI SERIES



HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH AND GENDER EQUALITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION IN RURAL WATER AND SANITATION PROJECTS

RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT IN WESTERN NEPAL PHASE II - Western and Mid-Western Nepal

RURAL VILLAGE WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT PHASE II – Far-Western and Mid-Western Nepal



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## HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

### Aim for these standards:

- ❑ **Availability:** Ensure a minimum sufficient quantity (by default, 45 liters per person per day) and continuous supply of domestic water.
- ❑ **Accessibility:** 15 minutes for the round trip & collection time.
- ❑ **Quality/safety:** Water should be free from faecal bacterial contamination and arsenic. Develop a water safety plan.
- ❑ **Affordability:** Must be balanced against the needs to collect adequate user fees to cover operation and maintenance costs, for the sustainability of supply. Water isn't free!
- ❑ **Acceptability:** Priorities of local people are identified in the WASH and Water Use Master Plans (WUMP) - preferences for types of scheme, tap location, etc. in Step-by-Step process.



Everyone - regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, caste, disability or economic status - has right to water and sanitation. These are basic human rights!

## HUMAN RIGHT TO SANITATION

Everyone has access to sanitation which is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable, provides privacy & ensures dignity.

- ❑ Pay attention to the accessibility of institutional, public & school toilets.
- ❑ Provide designs/advice for households to make their toilet accessible for disabled or frail elderly.
- ❑ Subsidies for toilets are not a sustainable way to achieve Open Defecation Free status (ODF). Focus must be on behaviour change!
- ❑ In the post-ODF phase, VDC sanitation fund can be used to support ultra-poor households or those with disabled persons etc. to upgrade their temporary toilets.
- ❑ Menstruating women must be allowed to use their own and public toilets – otherwise ODF isn't possible!
- ❑ Don't forget water for toilet use, hand washing and cleaning!



Women and men must have equal opportunities. Female lab-tester at work.



Public toilets must be accessible by wheel-chair users.



Accountable WUSCs hold public audits to display income and expenditure.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK IN THE FIELD

- ❑ Have the views of all groups, including women, all castes, ethnicities and religions, people with disabilities and the elderly been considered?
- ❑ Have confidence building workshops for women and/or disadvantaged groups been carried out?
- ❑ Is local language used in meetings & interviews?
- ❑ Are women, poor and disadvantaged groups participating in planning, public audits and other meetings, paid work opportunities and trainings?
- ❑ When calculating household contributions or water tariffs, have you worked with the community to identify ways to support the ultra-poor?
- ❑ Can everyone use the taps, irrespective of caste or menstruation status?
- ❑ Are public, school and institutional toilets accessible by all, including people with disabilities, frail elderly, pregnant women etc.?
- ❑ Are public and school toilets gender and child friendly (e.g. in terms of privacy, light, locks etc.)
- ❑ Is monitoring data disaggregated? It may show where there are problems.
- ❑ Do individuals know who to ask for assistance?

## SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE WATER USER & SANITATION COMMITTEES AND THE V-WASH-CC

- ❑ WUSC and V-WASH-CC should be assisted to understand their responsibilities towards the community.
- ❑ Women and disadvantaged groups must have proportionate representation in WUSCs and carry out procurement and other official tasks.
- ❑ Ensure the WUSC truly represents the views of the community, and also decisions & expenditure is made public.
- ❑ Discuss the setting of adequate water tariffs to cover both ongoing and future costs. Water should be affordable but also sustainable.
- ❑ Avoid conflicts – ensure there is legal ownership of the source and fair distribution to all, prioritising domestic needs before others.

WUSCs are at the frontline of achieving rights to water and sanitation!