



Public, Institutional & School Latrines: WASH at Your Service? RWSSP-WN BRIEF 1-2016

WHAT DID WE STUDY?

This technical paper focuses on the experience with the public, institutional and school WASH in Western and Mid-Western Nepal. The study covered total 316 sanitation facilities constructed 2009-2013 in the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal, each re-visited again in 2014. The Phase II target is to support another 200 such toilets. In December 2015 the project had completed total 43 public, 30 institutional and 10 school toilets (total 83). (RWSSP-WN, 2015).

This study utilizes only primary data collected in RWSSP-WN Phase II for two purposes: to establish the baseline and to sharpen the working approach to public, institutional and school toilet facilities. As a result the RWSSP-WN II long term expert team developed a structured step-by-step approach into feasibility studies and consequent monitoring of the public, institutional and school WASH.

How to ensure sustainable Operation and Maintenance practices?

How to ensure that public, institutional and school toilets are accessible to all?

What have we learned from the past? What are we proposing for the future?

What to recommend for the Institutional Management Committees of these facilities?

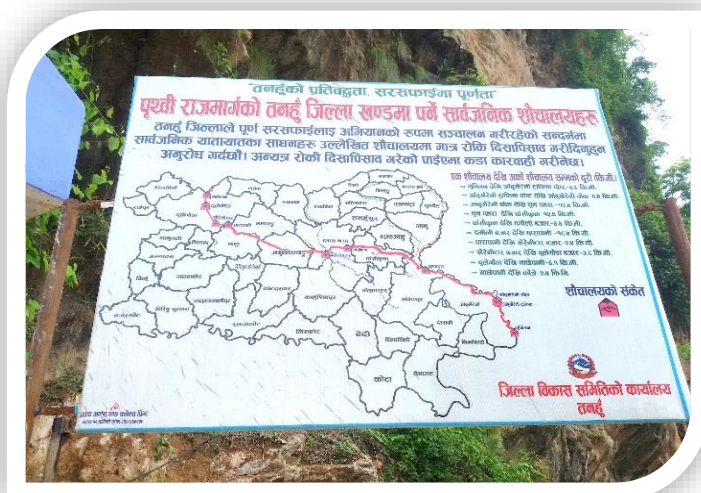


Photo: A district cannot be considered an Open Defecation Free district unless its public places have accessible sanitation facilities. Map of Tanahun District showing the public toilet locations along the highway and distances in between.

This study was originally prepared for the SACOSAN VI as a technical paper contribution by Ms. Sanna-Leena Rautanen, Chief Technical Adviser, RWSSP-WN II, based on baseline data and field visits, in July 2015.

WHAT DID WE FIND OUT?

RWSSP-WN Phase I supported 330 public, institutional and school toilets (2009-2013). The baseline survey covered 316 of these using the “Saniscores” that were defined specifically for this purpose as described below:

- 0: Not completed/not used = damaged beyond use
- 1: Completed but not used/less use/extremely dirty/recently completed not yet used
- 2: Completed, used but dirty
- 3: Completed, used but could be cleaner/some damage
- 4: Completed, clean but less used
- 5: Completed, used, clean and has water – perfect case

The results showed that 9% were not completed; 8% completed but not used or extremely dirty beyond use; 16% used but dirty; 43% used but could be cleaner with minor physical damage; and 13% clean but less used. Only 11% was what all of them should have been, namely used, clean and had water. While 83% were in use, majority (76%) were not clean and/or had issues with their physical condition.

Table 1. Public, institutional and school latrines “saniscore” by district (N-316)

District/Score	0		1		2		3		4		5		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Baglung	3	15	2	10	1	5	9	45	4	20	1	5	20
Kapilvastu	10	15	7	11	12	18	17	26	15	23	5	8	66
Myagdi	2	4	7	15	9	19	16	33	4	8	10	21	48
Nawalparasi	2	13	1	6	0	0	10	63	1	6	2	13	16
Parbat	1	2	7	16	9	20	8	18	12	27	7	16	44
Pyuthan	3	19	0	0	0	0	7	44	1	6	5	31	16
Rupandehi	0	0	0	0	9	27	21	64	3	9	0	0	33
Syangja	4	8	0	0	4	8	37	76	2	4	2	4	49
Tanahun	2	8	2	8	6	25	10	42	0	0	4	17	24
Grand Total	27	9	26	8	50	16	135	43	42	13	36	11	316

Source: verification survey (March/April 2014)



Photo: School sanitation and hygiene remain a challenge. Committed School Management Committee is needed to ensure that the facilities are both used and maintained. Locked up or messed up facilities do not serve anyone! We need to avoid constructing always a new facility when the previous failed without asking why did it fail?

WHAT DID WE FIND OUT?

Total 294 latrines were verified for water supply, hand washing and Child-Gender-Differently-abled-friendliness. This sampled included only completed structures that could be observed. Out of these, 57% had water supply facility and 60% had hand washing facility. Only 24% were described as 'CGD' friendly. Even out of the school toilets, only 22% were 'CGD' friendly (see the last page for definitions and for how these were assessed during the verification survey). The district-wise differences were also very clear: there were districts where none of the toilets were described as 'CGD' friendly, for instance, while another district could have 78% described as such.

This indicates that the technical drawings do not have these features as a template, and therefore, if 'CGD' qualities are not encouraged by individual people, they will not take place. This calls for both technical design templates and feasibility study formats that do pay affirmative specific attention to 'CGD' features. Furthermore, if these are not verified in timely monitoring before proceeding to construction phase, they may not be there, and it will be difficult to retrospectively add these.

Table 2. Facilities observed (N-294)

Facilities	Institutional toilet (#)	Public toilet (#)	School toilet (#)	Grand Total (#)	Institutional toilet (%)	Public toilet (%)	School toilet (%)	Grand Total (%)
Water supply - No	44	21	61	126	53%	40%	38%	43%
Water supply - Yes	39	31	98	168	47%	60%	62%	57%
Handwashing - No	29	25	64	118	35%	48%	40%	40%
Handwashing - Yes	54	27	95	176	65%	52%	60%	60%
CGD friendly - No	60	40	124	224	72%	77%	78%	76%
CGD friendly - Yes	23	12	35	70	28%	23%	22%	24%
Grand Total	83	52	159	294	100%	100%	100%	100%

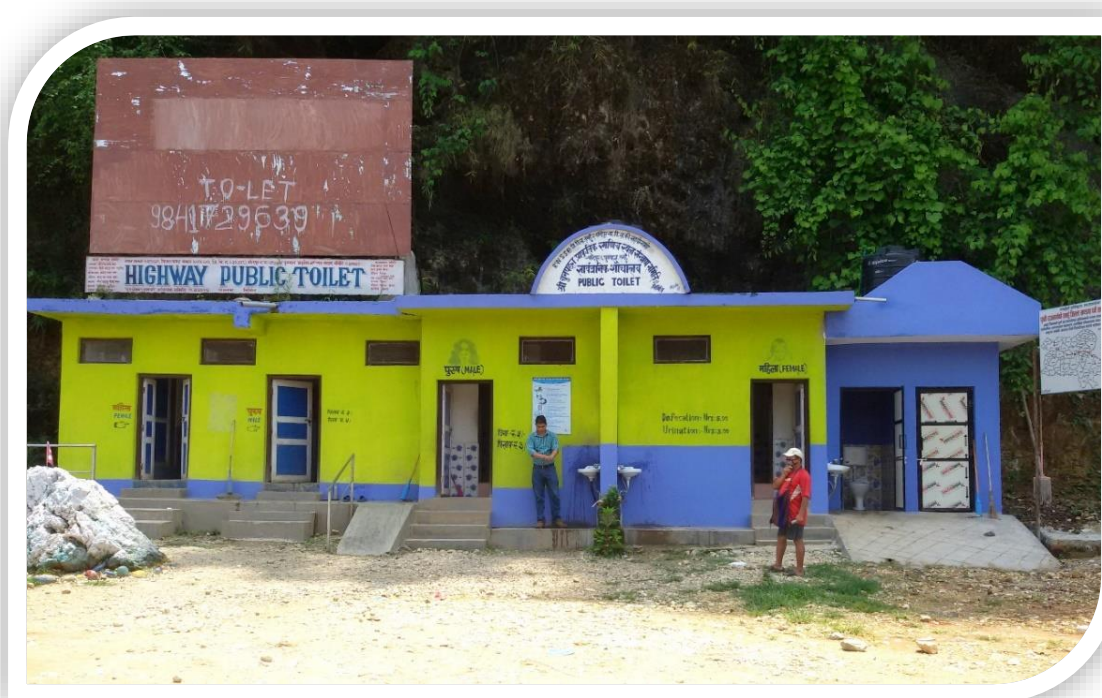


Photo: Successful public toilet in Tanahun district. The Institutional Management Committee has extended the facilities on their own. The extension has also paid attention to better slope than what was constructed in the original one, in an attempt to make at least some of the toilets more accessible.

WHAT DID WE CONCLUDE?

At the beginning, the Phase II added the quality indicators to the new Phase II latrines assuming that it would not be possible to address over 300 Phase I supported facilities retrospectively. Yet, the above findings have encouraged the project to revisit also the Phase I facilities to ensure that to extent possible also these could be retrospectively upgraded to meet GCD standards, and that they have a O&M plan with financially feasible user charge thinking. This also means that attention needs to be paid into sustainable access to water supply. The full benefit just cannot be realized without both sanitation and hygiene. Access to hand washing facility implies that water is available inside or close to/within the visibility of the toilet.

Public, institutional and school toilets can provide a number of services and therefore, translate into various technical solutions of different sizes with a potential of providing a range of services to a range of users. Unfortunately, this potential is rarely realized when the focus remains on physical facilities for sanitation only. The business potential or an option of offering personal hygiene related services similar to what Sulabh-movement is doing in India do not get serious attention. The attention remains in the first 'block' in the Figure 1.

Figure 1 Several services under one roof - Multiple-services service delivery thinking needed



Baseline findings and related field visits encouraged the project to develop new approaches. Attention shifted from the physical structures into the service delivery and related future business models. Related step-by-step monitoring formats were prepared, drawing attention to the future management practices and such as gender-child-differently-abled friendliness early on, before the structures get built. Step-by-step approach was developed to address timely inclusion of specific design principles and to trigger future management thinking early on:

Feasibility study: before proceeding to detailed technical designs or any other works, the Institutional Management Committee together with the RWSSP-WN/D-WASH Unit staff needs to verify that the proposed plan is acceptable in terms of: 1) location; 2) supporting infrastructure including water supply; 3) commitment for future Operation & Maintenance.

1st Monitoring aims to establish the overall feasibility and future sustainability of the scheme. At this point structural improvements and changes in technical design can be done (ref. access, child/gender/differently-able friendliness). Water facility and plans for who will take care of the facility in the future need to be considered already here.

2nd Monitoring verifies that the toilet is constructed as per plan, and makes recommendations for any missing issues. This monitoring will recommend for the financial clearance of the scheme.

3rd Monitoring (optional) will be done only in cases where it is suspected that the completed structure may not be sustainably managed. This format may also be used during the final year of RWSSP-WN Phase II to verify the status of all Public, Institutional and School toilets supported by the project

WHAT ARE WE RECOMMENDING?

Our sample included a very broad range of facilities with different types and numbers of users. While school toilets have a fixed number of daily users whose behaviour can be influenced with the existing behaviour change communications tools, an institutional sanitation facility may have a very limited number of both regular and one-time users, both known and unknown people. Public sanitation, in turn, was characterized by potentially very large number of unknown users, many of which may use it only once.

The categorization could help to draw attention to those facilities that are more likely to become critical and therefore make it possible to provide more targeted post-construction support.

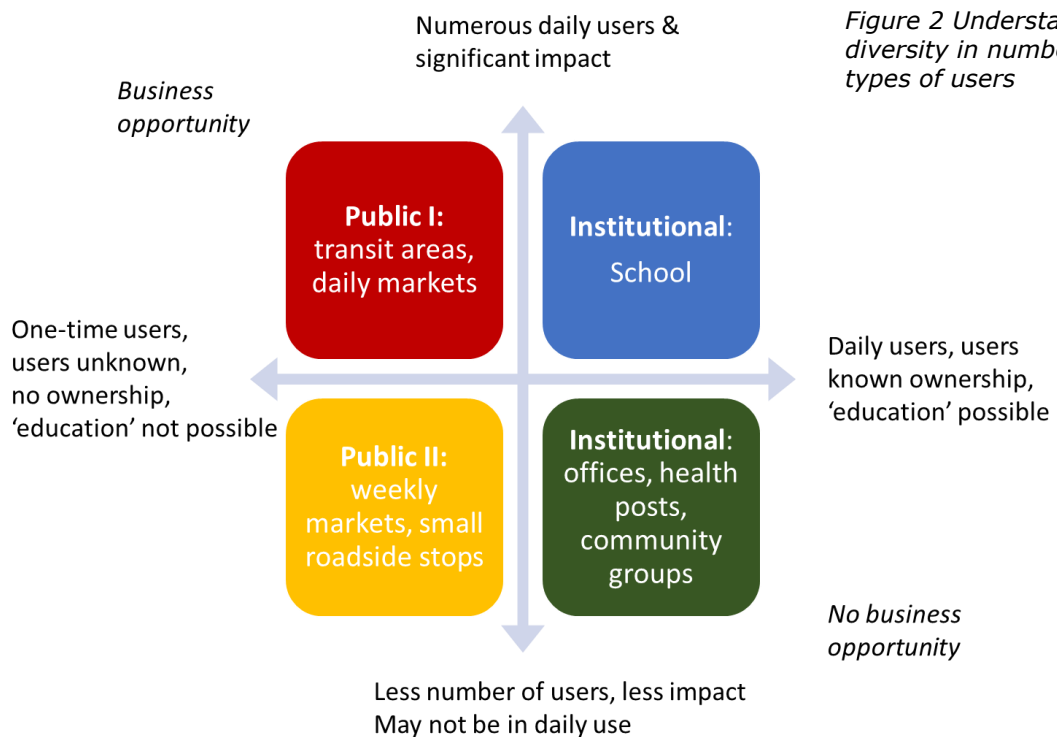


Figure 2 Understanding diversity in numbers and types of users

CGD friendliness, environmental soundness with drainage and solid waste management, and access to reliable water supply have to be addressed in the beginning before starting any physical works. This could include for instance adding a room for a shop into the design. The technical design templates must pay attention accordingly.

This paper recommends that for the public toilets, the future business and service delivery model needs to be decided from the beginning case-by-case so that any structural changes can be made if needed. It is time to start paying attention to the life cycle costs related to these facilities with reference to the services they provide, and stop reconstructing new facilities without asking what happened to the previous facilities first. This is particularly relevant for the schools where one can observe generations of failed sanitation and hygiene facilities, next to each other.

There has to be a committed and competent owner and manager for the facility, and if this cannot be identified, the construction should not start. Nobody will clean public toilets for ever on voluntary basis. While defining service delivery models and standards for these facilities, the users should be taken as the point of entry: who are they? What are their expectations? What are the options for providing both sanitation and hygiene services, what would they expect? What kind of other services can be included, and how these should be considered from the beginning before finalizing any technical designs?

DEFINITIONS

Characteristics of Child, Gender and Differently-abled (CGD) latrines by the Nepal Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan (2011, p. vi), and how they were assessed for this study:

Child friendly features: Include water taps, knobs and latches of toilet doors and windows at suitable heights and convenience for children at different ages. *The enumerators assessed this by observing the suitable height of water taps and latches.*

Gender friendly features: The location of the toilet should be appropriately selected in a safe and secure place and the door, windows and ventilation should safeguard privacy. In addition to water, in schools and other public institutions, the toilet should have facilities for maintaining menstrual hygiene management. *The enumerators observed whether there is a separate toilet for male and female, but the menstrual hygiene management facilities were not assessed.*

Differently-abled friendly toilet: Should include a ramp up to toilet, sufficient space for a wheelchair in the passage, hand railing in the passage and, within the toilet cubicles, appropriate types of seating arrangements and support on the toilet. *This was assessed by observing whether there is a ramp for wheelchair access and whether the toilet is located in easily accessible place (i.e. not in a slope).*

REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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RESULTS INDICATORS FOR RWSSP-WN II



RWSSP-WN II purpose level indicators:

- No one practices open defecation (all districts declared ODF)
- All ODF districts have developed post-ODF strategy and ensured access to post-ODF support to their VDCs

RWSSP-WN II Result indicators 1 and 2:

- # of institutions/schools/public places supported by the project fund in Phase II with disabled and gender-friendly toilets and access to hand washing
- # of schools and institutional/public locations supported by the project fund in Phase II that have safe and functional water supply with accessible water points to all users.

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal Phase II is a bilateral development cooperation project funded by the governments of Nepal and Finland, and implemented through local governments and users' groups under the Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR), Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development. RWSSP-WN II works in 14 districts in Western and Mid-Western development regions in Nepal.

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