



# RWSSP-WN II & SDGs

## Where do we stand? Update July 2018

### RWSSP-WN BRIEF 4-2018

## INTRODUCTION

As a continuum of the Millennium Development Goals, in September 2015 the Member States of the United Nations set the new Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The Agenda 2030 consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under which 169 targets address social, economic and environmental development. The SDGs are applicable to all countries and the countries are expected to follow up their development based on the SDG indicators.

Many of the SDG targets and indicators are linked to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) directly or indirectly. As a WASH project, it is important that RWSSP-WN II harmonizes its own indicators to be in line with the SDGs so that the data collected by the Project can feed into the national and regional reporting. As part of the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), WHO and UNICEF have defined service level ladder indicators to help in analyzing the SDG 6 *Clean Water and Sanitation*. RWSSP-WN II has already adjusted its indicators and reporting to reflect the Joint Monitoring Programme criteria in the SDG era.

This brief reflects the work of RWSSP-WN II in fulfilling the goals of the Agenda 2030 and analyzes the Project results against the JMP criteria. It updates the Brief 4-2018 with RWSSP-WN Phase II FY05 progress figures.

## Sustainable Development Goals

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and wellbeing
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
17. Partnership for the goals

Note: the progress figures in this Brief refer to the situation as of July 2018.

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## WASH IN THE 2030 AGENDA

Water, sanitation and hygiene are directly and indirectly drivers for many SDGs. The following table reflects RWSSP-WN II against selected SDG targets and indicators.

| 1 | END POVERTY   | WHERE DO WE STAND?   |
|---|---|--|
|   | <p><b>TARGET 1.4</b> By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance</p> <p><b>INDICATOR 1.4.1</b> Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services</p>  | <p>Water and sanitation are basic services and basic rights. RWSSP-WN II aims at "reaching the unreached", targeting especially the poor and vulnerable households without previous access to improved water and sanitation services.</p> <p>RWSSP-WN II has supported 361 water supply schemes that serve 28,464 households. Of these 64% had no previous access to improved water supply and 70% of the beneficiaries belong to disadvantaged ethnic/social groups.</p> <p>Approximately 2,368,153 people have benefitted from household latrines in the Project area during Phase II.</p>   |
| 3 | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING  | WHERE DO WE STAND?   |
|   | <p><b>TARGET 3.2</b> By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births</p> <p><b>INDICATOR 3.2.1</b> Under-five mortality rate</p> <p><b>TARGET 3.9</b> By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</p> <p><b>INDICATOR 3.9.2</b> Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)</p> | <p>The incidence of diarrhoea is directly connected to both water supply and sanitation. The Nepal Ministry of Health acknowledged in 2016 that "the percentage of children under age 5 with diarrhoea varies according to the availability of toilet facilities". Under five mortality and diarrhoea are RWSSP-WN II impact level indicators.</p> <p>Between 2011 and 2016 both under five mortality and under five diarrhea decreased in the RWSSP-WN II working area. According to the Nepal Health Survey data, between 2011 and 2016, the under 5 mortality had decreased from 57 to 39 deaths per 1,000 births in the Western Development Region and from 73 to 50 deaths per 1,000 births in the Mid-Western Development Region. Especially the RWSSP-WN II working area in Province 4 (Baglung, Mustang, Myagdi, Nawalparasi East, Parbat, Syangja, Tanahun) stands out with lower under 5 mortality than any other Province in Nepal. Province 5 (Arghakhanchi, Gulmi, Palpa, Kapilvastu, Rupandehi, Pyuthan, and Rolpa) stands behind but has improved considerably in the last 5 years period.</p> <p>The incidence for diarrhoea in under five children decreased from 15.7 % to 5.3 % in Western Development Region and from 14.6 % to 8.4 % in the Mid-Western Development Region between 2011 and 2016.</p> |
| 4 | QUALITY EDUCATION   | WHERE DO WE STAND?   |
|   | <p><b>TARGET 4.a</b> Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.</p> <p><b>INDICATOR 4.a.1</b> Proportion of schools with access to: (...) d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)</p>  | <p>RWSSP-WN II supports schools with basic drinking water service, sanitation facilities and hand washing facilities.</p> <p>RWSSP-WN II has supported 223 schools and 35,332 students with improved water supply. The Project has also supported 31 schools and 9,268 students with toilets and hand washing facility in their design. All the school toilets are pour flush latrines with separate blocks for gender.</p> <p>Project organizes also various sanitation-related capacity building events at schools. In fiscal year five only, there have been 201 sanitation and hygiene events at schools that have reached 17,218 beneficiaries.</p>   |

| GENDER EQUALITY  | WHERE DO WE STAND?  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>TARGET 5.5</b> Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life</p> <p><b>INDICATOR 5.5.2</b> Proportion of women in managerial positions</p>  | <p>The Project's Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Strategy outlines tangible ways of promoting women's leadership and active participation at every step of the Project. <b>92%</b> of all the Water Users and Sanitation Committees have minimum 50% female representation and women hold 40% of all the Committee key positions available.</p>  |
| CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION   | WHERE DO WE STAND?  |
| <p><b>TARGET 6.1</b> By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all</p> <p><b>INDICATOR 6.1.1</b> Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services</p> <p><b>TARGET 6.2</b> By 2030, 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</p> <p><b>INDICATOR 6.2.1</b> Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water</p> <p><b>TARGET 6.b</b> Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management</p> <p><b>INDICATOR 6.b.1</b> Proportion of local administrative units with established &amp; operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management</p> | <p>As of August 2018, RWSSP-WN II has provided drinking water for 174,983 people. With the "reaching the unreached" policy, the Project targets those without prior service to contribute to the universal coverage of safe and affordable drinking water supply.</p> <p>Throughout Phase II, in the Project working area, approximately 2,368,153 people have benefitted from household latrines. The Open Defecation Free (ODF) –movement is proceeding well with only 2 out of 14 project working districts remaining to be declared.</p> <p>Nepal has recently gone through big changes in its governmental structure. As a result, RWSSP-WN II transferred its focus from the districts to the municipality level establishing 55 Municipality WASH Units to lead the WASH development in their corresponding areas. The Project supports these units both financially and technically. We believe that operational municipalities that support the local communities in water and sanitation management are the prerequisite for sustainable WASH services.</p> |
| INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  | WHERE DO WE STAND?  |
| <p><b>TARGET 9.a</b> Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support.</p> <p><b>INDICATOR 9.a.1</b> Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure</p>   | <p>RWSSP-WN II as a bilateral development cooperation Project facilitates sustainable and resilient water infrastructure development through enhanced financial, technological and technical support through the local government based programmes. The grant from Finland is 'on-budget off-treasury', flowing directly to the local government funds.</p>   |
| CLIMATE ACTION   | WHERE DO WE STAND?  |
| <p><b>TARGET 13.b</b> Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries (...), including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.</p> <p><b>INDICATOR 13.b.1</b> Number of least developed countries (...) that are receiving specialized support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities</p>   | <p>Nepal is highly vulnerable to climate change. Changing climate affects WASH sector in many ways: water sources are depleting and WASH infrastructure suffers from climate-induced natural calamities such as flooding and landslides. RWSSP-WN II has developed a comprehensive Water Safety Plan ++ approach as practical tool for the communities to address disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The Project has also developed a Spring-shed approach to protect springs and to increase groundwater recharge. Total 382 communities have received Water Safety Plan++ training where local WSP++ plans have been prepared for consequent implementation.</p>  |

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## SAFELY MANAGED SERVICES AS A GOAL

The WHO&UNICEF Joint Monitoring *Programme* for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) has developed a framework for integrated monitoring of water, sanitation and hygiene related SDG targets. JMP proposes to use a ‘service ladder’ approach to track water, sanitation and hygiene progress across countries.

### WATER SUPPLY SERVICE LEVEL LADDER

| SERVICE LEVEL         | DEFINITION   |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>SAFELY MANAGED</b> | Drinking water from improved water source that is located on premises, available when needed and free from fecal and priority chemical contamination |
| <b>BASIC</b>          | Drinking water from improved source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for round trip, including queueing                         |
| <b>LIMITED</b>        | Drinking water from an improved source for which collection time exceeds 30 minutes for a round trip, including queueing                             |
| <b>UNIMPROVED</b>     | Drinking water from unprotected dug well or unprotected spring   |
| <b>SURFACE WATER</b>  | Drinking water directly from a river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal or irrigation canal   |

In the JMP criteria, improved drinking water sources are those which by nature of their design and construction have the potential to deliver safe water. These include: *piped water, boreholes or tube wells, protected dug wells, protected springs, rainwater and packaged or delivered water.*

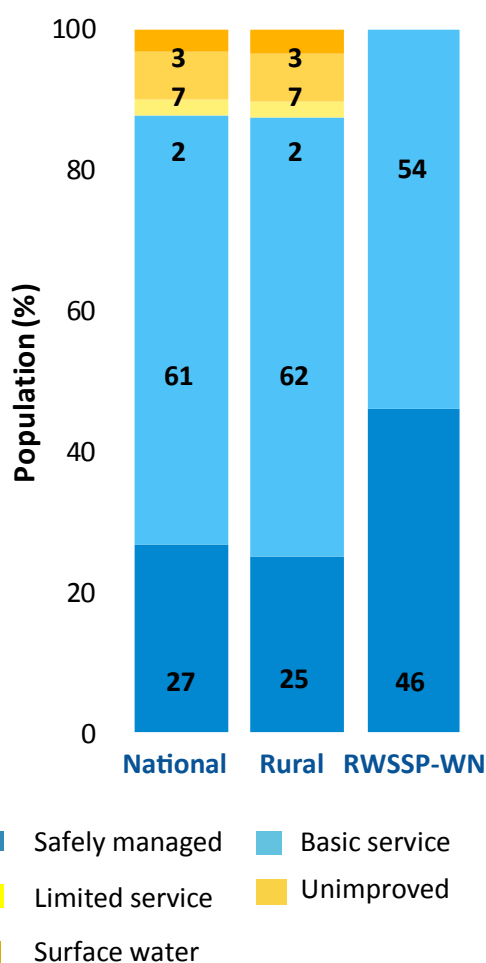
It is not very clear whether “located on premises” means private connection or any connection located near the dwelling. Most schemes supported by RWSSP-WN II deliver water through public connections that are located in short distance (< 5 min per round-trip) from the user households. That is why we consider our public connections fulfilling the “located on premises” indicator.

As per the JMP criteria, “available when needed” refers to number of hours of service per day, using 12 hours per day as the global minimum. This is tricky in the context of Nepal where water supply might not be on for 12 hours but during the active hours, water is stored in the household so that it can be used all day long. In our context, we see *12 months a year water supply* a suitable indicator to capture whether the source and the scheme deliver water all year long.

46% of the 251,958 RWSSP-WN water supply beneficiaries (new schemes and post-construction support) enjoy safely managed water supply services: they have water tap on their premises (fetching time <5 minutes per round-trip), water is available for 12 months in a year, water is free from faecal coliforms.

54% have water supply that does not fulfill the safely managed criteria. The main limiting factor is the water fetching time (66 % of the schemes serve through public taps only). In total, 93 % of schemes provide water supply all 12 months of the year and 91 % are free from faecal coliforms.

Many households use several sources of water in different quantities for different purposes. Some of these sources might be improved and some may not. In this analysis, only the main source of water was considered.



RWSSP-WN N=251,958 beneficiaries of 579 Phase I and II schemes supported in Phase II. National and rural data is from 2015 (WHO & UNICEF)

## SANITATION SERVICE LEVEL LADDER

The JMP sanitation service level ladder considers the use of household toilet, hygienic separation of excreta from human contact and the safe management of fecal waste along the sanitation chain. As per the JMP criteria, improved sanitation facilities include *flush/pour flush latrines connected to sewers or septic tanks, ventilated improved latrines, pit latrines with slab and composting toilets*.

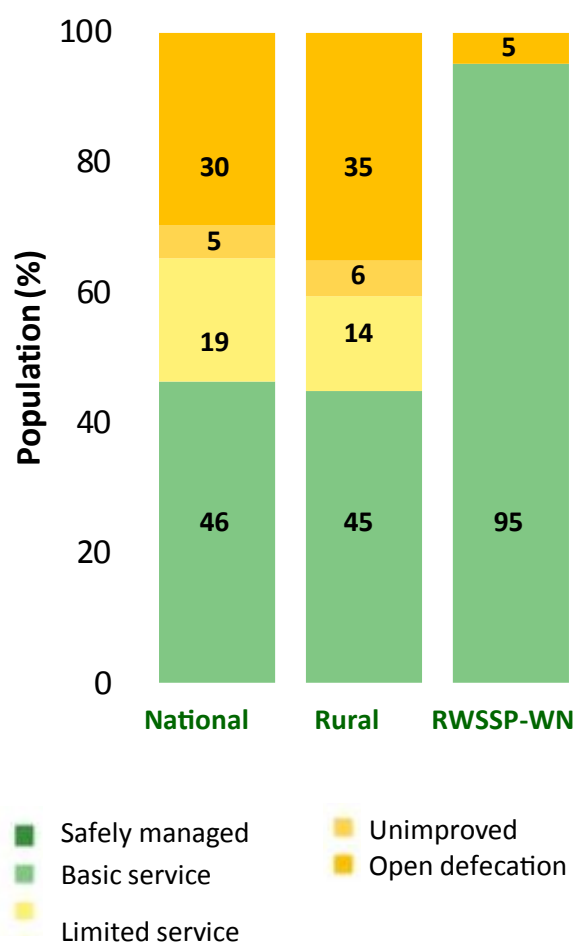
| SERVICE LEVEL         | DEFINITION   |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>SAFELY MANAGED</b> | Use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed of in situ or transported and treated offsite |
| <b>BASIC</b>          | Use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households   |
| <b>LIMITED</b>        | Use of improved facilities shared between two or more households   |
| <b>UNIMPROVED</b>     | Use of pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines or bucket latrines  |
| <b>OPEN DEFECTION</b> | Disposal of human faeces in fields, forests, bushes, open bodies of water, beaches or other open spaces, or with solid waste                             |

Approximately 2,368,153 people have benefitted from household latrines in the Project area during RWSSP-WN Phase II and 4,189,485 people live in ODF declared municipality wards which is 95 % of the total population of RWSSP-WN II working districts. Most latrines are single-pit pour-flush-latrine, one latrine per one household. Latrine sharing in between households is not a common practice in Nepal.

Even though the pour-flush latrines help to separate excreta from human contact when in use, safe management of the faecal sludge is questionable once the pit gets full. Most single-pit latrines do not permit sludge composting. Most pits are not even designed to be emptied at all. In these cases, a completely new latrine with a new pit must be constructed once the pit fills up. This is challenging especially in densely populated areas such as Terai where households do not often have land to build many latrines.

Furthermore, most pits are not well sealed but let liquids soak into the soil. This can be hazardous if the latrine is located near water sources. Especially in Terai, where tube wells are used, leaking pits cause a risk.

Considering these challenges, it can be concluded that RWSSP-WN II beneficiaries use mainly basic sanitation facilities. In reality, also unimproved sanitation facilities are frequently found in ODF declared areas as various studies of the Project show. Also according to JMP data (2015), at least 45% of the Nepal rural population use basic sanitation facilities but open defecation remains a challenge. Sustainable use of sanitation facilities is a challenge also in the Project working area: even when a household has a toilet, it is not always used by all the family members at all times and open defecation may still be practiced at least occasionally. Safe management of faecal sludge is a challenge that requires action from the whole WASH sector.



RWSSP-WN II N=4,189,485 (population of the Project area), Nepal national and rural data is from 2015 (WHO & UNICEF)

## INSTITUTIONAL WASH SERVICE LEVEL LADDER

The SDG target for universal WASH access applies also to schools, institutions and public locations. JMP has set institutional WASH service ladders for school and health care facilities.

| SERVICE LEVEL     | DRINKING WATER   | SANITATION   | HYGIENE   |
|-------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>BASIC</b>      | Drinking water from an improved source is available at the school        | Improved facilities, which are single-sex and usable at the school               | Handwashing facilities that have water and soap are available               |
| <b>LIMITED</b>    | There is an improved source but water is not available at time of survey | There are improved facilities but not single-sex or not usable at time of survey | Handwashing facilities with water, but no soap                              |
| <b>NO SERVICE</b> | No water source or unimproved source                                     | No toilets or latrines, or unimproved facilities                                 | No handwashing facilities at school or handwashing facilities with no water |

RWSSP-WN II supports schools, institutions and public locations with water supply, sanitation and hygiene. The Project has provided improved water supply to 223 schools, 28 health facilities, 41 institutions and 52 public locations. Most of these institutions enjoy basic drinking water service but some institutions may suffer from short-term limited service due to water shortages or technical failures.

The Project has supported the construction of 31 school, 64 institutional and 45 public toilets. All the school toilets supported by RWSSP-WN II are pour flush latrines that have separate blocks for gender and include a hand washing facility in their design. The Project promotes hand washing with soap as part of the Open Defecation Free and Total Sanitation campaigns at both household and institutional levels. School and institutional sanitation sustainability is a big challenge mainly due to poor maintenance: basic services can easily turn to limited or no service if nobody is there to clean the toilet or to buy soap. In case of public toilets, combining toilet management with private sector activities such as shop keeping has improved the situation.

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**FCG**

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, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration. RWSSP-WN II works in 14 districts in two Provinces of Western and Mid-Western development regions in Nepal, thorough municipality-based programmes.

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