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# Water & Sanitation

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## Project Monitoring and Evaluation by the Social Welfare Council

The Social Welfare Council monitored and evaluated drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects implemented by Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH) with the support of the charity: water. The monitoring visit was conducted from March 15 to 17, 2024 for on-site monitoring of various aspects of the projects that were completed during the fiscal year 2023-024 in Baglung district.

The team monitored the Lamgaun Lift WASH Project in Ward No. 6 of Baglung Municipality and the Bhuskat WASH Project in Tarakhola Rural Municipality-1. The team observed structures constructed for the projects and discussed with officials and user committee members. Through these discussions, the team identified challenges faced by the users during the construction phase, particularly regarding management of community contribution, system maintenance planning, operation and maintenance fund management, sanitation conditions, sustainability efforts, and the impact on residents' lives post-project completion.



Monitoring team reviewing project specifics



Monitoring team in discussion with the Mayor of Baglung Municipality

The monitoring team also met with the Mayor of Baglung Municipality, Basanta Kumar Shrestha, to discuss the municipality's investment in water supply projects, the fund disbursement process, community contributions, and the sustainability of completed projects. Mayor Shrestha praised the projects implemented by NEWAH for their sustainability, timely completion, and community preference over other projects. He expressed plans to continue partnering with NEWAH for future water supply schemes.

The monitoring team held discussions with the Senior Management Team and the Executive Board of NEWAH at its Headquarters in Kathmandu. The monitoring team was formed by Social Welfare Council comprised of program expert Ram Singh Dhimi, financial expert Anil Basnet, and legal expert Meena Tamang. Besides, Senior Field Operation Manager Kumar Prasad Silwal from NEWAH Headquarters as well as Province Head Ramesh Dahal, and PMR Officer Binod Koirala from NEWAH Province Office, Baglung were also involved in the monitoring visit to project sites.

Dr. Maheswar Prasad Yadab/Binod Koirala

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## Editorial

# 32 Years' Journey in the Promotion of Sustainable WASH

*Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH), dedicated to promoting sustainable drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in rural areas of Nepal, has completed 2,727 projects by its 32nd anniversary. These initiatives have built over 51,500 water points across 52 districts, benefiting over 2.22 million people with access to improved WASH services.*

*NEWAH's approach extends beyond infrastructure, incorporating gender equality, social inclusion, climate change resilience, livelihood, and other dimensions of sustainable and inclusive development. Safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene are foundation for rural development. The holistic approach ensures that the benefits of safe drinking water and proper sanitation extend far and wide, creating ripples of positive change that uplift entire communities and their living standards.*

*One of the notable achievements by NEWAH is the functionality of projects implemented by its technical and financial support of NEWAH. Which is 79 percent functionality of NEWAH's water supply projects. It is significantly higher than that of the national average of 28 percent functionality for water supply projects implemented across the country. This highlights the effectiveness and impact of NEWAH's efforts.*

*Since its establishment, NEWAH has prioritized the capacity building of stakeholders to ensure sustainable WASH facilities for rural residents. The organization emphasizes collaboration with local governments, funding agencies, private sector and many more for the long-term sustainability of projects. Coordination and collaboration with users and local governments enhances cost-sharing and fosters a sense of ownership toward the projects leading to the sustainability of the projects.*

*Beyond its direct contributions to communities, NEWAH has also created employment opportunities, providing regular employment to around 100 people and part-time employment to more than 200 people across the country. By doing so, NEWAH not only supports the local economy but also supports a dedicated workforce committed to advancing the organization's mission and initiatives.*

*Celebrating its 32nd anniversary by NEWAH, it reflects on its remarkable achievements in the WASH sector of Nepal. The organization remains committed to preserving these accomplishments and advancing its mission in the future.*

## Villagers of Kartike Await a New Dawn

The residents of Kartike village in Ward No. 2 of Airawati Rural Municipality, Pyuthan District, face a daily struggle to fetch water. Surprisingly, these villagers spend more than half an hour to fetch a single gallon of water. In 1999, a road was constructed over a source that supplied a government-built drinking water project. This led to the source drying up and the project collapsed a few years later. The brief period of convenient water access now feels like a distant dream for the residents, who have been forced to rely on rivers and streams for the past 15 years.

Naam Bahadur Baral from the same community explains that because only 27 families live in Kartike, the government has neglected their need for drinking water. Ward Chairperson Bhimsen Gharti Magar acknowledges that the small population has made it difficult to justify the investment needed for a water supply project.

The lack of drinking water has severely affected the children in Kartike. Instead of spending their mornings and evenings for study, they must spend this time



*Sushma Gurung collecting water from a stream*

fetching water. For Sushma Gurung, like many other children, fetching water has become a daily routine. She wakes up at 5 am and carries water three times from Tusare River. Consequently, she has very little time for study and occasionally missed school due to this work. Sushma, who is currently in 9th grade, laments that the distance to her school and the demands of fetching water prevent her from focusing on her education.

Water scarcity worsens during the dry season, but even after the rains, the murky water of the Tusare River and difficult road conditions force residents to fetch water from the more distant Pandhera and Cheske Rivers. Uma Devi Baral from the same community recounts, "In the dry season, we used water of irrigation canal for other purposes and only fetched drinking water from the Tusare River. But this year, the drought has left the canal dry, making it very difficult."

### Hope for a Better Future

Airawati Rural Municipality is one of the selected municipalities in Pyuthan district for WASH projects in the fiscal year 2082-083. NEWAH has completed feasibility studies and detailed surveys for various projects in the municipality, including the Kartike Drinking Water and Sanitation Project, which has rekindled hope among the community people. Mankali Gurung of the same community, the chairperson of the proposed project, shares her optimism: "Ever since I saw the technicians surveying, I have been dreaming of having water in the stream near my house and yard. I hope that dream will come true soon."

### Poem

#### Importance of Water

*Water is nectar, life's precious embrace,  
Protect your brain and heart, and keep disease at bay.  
Two to three liters each day, your health will see,  
Consider the weather when you drink, naturally.*

*Even clear water can hide what's unclean,  
A moment's carelessness can turn deadly unseen.  
Typhoid, diarrhoea, jaundice, and worm,  
From the water they come, be cautious, you'll learn.*

*Boiled water, bacteria's foe,  
No need for treatment costs to grow.  
Keep dishes clean, covered tight,  
Teach children these habits, set things right.*

*Boiling and filtering, methods to trust,  
Chlorination, Sodis top solutions a must.*

*Dhan Bir Sawat*

*Ram Bahadur Budha*

## School Latrine Improves Educational Environment

"If you keep coming to my toilet, you will have to pay from now on, or I will lock you in the toilet." Kalpana had to endure such threats many times when she went to use the neighbor's toilet because there was no toilet at the school. As a female, she faced the additional challenge of finding a private place to defecate. Furthermore, as a teacher, she must never defecate in the open, as she should set an example for others. Kalpana recalls, "During my periods, I had to take three or four days off due to the lack of proper facilities."

This experience of Kalpana Shrestha, a teacher from Kavrepalanchok district near the federal capital Kathmandu, highlights the dire state of sanitation and the educational environment. Kalpana, who has been working as a teacher for the past 14 years at Shree Setidevi Community School in Sarkidanda, Khanikhola Rural Municipality, Ward No. 2 of the Dandapari area in this district, along with her colleagues, has questioned the open defecation campaign.

A school is more than just classrooms and desks. Adequate toilets, drinking water facilities, and a clean environment are essential for a conducive learning atmosphere. Yet, many public schools in Nepal lack these basic amenities. Setidevi Community School was no exception, with dirty surroundings that affected the entire village. While a temporary water pipe was installed, it rarely provided water because the nearby houses used it first. Both students and teachers had to depend on neighbors for water and



*Constructing the slab for the septic tank of the school toilet*

toilet access. It's easy to imagine how teaching took place in such conditions.

In 2021, an organization supported the school by building a school toilet but left the work unfinished without completing the septic tank. The municipality showed no interest in finishing the job, leaving students and teachers to suffer the consequences. Due to the lack of toilets, the school and its surroundings were badly contaminated. Both students and teachers had to endure the consequences of this situation.

### Initiating Reconstruction and Resolving Disputes

In the fiscal year 2023-024, with support from NEWAH Province Office Sindhuli and in partnership with Khanikhola Rural Municipality, the Sarkidanda WASH Project was implemented. Teachers hoped this would improve the school's condition. NEWAH began the initiative in January 2024 by assisting in slab and plumbing construction. However, one party obstructed the work, demanding payment for previous work. Despite coordination with the user committee, no agreement was reached.

Demonstrating their commitment to collaboration even in challenging situations, NEWAH employees coordinated with the wards, held a general meeting at the school chaired by the ward chairperson, and in March 2024, completed the slabs and plumbing. The water tap in the school was finally equipped in April 2024. Kalpana expressed relief that years of suffering had ended, and the school environment had become clean and healthy.

*(Continued on page 5)*



*Satisfaction with availability of drinking water facilities in schools*

## NEWAH and Local Government Drive for Total Sanitation

After Nepal was declared an open defecation-free country, the NEWAH Provincial Office Sindhuli and Kamalamai Municipality joined forces for the 'Clean and Hygienic Village Campaign,' part of the government's broader sanitation initiative. This collaboration led to the creation of a community hygiene and sanitation volunteer team for the Dhungrabhanjyang WASH project. The team's objective is to monitor and improve sanitation and hygiene practices to declare the area a clean and hygienic community by fiscal year 2023-024.

In support of this goal, NEWAH, and Kamalamai Municipality have set up dedicated teams to regularly inspect houses, hotels, and homestays, focusing on cleanliness, hygiene, and effective waste



*A Volunteer team member inspecting WASH structures*

*Continued from Page 4*

### School Latrine Improves...

Yunisha Ghising, a third-grade student, mentioned she used to avoid school due to the lack of toilets but now finds it very convenient with the new facilities. Principal Sumitra Tamang noted that the new construction has made life easier for both teachers and students, improving not just the school's cleanliness but also the students' hygiene habits. Previously, the absence of soap and water made it difficult to teach cleanliness and hygiene effectively.

The government spends billions annually on education, yet improving small but crucial aspects like sanitation can significantly enhance educational quality.

*Keshab Bista*



*Volunteer team members inspecting WASH structures*

management. NEWAH has enhanced this effort by providing a two-day training program on drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion, equipping volunteers with essential monitoring skills.

The monitoring team assesses various indicators, including the proper use and maintenance of toilets, personal and household hygiene, availability of handwashing facilities with soap and water, and safe water usage. They also provide guidance and suggestions to improve these practices. In addition, the team supervises waste management from the BP highway to the historical Sindhuligadhi Durbar (palace) area, ensuring proper disposal of waste from large resorts, hotels, and shops.

Notably, the team has identified issues with previous waste management systems, such as improperly managed dustbins leading to increased garbage disposal on agricultural land and in roadside. In response, the monitoring committee has implemented measures to curb these practices and encourage proper waste disposal.

Since the mobilization of the team, the community people have responded positively by adopting trash cans and locally-made dustbins for waste management. The community has also started constructing and using *Chang* (dish drying racks) and *Juthyan* (Dish cleaning platform), contributing to the achievement of a clean and hygienic environment. These efforts reflect significant progress in maintaining high standards of sanitation and hygiene in the area.

*Pramila Kumari Lungeli*

## Rum Village Progresses Toward Total Sanitation

The new generation of Rum village in Malika Rural Municipality, Ward No. 2 of Myagdi District, still shoulders the legacy burden of the previous generation, beginning their day by fetching water-filled gallon before dawn. This situation is mirrored in many other villages across the country, where women are mainly responsible for carrying water.

Rum village boasts natural beauty and basic services such as transportation, electricity, and healthcare. The houses are well-constructed, but the critical issue of safe drinking water remains unresolved. The existing water supply facilities in the village are inadequate. Around 13 years ago, community taps were installed under a water supply project, but the few water taps serving many homes couldn't meet the residents' demands. Having even a limited supply of drinking water was a significant achievement at the time, but the aspiration for sufficient water remained unfulfilled.

Human nature drives the search for better living conditions, and in Rum village, the demand for household water has grown. Responding to this public need, a detailed survey was initiated in July 2079 in partnership with NEWAH and Malika Rural Municipality to provide adequate, reliable and safe drinking water under the policy of "one house, one tap." With 272 households and a population of about 1,300, this initiative sparked new hope among the villagers.



*Community meeting on WASH project construction*

On 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, a general meeting was held to inform the community about the construction of the Thulo Rum Water Supply and Sanitation Project as part of the approved program for fiscal year 2023-024. Uday Kumar Budhathoki, Ward Chairperson of Malika Rural Municipality Ward No. 2, thanked NEWAH for their initiative and pledged local government support to complete the project. The project, with a budget of approximately 7.43 million Nepalese rupees, is being funded tripartite by NEWAH, Malika Rural Municipality, and the users. Construction began in November 2023, and Bhesh Bahadur Gharti Magar, chairperson of the Thuolrum Water Supply and Sanitation User Committee, highlighted the enthusiastic participation of local women.

Previously, a single source supplied the entire community with drinking water. Now, water will be



*Excitement brought by the project: Local community engaged in digging pipelines*



*A glimpse of awareness campaign for total sanitation oriented condition*

## Poem

## Please tell my story too!

Dear Journalist,

Please tell my story too!

From dawn till dusk,

I spent my time in the spring,

Write about this in the news!

I've been starving for days without water,

Coming home with an empty Gagri<sup>1</sup> for several days.

If you can, write about this too!

Write about how we got sick drinking river water,

How the epidemic has spread in our village.

We don't even have paracetamol here,

Vehicles never come to our village,

There's no Jeevanjal<sup>2</sup> in our village.

Dear Journalist,

The head strap or the basket on my back ever left me

Every spring the plants bloom,

But my journey to the spring remains unchanged.

Write about our village!

There's no shortage of migration here,

When the moon rises, lighting up the sky,

When the moonlit earth smiles,

I couldn't help but smile too.

We're on the brink of a new dawn,

Yet still shrouded in darkness,

Write about this!

Dear Journalist,

We've spent many nights without seeing a full moon,

We've become the darkness under the lamp.

So tell the story of me and my village,

Remember us, don't think of others.

The pain of those who leave and migrate,

Write about it!

Don't forget to cover it in the magazine.

Is it possible to write this?

Your news can change the face of this village,

So don't forget to write about my village!

 Hem Raj Mahara



Debisara Gharti (left) engaged in pipe cutting with colleague sourced from two different sources, benefiting 275 households in the Rum Water Supply and Sanitation Project. Local women are taking on skilled work in the project. Debisara Gharti, a maintenance worker and committee member, has been actively involved in pipe cutting and connections, demonstrating women's growing empowerment in rural areas. Not only Gharti but also other women in the village balance household responsibilities with project duties. Rita Sunar Patel, the treasurer of the Drinking Water and Sanitation User Committee, expressed confidence that they will soon be able to access safe drinking water from nearby streams.

The women of Rum village are also leading efforts to build a model village with total sanitation by 2030, aligning with the Government of Nepal's goals. They have adopted the slogan "From the basic sanitation towards total sanitation" and have begun work. The rural municipality has allocated a budget for waste management, and plans are underway to construct a dumping site for systematic garbage disposal, as shared by Pratikshya Rasaili, a ward member and executive committee member of Malika Rural Municipality.

Inspired by various trainings and programs conducted by NEWAH, the community has initiated sanitation activities. Gita Pun, a member of the Drinking Water and Sanitation User Committee, noted that everyone is engaged in both project construction and maintaining sanitation, embodying the principle of "Sanitation for all and forever."

 Hem Raj Mahara

<sup>1</sup> Water carrying pot

<sup>2</sup> Nepali Brand of Oral rehydration solution (ORS)

## Menstrual Hygiene Day Celebrated with Practical Training

Menstrual Hygiene Day was celebrated on the 28th of May with the slogan "Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld" by organizing various programs. The program has been conducted to expose the misconceptions related to menstruation and bring about changes in hygiene and sanitation habits. During the event, among the projects run with the financial and technical support of NEWAH, two projects of Dhawalagiri Rural Municipality and three projects of Malika Rural Municipality discussed the misconceptions related to menstruation and its effects on health and dignity.

Similarly, on the occasion of Menstrual Hygiene Day, in Bimdanda Village, Das Siredi Khopti and Janpriya Secondary School, traditional notions about menstruation, its effects on health, and the hygiene and sanitation practices to be adopted during menstruation were conducted, and training was conducted on how to use homemade pads.



Lokesh Chand

Participants with sanitary pads prepared during training

On the occasion of Menstrual Hygiene Day, a community rally took place to disseminate awareness about menstrual hygiene among the users of seven WASH projects in Baglung district. The event featured slogans to dispel societal misconceptions about menstruation and promote menstrual hygiene.

 Bal Kumari Mahato

## Inauguration of Bhyalkharka Nayapani WASH Project

The Bhyalkharka Nayapani drinking water and sanitation project, constructed in Bhyalkharka village of Ward No. 2 in Dhorpatan Municipality, in partnership with NEWAH, the Provincial Office Baglung, and Dhorpatan Municipality, has been inaugurated. Bishnu Prasad Gyawali, Chief Administrative Officer of Dhorpatan Municipality, inaugurated the project by cutting the ribbon and drinking tap water on June 1, 2024.



Pradeep Majhi

Bishnu Prasad Gyawali, Chief Administrative Officer of Dhorpatan Municipality, inaugurating the WASH Project

This project, constructed at 2.73 million Nepalese rupees to benefit 161 people from 25 households in Bhyalkharka Nayapani village, received contributions of 1.25 million rupees from NEWAH, 0.80 million rupees from Dhorpatan Municipality, 0.65 million rupees in labor contributions, and 0.037 million rupees in cash contributions from the community

At the inauguration program, attended by project users and NEWAH employees, most speakers emphasized that while constructing a structure is significant, ensuring its sustainability is crucial. They highlighted the importance of regular maintenance, increasing the maintenance fund, providing effective service, and consistently collecting water tariffs.

The program was held under the chairpersonship of Bhimkant Padhya, Chairperson of the Drinking Water User Committee. Bishnu Prasad Gyawali, the chief administrative officer of Dhorpatan Municipality, was the chief guest, while the special guests included ward member Chudamani Jaisi, engineer Santosh Paudel, and intellectual Dil Bahadur Kumal.

 Pradeep Majhi





## News and Case Study Writing Training Successfully Completed

A training program on news writing and case study writing, initiated by NEWAH's Head Office in Kathmandu, concluded. The training aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills in case study preparation of employees from the NEWAH provincial offices of Baglung and Sindhuli.

The three-day training, held from February 24 to 26, saw participation from 23 employees. It included both theoretical and practical sessions designed to enable participants to present significant aspects of NEWAH's water, sanitation, and hygiene programs through engaging and authentic news articles and case studies. Participants engaged in interactive workshops and group activities to hone their writing skills and receive constructive feedback.

Director of NEWAH, Er. Resham Jung Singh, inaugurated the training by highlighting the importance of enhancing employees' knowledge and skills. He expressed confidence that the training would aid in documenting the organization's activities and integrating the best practices in various publications, reports, and proposals for donor agencies.

As the case study inspires users, donor agencies, and other stakeholders, the focus of this training was to create an engaging presentation of the community's previous situation, the initiatives taken to effect change, and the resulting improvements. Additionally, facilitation and practical exercises on news writing were conducted to equip participants with the skills to effectively present various organizational activities,



*Training participants*

achievements, and notable aspects through news articles. The training also highlighted the crucial role of photography in authentically presenting initiatives and facts, as well as in publicizing the past and comparatively changed situations.

The training sessions were facilitated by Bharat Adhikari and NEWAH's PRM Manager, Dr. Maheshwar Prasad Yadav.

*Bipin Hada*

### Poem

#### Health and Hygiene

*To stay healthy, heed hygiene's call,  
The disease spreads when we let standards fall.*

*Focus on personal care each day,  
Neglect can bring harm our way.*

*Drink safe water, eat food clean,  
Keep our surroundings pristine.*

*Homes and streets by riversides clear,  
Choose organic, for health is dear.*

*Junk food harms, don't let it sway,  
Save your money, and choose health today.*

*Cleanliness keeps sickness at bay,  
Dirt knows no kin, it has no say.*

*So let's all strive to keep things clean,  
In work and care, success is seen.*

*Srijana Pata Magar*



*NEWAH Director Er. Resham Jung Singh presented certificates.*

## World Hand Hygiene Day Celebrated with Diverse Programs

The World Hand Hygiene Day, celebrated annually on May 5, was marked this year by organizing various awareness programs in numerous drinking water and sanitation projects in NEWAH, with the main slogan 'Keep your hands clean: save life.' This day was celebrated to promote hand hygiene practices, prevent infections, and advocate for policies and systems that support hand hygiene infrastructure and practices. The celebration involved local government bodies, associations and institutions working in the water and sanitation sector, and civil society organizations.

To ensure the success of this campaign, the NEWAH Provincial Office in Sindhuli coordinated with staff working on 25 water supply and sanitation projects across various wards of Sindhuli District, including Dudhauri, Marin, Kamalamai, Golanjor, Fikkal, Tinpatan, Sunkoshi Palika, and Khanikhola and Roshi Rural Municipality of Kavre District. Local-level staff, officers from the Water Supply and Sanitation User Committee, and other stakeholders organized large-scale discussions and seminars in various villages, schools, and communities under the project. During these events, participants were educated on hand hygiene awareness, the importance of washing hands with soap and water, and the diseases transmitted through dirty hands. Practical demonstrations of proper handwashing techniques were also provided, emphasizing the need for continuous cleanliness. The program saw the participation of 966 users from different drinking water and sanitation projects across various municipalities.

Similarly, this day was celebrated through various



*A glimpse of World Hand Hygiene Day held in the community*

programs in 10 projects in Dhawalagiri, Malika, and Mangala rural municipalities of Myagdi District, facilitated by the NEWAH Provincial Office in Baglung. Additionally, the day was marked in seven projects in Dhorpatan and Baglung Municipality and Badigad Rural Municipality of Baglung District. The programs included large-scale discussions on the importance of hand hygiene, methods to keep hands clean, prevention of diseases caused by dirty hands, and the circumstances under which hands should be washed with soap and water, led by NEWAH staff and facilitators.

In conclusion, participants discussed the challenges and suggestions for the program, emphasizing the need for sustainable behavior change. They suggested that regular programs are necessary for lasting habit changes and recommended strict enforcement of hygiene policies and regulations, including penalties and rewards, to make the campaign more effective.

*Naveen Ghimire/Balkumari Mahato/Basundhara Gharti*



*A view of the World Hand Hygiene Day held at Jogibagar Bhakbhake WASH Project located in Badigad Rural Municipality - 5 of Baglung*



*A view of World Hand Hygiene Day held at Bhadaure Chukte WASH Project located in Marin Rural Municipality - 1 of Sindhuli*

## Water and Happiness Flowed Over in Gagri

Tara Kumari Karki was married at the young age of thirteen. Although the law prohibits child marriage, it did not apply to her. When she entered Khaniyakharka village in Sunkoshi Municipality, Sindhuli district, currently Ward No. 5, as a bride in 1989, the pain of leaving her childhood home was immense. "At that time, we had to go to the well below the village to fetch water, and even then, we had to wait our turn. We would leave at 5 in the morning and barely return home by 9 with a pot of water," recalls Tara.

### The Picnic of Obligation

Back then, Tara and her friends from the village would go for a 'picnic' every week, not out of desire but of obligation. The village, plagued by a severe water shortage, had no water for washing clothes. They would go to the distant Langri River and spend the entire day washing clothes with her neighbors, sister-in-law, and friends. Some would cook food, while others washed clothes. They referred to their meals by the riverbank as a 'picnic'. This fleeting joy of adolescence would disappear as they returned uphill carrying half-dried clothes.



Tara Kumari Karki filling water from her own tap



Khaniyakharka Village

In those days, no one in the village even had a toilet in their house. Due to a lack of water, it was difficult to build a toilet and use it properly. The village suffered frequent outbreaks of diseases like diarrhea due to poor sanitation. In 1997 the local people got some relief when water was temporarily piped to the village by a grant, but it didn't solve their problems entirely. The pipes often broke, and during the dry season, the water became murky.

In 2007, another initiative for drinking water was launched. A tank was built for community use through a poverty alleviation group, and taps were managed for ten houses. However, without proper maintenance, these structures eventually broke down, forcing residents to rely on temporary water pipes once more.

### The Result of Cooperation

To address the long-standing water issues in Khaniyakharka, the Sunkoshi Municipality initiated a project. In 2021, the Municipality requested the NEWAH Provincial Office in Sindhuli to construct a WASH project. After a feasibility study, NEWAH agreed to support the project financially and technically. With the collaboration of Sunkoshi Municipality, NEWAH, and active community participation, work began to bring water from a source 6 kilometers away to 51 houses, serving 332 people. Community members assisted skilled masons in constructing structures and laying pipelines. The project was completed on time, thanks to 57 days of labor contributed by the users. Now, every house and even the public school in the village has tap water.

## Joy along with the Water

With the water facility, sanitation in the community improved. People regularly used toilets, set up hand washing stations, managed waste, dried dishes properly, and covered drinking water. Tara, who had taken on responsibilities at a young age, completed her education up to class 12 while managing her household and children. Since 1995, she has been a primary school teacher in Bhumeswar within this project area. NEWAH staff value the practical and useful hygiene, sanitation, and technology knowledge she imparted to the community. Tara believes education extends beyond the classroom and is essential for daily life.

Now, no one in the village has to wake up early to fetch water from a well. Tara feels happiness in the availability of water in every house. She remembers the days when water scarcity consumed all their time and energy. "Back then, all our time and energy were spent on fetching water. We had no time for anything else. Now, we can use that time and energy for productive work," she says, discussing the project's positive impact. Observing the village's transformation, she believes that water supply facilities are crucial for its development. The sight of children playing and villagers engaging in productive activities brings a smile to her face, as she knows the true value of having water at their doorstep.

 *Ganga Kumari Koirala*

## No more Songs of Sorrow for Bahundanda Residents

*Thirty-five homes share just one village source,  
From February to June, it's a challenging course*



*Somati heading to  
fetch water*

43-year-old Somati Thing Lama of Hariharpurgadhi Rural Municipality-8, Bahundanda Ward in Sindhuli, has expressed her sorrow through the song. This village, located 15 km north of Hariwan in Sarlahi District, is situated in the Inner Tarai. Although it is not geographically challenging, its residents face severe drinking water problems.

Somati explains, "A house needs 15 to 20 gallons of water daily, so we spend most of our time hauling water." Many children are occupied with this task, causing delays in their schooling.

The village relies on a single tube well shared by 35 houses for drinking water. Ten years ago, with assistance from the Nepal Red Cross Society, water was brought to that tube well from a stream 100 meters away. However, even at the same tube well, the water starts drying up in February, leading to a severe shortage for five months until June, says Lasang Thing Lama from the same community. "Since February, our time has been spent wandering around different springs to find water." This community has dirt in every house, and the sanitation is very poor. When discussing the issue of poor sanitation, Lama



*People queue to fetch water at the village's sole tubewell*

counters, "How can proper sanitation be maintained in a place where one cannot drink water until thirst is quenched?" The lack of safe and sufficient water directly impacts the hygiene and health of the community, exacerbating their struggles.

To address these dire conditions in Bahundanda, a drinking water and sanitation project is underway in partnership with NEWAH, the Provincial Office Sindhuli, and Hariharpurgadhi Rural Municipality. With no nearby water sources, structures are being constructed to lift water from approximately one and a half kilometers away and deliver it to the village. Once the connection of the three-phase electricity line needed for water lifting is complete, all houses in the village will gain access to safe drinking water. In this way, the time when residents have to sing songs of sorrow is coming to an end.

 *Bhagawati Sapkota*

## Thirsty Kaligandaki Awaiting Safe Water

"I have grown old with both age and behavior, but the work of carrying water has never left me," says 83-year-old Khimananda Neupane, who carries a water-filled Gagri on his shoulders. Despite performing the Chaurasi Pooja<sup>1</sup> and seeking rest for his aging body, Khimananda is compelled to fetch water from the water source four to five times a day. This issue isn't unique to Khimananda; it reflects a broader problem affecting many communities in Nepal, where the lack of drinking water overshadows the education of children, the comfort of the elderly, and the productive work of young people. Khimananda is the representative character of this scenario.

This common trouble is evident in Kaligandaki Rural Municipality-2, Mukhedanda Tole, in the eastern part of Gulmi District. While homes in Arweni, Pipalmuni Belbot, and Sanachour villages, including Mukhedanda, have water pipes, regular and safe water availability is a persistent issue. The temporary water pipelines and structures are in disrepair. Despite having many nearby water sources, the safety of the water is compromised. Additionally, chemical fertilizers used in fields contaminate the water sources, making them undrinkable, yet villagers are forced to consume them. Ironically, the village, named after the famous Kaligandaki River, still lacks access to safe drinking water.

Arweni Village, located in the Kaligandaki Corridor, is home to an educated middle class and features roads, schools, irrigation facilities, and good communication services. However, safe drinking water remains a

*1. According to Hindu tradition, a special worship is performed when a person turns 84. After this event, it is believed that s/he is freed from household and daily chores.*



*A water tap is in ruins due to neglect and lack of ownership*



*83-year-old Khimanand Neupane carrying water*

challenge. Jeev narayan Neupane, Chairperson of the Balami Khola Drinking Water and Sanitation User Committee, explains that drought conditions cause small water sources to dry up, leading to increased reliance on water from irrigation canals. Despite the allocation of 26.3 million rupees for drinking water in wards 7, 8, and 9 for the financial year 2020/021, progress has been hindered by disputes.

Currently, the Kaligandaki Rural Municipality is working on a project to distribute safe drinking water, with support from organizations like the Nepal Red Cross Society, British Gorkha Welfare, and local and providence governments. These efforts include the construction of water supply systems in various wards. NEWAH, in coordination with the local government, has conducted a detailed survey for drinking water and sanitation projects in wards 2, 3, and 5 for the financial year 2025/026. "Although work was delayed in our ward, we are now confident and ready to proceed according to NEWAH's policy," says Jeev narayan.

Kaligandaki Rural Municipality stands on the brink of a significant change. Soon, water facilities will be accessible, ensuring that children's education will no longer be interrupted, the productivity of the youth will increase, and the elderly will experience comfort and happiness.

*Gyan Bahadur Rana*

## A Glimpse of NEWAH's WASH Facilities Initiative

NEWAH has been promoting drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities in rural communities of Nepal for over three decades. To ensure the sustainability, efficiency, and quality of the structures built in collaboration with donor agencies, local governments, and users, NEWAH has developed various mechanisms and prioritized the construction of supporting activities and structures. Here is a glimpse of some key activities and structures that NEWAH implements and builds in the community.



*Community meeting*



*Non local material transportation*



*Source protection*



*Public participation in pipeline construction*



*Maintenance worker training*



*Roughing filter*



*Slow sand filter*



*Reservoir*



*Water tap*



*Water quality testing*



*Hand washing station with soap*



*User satisfaction*

## 32<sup>nd</sup> World Water Day: Reflections on Folk Song and Oratorical Competitions

The 32<sup>nd</sup> World Water Day, observed globally under the main slogan "Water for Peace," was celebrated with a range of activities organized by NEWAH in partnership with various municipalities. The celebration included folk song and *Lok Dohori* (folk song sung in groups) competitions, along with other programs in the Kalat Bhanari and Thuolorum WASH Project areas, in collaboration with NEWAH, the Provincial Office Baglung, and Malika Village of Myagdi District.

The chief guest for the program was Uday Kumar Budhathoki, the Ward Chairperson of Malika Rural Municipality Ward No. 2, and it was chaired by Gelan Pun Magar, Chairperson of the Kalat Bhaneri WASH Project. The event included a competition among officials from the user committee, community health and sanitation volunteers, and mother groups from both projects. Ten groups competed with themes centered on safe drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation. The results were as follows: Durga Rasaili's group secured first place, Indra Kumari Gharti's group came in second, Geeta Pun's group was third, and Kalpana Pun and Manju B.K.'s group received a consolation prize.

At the beginning of the program, Hemraj Mahara, a hygiene and sanitation facilitator from NEWAH, addressed the importance of World Water Day, the need to safeguard water sources, the communicable diseases caused by contaminated water, and the measures to prevent them.

In Sindhuli District, under NEWAH's Provincial Office, employees working on 33 WASH Projects in Khanikhola and Roshi Rural Municipality of Kavre



*Winner of Lok Dohori receiving the award*

district, and Hariharpurgadhi, Dudhauri, Marin, Kamalamai, Golanjor, Fikkal, Tinpatan, Sunkoshi of Sindhuli Districts participated in discussions, seminars, water source clean-ups, and sapling planting. The celebration also included an awareness rally on the importance of safe drinking water and a poetry competition for students from various schools. A total of 1,024 students from Sindhuli and Kavre districts participated, with 548 being girls.

The program focused on safe water practices, water protection, addressing the increasing water crisis, water purification methods, and avoiding diseases caused by dirty water. NEWAH staff and facilitators extensively discussed these topics. Participants emphasized the need to protect resources, implement water safety plans, increase maintenance funds, regularly maintain water systems, and effectively enforce water and sanitation policies.

*Hem Raj Mahara/Nabin Ghimire/Laxman Mochi*



*Participants of awareness rallies organized on the occasion of World Water Day*

## Participation of NEWAH Employees in Various Programs

Name of the event	Main theme of the event	Organizers of the event	Participated by	Date	Brief summary of the event, any decisions, lesson learnt
International Conference on Applied Science and Engineering in changing world	Addressing Inclusive Climate Resilient WASH System: Lessons from Local Level in Nepal	Pokhara University, SNV, IWMI	Er. Resham Jung Singh	12 June 2024	Participated as a panelist of the session and shared about the NEWAH's best practices, learnings on climate resilient WASH services, innovative monitoring mechanism
International training on community driven sustainable development	Asset Based Community Development approach, Logical framework preparation of the project	Bala Vikasa, India	Ramesh Dahal and Niraj Gurung	27th to 31st May, 2024	Understand the approach, methodology and strategies of ABCD approach. Mapping the community assets and analysed the existing associations, groups and institutions of community. Prepared the project logical framework, shared some good initiatives of proposal writing and performance measurement framework (PMF).
Regional Conference on Rainwater Harvesting	Rainwater Harvesting	Smart WASH Solution, NEWAH, SNV	Er. Resham Jung Singh, Arun Kumar Shrestha, Umesh Basnet		Presented about the NEWAH's innovative monitoring, rainwater harvesting activities, research and development activities
Nepal-UK Water Workshop	Learning and sharing on Water Management, challenges and opportunities in Nepal	CARDIFF University UK	Er. Resham Jung Singh, Umesh Basnet	27 February 2024	Presented about NEWAH's intervention in WASH (challenges, learnings, way forward)
Learning sharing and dissemination workshop JICA funded IHBSH project		WaterAid Nepal	Er. Resham Jung Singh	28 June 2024	Sharing of findings of implementation of project "Improvement of hygiene behaviors in school and health care facilities in schools and healthcare facilities" implemented by WaterAid Nepal in Terai
A workshop titled "Rain Water Harvesting & Management - Policy Dialog" on World Environment Day in Hetauda (Bagmati Province) and Janakpurdham (Madhesh Province)	Raising Awareness and Advocacy for Rainwater Harvesting and Artificial Groundwater Recharging to Combat Groundwater Depletion	Nepal rain water harvesting alliance	Kumar Silwal	6 June 024-Hetauda, 7 June in Janakpur	The Nepal Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (NRWHA), in collaboration with Smart WASH Solutions, NEWAH, Best Paani, and Diyalo Technology, conducted a dissemination workshop on rainwater harvesting and artificial groundwater recharging in Hetauda. The primary objective was to facilitate a policy dialogue on these topics by sharing the declaration from the recent Regional Conference on Rainwater Harvesting and Management-2024 and presentations outlining approaches and methodologies. Er. Ramdeep Sah, chairman of Smart WASH Solution, chaired the workshop. Mr. Pradip Kumar Mudavari, Director of Smart WASH Solutions, presented the Kathmandu declaration 2024 and discussed existing and required policies for promoting rainwater harvesting systems to alleviate water scarcity. They also made a formal request to include Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) initiatives in the upcoming budget and policy considerations.



Name of the event	Main theme of the event	Organizers of the event	Participated by	Date	Brief summary of the event, any decisions, lesson learnt
Waste Management & Climate Conference (WMCC) 2024	The conference aimed to unite stakeholders to pioneer sustainable solutions for Nepal's waste management and climate challenges.	Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), Khaalisiin, Coca Cola Foundation, National Human Rights Commission - NHRC & co-organizers: CNIYEF & Women for Human Rights (WHR).	Arum Kumar Shrestha and Niraj Gurung	5 June 2024	<p>WMCC brought together ~ 1000 delegates from 700+ organizations, including Ministers, MPs, Government Secretaries, Diplomats, Entrepreneurs, Academics, and Environmentalists.</p> <p>The conference aimed to unite stakeholders to pioneer sustainable solutions for Nepal's waste management and climate challenges.</p> <p>In that WMCC 2024 incubated conversations around five major pillars 1. State of Waste Management 2. Climate Startups &amp; Investments 3. Carbon &amp; Plastic Credits 4. Tackling Nepal's Air Pollution and</p> <p>5. Climate's Grip on Sagarmatha were discussed via panel discussion among the experts and chair of local governments. Through that we know about the facts on waste management and climate change and take aways for improvement.</p>
2 days water security workshop, Bardibas Mahottari	Understanding about the ground water scarcity and plan to mitigate the problem of water in Madhesh province	WaterAid Nepal/Becan project	Er. Resham Jung Singh and Arun Kumar Shrestha	5-6 May 2024	<p>We knew about the issues, challenges and mitigation methodology of ground water scarcity through the paper presentation from the experts from Nepal and as well as UK based Becan organization. We discussed in team and made a recommendation for addressing the water security in Madhesh province. We also got the chances to know about the activities carried out by other organizations for recharging the ground water in Chure range of Nepal.</p>
Global Summit to accelerate progress towards universal access to safely managed sanitation	Facilitate country dialogues on sharing approaches and experiences to implement the step towards safely managed sanitation in a coordinated way and share the technical knowledge and tools available in the sector to support the transition to safely managed sanitation	UNICEF/WHO/ WaterAid	Er. Resham Jung Singh, Arun Kumar Shrestha, Rojeena Manandhar	25-27 June 2024	<p>Informed and knew about the sanitation governance, policies and regulations including the resources and tools for safely managed sanitation. We also participated in the presentation from government representatives of different countries and had a great opportunity to know the best practices on accelerating towards the safely managed sanitation. We also learn about climate resilient sanitation as cross cutting issues via the different paper presentation on that summit.</p>

## Shiva Bahadur's Journey of Hope and Determination

Shiva Bahadur Baruwal, a resident of Ward No. 3 Jirgha in Tinpatan Rural Municipality of Sindhuli District, exemplifies determination and resilience. Despite losing his left leg below the knee in a bus accident at the age of 13, he has continued to work hard to support his family and daughter's education. "I couldn't go abroad because of my physical condition, and farming is difficult," he says. However, his life has become somewhat easier since he started using an artificial leg provided by the Rural Municipality.

### A Message of Hope

Jirgha Patandevi village, home to around 100 households, has long struggled with water scarcity. Residents relied on unsafe water from temporary wells. However, the Jirgha Patandevi Water Supply and Sanitation Project, financially and technically supported by the NEWAH Province Office Sindhuli, has brought hope to the community. As part of this project, Shiva Bahadur was selected by the Water and Sanitation User Committee (WSUC) to assist with tasks like pipe cutting and connection, despite his disability. This prudent decision recognizes his financial struggles and hardworking nature, and ensures that all NEWAH projects are inclusive as well.

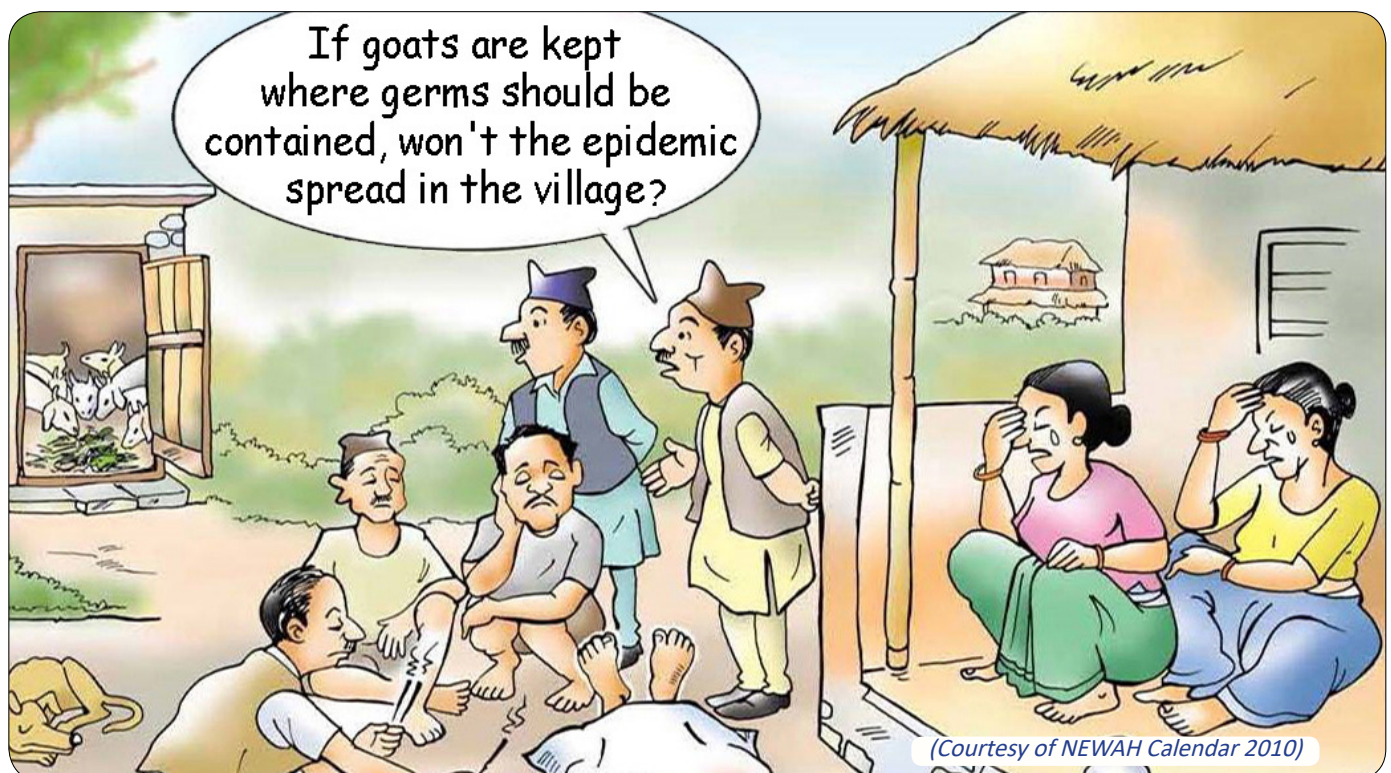
Shiva Bahadur shares that NEWAH technicians provided training and encouragement, boosting his confidence to work. While community members assist him with tasks beyond his physical capacity, he faces challenges with mobility due to his old, worn-out prosthetic leg. "The 4,500 monthly salary helps, but it's tough to cover my daughter's education and household expenses, let alone afford a new prosthetic," he says. Shiva Bahadur hopes for donor assistance to acquire a new artificial leg, which would enable him to work more effectively. Despite these challenges, he remains optimistic and determined, constantly seeking ways to improve his skills and contribute to the community. His dedication and perseverance serve as an inspiration to others facing similar hardships.



Bibek Prasad Dahal

*Shiva Bahadur Baruwal, engaged in work despite his disability*

➤ *Bibek Prasad Dahal*



(Courtesy of NEWAH Calendar 2010)