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# Water & Sanitation

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## Donor Team Monitors Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Projects in Baglung and Myagdi

A monitoring team comprising representatives from charity: water, America, and NEWAH assessed completed water supply projects in Baglung and Myagdi districts from November 14 to 17, 2024. These projects, implemented with NEWAH's technical and managerial support in collaboration with municipalities and communities, were evaluated for their impact and sustainability.

The monitoring team included Sierra Tobin, Program Manager at charity: water, America, and Dr. Maheshwor Prasad Yadav, Planning, Monitoring and Reporting (PMR) Manager at NEWAH Headquarters. They were joined by Province Head Ramesh Dahal, PMR Officer Binod Koirala, and other officials from NEWAH Province Office in Baglung. Before the field visit, the team met with the Province Management Group, where Province Head Ramesh



*Mr. Ramesh Dahal, Province Head, Baglung, presents project progress to the charity: water-NEWAH team*

Dahal provided an overview of completed projects in Baglung and Myagdi and the overall WASH situation in Gandaki and Lumbini provinces.

During the visit, the team inspected key drinking water and sanitation projects, interacted with local officials and user committees, and observed infrastructure such as household taps, dish drying racks, and water supply structures built in schools. In Myagdi, the team assessed the Bim Drinking Water and Sanitation Project in Malika Rural Municipality, engaging with local leaders on project challenges, community labor contributions, and long-term sustainability. Similarly, in Baglung, they evaluated the Lamgaun Lift Drinking Water and Sanitation Project, discussing maintenance plans, water quality testing, and flood preparedness with the user committee.

*(Continued on page 2)*



*The joint monitoring team inspects Bim Water Supply and Sanitation Project structures*

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## Editorial: Commemorating World Water Day Glacier Conservation: A Lifeline for Humanity

*World Water Day, observed annually on March 22, serves as a reminder of the vital role water plays in our lives and the urgent need for its conservation. This year, the theme focuses on 'Glacier Conservation', highlighting the essential role of glaciers as a sustainable and reliable source of water, particularly for countries like Nepal. The rivers fed by these glaciers sustain millions of lives across Nepal, India, Bhutan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, providing essential water for drinking, irrigation, and hydropower generation.*

*However, the alarming rate of glacier shrinkage due to rising global temperatures poses a severe threat. The increasing risk of glacial lake outbursts is causing devastating consequences, while climate change continues to disrupt the water cycle, jeopardizing access to water for countless communities. Without immediate policy reforms, effective management, and a strong collective commitment, future generations will face an unprecedented water crisis.*

*For mountainous nations like Nepal, protecting glaciers and glacial lakes is not just an environmental concern but a necessity for long-term water security. A comprehensive approach - including scientific water resource management, safe utilization, recharge promotion, and climate change mitigation - is essential. Strengthening local initiatives, from policy development to on-the-ground conservation efforts, will be key to ensuring a sustainable water future.*

The team also visited the Jhulekhola Namduk Rangkhani Drinking Water and Sanitation Project in Jaimini Municipality-10, where they reviewed key infrastructures, including the water filtration system and community taps. Concerns were raised about the slow sand filter's recurring maintenance issues, with User Committee Chairperson Thaman Bahadur Shrees explaining that the filter stopped functioning despite multiple repairs.

Moreover, discussions were held with NEWAH's Planning, Monitoring, and Reporting team in Baglung regarding user complaint mechanisms such as "Hello Monitoring" and the Toll-Free Call Monitoring system. The monitoring concluded with charity: water representatives reviewing project outcomes with NEWAH's senior management, discussing future strategies, district expansion plans, and emerging challenges in the WASH sector.

 *Binod Koirala/Dr. Maheshwor Prasad Yadav*

## 'NEWAH Commits to Advancing Human Rights'

*Former NEWAH Executive Committee Chairperson, Professor Kapil Shrestha, a dedicated advocate for education and human rights in Nepal, has been appointed as the Ambassador to South Africa. He previously served as the Chairperson of NEWAH's Executive Committee for four years, making significant contributions to the organization's institutional development. NEWAH expresses its deep gratitude for his dedication and looks forward to his continued support. Below is a summary of his speech delivered at the farewell program held in his honor before he departed for South Africa to assume his new role.*



Joining NEWAH was a defining moment in my life. I firmly believe that providing safe drinking water to communities suffering from extreme shortages is not just a service—it is a fundamental act of protecting human rights. Water and sanitation are inherent human rights, essential for life and progress. Access to safe water transforms lives, and sanitation is indispensable for a healthy existence. Recognizing this, our constitution rightfully enshrines drinking water and sanitation as constitutional rights of all citizens.

NEWAH's greatest strengths lie in its diligence, transparency, and accountability. Every project it undertakes ensures financial clarity, with cost details openly available for all to see—an essential pillar of good governance. This unwavering commitment to integrity has fortified the organization, deterring those who sought to undermine it. The time I spent at NEWAH was deeply meaningful.

It offered me invaluable lessons and insights. In the NGO sector, few employees dedicate their entire careers to a single organization, yet NEWAH stands apart. Since its inception, many employees have remained until retirement, their collective experience driving the organization's progress. This enduring commitment reflects not only their dedication but also NEWAH's ability to inspire and retain its people.

Through my work, I have witnessed firsthand how access to water and sanitation has transformed lives. Communities have become cleaner and healthier. Those once burdened by long, exhausting walks to fetch water—especially the sick, elderly, and pregnant women—have been freed from that hardship. With water readily available, people have been able to engage in new opportunities such as raising livestock, cultivating vegetables, and even

establishing cooperatives. Women, in particular, have experienced remarkable empowerment. Once hesitant to speak up, they now confidently participate in meetings, voicing their opinions and shaping decisions. One wave of progress has triggered many more, creating ripples of transformation across communities.

Yet, the journey is far from over. Countless communities in Nepal still await access to safe drinking water. May NEWAH continue its mission, reaching those in need and driving sustainable change. My best wishes for its continued success!



*NEWAH executive committee members and employees bid farewell to Professor Shrestha*

Bipin Hada

Editor

## NEWAH Concludes 32<sup>nd</sup> AGM and Social Audit

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Social Audit of Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH) concluded on Friday, September 21, at Smart Durbar, Dhumbarahi, Kathmandu. The event, chaired by Acting President Manjuri Singh, was attended by Social Welfare Council Member Secretary Manoj Bhatta as the chief guest. Special guests included representatives from the Ministry of Water Supply, Federation of Drinking Water and Sanitation Users Nepal (FEDWASUN), Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Ward No. 4, and rural municipalities of Baglung, Myagdi, and Sindhuli districts. Participants also included representatives from WaterAid Nepal, the Embassy of Finland, NARMIN, MUAN, stakeholders, user committee representatives, and NEWAH members and staff.

During the program, NEWAH Director Er. Resham Jung Singh presented the fiscal year 2023/24 progress report and shared plans for drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene projects for 2024/25. Additionally, independent social auditor Dr. Kiran Chalise presented the Social Audit findings, based on field visits, focus group discussions, and interviews.

### Recognition of Outstanding Employees

On this occasion, outstanding employees were honored for their contributions. Awardees included Anju Khadka and Mahesh Rasaili from the Headquarters, Kushal Thapa from Province Office Baglung, and Bharat Bista, Basundhara Gharti Magar, and Saraswati Bhujel from Province Office Sindhuli.



SWC Member Secretary Manoj Bhatta and NEWAH President Manjuri Singh honoring top-performing employees

### Election of New Working Committee

The AGM unanimously elected a new working committee for 2024–2026, comprising dedicated individuals with notable contributions to Nepal's drinking water and sanitation sector. The newly formed committee includes President Manjuri Singh, Vice President Madan Krishna Sharma, Member Secretary Rekha Tulachan, Treasurer Vijay Panta, and members Ratna Kumari Shrestha, Umesh Kumar Pandey, and Ashok Swar.

The program reaffirmed its strong commitment to strengthening institutional good governance, fostering transparency, and enhancing service delivery in Nepal's drinking water and sanitation sector.

 [Rojeena Manandhar](#)



Director Er. Resham Jung Singh presenting NEWAH's progress report and action plan



Newly elected executive committee members from 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting

## Chameli's Dream Flows to Life

"I never imagined I would one day have water in my own yard," says Chameli B.K., a resident of Deurali village, Ward No. 3, Sunkoshi Rural Municipality, Sindhuli district. Married at 16, Chameli became a daughter-in-law in the village. Now a single mother of two, she has shouldered household responsibilities alone for 12 years.

"I did not have a single moment of relief when my daughters were small." Chameli recalls. Living uphill, fetching water took an hour, and in the dry season, she walked even farther to the river. A district project later brought water closer, but she still had to walk 20 minutes downhill. "There was no escape - endless trips for water, missing village fairs, or enduring thirst," she says, eyes welling up.

But today, everything has changed. Chameli now has a tap in her yard, freeing her family from the daily water struggle. In FY 2022/23, a joint effort by NEWAH and the municipality brought water from the Sunkoshi River, ensuring a steady supply for all 58 village households.

The Shikhar Kateri Deurali WASH Project came to life through villagers' collective efforts—digging pipelines, aiding masons, and carrying materials. Their hard work has transformed both their homes and lives.

With water readily available, time spent fetching it has been reclaimed for more productive activities. Children can focus on their studies, and families are



*Community members actively involved in digging the pipeline*

growing vegetables with the excess water. Chameli notes that the community has embraced better hygiene practices, improving overall health and cleanliness.

To ensure the project's sustainability, caretakers are appointed, and households consistently pay their water bills. Surya Kumar Gubhaju, Chairperson of the Users' Committee, notes that backup materials have been bought from the maintenance fund, and the committee is dedicated to preserving this vital service for future generations.

Water has brought relief, dignity, and hope to Chameli's village, showcasing the impact of collective effort and sustainable solutions.

*Rachana Basnet*

## NEWAH & SUSWA Partner to Manage WASH Program

NEWAH and SUSWA have signed an agreement to coordinate, facilitate, build capacity, and provide technical consultancy for WASH project implementation in municipalities under the bilateral "Sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for All" (SUSWA) project—a long-term collaboration between the Governments of Finland and Nepal. As per the agreement signed on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, NEWAH will lead planning, technical support, and capacity development in coordination with the respective municipalities for activities in Shey-Phoksundo Rural Municipality (Dolpa), Triveni Rural Municipality (Rukum West), and Junichande Rural Municipality (Jajarkot) under Karnali Province. *Arun Shrestha*



*Parties to the agreement after signing the agreement*

## Climate Change in Nepal: Causes, Effects & Adaptation

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in global temperatures and weather patterns. While climate variations occur naturally, the current changes are primarily driven by rising global temperatures due to human activities. The excessive release of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, has altered the atmospheric composition, trapping heat and disrupting natural balance of the Earth. Although these gases play a crucial role in maintaining the planet's temperature, human actions—such as burning fossil fuels in transportation, industries, and construction, as well as deforestation and food production—have significantly increased their concentration. This disruption has led to an unnatural warming of the planet. In recent years, the emission of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases has formed a thick atmospheric layer, intensifying global warming and making climate change a critical global issue. Consequently, human-induced environmental imbalances have resulted in widespread challenges, impacting ecosystems and communities worldwide.

### Climate Change and Nepal

Climate change has profound effects on society, the economy, and ecosystems, leading to extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, increased health risks, and even displacement of communities. Nepal is among the most vulnerable countries in the world, ranking fourth in terms of climate change impacts. This vulnerability stems from widespread environmental



*Adaptation to climate change: Digging ponds to capture rainwater*



*Impact of climate change: Rising fire incidents (symbolic image)*

degradation, including excessive resource extraction, drying and pollution of water sources, deforestation, and increased air pollution.

A stark example is Dhye Village in Loghekar Damodarkunda Rural Municipality-5 of Mustang. Once a thriving human settlement, it now stands abandoned as climate change has caused its water sources to dry up. The residents, forced to migrate in search of water, left behind not only their homes but also their traditions, culture, and history. Over time, the deserted village has fallen into ruins, with collapsing houses and a fading heritage.

Another alarming instance is the Thame flood in Khumbu Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality, Solukhumbu. During the last monsoon, a glacial lake at the source of the Thame River burst, wiping out the entire settlement—a stark reminder of climate change's destructive power.

Other visible changes attributed to climate change include short but intense rainfall, unseasonal blooming of rhododendrons, diminishing water sources, and even the unusual sight of rice cultivation in Mustang. These shifts signal profound environmental disruptions that are already affecting Nepalese lives:

- ◆ Rising temperatures: Average increase of 0.06°C (Himalayas: 0.08°C, Terai: 0.04°C)
- ◆ Irregular rainfall: Extreme rains, droughts, patchy rainfall, landslides, and water depletion
- ◆ Displacement of native plants by invasive species

- Increased migration of flora and fauna
- Drying, silting, and shrinking wetlands
- Reduced agricultural yields due to erratic rainfall

While it is not possible to completely halt the progression of climate change, adapting to its inevitable impacts through various mitigation efforts is currently our most effective and sustainable solution to reduce its adverse effects on the environment, communities, and future generations.

### Adaptation

Adaptation refers to the actions taken to make our lives and communities more resilient and accessible in the face of the challenges posed by climate change. The goal is to help communities become more resilient to its impacts. While we cannot stop the progression of climate change, we can adapt to it through actions like improving sloping land, managing home gardens, properly handling soil moisture, repurposing wastewater for horticulture, planting drought-resistant crops, conserving soil and water resources, protecting biodiversity, safeguarding water sources, using biological methods to control landslides, and creating rainwater storage systems in forests and vacant areas.

### Mitigation

Mitigation is the process of reducing greenhouse gas emissions or decreasing their concentration in the atmosphere. While we cannot prevent the effects of climate change, we can minimize its increasing risks through various mitigation activities.

### Types of Mitigation

- 1. Carbon Sequestration:** This refers to the process of capturing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Activities include planting and protecting trees, halting deforestation, preventing forest degradation, managing forest resources, expanding forest areas, and protecting soil and watersheds.
- 2. Carbon Conservation and Utilization:** This involves preventing stored carbon from being released back into the atmosphere. Activities in this category include forest protection, sustainable wood use, and waste management practices.
- 3. Carbon Alternatives:** This includes adopting methods that do not emit carbon and can replace carbon-intensive practices. Examples include reducing the use of biofuels, increasing the use of renewable energy, and using improved cooking stoves.

 Lokesh Chand

## Song

### Importance of Chang Juthyan

*Let's not forget to make Chang Juthyan,  
A simple act, for everyone to plan.  
Washing dishes, placing with care,  
In the Chang Juthyan, they're safe and fair.  
No chickens or dogs can touch them here,  
Keep it clean, let's make it clear.  
Fill it with water, dry dishes right,  
A bucket and soap will keep it tight.  
The cleaning campaign's in full swing,  
Let's all keep Chang Juthyan in the ring!*

 Keshav Raj Paudel

*Footnote: "Chang" refers to a dish drying rack, while "Juthyan" refers to an platform for washing dishes*

## Poem

### Sanitation

*Let us become hygienic by cleaning,  
Let's clean ourselves, our community, and all.  
Everyone hates dirt when they see it,  
Let's join hands in cleaning, starting today.  
Let no one think they can live without water,  
There's no greater task, no need for disorder.  
Nothing's harder than living without water,  
If we're not clean, disease will soon get hotter.  
Let's unite, the community and the nation,  
United in cleaning, with full dedication.*

 Basundhara Gharti Magar

# 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence: A Call for Rights and Equality

Observed globally from November 25 to December 10, the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is a powerful campaign advocating for a world free from violence and discrimination. Originating in Latin America, this movement was inspired by the tragic story of the Mirabal sisters- Patria, Minerva, and María Teresa - who were brutally executed in 1960 under the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. Their sacrifice became a symbol of resistance, and in 1999, the United Nations officially recognized November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The campaign extends to December 10, International Human Rights Day, reinforcing the message that women's rights are fundamental human rights.

## 16-Day Campaign in Nepal

Nepal has been actively observing the 16 Days of Activism since 1991, emphasizing the slogan "Women's Rights, Human Rights." This campaign mobilizes communities to stand in solidarity against all forms of violence, including physical and psychological abuse, gender-based discrimination, and exploitation.

## NEWAH's Role in the Campaign

While NEWAH primarily focuses on safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene, it integrates gender and social inclusion into its programs. As part of this commitment, NEWAH observed this year's campaign under the theme "Our Commitment, Solidarity to End Gender-Based Violence" across various water supply and sanitation projects in the program areas.

## Key initiatives under this campaign included:

**Menstrual Hygiene Training:** Conducted in Dhawalagiri, Malika, and Mangala rural municipalities (Myagdi District) and Badigad and Nisikhola rural

municipalities (Baglung District), these workshops empowered women in remote areas by teaching them how to make reusable sanitary pads.

**Awareness Programs:** Discussions and interactive sessions on violence against women, sexual violence, and domestic abuse were held across project sites, fostering community awareness and engagement.

**Community Mobilization in Sindhuli and Kavre-palanchok:** NEWAH's Province Office Sindhuli led extensive dialogues, training, and advocacy programs across nine municipalities and rural municipalities in Sindhuli and Kavrepalanchok districts. This

included:

- Participation of stakeholders from 24 water and sanitation projects.
- Public awareness rallies and educational sessions.
- Student engagement through speech competitions and discussions.
- Active involvement of 1,183 user committee members, including 582 women and 601 men.

## Conclusion

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is a global movement that amplifies the call for women's rights and equality. In Nepal, this campaign is not only raising awareness but also driving real change. Organizations like NEWAH play a crucial role in bringing this movement to the grassroots level, empowering communities to take a stand against gender-based violence. Sustained efforts and collective action are essential to building an equal and just society, free from all forms of violence and discrimination.

 *Balkumari Mahato & Laxman Mochi*



## Agreement Signed for Implementation of WASH Projects

NEWAH is going to operate 49 drinking water, sanitation and hygiene projects in 19 municipalities including 11 municipalities in Sindhuli and Kavre districts of Bagmati Province and 8 municipalities in Baglung and Myagdi districts of Gandaki Province in the fiscal year 2023/024. For this, NEWAH has already obtained permission from the Social Welfare Council, the regulatory body for non-governmental organizations, to operate the projects so that all the projects are completed by 22 September, 2025. After the completion of these projects, the construction work of which is currently underway as per the agreement, 3,979 taps will be constructed in 3,930 households, 45 schools and 6 health institutions, benefiting 28,772 people. These projects will be operated provincially as follows:

### Projects under the Province Office, Baglung

NEWAH Province Office, Baglung is operating 21 drinking water sanitation and hygiene projects by entering into bilateral agreements with the District Coordination Committees of Baglung and Myagdi districts of Gandaki Province and 8 municipalities, including 3 municipalities in Myagdi district and 5 municipalities in Baglung district, under its jurisdiction. These drinking water projects will serve 1,526 taps across 1,497 households, 26 community schools, and 3 health institutions, benefiting a total of 10,400 people.

A bilateral agreement was signed between the District Coordination Committees of both districts



NEWAH and Banepa Municipality formalizing their agreement



NEWAH and Baglung Municipality signing an agreement

and NEWAH in July 2024 to operate these projects.

A total of Rs. 960,045,315 has been allocated for the project, including Rs. 48,295,295 from NEWAH, Rs. 22,269,693 from the respective municipalities, and Rs. 25,347,327 from the community contributions.

### Projects under the Province Office, Sindhuli

NEWAH Province Office Sindhuli is operating 28 drinking water sanitation and hygiene projects in 2 districts in the financial year 2023/24 with the financial partnership of 11 local bodies of Kavre and Sindhuli districts and the technical support of NEWAH. A total of 2,453 taps will be constructed in 2,433 households, 19 community schools, and 3 local health institutions, benefiting 18,369 people. A bilateral agreement was signed with the District Coordination Committees of both districts in Ashar last year to run the project.

These projects are being implemented in eight



NEWAH and Tinpatan Rural Municipality signing an agreement as Bharat Bhatta presents NEWAH's activities

municipalities of Sindhuli district and three municipalities of Kavre district. For the construction of all these projects, NEWAH has allocated Rs. 841.72 million and the respective municipalities have allocated Rs. 353.18 million, totaling Rs. 1,194.89 million. Detailed details are given in the table below:

S. N.	District	Municipality	Ward No.	Project No.	HHs No.	Population	Tap No.	School No.	Student No.	HP No.	H.P. Beneficia	
1	Sindhuli	Dudhauri	8	1	117	620	117	-	-	1	25	645
2		Golanjor	4	1	66	454	66	-	-	-	-	454
3		Hariharpurgadhi	6	1	44	263	45	1	-	-	-	263
4		Kamalamai	2,6,11,12	5	286	1737	289	2	2673	-	-	4410
5		Fikkal	4	1	249	1503	251	2	62	1	25	1590
6		Sunkoshi	5,7	2	135	817	136	1	27	-	-	844
7		Tinpatan	2,8	5	597	3166	602	5	1075	1	25	4266
8		Marin	4	1	45	239	46	1	64	-	-	303
9	Kavre	Banepa	2,4,12,14	5	307	1663	310	3	510	-	-	2173
10		Khanikhola	2,5	2	108	661	109	1	34	-	-	695
11		Panauti	3,10,11	4	479	2425	482	3	301	-	-	2726
Bagmati Province Total				28	2433	13548	2453	19	4746	3	75	18369
1	Myagdi	Dhawalagiri	5	1	70	452	72	2	117	1	-	569
2		Malika	1,2,3	6	775	4232	793	15	1,010	3	75	5,317
3		Mangala	1,5	5	306	1815	311	5	569	-	-	2,384
4	Baglung	Jaimini	4,9	2	70	378	71	1	41	-	-	419
5		Baglung	13	1	21	108	21	-	-	-	-	108
6		Badigad	2,4	2	72	467	74	2	61	-	-	528
7		Nisikhola	5,6	3	138	813	138	-	-	-	-	813
8	Tamankhola	1	1	45	246	46	1	19	-	-	265	
Gandaki Province Total				21	1497	8511	1526	26	1817	4	75	10403
Grand Total				49	3930	22059	3979	45	6563	7	150	28772

*Kumar Silwal/Ramesh Dahal*

## Completion of Accounting and WASH Project Management Training

The NEWAH province office in Sindhuli organized a training session for project promoters and assistants involved in initiatives for the fiscal year 2024/25, aimed at strengthening the capacity of user committees. A total of 26 project assistants and promoters from 28 different projects across Sindhuli and Kavrepalanchok districts participated in the training, held from 15 to 22 November, 2024.

The training focused on several key areas, including fostering positive behavior changes in drinking water, health, and sanitation practices, building sanitation-oriented communities, educating participants about diseases linked to unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation, explaining NEWAH's policy framework, community facilitation techniques, and providing

insights into project management and accounting systems. Additionally, the importance of regular maintenance for ensuring project sustainability was emphasized.

To enhance the training experience, health protection medicines were provided, sanitary pads were distributed to female participants, and a daily class management committee was established.

Facilitators for the session included Bharat Prasad Bhatta, Ramchandra Gyawali, Navin Ghimire, Ravi Kiran Rayamajhi, and Bindu Shrestha from the province office. Kumar Silwal, Field Operations Manager of NEWAH, also attended the training.

*Nabin Ghimire*

## Where Happiness Dawns: Dandagaun Beyond the Hills

"We used to believe that all external organizations were alike and that none of them truly delivered on their promises. But NEWAH proved us wrong by bringing water to every household in a short time," said 71-year-old Babulal Ghising, as his neighbors nodded in agreement. For years, the residents of this village had a deep mistrust of external organizations, as past projects often remained incomplete or poorly executed. However, that perception has now changed.

This is the story of Dandagaun, also known as Dandapari, in Ward No. 3 and 4 of Khanikhola Rural Municipality, Kavre, about 125 km from the capital. Despite its natural beauty, the village has long lacked essential infrastructure like education, healthcare, roads, and drinking water, making life difficult.

Home to Tamang, Magar, Dalit, and Bahun communities - predominantly Tamang and Magar - the village struggles with food self-sufficiency due to limited arable land and outdated farming methods. Though known for its milk supply to Banepa and Kathmandu, many youth migrate for work. Goat farming is a key livelihood, yet poor governance has left many government-funded projects unfinished, deepening the community's frustration with unfulfilled promises.

### Collaboration Brings Safe Water

A crucial decision by Khanikhola Rural Municipality in 2022 marked a turning point for the residents, who had long been deprived of safe drinking water. Recognizing the urgency, the municipality sought support from NEWAH's Province Office in Sindhuli to develop a drinking water project. In response NEWAH



*Happy girls now have access to drinking water at school*



Raju Shrestha

*The era when villages depended on a single stream is now a thing of the past*

conducted a feasibility study and a detailed survey, identifying the community's needs and the viability of the project.

With joint funding from Khanikhola Rural Municipality, NEWAH, and the active participation of local users, work began to bring water from a source five kilometers away. The project involved laying a 40-kilometer pipeline, constructing reservoirs, and setting up an efficient distribution system—all completed on schedule. In addition, 195 taps were installed to serve 191 households, three schools, and a health post, benefiting 1,200 community members and nearly 300 students.

Community participation played a key role in the project's success. Residents contributed 46 days of public labor, assisting in pipeline excavation and construction. Water from two locations is now supplied to every household and public institution through 10 DT RVTs and 6 RVTs.

According to project promoter Jeevan Ghising, the initiative was completed at a total cost of NPR 16.5 million, with contributions of NPR 9.122 million from NEWAH, NPR 5 million from the rural municipality, and NPR 2.5 million from local users. This collaboration has not only provided safe drinking water but also restored the community's trust in development, proving that with planning, governance, and participation, transformative change is possible.

### Significant Progress in Sanitation and Hygiene

With access to safe drinking water, the community has also witnessed significant improvements

A biannual news bulletin of Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH)

in sanitation and hygiene. Proper toilet usage, designated handwashing stations with soap and water, systematic waste disposal, the habit of drying washed utensils in the sink, and ensuring drinking water remains covered at all times have now become part of daily life for residents.

According to Kanchho Jimba, Chairperson of the project's user committee, even those who were once hesitant to participate in community initiatives have become actively involved after witnessing the positive changes brought by NEWAH.

Project promoter Jeevan Ghising highlighted that, in addition to providing access to clean water, NEWAH imparted practical knowledge on sanitation and hygiene, along with technical insights crucial for the project's sustainability. He believes that the initiative will remain functional through the collection of initial and regular maintenance funds and the appointment of dedicated maintenance workers.

The secretary of user committee Tek Bahadur Pulami reflected on the profound impact of the project, recalling how residents once had to walk long distances under the scorching sun to fetch water. "Now, the time once spent carrying water can be used productively, and children can focus on their studies instead of collecting water. People have even started growing vegetables during the dry season. Water has truly brought happiness to everyone," he shared.

*Raju Shrestha*



*Raju Shrestha*

*Local residents in Dandagaun have found relief as water now reaches their homes*

## Poem

### Donor's Support for Healthy Nepal

*Donors' support has helped the weak,  
But many still lack water to seek.*

*Let's fill the jugs in every home,  
To stop disease and make it known*

*Lives have been lost, it's clear to see,  
Awareness is the key to be.*

*Government and donors, hand in hand,  
Together, we'll bring water to the land*

*Kamal Bahadur Chhetri*



*Excerpt from NEWAH Calendar 2012*