

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-20



NEPAL WATER FOR HEALTH (NEWAH)
Kathmandu, Nepal

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



It is with immense pleasure that I am sharing NEWAH's incredible contribution in Nepal's water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector. Since establishment in 1992, it has been successful in serving over 2.1 million people with quality water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. Most of these projects are being implemented in the rural and remote parts of the country where greatest needs were identified.

The year 2019-20 has been remarkable year for NEWAH, successfully completing a journey of 28 years of active engagement in the country's WASH sector. Due to COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown in the country, some of the activities were delayed and extended to complete afterward. However, the organization once again demonstrated its commitment by ensuring that over 22,000 of the country's population gain access to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services this year. Moreover, NEWAH implemented COVID-19 response activities in its working areas in close coordination with District Coordination Committee and Rural/Municipalities of Sindhuli and Baglung Districts.

While a majority of NEWAH's work centered on improving WASH service delivery in the rural areas of Nepal, it also put a lot of effort towards building capacity of community groups and local WASH stakeholders to scale up sanitation and bring desired hygiene and sanitation behavioral changes. It continued supporting initiatives such as post Open Defecation Free (ODF) campaign and Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), and its active engagement in the WASH sector at municipal, district and national level remained effective in terms of sharing the learnings and contributing towards achieving national WASH targets. NEWAH's engagement in a number of different areas has been instrumental in increasing the visibility of the organization and its work in the WASH sector.

Learning through new initiatives has add great value to NEWAH's existing work. It has started new initiative on monitoring through sensor-based remote technology to monitor the functionality of the water supply schemes built in the rural areas of the country. Till date, NEWAH has installed about 555 sensors in charity: water funded projects in Baglung and Sindhuli districts of Nepal. It is also planning to install sensors on water schemes built by other agencies to facilitate sharing of learnings among stakeholders in WASH sector. NEWAH's learnings will surely create opportunities for the organization to explore emerging issues in WASH sector and prioritize sustainable WASH services to the poor and marginalized groups who are still in great need of support.

On behalf of the NEWAH Executive Board, I appreciate the dedicated effort of all NEWAH staff. NEWAH will continue to build strategic partnership with existing donors and local governments, and exploring longer-term funding opportunities with new donors, which is important to scale up NEWAH's current capacity and contribute to achieving the National WASH targets.

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Kapil Man Shrestha

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



I am pleased to share, through this annual report, the major interventions, accomplishments, and learnings of NEWAH in the year 2019-20. Dedicated to leave no one behind, the year saw further reach out to the rural and the excluded communities in the country. NEWAH's interventions in 2019-20 served over 22,000 people from nine rural/municipalities in Sindhuli districts and four rural/municipalities in Baglung districts. In the process, NEWAH collaborated with local people, government and institutions; developed and expanded the WASH infrastructures in the communities; and built the capacity of the local actors to take ownership of their development. NEWAH also supported local government's WASH initiatives and engaged actively in research-based deliberations and advocacy for safe water and sanitation needs of the underserved communities.

The year 2019-20 has also been a year full of challenges and new learnings, particularly in areas of sustainability of water supply and sanitation schemes and fundraising. Notwithstanding, NEWAH will strive to ensure quality services by continuing to coordinate with relevant stakeholders, focusing on capacity building, and developing innovative solutions to existing WASH issues and scaling up based on the learnings from past and pilot projects. Moreover, NEWAH looks forward to upscaling sensor-based remote technology to monitor the functionality of water schemes in the rural areas of the country. NEWAH is also planning to organize learning and sharing events in WASH sector at local and federal level about water quality and remote monitoring through sensor technology.

To respond to COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown in the country, NEWAH implemented COVID response activities in Baglung and Sindhuli districts. NEWAH prepared COVID safety guidance for workplace to ensure the safety of field staff during the pandemic. The COVID-19 response activities comprised providing food expenses to masons who were struck at the project sites, dissemination of information on COVID-19 through print media (posters and brochures) and FM stations in Kathmandu, Baglung and Sindhuli districts, distribution of safety materials to frontline staff, coronavirus insurance to NEWAH staff, and installation of contactless handwashing stations at quarantine and isolation centers in close coordination with District Coordination Committees and local governments of Baglung and Sindhuli districts.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to our funding partner – charity: water who stood by us through our most difficult times. I would also like to thank our local partners for their continued support, and more importantly, the people in the communities who believed in our work. I am equally thankful to the NEWAH Executive Board for the invaluable support and guidance, and all our staffs for their hard work and dedication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Umesh'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a dotted line.

Umesh Kumar Pandey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To achieve its vision to improve quality of life of all Nepali people through water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, NEWAH supports the development and strengthening of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructures in rural areas of the country by working directly with the beneficiaries, build their capacities, and provide them opportunities for socio-economic empowerment. In doing so, NEWAH actively collaborates with the government and the sectoral development partners at all levels and develops projects and implements WASH promotional activities in the field. It is also involved in awareness creation, research and advocacy to secure the needs of water and sanitation of the underserved population.

In 2020, NEWAH successfully completed 28 years in the WASH sector. Over the period, it has successfully completed 2,463 projects across 51 districts of the country. More than 2.1 million people from over 333,000 households have benefited from NEWAH WASH projects. Furthermore, NEWAH's school projects have served around 310,000 students through its facilitation.

In the year 2019-20, NEWAH has made significant endeavor to improve the quality of life of the underserved population through WASH services. A total of 51 projects were executed, reaching out to 3,452 households, 30 schools, directly benefiting 22,694 people from nine rural municipalities/municipalities and four rural municipalities/municipalities across Baglung and Sindhuli Districts.

A total of 1,588 water distribution points was constructed in 2019-20 to serve 22,694 daily water users. A majority of the projects utilized simple gravity flow technology while the remaining utilized solar pumping and motorized pumping technology. Water quality was tested for physical, chemical and biological parameters in all water systems constructed.

Under the capacity-building theme, NEWAH strengthened the capacity 51 Water and Sanitation Users' Committee (WSUC) formed during 2019-20 in areas of project management, monitoring and sustainability through skill-based training and orientations. In total, 544 WSUC members including 241 female members, were trained/oriented this year. Likewise, the members of Ward WASH Coordination Committee (W-WASH-CC), School WASH Committee, Community Child Health Group (CCHG) and Child Health Awareness Committee (CHAC) also benefited from our various capacity building activities in 2019-20. Furthermore, NEWAH organized several cluster-based education and WASH campaigns to create public awareness and bring sustainable hygiene and sanitation behavior change.

Like in the past, we continued with the participatory monitoring and evaluation using Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation (CBME) tools where the users were involved right from the planning stage to project implementation, operation and maintenance, and monitoring and evaluation stages. Two rounds of joint monitoring visits (one each in Baglung and Sindhuli Districts) were also conducted. Moreover, a series of pre- and post-implementation monitoring activities were carried out for projects supported by charity: water grant 293. Projects from earlier grants were monitored through 'hello monitoring', which reported that over 84% water systems have functionality.

In achieving these results, NEWAH ensured to make Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) as a key priority across all its policy and implementation works. NEWAH continued with its policy of ensuring 50% representation of women in WSUCs, with 50% being in the

decision making position of the committee. However, it fell short of realizing the target – in all the WUSCs formed during 2019-20, only 44% of the members were women. NEWAH also carried on its social inclusion policy, endorsing a proportionate representation of all castes, ethnic, minority, and socio-economic group among project beneficiaries and the WSUCs formed. Of the total beneficiaries of 2019-20, 59% belonged to 'Disadvantaged Janajati' category based on ethnicity, and around 21% belonged to 'Dalit' category. Furthermore, participatory wealth ranking data from the project area suggests that 40% of the beneficiaries were categorized as being 'Ultra-poor.'

In addition, NEWAH implemented COVID response activities in Baglung and Sindhuli districts in order to respond to COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown in the country. NEWAH also prepared COVID safety guidance for workplace to ensure the safety of field staff during the pandemic as well as develop noble ways to work from home during lockdown in the project areas. The COVID-19 response activities comprised providing food expenses to 12 masons who were struck at the project sites, dissemination of information on COVID-19 through printed materials (posters and brochures) in 79 communities and 10 FM stations in Kathmandu, Baglung and Sindhuli districts, distribution of safety materials to 133 frontline staff, coronavirus insurance to 112 NEWAH staff, and installation of 19 contactless handwashing stations at quarantine and isolation centers in close coordination with District Coordination Committees and local governments of Baglung and Sindhuli districts.

The year 2019-20 saw the continuation of NEWAH's partnership with charity: water, who has remained as NEWAH primary funding partner since 2010. The funding came mainly for water supply, sanitation, and hygiene projects and activities. NEWAH's total income during 2019-20 amounted to NPR 212 million, while the total expenditure approached to NPR 205 million. Of the total expenditure, 82% was spent on the program, while 18% was spent on administration.

Despite these achievements, there are yet several challenges faced by NEWAH, and WASH sector at large. There are still a large number of communities to benefit from WASH services. It is not easy for NEWAH to reach out to these settlements due to geographical, technological and investment reasons. Further, depletion of water sources and total destruction of water supply systems due to natural hazards and unplanned development activities in the completed projects need to be responded immediately. Such emerging issues will have to be taken up with priority for devising future mitigation measures. Moreover, the long-term sustainability of both water supply systems, the ODF status and post-ODF support remains an outstanding challenge, requiring more time and attention.

While trying to address the challenges, in the coming years, the organization will endeavor to diversify its funding base and ensure quality and sustainable services by continuing to coordinate with relevant WASH stakeholders at both local and national levels. Building capacity of the beneficiaries and the local intuitions for successful delivery and sustainability of WASH services will be emphasized and continued further. The focus will remain on scaling up based on the learnings from past and pilot projects and developing innovative solutions to existing WASH issues.

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ACRONYMS

3R	Recharge, Retention, and Reuse
CCHG	Community Child Health Group
CHAC	Child Health Awareness Committee
CHSV	Community Health and Sanitation Volunteer
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ENPHO	Environment and Public Health Organization
GESI	Gender Equity and Social Inclusion
GI	Galvanized Iron
HDPE	High-Density Polyethylene
NEWAH	Nepal Water for Health
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPR	Nepalese Rupee
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
ODF	Open Defecation Free
USD	United States Dollar
RM	Rural Municipality
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WSUC	Water and Sanitation Users' Committee
WSUG	Water and Sanitation Users' Group
W-WASH-CC	Ward WASH Coordination Committee

PROFILE OF NEWAH

Introduction

NEWAH is one of the country's leading NGO in the water supply, sanitation, and hygiene promotion (WASH) sector. Established in 1992, NEWAH is dedicated to helping poor, underserved communities obtain access to WASH facilities irrespective of gender, caste, class, and belief. Its vision is that of a prosperous and harmonious Nepal where every citizen is able to realize their right to safe drinking water, basic hygiene, and sanitation. In the past 28 years, it has served about 2.1 million people through over 2,400 projects ranging from safe and affordable drinking water supply to community-led total sanitation (CLTS), health and nutrition, menstrual hygiene management, 3R (recharge, retention, and re-use of groundwater and rainwater), climate change adaptation, and disaster response and rehabilitation.

Apart from implementing WASH related projects, NEWAH is also actively involved in research, awareness, and advocacy to secure people's right to WASH. It has strongly adhered to the principle of inclusion and equality at both management and operational level. Its outstanding work in the sector has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades including the 2001 Environmental Prize from the Ministry of Population and Environment and the 2013 Stars Impact Award from Stars Foundation UK.

NEWAH's core strengths include: (i) proven track record of delivering WASH services to underserved communities in rural and municipal areas at minimal cost, (ii) experience of working across the country with a range of donors, and (iii) a strong focus on capacity development, sustainability, and gender equality and social inclusion. It currently operates through the two Provincial offices located in Sindhuli (Bagmati Province) and Baglung (Gandaki Province) and maintains over 88 professional regular staffs.

Vision, Mission, Goal & Objectives

Vision

Improved quality of life of all Nepali people through water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

Mission

Improve the living standard of the people in greatest need through equitable and sustainable access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

Goal

Bring clean water to the doorstep of the people, provide extensive health and hygiene education, and promote total sanitation in communities through collaborative projects.

Objectives

The specific objectives of NEWAH are as follows:

- i. Provide technical knowledge and financial support for the development and improvement of WASH services in unserved areas of the country;
- ii. Develop the capacity of individuals and institutions involved in WASH sector to manage WASH programs sustainably;
- iii. Engage in research and studies to enhance sectoral knowledge base and involve in research-based deliberations and advocacy for policy reform;
- iv. Collaborate with government and other agencies to leverage equitable and sustainable access to WASH services; and
- v. Support state policies and stakeholders' programs to increase equitable and sustainable access to WASH services.

Guiding Principles

NEWAH's work is guided by the following principles:

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Poverty sensitive
- Gender equity and social inclusion
- Community participation
- Integration of water, sanitation and hygiene
- Sustainability

Thematic Areas

NEWAH has been implementing projects under the following thematic areas:

- i. Drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services delivery to households, communities and local institutions
- ii. Capacity building and advisory to local actors/stakeholders
- iii. Advocacy to secure the need for water and sanitation of the underserved population
- iv. Monitoring, evaluation and continued learning
- v. Research, study and publication

Target Population

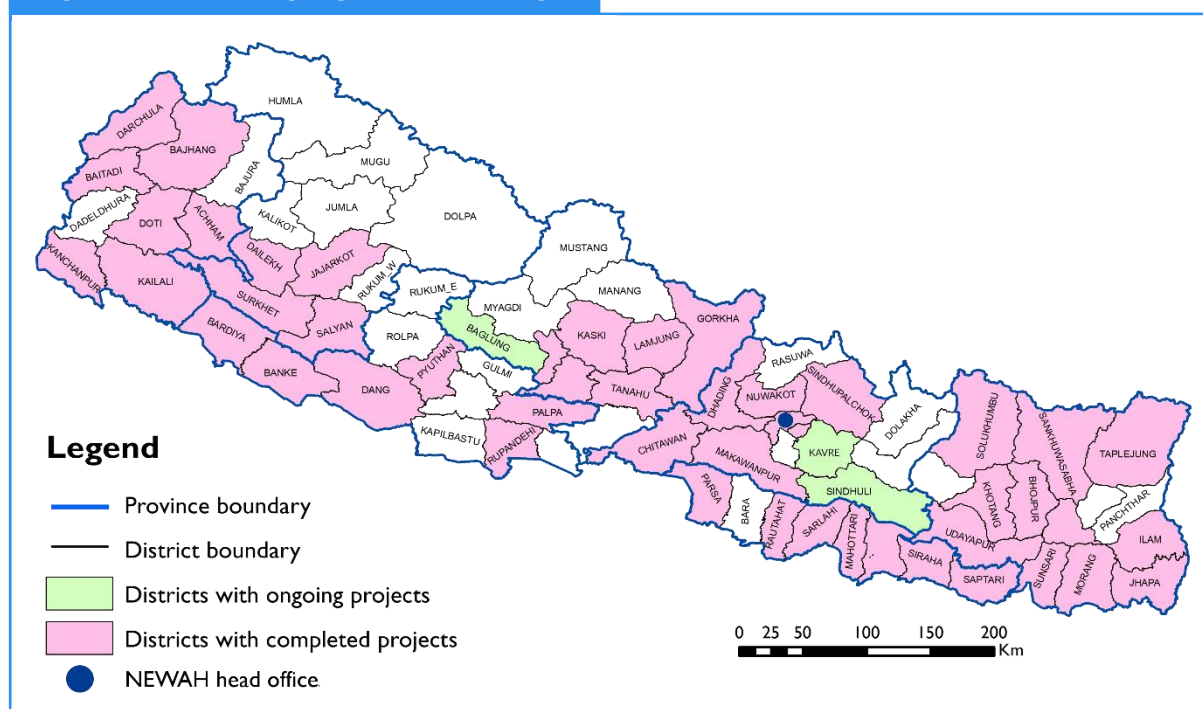
The targeted population by NEWAH primarily consist of women, children, people with disability and caste and ethnic minorities from rural and marginalized communities who are

deprived of basic water and sanitation services. The unique needs of these populations determine the nature of the actions we undertake.

Geographic Coverage

NEWAH has successfully implemented 2,463 projects in 51 out of 77 districts of Nepal, directly benefiting over 2.1 million people.

Figure 1: NEWAH's geographic coverage



Accomplishment

NEWAH's accomplishments, as of July 2020, is provided in the table below:

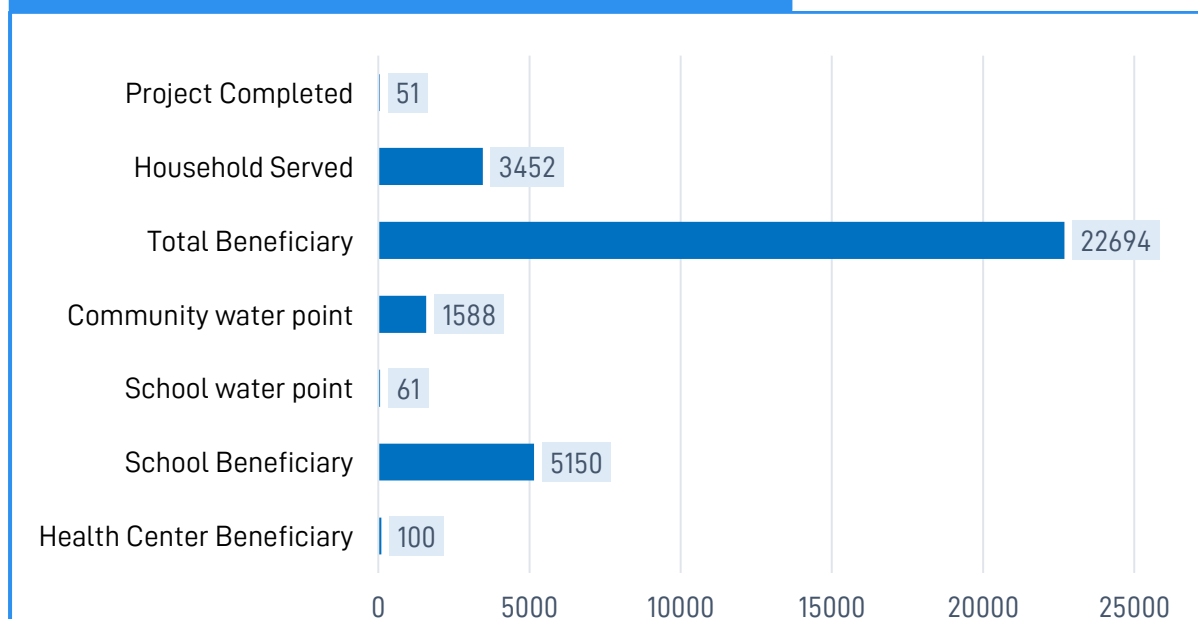
Indicator	No. (Cumulative)
Projects completed	2,463
Households served	331,274
Total Population	2,108,210
Community water points built	37,916
School water points built	613
Student benefited	310,504
Total members in WSUC	19,056
Percentage of women in WSUC	42.60

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019-20

In 2019-20, NEWAH completed 51 projects, reaching out to 3,452 households, 30 schools and four health centers, directly benefiting 22,694 people from nine rural municipalities and four municipalities across Baglung, and Sindhuli Districts. The project implementation has contributed towards resolving the interlinked and complex problems of water supply, sanitation and hygiene facing rural, poor and the marginalized communities. Besides, local actor's capacity development, sanitation and hygiene awareness generation, and promotion of gender equality and social inclusion in WASH sector were other complementing areas of intervention.

NEWAH invested its time and efforts to coordinate with the local and provincial governments, build relationships with them and support their WASH initiatives. Figure 1 provides a graphical view of NEWAH's accomplishments during 2019-20.

Figure 2: NEWAH's accomplishments during 2019-20



OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS IN 2019-20

The projects implemented by NEWAH in 2019-20 had been directed towards enhancing the WASH service delivery in the underserved communities at larger extent. The associated activities have focused on safe drinking water supply to households, communities and local institutions (schools and health posts), and promotion of sustainable sanitation and hygienic behavior among people.

Thematic Area I: Service Delivery

Water Supply

During 2019-20, NEWAH completed the construction of 51 water supply projects. A total 1,588 water distribution points were established to serve 22,694 daily water users. Water meters were installed in all water points under yard connection where the tariff is based on the volume of water used. Most WSUCs used increasing block tariff, keeping the initial five cubic meters per month at an affordable rate, and gradually increasing the tariff for higher water consumption. In community connections, however, water meters were not installed, and the O&M funds are collected based on a monthly flat rate decided by WSUC.



Water quality was tested in all water systems constructed. The test comprised of various physical, chemical and biological parameters including taste and odor, temperature, TDS (Total Dissolved Solids), electrical conductivity, turbidity, ammonia, nitrate, pH, total hardness and coliform. The test was carried out both before the commencement of the project (baseline) and after the project completion (end-line). All the parameters tested are found as per the standard permissible limits of Nepal National Drinking Water Quality Standards 2005.

To ensure quality water, NEWAH piloted the installation of an automatic, non-electric and online water chlorination solution called PurAll 100 in selected water supply projects in Baglung District. Based on its success in eliminating microbiological disease agents such as e-coli from the water and the WSUC's ability to manage in the long term, the solution will be considered for gradual adoption by NEWAH in the future water supply projects.

With regard to the functionality, a number of field monitoring studies carried out in 2019-20 reported that around 84.43% of water systems constructed by NEWAH at least two years earlier are fully functional. Those non-functional were due to various reasons such as dried up sources, natural disasters, and pipeline blockage, breakage or leakage.

Case study - 1

No more yearning for water

Himakumari Poudel, a resident of Dhorpatan Municipality-5 Chaura, is finally liberated from tiresome drudgery of fetching water from a far ravine – an activity that costed her a couple hours of productive time on a daily basis. She remained exasperated from the daily act of fetching water. "Our children were not able to go school on time because I had to make several trips to the water source each morning and the lunch was delayed", Himakumari adds, "now the water is at our doorstep, life has become easy."



With NEWAH and charity: water's support, Chaura drinking water and sanitation project was completed last year. The project brings water from Thulo Padhero, a spring water source, using solar lifting technology. The water is lifted to a height of 372 meters and distributed to 40 households of the community. A water meter is connected to each tap and the users pay a monthly tariff based on quantity of water consumed.

Reaching Chakra takes a two-hour hike from Burtibang – the closest town to the community. It is home to 21 low-caste Dalit families and 19 upper caste and tribal families. Before the project, families without a steady income source were forced to prepare makeshift houses near to a water source and rear livestock, pigs and poultry. Some families even migrated to a new community/village. "We were about to vanish in the absence of water, now the hope has reanimated", Sirilal BK, a Dalit resident says "absenteeism is no more. Our children are able to go school on time, and haven't missed classes since the water has come at our doorstep." Sirilal revealed that before the project, many children, particularly young girls, were kept out of school in order to fetch water for the family. She adds "for so long the community yearned for water, and this project has made the dream a reality. I'm very happy that my children are going school and will grow up to become an educated citizen of the country."

Hygiene and Sanitation

NEWAH implemented hygiene and sanitation activities as an integral part of the water supply projects. During 2019-20, it facilitated the post ODF activities in Sindhuli and Baglung District of Nepal. Since two districts where water supply projects were implemented during 2019-20 have achieved ODF status, NEWAH continues to support its sustainability by implementing the post ODF activities guided by the Total Sanitation approach promoted by the Government of Nepal.

Consequently, the Ward-WASH-CCs and WSUCs have been assisted with self-declaration of "clean and healthy community". The declaration was made after the communities met the five pre-determined criteria. They include: a) WSUC members have been trained in matters related to hygiene and sanitation, b) each household/local institution has a latrine built and is in use, c) hand-washing (with soap) facility available in each household/local institution and handwashing in critical times is mandatorily practiced, d) access to basic water services and affordable water purification technology/ies at household/local institution levels, and e) practiced hygienic and sanitary food and kitchen practices including use of clean dishes and food covered with lids.

Environment sanitation through proper management of solid and sludge waste was also promoted as a critical component post-ODF support and a pre-requisite for a clean and healthy community. Accordingly, NEWAH supported the establishment of 1,345 garbage disposal pits and oriented community people on safe disposal and management of waste. Altogether, 22,694 people benefited from NEWAH's sanitation and hygiene promotion activities during 2019-20.

WASH in local institutions

As per the spirit of the National Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan of 2011, all schools must have separate latrines for men/boys and women/girls as well as handwashing facilities and must provide access to all including differently-abled children, youths and adults. However, inadequate sanitation and latrine facilities in schools are still causing some female students to drop out of or be absent from school for a prolonged



period. Community schools in rural areas, in particular, lack resources, knowledge, and capacity to build, operate and maintain water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

Against this backdrop, NEWAH supported the establishment, repair or upgrade of WASH infrastructures at a total of 30 community and private schools in Sindhuli and Baglung Districts and promoted sustainable hygiene and sanitation behavioral practices among students, teachers and parents through education and awareness. The total number of beneficiaries from our school WASH projects was 5,150 during 2019-20. Furthermore, NEWAH strengthened WASH infrastructures in the community health centers in the project area benefiting around 100 regular staffs directly and hundreds more people visiting those health centers indirectly.

Thematic Area II: Capacity Building

NEWAH is continuously striving to improve access to safe drinking water, promote sustainable sanitation and enhance hygienic behavior among the people. As one of the crucial factors to meet these objectives, NEWAH in 2019-20 focused on transferring knowledge and skills to local stakeholders through various capacity-building activities.

Training and Orientation

Training and orientation were provided to:

WSUC

A WSUC is a community-based organization, comprised of nine to eleven members who are responsible for overseeing the overall management of a water supply project. NEWAH strengthened the capacity of all 51 WSUCs formed during 2019-20 for project management, monitoring and sustainability through skill-based training and orientations.



As a result, WSUCs are able to plan, co-finance, manage, monitor, and sustainably operate and maintain the water supply systems. WSUCs were also oriented on water safety planning (WSP) for identifying water-related risks and hazards and designing locally available control measures and improvement plans. Since the WSP is a health-based approach that requires water to be free from microbiological agents such as e-coli, WSUCs were further trained on water chlorination and were advised to do so at least two times a year (before and after the rainy season). Altogether, 860 WSUC members, including 383 female members, were trained/oriented during 2019-20.

Ward-WASH-CC

The capacity of the W-WASH-CCs was enhanced through training to make them able to prepare and implement the WASH plan, monitor and evaluate WASH activities at the ward level, and coordinate with local government for financial support for implementing WASH plan and repair and rehabilitate non-functional water supply systems. They were also oriented on the Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan and the Community-Led Total

Sanitation (CLTS) approach to help achieve the ODF status. A total of 23 training sessions for W-WASH-CC were conducted.

Community Health and Sanitation Volunteer (CHSV)

Hygiene and sanitation training was given to the CHSVs as part of community-level hygiene and sanitation promotion. The CHSVs were selected locally and in an inclusive manner considering gender balance and the representation of different caste, ethnic and socio-economic groups present in the community.

Once trained, the CHSVs assist in conducting hygiene and sanitation promotion activities in their respective community during the project period. They also assist the communities in declaring a "clean and healthy community." After project completion, they help for the sustainability of the hygiene and sanitation behavior change in the community.

Caretaker

Caretakers selected from WSUCs were trained to ensure continued operation and maintenance of the constructed water supply systems. The skill-based training focused on technical aspects of O&M of water supply systems such as HDPE pipe joining, preparing fittings, threading GI pipes and joining fittings with other pipes. They were also trained in collecting tariff based on water usage and keeping the tariff and expenses in a financial ledger. Caretakers were selected based on NEWAH's strategy to provide income opportunities to deserving and motivated women and men from poor households and disadvantaged/socially excluded caste groups. In total, 338 caretakers, including 146 female caretakers, were trained during 2019-20.



School WASH Committee

Total of 577 members including 258 female from 51 School WASH Committees were trained to enhance their capacity to manage school hygiene and sanitation promotion activities. Teachers were also trained to teach the best hygiene and sanitation practices using fun and interactive techniques.

Community Child Health Group (CCHG)

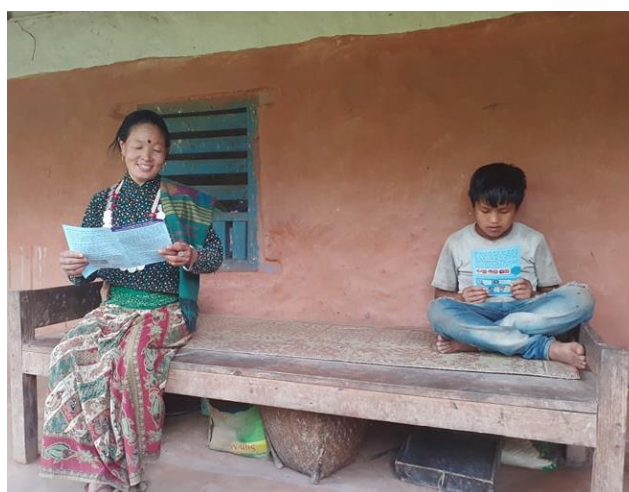
Children can be effective change agents to promote good hygiene and sanitation at the household and community level. With this realization, 35 CCHGs were formed and trained on hygiene and sanitation-related issues with an aim to spread awareness among children of a similar age group. CCHG training has not only been effective in changing the hygiene and sanitation behavior of children, but also those of the adults in their home and community. During 2019-20, the training was offered to 365 children (including 190 girls) between 10-16 years old.

Child Health Awareness Committee (CHAC)

NEWAH facilitates the formation of a CHAC—a student's committee with 13-15 members (with at least 50% girls)—in community schools of the project area. It also supports the formation of an Advisory Committee to CHAC consisting representatives from the School Management Committee, municipality/rural municipality, teachers and the Project Management Committee. During 2019-20, 52 CHACs were formed and trained to bring about sanitation and hygiene-related behavioral changes among the students. The training directly benefited 574 students, including 297 girls from community schools in Baglung and Sindhuli Districts.

Awareness Campaigns

Sustainable hygiene and sanitation behavior change of the communities has been one of the major challenges faced by NEWAH. Notwithstanding, NEWAH continued to adopt its municipality/rural municipality coverage approach in water, sanitation and hygiene by training local staffs and organizing cluster-based education and WASH campaigns to create public awareness and bring sustainable behavior change, particularly in the proper use of the toilet, handwashing at critical times and household waste management.



Triggering campaigns were regularly organized in the project areas to generate awareness among the community people as well as to celebrate different national and international events in the project areas. During 2019-20, 259 community hygiene and sanitation campaigns and 197 school hygiene education sessions were organized. NEWAH also

conducted awareness creations related to COVID-19 through dissemination of printed materials and FM stations.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion



According to NEWAH policy, the WSUC formed at the project level should have the provision of ensuring 50% representation of women with 50% in the decision making position of the committee. The users' committee formed during 2019-20 had over 860 members, 45% of them were women.

NEWAH also takes social inclusion as one of its key principles. Therefore, NEWAH endorses a proportionate representation of all castes, ethnic, minority, and socio-economic group in the WSUC formed. In terms of beneficiaries, data from 2019-20 reveals that 59% were from 'Disadvantaged Janajati' category based on ethnicity, and around 21% belonged to 'Dalit' category. Furthermore, participatory wealth ranking carried out in the project area suggests that a majority (40%) of the beneficiaries were categorized as being 'Ultra-poor.' NEWAH's gender-responsive and inclusive approach aims to release the people from existing social, cultural and institutional barriers so that they enjoy the benefits of development programs and realize their potentials.

Case study - 2

Breaking COVID-19 transmission chain through handwashing

"At the height of COVID pandemic, I decided to return home from Saudi Arabia to live and take care of my family" recalls Tara Bahadur Moktan, 29, from Marin Rural Municipality-2, Chhatiwan, Sindhuli. He was living in the middle-eastern country for the past 10 years as a migrant worker. He returned Nepal in early July 2020 and sent to the quarantine center at Marin Multiple Campus that was managed by Marin Rural Municipality.



Six other people, who were also migrant returnees from various countries, were staying in the quarantine center. There was only one toilet and one handwashing facility, which was shared by all seven people quarantined at the center. Tara feared of coronavirus transmission because the water tap and the soap was shared by all. His fear receded once the quarantine center installed a pedal-operated contactless handwashing station with support from NEWAH.

"NEWAH staff and the center's management team taught us the proper way of handwashing with soap so that COVID and other viruses are washed away from our hands" Tara recalls "contactless handwashing station was really amazing as it did not require physical contact by hand to the faucet and soap, and was all operated by foot. I could wash my hand only just by moving my foot." He also said with laughing "It was handwashing machine operating by foot". Every people in the quarantine followed the rule and practiced taught by NEWAH staff about frequency and technique of handwashing, and about maintaining social distancing and wearing a mask. The leaflets and posters distributed by NEWAH were equally helpful for learning about on COVID-19 virus, transmission routes and precautions.

A PCR test was conducted on 12 July 2020. It was sad moment for him because he had positive for COVID-19. But he had one happy moment too at the same time that other people who live in same quarantine tested negative on PCR Test. Tara adds "I was COVID-19 positive but I didn't transmit the virus to others. I want to give this credit to that contactless handwashing station and education provided by NEWAH while I was quarantined."

After the positive test, he was transferred to the isolation center at District Hospital, Sindhuli. A contactless handwashing station was also installed by NEWAH at that isolation center. After treatment at isolation center and practicing what he learned at quarantine and isolation center, he has recovered and returned to home safely.

Thematic Area III: Monitoring and Evaluation

To measure effectiveness, sustainability and equity of community water supply and sanitation interventions and factors influencing them in project communities, NEWAH has been emphasizing on integrating traditional and novel approaches in monitoring and evaluation of its water supply and sanitation projects. The integration has not only helped NEWAH with the assessment of the project outcomes and costs and the benefits and burdens from project interventions within the community, but has also provided benchmarks for measuring project progress, and valuable feedback to improve subsequent project performance and future project development.

Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

The water and sanitation users were involved right from the planning stage to project implementation, operation and maintenance, and monitoring and evaluation stages in all water supply projects completed during 2019-20. A participatory monitoring system was established using Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation (CBME) tools through which the users evaluated their progress and defined priority actions regularly. The capacity of the W-WASH-CCs was enhanced to make them able to prepare and implement the WASH plan and monitor and evaluate WASH activities at the ward level. W-WASH-CCs routinely monitored the status of WASH in their respective wards and prepared lists of households with and without access to water supply and basic sanitation such as latrine and hand-washing facility. They also played effective roles in evaluating the ODF status and monitoring the implementation of post ODF plan.



Joint Monitoring

For the purpose of learning and sharing, monitoring progress in the field, and interacting and listening to the communities, NEWAH supports joint monitoring visits from the local and District levels to the central level. During 2019-20, two joint monitoring visits were conducted with participation of various stakeholders from WASH Sector as well as members from local government in Baglung and Sindhuli Districts.



Representatives from the District line agencies including the District Coordination Committee (DCC), District-WASH Coordination Committee (D-WASH-CC), D, and the chairman/vice-chairman of the rural municipality where the drinking water project is situated participated in the joint monitoring visit. After the joint monitoring visit, participants reflected on the quality of the projects and shared that frequent visit is necessary for effective implementation of projects as well as increasing the collaboration and reducing duplication. Likewise, the participants also appreciated the effort of NEWAH to institutionalize the practice of joint monitoring visit in the project Districts.

Pre- and Post-Implementation Activity

All the past charity: water projects were monitored during 2019-20 through hello monitoring within the one-year monitoring frame. In addition, all projects that exceeded the one-year frame were monitored through hello monitoring. The hello monitoring covered a total of 289 projects from the earlier charity: water grants. The result reveals that 84.43% of water points are functioning well.



The monitoring results also report that all W-WASH-CCs are functional and actively involved in planning, implementing and monitoring activities related to WASH in their respective communities. Interaction with the members revealed an enhanced capacity to prepare and implement ODF and post ODF plan and drinking water supply plan, as well as perform their roles effectively. The WSUCs are fully functioning in terms of operation, maintenance, water tariff collection, and taking care of water supply facilities. The committee members are fully undertaking their roles and responsibilities in the process of planning, management and operation and maintenance of water supply systems.

Post-Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation

NEWAH carried out the post-implementation monitoring for charity: water grant 293 (completed during 2019-20) in Baglung and Sindhuli Districts. During the monitoring, NEWAH conducted meetings with W-WASH CC, WSUC and the users to get information on the functionality of the systems as well as the status of O&M fund, caretakers and other issues. NEWAH also continued with the hello monitoring (for projects completed prior 2019-20) to obtain information on the status of the projects, the functionality of water points, problems if any, wear and tear in parts and structures, spare availability and replacement, and regularity of meeting and tariff collection.

Also, during the reporting period, the end-line survey, which is executed six months after project completion, for charity: water grant 240 was completed. The results of the end-line survey were compared against the results of the baseline survey for the same project. The end-line survey was useful since it helped communities identify changes in water access and usage, the hygiene and sanitation practices, and their capacity to plan, manage, operate and maintain water supply projects and overcome the situational and institutional barriers, which are necessary to ensure sustainability.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

NEWAH implemented COVID response activities in Baglung and Sindhuli districts in order to respond to COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown in the country as given below:

COVID-19 Food expenses for masons: Provided a financial support for food at the rate of NPR 400 per day to 12 masons who were struck at the project sites in Sindhuli and Baglung due to lockdown in the country. Due to lockdown and restriction to not work, they were neither able to go their home nor work at sites.

COVID-19 Dissemination of information on COVID-19: The dissemination of information on COVID-19 was channelized through broadcasting in 10 FM stations in Kathmandu, Sindhuli and Baglung districts. Similarly, the printed materials such as, leaflet and poster were distributed in 79 communities of Baglung and Sindhuli districts in Nepal.

COVID-19 Distribution of safety materials to frontline staff: The safety materials such as, glove, mask, sanitizer and soap were provided to 133 NEWAH staff in order to ensure their safety at workplace in Kathmandu, Baglung and Sindhuli districts of Nepal.

COVID-19 Coronavirus insurance for NEWAH Staff: The coronavirus insurance policy was procured for 112 NEWAH staff. The insurance scheme covers the NEWAH staff working in Kathmandu, Sindhuli and Baglung districts of Nepal affected by COVID-19 pandemic. The premium was NPR 600 per person for a group insurance and coronavirus insurance amount was NPR 100,000 per person.

COVID-19 Contactless handwashing stations at public places (quarantine, isolation centers, etc.): In order to provide safe handwashing stations to prevent from coronavirus and other diseases, altogether, 19 contactless handwashing stations were installed at public places such as quarantine and isolation centers in Baglung and Sindhuli districts of Nepal.

Besides, NEWAH also prepared COVID safety guidance for workplace to ensure the safety of field staff during the pandemic as well as develop noble ways to work from home during lockdown in the project areas.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

NEWAH's Income for 2019-20 amounted to NPR 257,927,117.00 (equivalent to USD 2,222,743.00; conversion 1 USD = NPR 116.04), an 88.62% increase over 2018-19 income. The increment occurred due to grant total budget increment of charity: water. 100% of the total income received in 2019-20 was grant received from charity: water.

Similarly, the total expenditure for the year 2019-20 was NPR 257,927,117.00 (equivalent to USD 2,222,743.00), an 88.62% increase over the 2018-19 expenditure. Of the total expenditure, 82% was spent on the program, while 18% was spent on administration.

Figure 3: The trend of income and expenditure for past three years

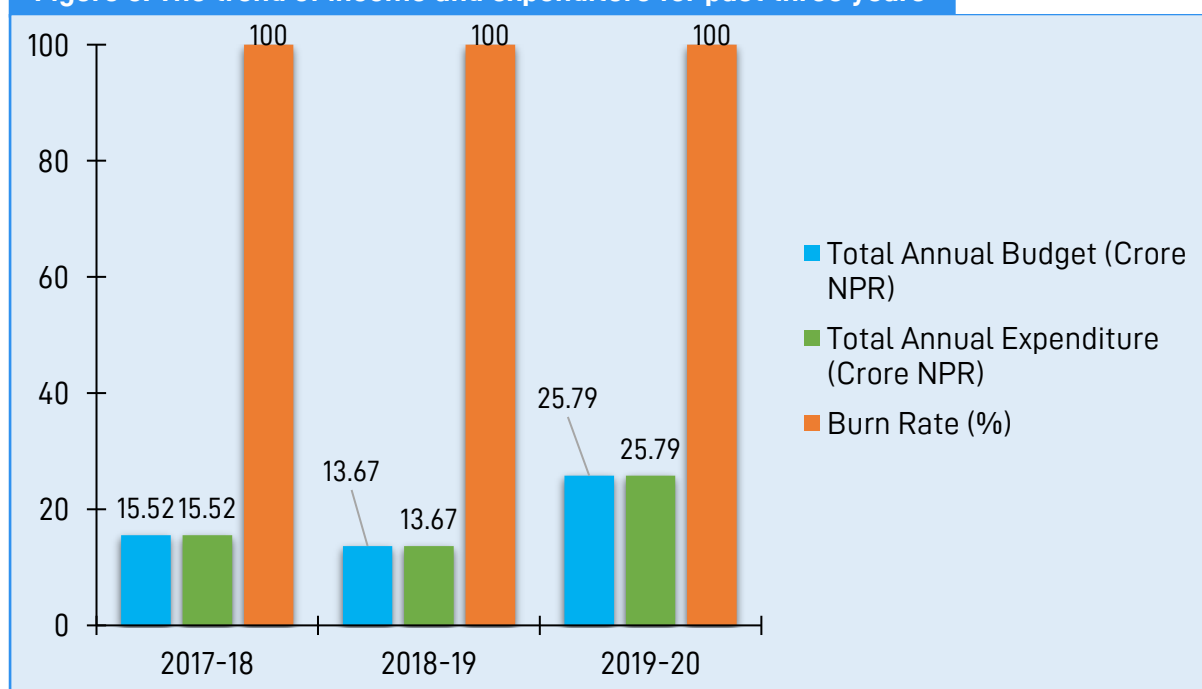
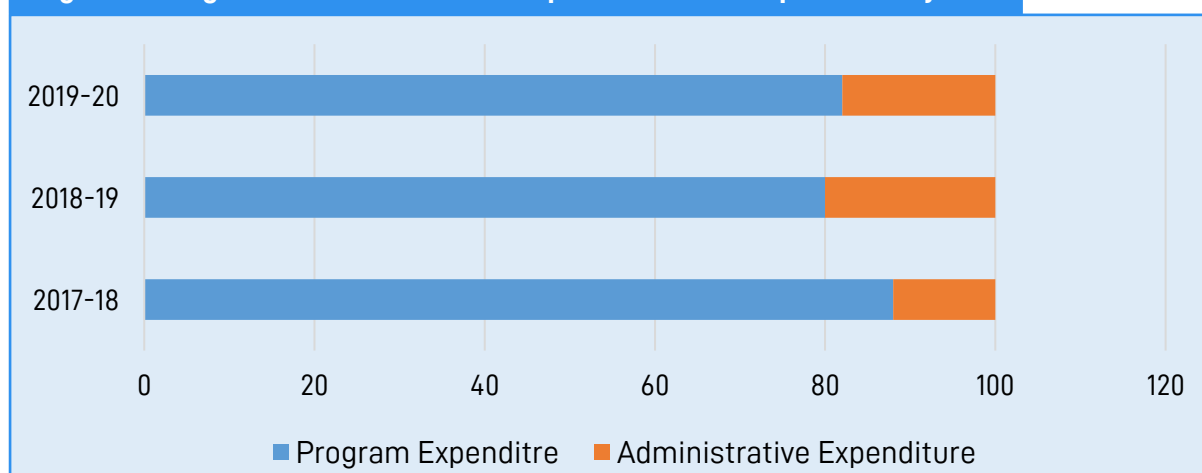


Figure 4: Program vs administrative expenditure for the past three years



CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Challenges

The main challenges faced by NEWAH during 2019-20 are as follows:

- The COVID-19 pandemic presented a significant challenge to the organization's operation and project activities in the field. The nationwide lockdown since spring 2020 and subsequent prohibitory order halted all office and field level activities. While HQ and Province Office staff followed a 'work from home' modality, most field staff returned home. This resulted in delays in the implementation of Grant 293 activities and completion of some projects in both Baglung and Sindhuli districts.
- The economic uncertainties and recession brought by the COVID-19 pandemic also challenged NEWAH's fundraising ambitions for 2020. The economic downturn affected the revenue and endowment for a majority of donors and aid organizations, be it multi-lateral agencies, charities, or philanthropic foundations. While some aid organizations and grant facilities made funding opportunities for immediate COVID-19 response more readily available, opportunities for sizable, multi-year projects that would contribute towards NEWAH's long-term fundraising goals were rare and the award process extremely competitive.
- Disasters including landslides and floods posed a substantial challenge to water supply structures in the project areas.
- Addressing and accommodating the diverse community needs has been a challenge. Some community beneficiaries, particularly those from poor economic backgrounds, complain about losing productive opportunities from investing a substantial amount of time making voluntary labor contributions to NEWAH WASH projects. Others are dissatisfied with the water tap size and the volume of water coming from the taps.
- WSUC members' insufficient knowledge on book-keeping and project expenses management delayed activities in some projects. In some cases, due to a lack of proper understanding of the bills and documents required for cost-reimbursement, WSUC members complain of having to continue project activities at their own cost, including bill payment.
- The discrepancy between the wage rate of the skilled labor offered by NEWAH and that prescribed by the Government. While NEWAH generally pays NPR 800 per diem, the R/Municipality recommends that the rate be no less than NPR 1,200 per diem. Consequently, the availability and retention of skilled labor have been a challenge.

- Both Sindhuli and Baglung districts are about to reach full coverage, and existing communities without water supply are remote and hard-to-reach where existing technology might be insufficient and costly (per capita cost for water supply is expected to increase substantially). However, the Province Offices are not able to invest much time in the exploration of a new district/project area due to ongoing project works and already overloaded staff.
- Resolving source disputes in some projects has posed a challenge. For instance, source dispute has severely affected project a project in Jaimini Municipality in Baglung District. In most cases, disputes are a result of the local politics and differing interests of the political parties. As a result, any mediation efforts by NEWAH have mostly remained futile.
- Focusing on the WASH project's hygiene and sanitation component has been a challenge.
- For survey data entry, finding skilled personnel who agrees to work on a contract basis has been challenging.

Lessons Learned

NEWAH emphasizes consolidating past learning and experiences for better planning and delivery of WASH projects in the future. The lessons learned during 2018-19 are as follows:

- Greater preparedness for future uncertainties such as those brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has also taught that fundraising in the future should also target aid and donor agencies from emerging economies that have demonstrated more resilience to global economic shocks, including China and Middle-Eastern economies.
- Disaster risk planning and mitigation strategies should be incorporated right from the planning, survey, and design stages of the project, and both Province and field-level staff properly trained and capacitated to plan and design disaster-resilient structures and identify construction sites that are less vulnerable to possible disasters.
- The community beneficiaries should be properly oriented and informed since the project start about their contributions, both cash, and labor, to the WASH projects. Provision of safety nets such as cash compensation for the beneficiaries from poor and disadvantaged backgrounds should be planned before the project and the WSUC should be made to be implemented such activities whenever the labor contribution exceeds the pre-agreed man-days.

- In-depth training and follow-up refresher training should be designed for the WSUCs, with particular attention to improving their books and record-keeping ability.
- A blanket approach to payment (to the WSUC) should only be adopted with caution. Infrastructure and the general development of the project area, including the reach and penetration of financial institutions, should be considered beforehand so that any future issues are avoided.
- Skilled wage labor rate may need a revision. Wherever possible, that the rate should be commensurate with the prevailing government rates.
- Proceed with the co-funded project only after making a formal agreement with the co-funding organizations – WSUCs, local government, and other agencies.
- With the country steadily progressing towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the relevant sustainable development goals, particularly those related to basic drinking water and improved sanitation, major technological innovation and incorporation of cross-cutting issues such as climate change and livelihoods are necessary to improve competitiveness, achieve cost-effectiveness and contribute to the diverse national goals.
- Proper documentation and sharing among relevant stakeholders of the learnings from remote sensor-based monitoring of water supply schemes will help generate required support from the stakeholders towards up-scaling of the technology to even more water supply schemes nationwide.
- Proper documentation and sharing among relevant stakeholders of the learnings from water quality improvement technologies such as Slow Sand Filter (SSF) to further improve such technologies and enhance their acceptability by the local communities.
- The flow regulation chamber (FRC) may be an added piece to NEWAH technical design of water schemes where applicable in case of private connections. In addition, all the fittings including faucet of tap stands should be managed by NEWAH as well as all the construction works after FRC should also be built as per approved design and standard under the direct supervision of NEWAH technician in order to maintain quality of work.

ANNEX

Annex 1: Audit Report

B.R.S. Neupane & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Kumari Marg, House No. 43
P.O. Box 8137, Naxal,
Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel : 977-1- 4411314
Fax : 977-1- 4420572
E-mail : chartered@brs.com.np
Web : www.brs.com.np

**B.R.S. Neupane
& Co.**

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Member of Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Nepal Water for Health (hereinafter referred to as NEWAH, or the organization), which comprise the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Income and Expenditure, Statement of Cash Flow and Significant Accounting Policy and Notes to Account for the year ended Ashad 31, 2077 (15th July 2020).

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at Ashad 31, 2077 (15th July 2020), and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Nepal Standards on Auditing (NSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the organization, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Management are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

A member of



Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with NSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



CA Gyanendra B. Bhari
Partner



UDIN: 201225CA00070avpQb
Place: Kathmandu
Date: 25th December 2020

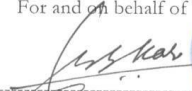
Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH)
Kathmandu, Nepal
Statement of Financial Position
As on July 15, 2020 (Ashad 31, 2077)

Particulars	Schedule	FY 2019/20	FY 2018/19
Property, Plant & Equipment (A)	1	13,556,652	15,388,972
Land and Buildings		5,803,756	5,872,375
Capital Assets Grant Fund		7,752,895	9,516,597
Current Assets (B)	2	29,831,000	118,830,693
Cash and Bank Balance		24,785,671	115,569,604
Inventories		7,510,513	4,147,567
Prepayments, loans, Advances & Receivables		6,890,644	12,725,027
<u>Less: Other Current Liabilities & Provisions</u>		(9,355,827)	(13,611,504)
Current Liabilities		(9,355,827)	(13,611,504)
Provisions		-	-
Total Assets (A+B)		43,387,652	134,219,666
Represented by:			
Capital Fund		5,803,756	5,872,375
Capital Asset Fund		7,752,895	9,516,597
Restricted Fund	3	15,842,284	105,716,779
Unrestricted Fund	4	13,988,716	13,113,915
Total Funds		43,387,652	134,219,666

Schedule 1 to 7 form an integral part of this statement.


 Sajal Shrestha
 Finance Manager



 Umesh K. Pandey
 Director

As per our report of even date
 For and on behalf of

 CA Gyanendra B. Bhari
 BRS Neupane & Co., Chartered Accountants




 Mukunda Neupane
 Treasurer


 Rekha Tulachan
 Member Secretary


 Dr. Pitamber Chhetri
 Chairperson

Date: 2077/08/25
 Place: Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH)
Statement of Income & Expenditure
For the period July 17, 2019 to July 15, 2020 (Shrawan 01, 2076 to Ashad 31, 2077)

NPR

Particulars	Schedule	FY 2019/20	FY 2018/19
Opening Fund Balance			
Income			
Restricted Fund	5	257,564,563	135,848,181
Unrestricted Fund	6	362,555	891,804
Total Income		257,927,117	136,739,985
Expenditure			
Restricted Fund		257,564,563	135,848,181
Direct Project Expenditure	5	257,564,563	135,848,181
Unrestricted Fund		362,555	891,804
General & Overhead Expenses	6	362,555	891,804
Total Expenditure		257,927,117	136,739,985

Sajal Shrestha

Sajal Shrestha
Finance Manager



Umesh K. Pandey

Umesh K. Pandey
Director

As per our report of even date
For and on behalf of

C.A. Gyanendra B. Bhari

C.A. Gyanendra B. Bhari
BRS Neupane & Co., Chartered Accountants

Mukunda Neupane

Mukunda Neupane
Treasurer

Rekha Tulachan

Rekha Tulachan
Member Secretary

Dr. Pitamber Chhetri

Dr. Pitamber Chhetri
Chairperson

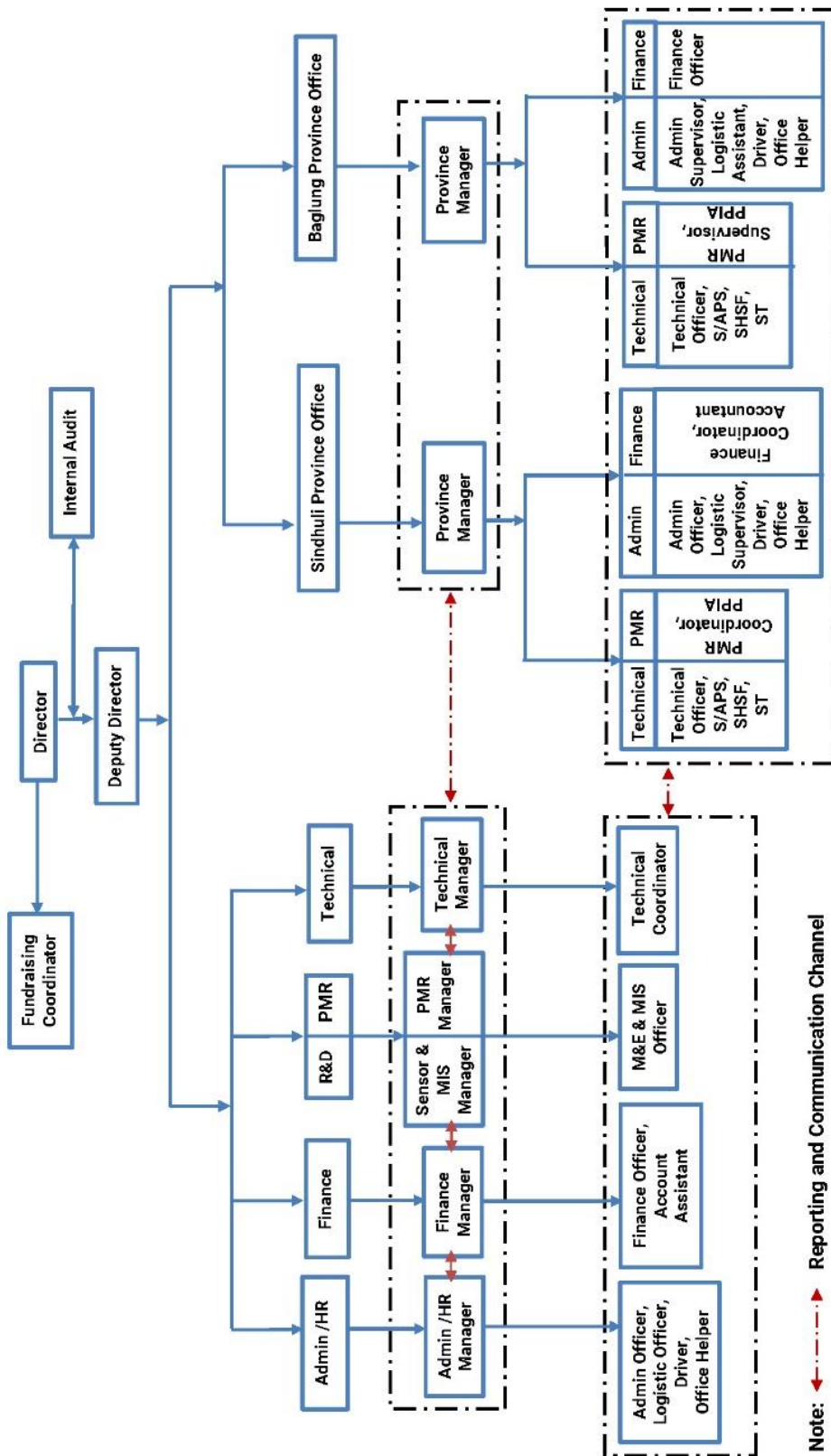


Date: 2077/08/25
Place: Kathmandu, Nepal

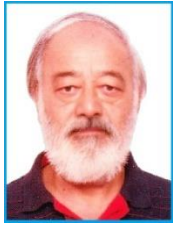
Annex 2: NEWAH Organizational Structure

Effective from January 2021

NEWAH Organizational Structure (Operation Level)



Annex 3: NEWAH Board 2021-2023



Prof. Kapil Man Shrestha
Chairperson



Ms. Manjuri Singh
Vice-Chairperson



Mr. Mukunda Pd. Neupane
Treasurer



Ms. Rekha Tulachan
Member Secretary



Mr. Bijay Pant
Member



Mr. Ram Kaji Koney
Member



Ms. Ratna Kumari Shrestha
Member