His Majesty's Government
Ministry of Physical Planning and Works
Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation National Policy 2004
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(Unofficial Translation)

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His Majesty's Government
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Rural Water Supply and Sanitation National Policy 2004

1. Introduction

His Majesty's Government (HMG) is committed to provide basic level of water supply to all the people considering that the proper development of water supply and sanitation services supports the social and economic development of the nation and improves the health status of the people.

Many people are affected by water borne and water related diseases due to use of unsafe water. People have to face several problems and lose the opportunity to income sources. Women are deprived of finding the income sources including their career development opportunity due to unavailability of water in a simple way since they have to spend several hours a day to fetch water from far away.

It is targeted that all of the people will get the facility of water supply and sanitation services within Twelfth Plan period (2012- 2017) as described in Tenth Plan document. HMG needs to formulate appropriate policy and strategy for the development of water supply and sanitation sector and set guidelines for future programme by giving priority to reliable projects through participatory approach.

Water is accepted as a limited source having economic value in this national policy on rural water supply and sanitation. This policy has emphasised participatory service delivery, public ownership of assets and initiation of involvement of women.

2. Objectives

The objectives of water supply and sanitation services will be to:

A. Provide safe, accessible and adequate water supply with sanitation facility to all Nepalese people on priority basis especially targeted to the backward people and ethnic groups.

B. Reduce water borne diseases and its victims in the nation.

C. Utilise in productive works the time and labour of women, men and children saved from carrying water.

3. Policy

The following policies will be adopted to attain the above-mentioned objectives:

3.1 Planning and Programming

A. Cent percent population will get water supply facility by 2017 A.D. (B.S. 2073) from the present basic service level of 71.1 percentage of benefited population.

B. Cent percent population will get sanitation facility from the existing level of sanitation service up to 2017 A.D. (B.S. 2073).

C. Existing water supply system will get massive renovation, rehabilitation, improvement and expansion works as well as increase in the quality of service.

D. Service development and operation system will be adopted through leadership of the local community, which will identify the necessity of the project, its selection, plan formulation, implementation and management by applying participatory approach.

E. Capacity of the community will be enhanced for empowerment and management of the water supply system. Public awareness and health education programme will be conducted as an integral part of the programme.

F. Health education and sanitation activities will be conducted together with water supply and sanitation programme.

G. Measures will be taken to reduce environmental impacts while implementing water supply projects.

H. Water supply programme will be conducted in conjunction with other programmes related to water resource development, where possible.

I. Capacity of the local bodies, user committees and non- governmental organizations will be enhanced to work as per the decentralized approach that will help minimise the government's direct involvement in the implementation of water supply and sanitation projects.

J. Projects will be selected (for implementation) on the basis of projects prepared by the local bodies.

3.2 Technical Arrangements

A. Appropriate technology that is affordable to and manageable by the users' committees will be used while informing them about all available technical alternatives (options).

B. Optimum utilisation of locally available know-how, skill and resources will be done in implementing rural water supply and sanitation projects.

C. Development of infrastructure and entrepreneurship will be enhanced in order to produce equipment, machinery and

construction materials related to water supply and sanitation at local level.

D. Necessary standard will be set and implemented for the material and equipment, system design and construction procedure to maintain the quality of work.

3.3 Water Quality

The system for regular monitoring and evaluation by the users at local level of micro- organisms and chemical and physical elements present in the water distributed to the community will be developed to maintain the quality of water.

3.4 Institutional Management

A. Consumers' groups and community organizations will be made responsible to provide water supply and sanitation services effectively by designating proper work to the local bodies as per decentralization policy.

B. HMG and local bodies will play the role of regulating, monitoring and facilitating the implementation of the projects.

C. Service delivery mechanism of water supply and sanitation by users' committees, community based organizations, non-government

organizations and private sector organisations in partnership with each other will be established.

D. Human resource development programme will be developed and extended in the field of water supply and sanitation from central level to the community level.

E. Participation of gender, caste and disadvantaged ethnic groups will be made essential to all decision making processes regarding water supply and sanitation services. Moreover, special emphasis will be given for their meaningful participation.

F. Proper methodology and norms will be developed in identifying the poorest households within the community and such households will be provided with specified target grants.

3.5 Legal Aspects

A. Appropriate mitigation measures will be established in order to manage water users' rights in a proper way.

B. Necessary legal bases will be prepared by making improvements in the existing legal aspects to stop pollution of water at source, keep the environment clean, maintain the

quality of water and increase the participation of the private sector.

C. Water Users' and Sanitation Committees (WUSCs) will be compulsorily registered according to Water Resources Act 1992 and Water Supply Regulations 1998.

3.6 Financial Aspects

A. Proper budget allocation will be ensured to meet the scheduled target for the construction of new water supply projects as well as operation and maintenance of the completed projects.

B. Optimum utilization of local material, skill and labour will be ensured through social mobilization.

C. Delivery of water supply and sanitation facility will depend on effective demand. The type and level of service will be according to the "capacity as well as willingness to pay" by the consumers, for which they will have to contribute to capital investment for such facility.

3.7 Operations and Maintenance

A. The consumers themselves will own, operate and have responsibility to maintain water supply projects.

B. Huge and complex projects that are not handed over to the consumers will be provided technical as well as designated financial assistance.

3.8 Policy Monitoring and Information Management

A. A 'data bank' will be established by formulating policy monitoring and sectoral information policy that will also indicate the level of service.

B. Information Centre will be set up at the centre and districts by increasing the capacity of information management for sectoral development projects.

C. Regular monitoring mechanism will be established to monitor the implementation of water supply and sanitation sectoral policy.

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation National Strategy 2004

Acronyms

1. DDC : District Development Committee
2. DWSS : Department of Water Supply and Sewerage
3. FHW : Female Health Worker
4. GIS : Geological Information System
5. HIF : Hygiene Improvement Framework
6. HMG : His Majesty's Government
7. MES : Ministry of Education and Sports
8. MLD : Ministry of Local Development
9. MOF : Ministry of Finance
10. MOH : Ministry of Health
11. MPPW : Ministry of Physical Planning and Works
12. NGO : Non-Governmental Organisation
13. NPC : National Planning Commission
14. O&M : Operation and Maintenance
15. PSO : Private Sector Organisation
16. QARQ : Quantity, Accessibility; Reliability and Quality
17. SSG : Sectoral Stakeholder Group
18. VDC : Village Development Committee
19. VMW : Village Maintenance Worker
20. WHO : World Health Organisation
21. WUSC : Water User and Sanitation Committee

Safe and potable water and basic sanitation services will be provided to all rural people of the Kingdom of Nepal within Twelfth Five Year Plan period (2012-2017). Gender equality and social justice, decentralization, local effort, local resource and skills, human resource development, transparency and application of participatory approach will be adopted in the development and operation of water supply and sanitation services.

1. Institutional Framework

The following classifications have been made for the institutional responsibility of rural water supply and sanitation service:

A. Policy Formulation;
B. Planning and Budgeting;
C. Implementation Arrangements;
D. Operation and Maintenance; and
E. Monitoring and Evaluation.

A. Policy Formulation

- Ministry of Physical Planning and Works will (MPPW) develop and formulate rural water supply and sanitation policy in close coordination and consultation with other related bodies of His Majesty's Government (HMG).

- Components such as level of service and water availability, technology, quality standard of water, research and development, public- private partnerships, human resource development, health and hygienic education, sanitation and supervision and evaluation etc. will be included while formulating such policy.

- Local bodies will be focused while planning, deciding and implementing projects.

- Sectoral Stakeholder Group (SSG) will be formed to formulate sectoral policy and co-ordinate the sectoral activities. Ministry of Local Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, District Development Committees (DDCs), Village Development Committees (VDCs), multilateral and bilateral donors, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board, national and international NGOs, active in rural water supply and sanitation sector and private sector organisations (PSOs) will be included in the SSG. Along with this, a National Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination Committee will be formed that will coordinate the activities.

- A "Water Users and Sanitation Federation" may be established for independent monitoring and social auditing of the rural water supply and sanitation systems.

- Standardized monitoring and evaluation system will be developed for technical auditing after construction of the infrastructure framework to ensure those facilities were built according to the design, specification and estimated cost.

- Sectoral database related to community based water supply and sanitation will be created based on the available geological information system (GIS).

- Overlapping or inconsistent policies and regulations will be made more efficient, effective and consistent by formulating appropriate policy in coordination with other agencies involved in the planning and sectoral development works.

B. Planning and Budgeting

- Central and local level plans will be classified separately.

- National Planning Commission will arrange the budgeting on the basis of execution of work in coordination with the Ministry of Finance.

- Periodic Development Plans prepared in the district and village level will be taken as a basis for planning.

- Arrangement for direct allocation of budget to the local bodies will be made to the projects related to

water supply and sanitation programmes, which are already approved as periodic District Development Plans.

- District Development Committee (DDC) will be the prime agency for the local planning of new projects related to water supply and sanitation with the inputs and active participation of Village Development Committees (VDCs).

- DDCs will prepare and update "District Water Supply and Sanitation Profile" to identify the technical, financial and other supports needed for rural water supply and sanitation services installed whether by government or private sector. This profile will include data on status, cost, operation and maintenance, responsibilities, and other relevant information on all schemes based on district hygiene and sanitation indicators.

- DDCs will prepare the District Development Plans on the basis of the priorities submitted by VDCs with the inputs of the community.

- Plans of the VDCs and the DDCs will be formulated by ensuring proper representation of disadvantaged people on the basis of gender, caste and ethnicity.

- Only the schemes selected through a participatory DDC/VDC planning process will be implemented.

Essential but not selected schemes will also be implemented in consultation with the local bodies.

- Planning will be done in coordination with DDC/VDC to avoid duplication and optimize the use of limited resources. DDC/VDC will coordinate and monitor the international NGOs, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Development Fund and other sectoral development programmes at VDC and district level.

- DDCs will channel sectoral budgets in a timely and transparent manner to VDCs and legally established water users and sanitation committees (WUSCs).

C. Implementation Arrangements

- DDCs will be responsible for implementation, coordination and monitoring of the rural water supply and sanitation plans in their respective districts by means of periodic planning and provision of technical assistance.

- DDCs or central agencies will provide assistance for implementation and technical assistance only when requested by the VDCs and their respective WUSCs.

- VDCs will play the lead role in involving WUSCs in the construction of rural water supply and sanitation facilities, including assisting the organised communities to mobilise their contributions in cash and kind.

- WUSCs will be organized for the implementation of all rural water supply and sanitation systems irrespective of any source of development assistance.

- One-year period will be allocated for the schemes to be in operation for community mobilization and management training.

- Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS) will prepare and implement a plan to gradually phase out direct implementation in rural water supply and sanitation schemes, and will hand over ownership and responsibility for operation and maintenance of all schemes to local bodies (DDCs/VDCs/ Municipalities) and/or WUSCs. DWSS will not provide technical assistance through its Divisional offices for the implementation of rural water supply and sanitation programmes once the DDC becomes capable and sets up its own sectoral section.

- The role of DWSS will be as a facilitator for rural water supply and sanitation services. It will mainly concentrate on the following activities:
  - Formulation of sectoral policy;
  - Coordination between inter-sector and intra-sectoral programmes;
  - Development of technical assistance and training mechanism;
  - Preparation of manuals and technical guidelines;

  - Creation of database based on GIS on rural water supply and sanitation and updating it;
  - Assist the DDCs for the preparation of district profile/s;
  - Conduct sectoral research activities;
  - Assist donor community in project preparation;
  - Design, implement and monitor the schemes implemented in urban and semi- urban areas on the basis of cost- recovery principle;
  - Establish and maintain research and laboratory testing facilities on the quality standard of water and manage continued running of the schemes;
  - Continue to provide technical and managerial support for large scale, technically complex water supply and wastewater management projects for sewerage construction and for the implementation of projects for quality enhancement.

- Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board will serve as a regular organization for facilitating the provision of rural water supply and sanitation services. The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board will perform the following tasks:
  - Provide financial and technical assistance to local implementing organizations;
  - Evaluate and expand lessons learnt at district and national level by the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board and

assist to enhance the capacity and efficiency of the VDCs/DDCs in adopting community based request formats; and

- Assist HMG in the reform of sectoral policy.

D. Operation and Maintenance

- An Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Fund will be created with upfront (prior to construction) contributions at WUSC level for financing operation and maintenance. A Rehabilitation Fund will be created at DDC and VDC level to support rehabilitation financing if and when such works are needed.

- Linkages will be established with income generating projects/activities/programmes by the implementing agency to strengthen the O & M Fund at the community level.

- Technical Assistants of the VDCs will be trained in O & M of community based water supply and sanitation schemes as a back-up support to enhance the internal technical capacity of the WUSCs.

- NGOs or partner organizations will train the community level female health workers (FHW) on the promotion of sanitation issues.

- Given their stability and infrequent mobility in community life, preference will be given to married women while selecting Village Maintenance Workers (VMWs) for each scheme.

- Performance monitoring and evaluation and special post-project support to WUSCs (for follow up training and technical audits of constructed facilities) will be delivered to strengthen WUSC management skills and their accountability.

- In order to facilitate experience sharing and mutual cooperation among the users' groups assistance will bee extended for the formation of WUSC Federation at district level.

- Appropriate guidelines for WUSC management will be developed. These guidelines will cover issues such as O & M requirements, fixation of water tariffs and social sanctions for dealing with illegal connections, management of O & M funds and other relevant issues.

E. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Effective monitoring and evaluation of rural water supply and sanitation sector is essential for several reasons. These are:
  a) To ensure that sectoral policies are being implemented consistently;

b) To evaluate implementation methodologies in order to improve it; and

c) To measure sectoral and project wise progress towards achieving goals and objectives.

- DWSS will take the lead role in establishing and managing rural water supply and sanitation monitoring and evaluation system. Capacity will be enhanced within DWSS to effectively collect, store, analyse and use the collected data.

- Following components will be included in the indicators used in measuring the achievements mentioned in the sectoral strategy relating to benefit monitoring and impact evaluation of water supply and sanitation:
  - Physical infrastructure, water availability (coverage), and functional status;
  - Water supplied in terms of quantity, accessibility, reliability and quality (QARQ);
  - Level of service (e.g., house connections, public tap stands etc;
  - Poverty reduction;
  - Hygiene and sanitation in line with the basic sanitation package;
  - Behavior change related to water storage and use, excreta disposal and hand washing;
  - Health improvement, as indicated primarily by diarrhoeal disease incidence;
  - Environmental impact;

  - Social impact;
  - Equitable access to services and involvement in the supply of water and sanitation management and decision-making of disadvantaged people on the basis of gender, caste and ethnicity;
  - Economic and financial impact; and
  - Institutional and policy impact.

- Baseline and performance/impact monitoring will primarily be conducted by experts and its purpose will be to measure project progress and improvements in sectoral performance. The information collected will be disseminated to the level at which it was collected in ways meaningful and useful to recipients. Community based-monitoring and evaluation (e.g., participatory monitoring and community self-monitoring) will be actively supported to meet local needs and make decisions at local level.

- Adequate budget will be allocated by HMG and donor organisations to support collection of baseline information about the project and measure its impact and enhance the capacity of separate organisations and their monitoring capacity.

- The SSG will provide a venue for lesson learning and experience sharing from the processes and result of monitoring and evaluation.

- The project will support the regular evaluation and performance, process and impact assessment studies by independent third parties (e.g., an experienced NGO or consultancy).

2. Availability and Selection of Site

A set standard will be fixed after the review of existing criteria used to select for the initial stage of community water supply and sanitation scheme, taking particularly into account the district and site selection criteria developed with approval of all stakeholders.

A clear, transparent and easily applicable set of project prioritization/ selection criteria agreeable to all users will be developed to ensure their equitable access. Demand-driven, poverty-focused project prioritization/selection criteria will, at least, consider the following points:

- Poverty and hardship;
- Availability of existing water supply and sanitation services and its condition;
- Incidence of diarrhoea and prevalence of water borne/related diseases;
- Willingness to pay;
- Cost- benefit ratio; and
- Environment concerns.

Sectoral stakeholder organisations will apply project selection criteria in a transparent way to select prospective sites for

rural water supply and sanitation development assistance, after the VDCs apply for selection of projects for assistance based on the priority of the VDCs and in consultation with the DDC. The project selection policy guidelines and application of project selection criteria will be reviewed and assessed periodically. DDC and VDC level data will be updated frequently.

The standard service level will be defined according the water quantity, accessibility, reliability and quality (QARQ) indicators to assess and confirm existing service level and coverage.

The capacity and capability of DDCs/VDCs to prepare and /or periodically update district water supply and sanitation profiles will be strengthened. These profiles will be integrated into the district periodic plans.

Given the magnitude of the need for system rehabilitation, necessary budget will be allocated for resource improvement, expansion and rehabilitation. This assistance will be focused on existing water supply and sanitation systems that can no longer provide their users with the basic level of service due to old system or polluted water source.

The rehabilitation and expansion policy will (among others):

- Include sanitation facilities and services in all rehabilitation projects;

- Include a standard integrated health improvement programme and establish the baseline health indicators;
- Improve and expand water supply and sanitation schemes in the *Bhabar Zone.*
- Conduct rehabilitation programmes to address the increased demand for water supply and sanitation services due to rise in population because of internal migration.

Rural water supply and sanitation facilities will be managed during the construction of new public building (e.g., school, health post etc.). Like all other users, water supply and sanitation service will be provided to these buildings on a cost-sharing basis.

Poor communities will be targeted to raise their awareness of, to generate demand for and facilitate their access to improved water supply and sanitation services.

3. Appropriate and Affordable Technological Options

A consumer- oriented catalogue with rural water supply and sanitation technical options will be prepared. This catalogue will include affordable, appropriate and environmental friendly technologies (including traditional technologies, where appropriate) and estimation of construction, operation and maintenance cost of each project. This catalogue will allow

different groups to make informed choices about rural water supply and sanitation facilities and services based on their needs, affordability and willingness to pay. Training on the use of technological options will be provided to all concerned groups.

Selection of appropriate water supply and sanitation technology includes coordination of:

- Customer/ user's demand;
- Construction, operation and maintenance cost;
- Skill and capability of user groups for operation and maintenance; and
- Standardised hardware designs.

Guidelines on drinking water and its quality standards will be prepared including detailed specification of allowable limits for both chemical and biological parameters. MOH will be consulted during formulation of such guidelines.

While the supply of water completely depends upon the source, the basic water service indicators will be as follows:

- Quantity: Water quantity for domestic use should be 45 liters per capita per day (lpcd). In no case should per capita water availability be lower than 25 lpcd.

- Accessibility: For public taps, the horizontal and vertical distance to be traversed to reach a tap stand should be no more than 150 meters

and 50 meters respectively. All households should be able to fetch water within 15 minutes per round trip.

- Reliability: There will be few, if any, unscheduled outage, prompt repairs when breakdowns occur, minimum system downtime and little significant seasonal variation in water supply to users.

- Quality: Water quality should meet minimum WHO (World Health Organisation) standard. HMG should adopt its own formal standards.

Expanding private connections will in no instance require shutting down any public tap stands that may be the only water points available to poor or otherwise disadvantaged groups, unless alternative provisions are made to meet their needs.

A programme for water quality surveillance will be developed. Basic water quality testing at local institutions and community awareness on water quality will be promoted.

4. Enhancing Participation by Gender, Caste and Disadvantaged Groups

Gender equity and service development will be insisted in planning, decision follow-up, training, access and management of rural water supply and sanitation facilities/services.

WUSCs will be formulated by ensuring proportional representation of gender, caste and disadvantaged ethnic groups. Such groups should include at least 30% representation of women.

Adult education and income generating activities will be conducted as auxiliary programmes of water supply and sanitation that will enable empowerment of women. These works will be conducted effectively in coordination with other agencies.

DDCs and VDCs will be trained to actively participate in planning, monitoring and evaluation. Criteria of gender, caste and ethnicity will be applied in the process of developing District Development Plans by the VDCs and DDCs.

Review of the standards related to subsidy and loan assistance for financing sanitation facilities will be made.

Role of NGOs and private sector will be enhanced to provide rural water supply and sanitation services.

Effective integration of rural water supply and sanitation services will be made with income generating programmes of the upcoming Women's Empowerment Project of the Asian Development Bank.

5. Health, Hygiene and Sanitation

Improvements in the water supply system will be integrated with the basic sanitation package of UNICEF/DWSS through the Hygiene Improvement Framework (HIF). Twenty percent (20%) of the budget of HIF projects will be allocated to health promotion, hygiene behavior change and safe excreta disposal. Special consideration will be given to increase sanitation coverage to disadvantaged groups.

In accordance with the basic sanitation package, pre and post project change will be measured through gender-disaggregated indicators.

Rural water supply and sanitation projects will be implemented through both school and community based programmes, wherever possible. School sanitation programmes will be funded in part by community contributions and community-based programmes should be financed in part through community-managed revolving funds.

Health and hygiene will be promoted by a variety of mass communications and locally suitable specific methods in simple and socially acceptable ways to increase awareness of men,

women and children about diarrhoeal disease. The activities will be conducted in coordination with National Centre for Health Education, Information and Communication in accordance with the national strategy for health.

If the community demands, a stand-alone programme focusing on sanitation, hygiene and educational awareness may be implemented where the community people at of high risk for lack of sanitation facilities.

Rural water supply and sanitation programmes will be actively supported to bring the government, semi- government and private sectors together to implement programmes to reduce diarrhoeal diseases.

All water supply rehabilitation/expansion projects will include awareness raising programmes about water supply, sanitation, hygiene and sanitation behavioral change and improved community, family and individual health.

Opportunities will be supported to integrate rural water supply and sanitation projects with the construction of biogas generators with a view to create an organizational pressure on health impacts on both diarroheal diseases and respiratory related diseases caused by indoor air pollution from cooking smokes.

Water supply and sanitation improvement in schools will be given special emphasis in high-risk areas. These programmes will require the following components:

- Separate child friendly toilets for boys and girls and urinals for boys;
- A regular toilet cleaning campaign involving both teachers and students;
- Incorporation of health, sanitation and hygiene education in the curriculum of all children's classes;
- A school contribution of at least 20% of the cost of toilet construction (including 1% in cash); and
- Involvement of out –of –school children through child-to-child approach for the extension of health, hygiene and sanitation education.

6. Financial Aspects

Sectoral Financing

- Capacity and capability of the local government body, non-government organisations and the community will be developed so that they could themselves source financing and manage the projects independently.

- Tariff guidelines (based on technology, scheme size, geographic zone, etc.) will be prepared to assist communities in establishing tariffs that will

provide adequate finances for operation, maintenance, and repair.

- A unit cost study will be carried out and updated annually to determine cost effectiveness of different approaches and service providers. This study will:
  - Review the comparative costs of the goods and services as available in the open market;
  - Compare them to cost estimates in selected construction contracts; and
  - Make recommendations on how to provide more cost effective facilities and services to the customers.

Water Supply Facilities

- Community contributions will be a minimum of 20 percent of the total cost of water supply, including local and non-local materials and skilled and unskilled labor (except porterage of remote areas). Of which:
  - At least 1 percent of such amount must be in cash.
  - The remainder of the community contribution will include unskilled labor, local materials and porterage of non-local materials from road head according to the willingness of the consumers.

- Equity considerations for disadvantaged groups (pro-poor strategy) will include:
  - Porterage of non-local materials from road head to the respective site/community and collection cost of materials (sand) beyond one day round trip will have to be borne by the project/agency.
  - Contribution level needed for the identified community households will be reduced for marginalized group to improve their access. Such contribution will be less than 20 percent but not less than 10 percent. Cash contribution will not be compulsory for the poorest households. Internal assistance will be also used within community to increase community contribution in total.

Basis of Direct Proxy to Identify Poverty

- Households will be identified for grant assistance purpose with the cooperation of the community through participatory approach. The following indicators will be used (but no limited to) for this purpose:
  - Households having food sufficiency (security) for less than six months;
  - Households having daily wages as the main source of income;

  - Female- headed households and /or households without adult members and/or households without any external help and having physically disabled persons; and
  - Appropriate bases identified by the community.

- Operation and maintenance cost should be fully borne by the community. Fund will have to be established as per the guidelines for operation and maintenance before initiating construction work;

- Local body and the government will provide some financial assistance for repair in case of huge and important structures.

Sanitation Hardware (latrines and urinals)

- 20 percent of construction costs should be fully borne by the community with a minimum of 1% of that amount in cash in the construction of institutional latrines.

- Community managed resolving funds will be allowed, with special subsidies for the construction of latrines for poor households

defined by food insufficiency, female-headed households, wage level and disabled indicators.

- Operation and maintenance cost should be fully borne by the community/ institutions in case of school latrines and by individual households for family latrines.

7. Legal Aspects

Water Resources Act, 1993, Water Resources Regulation 1993 and the Water Supply Regulations, 1999 will be amended taking into account the Local Self-Government Act and other related acts.

A simplified and transparent procedure for the registration of Water User and Sanitation Committee will be introduced. The procedure will ensure participation of more women and disadvantaged ethnic groups and caste members in such committees (groups).

A legal framework will be developed and put in effect for extraction and conservation of ground water.

A transparent, equitable and effective licensing mechanism will be developed to help the water supply and sanitation resource management committee on water rights and sanitation allocation.

National water quality standards will be developed and implemented and regularly monitored for physical, chemical and bacteriological contaminants.

8. Environmental Aspects

An environmental screening/ appraisal will be included in all projects to identify environmental concerns. Procedures will be prepared to ensure that all aspects are considered to minimize environmental damage. If significant environmental risk is identified, a more rigorous assessment and analysis will be carried out.

All stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment, participate and contribute to the environmental screening and appraisal process.

All concerns identified by environmental screening/assessment must be independently reviewed. Procedures for this environmental review must be timely and with mitigation directives in keeping with the project scope and scale.

Community benefits will be maximized through environmental sensitive approaches. Sound technology will be used to expand the benefits of investment in water supply and sanitation. All measures will be taken to mitigate environmental damage through proper safeguard measures and management practices during construction and operation.