



USAID KARNALI WATER ACTIVITY यएसएआइडी कणाली जल परियोजना



Photo: USAID Karnali Water Activity team in Pause and Reflect Workshop, Surkhet., Aug 22-24, 2023

MONTHLY UPDATE – August 2023

OBJECTIVE 1 – INCREASED SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND WATER FOR PRODUCTIVE USES

- Completed the construction of 11 water supply and sanitation schemes (WSS), including 10 drinking water systems (DWS) and one multiple-use system (MUS). This achievement brings the total number of completed schemes to 60, comprising 53 DWS and 7 MUS. The remaining four schemes (3 new and 1 rehabilitation) are anticipated to be completed by the end of September 2023.
- The installation of solar systems in seven solar lift WSS schemes was completed in Barahatal, Mohanyal, and Turmakhand. Additionally, the transportation of solar pump, installation, and testing work are ongoing for two schemes.
- Completed the feasibility studies for the second batch of 50 WSS schemes in Panchapuri, Barahatal, Lamkichuha, Dullu, Chamunda Bindrasaini, Thatikandh, Panchdewal Binayak, Suvakalika, Mahawai, and Naraharinath. Following studies carried out in Y2 and Y3, the Activity has identified 204 water infrastructure sites for detailed engineering surveys for Year 3 scheme construction.
- Onboarded A&E firms for detailed engineering surveys. Strength Engineering Pvt. Ltd., Niyatra Consult Pvt. Ltd., Scholars Consult Pvt. Ltd., Executive Consulting Engineering, and Planner Pvt. Ltd. were onboarded for detailed designs and BOQs for selected DWS schemes in Year 3. Detailed engineering survey has been completed for 15 WSS schemes.
- Formed 10 WUSCs for the WSS construction and management in Turmakhand (2), Bhairabi (1), Tila (2), and Tilagupha (5).
- USAID approved the consolidated Capacity Development (CD) Plan of 29 LGs, including the second round of plans for 11 LGs. In addition, the guiding manual on CD standards, norms, and processes was drafted and is under review by field office technical team.
- CD Packages were developed and incorporated in the respective WUMP reports of 15 LGs. As a result, all 29 WUMP reports have CD packages annexed.
- Karnali Water Challenge: Out of three grant proposals, one grant is under HO review and a second proposal is in the submission process. A third proposal was discontinued due to poor proposal quality.
- Completed a market survey for Value Chain Analysis (VCA) of agricultural MUS business plans in Attariya, Dhangadi, and Nepalgunj markets.
- Conducted a two-day workshop on water scheme sustainability in Barahatal RM, Surkhet.
- Revised the SBC Campaign Challenge grant documents based on feedback from the Project Steering Committee members. This document is under review in the Home Office for final submission to USAID.
- Drafted a concept note on 15-minute radio program 'Panika Kuda'. It aims to educate and foster positive behavioral change through informative and inspiring stories.

OBJECTIVE 2 - INCREASED SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO AND USE OF SANITATION THROUGH FECAL SLUDGE MANAGEMENT

- Conducted City Sanitation Plan (CSP) inception meeting in Panchapuri municipality and established CSP task force of 13-members. They were oriented on the CSP planning process and their roles and responsibilities.
- Completed household and institutional survey in Panchapuri municipality as part of the Sanitation Situational Assessment. The survey included 525 households, 42 education institutions, 61 public and private institutions, and 2 public toilet surveys.
- For FSTP capacity assessment in Dullu municipality, the data and information were already collected and reviewed on the status of existing fecal sludge and the current practices of emptying the pits in Narayan municipality and Chamunda Bindrasaini municipality. It is ongoing in Bhairabi municipality.

OBJECTIVE 3 - STRENGTHENED GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE RESILIENT MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

- Completed policy gap analysis for Madhuwan, Thandikanth, Tikapur, and Panchadewal Binayak municipalities.
- Four Bill drafting committees were formed to initiate the Bill drafting process in Geruwa, Lamkichuha, Thandikanth, and Panchadewal Binayak municipalities.
- Six meetings (2 with LG and 4 with community representatives, users committee) were conducted in Thandikanth and Panchadewal Binayak municipalities to engage LGs and communities in the WASH Bill drafting process. Altogether 130 participants (89 females and 41 males participated). Key findings include concerns about water quality, a preference for household connections, unregistered WUSCs, and lack of legal documents for institutional development. These findings will guide effective WASH service delivery. As of now, out of the proposed 15 WASH Bills, six were endorsed by LGs and nine were published in the official gazette.
- Conducted a meeting with the Ministry of Water Resources and Energy Development to discuss the provisions and mandates in the WASH bills among stakeholders and the bill drafting committee, and to receive additional feedback.
- Conducted a meeting with key members of the Citywide Sanitation Alliance Nepal to explore the areas of collaboration in developing, reviewing, and sharing different FSM frameworks and modules. The Activity is now a member of CWISAN, offering an opportunity to share, learn, and disseminate practices on a larger platform; strengthening service delivery.
- Reviewed 15 WUMP draft reports, and finalized reports for Geruwa, Thakurbaba, Rajapur, and Panchapuri municipalities. Out of these, the reports of Barahatal, Tila, Tilagufa, and Panchapuri municipalities were endorsed by the municipal executives. The English version of the WUMP report of Chhayanath Rara municipality was reviewed and finalized.

OBJECTIVE 4 - STRENGTHENED CONSERVATION OF WATER-RELATED WATERSHED BIODIVERSITY

- Finalized the Scope of Work (SOW) and published the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) on August 10, 2023. The plan involves the

creation of four IWMPs, each dedicated to a specific watershed. These plans will be developed after the identification of the Ecological Significance Area (ESA).

- The secondary data collection and review is ongoing for the comprehensive assessment of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in three sites of PES.
- Oriented Architecture and Engineering (A&E) firms regarding source and catchment protection schemes. The Activity provided a detailed guide on calculating catchment areas and is planning to assess for nature-based solutions in all Watersheds as below:
 - Lower Karnali: August 10-11
 - Tila: August 13-14
 - Middle Karnali: August 15-16
 - Rara Khatyad: August 28-29

SUMMARY OF KEY MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

MEETING DATE(S)	SUMMARY MEETING NOTES
Aug 3	Participation in the USAID IPs meeting organized by SSBH to understand scope, working approach, and key activities of one extension period of SSBH where discussion on key thematic areas (to explore areas of partnership) such as: strengthening health systems, coaching, and mentoring– both clinical and non-clinical, municipal health profile, etc, were discussed. Follow-up on the status of the organizational/program profile of partners including USAID IPs was also discussed.
Aug 8	Participation in the discussion held in the Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment (MOITFE), and discussed the current status of biodiversity and conservation challenges with provincial stakeholders. The discussion was organized as part of a baseline study of the USAID Karnali Water Activity.
August 15	Helvetas, Unicef, SuSWA, and the Activity team members met together regarding the facilitation of the forthcoming province level JSR workshop and field visits based on the letter from MoWS. The meeting participants decided to explore cost sharing options for the JSR. From the Karnali Water Activity, the team made it clear that it has already shared costs in the Lumbini and Sudur-paschim provinces, thus the Activity is unable to share costs in the Karnali JSR. A tentative cost estimate was also prepared and discussed, and it was agreed that Helvetas and SuSWA will cover the costs jointly. Proposed dates are 25-27 September to conduct the JSR events in Karnali.
August 16	An introductory meeting with the USAID Nepal Engineering Services (NES) Activity team together with USAID was held in the KWA Kathmandu office. The USAID COR [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] attended from USAID and [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] attended from USAID NES. The USAID Karnali Water Activity Team gave a brief

**MEETING
DATE(S)**

SUMMARY MEETING NOTES

overview of the Activity including an activity location map, the status of construction activities, the timeline for proposed construction, and anticipated support from the NES team. The meeting discussed the plan for moving forward including the immediate field plans of the NES team.

August 16

Twelve USAID projects based in Surkhet participated in the “USAID 225 Group” meeting hosted by the USAID Biodiversity Activity. The meeting mapped the working area of the USAID IPs and listed out “Palika” as a unit of working area of the USAID implementing partners (IPs). The shared information is documented in an excel spreadsheet. Thus, the team has identified the overlapping working areas, and asked to meet bi/tri-laterally to prepare a plan of action for collaboration wherever possible. The chairpersonship of the USAID 225 Group handed over to [REDACTED] (Biodiversity) from [REDACTED] (KISSAN II) for the next six months. The next meeting will be hosted by Suaahara in October at the American Corner.

August 17

Participation in the bill drafting committee meeting chaired by the secretary of MoWRED, organized by the Karnali Province WASH bill drafting committee. The meeting discussed the final draft of the bill. Comments received from the participants were discussed and incorporated into the draft bill. It was agreed to collect further comments by the 15th of September and to further discuss it in stakeholders’ workshop before handing it over to the parliamentary committee. The meeting was also attended by the Minister of Water Resources and Energy Development, [REDACTED], who emphasized the formulation of an effective WASH act for the province.

August 18

The COP participated in the Climate Change and DRR thematic working group meeting organized by MOWS at UNICEF to discuss logistic arrangements for conducting the JSR in Koshi Province. The discussion was focused on reviewing questionnaires and selection of appropriate sites for interaction at the local level. It was shared that the National conclave on JSR has been scheduled from September 25-26. The working group also requested IWMI and ICIMOD to collaborate. The group also received updates on the status of WASH Climate Rational. The COP contributed to the discussion and shared that the USAID Karnali Water Activity will share its experience at the National Conclave.

August 21

Bilateral meeting between USAID Karnali Water Activity and USAID Biodiversity Activity was held to explore the possibilities of joint action in overlapping working areas. Here are the key highlights from the meeting:

- Collaborate on an Integrated Watershed Management Plan, led by USAID Karnali Water Activity, including vendor training, knowledge sharing, and IWMP implementation.

MEETING DATE(S)	SUMMARY MEETING NOTES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jointly conserve spring source catchments in shared areas using nature-based solutions and pooled resources, focusing on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) models. • USAID Biodiversity Activity will share USAID Karnali Water Activity-produced documents for local and provincial evidence-based planning, covering spring source assessments, biodiversity baselines, hydrological modeling, and source protection guidelines. • USAID Biodiversity Activity will facilitate forums for USAID Karnali Water Activity to present Environmental and Social Risk Assessments and Environmental and Social Management Plans related to construction.
August 26	<p>The Nepal Engineering Services (NES) team, led by the DCOP, visited the USAID Karnali Water Activity office in Surkhet. They discussed NES's role in quality assurance for KWA's projects, including site locations and mutual scopes. They emphasized the need for clarity to avoid future confusion among activities and subcontractors. The idea of a co-creation workshop was proposed to get clarification on roles. The NES team's field plan (August 26-29) was also finalized.</p>
August 29	<p>The Karnali Province Level Joint Sector Review (JSR) was scheduled from 25-27 September 2023. A task force, made up of members from Unicef, SuSWA, Karnali Water, and Helvetas, was formed to provide the necessary support to MoWRED to organize the province level review. The task force meeting chose the venue for the provincial level workshop and identified a field visit for LG level discussion. Chaukune RM has been selected for LG level interaction.</p>
August 29	<p>The Activity team attended a Provincial Level Sharing Program titled "Learning from BHAKARI: Provincial Discussion on the Multi-Year Emergency Program." At this event, the Activity shared valuable experiences gained from a three-year USAID-funded emergency food security program focused on marginalized communities. Participants included various USAID partners, government officials, BHAKARI partners, and stakeholders. The main takeaway for USAID Karnali Water Activity is a better understanding of the working area and activities beneficial for future work with these groups.</p>
August 29	<p>Participated in 11th CWISAN meeting to continue dialogue on advancing CWIS in Nepal where discussion was taken forward on various proposed agendas. The highlight was a short introduction of the Activity as its new alliance member. The progress and achievements were shared in general, and discussion focused on sanitation and strengthening service delivery, policy dialogue, and review of the 16th approach paper.</p>

CROSSCUTTING CONSIDERATIONS

MONITORING, EVALUATION, RESEARCH & LEARNING

- Pause and Reflect (PnR) Workshop:** The Activity organized a three-day Pause and Reflect Workshop with the objective of reflecting on Year 2 achievements and developing an understanding of Year 3 planned activities and deliverables in reference to AWP of Y3. The workshop also reflected on strengths, learning, and identifying the best way forward for Y3 and discussed the procurement plan for Year 3. The workshop was organized in Surkhet from August 22- 24, 2023, and was attended by 50 staff members from Kathmandu, Surkhet, and the Watershed offices.
- DAICollect monitoring:** The Activity collected mainly six types of data. Three of the themes were assessments (Feasibility, Sanitation Situation, Detail engineering), two were data of activities, and one was an indicator. In total, approximately 6000 data points were collected and 50 percent of them were reviewed and validated by the MEL team. The table below shows the details of the data collection and review by the MEL team:

Table: DAICollect Monitoring data in August:

SN	Title and Type of data	Total Number	Data collected by
1	Partner-subcontractor event data reporting	151	Subcontractors (#6)
2	Sanitation Situation Assessment	4,114	500B
3	WSS detail engineering survey for year 3	1,575	Architecture and Engineering (A&E) Firms (#3)
4	Feasibility study of WSS for year 3	79	STTA
5	USAID KWA: Event data organized by the KWA staff	3	KWA program staff
6	USAID Karnali Water Activity Indicator Data Entry	174	KWA M&ECCs
	Total	6,096	

- Technical assistance to program team:** The MEL and Communications team oriented the A&E firm on data collection for detailed engineering to support the development of a Detail Project Report (DPR) and to 500B to conduct a Sanitation Situation Assessment Survey. Three A&E firms were trained on DAICollect and the data collection process in LK, MK, and Tila Karnali. The study team from 500B was trained on the DAICollect tool for the Sanitation Situation Assessment in Panchapuri municipality.

- **Learning and communications:** The Unit oriented A&E firms on branding and marking requirements to enhance their understanding of the Activity’s requirements and compliance. The team collaborated with the program operations team to present program highlights during the P & R workshop, featuring the four best activity pictures. On International Youth Day (August 12), the Activity effectively demonstrated its community progress, led by youth. USAID Nepal and DAI Global's social media platforms showcased the impact of activities in developing youth leaders. The forthcoming newsletter is currently being finalized and will be shared with USAID Nepal by the first week of September.

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GESI)

- Developed a format and virtually oriented subcontractors on the data collection on income generation of vulnerable communities due to their labor engagement in WSS scheme construction.
- Piloted a GESI monitoring checklist in three MUS schemes in Barahatal and prepared a GESI monitoring report based on field visits (June-August).
- Successfully conducted Entrepreneurship Development Training in three MUS schemes of Barahatal RM, Sisneri, Odaltodke, and Kariyapani. Mainly targeted women and marginalized men.
- Finalized the GESI Action plan and submitted it for review by the Home Office.
- Oriented the A&E firms on GESI and safeguarding to enhance their understanding of GESI mandates and Activity compliance. This focused on integrating GESI into Detail Engineering Surveys (DES) and Detail Project Reports (DPR).
- Participated in the USAID GESI working group meeting. Also, the Activity organized a meeting with the BHAKARI GESI Team and the Head of Exit Strategy to discuss incorporating BHAKARI's learnings and best practices into the Activity. In the household dialogue sessions that Bhakari is conducting at the household level, there is an opportunity to incorporate these activities at the community level.

OPERATIONS

Personnel

The tables below present the status of staff recruited, onboarded, resigned, and positions under recruitment during the month of August.

LTTA STAFF – ONBOARDED				
S. N.	NAME	POSITION	OFFICE LOCATION	START DATE
1	[REDACTED]	Monitoring Evaluation & Communication Coordinator	Tila Watershed Office	21 August 2023

STATUS OF POSITIONS UNDER RECRUITMENT			
S. N.	POSITION, LOCATION	STATUS	TARGET START DATE
A. LTTA			

1	Grants and Procurement Coordinator (Kathmandu)	The interview was conducted on 13 July and the top candidate declined the offer. Final offer went to 2nd candidate.	October 2, 2023
2	Director of Operations (Key Personnel)	USAID approval received and offer letter signed by candidate.	September 1, 2023
3	Finance Assistant (Surkhet)	Written test conducted on 4 th August	September 2023

B. STTA

I. Sub engineer (9 positions)	Vacancy to be announced	31 August 2023
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Procurement

Major Procurement for the Month of August 2023

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL (US\$)	DATE OF PURCHASE ORDER
Developing Detail Design and Detail Project Report (DPR) Services for drinking water systems, multiple-use water systems and source protection systems at Rara Watershed	\$45,462.70	8 August 2023

CHALLENGES/CONSTRAINTS

- Delays in vendors submitting deliverables and meeting milestones.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES IN SEPTEMBER

Technical

- Continue construction and supervision of WSS, testing, and commissioning of Solar and Electrical Pumping Systems.
- Completion of remaining 4 WSS schemes and completion of substantial completion certifications.
- Conduct comprehensive engineering surveys and finalize site-specific designs and Bill of Quantities (BOQs) for the selected Drinking Water Supply (DWS) schemes.
- Formation of WUSCs to support the Activity in construction of WSS schemes in Y3.
- Initiate IQC contract for construction subcontractors.
- Finalization of the Guiding Manual on Capacity Development Standards, Norms, and Process.

- Preparation of the SoW to hire a Training Service Provider for VMW Training.
- Finalize SoW and call for insurance scoping study to hire a national firm.
- Complete the detailed VCA report of MUS Business Plans.
- Preparation for scheme level co-creation workshops for MUS business plans.
- Analysis of data of Panchapuri survey as part of Sanitation Situational Analysis under the CSP planning process.
- Commence CSP planning process in Chamunda Bindrasaini municipality through inception meeting, followed by commencement of the household and institutional survey.
- Finalize legal land acquisition process or land allocation for FSTPs in municipalities such as Madhuwan, Rajapur, Thakurbaba, and Dullu.
- Finalize DPR report of Madhuwan FSTP.
- Conduct feasibility study of Dullu and Rajapur FSTPs.
- Support or facilitate data collection and analysis regarding the sludge estimation in the municipalities of Narayan, Chamunda Bindrasaini, and Bhairabi for facilitating the FSTP design capacity estimation process, that is planned to be constructed in Dullu, in collaboration with the above three municipalities.
- Ensure the acquisition of land ownership document (*Lalpurja*) by the Dullu municipality for FSTP construction.

GESI

- GESI training manual development
- Community Dialogue session development.

MERL

- Support USAID Data Quality Assessment (DQA) that is scheduled for September 12 - 15, 2023.
- Update MEL Plan by the end of September 2023.
- Finalize and share the second bimonthly newsletter to the home office and USAID Nepal.
- Work on post-production of the stories and videos collected from the field for further sharing.