



USAID KARNALI WATER ACTIVITY

कणाली जल परियोजना



Photo: SBC message development workshop in school, Sri Rastriya Madhymik Bidhalya, Chynaath-Rara

MONTHLY UPDATE – MAY 2023

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

- The USAID Karnali Water Activity completed the construction of 95 major infrastructure projects (intakes, reservoir tanks (RVTs), collection chambers (CCs), and distribution chambers (DCs)). The construction of 252 other major infrastructure projects (intakes, RVT, and fencing) are ongoing. To date, 77 percent (69 kilometers) of the transmission pipeline digging work and 32 percent (54 kilometers) of the distribution pipelines were completed (details in Annex I). While site clearance, trench digging, earth excavation for foundational Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) infrastructure, and construction of infrastructure projects of 56 WSS schemes were ongoing, all local construction materials (sand, aggregate, stone) were collected and transported to the 56 WSS construction sites in Mugu, Kalikot, Achham and Kailali.
- The Activity held 70 capacity building trainings and orientations for Water Users and Sanitation Committees (WUSCs), Village Maintenance Workers (VMWs) and Local Governments (LGs) on WSS.
- Public audits in 41 WUSCs were conducted with the participation of WUSC members, beneficiaries, the construction subcontractor, LG representatives, and relevant agencies.
- The USAID Karnali Water Activity has completed the feasibility studies of 91 WSS schemes (76 Drinking Water Supply (DWS) and 16 Multiple Use Water System (MUS)) by the end of May 2023. In total, the feasibility study of 147 WSS schemes (126 DWS and 21 MUS) has been completed to date. For detailed engineering survey, design, Detailed Project Report (DPR) and finalization of Bill of Quantities (BOQs) for the construction of WSS schemes in Y3, the selection of A&E firm is ongoing.
- For the solar lifting WSS system, the site verification was completed, and the vendor was onboarded to supply installation testing and commissioning of the solar components.
- Vulnerability Capacity Assessments (VCAs) and MUS Business plan field studies were completed in 10 MUS/WSS schemes in Barahatal, Turmakhad, Chhayanath Rara and Mohanyal RM. The scoping study on insurance was paused with plans to re-start in Y3 due to the poor inception report submitted by STTA.
- **Karnali Water Challenge:** The Activity received 18 grantee proposals in response to a Request for Application issued on March 22, 2023. Out of 18 proposals, 7 were shortlisted to pitch to the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The pitch has been set for June 1, 2023, at the Karnali Water Activity office in Kathmandu. After the pitch, the PSC members excluding USAID will select the final three grantees for funding.



Photo 1: Complete RVT construction, Gorshekhola WSS

- **Environmental compliance:** The environmental mitigation and monitoring plan (EMMP) for Y3 was reviewed and updated. To ensure EMMP implementation in WSS, the environmental compliance and quality monitoring and supervision was conducted, and feedback was given to Dagade, Jungle ghat and Jukepani WSS in Turmakhad RM, Accham. Similarly, a good practice of using locally made bamboo baskets for solid waste collection in Kainpani and Dhamkot WSS in Mohanyal RM, Kailali was identified and suggested for replication in other sites.
- **Social Behavior Change (SBC):** The Activity completed the SBC message development process through 12 consultative workshops among WUSC members, community members, students, teachers, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), farmer groups, forest groups, LG representatives, and various stakeholders in all Watersheds. Also, the Activity conducted 10 orientations on water saving, productive water use, biodiversity protection, and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) related behaviors in schools and the larger community. Water saving technologies were demonstrated in schools and communities in all Watersheds. To mark MHM day a module for community-level interaction was developed and used.



Photo 2: Inspection of environmental compliance and quality in Jukepani WSS,

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

- The findings and results of the City Sanitation Plan (CSP) were shared with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in Rajapur Municipality. Following the CSP dissemination, a stakeholder analysis was conducted to identify and assess the FSM stakeholders for the preparation of Fecal Sludge Treatment Plan (FSTP) business model.
- The Activity conducted follow-up meetings with the Madhuwan and Rajapur Municipality to discuss the issues of land acquisition for the FSTP construction. Both Municipalities committed to meet the objectives. In Rajapur, alternative sites were also discussed and observed for its feasibility. While in Madhuwan, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and Key Informant Interviews (KII) were conducted among the FSM stakeholders for the preparation of FSTP business plan. Also, the fecal sludge samples were collected for Quality and Quantity (Q&Q) analysis.

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

- **Status of WASH Bill:** The WASH Bill is in the finalization stages in Khatyad RM, and the policy gap analysis was completed in Chaukune RM of Lower Karnali watershed. In Tila Rural and Tilagufa Municipality of the Tila watershed, two GESI smart water bills were drafted and submitted for the review of LGs. Below are the latest updates:

Total bills planned in Y2	Finalized & endorsed until May	Bills initiated in May
11	10	6

- **Status of Water Use Master Plans (WUMPs):** Eight WUMP reports were endorsed by the respective LGs, to date. The report of Soru Rural Municipality (RM), Bhairabi RM, Kamalbazar Municipality (M) and Ramaroshan RM WUMP were finalized and are in the process of endorsement in the month of May.
- Batch II WUMP development process is ongoing in 14 LGs through coordination and consultation meetings with LGs, ward level consultation meetings, and ward-level capacity building trainings, except in Barahatal RM, Surkhet.
- The ward-level confidence building training is ongoing. Also, the social and technical data collection is ongoing in all LGs. Similarly, water quality testing is ongoing in Bardiya and Kailali. Geruwa RM Bardia has completed its ward level validation workshop. Below is the latest update:

Total WUMP planned in Y2	Ongoing	Finalized & endorsed until May	WUMP initiated in May
29	21 (Batch I: 6, Batch II: 15)	8	Batch I: 4 are for final editing and 2 for first draft). Batch II: Initiated planning and coordination

- The Criteria Based Ranking Tool (CBRT) tool for irrigation sector schemes was piloted in Geruwa RM. A positive response was received from the LG to scale up the tool.



Photo 3: Enumerator training SSA, Rara, Mugu

OBJECTIVE 4 -STRENGTHENED CONSERVATION OF WATER-RELATED WATERSHED BIODIVERSITY

- **Spring Source Assessment:** The data collection of water source is ongoing after two sessions of trainings to enumerators in Mugu and Surkhet. In total, 11 LG consultation meetings were conducted, and ward level consultation and validation meetings are ongoing. For inventory of spring sources, two vendors were onboarded.
- For Payment Ecosystem Service (PES), three FGD were conducted for the selection of sites for PES. The final report on SWAT hydrological modeling was submitted to and approved by USAID. Similarly, the field team reviewed and provided feedback on draft of water source protection guidelines.
- Two trainings on Water Source Protection and Watershed Conservation for WUSCs and Sub-Watershed Management Committee (SWMC) members were completed in the Rara Chhayanath and Khadachakra municipalities.



Photo 4: Field practice for water discharge measurement



Photo 5: Source protection training for WUSC and SWMC members

SUMMARY OF KEY MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

MEETING DATE(S)	SUMMARY MEETING NOTES
May 8	The Office of the Chief Minister and Council of the Minister (OCMCM) of Karnali Province organized a meeting with Development Partners (DPs) to discuss and harmonize the key priority areas of the Provincial Government for the upcoming Budget and Program (FY 2080-081). The meeting was attended by the Chief Minister of Karnali Province, the Council of Ministers, Officials, and representatives from various DPs. USAID Karnali Water Activity shared a key highlight and progress of the Activity.
May 14	Environmental Compliance Manager of USAID Karnali Water Activity participated in the pre-planning meeting of the Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Environment, and Forest (MoITEF) of Karnali Province. The meeting was attended by the Minister and Secretary of MoITEF for Karnali Province and other stakeholders working on environment and climate change.

MEETING DATE(S)	SUMMARY MEETING NOTES
May 17	USAID Projects' GESI Working Group held a meeting consisting of USAID implementing partners' GESI focal person and representatives from Washington DC. During the meeting, the group discussed several themes and questions to consider throughout 2023, such as reviewing GESI analysis and action plans, listening to marginalized communities, measuring GESI beyond numbers and targets, women in leadership, male and LGBTQI, grants and competitions, staff capacity, and digital inclusion.
May 25	The USAID team visited the USAID Karnali Water Activity Surkhet office. The Activity team gave a presentation on the Activity's progress and plan forward. A team comprised of [REDACTED], Deputy Division Chief for Nutrition and Environmental Health [REDACTED], WASH Advisor and Sanitation Lead, and [REDACTED] participated in the meeting. The visiting team emphasized the importance of ensuring water quality in remote locations and proposed the establishment of a WASH unit to further the sustainable institutionalization of water quality. USAID also suggested conducting a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis to evaluate the advantages of public water connections versus yard connections. On May 18, 2023, a team including COR [REDACTED] visited Dharapani Udokhola water supply scheme and observed the construction work in Barahatal RM of Surkhet.

CROSSCUTTING CONSIDERATIONS

MONITORING, EVALUATION, & LEARNING

- Technical monitoring and supervision:** Watershed field engineer and sub-engineers continued their field supervision and technical support to WSS construction sites. Technical monitoring and supervision of Murma WSS was conducted by Design and Supervision Engineer on May 14, 2023. Environmental and quality compliance were monitored by the Surkhet team in Turmakhad RM.
- Grant and financial monitoring:** A grant and financial monitoring and support visit was conducted in Tila and Rara Watershed.
- MEL team monitoring support:** The M&E Communication Coordinator visited Kalapalta WSS to observe and monitor construction work and provided feedback for further improvement. Likewise, the team conducted field monitoring, observed construction sites and data verification in Naulakot MIUS scheme in Mohanyal-7. Also, the team trained enumerators of Youth Alliance for Environment for the Spring Source Assessment (SSA) on May 19-20, 2023.
- Joint monitoring by LGs:** In the leadership of RM chair of Turmakhand, a joint monitoring visit was conducted to monitor Bijulekh, Jukepani, Jangal Ghat and Dagade WSS in Turmakhand RM on May 17-19, 2023. Also, under the leadership of ex-chair of Turmakhand RM, a joint monitoring visit was conducted in Mathillo Khorke WSS on May 20, 2023. Similarly, Pokharikanda WSS was jointly monitored with WASH focal person of Barahatal RM on May 18, 2023.

- USAID, BHAKARI project, and the Activity conducted a joint monitoring visit in Tila Watershed on May 11, 2023. The USAID delegation, including the USAID/Nepal Deputy Mission Director, visited the WSS sites and consulted with WUSCs, construction workers and LGs. Aside from this joint monitoring visit, the USAID Team also visited Dharapani Udhokhola WSS of Barahatal RM Surkhet on May 18, 2023
- **Learning event:** Tila Watershed conducted a review meeting with WSS subcontractor to discuss the progress, challenges, and future action on May 23- 25, 2023.

GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GESI)

- The Activity supported the construction sub-contractor in the facilitation and monitoring of the Entrepreneurship Development Training at Mohanyal. A complete training package for the five day training has been reviewed and finalized and can be replicated to train the women and other marginalized groups of the MUS scheme.
- LG level GESI trainings in Chhayanath Rara Municipality, Soru Municipality and Khadachakra Municipality were completed. The GESI Director oriented the facilitators team, facilitated the training in Chhayanath Rara Municipality, and observed the training session.
- Developed the orientation materials for GESI sessions for the two-day Confidence Building Training at the ward level to ensure GESI is integrated into the WUMP preparation process and that communities are aware of and express concern for marginalized communities.
- Completed confidence building training for women and marginalized communities in the WUMP preparation process in four municipalities of Middle Karnali and three municipalities of Tila watershed.
- Developed the GESI monitoring tool for construction and other activities. The Activity will use it to assess the inclusion of women and marginalized communities in implementation as guided by the GESI policies.
- Supported the subcontractors in planning the menstruation hygiene day celebration events with proper reference materials and consultation meetings.
- Held six orientations on MHM and safeguarding in Khadachakra Municipality and six events in Mohanyal RM.
- GESI related activities and GESI Action plan were incorporated into the Y3 AWP.

OPERATIONS

Personnel

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

LTTA STAFF – ONBOARDED				
S. No.	NAME	POSITION	OFFICE LOCATION	START DATE
1		Driver	Kathmandu	May 08, 2023
2		Procurement and Grants Officer	Surkhet	May 10, 2023
3		WASH Governance Manager	Kathmandu	May 22, 2023

4		Municipal Coordinator	Middle Karnali Watershed office	May 22, 2023
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STATUS OF POSITIONS UNDER RECRUITMENT

S. No.	POSITION	LOCATION	STATUS	TARGET START DATE
LTTA				
1	Communication Manager	Kathmandu	Employment Agreement signed	5 June, 2023
2	Governance and Law Advisor	Surkhet	Employment Agreement signed	12 June, 2023
3	Grants and Procurement Manager	Kathmandu	Employment Agreement signed	22 June, 2023
4	Monitoring Evaluation & Learning Manager	Surkhet	Presentation and Interview completed on May 24-25 with 4 shortlisted candidates	1 st week of July 2023
5	Director of Operations	Kathmandu	Vacancy posted on 15 May with timeline 31 May 2023	Mid of July 2023

Procurement

Major Procurements for the Month of May, Quarter 4, Y2

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL (US)	DATE OF PURCHASE ORDER
Spring Source Assessment: Package #6		5 May 2023
Spring Source Assessment: Package #7		5 May 2023
Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Solar and Electrical Pumping Systems		1 May 2023
Translation of Chhayath Rara WUMP report from Nepali to English		17 May 2023

CHALLENGES/CONSTRAINTS

- Pre-monsoon rainfall has impeded construction work, especially cement related work.
- The availability of technically feasible land for FSTP construction is limited in municipalities. Those that are available are mostly located in the community forest lands. Re-purposing the land for the FTSP construction requires a lengthy and complicated approval process from the Government of Nepal.
- Due to multiple simultaneous ongoing activities by construction subcontractors and watershed teams, ensuring the high quality of completed activities will be demanding.
- Household priorities impede community members' ability to attend long trainings or events.
- The launch of the SBC Challenge Fund, which was supposed to coincide with the MHM Day, was delayed by questions and clarifications on the SOW.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES IN JUNE

TECHNICAL

- Continue construction and supervision of WSS, testing and commissioning of Solar and Electrical Pumping Systems, and procurement, supply, and delivery of non-local construction material to construction sites.
- Field level activities to sustain WUSC-level agricultural value chain business plans.
- Continue field level activities of Insurance Scoping Study.
- Finalize subcontractor and start construction of 8 repair WSS schemes in Rara and Tila watersheds.
- Finalize IQC holder for Detail Engineering Survey of the feasibility completed WSS schemes.
- Start feasibility study of Batch II schemes for Y3.
- Continue Subcontractor and WUSC orientation on Financial and Operation sustainability plan.
- Orientation of the training service providers for the contractual delivery and conducting training events for LGs and VMWs will be completed.
- Finalization of the CD Plan for the 18 LGs and drafting of the CD Plan for second round of 11 LGs will be initiated.
- WUMP ward level and LG level validation and planning workshops in 15 LGs.
- WUMP endorsement of six LGs.
- Environmental Compliances monitoring visit in Barahatal, Khadachakra, Mohanyal and Rara Chhayanath Municipality.
- Finalization of EMMP (Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan) for Y3 of USAID Karnali Water Activity.
- Terms of Reference (ToR) of Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) study for FSTP construction as per Government of Nepal Regulations.
- Planning workshops and community and stakeholder meetings to complete 10 Value Chain Analysis (VCA) and MUS Business Plans.
- Spring Source Assessment (SSA), and feasibility study for Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).
- Training and orientation to OWSC members.
- Orientation to WUSC on water source protection and biodiversity conservation and stakeholders' roles for watershed management (OWSC, WASHCC, LG, and stakeholders).
- Finalize Biodiversity Baseline Report, Water Source Protection Guideline.
- Onboard Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Expert STTA.
- Conduct monitoring visits to assess the implementation of community and school-level orientations and demonstrations to design SBC messages. Develop the SBC Messages Design Document to guide the messaging and communication strategy. Launch the SBC Campaign Challenge to engage and motivate the target audience.
- Provide support for the launch of the USAID Karnali Water Challenge, promoting water-related initiatives and innovations.
- Develop and execute the SBC Campaign, ensuring the successful rollout of activities to drive behavior change and achieve campaign goals.
- FSM system selection meeting in Madhuan municipality to prioritize various FSM systems in different zones of the municipality.

- Key Informant Interview (KII) and FGD events in Rajapur with the FSM stakeholders to inform and support the preparation of FSTP business plan.
- Submission of deliverables associated with CSP (5 municipalities) and Business Plans (Madhuwan and Rajapur).
- Topographic survey and update of FSTP feasibility report.

GESI

- Support the subcontractors in the GESI related training activities and entrepreneurship development training.
- Support in the confidence building training in the remaining municipalities.
- Establish one grievance handling mechanism at WUSCs in each Watershed.
- Document learning related to structural and operational barriers to inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable people.
- Monitor GESI mainstreaming in feasibility study of Batch II schemes for Y3, GESI trainings to LG, Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) intervention.

OPERATIONS

- The Activity plans to submit a request for VAT refund to Inland Revenue Office for the period of January to March 2023 amounting [REDACTED] (tentative).
- The external auditor for DAI Nepal Branch Office will be onboarded in end of June 2023 to complete the 2022/2023 joint audit of DAI's three ongoing projects. The yearly external audit of the project to be started by early July 2023.
- Hiring consultancy service to conduct training events for the LG and Village Maintenance Workers (VMWs).
- Procurement and logistic support in supply and delivery of construction materials for WSS scheme rehabilitation.
- Operational support in Water supply scheme rehabilitation, management, and institutional support.
- Hiring an A&E firm to prepare detailed engineering surveys, complete designs, DPRs, and ERR reports for 120 drinking water supply schemes (38 new and 82 rehabilitation), 20 MUS, and 50 source protection schemes to be built in Y3.
- Procurement and delivery of B&M Metal plaque to show visibility of the Activity, USAID, and Government logo display in WSS infrastructure.
- Organize the pitches of seven shortlisted proposals to Project Steering Committee (PSC) to award the Karnali Water Challenge grant to three finalists on June 1, 2023.

The following events will be conducted in the month of June 2023

Event	Municipalities/Locations	Number of Events
Financial and Operational Sustainability Plan Workshop	Mohanyal RM/ Lamki, Kailali & Soru RM and Chhayanth Rara M / Gamgadhi, Mugu	2
VMW Trainings	Cluster Level (TBD)	3
GESI Training	Soru RM, Mohanyal RM, Turmakhand RM, Khandachakra M and Chhayantah Rara M	5

Capacity Building for OWSCs	Four watersheds	4
SDG Localization and NAWASH Training	Cluster Level (TBD)	2

ANNEX I: CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS UPDATE IN MAY 2023

*P = Planned A = Achieved

S N	Structures	Mohanyal		Barahatal		Turmakhand		Khandachakra		Chayanath Rara		Soru		Total		Progress Status
		P*	A*	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A			
1	Intake	12	6	12	0	17	8	15	14	11	10	7	2	74	40	Construction is currently underway at 21 intake sites and Yet to start at 13 intake sites
2	CC	0		0	0	2	1	4	4	1	1	0		7	6	Construction is currently underway at 1 CC sites.
3	IC	0		0	0	2	0	6	1	2		4		14	1	Construction is currently underway at 2 IC sites and Yet to start at 9 IC sites
4	DC	3	1	5	0	4	1	2	2	1	1	5		20	5	Construction is currently underway at 7 DC sites and Yet to start at 8 DC sites
5	RVT	15	2	24	0	19	11	14	12	10	8	12	4	94	37	Construction is currently underway at 44 RVT sites and yet to start at 13 RVT sites
6	Susp Crossing	10	0	0	0	7	0	3	1	2		4		26	1	Construction is currently underway at 5 Suspended Crossing sites and yet to start at 19 suspended crossing sites
7	GI Crossing	11	1	0	0	1	0	0		1	1	0		13	2	Construction is currently underway at 2 GI Crossing sites and yet to start at 9 GI crossing sites
8	Fencing	34	0	57	0	47	0	33	0	21	0	24	0	216	0	Construction is currently underway at 164 structure sites.
9	Source Protection	2		5	0	5	0	5	3	5		2		24	3	Construction is currently underway at 6 Source Protection sites and yet to start at 13 Source Protection Sites
10	HH Tap	165	5	358	0	421	26	281	58	275	20	245		1745	109	Construction is currently underway at 186 HH Taps and yet to start at 1450 HH Taps
11	Institutional Tap	6		6	0	11	0	5		5		5		38	0	Construction is currently underway at 2 Institutional Taps and yet to start at 30 Institutional Taps
12	BPC	1		0	0	0	0	0		0		0		1	0	No construction has begun.
13	Offtake	4		12	0	7	0	0		4		0		27	0	Construction is currently underway at 4 Offtake sites and yet to start at 23 offtake sites

14	Irrigation tank	1		3	0	2	0	0		1	1	0		7	1	Construction is yet to start at 6 irrigation tank
15	Washout Chamber	3		0	0	4	0	1		1		3		12	0	Construction is currently underway at 1 Washout Chamber and yet to start at 11 washout chamber construction sites
16	Support Block	181		264	0	251	0	238		40	12	100		1074	12	Construction is currently underway at 18 Support Block construction sites and yet to start at 1034 Support Block construction sites
17	Dynamic Roughening Filter (DRF)	2		1	0	4	1	0		0		0		7	1	Three DRF sites are currently under construction and 1 DRF is set to start
18	Infiltration well	0		2	0	0	0	0		0		0		2	0	Construction is currently underway at 1 Infiltration Well and yet to start at 1 Infiltration Well construction site
19	Point Source Improvement	0		4	0	3	0	0		0		0		7	0	No construction has begun.
20	Transmission Pipeline	14755	7825	8311	8088	21708	16104	14616	10990	11,261	8448	17822.9	1692.9	88473.9	68377.9	Around 77% of the construction work has been completed.
21	Distribution Pipeline	24618	4000	46362	20500	40863	9500	18623	15275	12,444	2340	25335.8	2000	168245.8	53615	Around 31% of the construction work has been completed.