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KARNALI WATER ACTIVITY



Enumerators checking stream depth using rulers at Kanegadh stream ward 4, Rakam. Photo: S Giri/DAI

MONTHLY UPDATE - JUNE 2022

CONTRACTUAL DELIVERABLES

Annual Property Inventory List: As required under the Contract Section F.6.I.10, the project submitted the Annual Property Inventory List for the Karnali Water Activity prepared as of June 6, 2022 to the COR on June 10, which was approved by the COR on June 21.

Water Sources and Biodiversity Baseline Report: The Watershed and Biodiversity Data Specialist STTA finalized the Report outline and submitted the cleaned and packaged biodiversity indicator data sets in excel. The data is under review by the HO Data Specialist STTA.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND REPORTS

Water Supply Scheme Construction Implementation Process: The Karnali Water team is working to finalize the draft including the overall framework to implement water supply scheme construction related activities. The document will guide the Activity, sub-contractors, and relevant stakeholders on three stages of the WSS infrastructure implementation process: (a) planning, (b) implementation, and (c) post-implementation. The guideline could be a useful resource for local governments as it aligns with the Government of Nepal's legal provisions and standards. During the guideline development process, the Activity referred to local and national GoN policies and legal provisions including the Acts, Regulations, and Guidelines to ensure harmony and compliance during actual implementation. We will submit the draft Water Supply Scheme Construction Implementation Process document to USAID in July 2022.

Criteria-based Ranking Tool (CBRT): The CBRT was rolled out in Khandachakra Rara Municipality (M) of Kalikot and Mohanyal Rural Municipality (RM) of Kailali. In Khandachakra Rara M, eight WSS infrastructure sites (drinking water supply and multiple use water systems) out of 25 were shortlisted to undergo a feasibility study. Similarly, in Mohanyal RM, 10 WSS infrastructure sites (drinking water supply and multiple-use water system) out of 36 were shortlisted for a feasibility studies.

Feasibility Study of WSS: Under its first task order, Scott Wilson Nepal (SWN) is currently undertaking feasibility studies to assess 60 potential WSS infrastructure sites, including multiple use water systems (MUS). All 60 feasibility studies planned for Y1 is complete. Feasibility studies help to confirm whether site locations are socially, environmentally, technically, and economically feasible for WSS construction in Y2.

Training of Trainers (ToT) Events for Institutional Capacity Assessment (ICA) Tool: The Activity organized two ICA tool ToT events in Surkhet and Jumla with the objective to evaluate the state and efficacy of municipal planning, budgeting, and monitoring processes for inclusive and equitable water supply and sanitation (WSS) service delivery and water resource management (WRM). The self-assessment during the ToT helped identify LG's capacity gaps as well as inform the preparation of the Capacity Development (CD) Plans, including appropriate tailoring of LG roadmaps to provide actionable steps and improve their performance to support implementation of their respective Water Use Master Plans (WUMP). Based on the CD Plan, municipalities will be supported to strengthen WSS and WRM investments; develop budgets, plan and monitor effectiveness; create pool funding for operation and maintenance; and mainstream GESI concerns in WASH and watershed biodiversity into municipal

budgeting, planning, and activity implementation. The improved system coupled with improved service delivery mechanisms is expected to contribute to the sustainability and functionality of WSS infrastructure.

The municipalities provided feedback on the tool and recommended further refinement to the tool based on the municipalities unique ecology and demographic situation. The municipalities verified and endorsed the design, process, building blocks, and framework of the ICA tool and committed to use the ICA tool. A total of 49 participants took part in the ToT event including Planning Officers, WASH Focal Persons, and GESI Officers from each municipality. The ICA will be undertaken in 18 LGs in Y1 and 29 LGs in Y2.



Local government participants in ICA ToT event in Surkhet. Photo: USAID Karnali Water Activity/DAI

Service Providers Capacity Assessment (SPCA) Tool: Prepared a conceptual framework and initiated a review of the pre-existing reference tools and frameworks. Based on the review, the team drafted the SPCA tool to aid the capacity needs assessment of service providers such as Water Users and Sanitation Committees (WUSCs) and Water Association Groups. The tool will be used to facilitate the self-assessment process of service providers capacities on the areas of WSS financial planning and sustainability, WSS operations and maintenance, water safety and quality, equity, and customer service, as a part of the participatory breakdown review in Y2.

Formative Research Request for Proposal (RFP) and bidding process: With IWMI unable to conduct formative research on household and farm-level water use and conservation practices and behaviors, the Karnali Water Activity team adapted by developing and releasing a solicitation for the formative research work in May 2022. Two vendors submitted their proposals in response to the solicitation. A virtual meeting was organized with the vendors to present their ideas, methodology/process, and their previous experiences. In reviewing the vendor's submitted proposals and oral presentations, the evaluation committee concluded both vendors are capable of conducting formative research, but lacked the requisite skills to develop a SBC Strategy. Therefore, the RFP SOW was modified to include only the formative research. The solicitation was re-released focusing only on formative research. The team has identified a DAI HO SBC Specialist that will work with the team to develop the SBC Strategy based on the formative research findings. The DAI HO will be submitting the SBC Specialist STTA for approval in July.

Insurance Market Scoping Study: Based on Tayar’s learning on a similar scoping exercise, the Activity is revising the SoW to include i) a risk analysis/actuarial analysis for water supply schemes; and ii) a water supply scheme product pricing exercise. The SOW will be ready to share with USAID by mid-July 2022.

Sanitation Situational Assessment: The survey questionnaire and survey protocol for Rajapur and Thakurbaba municipalities was finalized and loaded on to DAI Collect App prior to the survey. The municipalities were verbally informed about the survey through introductory meetings with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, CAO and WASH focal person. The survey started with a household (HH) listing of the enumeration areas in each municipality. A total of 12 enumerators conducted the survey covering all wards of each municipality. Following the HH listing, the team initiated detailed surveys with 25 HHs sampled in each enumeration area. The surveys for schools, public toilet and other institutions are being conducted in parallel.

Need for Drinking Water Supply (DWS) Bill in Mohanyal Municipality: USAID and the Karnali Water Activity team visited with the Mohanyal RM representatives, Chief Administrative Officer, and other municipal staff on June 8. The meeting focused on the need for a WASH-related local law and regulation mechanism to improve WUSC management. The municipality has shown keen interest in coordinating and collaborating for the preparation of a policy and legal instrument for WASH service delivery. The DWS bill will clarify the power, functions, and mandates of WUSCs.

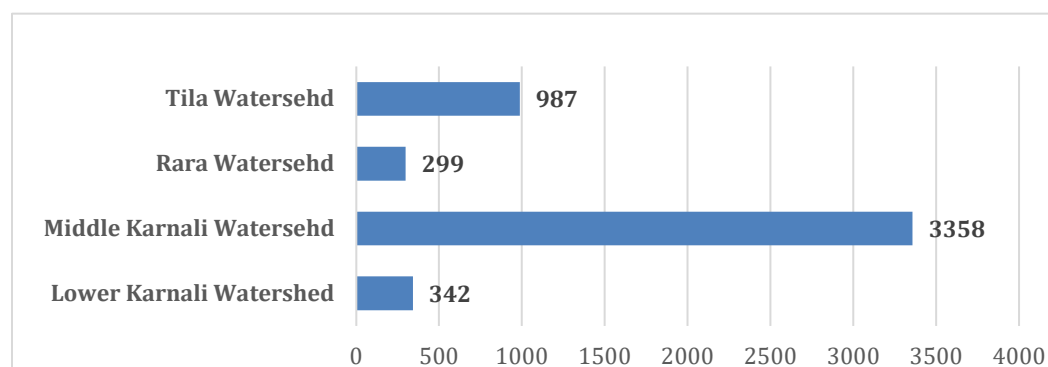
Terms of Reference (TOR) of One Water Steering Committee (OWSC): The Activity developed the first draft of the OWSC TOR, which outlines the OWSC composition, powers, and functions. The COP and DCOP reviewed and provided comments on the draft. In July, the Activity will share the draft with Aathbis and Turkmakhand municipalities and select local communities to solicit their feedback and recommendations.

Drinking Water and Sanitation (DWS) Bill Framework and Templates: The WASH Governance Manager is developing a preliminary DWS Bill framework. The Activity will present the framework to the members of the Bill Drafting Committees established in Aathbis and Turmakhand municipalities, as well as host community consultation meetings. The team will incorporate their suggestions to revise the draft Bill framework. Once finalized, the team will develop a DWS Bill template that can be used with other Bill Drafting Committees.

SWAT Model and Water Accounting: USAID has approved the IWMI grant package. IWMI is reviewing the grant agreement now. We expect to hold a kickoff meeting for the grant the first week of July.

Water and Spring Sources Assessment: In June, ISET continued its field work to assess spring sources in Rara Khatyad, Tila Karnali, Middle Karnali and Lower Karnali Watershed. A total of 4,986 spring sources have been assessed as of June 26. The Activity has reviewed the collected data and provided feedback to the ISET team. ISET is preparing an inventory of spring sources, which includes discharge measurements and water quality parameters. Progress by watershed, as of June 26, is presented in Figure I below:

Figure I. Status of spring sources assessments (n=4986)



In June, ISET planned 14 validation workshops in 14 municipalities. It has conducted nine validation workshops as of June 26. The objective of the workshop was to validate the number and location of spring sources in each municipality to determine if any spring sources were missed. Based on the outcome of the validation workshops, ISET developed a plan of action to assess missing spring sources by June 30. As shown in Table I, it appears ISET has missed a large number of spring sources.

Table I. Spring Sources Assessment Validation workshop

Watershed	LG	Measured	Missed	Total	Missing %	Remarks
Rara Khatyad	Khatyad RM	126	27	153	18	
	Chhayanath Rara M	88	65	153	42	
	Soru RM	83	47	130	36	
Tila Karnali	Khadachakra	245		245	0	Yet to conduct validation workshop
	Tilagufa	122	0	122	0	
	Tila	94	34	128	27	
Middle Karnali	Bhairabi	339	429	768	56	
	Aathabis	363	415	778	53	
	Kamalbazar	406		406	0	Yet to conduct validation workshop
	Turmakhand	215		215	0	Yet to conduct validation workshop
	Ramaroshan	274		274	0	Yet to conduct validation workshop
	Chaukune	151		151	0	Yet to conduct validation workshop
Lower Karnali	Mohonyal	332	44	376	12	
	Madhuwan	4	4	8	50	
	Total	2842	1065	3907	27	

SUMMARY OF KEY MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

DATE(S) OF MEETING	SUMMARY MEETING NOTES
June 6	An introductory meeting was organized with municipalities including the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, Ward Chairs, Executive Committee members, Municipal section/unit chiefs, and journalists. The event was designed to orient stakeholders on the Karnali Water Activity, the Activity's approach, and future activities and plans. The team oriented the participating municipalities on the project's CBRT tool and shared the list of prioritized schemes. The municipalities found the CBRT tool useful and have decided to implement the tool in prioritizing their own schemes to be constructed in collaboration with the Activity and communities.
June 8	Conducted an inception/CBRT roll out meeting at Mohanyal RM in Kailali, with the participation of elected officials and municipal staff. The Activity team worked with the municipality to review their WUMP infrastructure priority list, to determine which schemes had yet to be constructed. Of the 56 schemes, 36 were yet to be constructed. With the Ward Chairpersons, the team visited 3 potential scheme sites in wards 2, 6, and 7 for field verification. At one of the potential sites (ward 6), the team observed disagreements among the stakeholders about the desired type of water supply infrastructure. Some articulated a strong preference for irrigation scheme over a DWS scheme. The Activity has asked the Chairperson to organize a consultation within the ward to finalize a decision on the infrastructure type.
June 9	<p>An interactive session with the Sunaulo Bihani Child Club at Kalika Secondary School in Kalikot was organized centered on the behaviors and social norms related to water consumption, water safety, and water conservation practices. A total of 24 club members (17 girls and 7 boys) participated in the interaction among them five were from the Dalit community. Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students experienced water scarcity at school and at home, not sufficient for their daily needs. - Students have limited knowledge about the significance of water source protection, water conservation, and water-saving measures, and are not practicing such behaviors. - The male members of the family are mostly engaged in outdoor work (income-generating). They avoid undertaking household chores such as cleaning, washing, and fetching water, as they view it as primarily a women's job. - Although menstruation pads are available in school, lack of a proper toilet with disposal bins means girls carry their used pads and dispose of them in rivers, bushes, or burn them during the dry season. - Parents, teachers, and educated personnel in the communities are the most reliable and trusted source for information. - Radio is a popular medium for mass communication. People listen to the radio for news and entertainment purposes. Television is not common in these communities, although some houses have television sets.
June 9	To mark the 'World Environment Day', the Activity conducted a learning visit for Shree Kalika Secondary School students in Kalikot at the Spring Source Assessment (SSA) mini lab. A total of 17 students (grades 8, 9, and 10) and their teachers visited the lab. The purpose of the event was to expose students to an environment where they witnessed water quality testing and learned about the importance of safe drinking water, different

DATE(S) OF MEETING	SUMMARY MEETING NOTES
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human factors that affect water quality, possible health consequences due to contaminated water as well as individuals' and communities' roles and responsibilities in protecting the water source and conservation practices.

June 10	An informal meeting with the Bhakari field team focused on different SBC approaches, and the lessons learned from Jumla district. [REDACTED], District Coordinator, [REDACTED] the GESI Officer, and [REDACTED], the DRR Officer, were present in the meeting. They shared that Bhakari is using local partner radio stations and other communication platforms, such as hoarding boards and information and communication materials to disseminate key messages on nutrition, DRR, GESI, and safeguarding practices. Bhakari uses the VIAMO IVR platform, which is popular among the locals especially the 20-40 age group for news and weather forecasts. Street theater is another effective medium for communication. Among these different platforms, the community reach and street theater are the most effective approaches, however, radio is a constant reinforcement medium to change the targeted communities' behaviors.
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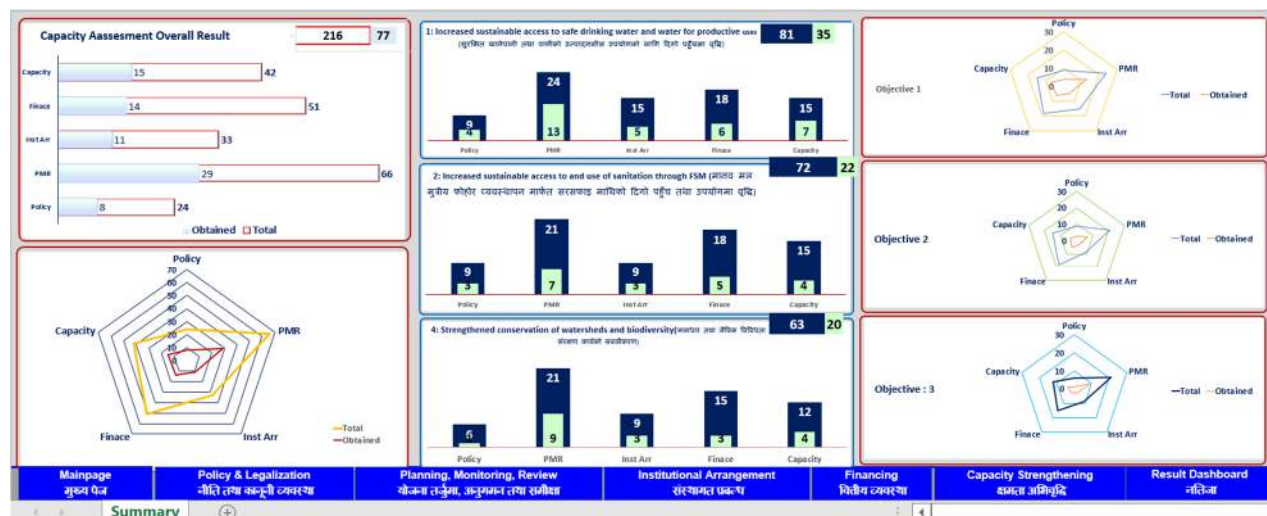
June 14	The WASH Governance Manager and Watershed Biodiversity and Conservation Specialist met with the Honorable Speaker of Karnali Province's State Assembly to finalize the dates, review the agenda, and propose one or two new topics for the Interaction Program the Activity is organizing for the State Assembly. The Speaker has asked the Activity team to organize the Interaction Program from August 21 – 24.
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June 15-17	A three day orientation and training workshop was organized for the situational sanitation survey enumerators. The workshop was facilitated by the Sanitation Services Manager and MEL Manager, with support from Lower Karnali Watershed Advisor and M&E and Communications Coordinator, in addition to staff from SWN (Director, Field Manager and Field Assistant). The orientation and trainings focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Overall survey management & logistics- Respondent consent & ethical consideration- Briefing on questionnaire terminologies and standards- Detailed explanation of the four questionnaires- GESI sensitivity- Data quality & DAICollect Tool- Hands-on practice session- Survey pre-testing and data review
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MONITORING, EVALUATION, RESEARCH & LEARNING (MERL)

ICA dashboard training for ICA ToT participants. The MERL team prepared an excel-based dashboard and oriented 17 municipal staff at the ICA ToT events organized in Surkhet and Jumla. The MEL Manager prepared an excel-based dashboard to automatically display the municipalities ICA results after taking the ICA. The dashboard visually shows the municipality's score and simplifies the analysis of the Municipality's capacity status (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. ICA Dashboard



ICA-DAI COLLECT Application setup to collect ICA data. The MERL team setup the DAICollect application to integrate municipalities’ ICA results into DAI’s central data server linking it with the performance indicator (K-3.2; K-4.1 and K-CC4).

ICA-ToT facilitation and After-Action Review of ICA-ToT to document ICA learning. The MERL team conducted an After-Action Review of ICA-ToT and reviewed all the documents and reports of the ICA tool development process to document the experience including our learning, challenges, and areas for improvement:

Learning

- The participants realized the value of the tool in assessing their institutional capacity during the workshop and felt ownership over the process given their contributions in formulating the tool.
- Trainings provided to the municipal staff not only oriented the municipalities on how to conduct ICAs to identify capacity gap analysis, but also created a human resource pool at each municipality with the capacity to self assess the municipalities’ capacity gaps.
- The integration of GESI parameters into the ICA highlighted to municipalities how poor performance on GESI parameters impact their performance in various sectors.

Sanitation situational assessment training to enumerators. Facilitated the enumerator training for the sanitation situational assessment in the Lower Karnali Watershed. The training focused on data collect processes and protocols using the DAICollect application. All four modules of the sanitation situational assessment are being digitized and deployed for data collection through DAICollect.

Sanitation situational assessment data quality onsite and DAICOLLECT server monitoring. Conducted spot checks in Thakurbaba Municipality and Rajapur Municipality and provided instant feedback to enumerators. Team has started to review data uploaded in the server and is providing regular feedback to field supervisors and enumerators and sharing the updates to the Sanitation Services Manager, [REDACTED].

Spring source assessment data quality monitoring. Established a process for daily reviews of server uploaded data using a standard tracking sheet to provide regular, on-site feedback to the ISET team and enumerators. Physically validated source data in consultation with the local stakeholders, ward level representative and municipal representatives across four watersheds. In May and June, at total of 38 spot

checks were undertaken by teams of Karnali Water Activity staff. The spot checks identified some gaps on data collection such as flawed data entries, errors with GPS coordinates, incorrect calculations related to flow and discharge, incorrect NWASH MIS project codes, and a large number of pending samples to be tested by the mini-lab. Based on the team's observation, the monitoring team provided instruction to ISET's field coordinators and lab assistants for the data quality improvement.

Spring source assessment localization and learning. The Communications Manager visited Rakam to document the Activity's experience in building local capacity to collect and manage data. The team is planning and preparing a series of success stories/learning on localization for July/August. The capacity development efforts were documented through photographs and interviews.

The challenges mentioned below emerged in the field while rolling out SSA. Specifically, the lack of qualified vendors limited the selection process of an appropriate vendor to conduct the SSA-technical service.

GESI

The GESI team participated and contributed to the ICA ToT workshop by mainstreaming GESI across all thematic areas of water supply and sanitation (WSS) and water conservation and biodiversity activities. GESI also supported the addition of GESI considerations into the project's ICA tool. Table 2 below illustrates the integration of GESI across the ICA tool categories. The numbers in parenthesis is the number of GESI-related parameters within each category of the tool. The participation of municipal staff from Women, Children and Social Welfare Sections (herein referred to as GESI Unit) will ensure the institutional mechanism to sustain GESI mainstreaming.

Table 2. Number GESI related parameters are in parenthesis

	Policy and Legislation	Planning, Monitoring and Review	Institutional Arrangement	Financing	Capacity Strengthening	Total
Water services	3 (3)	8 (5)	5 (2)	6 (1)	5 (1)	27 (12)
Sanitation	3 (1)	7 (3)	3 (2)	6 (1)	5 (1)	24 (8)
Conservation	2 (2)	7 (2)	3 (2)	5 (1)	4 (1)	21 (8)
Total	8 (6)	22 (10)	11 (6)	17 (3)	14 (3)	72 (28)

During the ToT, the GESI team presented on GESI-related and GESI-specific parameters and their importance. Participants shared revelations after the presentation, including i) that GESI is not just about carrying out women and children-focused projects, but also looking at how women and marginalized groups may be adversely impacted or not included in other sectors; and ii) the importance of engaging GESI Units (usually Women, Children and Social Welfare Unit) in developing budgets and plans across all sectors or departments.

The engagement of GESI Units in the ToT has proven to be strategic by creating a pathway to establish an institutional mechanism to mainstream GESI in the WASH and water/biodiversity conservation sectors.

This will also be an entry point for the Activity to support municipalities in mainstreaming GESI across all sectors.

OPERATIONS

- Signed lease agreements for the two remaining watershed offices in Tila and Lower Karnali (Lamki). In the process of setting up the office space for watershed offices to be fully operational by mid-July 2022.
- Set-up of Rara and Middle Karnali (Rakam) watershed offices has begun. Staff have started to operate from these two offices. These offices are expected to be fully operational by mid-July 2022.
- Vendor (Agni Incorporated Pvt. Ltd.) is in the process of clearing the four project vehicles from the Raxaul border. The project vehicles are anticipated to be delivered to the project by the second week of July. The project will be submitting a request for vehicle registration with USAID as soon as the documents are received.
- IWMI's grant package was approved on June 24 and IWMI is in the process of reviewing the award documents.
- The Project officially terminated the Cost-plus Fixed Fee Contract (CPFF) with 500B as of June 28, 2022 and is in the process of issuing an IQC contract and the first task order to develop six CSP which will be effective from July 1, 2022.
- RFP for "Formative Research and Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs) on water use and conservation behaviors, practices and attitudes" was announced on May 6, 2022, with a proposal submission date of May 26, 2022. The project received two proposals. Based on the proposal review, a few modifications have been made to the SOW and the solicitation was rereleased. The team is awaiting revised proposals from the two bidders for evaluation.
- The project awarded three Fixed Price Purchase Orders and one Firm Fixed Price Subcontract to service providers to develop WUMPs in 14 selected M/RM across four watersheds by June 22, 2022. The four awardees are Center for Appropriate Technology Nepal (P) Ltd (CATN), DMI Pvt Ltd (DMI), Integrated Development and Research Services (P) Ltd (IDRS), and Rural Development Center (RuDeC).
- The procurement for DAI Global's Annual Statutory/Tax Audit services is in process. The RFP was issued on May 24 with a submission deadline of June 06, 2022. The project received six proposals, which are currently under evaluation. The final awardee will be selected by end of June/early July.
- The project received its VAT refund from the inland Revenue Office. The refund amounted to [REDACTED] for the invoices valued at [REDACTED] for the period of January to March 2022.
- The project received all the vehicle documents for its 16 motorbikes and 1 Toyota Prado four-wheel vehicle inherited from EGRP. Insurance and maintenance of all the bikes has been completed and the motorcycles will be delivered to the watershed office as soon as the renewal of registrations for these vehicles is completed. The project also received computer-related equipment, a generator, and other office equipment from EGRP. All received items have been entered into the Activity's inventory. Other equipment received from Tayar and Sajhedari have been recorded. These items will be allocated to the Surkhet office and/or transferred to the watershed offices.

STAFFING/RECRUITMENT STATUS

Onboarded a total of 36 staff (14 in Kathmandu and 22 in Surkhet and Watershed offices). The following is a list of LTTA and STTA staff onboarded and/or recruited in June.

STAFF (LTТА) RECRUITED				
	NAME	POSITION	OFFICE LOCATION	START DATE
1		M&E and Communications Coordinator	Tila Watershed	June 01, 2022
2		Deputy Chief of Party	Surkhet	June 15, 2022
3		Municipal Coordinator	RARA Watershed	June 15, 2022
4		Municipal Coordinator	TILA Watershed	June 15, 2022
5		Municipal Coordinator	Lower Karnali Watershed	June 15, 2022
6		Municipal Coordinator	Middle Karnali Watershed	July 01, 2022
7		Watershed Advisor	Rara Watershed	July 01, 2022

STAFF RESIGNED (LTТА/STТА)				
	NAME	POSITION	OFFICE LOCATION	EFFECTIVE DATE
1		Chief of Party	Kathmandu	June 24, 2022
2		Water Supply Services Specialist	Surkhet	June 30, 2022

STATUS OF POSITIONS UNDER RECRUITMENT			
	POSITION, LOCATION	STATUS	TARGET START DATE
1	Field engineers (4 field-based positions)	Interview conducted on June 2 and 6. Selection memo being finalized. Issue offer letters by the last week of June 2022	On/about July 25, 2022
2	Support staff (Kathmandu-2 positions and Surkhet -2)	Candidates initial shortlisting completed. Evaluations to be completed by Mid-July 2022.	On/about July 30, 2022
3	Drivers (Kathmandu-2 position and Surkhet -3)	Candidates initial shortlisting completed. Evaluations to be completed by Mid-July 2022.	On/about July 30, 2022
4	Chief of Party	First round of interview held on June 16, 17 and 20 by the field team. Score sheets shared with HO for review. The second round of interviews with the HO were initiated the week of June 20.	On/about July 30, 2022
5	GESI Director	Vacancy announcement posted on Jobs Nepal on June 15 with application deadline of June 30, 2022.	On/about August 15, 2022
6	Water Supply Services Specialist	Vacancy announcement posted on Jobs Nepal on June 22 with application deadline of July 5, 2022.	On/about August 15, 2022
7	Environmental Compliance Specialist	Vacancy announcement posted on Jobs Nepal on June 24 with application deadline July 8, 2022.	On/about August 15, 2022

CHALLENGES FACED

- The limited capacity of our local vendor, coupled with the onset of the monsoon season has severely impacted our data collection process for the spring source assessment. The Activity has urged the local vendor to expedite the assessment by increasing the number of enumerators, mini labs, and lab technicians to complete the task on time. Shortage of water collection containers, thermometers, actual source photographs, carelessness in GPS coordinates and failure to link NWASH project codes will produce errors in the collected data and in discharge measurement methodologies. Given the serious capacity limitations of the local vendor and the onset of monsoons, the Activity has decided to suspend data collection and resume once the monsoon season is over and dry season sets in to allow for the most accurate data between March and June 2023).
- Municipal staff face challenges in sharing the self assessment outcomes with elected representatives, especially when the scores are low. To address this challenge, the Activity team will orient the elected representatives on the ICA Tool and scoring system, and explain that the identified gaps help them identify potential areas of growth in the sectors.
- Municipalities motivation to conduct annual assessments regularly is a challenge. Like LIZA, this tool needs to be integrated into the NWASH system and linked to NWASH planning, budgeting, and capacity development plans in the WASH sector. Municipalities need to see and experience benefits from undertaking regular self-assessments to be properly incentivized.
- Managing back-to-back travel and vehicle management to accommodate the increase in the number of activities, workshop, event, meeting and travel at Surkhet and watershed areas has been challenging primarily due to the Activity's difficult geographical locations and limited transport vendors available in those areas. The limited number of vendors do not have the legal/professional capacity to fulfill the Activity's requirement and as a result there are difficulties/delays in procurement process and logistics management. The Ops team is planning to assess, identify, and select potential vendors and work with them to set up an adequate system to be able to use their services in advance.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES IN JULY

Technical

- Develop detail engineering surveys for shortlisted water supply schemes based on feasibility studies
- Initiate site-specific designs and Basic Order of Quantities (BOQs) for water supply scheme infrastructure
- Conduct ICAs in six municipalities
- Initiate the drafting of capacity development plans
- Mobilize and establish/re-establish WUSCs
- Finalize Service Provider Capacity Assessments tool and conduct capacity assessment of pre-existing WUSCs
- To initiate formative research and PRAs on water use and conservation behaviors, practices, and attitudes
- Data analysis of household survey data as part of Sanitation Situational Assessment in Thakurbaba and Rajapur
- Conduct focus group discussions in Thakurbaba & Rajapur as part of Sanitation Situational Assessment in Thakurbaba & Rajapur
- Sample fecal sludge for characterization in Thakurbaba & Rajapur

- Prepare sanitation situation reports for Thakurbaba and Rajapur
- Start the site selection process for FSTP location in Thakurbaba or Rajapur
- Draft the first Karnali Water Activity Learning Series Note
- Conduct PEA training to watershed teams
- Test and finalize the quarterly PEA tool
- Monitor ICA data quality during the ICA rollout
- Setup the WUMP DAICollect dashboard
- Orient watershed teams on the Karnali Water Activity's MEL system, data quality protocols, and each team member's role and responsibilities
- Host the USAID Marginalization Learning Series with Sanitation Workers
- Conduct in-house orientation and discussion on the revised Y2 GESI Action Plan

Deliverables

- Criteria-based Ranking System Report
- Revised GESI Action Plan
- July Monthly Report

Operations

- Complete evaluation and selection of the audit firm to procure DAI Global's Annual Statutory Audit and finalize the award by the first week of July.
- Commence annual audit by mid July 2022 for DAI Global LLC projects (Karnali Water and Tayar)
- Submit a request for approval and processing for the blue plates of four new project vehicles to USAID tentatively during the second week of July 2022.
- Complete office set up for all watershed offices.
- Finalize IWMI's grant award and host kick-off meeting.
- Finalize 500B's IQC contract with Firm Fixed Price Task Orders by July 1.
- Complete the selection and evaluation process and document verification for COP by end of July.
- Onboard four field engineers for the watershed offices by July 2022.
- Onboard four support staff and five drivers for Kathmandu and Surkhet office by July 2022.
- Host ICA Tool roll out event/workshop at Sorul Mugu from June 30 to July 01, 2022.
- Host workshop for the new municipal representatives in Surkhet on July 19, 2022.
- Conduct orientation workshop for all watershed staff at Surkhet the second week of July.