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Asia Water Forum 2022

8–11 August 2022 • Online

Focus Area: Focus Area 2: Universal water supply and sanitation services

Session Title: NEP Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project

Schedule: 09 August 2022 (Tuesday), 11:00am - 12:30pm PH time (GMT+08)



ADB



Water supply and sanitation sector in Nepal

Safe WSS access is a fundamental right in Nepal

Access to at least basic water supply service: 94%

- 18% safely managed

Access to at least basic sanitation service: 100%

- 49% safely managed
- In urban areas: 30% of toilets connected to sewerage (largely without treatment), 48% toilets rely on septic tanks

WASH Sector Vision

Improved public health and living standard of people of Nepal through safe, sufficient, accessible, acceptable, and affordable water, sanitation and hygiene services—any time, everyone and everywhere.





ADB support for water and sanitation services in small towns

	1st	2nd	3rd	UWSSP
Impl. period	2000–09	2009–17	2014–21	2018–24
ADB	\$35m	\$45m	\$60m	\$130m
Cofinancing	-	-	\$20m (OFID) \$1.3m (BMGF)	-
Counterpart	\$ 18.9m	\$26.6m	\$27.7m	\$48.5m
Beneficiaries	593,000	370,000	405,000	320,000



- Government is providing WASH services in 90 towns (out of 176) with ADB's support, since 2000
 - Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Policy (2009) and 15-yr updated plan for small towns (2015)
- Small Towns model is being institutionalized by GON through Co-Financing WSS Program



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Key features of the small towns model

Decentralized and demand-driven approach

- Water Users' Associations (WUA) as service providers
- Water Users' and Sanitation Committees (WUSCs) as operators with long-term management contract
- Local government owns the assets

Participatory financing mechanism

- Tariff setting for O&M recovery and regular debt service

Performance based subsidies

- Services to poor and vulnerable groups, last mile connectivity & private toilets

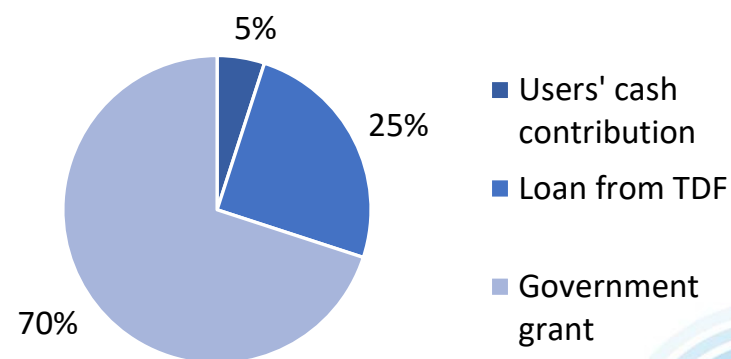
Sector Approach

- Align fragmented sector development activities into a common approach

Support SDG5 & SDG6

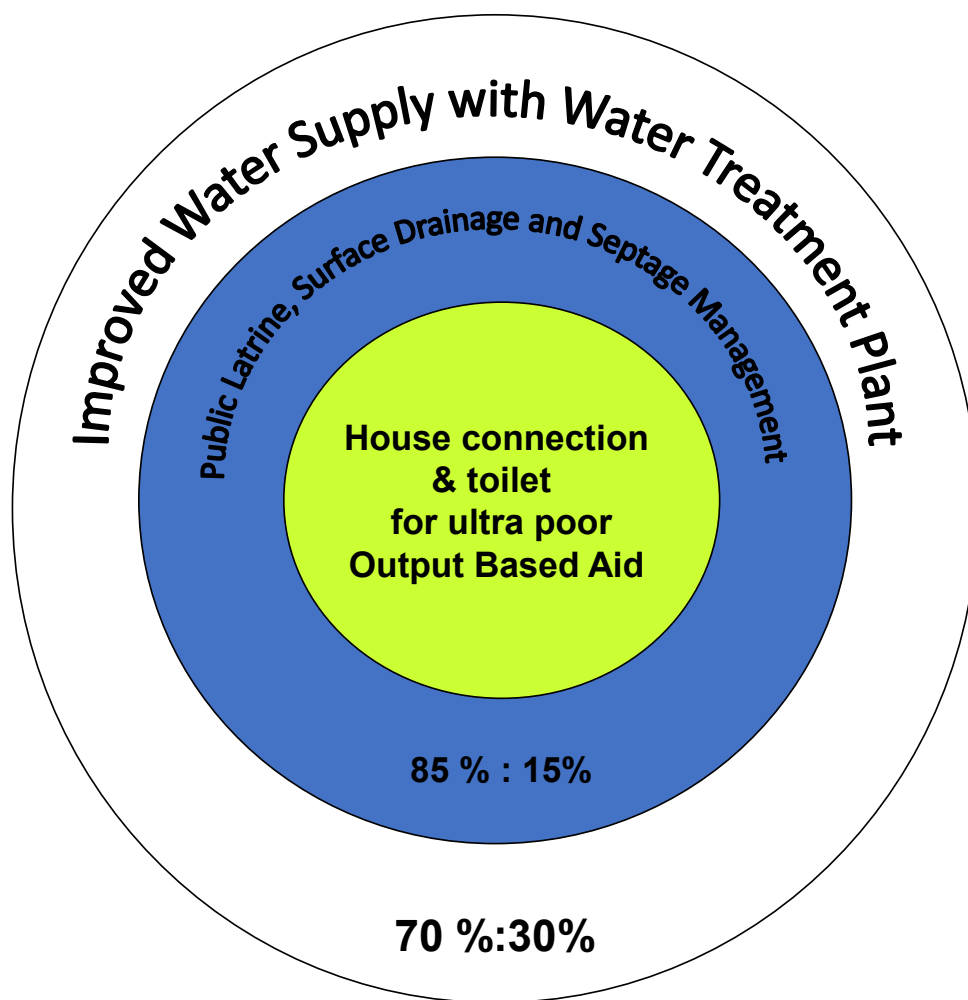


Participatory Financing Mechanism





Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (Sector) Project – 2018-2024





Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (Sector) Project – 2018-2024

Output 1: Water supply and sanitation infrastructure in project municipalities improved

- Water supply infrastructure improvements in 20 municipalities (1600km of pipelines, 20 treatment plants, 66,000 HH connections, 10,000 subsidized)
- Sanitation infrastructure improvements in 20 municipalities (toilets, WW treatment plants and stormwater drainage)
- Climate & disaster risks factored into design

Output 2: Institutional and community capacities strengthened

- WASH plans prepared, 20 WUAs registered, 20 WUSCs formed, business plans and tariff guidelines prepared, staff training in smart utility management and leadership
- Climate-resilient subprojects for future investments prepared
- Awareness campaign on water conservation & hygiene behavior





Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (Sector) Project – 2018-2024

Key Features

- Community engagement
- Capacity building of local institutions
- Awareness on health and hygiene for students at the schools in the project municipalities
- Skills enhancement training provided to people from poor and vulnerable households
- Small systems-high technology
- Partial capital cost recovery



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Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (Sector) Project – 2018-2024

Social and Gender Equality

- Practical and strategic gender benefits (continued from earlier phases of the small towns projects)
- Women benefitted from safer and inclusive WSS services
- Inclusiveness of WUSCs, employment opportunities, capacity development trainings-helped mainstreaming GESI in the project
- Mandatory 33% women representation helped create strong women leaders
- Elimination of stigma and discrimination faced by Dalits (the so called “untouchables”) from public water sources





Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (Sector) Project – 2018-2024

Mechanism to Ensure Sustainability

- Modernization of the systems and operators
- Transparency and good governance
- Ownership of the local government
- Participation of the actual users in all processes
- Support from Town Development Fund, a financial intermediary – provides advisory support on financial management, utility management
- Technical backstopping by ISSAU
- Business plans prepared for WUAs
- Adoption of technology to optimize the operations- mobile based meter reading and online payment, application of SCADA, computerized billing and collection.....





Urban Water Supply and Sanitation (Sector) Project – 2018-2024

Capacity Development and System Sustainability Tools

- Tariff guidelines-tariff calculator linked with business plan of the utilities
- ISSAU support to develop systems and protocols for advisory services to WUAs
- Water supply service support center- proposed
- Framework for system categorization of WUAs established
- Continue building capacity of WUSCs

Role of Local governments in the country's new federal context

