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Country Sector Assessments UNDP GoAL WaSH Programme

Governance, Advocacy and Leadership for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Volume 2 | Nepal



GoAL WaSH

Achieving the MDGs

UNDP Water Governance Programme – Adaptive Water Governance

UNDP's Water Governance Programme (UNDP-WGP) works in over 150 countries, providing policy support, capacity building and advisory services in three major strategic areas:

- Water Supply and Sanitation (\$170 m, 34%)
- Integrated Water Resources Management (\$111 m, 22%)
- Regional and Global Cooperation (\$216 m, 44%)

The Water Governance Programme also integrates four 'cross cutting' areas into its broader thematic work:

- Climate Change Adaptation and Water
- Human Rights Based Approaches (HRBA)
- Mainstreaming Gender into Water
- Capacity Development and Knowledge Management

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The Global Water and Sanitation Crisis

Globally, almost 1bn people lack clean drinking water. 2.4bn people have no access to hygienic sanitation facilities; 1.2bn lack any sanitation facilities at all. Each day, an average of 5,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation related diseases. In 2000, through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the international community committed to halving the proportion of people without access to clean water and basic sanitation by 2015. Overall, the world is on track to meet the water supply MDG, but there are major gaps in many regions and countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. On current trends, the world will miss the sanitation target by a staggering 1bn people.

Meeting the MDG water and sanitation targets is more than a health and dignity issue. The evidence is compelling that achieving the water and sanitation goals would trigger a major leap forward in human development:

- Water and sanitation are essential to achieving all of the MDGs.
- Investment in water supply yields an average economic return of \$4.4 to \$1.
- Investment in sanitation yields an average economic return of \$9.1 to \$1.
- Human development is more closely linked to access to water and sanitation than any other development driver, including spending on health or education, and access to energy services.

The crisis in water and sanitation overwhelmingly affects the poor. Availability of water is certainly a concern for some countries. But the global water and sanitation crisis is mainly rooted in poverty, power and inequality, not in physical availability. It is, first and foremost, a crisis of governance and thus governance reform must be a key pillar of any strategic approach to addressing the crisis.

UNDP's Response

UNDP promotes and facilitates equitable access to water and sanitation services as a fundamental contribution to enhancing human development. UNDP works together with government, civil society, private sector and other development partners to bring about the necessary improvements in water governance to scale-up water and sanitation services for the poor.

UNDP Supports:

- Coordination of country assistance by UN and other development partners.
- Incorporation of water and sanitation into national development planning.
- Governance and policy reform for enhanced water supply and sanitation access.
- Capacity building of institutions and practitioners.
- Special attention to fragile states, where water and sanitation challenges are greatest.

The GoAL WaSH Programme

GoAL WaSH is an innovative new UNDP programme that aims to accelerate achievement of the water and sanitation MDGs through strategically targeted interventions that strengthen governance of the water and sanitation sectors at appropriate levels. Specifically, GoAL WaSH focuses on:

- Countries with low water and sanitation coverage projected not to achieve the water, sanitation or both MDGs.
- Identifying gaps, needs, constraints and opportunities in national water and sanitation plans, strategies and capacities.
- Governance reform, leadership and policy advocacy.
- Incorporation of water and sanitation into national MDG and related poverty reduction strategies.
- Close coordination with governments and key development partners active in water and sanitation at country level.

This volume is the second in a series of national assessments of governance in the water and sanitation sectors in target MDG GoAL WaSH countries. These sector assessments are in turn informing the design and implementation of a series of UNDP capacity building and technical assistance projects to strengthen water governance and advance national progress on the water supply and sanitation MDGs (see inside back cover).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Andrew Hudson'.

Andrew Hudson
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Country Sector Assessments: Volume 2
UNDP GoAL WaSH Programme

Governance, Advocacy and Leadership for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Nepal

National Sector Assessment

MDG Outlook

- Is Nepal on the Right Track to Reach Water and Sanitation MDGs?
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MDG Outlook

Is Nepal on the Right Track to Reach Water and Sanitation MDGs?

On paper Nepal appears on track to meet both the water and sanitation MDGs. The NDHS figures for access to potable water are 90% urban, 81% rural and 82% overall. The figures below show Ministry of Physical Works and Planning (MoPPW) records of national coverage, and how performance needs to be accelerated to meet the national 2017 target of universal access.



But it is commonly accepted that these figures do not reflect the challenging realities of the sector on the ground¹. Nepal, with about 80% of its fast growing population of 27.6 m. living in rural areas, has a fragile ecology, rugged and difficult terrain (40% of inhabited areas have high hills and no roads) and is one of the poorest countries in the world (annual per capita income is under \$250). The country is emerging from nearly a decade of internal armed conflict and political instability. In the water sector, a high level of rural breakdowns (up to 56% of schemes need major

repairs, according to a recent WaterAid study) limits actual functional coverage. In addition to serving the unserved, Nepal is facing a huge repair and rehabilitation challenge that needs a comprehensive approach. Access is also heavily skewed by wealth: the richest quintile is eight times more likely to have access to sanitation, and 13 times more likely to have a household water connection. Urban areas are characterized by a high population growth rates (up to 6% per year, driven by poverty and insecurity), an aging infrastructure and significant management and resource constraints. As a result, access to water is for just a few hours a day, and frequently that water is polluted. For sanitation, the recent JMP ladder shows that while service coverage is increasing, half of Nepal's rural population (13 m. people) practice open defecation. This has serious health equity and economic implications—13,000 Nepalis die every year from sector related illnesses.

¹ In 2004 WaterAid argued that Nepal needed dramatic improvements in service access, especially in sanitation and urban water supply.

Figure 1

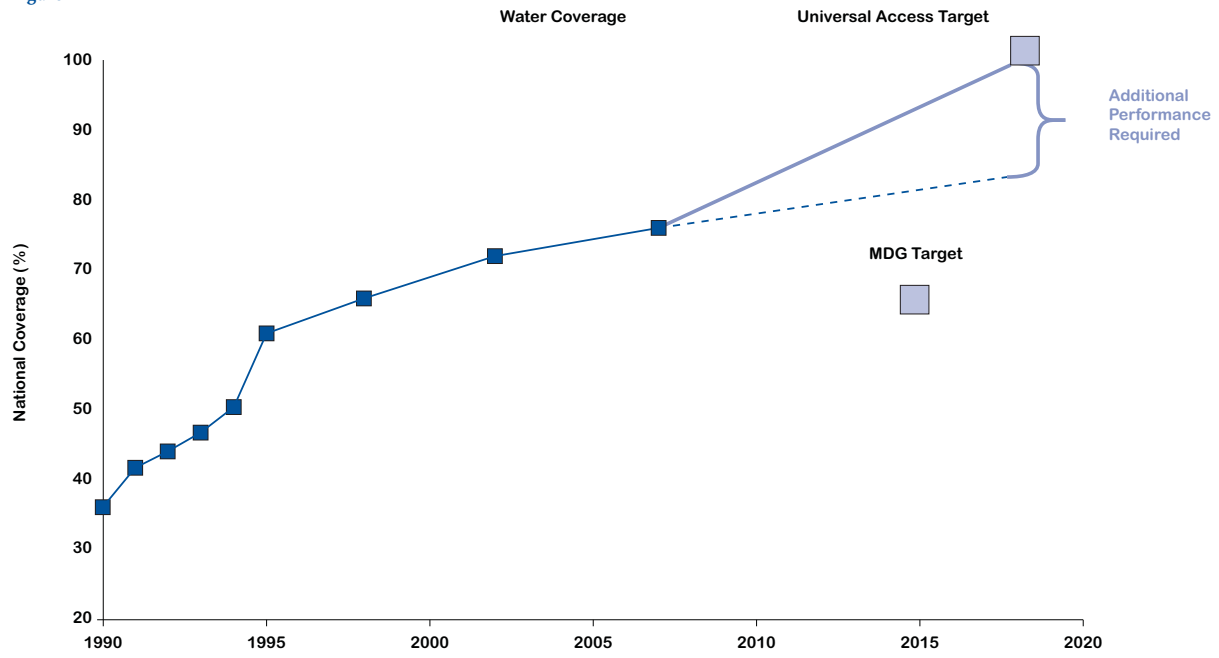


Figure 2

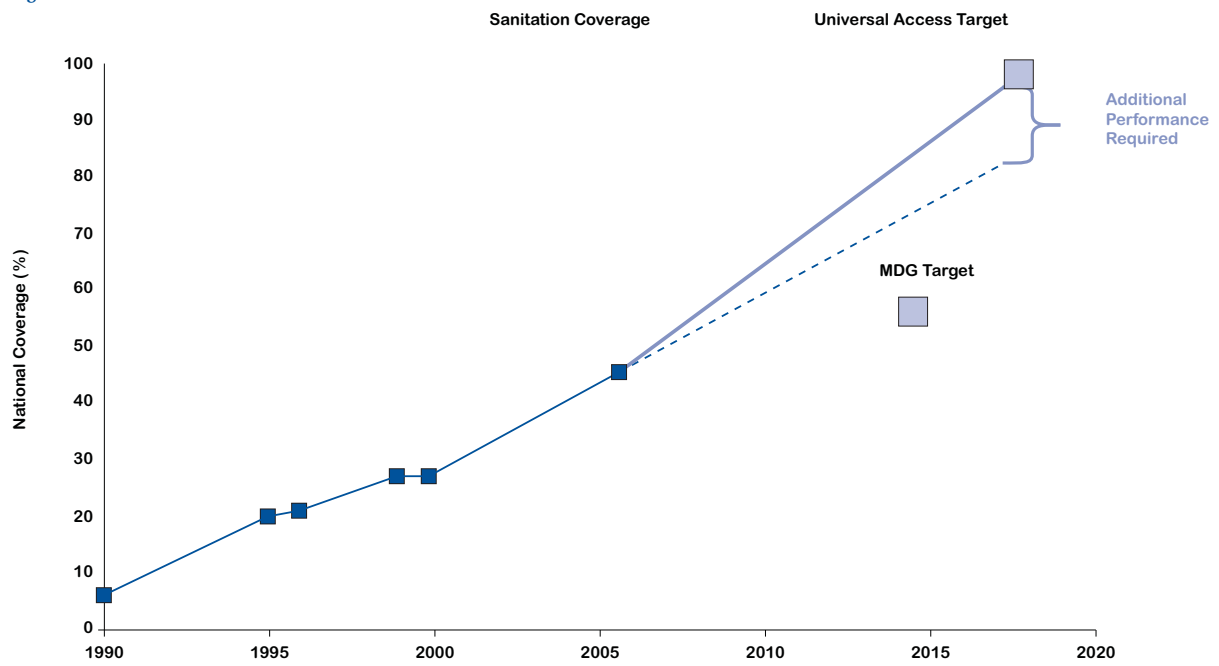


Figure 3: Nepal Drinking Water Ladder, 1990–2006

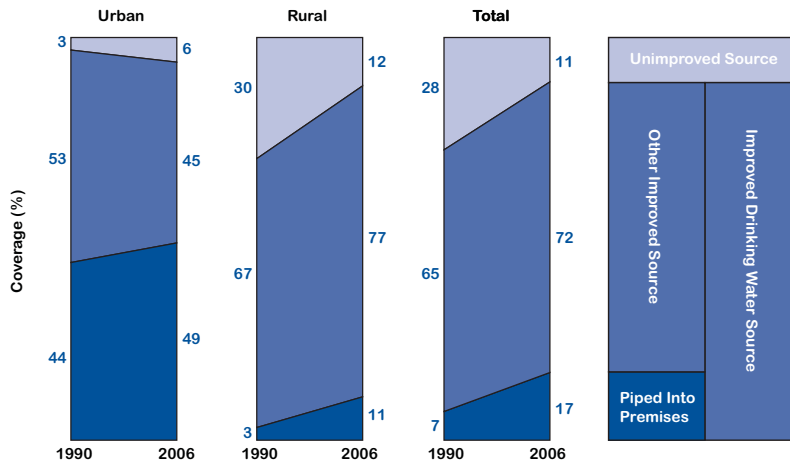
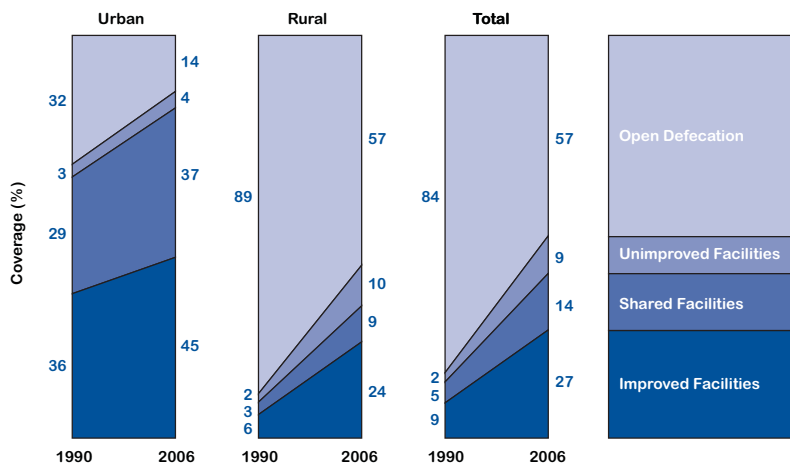


Figure 4: Nepal Sanitation Ladder, 1990–2006



Main Issues to be Addressed

- Institutional fragmentation and limited sector coordination:** Despite published policies, including a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) that prioritises the sector and an established institutional framework, the sector in Nepal is characterised by its diversity of sector institutions (several working in parallel with overlapping responsibilities), and a project focus (with a range of modalities of project implementation which can undermine each other). A sector stakeholder group is seeking to improve sector coherence and dialogue through development of a sector-wise approach (SWAp), though the implementation steps are not clearly charted and financed. There has been a tremendous growth in Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), supported by diverse funding streams, seeking to fill the gaps in service delivery.

- **Financing and financial resource constraints:** Budget allocations to the sector declined significantly through the conflict years and are now slowly increasing, but there remains a large shortfall in resources available to meet the MDGs and rehabilitate and sustain the aging and poorly functioning infrastructure. Poverty, low tariffs and poor collection systems limit revenue streams, forcing households to make high investments in coping mechanisms. Most sector finance comes from either central ministries or directly from NGOs that bypasses local authorities, further undermining their low capacity.
- **Inadequate capacity in local authorities:** Lack of local level capacity and resources to develop and deliver effective services is a significant constraint in municipalities, districts and villages. The private sector has limited engagement with the sector, and the capacity amongst the many NGOs is uneven. The reform of urban institutions is proceeding slowly. Decentralisation policies have yet to be put into effect.
- **No updated sector assessment and weak monitoring systems:** Information on the sector is not collated, data is unreliable and definitions are not consistent. Whilst an inventory of sector assets is nearly completed, and a project-monitoring unit is in place, the sector lacks effective performance monitoring. Sector monitoring systems fail to take into account functional access and water quality and need to link services to financial allocations. An urgent priority is to gather information on financial flows, since this critical information for sector decision-making is not available at district or national levels.
- **Inadequate attention to water resource management and water quality:** Whilst Nepal has tremendous water resources (the country has the second most abundant water resources in the world), it is also highly vulnerable to floods, natural disasters and climate change. The water sector lacks investment in infrastructure, has low capacity and lacks the knowledge to manage its water resources. Inadequate treatment of urban effluent has significantly increased environmental pollution. There are significant water quality concerns in both rural and urban areas that do not comply with Nepal's own water quality standards.
- **Socially excluded communities lack consumer voice:** Nepal's diverse population contains underprivileged groups, including many women, who are excluded from interacting with state authorities and are therefore unable to bring effective pressure on governments to demand efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency in service delivery. Progress has been made in establishing and co-ordinating District Water User Groups, but there is much scope for improving the citizen's voice in water and sanitation service delivery.

Distinctive Achievements

This section highlights briefly two distinctive features of the sector in Nepal:

Implementing demand-driven policies

The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board (RWSSFDB) is a semi-autonomous initiative largely funded by the World Bank (WB) that started in the early 1990s with the Jakpas Project, a groundbreaking demand-driven rural water supply project. By challenging conventional supply-driven approaches the project has had a large influence: it has shown that approaches that directly empower communities, promote transparency and sustainability and give incentives to NGOs to support communities can work, and can work at scale. Studies assessing sustainability found that 78% of schemes (6–10 years old) were fully functional and sustainable. By the time the second phase ends at the end of 2010, around 1.6 m. rural Nepalis will have benefited from the Board's operations. The challenge for the RWSSFDB will be to roll out its work consistently through local authorities across the country, whilst maintaining the Board's strong record of cost-effective delivery and sustainability.

Holding service providers accountable

Nepal's policy frame in theory makes local service providers accountable to the water consumers. In practice this does not happen. For example information on budget allocations is not accessible, and service options, their implications and the siting of water facilities and wells, are not always discussed with users. The establishment of District Water User Committees (now 1250 in number and established in 33 districts, co-ordinated by the Federal Association of Water Users (FEDWASUN)), does provide some opportunity for users to provide consumer pressure to improve services. FEDWASUN also provides a lobby for disempowered water and sanitation users at the national level, and supports District Water User Committees in local disputes (for example in budgeting adequately for rehabilitation of water supplies in certain villages —WaterAid 2008). Further attention is needed to institutionalize mechanisms for consumer voice, to educate consumers and to develop a robust evidence base. But Nepal is making progress in an area that is commonly neglected.

Sector Preparedness Overview

National Strategies

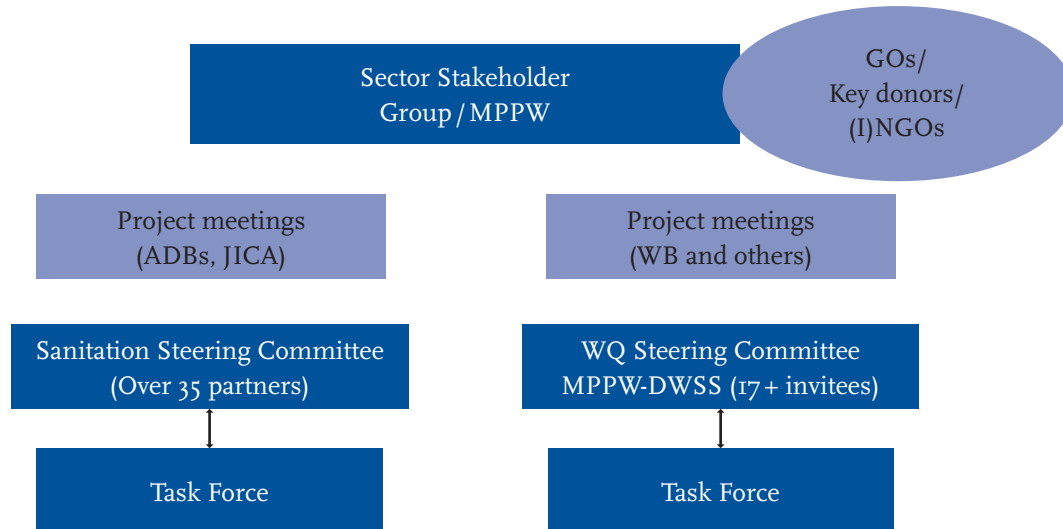
The 2002 PRSP identifies water and sanitation as one of its main medium term strategies. It seeks to increase sector coverage and improve services using decentralized, demand-driven approaches. These approaches are specified in more detail for the rural sector in the 2004 Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sectoral Strategic Action Plan that emphasizes central government's role in financing, monitoring and policy refinement. Implementation is devolved to local authorities. The urban water policy framework (still not yet finalized) restructures the NWSC, creating three types of entity (a Water Authority, Utility Operators and a National Water Supply Regulatory Board). Assets are to be handed over to municipalities. The policy promotes public-private partnerships in water and wastewater treatment services. In the Kathmandu valley the KVMSP has taken over service management. MoPPW is presently implementing a three-year interim plan based on existing policies and strategies. A Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) was established to develop co-coordinating, analytical and policy support functions to the water and energy sectors. It produced a comprehensive Water Resources Strategy and National Water Plan for Nepal.

Most stakeholders generally accept these national strategies and policy framework. But many elements of the policy have not been implemented and there are large gaps between theory and practice. Key handovers of responsibilities, changes in funding flows and co-ordination efforts have either not been implemented or are seriously delayed. The dearth of data and lack of an agreed framework for measuring progress has allowed slippages to occur. Government has lacked the will and leadership to implement the very many good ideas in its own policies.

Sector Coordination

MoPPW has established a Sector Stakeholder Group (SSG) to increase co-ordination with Water Quality and Sanitation subcommittees. But despite much goodwill between partners, meetings are called irregularly and follow up on decisions is slow. The sector continues to be driven by projects and despite good intentions, sector leaders concentrate on a demanding schedule of project management for the hundreds of sector projects in the country. Sector leaders are not in a position to give strategic direction or control resource allocations. The SSG has expressed the desire to move towards a SWAp and recently undertook a study tour to learn more about SWAp implementation.

Figure 5: Coordination Arrangement



Key Measures to Improve Co-ordination:

- Establish the capacity to realize the commitment to move towards a SWAp and firm up a schedule of implementation with the main stakeholders (especially with support from the Ministry of Finance (MoF), WB, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and National Planning Commission (NPC)).
- The SSG needs a strengthened secretariat to improve the regularity and outputs of co-ordination meetings.
- A formal mechanism needs to be established to improve NGO representation and accountability on the SSG.

Institutional Arrangements

Water and sanitation services in Nepal are provided by many agencies. The MoF allocates public sector finance to the sectoral ministries. MoPPW is the lead sector ministry. Working with the NPC, MoPPW has the responsibility to formulate policies, plans and strategies. It has two operational arms: the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS) and the Nepal Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC).

DWSS is responsible for water supplies in small towns and rural areas. The 2004 RWSS policy sought to shift implementation responsibility to local authorities and communities and restructure DWSS's role to that of facilitation and oversight. In practice, this has not been implemented fully. A proposal supported by ADB has outlined specific strategies for DWSS to take on a facilitating, monitoring, policy advisory role and restructure itself with a reform unit to make this shift.

The Local Self Governance Act (1999) provides for local authorities to plan and manage WSS. The Ministry of Local Development (MLD) is responsible for supporting District Development Committees (DDCs) and Village Development Committees (VDCs) to develop small water supplies and sanitation. MLD has established District Technical Offices (DTOs) to provide technical guidance to local authorities. However the armed conflict has significantly affected the operations of many rural local authorities and prevented the appointment of locally elected representatives into government structures. Community management is the preferred means of rural water supply service management, but studies show that there are major limitations to its effectiveness: both technically and financially. The breakdown rate remains high and community-level financial management remains weak.

NWSC is responsible for water supply, sewerage and drainage services in main metropolitan municipalities and 23 sub-metropolitan areas outside the Kathmandu valley. The Kathmandu Valley water services are now under the Kathmandu Valley Water Supply Management Board and operated by Kathmandu Upatkya Khanepani Limited (KUKL)—a company established under a public private partnership. NWSC has been unable to manage services effectively and will hand over its sector assets to municipalities.

Other major stakeholders in the sector include: WB that supports the rural sector through the semi-autonomous Fund Board (RWSSFDB²) mentioned above, and the ADB that has invested over \$300 m. in urban and rural water projects in Nepal since 1984 and been a significant partner to DWSS and MoPPW in national sector policy development. It presently supports DWSS implementation of a Community Based Water Supply and Sanitation Project (CBWSSP) and a Secondary Towns Urban Environmental Improvement Project. These two projects are improving services in small towns and urban communities and assisting DWSS to undertake further reforms. The investment banks also support a major source replenishment plan (\$500 m.) developed for the Kathmandu valley, namely the Melamchi and Kathmandu Urban Water Management Projects. Progress is slow and the projects had to be reorganized due to resistance to private sector involvement.

The Leading UN Agencies Supporting the Sector Are:

- UNICEF that runs a disaster response programme, promotes awareness of drinking water quality and household-treated water, improves sanitation in homes and schools, supports hygiene promotion and handwashing and supports national and district capacity building.
- UN-Habitat supports activities in its Water for Asian Cities Programme, including developing pro-poor approaches for urban water and sanitation, promoting alternative urban water sources for households and promoting innovative urban sanitation approaches.
- UNDP's current programme includes a focus on poverty reduction, governance, environment and sustainable development. It has three projects associated with the water sector: (1) a Public-Private Partnerships for Urban Environmental Services (PPUE) project that helps establish Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), largely between municipalities and urban communities, by developing systems, enhancing capacity, and supporting project implementation (including bottled water distribution, water service management, public toilet management); (2) a Decentralised Local Governance Support Programme (DLGSP) project supporting local governance and demand and supply sides of basic service delivery, including WSS; and (3) a EENDM unit seeking to enhance sustainable access to natural resources, including water.
- World Health Organisation (WHO) provides technical assistance to MoPPW and Ministry of Health (MoH) and supports water quality improvement programmes. The WSSCC, whose finance is administered by WHO, is preparing one of the first Global Sanitation Fund grants to Nepal, working with NEWAH.

A distinctive feature in the sector in Nepal is the large number of NGOs working in water supply and sanitation. International NGOs (including WaterAid, Plan and Helvetas) play a visible role, commenting on sector issues and supporting local NGOs and local authorities. There are many thousands of local NGOs in Nepal. The Fund Board had applications from over 140 wanting to work in the rural water sector, it finally selected 70 as partners. Several NGOs, such as NEWAH, perform co-ordinating roles, though inter-NGO reporting is not formalized.

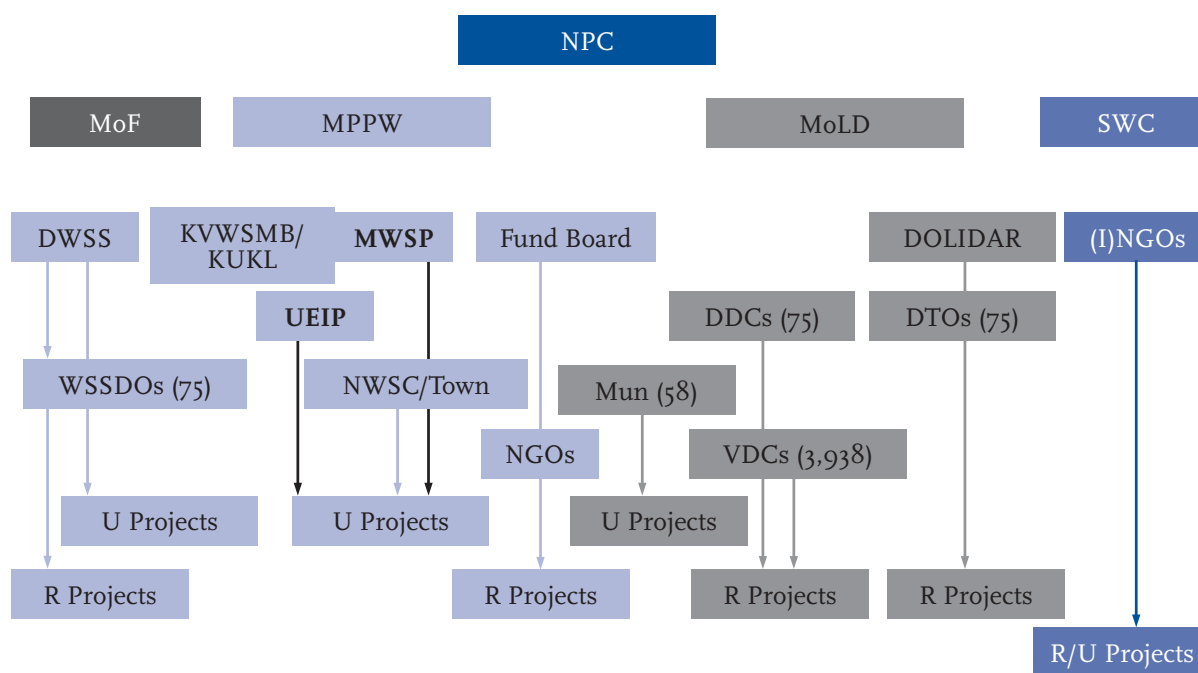
² In May 2008, GoN/IDA/WB signed an extension of the US\$41.5 m. RWSSP-II granting it an additional US\$27 m.

In April 2008, Nepal initiated a process to rewrite its constitution. The outcome of this process (which may include creation of a federal state and effecting a significant shift in resources to local authorities) will undoubtedly affect the institutional structure of the country at large, and WSS.

Key Measures to Improve Institutional Arrangements:

- Accelerate and prioritize processes to achieve a SWAp
- Key steps in SWAp development that will assist in streamlining institutional arrangements include:
 - development of a suite of financing mechanisms, including basket funding, to which all sector donors can subscribe to support a common sector framework;
 - establish performance indicators for a better aligned and harmonized sector framework; and
 - institute a Joint Annual Sector Review with all stakeholders to produce a common set of targets for sector development.

Figure 6: Institutional Arrangement



Sector Financing

Sector financing is fragmented and poorly tracked. There is no consolidated financial data at national or district levels. The sector has undertaken limited financial research to analyse flows, efficiencies, expenditures, value-for-money or unit costs. No economic analysis of the impacts of investments, or lack of investment, is available.

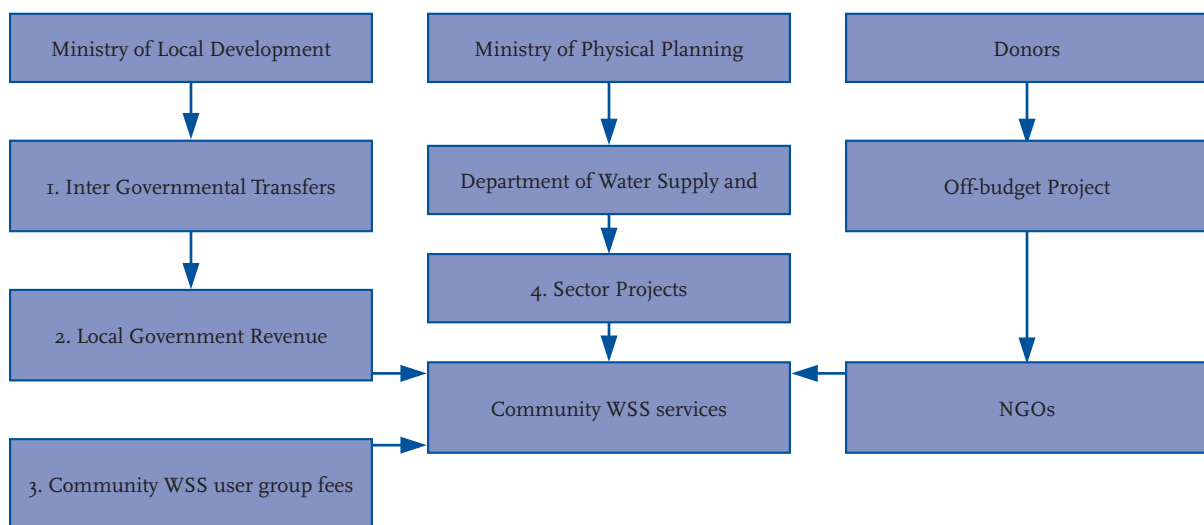
Central government transfers are the main source of finance to local government (estimated at over 75% of income). In general, allocations are low compared to needs, and are reportedly subject to political influence. For example, 40 districts were allocated less than 1% of the budget, whilst some individual districts had 5 or 6% of the budget.

The government has announced a policy of fiscal devolution but this has yet to be implemented. The main source in local government sector finance flows come from the MLD and MoPPW (see next diagram). MoPPW’s official policy is that 20% of the budget allocated for water supply may be used for sanitation. In practice it is much lower. However, in the 2009 financial year there was a stand-alone budget allocation for sanitation.

Overall, the sector budget declined during the years of conflict. The funding gap to meet Nepal’s planned targets is variously estimated. MoPPW suggests it is US\$46 m. per year, though other estimates are higher. None of these figures takes into account the massive resources required to rehabilitate dysfunctional systems. A WaterAid study in one district found that one in five schemes required complete rehabilitation and over half required major repairs.

67% of the public sector budget is financed through external aid, and a large proportion of sector finance is off budget. The aid is overwhelmingly project specific, the single largest external financiers being the ADB and the WB. An analysis of district budget allocations found that 45% of DWSS district budget allocations went off local budgets to NGOs; and a further 32% was spent directly by DWSS (WaterAid, 2008).

Figure 7: Water and Sanitation Financing Flows



Cost-recovery is the adopted policy, yet revenue streams frequently do not meet operation and maintenance costs. For example, one district study found that tariffs would need to be increased between 80-170% to ensure service sustainability (WaterAid 2008). A 2002 NEWAH study found that a quarter of water payments were not collected. Yet poor and wealthier households, in both rural and urban settings, are willing to pay relatively large amounts to improve their private water services. In urban areas, even those with access to a connection have to invest in storage capacity and household water treatment. Those without access to a tap in urban areas pay vendors for water delivery or for tanker services (with high unit costs per litre). In rural areas, the topography makes water collection from open sources a major physical task.

Several projects employ innovative financing mechanisms, such as revolving funds, but no evaluation has taken place of their effectiveness.

Key Measures to Improve Sector Financing:

- A comprehensive sector finance study should be undertaken to better determine gaps and inefficiencies, and provide a sound basis for developing sector financial strategies at national and local levels to ensure that the MDGs are met, and to meet capital shortfalls, as well as address operational effectiveness.
- Nepal should examine fiscal transfer and financing mechanisms that encourage efficiency in use of public sector finance and improve targeting, such as smart investments, local investment funds and out-put based aid.

Sector Monitoring and Evaluation

The sector is characterised by some strong project monitoring systems and weak sector-wide monitoring. There appears to be a significant gap between the evidence from WSS monitoring statistics, to WSS experienced first-hand on the ground. DWSS's publication of WSS inventory should provide a useful baseline on which to build a stronger monitoring system with clear definitions. MoPPW has prioritised improving sector monitoring, developing a sector monitoring strategy paper, and creating a sector monitoring unit, though its analytical capacity remains weak.

Furthermore, financial monitoring is especially poor. Strengthening of the public sector financial administration will be a key factor in leveraging sector finance and making progress towards a SWAp.

Key Measures to Improve Sector Monitoring:

- A sector-wide monitoring system needs to be developed linked to service access and service functionality.

Sector Capacity

Improving sector capacity at district and municipal levels is a key action to strengthen sector development. District authorities' capacity is especially weak after the conflict and there is a history of weak local governance. However, the local level is recognised by many agencies as a strategic entry point to improve national development. Most municipalities are operating with limited capacity and reforms having only reached the Kathmandu valley. No recent study exists which has analysed skills and capacity against functions. There is also little formal outsourcing to the private sector for management skills. A model needs to be developed for both small town and municipal service management encompassing financing, outsourcing and oversight to increase capacity and efficiency.

Capacity concerns in local government are one of the reasons that so many sector projects are managed by NGOs. NGO's strengths lie in social mobilization and relatively few NGOs have strong technical skills. Communities manage much of Nepal's rural water supplies. The track record here is mixed. Community management, rather than being considered an interim step towards local government or private sector management, has been relied on far beyond its capability.

Key Measures to Improve Sector Capacity:

- The sector needs a clear strategy on building municipal and local government capacity, clarifying roles, operationalizing the devolution of resources, aligning TA and skills training at local levels, and encouraging performance-based outsourcing of skills where appropriate.

Sector Sustainability Overview

This section applies the WSP sustainability scorecard to the sector and provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of overall sector and sub-sector sustainability. It assesses key success factors related to the country's institutional and financial arrangements. Performance on the 'success factors' is captured by specific questions. The scores range from 0–100%.

Sector Sustainability Scores

Sector scores are:

- Rural and Small Towns Water Supply – 31%
- Urban Water Supply – 37%
- Rural and Small Towns Sanitation and Hygiene – 46%
- Urban Sanitation and Hygiene – 21%
- Overall Sustainability – 27%

Overall sector sustainability is low, the scores brought down by institutional and financial factors, and weak monitoring. Rural and urban water supply and urban sanitation scores were lowered by weak operations, maintenance and general management. Rural sanitation's relatively high score reflects the recent focus on behavioural change and targeted subsidies, but the sub-sector is still constrained by its limited financial sustainability.

Key Measures to Improve Sector Sustainability:

- The policy on sustaining rural and urban water supplies needs to be reviewed and then implemented—with a focus on sustainability of services.
- An overall sector financing strategy and cost recovery system needs to be developed and implemented, along with clear policies and mechanisms to leverage extra funds to address the financing gap, recover operations and maintenance costs, and make plans for the depreciation of water sector assets and system renewals.
- Policy and legal frameworks for urban services need to be developed to enable utilities to become creditworthy and achieve full cost recovery.

Acronyms

Nepal

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CBWSSP	Community Based Water Supply and Sanitation Project
DDCs	District Development Communities
DLGSP	Decentralised Local Governance Support Programme
DTO	District Technical Office
DWSS	Department of Water Supply and Sewerage
FEDWASUN	Federal Association of Water Users
GoAL WaSH	Governance, Advocacy and Leadership for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
GoN	Government of Nepal
IDA	International Development Association
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme
KUKL	Kathmandu Upatkya Khanepani Limited
KVWSBM	Kathmandu Valley Water Supply Management Board
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MLD	Ministry for Local Development
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Ministry of Health
MPPW	Ministry of Physical Planning & Works
NDHS	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
NEWAH	Nepal Water for Health
NGOs	Non-Government Organisations
NPC	National Planning Commission
NWSC	Nepal Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PPUE	Public-Private Partnerships for Urban Environmental Services
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RWSS	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector
RWSSFDB	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board
RWSSP	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme
SSG	Sector Stakeholder Group
SWAp	Sector-wide approach
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VDCs	Village Development Communities
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank
WECS	Water and Energy Commission Secretariat
WHO	World Health Organisation
WQ	Water Quality
WSP	Water and Sanitation Program
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation Sector

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