

CAPACITY BUILDING

Strengthening Local Actors to be Effective Change Agents

Access to safe water and sanitation is a human right. Nepal's new constitution has recognized it to be the fundamental right too. In order to address this, on one hand, the duty bearers need to be accountable to fulfill this commitment and on the other hand, the right holders need to be informed about safe water and sanitation and be able to claim their rights. It is equally important for both the duty bearers and right holders to be aware and sensitized on safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). For this, they need to be capacitated and empowered so that they are able to address the issue from their respective positions.

ENPHO, with its decades experience on WASH, has training and capacity building as one of its major components in its strategic plan and projects. Training Centre unit of ENPHO has been involved in capacity enhancement of communities and institutions by imparting knowledge and skills on WASH. In continuation of this effort, the unit, with the support of CAWST, has been implementing "Reconstruction and Resilience of WASH Services through Capacity Building in Nepal" project since January 2017. This project focuses on enhancing the capacity of local organizations on WASH, empowering them to deliver the WASH messages effectively and ultimately influencing the community people for behavior change.

Shanti Jana Adarsha Sewa Kendra (SJASK) is one of the local implementing partners for this project.

About SJASK

Established in 1992, SJASK is a non-government organization working in drinking water supply and sanitation, forestry and environment, livelihood, education, community infrastructure, disaster management, human rights, justice and peace, capacity building and advocacy support focusing rural areas of Kavre, Sindhuli, Ramechhap and Baitadi districts of Nepal. Driven by its mission to ensure resilience and justice in community, SJASK has been working to educate communities so that their basic needs and facilities of safe drinking water, sustainable sanitation, health and hygiene are fulfilled and their meaningful participation in local decision making and development processes is ensured.

SJASK, as a local implementing partner of ENPHO in Kavre, is responsible for overall coordination in the district. It has been continuously involved in sensitizing local government bodies and relevant stakeholders on WASH so that the decision makers and service providers are obliged to undertake necessary actions to fulfill the need and prioritize WASH as a key issue to be addressed.

Capacity Building Programs for SJASK

ENPHO Training Centre capacitated 23 staff members of SJASK on various training packages which included 'Delivering Effective WASH Training', 'Total Sanitation', 'Water Quality Testing', 'Sensitization Training on Total Sanitation', 'Community Health Promotion' and 'Water Safety Plan'. The staff members were capacitated in terms of planning, delivering WASH messages, and implementing effective training methods.



Impact of Capacity Building Programs

The training programmes capacitated SJASK staff members to catalyse the WASH movement in districts. The trained staff members shared that their confidence and knowledge on WASH were enhanced through the trainings they received. They said that they became more confident to tackle and resolve WASH related problems faced during project implementation. They further shared to be capacitated to impart knowledge to others with new skills, methodologies, and approaches. Their facilitation skills became more creative and interactive than previous.

All SJASK staff members agree to have improved and strengthened their following qualities:

- Explanation skill on various WASH technologies;
- Influencing to create demand on WASH services and technologies;
- Handling and resolving obstacles confronted during project implementation;
- Expanding access and network for more funding for new WASH projects;
- Ability to choose, implement and operate WASH technologies

The training programmes guided the staff members to take initiatives for changing their methodology, approaches, and tools particularly while delivering trainings in community. By using those tools, they could bring the optimum results from the project activities they implemented. Applying the knowledge received from “Sensitization Training on Total Sanitation”, SJASK was able to declare Mangaltar, Chyasingh Kharka and Mandan Deupur as open defecation free. Further, ward 9 of Mandan Deupur Municipality of Kavre could be declared as the first total sanitation zone using the tools and knowledge gained from the training on total sanitation. A total of 2,505 households (HHs) benefitted from this total sanitation campaign.

The training programmes helped the staff members to significantly improve their training delivery knowledge and skill. The trainings provided them knowledge and skills to train others on WASH and plan and manage the project cost efficiently. This accelerated their work to reach many people within short period of time with larger impact. Using ENPHO/CAWST educational materials, SJASK staff members further trained water user’s committee members of Kavre on water safety plan. Altogether, 100 people (70 female and 30 male) were trained on WASH which included social mobilizers, female community health volunteers and community volunteers. They further oriented and educated 1100 community people (700 female and 400 male) through various project activities.

Use of triggering tools and skills learned through trainings helped to motivate people to bring sustainable change in the community. They could sensitize the community people in Kavre about safe water. As a result, 80 HHs have started adopting one of the water treatment options to treat water. Similarly, 1500 HHs in the district are practicing safe sanitation (toilets with septic tank) out of which 360 individuals are from marginalized groups. Thus, they have also ensured that the information on WASH are provided to the most vulnerable members of community- women, girls and children particularly of impoverished, marginalized and disadvantaged groups.

Moreover, ENPHO/CAWST services also added support to influence SJASK’s projects to incorporate environmental sustainability through promotion and use of innovative environment friendly sanitation systems and gender equity into its strategies and programmes. Remarkable changes have been noticed in communities within a short period of time. Community awareness programs led to behavior change in people. People not only built toilets, but they also started using it. Handwashing practices have been improved and better changes in cleanliness of household and surroundings can be seen.

Conclusion

SJASK has stood forward as a good example of how capacitating institutions can accelerate their work and get better results. This case further attempts to demonstrate the fact that the institution should capitalize this opportunity as well. Such capacity building programs are vital to developing WASH resilient communities and empowering them to tackle any situations by themselves.

World Toilet Day 2018 was marked in ward 7 of Jharpur community of Mandan Deupur Municipality of Kavre in presence of Ward Chairperson Mr. Narayan Prasad Lamsal.

“Despite of great effort to make community people aware on importance of toilet, they did not build toilets. But after the staff members of SJASK sensitized them using various triggering tools, they not only built toilets but started using it as well,” Ward Chairperson Mr. Lamsal said.



Environment, Culture, Agriculture, Research and Development Society, Nepal (ECARDS-Nepal) is one of the local organizations capacitated by ENPHO Training Centre with the support of CAWST through the “Reconstruction and Resilience of WASH Services through Capacity Building in Nepal” project.

About ECARDS Nepal

ECARDS Nepal, a non-government organization, was established in 1991 to empower community and foster sustainable community development. It works with the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups of community with the special emphasis on women and children. It undertakes programs in the areas of rural community development, health and sanitation, agriculture, rural infrastructure development, and natural resource management in a sustainable and environment friendly manner. It also implements income generating programs and micro-enterprises especially designed for poverty alleviation.

ECARDS Nepal has its mission to empower people by improving the socio-economic condition of the local community through better management of available resources in complement with national development efforts. ECARDS Nepal, one of the local organizations working on WASH in Dolakha, has been capacitated by ENPHO through various capacity building programs and trainings.



Capacity Building Programs for ECARDS Nepal

ENPHO Training Centre capacitated 24 staff members of ECARDS Nepal through “Training on Delivering Effective WASH Training (DEWT)”, “Community Health Promotion (CHP) Training” and “Training on Water Safety Plan (WSP)”.



Impact of Capacity Building Programs

The trained staff members shared that the training programmes significantly built their confidence and enhanced their knowledge and skill on WASH. The trainings helped them learn new approaches and facilitation skills which the staff members found to be very useful, both personally and professionally to implement projects at Orang and Bulung, the remote villages in Dolakha. Gender equity and social inclusion approach have been integrated into programmes.

“We have been able to further train our co-workers and social mobilizers to become an effective triggerer to sensitize community people on WASH. Our colleagues now have been able to respond in community discussions and meetings effectively,” Mr. Dhurba Bahadur Thakur, WASH Officer at ECARDS Nepal said.

“People had toilet at home but surprisingly they were being used to store grass and firewood. It is due to the knowledge and skill gained through Community Health Promotion (CHP) training that we were able to sensitize community members to use toilet. I feel so happy to be able to bring this change,” female health volunteer Ms. Sabitra Acharya said with delight.

ECARDS Nepal have further capacitated 330 people (198 female and 132 male) of Orang and Bulung through WASH programmes.



Conclusion

ECARDS Nepal has been able to enhance its capacity to undertake the programs in the areas of community development in Dolakha. They are confident to take forward the WASH programmes and resolve the issues by themselves focusing on sustainability of the interventions.

“Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” As this well-known quote states, ENPHO Training Centre with the support of CAWST and under the “Reconstruction and Resilience of WASH Services through Capacity Building in Nepal” project strives to enhance the capacity, knowledge and skills of people and institutions for the development of community.



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