Towards Achieving Resilient and **Water Safe Urban Communities** in Selected Areas of Kathmandu Valley

Status: Ongoing

Project Partner: UNICEF

Project Area: Three communities across Mahalaxmi Municipality and Godawari Municipality. Out of which, 2 communities (Ghimirethok, Ward 9 and Mathillo Dovan, Ward 8) are in Mahalaxmi Municipality and 1 community (Basuki Sikharpa, Ward 6) is in Godawari Municipality

Project Duration: November 2021 to March 2023

Aim

- **Capacity enhancement of Municipalities** and their communities on water quality testing and monitoring including solutions for safe water;
- Support selected Municipalities and their communities to **establish a water quality monitoring mechanism**;
- **Capacitate children and citizens to conduct a risk assessment** to further contribute to informed decision-making of the local government on WASH status improvement;
- Support about the communities to **achieve/declare Water Safe Communities** in Kathmandu valley;
- Support selected communities to **ensure water conservation approaches** in the context of growing urbanization and climate change;

Student testing WQ of Street Food Vendor through PA Vial During CCRM

Project Description

As per the Constitution of Nepal, access to safe drinking water is a basic human right. A "one-house – one water-tap" policy is being implemented to progressively realize universal access to safe drinking water by 2030, to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets for drinking water. In response to increasing concerns over water quality, UNICEF aims to support some of the communities to achieve a Water Safe Community, a mechanism where communities and its government are capable to ensure that their water is safe for all inhabitants of the community all the time as per the global definition of safely managed water in communities. With the same aim, ENPHO in support of UNICEF is implementing the project "**Towards Achieving Water Safe and Resilient Communities in selected areas of Kathmandu Valley**" in Mahalaxmi and Godawari Municipality.

The use of contaminated drinking water (due to the lack of safe drinking water) is associated with the transmission of diseases such as diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A and many other diseases. Thus, it exposes individuals to preventable risks, especially children under the age of five.

Therefore, the project intends to assess the existing situation of drinking water and identify hazards, risks, and control measures. The project also supports reviewing and developing water safety plans including implementation (which may require improvement in the existing water supply schemes). Further, the project strengthens monitoring which assures the effectiveness of the plans and water quality testing (at source, reservoirs, network system, tap stand, and household storage) as per guidelines. Besides, the project enhances the capacity of local stakeholders on safe water including the development of a water quality monitoring mechanism to ensure that communities have access to safe drinking water.

Booth Camp organized to disseminate information on safe drinking water at Lubhu

Project Outcomes

- 379 samples were tested with the MICS test kit through volunteer mobilization and 122 samples were tested in lab for potable parameters. Samples were taken from all 21 municipalities in Kathmandu Valley including 3 rural municipalities (Bagmati, Mahankal, and Kyonjosom);
- Three days of training on Water Safe Community was completed from April 6 to 8, 2022. The training was targeted at municipal officials involved in WASH and health. The training was attended by a total of 36 municipal officials. Out of them, 17 were male and 19 were female;
- A total of 450 water samples were collected from households in three selected communities of Mahalaxmi Municipality (Ward 9 and Ward 8) and Godawari Municipality (Ward 6). An ECC vial was used to test the water quality with the volunteer mobilization;
- Three days of training on the Water Safe community was completed. on March 23 to 25. The training was attended by members of the water user committee members of selected three communities of Godawari Municipality and Mahalaxmi Municipality;
- Sensor-based automatic chlorine dosing pump was installed in all three communities (Basuki Sikharpa) of Godawari Municipality and (Ghimirethok WSS and Mathillo Dovan WSS) of Mahalaxmi Municipality and including water source and intake improvement and protection;
- Mini Lab for water quality test was established for both Municipality. For Mahalaxmi Municipality, Mini Lab was established in Lubhoo WSS Office and for Godawari Municipality, the lab was set up in the municipality building. However, formal handover is remaining;
- Successful trial on the development of compact dry plate, a plate used for water quality test which quantifies the presence of *E. coli* in the sample water;
- As a part of CCRM, altogether 168 students were oriented on WASH and out it 30 students from 5 schools were separately oriented on CCRM. The CCRM was completed with the dissemination in ward level. The CCRM was conducted in the following 5 schools of Mahalaxmi Municipality and Godawari Municipality;

Hardware Activities		
Activity	**Households**	**People Reached**
Establishment of Minilab Municipality	33192 HHs	234955
Source and WASH improvement and Sensor based automatic chlorine Dosing pump Installation	450 HHs	2250

Software Activities		
Activity	**Households**	**People Reached**
Water quality test in Kathmandu Valley	829 HHs	4145
Training on WSC		63
Child Centered Risk Mapping		1505

Major Achievements

- Water Quality Monitoring Mechanism of Municipalities assessed and the possibility of WSC among Municipalities increased;
- Developed Capacity of municipalities and its communities through technical support on water quality testing and monitoring including solutions on safe water supply;

- Supported communities to ensure water conservation approaches in communities to achieve the status of Water Safe Communities;
- Students and teachers increased Capacity on Child Centered Risk Mapping;

Beneficiaries

Total Beneficiaries from the project

33,192
Households

2,34,955
People