

Kingsbridge Risk Solutions and WaterAid Working together to overcome poverty

Executive Summary

This report details what has been achieved from the funding link between Kingsbridge Risk Solutions and WaterAid in Nepal during 2007/08. In December 2007, Kingsbridge launched a corporate partnership with WaterAid to support our vital work in Nepal.

WaterAid enables the world's poorest people to gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education. These basic human rights underpin health, education and livelihoods and form the first, essential steps in overcoming poverty.

Kingsbridge Risk Solutions contribution of £5,000 has helped to provide safe drinking water and sanitation, integrated with health and hygiene education for people living in the urban slums of Bharatpur in the Chitawan district of Nepal.

The programme objectives in 2007/8 were:

- ◆ To increase the poor community's access to water facilities
- ◆ To increase access to improved sanitation thereby reducing open defecation practices
- ◆ To improve education, knowledge and hygiene practices in the community
- ◆ To increase the community's knowledge of community-based water resource management principles
- ◆ To empower the community to voice their rights to access water and sanitation

The funding from Kingsbridge Risk Solutions has enabled 1,000 people to gain access to a supply of safe water and 1,665 people to gain access to adequate sanitation during 2007/08.



WaterAid's work in Nepal

WaterAid began its water, sanitation and hygiene work in Nepal in 1986 and has continued despite the political instability and conflict of recent years. Our activities with six partner organisations are vital as without safe water to drink and somewhere hygienic to go to the toilet, childhood ailments like diarrhoea are killers. Every year approximately a third of all deaths in Nepal are children under five, half of which are due to diarrhoea.

WaterAid's aim is to improve the lives of poor people through its work with non governmental organisations (NGOs) partners, which in Nepal are: Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH), Lumanti, Environment and Public Health Organisation, Urban Environment Management Society, Centre for Integrated Urban Development, and NGO Forum.

WaterAid also supports the Federation of Water and Sanitation Users Group (FEDWASUN) - a network with more than with 700 water and sanitation users groups representing 50,000 households - to make the voices of poor people heard by the local governments and service providers at the national level.

In Nepal, WaterAid and NEWAH have implemented 700 rural water, sanitation and hygiene projects reaching more than 800,000 people and 100 urban projects reaching more than 70,000 people.

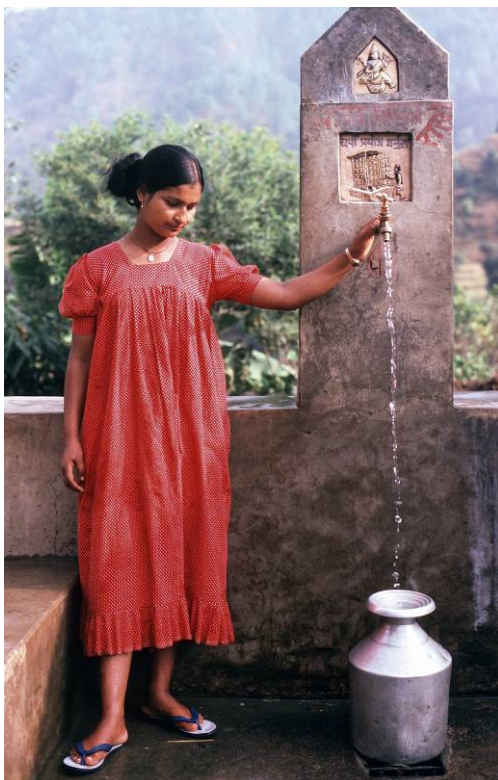


Photo credit: WaterAid/ Josh Hobbins

Highlights from WaterAid's work in Nepal during 2007/08:

- ◆ Total water users reached 34,181
- ◆ Total sanitation users reached 31,442
- ◆ WaterAid Nepal launched the End Water Poverty Campaign with a focus on the International Year of Sanitation. Calls for an end to water poverty were endorsed by 115,000 signatories and handed over to the Prime Minister who assured national political commitment to give sanitation a priority.
- ◆ Through a partnership with Radio Sagarmatha, nearly 50 episodes of a programme aimed at raising awareness of water and sanitation issues were aired, reaching a wide civil society audience as well engaging high level media and political engagement.
- ◆ Changes have been seen across the rural programmes through adoption of the Community-led basic sanitation for all approach, new health policy and guidelines, a new gender and social inclusion strategy as well as studies that have been carried out on the needs of differently able people and community level financing.

Key Developments during 2007/08

National Context

On 28 May 2008, Nepal became a Federal Democratic Republic when the first meeting of the Constituent Assembly overwhelmingly voted for the abolition of the country's 240-year-old monarchy.

The country now has an historic opportunity to show that it can deliver effectively better governance, infrastructure and basic services, as well as greater social justice.

Sector Context

Nepal's water and sanitation sector is highly fragmented. Progress in improving water supply coverage figures has generally been good but national sanitation coverage is very poor at 46% with socio-cultural and economic factors accounting for the lowest coverage rate in South Asia.

Overall sector performance is hindered by structural and institutional barriers and a lack of effective sector coordination. The political transition period provides a conducive environment for water and sanitation to become a priority.

WaterAid Nepal

WaterAid Nepal is widely known and respected in the sector and its network of partners and their collective abilities to both deliver services and influence policy and practices are a major potential force for sector development.

During 2007/08 WaterAid Nepal has consolidated its programme based approach across rural programmes, aimed at managing and implementing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene activities more effectively and efficiently through increased integration of service delivery, capacity building and advocacy activities.



Photo credit: WaterAid/ Marco Betti

WaterAid Nepal remains actively engaged in discussion aimed at sector reform and sector coordination and the efforts made in research and documentation have enabled WaterAid Nepal to increasingly take up role of a knowledge catalyst in the sector.

As well as launching the End Water Poverty Campaign, WaterAid Nepal has supported the development of the International Year of Sanitation website (www.iys.org.np), launched in front of more than 500 people on World Water Day, and has continued to focus on strengthening civil society engagement in the sector through the consolidation of the Citizens' Action Programme.

Kingsbridge Risk Solutions Funding Link 2007/08



Photo credit: WaterAid/ Marco Betti

The communities in the eleven slums and squatter settlements of Bharatpur in Chitwan district are predominantly disadvantaged and living on or below \$1 a day, with 64% of people having been identified as very poor and a further 28% as poor.

Previously, with more than 50% of households without access to a toilet and only 35% of the surveyed population dependent on wells, there has been acute stress due to lack of water services. Furthermore, the communities' have lacked confidence in voicing their basic human rights of water and sanitation.

Using the contribution of Kingsbridge, in the first year of this two year project, WaterAid has been working with its non-governmental partner organisation Lumanti to change this situation of real need.

To ensure the sustainability of the projects, the water and sanitation user committee groups have been set up to manage the projects. The sustainability of WaterAid projects is hugely important and has been considered at every stage of design and implementation.

During 2007/08 Kingsbridge contributed a total of £5,000 towards the total project cost of £16,917.

This has enabled WaterAid to provide:

- ◆ Professional support and advice on project planning, design and implementation
- ◆ Financial assistance to meet the costs associated with the scheme

The funding from Kingsbridge has enabled 1,000 people to gain access to a supply of safe water and 1,665 people to gain access to adequate sanitation during 2007/08.

2007/8	Water	Sanitation
Planned	1,000	1,665
Actual	1,000	1,665

Community Contribution

- ◆ The community have collected local materials and contributed unskilled labour and land as well as a financial contribution. The Water and Sanitation Users' committee, Community Health Visitors and Caretakers have also contributed their time for community meetings, training and hygiene education.

Kingsbridge Risk Solutions Project Achievements

Water

- ◆ 20 hand pumps have been installed
- ◆ The community has also received training on community-based water resource management and the construction project has followed these principles.
- ◆ A Project Management Committee and a Users' Committee has been set up with members from the community to ensure the sustainability of the project.



Sanitation

- ◆ 110 pit latrines have been constructed meaning that all the project beneficiaries will have access to hygienic sanitation facilities.

Hygiene Education

- ◆ A formal evaluation of the sanitation and hygiene behaviour practices in the community has been carried out.
- ◆ Hygiene promotion activities have taken place to increase the community's personal hygiene awareness and behaviour.

Advocacy and capacity building

These communities are often left behind and not prioritised for development and the poor people living there lack the confidence to raise their voice for their rights for shelter and other basic infrastructures such as electricity, water and sanitation. This project has also worked to enhance the citizens' voice within this community by encouraging participation in advocacy activities aimed at achieving good water governance and engaging the community in town and city level discussions on water and sanitation. This part of WaterAid's advocacy work is implemented in collaboration with NGO Forum for Water and Sanitation.

Some example costs of our work in Nepal:

- ◆ £5 pays for a bag of cement to produce a latrine slab
- ◆ £90 pays for a hand pump for 10 households
- ◆ £269 pays for a new well construction
- ◆ £480 pays for a health motivator to promote good hygiene practices to 850 people for 12 months
- ◆ £2,308 pays for a school rainwater harvesting system for 200 children
- ◆ £15,300 pays for a gravity flow water supply reaching 85 households

Case Study Nepal: The end of water nightmares

The impact of safe water and sanitation reaches far beyond the obvious effects on health. Water and sanitation underpin education and livelihoods and form the first step in overcoming poverty, as Shaili Tithung's story highlights.



Shaili stands at the Kamarang tapstand from where she now collects her water.
Photo credit: WaterAid/ Josh Hobbins

It used to take Shaili more than three hours walking down steep, narrow paths to collect 20 litres of water.

WaterAid supported NEWAH to install a new water scheme in the village. Sanitation and hygiene education were included in the project and now all of the houses in the village have their own latrines.

Here is Shaili's story:

"Since the drinking water scheme was constructed the situation has changed. It takes about two minutes to collect 20 litres of water and the water runs for 24 hours a day. Now water is available near to my house for washing, cleaning and for my kitchen garden. I have even been able to sell garlic and onions from my kitchen garden.

I also use the time I save for farm activities and to look after my husband and children...Agriculture is our main occupation. We have cattle, two buffaloes and one pair of oxen we use for ploughing. The health education received from the project is applicable throughout my whole life.

I give 5Nrs per month to repair and maintain the scheme. So far the management committee has been able to collect about Nrs 39,000 in the maintenance fund... Today the children in my village have a better life compared to the past. Now they can give their time to their studies rather than helping their parents collect water. Now we all have much more control over our time."

WaterAid and the communities in Nepal would like to thank Kingsbridge Risk Solutions for their fantastic support of our vital work in 2007/08. We are delighted that Kingsbridge are continuing to support WaterAid in Nepal in 2008/09.