



Nepal: Provision of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in 13 schools in Sindhupalchok district, Nepal

Final Report

Duration	01.06.2017 – 30.09.2018
Project number	p150112
Project objectives	Caritas Switzerland rehabilitated sanitation facilities in 13 schools and provided safe drinking water supply.
Reporting period	01.06.2017-30.09.2018
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Operational Framework

Introduction and current situation

The earthquakes of April 25 and May 12 2015 and their many aftershocks had devastating effects on the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people in Nepal. Overall, 8'000 schools were destroyed or heavily damaged which affected around 1.5 million children. With around 90% of all public schools destroyed, Sindhupalchok was one of the worst affected districts in the country.

More than three years after the earthquake, there is still a need for safe schools. According to a review of the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), around 3'079 schools were reconstructed and 2'103 schools are currently being constructed. This leaves 2'371 schools that are yet to be constructed. NRA officials admit that the reconstruction of such buildings was delayed due to increased focus on rebuilding private homes¹.

Given the need in school reconstruction and the high quality of CACH's schools, the authorities and affected communities have repeatedly voiced their appreciation for CACH's rehabilitation project.

Developments in political context

In spring 2017, the government of Nepal introduced a new administrative system with which a shift of legislative and executive power towards local level authorities was started. Consequently, the prior local level authorities with whom CACH worked with (the Village Developments Committees, VDCs) were replaced with municipal authorities. These municipalities now have assumed full responsibility over the coordination of school rehabilitation activities and maintenance of school infrastructure. CACH established working relations with these new municipal authorities and coordinates very closely with the mayors on this project.

Project area

The previous administrative units of VDCs within the districts were dissolved in 2017 following the new constitution of Nepal coming into effect in September 2015. The new administrative system is based on 7 provinces, 75 districts, and 753 municipalities or rural municipalities. According to the new administrative systems, the 13 schools supported by this project are located in Melamchi municipality and Helambu rural municipality. While the main focal points for CACH are still the School management committees (SMCs) of the respective schools, CACH is now also in close contact with the mayors of the Melamchi and the Helambu rural municipalities.



¹ Kathmandu Post, "Delays in Rebuilding school, health facilities" (4 April 2018), <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2018-04-09/delays-in-rebuilding-school-health-facilities.html>

Project progress

The WASH component of CACH's larger school rehabilitation project, is consisting of:

- provision of safe sanitation facilities in 13 schools
- provision of safe water supply in 13 schools
- operation & maintenance (O&M) trainings for the students and school management committees in 13 schools.

The overall goal of the school rehabilitation project is to create safe and child-friendly school environments for students, teachers and SMCs in two municipalities in Sindhupalchok, based on the following two outcomes:

Outcome 1: 5'466 students in two municipalities in Sindhupalchok have access to safe and child-friendly schools, including appropriate WASH facilities

Outcome 2: Students, teachers and school management committees in 31 schools are able to maintain a safe and child-friendly school environment

Time plan

By September 2018, the school infrastructure of all 13 schools has been fully rehabilitated. 9 schools have already been handed over, 2 are ready to be handed over and in the remaining two final superficial works are being implemented (cleaning and painting).

Whereas CACH is on time with most of the construction sites, the project has experienced some delays. This is due to two facts: Firstly, CACH chose a very inclusive approach to construction, involving school communities in all stages from construction planning, monitoring to final audit. While the strong community involvement proved to be successful in generating community's ownership of the schools, it is also a time consuming practice and led to delays in the implementation process. The delays were mainly due to community proposals for changes in the school layout which CACH reviewed, accepted if feasible and within the budget or rejected and informed the communities accordingly. Secondly, Sindhupalchok has experienced extraordinarily long and heavy rainy seasons in 2017 and in 2018. Indeed, this summer most of the schools were not accessible from May to September, due to the bad road conditions.

In order to ensure that the schools and WASH facilities are rehabilitated in good quality, CACH had to extend the construction timeplans for a few months. The final two schools of the 13 schools will be handed over in November 2018 (see "achieved results" below).

Achieved results

Provision of safe sanitation facilities in 13 schools for 2'581 students

By end of September 2018, all schools were equipped with gender-appropriate and disabled-accessible toilet facilities and a functioning water supply system. The latrines were placed in toilet blocks on the school premises outside of the school buildings and connected to septic tanks. All schools have latrine blocks that are accessible to physically challenged students.

	School name	Municipality	School Type	#of students	#of teachers	Status
1	Terse	Melamchi	HSS	682	23	handed over
2	Saraswoti	Helambu	HSS	597	27	handed over
3	Sarbodaya	Helambu	LSS	138	6	handed over
5	Harisiddhi	Helambu	PS	55	3	handed over
6	Sarkathali	Helambu	PS	32	5	handed over
7	Golmadevi	Helambu	SS	210	15	handed over
8	Helambu	Helambu	PS	83	4	handed over
10	Jageshwori	Melamchi	LSS	159	8	handed over
11	Mahakali Nindeshwori	Helambu	PS	61	3	handed over
4	Gyanodaya	Helambu	PS	124	16	completed, ready for hand over
9	Jayabageshwori	Helambu	HSS	325	11	completed, ready for hand over
12	Laavgaon	Melamchi	PS	47	4	hand over in November
13	Suryodaya	Melamchi	PS	68	3	hand over in November
TOTAL				2581	128	

Note: PS= Primary School, LSS= Lower Secondary School, HSS= Higher Secondary School;

Provision of safe water supply in 13 schools for 2'581 students including installation of colloidal silver covered ceramic filters

All 13 schools have been equipped with water supply. Either the schools were connected to the community water supply system or a separate school water supply system was installed, depending on feasibility and distance of the school to the communities. Works were carried out by local laborers or community members. In all schools, water tests were conducted in dry and rainy season to check whether the water provided is safe or not. Different water solution filters were tested and based on the results of these tests, CACH decided to provide colloidal silver filters to schools where coliforms were found. These filters are easier to maintain than other filter solutions (e.g. UV filters which need electricity). Proper maintenance handling of the water systems and filters is included in the O&M plans, which were prepared for each school. The filters have already been provided to the schools and the caretakers and SMCs have been trained in the handling of the filters as well as how to replace parts. Together with hygiene promotion activities conducted in all schools, the students as well as teachers have a much improved hygiene and sanitation environment in their schools.

Operation & Maintenance training for the students and school management committees (SMCs) in 13 schools have been conducted

The SMCs are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the school infrastructure once the schools are handed over. By providing tools and by conducting training activities, CACH supports the SMC, teachers and parents in building the necessary capacities for successful operation and maintenance of the schools in the long run.

In all 13 schools, CACH facilitated workshops, in which the SMC, teachers and parents developed individual O&M plans for their respective schools. The O&M plans include technical specifications for each school and lay out responsibilities as well as timelines. Furthermore, CACH carried out a three-day technical training for caretakers and SMC focal points on how to repair WASH infrastructure and damage on the school buildings. CACH also helped the SMCs to set up O&M funds and coordinate with the municipalities for receiving public funds for O&M, for which they are eligible. CACH held a workshop with the heads of the municipalities in its project region to sensitize them on the importance of O&M and lobby for them to support SMCs with their O&M responsibilities. In the coming months, CACH will continue to work with the municipalities and assist them to develop financial plans and to set up a monitoring infrastructure to ensure O&M is properly carried out at the schools.

CACH regularly reviewed the functionality of the O&M system setup in the handed over schools. Currently, CACH tests the effectiveness of setting up O&M and WASH committees, consisting of teachers, students, parents, SMC representatives and the caretaker, to ensure that the school facilities including the WASH infrastructure at the schools are properly maintained.

With the conducted O&M training the SMCs, teachers and the students are enabled to properly take care of their new school infrastructure, keep it in clean conditions and repair or replace damaged parts of the school as well as of the WASH infrastructure.

Outlook

As mentioned above, CACH is rehabilitating 36 schools within its school rehabilitation programme. CACH will therefore remain active in Sindhupalchok until October 2019 and is thus able to further support the SMCs, teachers, students as well as with the municipal government representatives in O&M trainings. CACH feels that this is required to enhance the knowledge and the capacities to the users and the managers of the schools in order to ensure that the schools will benefit generations of students to come. CACH would like to thank GF for its support in this endeavor.

Financial statement

The WASH components are being implemented by CACH together with contractors (for the construction of latrines and drinking water facilities), HELVETAS (for the provision of water supply) and school management committees (water supply). In total, six different construction firms were contracted for the reconstruction of the 13 schools including the construction of the latrines and the water taps. The rehabilitation of the school water supply schemes was done by the School Management Committees, with financial support and technical guidance by HELVETAS staff.

Expenditures	Project Components	Total Budget (CHF)	Total Expenses (CHF)
1	Secure access to drinking water and toilets for all students is secured in the longterm		
1.1	Construction costs toilets	209'583	160'727
1.2	Construction of secure water provision for 13 schools	139'534	148'508
1.3	O&M plans for 13 schools	7'868	8'139
1.5	Expenses for partner organization	30'098	29'252
1.6	Staff Expenses	63'426	60'101
1.7	Office Expenses	55'778	21'677
	Total	506'287	428'404
	Administrative Costs (9.9%)	50'122	42'412
	Total (with admin costs)	556'409	470'816

As of 30 September 2018, CHF 470'816 (85%) of the budget for the reconstruction of WASH facilities in 13 schools have been used. The budget has not been fully used by the end of the reporting period as several invoices for the construction of the sanitation facilities are yet to be received from the contractors. All WASH facilities have been properly installed and are of good quality. The remaining expenses will occur in the coming months and the budget should then be used up.

Caritas Switzerland

Lukas Fiechter
Programme Director Nepal

Photo Gallery



CACH provided gender-separated toilets with hand-washing facilities in all thirteen schools.



Female toilets in secondary schools were equipped with incinerators to dispose sanitary pads.



Water tests were conducted in all schools to test whether the water is of drinking water quality.



Drinking water tanks with integrated colloidal silver filters were provided in schools where needed.



Students of Helambu primary school fill the water tank at Helambu Basic School.



CACH carried out a training with practical sessions and theoretical presentations, in order to show the caretakers and SMC members how to maintain the water supply schemes and toilet facilities.

