

GUY'S AND ST THOMAS' NHS FOUNDATION TRUST TRANSFORMS OVER **4,693 LIVES** IN RURAL NEPAL THROUGH AQUAFUND

WaterAid and ADSM would like to thank Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust for helping to bring safe water and sanitation to 4,693 people in some of the most rural and remote areas of Nepal through AquaFund.

“ WATER IS OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE. WE'RE VERY LUCKY IN THE UK TO HAVE SAFE, CLEAN WATER AT THE TURN OF THE TAP, BUT ONE IN TEN PEOPLE ACROSS THE GLOBE ARE DENIED ACCESS TO THIS BASIC NECESSITY. WE'D LIKE TO THANK GUY'S AND ST THOMAS' NHS FOUNDATION TRUST AND ADSM FOR HELPING US REACH THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WITH SAFE WATER AND IMPROVED SANITATION IN NEPAL. ”

WaterAid



Local people help to excavate a trench for a new water pipeline. The hilly, remote landscape is clearly visible.

THE NEPAL PROJECT

This project's focus was to improve the health and living standards of communities located deep within the rural hills of Sankhuwashabha District in Eastern Nepal. This was a particularly challenging project as Nepal's extreme and remote hill landscape has significantly hindered the delivery of basic services, and in turn the ability of people to lift themselves out of poverty. Additionally, Nepal's diverse mix of cultural groups, a

deep-rooted caste system and strong gender divisions challenge the provision of essential services to those most in need.

Women, even whilst heavily pregnant, walk miles every day along steep mountain paths to collect water that is often unclear. Many children, especially girls, are unable to attend school due to time spent collecting water for household use.

ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE:

**4,693 PEOPLE WITH
IMPROVED SANITATION
AND HYGIENE**

**6 NEW GRAVITY FLOW WATER
SYSTEMS - SUPPLYING 67 TAP
STANDS**

**SIX COMMUNITIES
FREE FROM OPEN
DEFECATION**

WATER

Throughout this project there have been many challenges, most notably a monsoon which caused problems with accessibility as the village roads were washed away by the rain. In spite of the challenges some fantastic achievements were made:

- 6 new gravity flow water systems, supplying 67 tap stands
- Trained 24 water point caretakers on maintaining the water systems and bringing communities together to assist with the construction work.
- Set up and trained six Water and Sanitation Users Committees, with 62 members from the local communities.

They are overseeing the project work and training local people on the construction of water points and latrines.

- Increased awareness of safe water and improved sanitation and hygiene among children through training 106 children, school committees and child health groups in water safety and good hygiene practices.

SANITATION

Significant progress has been made in improving sanitation this year, leading to the full eradication of open defecation across the project area. This is an excellent achievement which contributes directly towards Nepal's goal to obtain 100% water and sanitation coverage by 2017. To support improved sanitation:

- 120 volunteers (58% female) were trained and helped to educate the communities on the need to end open defecation and construct latrines at home.
- 272 families dug rubbish pits at home to encourage the safe and hygienic management of household waste.
- 175 families built washing facilities (a concrete slab with drainage) at home.
- 299 dish drying racks were also constructed using local materials such as bamboo
- 172 families set up a handwashing point at home to encourage everyone to wash their hands with soap before eating, after using the toilet and at other critical times.

- 1,040 households constructed latrines this year reaching 4,693 people with improved sanitation

HYGIENE

We have been promoting improved hygiene in the communities very actively over the first six months of Year 2. Health camps, hygiene campaigns and education sessions have been run to provide health and hygiene information related to safe water, food preparation, storage and other hygiene related themes. Children have been reached with hygiene information through school sessions and community health groups.



Children demonstrating the handwashing steps they have learnt through hygiene promotion campaigns

Karuna Magar's

(pictured here with her 1 year old daughter) village benefitted from a new water supply, she reflects on the impact this has had on her family.



“ Water was the main problem here. There was only one tap in the community and it wasn't enough for everyone. I had to struggle a lot in the past. But now the tap is just a minute from home and the water flows all the time. The water from the tap is very clean and is safe to drink. My daughter hasn't got sick from the water. I feel as if our place is developed now with the water and toilets, and we can keep the toilets clean. Water is so important that we cannot think of living without water. We can live without food but not without water. ”



Sapani Rai

(pictured left) is a water point caretaker and Vice President of a Water and Sanitation Users Committee in Ankhibhui. Her community will soon have access to a safe source of water, and here she tells us what the project means to her:

“ When the water starts flowing from the tap my life will take a new turn and I will be the first person to be happy to see the water flowing from the tap. It will be very special as the water will flow from the pipeline on which we have worked very hard. So I am very curious and excited to see the whole system working. I am thinking of growing green vegetables in my kitchen garden, and I will no longer have to carry heavy water pots for cattle. ”



AQUAFUND AND WATERAID:

This is the seventh year that AquaFund has supported WaterAid. Previous projects have included Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Mali, India, Tanzania and this year's project in Nepal. It is extremely rewarding to know that AquaFund is helping organisations in the UK to reduce water consumption, and at the same time enabling some of the poorest

and most water-stressed communities in the world to gain access to a sustainable supply of safe water and sanitation – a basic human right. In 2015 AquaFund will be supporting WaterAid projects in Zambia, where rural farming communities are faced with low rainfall and extremely poor sanitation and lack of safe water.

* Photo credits: WaterAid. WaterAid registered charity number: 288701 (England and Wales) and SC039479 (Scotland)