

The Partner: UEMS

The Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS) was established in 2002 dedicated to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities of poor and marginalized people through appropriate interventions. The major activities are to rehabilitation and construction of community wells. In addition, it provides technical assistance in water treatment and purification options and conducts various activities to improve neighbourhood environment.



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Podland Youth Club

A local group of youths which helped to coordinate with local community



KMC - 17, Dhalko

Achievements

PROVIDING SAFE DRINKING WATER TO URBAN POOR — The bottled water distribution system has addressed the water demand of urban poor. When piped water distribution networks is unable to meet daily water demand, the system has supported to meet the minimum water requirement of urban poor

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND OWNERSHIP — The active participation of community from the initial phase of the project then to governing water distribution system by themselves assisted in the successful operation of the system. The collaborative approach helped locals develop a sense of ownership and accountability.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION — Inclusion of women in UC contributes to improve decision making process considering women's water need and demand and reflecting that women's voices are being heard.

Characteristics of the System

Accessible at intra communal locality
Affordable to urban poor
Safe drinking water increasing health security
Adequate supply on need criteria
Increasing sustainability of the system over time.

पानी लिन आउँदा उपभोक्ताले पालना गर्नु पर्ने नियमहरू:

- रेकर्ड कार्ड अनिवार्य लिएर आउनु पर्नेछ ।
- पैसा बुझाएर रेकर्ड कार्डमा जनाए पछि मात्र पानी लिएर जानु पर्नेछ ।
- बोटल सधै सफा राख्नु पर्नेछ ।
- बोटलको विको फुटेमा अर्को विको राखेर मात्र पानी लानु होला ।
- पानी घरमा लगि सकेपछि सफा भाडामा राखी पिउनु होला ।
- खाली बोटल ठिक छ / छैन देखाएर मात्र फिर्ता गर्नु पर्नेछ ।
- बोटलमा बाहिरको अन्य पानी गर्न सक्त मनाही छ ।

स्वच्छ पानी स्वस्थ जीवन, फोहर पानी रोमी जीवन

COMMUNITY BASED BOTTLED WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, DHALKO

IMPROVING WATER ACCESS TO URBAN POOR

Beneficiaries

584 Households of Dhalko
226 Households of Teku
2513 Population of Dhalko
1046 Population of Teku

Daily distribution capacity - 20,000 liters



Kathmandu Upatyaka
Khanepani Limited

Water Bottling System for Urban Poor communities within Kathmandu Valley



The Background: Water Crisis in Kathmandu

Kathmandu Metropolitan City, the capital of the country, is resided mostly by the indigenous newar communities. The people living in the core city are deprived of drinking water as there is limited and intermittent water supply. Number of cluster settlements within the city do not have private connection to water supply networks. As a result, the majority of the residents collect water from traditional water sources like dugwells, stone spouts etc and the settlements not having these alternative sources nearby spend hours for collecting a single bucket of water.

The 584 households in Pote Tole of Dhalko and 226 households in Saura Bahal of Teku, resided by poor and so called lower class people of Kathmandu, have no access to the water supply network and the few having connection have no supply. Unfortunately, the traditional water sources are also not available in the area and the people are desperately in need of some appropriate interventions. The imperative necessity to supply water through appropriate provision triggered Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS) to help them through sustainable and safe water supply system.

Dhalko is one of the settlements notified by UN-HABITAT in its past study with critical shortage of water and the Community Based Bottled Water Distribution System is the most appropriate medium to provide them with safe drinking water. With financial and technical support from UN-HABITAT, PPPUE/UNDP and KUKL, UEMS initiated to supply drinking water to the community by bottled water distribution system owned by the community themselves.

The Project: Water Distribution

UEMS helped to set up the system, entitled “Water Bottling System for Urban Poor communities within Kathmandu Valley”, designed to provide safe drinking water to urban poor. The system collects the treated water from KUKL owned Bansbari Reservoir and fills it into the 20 litres jar in the platform constructed therein. The water filled jars are transported to and distributed among the inhabitants through two distribution station established at Dhalko. The 20 litre jars are distributed in the minimal cost of Rs. 5 (USD 0.079). The system has capacity to distributed 1000 jars per day. Currently, approximately 3559 inhabitants including both tenants and renters are being benefited by the system.

The water from reservoir is tapped to the platform constructed where water is filled in the clean and disinfected jars with lids. The filled jars are transported in 3 full trips



in a day and/or as required in case of less demand. These jars can meet the drinking and cooking water demand of a household for a day or two, depending upon the family size and consumption rate.

To ensure the effective implementation of the project, several activities were conducted. A survey was conducted to acquire the socio-economic status of the community and to identify the water demand as well as willingness to acquire the system. Series of community consultation, coordination with local youth club helped to gain the consent of the community and to foster community for their involvement during implementation and operation and maintenance. Dissemination of the concept of the system and awareness campaign encouraged community participation.

A seven member steering committee with the representatives from the community, KUKL, UN-HABITAT, PPPUE/UNDP and UEMS was formed to advise, monitor, evaluate and backstop the system in future. In addition, a fifteen member user's committee, including three women, was formed to oversee implementation and to operate the system.

Sustainability

The system started to supply drinking water to community from 30th January 2008 after

completion of the system setup by 2 months. The user's committee is operating the system since then under the close observation and guidance of UEMS. In just six months of its operation the UC is fully capable to handle the system and delivering the service to the local community.

It has already shown the possibilities of replicating the system in other urban poor communities within the valley. The learning made from the system has helped to encourage participation of more stakeholders and scale up the system. Partnership between different stakeholders assures benefiting more water scarce communities through similar system in future.

To ensure that the system will be effectively and sustainably operated and maintained, the UEMS has helped UC to develop various documents, including business plan, pricing and selling mechanisms and water quality control mechanisms. It has provided employment opportunity to number of individuals. Although, the system is in the initial phase of operation, the system will generate the revenue from the sell of water for sustainable operation in future. As the system is demand driven, the community has strong sense of ownership and responsibility towards the system which adds up for the system's sustainability.

