

# BURJAKANLA

## Drinking Water Supply Scheme



### LEARNING DOCUMENT



## Felicitation !

The shortage of water has remained one of major challenges in many parts of Nepal. Access to safe drinking water remain even more critical to the marginalized communities. UEMS has been working to address drinking water problems through various projects, particularly targeting the marginalized communities residing in urban and peri-urban areas of Nepal. Triyuga Municipality of Udayapur District also faces the similar challenges. With the funding support from the WaterAid Nepal, UEMS initiated an Integrated WASH Improvement Project in Triyuga in 2010.



Burjakanla Drinking Water Supply Scheme is constructed for population of Panchakanya and Chhahari TLOs in Triyuga Municipality. These communities had to travel up to 2 hours to get access to water, which could not be considered potable. This scheme has been completed with enthusiasm despite many obstacles on the way. This was possible due to diligent effort by the staff of the project and community alike. Also, due to the close coordination with the local government agencies and other stakeholders maintained by the project, there were willing supporters during the time of crisis. This has undoubtedly contributed towards the success of the project.

I would like to congratulate the communities for successful completion of the scheme despite many problems faced. UEMS is grateful to Triyuga Municipality, DWSSDO Udayapur, Citizen Forum Udayapur and UNICEF for their support in making this project successful. I would also like to thank the staff of Triyuga project for their strong efforts, efficient community mobilization and coordination towards the success of the project.

**Prem Singh Maharjan**  
Chairperson



so I mostly dig and carry loads. If Burjakanla DWSS is successful, we can use that water for irrigation purposes as well. We will no more have to fetch water from far. I am very happy that UEMS has brought this scheme in our village. We have faced many problems in our times but I hope that this scheme will be sustainable and our future generations won't have to face those difficulties."

Likewise, the majority of unskilled laborers are women from Chhahari and Panchakanya TLOs. They come to work carrying their small children. Dirgha Maya Magar (37), a consumer of Burjakanla DWSS and member of Chhahari TLO says "We are using water from the public well. It is open and even school children use it. The water is inadequate. Well dries up during dry months. At that time we use the tube wells of our neighboring communities. It takes almost an hour. My husband is abroad along with most youths of our village. So we women come here to work carrying our small children. We women can work equally as men. I come here at around 11 am after completing my household chores. We work whole day and we face lot of difficulties. Many organizations have come to work here but they only gave us hope. But, UEMS has raised our hopes. When UEMS first came here, we didn't trust them. It had been a long time coming. But now that we are actually working rather than listening to someone talk about our problems, our hopes have risen again. I have a lot of expectations from this scheme. So, we work happily for this scheme construction forgetting all our hardships."



Though the number of youths can be counted on the fingertips, the villagers are determined to work and provide necessary community contribution and support for the completion of this scheme. UEMS is also working conscientiously for the timely completion of this scheme, so that the villagers can drink safe water very soon. As many youths of these communities are brainstorming in foreign countries for better employment, UEMS is facing difficulties in timely completion of the scheme, as most of the occupants of the village are senior citizens, women and children. However, the energy and hope of these community members have ignited further fire in the heart of UEMS, dreaming of happy faces of the community people after the completion of the scheme.

*Striving for Big Impact  
through Small Efforts!*



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Triyuga Municipality

 **WaterAid**

# SUCCESS THROUGH COMBINED EFFORT



Several wards of Triyuga Municipality do not have easy access to water supply and sanitation facilities due to the geography of Triyuga Municipality. Community people have to walk for a minimum of an hour to fetch water from the nearby source and problem are exaggerated by frequent spread of water borne diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, dysentery, etc. UEMS introduced various WASH related programs and activities, including meetings, workshops, etc. in wards 6, 7, 9 and 11. UEMS actively supported in declaring Triyuga Municipality ODF zone. UEMS is continuing to support Triyuga Municipality. The concept of ‘one house one latrine and one tap nearby’, through Burjakanla Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme helped a lot in bringing positive changes in sanitation behavior of the communities in Panchakanya and Chhahari TLOs. Similarly, the contribution of UEMS in providing operation and maintenance trainings and collection of fund has resulted in creating healthy environment for healthy lives.

Lastly, I would like to thank UEMS, UNICEF, Citizen Forum Udayapur and communities under Burjakanla DWSS. Once again special thanks to UEMS field office for completing Burjakanla scheme including sump well, pump, pump house and reservoir tank, and for supporting to bring positive change in sanitation behavior in Triyuga Municipality.

Triyuga Municipality hopes for continuous support from UEMS in future as well.

Er. Nirmal Kumar Bishwas Chaudhary  
Engineer, Triyuga Municipality

# URBAN ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS), a non government organization established in 2002, is dedicated to people-centered urban development and striving to contribute for better living environment through efforts for sustainable development. UEMS supports urban and sub-urban population, especially marginalized communities through its work in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Solid Waste Management, Climate Change Adaptation & Disaster Risk Reduction, Alternative Energy, Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods.

<b>Vision</b>	Healthy Environment for Prosperous Life
<b>Mission</b>	Contribute towards Creating Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment in Working with Community and Stakeholders
<b>Organizational Values</b>	Equity, Integrity, Empathy with Poor and Marginalized People, Mutual Respect and Accountability
<b>Institutional Working Approaches</b>	Service Delivery, Advocacy and Research, Capacity Building, Participatory, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, Learning and Sharing, Mobilization of Local Resources and Child Protection
<b>Target Group</b>	Poor and Marginalized Urban and Peri Urban Communities

## Objectives

- To improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities by extending WASH services and technologies so that health status of people will improve through behavior change in sanitation and hygiene practices
- To enhance productive solid waste management initiatives by adopting appropriate technologies
- To reduce disaster risks and environmental impact through relevant climate change adaptation initiatives
- To contribute in poverty alleviation through sustainable livelihoods initiatives
- To promote alternative and innovative energy initiatives by researching and adopting appropriate and cost effective technologies
- To promote, protect and exercise of child rights in the workplace and in the communities

# PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Nepal is practicing various modalities and approaches to meet the demands of water of the people. It has been a while that physical construction driven approaches are being replaced by comprehensive and sustainable initiatives. The sustainability is becoming even more important in such projects. UEMS has taken awareness of the communities on hygiene and sanitation awareness of local community as an integrated part of WASH projects. The advocacy and capacity building have also been integrated as a permanent part of the projects implemented by UEMS. With the objective of proper access of water facilities to Panchakanya and Chhahari Tole Lane Organizations (TLOs) of Triyuga Municipality in Udayapur district, the Burjakanla Water Supply Scheme was designed in collaboration with WaterAid Nepal, Triyuga Municipality and Panchakanya and Chhahari TLOs.

This learning document has been prepared for the purpose of documenting the program experience with the following objectives:

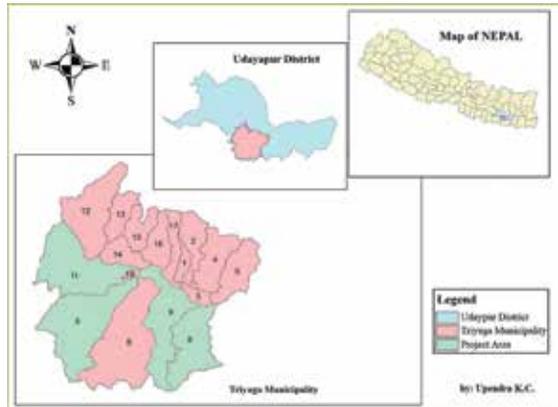
- To document and share the best practices, challenges and lessons learnt of the program with the beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders
- To support for replication of the success stories of the program
- To support for mitigation of challenges in future endeavors

# TRIYUGA INTEGRATED WASH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The rapid urbanization of the country has resulted to the challenge of adequate and proper extension of water infrastructures, mostly among marginalized communities. UEMS has been carrying out WASH activities in such areas focusing on poor and deprived population. These activities have

been planned in accordance to the plans of the Government of Nepal targeting to contribute towards meeting the Millenium Development Goals (MDG) 2001-2015, and the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2016-2030.

The Triyuga Integrated WASH Improvement Project in Triyuga Municipality is one of these initiatives to support afe water, improved sanitation and proper hygiene behavior of the newly urbanized and peri-urban areas of Triyuga. The project was implemented from 2010/11 to 2014/15 based on baseline study carried out in 2009/10. After the project, Post-project Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) phase was also implemented for 2 years from 2015/16 to 2016/17.



## Program Area

The Panchakanya and Chhahari TLOs in ward no. 9 of Triyuga Municipality had been facing serious issues of availability and accessibility of adequate safe drinking water supply. It covers an area of 209.78 sq.km. The Burjakanla Drinking Water Supply Scheme (DWSS) was designed to address this issue of these TLOs. The scheme is located 17 km from Gaighat, the center of the municipality. Supported by WaterAid Nepal, the intervention has directly benefited 35 households of Panchakanya and Chhahari TLOs.

All household and intuitional latrines and tap stands have been constructed in both communities for functionality and sustainability of WASH facilities. Agriculture is the major occupation in these TLOs with 73.5% dependency, with the remaining 26.5% households depending on daily wages/labor works/foreign employment for sustenance. The major demographic components of these TLOs are ethnic groups and are highly marginalized, as reflected by the household survey.

When the baseline was conducted in 2009/10, majority of the people (62.4% HHs) of Triyuga municipality depended on tube wells for water. Piped water supply system serves only about 14.7% HHs. About 12.8% HHs use water from dugwells and remaining 10.1% HHs fetch water directly from rivers/streams. Similarly, sanitation coverage of the municipality was only 58.9%, well below the national urban sanitation coverage average of 78%. The sanitation facilities of 14% HHs were pit latrines and DPHO data of FY 2011/12 showed that skin diseases, ARI, diarrheal diseases and worms were top 4 diseases in the municipality attributed to poor hygiene practice. Hygiene behavior practice of people residing in ward no 9 was also poor, ie., handwashing at critical times was practiced by only about 35% HHs. Similarly, PoU water treatment options are practiced by 13.5% in ward no. 9 and safe food hygiene practice is also unsatisfactory, further deteriorating the already poor health.

## Rationale of the project

The situation of the municipality reflects the situation of these TLOs as well. The time required for water collection in these TLOs ranged from 1 to 2 hours per day. There were very few household toilets in these TLOs, reflecting the lack of proper sanitation practice. Similar was the situation of hygiene behavior practice and overall WASH practice, as shown by the baseline survey. The Panchakanya and Chhahari TLOs of ward no. 9, Triyuga Municipality has 86 HHs. These HHs collected water from a small pond and a stream. They consumed water without purifying. The baseline showed that only 15% used boiled water. Similarly, there were only 8 household toilets in the area.

During the meeting with the people of these TLOs, their demands reflected the baseline scenario as well. The people here demanded proper facilities of drinking water and clean locality. They reflected that it was hard to walk through the village paths, as they would be full of defecation.

# PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND APPROACHES

## Program Objectives

The major objectives of the program are as follows to:

1. To deliver water facilities to Panchakanya and Chhahari TLOs of ward no. 9 with good practice of O&M fund for sustainability
2. To support these TLOs to train water volunteers, pump volunteers, etc. for sustainable functionality of water and sanitation facilities
3. To develop M&E tools for effective monitoring of WSUCs in future
4. To empower the WSUC with organizational capacity building
5. To develop water entrepreneurship and promotion of water services

## Program Approaches

The major approach used in this program is Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).

The following approaches were adopted while implementing the program:

1. Community based Water Resource Management (CBWRM)
2. Water Safety Plan (WSP)
3. Capacity building of community stakeholders
4. Cost sharing and recovery
5. Proper baseline assessment of demographics, WASH coverage and technical aspects of the WSS
6. Coordination with likeminded stakeholders during development of program plan, implementation and monitoring
7. Safe water supply
8. Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI)
9. Integration of Hygiene Promotion in the program
10. Participatory monitoring and evaluation
11. Post project monitoring and evaluation, follow up and support



# MODALITY OF THE PROGRAM

## Identification, Prioritization and Finalization

UEMS carried out baseline survey in 2009/10 in Triyuga Municipality ward no. 06, 07, 09 and 11, which presented the WASH scenario of Burjakanla area as critical. After discussion with the communities, ward and municipality officials; the Burjakanla DWSS was added to pipeline. The technical and social feasibility survey was conducted in 2013/14, which was utilized for preparation of project design and technical design of the program.

## Working Modality

Following activities and approaches were conducted during the program:

### 1. Community based Water Resource Management (CBWRM)

- a. Community participation was encouraged in planning, designing and implementation of the scheme
- b. The issues related to water quality, depleting water table, water resource management has been addressed in active participation of the community.
- c. The communities have been trained on water quality test of water points and trained the appointed water volunteers and pump volunteers, so as to ensure the capability of the community in sustainability of the WSS.

### 2. Capacity building of community stakeholders

Water volunteers and caretakers have been selected and trained in coordination with the Burjakanla WSUC for effective operation and sustainability of water points.

### 3. Proper baseline assessment of demographics, WASH coverage and technical aspects of the DWSS

Analysis of water coverage/scarcity, water quality, risks of water hazards, had been carried out through baseline survey.

### 4. Coordination with likeminded stakeholders during development of program plan, implementation and monitoring

- a. UEMS, WSUC and Chhahari and Panchakanya TLOs signed the MoU to implement the program as per approved project and budget.

- b. After the source dried up due to mega earthquake of 2015, joint meetings, field visits and expert consultations were conducted in coordination with community, municipality and relevant stakeholders.
- c. Due to the postponement of the project and search of new source, the fund was scarce. With a coordination among UEMS, Citizen Forum Udayapur and Triyuga Municipality, the fundraising was planned and various relevant, like-minded stakeholders were approached. The additional funds were received from UNICEF through the Triyuga Municipality and DWSSDO, Udayapur.
- d. Various lobby and advocacy activities have also been conducted through Citizen Forum Udayapur.

## 5. Adoption of new and innovative technologies

As the gravity flow mechanism did not prove appropriate for the scheme, sump well and lift system was used.



## 6. Safe water supply

The supplied water has been tested and water quality parameters have been ascertained in accordance to National Drinking Water Quality Standards (NDWQS) 2002. About

33% of the private water points and all the public water points were tested. The tests showed that the water distributed through the schemes was safe.

## 7. Hygiene promotion activities

These activities has been integrated in the project/program though RCS, FGD sessions, mass awareness activities, campaigns, documentary shows, street dramas, monitoring and supervision and other organizational capacity building trainings.

RCS data between 2014/15 to 2016/17 has been reflected on hygienic behavior changing as serially 25 % to 95 % in consumer level in water and sanitation sectors. In zest, overall predominance of water born disease indicated more than 85 % diarrhea, food poisoning problems were in their every shelter by 2014/15.

## 8. Inauguration and Handover Program

The Burjakanla Drinking Water Supply Scheme was formally inaugurated on 22 November 2016, amidst a formal inauguration and handover program, by the Chief Guest, Er. Nirmal Kumar Chaudhary, Acting Executive



Officer of Triyuga Municipality. The scheme was handed over to the Burjakanla WSUC by Ms. Tara Giri, Program Coordinator of UEMS. The User Committee and the communities have committed to sustainably continue the scheme in coming days, including WSP, proper monitoring and evaluation.

## Financial Mechanism

### Cost Sharing

The cost sharing modality has been taken to implement the project. The project cost has been shared with Triyuga Municipality, DWSSDO Udayapur, UNICEF through Triyuga Municipality, and communities of Panchakanya and Chhahari TLOs including the support in lobby and advocacy from Citizen Forum Udayapur. The total cost of the project and the cost sharing is given below:-

SN	Partner	Total Contribution (in NPR)	Remarks
1	WaterAid Nepal/UEMS	28,25,095/-	Technical Support provided
2	Triyuga Municipality/ UNICEF	5,56,582/-	
3	DWSSDO, Udayapur	1,53,092/-	Technical Support provided
4	Citizen Forum Udayapur, Nepal		Lobby and Advocacy
5	Chhahari and Panchakanya TLOs	1,00,000/-	Community Contribution
	Total	36,34,767/-	

### Financial Transparency

For the financial transparency of the program, the community members were involved in procurement team to procure the hardware materials. WSUC's focal persons were involved along with CCM and UEMS staff members for clarity in financial transactions and transparency. The information was shared to community members and relevant stakeholders through community based monitoring and evaluation (CBME) charts.

# PROCEDURE, CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION

The Burjakanla DWSS was full of challenges during its intervention. The scheme was started on 10 August 2014. Due to the scarcity of water source, excavation did not go as planned. The cost of excavation was quadrupled to estimate. However, through proper coordination and enthusiasm of the communities, the budget of excavation was funded by Triyuga Municipality. The community contribution alone amounted to Rs. 100,000 for the excavation.

Despite this issue, the construction of the system was completed. The only remaining part was laying out the pipeline, when the situation was further deteriorated by the mega earthquake of 25 April 2015. The source dried up and the quality of water in the neighborhood was worsened, causing more problems with accessibility of water. Where the water source was not dried up, the discharge was reduced.

After the earthquake, the community actively participated in coordination with various stakeholders for source identification and fund management. However, the project budget had been completely spent; hence new sources of funds were required. Through continuous lobbying, the financial support was received from UNICEF, funding Triyuga Municipality. The communities were to contribute through labor and locally available materials. They also agreed to use the O&M funds towards completion of the scheme. UEMS would support through community mobilization and technical backstopping.

The site survey was conducted and the source was identified near the previous source. The water extracted from the source was not safe, which dissatisfied the community. To solve this problem, the aggregate layer was laid to filter the impurities and the existing water was excavated completely. The newly recharged water was chlorinated after water quality test and Free Residual Chlorine test.

Sumpwell was constructed and a pump of 0.5 horsepower was installed, to collect the water in previously constructed RVT. The pump house was also constructed for security of the pump. However, during monitoring, it was observed that the pump was inadequate to supply the communities with required water. Later, DWSSDO decided to exchange the existing pump with a new pump of 1.5 horsepower.

The pipelines were then laid out to reach every household with the investment of community people themselves for tapstands.

The scheme was finally handed over to the Burjakanla Water and Sanitation Users Committee on 22 November 2016.

# CHANGES PERCEIVED

## Short Term Changes

The development initiatives are always targeted to bring positive change in the communities. Some changes can be immediately observed, whereas others are visible in the long run.

The major short term changes perceived in this programme are as follows:

- 305 people of 35 households have constructed self-funded private tap stands in the coverage area of Burjakanla DWSS # 09
- Hygienic use of toilets including proper handwashing station with soap inside or outside the toilets, as well as proper care of hygiene behavior, including hygienic use of latrine, handwashing and menstrual hygiene management
- The waste water ponds have been constructed by 25 HHs, currently used for irrigation, poultry farm and fish farm
- All the community members efficiently practice PoU options for water purification. With the awareness and skill training on biosand filter, the communities are adapting biosand filter technology for purification of water at the household level.
- Water based capacity building of the WSUC and TLOs with WASH package trainings, water quality test trainings, pre-construction and post-construction sanitation trainings, pump volunteer and water volunteer trainings
- The WSUC, with the support of TLOs, are managing O&M, which is changing into a small micro finance system in the community level. This has also supported the sustainable functioning of WSUC.



- WQT have been conducted and the results disseminated to the communities to make the communities aware on the status of water they are consuming.
- The WSP is in place and communities prepared to implement it and review it when required.
- The Citizen Forum Udayapur has been formed and capacitated for lobby and advocacy on behalf of the people of the district.

## Long Term Impacts

The long term impacts of the program are only viable if they are sustainable. Following are the long term impacts of the program:

- People have become aware on the value of safe water and WSP and proper sanitation, thus have started investing on these infrastructures.
- The Triyuga Municipality, including the Panchakanya and Chhahari TLOs, has been declared ODF and now they are raising their rich behaviors on total sanitation/Post ODF activities with different issue related organizations in community.
- The people have become conscious of clean environment and have started the proper management of waste, including waste water in small agriculture farming purpose.
- The community capacity building in WASH sector, Water Quality Test, bucket chlorination, PoU options in community level and organizational management including O&M fund management and proper formulation and implementation of WSP.
- The communities are now ready to move on to post ODF program through Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach as per the national strategy of the Government of Nepal.
- The local communities have started to take ownership of their issues and problems, which is reflected in the sustainable functioning of the Citizen Forum Udayapur.



# LESSONS LEARNED

Every activity teaches lessons, individually or institutionally. These lessons support us in replication and adoption of successful programs with necessary modifications as required, for improving the delivery in future. Following are the major lessons learned from this program:

## Construction of Water Supply Scheme

1. The programs should address the needs of marginalized and backward communities, which helps enhance trust towards the program and implementing organization.
2. The program plan must be up-to-date with ground reality and the community demand.

## Community Mobilization and Involvement

1. Due to the active participation of the community since the planning phase, the community felt the ownership and actively participated in problem solving throughout the program. This feeling of ownership was the biggest contribution of the community towards the success of the project.
2. GESI is very important in implementation of community based programs.

## Capacity Building of the Community

1. Incorporating capacity building programs based on interest and demand of the communities ensures the sustainability of the program after the project.

## Campaigning to Deliver the Message

1. Various campaigning and triggering activities should be used in synchronization to one another for better results.
2. The community people who keep up with the proper behavior should be rewarded through felicitation in community activities.

## The Collaborative Approach

1. Due to proper and continuous coordination in every phase of the project, the local governance agencies such as the municipality and the DWSSDO were readily available to support.

2. The communities at times may hesitate to take the lead for WASH rights. These collaborations are very effective in motivating them .
3. Due to continuous involvement in coordination and collaboration, the community people have opened up and are efficiently taking lead on the issues of their community.
4. Coordination and lobby/advocacy are major leading approaches in organizational project.

### Demonstration Effect: Replication and Demand

1. In Chure region, it is very difficult and challenging for implementation of gravity flow system, due to the geographical difficulties, high contamination of water, lack of resources, including financial resources.
2. The high amount of lime mixed with the soil and therefore with the water makes it very hard to purify the water. Proper filtration should be the basic means of water purification, followed by other methods as well.
3. Due to the geographical condition, appropriate water supply methods are lift system, dug well, tube well and water ponds.

### Areas of improvement for the program:-

Although comprehensive project was designed to meet the demand of safe water in Panchakanya and Chhahari TLOs through Burjakanla DWSS, the project had fund and time limits. There are several activities which can further enhance the situatio of WASH in these communities. Here are some of these areas that need further research and/or investments:

1. Project design must be flexible and based on ground reality
2. Entrepreneurship opportunities should be incorporated in the projects for better sustainability and social upliftment of the poor and marginalized population.
3. Project budget must be reliable and flexible to the challenges raising due to unforeseen situations to produce proper and adequate outputs
4. Co-ordination, linkages, relationships and budget for lobby and advocacy activities at national, district and local levels should be given very high priority.

# VOICES OF BENEFICIARIES



Since generations, we were consuming water from open sources. We mostly used the water from small ponds and streams, which required us to walk at least 1-2 hours everyday. Never had we received water access right in our doorsteps. UEMS had visited us in 2071 BS, I think. Our community was very unaware of issues on WASH and health. Since then, I have happily worked together with my community members for the Burjakanla DWSS for easy access to safe drinking right at our

homes. I contributed 12 dhur of my land for construction of sump well, RVT and power house. Now, when I see water flowing in the tapstands in our front yards, all the bitter memories and secure future of our children come in my mind.

I want to thank the people from UEMS for providing us the access to safe water and motivating me to contribute my land.

**Lalit Bahadur Rana Magar (78)**

Chhahari TLO, Triyuga – 9

25 years ago, when I was a student in Panchawati Primary School, we had to walk about 30 minutes to a stream to quench our thirst. These days, we were still facing the same situation we had to walk 1-2 hours everyday for access to water. Few NGOs have come to our place but none intervened in our water issue; however, after UEMS came in, the things have changed. We have safe water facility in our household. We don't have to go anywhere. The community participation with GESI approach



has not only supported in the access to safe water facilities, but has also made our communities active. We have also started O&M fund, and with the monthly collection of Rs. 250 per household, we have also started strengthening our funds. With proper orientation on hygiene behavior, safe water and sanitation behavior our community has started to change. Also, with the various organization management and capacity development trainings, we understand our duties and responsibilities for development of our communities. We are now ready to move on to total sanitation. I thank UEMS, Triyuga Municipality, DWSSDO, the donor agencies, the journalists and the local communities for the support in bringing change to our communities. The dreams of safe and easy water access in Burjakanla, has unexpectedly become a reality

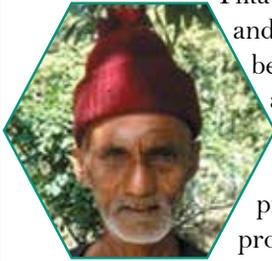
**Gam Bahadur Khulal Magar (35)**

Chairperson, Burjakanla DWSSUC, Triyuga – 9

# TALES OF HARDSHIP IN COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

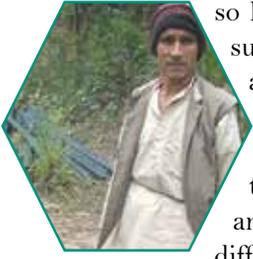
~ Jon Maharjan  
Team Leader (2013-2015), Triyuga I-WASH Project,

The Burjakanla DWSS, incorporating Chhahari and Panchakanya TLOs of ward no. 9, Triyuga Municipality, is being constructed by Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS), with financial aid from WaterAid Nepal, along with the community contribution and support of Triyuga Municipality and DWSSDO Udayapur. As a part of community contribution, women and senior citizens of the communities are working along with men as unskilled laborers. Migration of youths for foreign employment has limited the number of hands supporting the program, mostly the senior citizens, children and women to fend their homeland.



Tika Prasad Kafle (65), chairperson of Panchakanya TLO and consumer of Burjakanla DWSS is 65 years old. He has been working as an unskilled laborer during construction activities. When asked about working hard despite his old age, he replied, "All the fit and healthy youths are abroad, leaving us senior citizens fulfill the hope of proper access to drinking water. We have faced lots of problems regarding water for decades. There is one tube well used by all the TLO members. For some households, it takes half an hour to fetch water. Our TLO members should not suffer anymore due to the lack of water. I don't go to work on regular basis as I am old and weak. There are other old men, who have worked hard for success of this scheme. We have to carry bags of cement, loads of rods and stones up to intake and collection chamber, 2 km far from our community. We have to walk through the Chure forest. I hope that the construction completes soon and we can drink safe water before God calls me. "

Similarly, Rohit Bahadur Karki (57) of Panchakanya TLO says, "it has been decided that at least one person from each household must work in the water supply scheme. But there are only two members in my family, me and my wife. So, I go to work there every day. I have 4 sons, all of whom are abroad and in Kathmandu for better employment opportunities. We must drink water. So I work in this age too. I don't have skill or experience in construction works,



so I mostly dig and carry loads. If Burjakanla DWSS is successful, we can use that water for irrigation purposes as well. We will no more have to fetch water from far. I am very happy that UEMS has brought this scheme in our village. We have faced many problems in our times but I hope that this scheme will be sustainable and our future generations won't have to face those difficulties."

Likewise, the majority of unskilled laborers are women from Chhahari and Panchakanya TLOs. They come to work carrying their small children. Dirgha Maya Magar (37), a consumer of Burjakanla DWSS and member of Chhahari TLO says "We are using water from the public well. It is open and even school children use it. The water is inadequate. Well dries up during dry months. At that time we use the tube wells of our neighboring communities. It takes almost an hour. My husband is abroad along with most youths of our village. So we women come here to work carrying our small children. We women can work equally as men. I come here at around 11 am after completing my household chores. We work whole day and we face lot of difficulties. Many organizations have come to work here but they only gave us hope. But, UEMS has raised our hopes. When UEMS first came here, we didn't trust them. It had been a long time coming. But now that we are actually working rather than listening to someone talk about our problems, our hopes have risen again. I have a lot of expectations from this scheme. So, we work happily for this scheme construction forgetting all our hardships."



Though the number of youths can be counted on the fingertips, the villagers are determined to work and provide necessary community contribution and support for the completion of this scheme. UEMS is also working conscientiously for the timely completion of this scheme, so that the villagers can drink safe water very soon. As many youths of these communities are brainstorming in foreign countries for better employment, UEMS is facing difficulties in timely completion of the scheme, as most of the occupants of the village are senior citizens, women and children. However, the energy and hope of these community members have ignited further fire in the heart of UEMS, dreaming of happy faces of the community people after the completion of the scheme.