

Rampurwa Village Community Development Project (RCDP)

Project Description

1. Introduction

Living Earth Institute (LEI) is embarking on a sustainable community development project in a village in Bara District in Nepal. The main objective of this project is to improve the access of the communities in drinking water supply and sanitation facilities, and enhance the income generating capacity of the women members in the community for the sustainability of the new facilities and ultimately contribute in the overall development of the community.

The project will be implemented in the nine villages the Rampurwa Village Development Committee (VDC) in Bara district of Nepal. The project will be implemented through a local Non-profit organization, Bikas Bikalp Santha, based in Bhodaha, Bara district. Consistent with the LEI philosophies, the project is very locally focused and is locally driven. The community will be involved in all aspects of the project including the system design, construction, training, maintenance and operation.

2. Project Area Description

As in other parts of the country, Bara District in Nepal has a dearth of necessary safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. Among the 99 VDCs in the district, the Rampurwa VDC has been selected for the LEI project, because this VDC lies at the interior part of the district and has not been reached by development programs of other governmental or non-governmental organizations.

There are nine villages in this VDC; they are (i) Aremawa, (ii) Aremawa Birta (iii) Luxmipur Birta, (iv) Batauliya, (v) Mathawa, (vi) Khagade, (vii) Rampurwa, (viii) Dhodharpa, (ix) Katti. There are altogether 728 households, and a total population of 4459. Sixty-nine percent of the people in this VDC are from the *Tharu* community, and 23% people are from the *Dalit* communities. The upper cast people from Brahmin and Chhetri communities constitute only 2.6% of the total population. A small community of Muslim people also live there as a minority group (5.8%). *Tharu* is an indigenous ethnic community and the *Dalits* are amongst the most socially suppressed communities in Nepal.

2. Project Goals and Objectives

The Project goals are as below:

- Providing easy access to safe and sustainable drinking water and sanitation facilities to the all the nine village communities in Rampurwa village development committee in Bara district.
- Improve sanitation and health awareness among the rural community.
- Enhance social and economic status of women.

The objectives of the Project are:

- ✓ Provision of safe drinking water.
- ✓ Provision of safe sanitation facilities.
- ✓ Community management of the constructed new facilities.
- ✓ Women's empowerment through income generating activities.
- ✓ Sustainability of the systems through improved economic condition of women in the community.

3. Project Components

The project will consist of following four components:

4.1 Community Drinking Water Tubewell Development

This component is designed to develop safe community drinking water wells with the active participation and ownership of the Water Users Groups (WUGs) so that these wells are efficiently operated and maintained by the community in a sustainable manner. Each well will be shared by 5-10 households, and will be taken care by a Water User Group (WUG) formed among them. The WUG members will be involved in all the stages of project implementation, including planning, design, construction and operation and maintenance of the well.

4.2 Health and Sanitation Improvement

The Project will conduct various awareness raising programs, such as Hygiene and Sanitation Education classes, village cleaning campaigns, and other appropriate programs. It will develop various types of posters, pamphlets and other information and education materials, and post them at strategic locations in the villages. The project will thus motivate the community for building their family latrines. The project will assist the community in building their individual family latrines, or public latrines, if the local conditions demands.

4.3 Community Development

Economic condition in the community is the key factor in sustainable operation and maintenance of any physical infrastructures. Therefore, the Project has emphasis on uplifting the economic situation of women in order to achieve sustainability of the project's water well and latrine programs in the project area. The project will cause the formation of women's saving and credit groups in each village, and assist those groups in enhancing their capability in running them efficiently and effectively. The project will also assist those groups in preparing their business plan, and identifying their skill development needs. The project will organize the training programs identified by the groups. Since the project villages have a good potential for commercial farming of vegetables and other high value crops, one of the project goals is to develop the capacity of saving and credit groups to promote collective farming and increase irrigation by using groundwater resources in the near future.

4.4 Capacity Building

This component is designed to achieve sustainability of the community drinking water wells and sanitation facilities developed by the Project. The project will conduct appropriate training programs on construction, operation and maintenance of the water wells for each of the water user groups.

4. Project Implementation Procedure:

1. **Community Meeting:** Community meetings will be organized in each village in order to provide detailed information about the project to the community. These meetings will help in generating community's interest in the project, and also in making the communities understand the project rules and implementation procedures. During the meeting, the implementing partner NGO will identify the active community members who have leadership qualities, and will involve them in implementing different activities of the project.
2. **Women's Saving and Credit Group (WSCG):** As the first entry-point activity, the project will organize women saving and credit groups in each village. To begin with, each group will consist of at least 21 women, and will elect the executive committee from among them. The group members will begin regular saving on a monthly basis; the monthly saving amount and the rules to operate the saving and credit activity will be

decided by the general body meeting of the group. The partner NGO will oversee the monthly meetings, and advise and monitor the WSCG groups' operation in a regular basis. The WSCG groups will operate an account in a nearby bank. The project will provide cash grant of Rs. 12,000 to each group, in quarterly installments, to match the amount saved by the group.

The WSCGs will act as a proponent for building family latrines in their communities. Every member of the WSCG will participate actively in motivating community members to build their family latrines. At least one member from each WSC group will be selected for representation in the Project Management Committee, which will be formed for implementing the water well and latrine programs of the project.

3. **Situation Analysis:** As the WSCG activities move on, the implementing partner (BBS) carries out detailed situation analysis and social mapping of each village by using the PRA method. Baseline data on availability of domestic wells, household latrines, economic status, indigenous occupations and skills, and potential economic activities will be collected during this process. This situation analysis process will give an estimation of the number of drinking water wells and the family latrines that will needed to be constructed in each village. The BBS will prepare a detailed plan, cost estimation, and implementation schedule for the same for each village, and submit it to the LEI.
4. **Project Management Committee (PMC):** The partner NGO will form a Project Management Committee, in which influential community leaders from every village will be included. The PMC will consist of eleven members; the committee elects once chairman, one secretary, and once treasurer from among themselves. Representative from each village will be the chairman of a five member PMC sub-committees of their respective village – one sub-committee in each village. The other members of the sub-committee will be the nominated members from the WSC Groups. The PMC and its sub-committees will meet regularly once a month, and prepare plans and programs to implement various activities of the project.
5. **Capacity Building Programs:**
 - a. *Group Dynamics Training:* Training on Group Dynamics will be organized for each WSC Group. The PMC member from the respective village will also participate in these training programs. This training will equip the group members with the skills necessary for working in a group and for achieving the collective goals. It will also prepare them for resolving conflicts that may arise in their groups.
 - b. *Leadership Skill Development Training:* The WSCG members along with the PMC members from the respective villages will participate in this training. The training is designed specifically for developing leadership qualities in the PMC and the WSCG members, so that they can play positive and effective role in community mobilization, project implementation planning and execution, and in conflict resolution.
 - c. *Women's Saving and Credit Group (WSCG) Training:* The saving and credit group members will be trained on how to operate and manage their saving and credit funds.
 - d. *Women's Saving and Credit Group Refresher Training:* A refresher course will be designed and conducted to enhance the capacity of the WSC Groups. This program will be conducted six-months after the first training is provided.

6. **Regular Monthly Meeting of the WSCG:** The WSCGs will meet regularly on a monthly basis to make monthly savings and to discuss various aspects of the functioning group. In these meetings, the group will also monitor the progress of the family latrine program, and discusses strategies to motivate community members to build latrines. Besides lending money to its members from their savings, the groups, if they prefer, may develop their own collective business plan. The BBS closely monitors the WSCG activities and plays an advisory role to the WSCGs. After the groups have undergone capacity development trainings, the WSCG may prepare their respective group's business plans, and will identify the skills required for implementing their plan. The BBS or an appropriate external specialist may assist the WSCGs in this process. The WSGs submit their request application to the BBS (NGO).
7. **PMC Regular Monthly Meeting:** The PMC and its sub-committees meet every month to monitor progress and develop action plans and strategies. The PMC plays active supporting role in community mobilization and oversees the latrine and water well programs. BBS supervises, advises and monitors the performance of the PMC.
8. **Hygiene and Sanitation Education Programs:** The Project organizes HSE classes in all the villages in order to not only make the community members aware of the importance of personal hygiene and community sanitation for a healthy life, but also to motivate them for building latrines in their houses. Various information and communication materials will be prepared and used. The HSE classes will also be supplemented with audio-visual presentations
9. **Latrine Program and Group Operation Observation Tour:** The project will organize observation tours for the WSCG and the PMC members to the village/s where family latrine program has been implemented successfully through the community group efforts. Such tours will be organized separately for each village, for a group of about 25-30 members. The community will interact with the group in the study village to learn about the opportunities and the challenges. This program is expected to make a visual impact of
10. **Small Business Training Programs:** BBS evaluate the economic viability of the business plan and recommends to the LEI for financing the training programs. The LEI and the BBS jointly designs the training program and BBS implements them under the guidance and supervision of the LEI.

After the necessary training/s, the BBS assists the group in executing their business plan. The BBS regularly advises and monitors the performances of the WSCGs. If needed and justified, the project may assist the groups by organizing further capacity building programs.

11. **Latrine Program:** The latrine program will begin soon after the capacity building trainings of PMC members and the WSG members are completed. Together with the PMC, the WSCG members plays very important role in motivating villagers for building latrines. The latrine program and the small business training programs will be run simultaneously. There will be a cost sharing in latrine construction between the beneficiary household and the project.
12. **Supporting Programs:** Various programs, such as neighborhood area cleaning campaigns, and media tools like audio-visual presentations, hoarding boards and posters will be used to publicize the project activities and to motivate the community in building family latrines and to keep the neighborhood clean and tidy.
13. **Drinking Water Well Program:** The drinking water well program will be implemented only in the second year of the project. Water wells will be constructed for the groups of

only those households who have constructed latrines in their houses. Each water well user group will establish a repair and maintenance fund for the managing the repair and maintenance of the water wells. The Project will train all the water user groups in the repair and maintenance of the wellhead pump (hand pump).

Supplementary Files:

Annex A: Implementation Schedule

Annex B: Estimated Budget Cost