

Mahuwa Community Development Project Proposal

Project Title: Mahuwa Community Development Project
(Phase I – Sanitation and Women Development)
Project Location: Mahuwa Village Development Committee, Ward nos. 1-4, situated at the east of Janakpur Municipality.
Responsible Official: Mrs. Shanta Koirala (Chairperson)
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Project Background

The Women Development Service Center, Dhanusha, is a non-profit, non-governmental, and non-political social service organization dedicating itself into an integrated community development through mainly the welfare and empowerment of women and children. This Center is registered at the District Administration Office according to the laws of Kingdom of Nepal, and is affiliated with the Social Welfare Council in Nepal. It has been working actively in community development works in various parts of Dhanusha District by implementing different programs for the empowerment and uplift of women and children, including in the suburban areas of Janakpur municipality. It operates in close partnership with local communities and local government in the areas of needs identified by the communities themselves. It is involved in the development of safe drinking water supply systems, sanitation facilities, hygiene and health education, environmental and local resource development and management at the community level, and runs various empowerment programs for women, children and backward class peoples such as education, skills development trainings, handicraft production, micro-finance and others.

With the financial and technical support of the Living Earth Institute (LEI), the WDSC has successfully implemented two community development projects in ward nos. 13 and 14 in Janakpur municipality area in the past five years. The Dhanusha Community Development Project (DCDP) was implemented in Rajaul and Mujeliya villages in ward no. 14, and the Sohani-Rani Bazar-Dhatta Tole Sanitation and Community Development Project (SRD-SCDP) in ward no. 13 of Janakpur municipality. In line with the missions of the LEI and the WDSC, these projects were targeted to benefit mainly the women and

children of the economically and socially underprivileged communities living in the project areas.

Till date, the LEI have funded installations of 46 drinking water wells and 384 latrines during the two projects. Health and sanitation education were provided to the community members as an integral part of the project. In addition, it has also conducted literacy classes to 40 women, training classes on Tailoring to 64 women and Fabric Painting to 20 women. Since 2005, the project is also supporting 30 children (17 boys and 13 girls, under the age of 8 years) from socially deprived communities, for attending school by providing educational material, school dress and other accessories.

In addition to the above activities, the project has also helped two local schools by providing safe drinking water wells, and also a restroom. The rest room is equipped with one latrine and four urinals each for boys and girls students in the school.

WDSC proposes the following programs and activities for financial and technical support from LEI in the year 2006-07.

Part A

1. The Mahuwa Community Development Project Phase I – Sanitation and Women Development Phase

In response to the demands of the community and after the needs assessment in the field, the WDSC proposes Mahuwa Village Development Committee for the project activities in the year 2006-07. As the Mahuwa is a big village, its four wards, viz. the ward numbers 1, 2, 3 & 4 are proposed for the first project year of the project.

Mahuwa is the main village in this village development committee. It is situated at about 7 km east of Janakpur town. The Mahuwa village bears much importance to the people in this district as numerous ancient temples and ponds are situated in this village. Although it is not far from Janakpur town, the living condition in this village is poor. Drinking water facility is far from adequate, and sanitation and drainage condition is poor. Water borne diseases are the most prevalent causes of morbidity. Agriculture is the main source of income, and the people are generally poor. Education level is low, and the society is conservative. There are many economically and socially backward communities in this village, whose living condition is still worse. Women are more at disadvantage. The communities and the interventions needed in this village do fit very well with the mission objectives and goals of both the LEI and the WDSC.

Field assessment has indicated that a project intervention in this village could bring in a number of positive changes in the lives of the women and children in the village and help improve the living conditions of the community in general.

2. The Project Objectives

- a. To improve the living condition of the poor community in the village
- b. To improve personal and community health condition by enhancing access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities
- c. To improve community awareness on personal hygiene and sanitation
- d. To develop sanitation facilities for improvement in community health and the village environment
- e. To empower women by providing income generating skills trainings and encourage them in initiating small enterprises.

3. The Project Activities

- a. Construction of private latrines for improving health condition and the village environment
- b. Water well construction for easy access to safe drinking water
- c. Income generating skills development training for women empowerment
- d. Training classes and workshops on hygiene and sanitation for improving community and personal health situations
- e. Support to the village schools and community centers for improving drinking water and sanitation facilities

The project will be implemented in two phases. The first phase will be devoted in improving the sanitation conditions and in women development activities in the first year. This will be followed by a second phase, which will focus on the development of drinking water wells accompanied by support programs for women and children.

4. Project Implementation Procedure

5.1 Pre-Implementation Stage

- a. In response to the requests received from the community representative, the WDSC officials have assessed their needs by initial field survey.
- b. WDSC has also organized a public meeting, attended by the local civil society, local govt. officials and the general public to

discuss about the needs of the community and the LEI project missions. The WDSC officials informed all the details about the LEI project and also explained its implementation procedures, including the roles and the obligations of the project participants.

- c. The community leaders have prepared a list of those households who are interested in constructing their private latrines. This list has already been submitted to the WDSC.
- d. A second public meeting was organized in March 2006, in presence of LEI country representation, and this meeting confirmed the finding of the first meeting.
- e. WDSC has obtained permission from the concerned Village Development Committee, District Development Committee and the Department of Water Supply and Sanitation for implementing the LEI project.

5.2 During Project Implementation

- a. A Project Implementation Committee (PIC) will be formed once the project proposal is approved from the LEI. This will be a committee of at least 8 members, having two representatives from each of the selected four wards in the village.
- b. A one-day workshop will be organized for women on personal hygiene and sanitation, and the importance of private latrine. It is expected that this workshop will help raise the awareness among the villagers about hygiene as well as about the project.
- c. A new and longer list of the households, who are willing to construct their private latrine, will be collected.
- d. Agreement will be made with each household for constructing their latrine and the WDSC will collect the required cash contribution from those households.
- e. Skill development training program will be organized for the women selected by the community from among those who have constructed their private latrine.
- f. Awareness campaigns will be launched at regular intervals with the help of the PIC members. Community Workers from WDSC will take lead in this endeavor.
- g. WDSC will prepare a project implementation plan in consultation with the PIC and this plan will be strictly followed while implementing.
- h. WDSC will schedule the manufacture of concrete rings and cover slabs for latrine pit, in agreement with the progress in implementation.
- i. All the project activities will be implemented in consultation with and cooperation of the local community. Any conflicts, if it

occurs, will be resolved at the community level itself through amicable discussions.

- j. WDSC will submit project progress reports at quarterly intervals, and will provide additional reports, when requested by LEI.
- k. Drinking water supply component of the project will be implemented in the second year only (2007-08).

5.3 Post Project Implementation

- a. WDSC will monitor the status and condition of all the project-supported infrastructures and programs even after the project is concluded.
- b. For the sustainability of the community drinking water wells, a maintenance and repair fund will be established with nominal cash contribution from the tubewell members on a regular basis. Adequate rules and procedures will be developed among the user group members.

Part B

6. Sohani-Rani Bazar-Dhatta Tole Drinking Water and Community Development Project

In the first phase of the project, i.e. during the Sanitation and Community Development phase, some 158 private latrines were constructed in the villages of Sohani, Mani Mandap, Rani Bazar, Dhatta Tole, Field Tole and Piradi Tole in ward no. 13 of Janakpur municipality. One each of Tailoring class and Fabric Painting classes were also conducted for the women in those areas. Further, one training class on Health and Sanitation was also carried out. Having completed these activities, this project has reached into the second phase, according to the LEI project design. Construction of drinking water wells for the groups of latrine program members is the main activity in this phase II of the project. Following the initial project design, the following activities have been proposed for the Sohani-Rani Bazar-Dhatta Tole project area in the year 2006-07.

- f. Based on the progress made in Phase I, there will be an estimated 25 groups who meet the eligibility criteria for water well installation according to the LEI project criteria.
- g. Although the initial field survey showed that a total of 130 households in Dhatta Tole didn't have latrines, only 56 households constructed private latrines during 2005-06. It is likely that some of these remaining households may request for

latrines as the water well program is initiated. Although it is difficult to predict now, it is proposed that the latrine program is continued in this phase also. About 30 latrines are proposed for allocation in this project area.

- h. For various reasons, only one batch each of Tailoring and Fabric Painting classes could be conducted in this project area, although two batches of each were approved for the year 2005-06. As there is much demand for these training classes, the remaining classes are proposed for implementation in this year (2006-07).

Part C

7. Operation & Maintenance Phase in DCDP (Rajaul-Mujeliya)

- a. Among the 46 water wells installed under the DCDP, two wells in Rajaul are found to pump turbid water, making the water not suitable for drinking. The LEI officials inspected these wells in March 2006 and have found that they cannot be repaired. Considering the importance of those wells, it is proposed that two new wells be constructed as replacements at the nearby sites.
- b. School education support program for 30 children is to be continued. These children have already completed one year of schooling with the LEI support, and they need to be supplied at least up to the primary school level (Grade 5).
- c. Installation of 22 marble plaques on the LEI supported water wells.

For the budget part, see appendices. (Separate file)