

Ward Citizen Forums facilitating Water use Master Plan (WUMP)

Toli is a VDC near the district headquarter of Dailekh. It comprises of 706 household whereby 201 are Dalits, 169 Janajati and 336 others. Although close to the district headquarter, it had not received adequate attention in terms of support related to various development initiatives.

Water resource development is one of the sectors that showed potential of development in the VDC but had been unattainable due to lackadaisical attitude of the planners. In addition, only certain groups of the society had been accessing the available water resources in the VDC while the deprived groups were denied. Only elite groups were in the dominant position to use the water resources. Out of 132 sources of water, only four sources were used for water supply schemes. There used to be sporadic conflicts for the use of those water sources. In addition, 30 % of HHs in the VDCs was using highly contaminated water sources which posed health risks while most users being Dalit and Janajati HHs.

Thus, Water Use Mater Plan (WUMP) was materialized with a vision of access to all. The district development Committee facilitated the VDC to prepare WUMP with the support of the Rural Village Water Resource Management Project II (RVWRMP II), a Finland Development Cooperation supported Project based in Dailekh. VDC also allocated budget for WUMP preparation. In this regard, Ward Citizen Forum, an institution developed by Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP) at the ward level played the primary role in facilitating effective planning from ward to VDC. WCF is thus supporting Village Water Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee (VWSHCC), an institution guided by National Sanitation Master Plan to mobilize the community in the WUMP. The sanitation coverage of the VDC was 45% before WUMP. However, with more awareness and via WUMP planning process, it was declared ODF VDC in 7th December 2014.

WCF assessed ward No.5 of the VDC as the priority ward and the neediest in terms of water supply and Multi Use Scheme (MUS)scheme. Mrs. Dhan kumari BK, member of the WCF and a proposed beneficiary of the WUMP from ward no 5 says “We never imagined that the opportunity of having such a water use plan for several years. Now, we are very pleased to be involved in the planning of the scheme by ourselves. In addition, we plan to propose further support from WCF and VDC. Likewise, now we collect water from safer means.” Currently, the priority of water supply schemes is being given to those HHs that had limited access before. Likewise, the WUMP comprises of altogether 13 water supply schemes, 27 conventional irrigation schemes, 14 modern irrigation, 2 Micro Hydro projects (MHPs), 3 Multi use system (MUS) and 1 improved water mill.

WCF is a forum for various ward level planning. WCF has been actively supporting in planning and decision making on the WUMP. It has been supporting the local level planning using tools such as social mapping and other PRA tools.