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## NEPAL FACT SHEET

### SWACHCHHATA

USAID’s Swachchhata (Hygiene) Activity strengthens community health by improving water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and electricity infrastructure, infection prevention practices, and hygiene behavior at health facilities.

USAID considers WASH to be a vital element of quality health service delivery, yet health facilities in parts of Nepal’s Karnali Province have some of the poorest WASH and electricity infrastructure in Nepal<sup>1</sup>. Through Swachchhata, USAID is addressing the poor WASH and electricity infrastructure in rural health facilities in Nepal, training health workers to better implement infection control practices, and strengthening worker-client interactions—both within and outside of health facilities—to promote positive hygiene behavior change among families and communities.

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

Swachchhata is a \$4.9 million, five-year activity (2016 – 2021) that works with the Government of Nepal’s Ministry of Health and Population, the Alternative Energy Promotion Center, and municipalities to improve the supply of water and electricity, the management of medical waste, and the prevention of infections and increase access to sanitation facilities at health facilities in Karnali Province (Salyan, West Rukum, Jajarkot, and Dolpa Districts) and Province 5 (East Rukum District). The activity is implemented by SNV USA, Population Services International, and SiDeF—a local Nepali company. To ensure collaboration with other stakeholders, Swachchhata also coordinates closely with USAID’s Strengthening Systems for Better Health Activity in all of its districts and with USAID’s Suaahara II Activity in all except Dolpa District.

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<sup>1</sup> Nepal Health Atlas 2014

Swachchhata enables Municipality representatives, Health Facility Operation and Management Committees, water users and sanitation committees, and Health Facility Quality Improvement Committees to develop ownership through an intense process of identifying needs, committing resources, engaging with local communities, providing oversight during construction, maintaining infrastructure improvements, and/or participating in capacity building and quality monitoring processes.

Swachchhata trains health workers to enhance their own hand hygiene and better integrate hygiene messages into their client interactions. It also trains Female Community Health Volunteers to mentor mothers' groups to improve sanitation and hygiene practices at the household level.

As part of the activity, all district health facilities will participate in an innovative "whole-site/on-site" training in which each health facility professional and support staff member will learn about how important their actions are in effectively preventing infections in their facilities.

The outcomes of Swachchhata's interventions will be measured through sample surveys in municipal wards that are served by the eighty targeted health facilities where WASH infrastructure is constructed.

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

Swachchhata aims to improve (a) the quality of health service delivery and (b) hygiene behavior at community and household levels.

## **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

Swachchhata will meet these two objectives by:

- Engaging Health Facility Operation and Management Committees in dialogue;
- Strengthening governance and management of drinking water supply, health care waste, sanitation, and solar photovoltaic electrical systems;
- Designing and constructing or rehabilitating water supply, waste management, and sanitation infrastructure;
- Installing solar systems;
- Establishing infrastructure maintenance procedures and systems;
- Training and mentoring health workers and Health Facility Quality Improvement Committee members to use infection prevention and hygiene messaging; and
- Training Female Community Health Volunteers to supplement health worker messaging by engaging with mothers' groups to improve sanitation and hygiene behaviors.

## **PLANNED RESULTS**

By the end of February 2021, Swachchhata plans to build or renovate 80 sustainable, small-scale, safe water and maintenance systems, 60 solar photovoltaic electrical systems, and 80 health facility sanitation systems and medical waste management systems; improve infection prevention practices in 147 health facilities; and improve household sanitation and hand hygiene practices in 80 communities.