

Safe Water Program – Nepal

Status Report based on half-year report 2016

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1. Objectives and Project Background¹

The overarching goal is to improve the hygienic environment by providing safe drinking water to schools and related local communities.

Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA) has been promoting Safe Drinking Water Campaign in Nepal by using Antenna's WATA electro-chlorinators for several years already. After introduction of the program in 20 schools during the pilot project conducted during 2012–2014, the "Safe water program" has been re-enforced in order to extend it to 15 new schools over the time period 2015–2017, reaching a total of 35 schools supported by dropforlife. The schools integrated in the program over the previous years continue to be supported.

2. Executive summary

The Cholera cases reported in Nepal², including in Kathmandu Valley, highlighted once again the importance of safe water and the activities to raise awareness thereto. We are happy to learn that thanks to the important and preventive work by ECCA, no cholera case has been reported in any of ECCA's/dropforlife's project sites. The first 2016 semester activities were mainly dedicated to include another 6 schools in the project's scope. One more school has been added than initially planned for this year, as five of them were quite far away and inclusion of all five in addition to another planned nearby Kathmandu seemed to be the most efficient way to proceed. Regular monitoring, facilitation and strengthening of the program were ensured in all 31 project schools. In addition to the Safe Water Program core activities, reconstruction of water infrastructure has been continued in four schools, whereof three could be finalised. Financing of these activities has been possible thanks to individual dropforlife donors and the charity concert donation in 2014. Another consequence of the 2015 earthquakes is the precarious situation of a number of families, which led ECCA to continue distributing free WATASOL (over 2'800 bottles). In the first half of the year 2016, a total 4'060 WATASOL bottles (60 ml) were sold to school faculty and students, whereas 2'567 WATASOL bottles (60 ml) were sold in the communities adjoining the schools. All objectives were either achieved or

¹ Complete project details can be found on our website: <https://dropforlife.org/en/safe-water-program-nepal/>

² Refer to online article published on September 12, 2016 with statistics over the last years:

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-09-12/govt-fails-to-stem-cholera-spread.html>

exceeded for the 6-months reporting period. In conclusion, we are very happy with the results of our project, which by now serves more than 35'000 individuals with safe drinking water.

3. Key Take-aways based on the first half-year report (Jan–mid July 2016)

Results and achievements

- On-boarding of 6 new schools (instead of 5, due to distant location for 5 of the 6 schools)
 - o Needs assessment
 - o Baseline survey
 - o Water quality tests in all 6 schools
 - o A 2-days training on use of WATA device, including quality control, distribution mechanism, social promotion and preparation of a yearly plan for activities to be implemented within the school and community for one of the schools; a joint 1-day program at the same location for the other 5 schools being located quite far away from Kathmandu
- Refresher trainings on use of chlorinator have been performed in a total of 8 schools, whereof 5 schools from pilot project and 3 schools from this new program
- Nature Club members
 - o Gave two WASH orientations
 - o Performed one street drama
- The schools have
 - o Conducted five door to door campaigns
 - o Set up three WATA stalls to raise awareness within the communities
 - o Held one documentary show
- Water infrastructure constructions commenced in 2015 were finished for 3 schools and are on-going for another one (a total of 10 schools financed by individual dropforlife donors and the concert money)
- Distribution of more than 2'800 WATASOL bottles for free (representing approx. NPR 56'000 depending on selling price) due to families' deteriorated economic condition due to the 2015 earthquakes
- The total number of beneficiaries within the schools amounts to over 12'000, slightly exceeding the initial target (11'800)
- The target of WATASOL bottles sold to students and staff of schools has reached 69% overall after 6.5 months, whereas the result for the new schools is much higher than the existing ones³ (stable number for pilot project schools)
- The sale of WATASOL bottles within the community was a success for the new schools with a total of 201, largely exceeding the target (42)
- Almost half of the targeted refresher trainings (25) have been conducted so far
- Water quality tests are well on track
- On the awareness building activities, the ones within the schools have exceeded even the yearly target, and are on track for the community programs
- Additional activities may be highlighted, such as
 - o Teachers Interaction Programs held on April 29th at ECCA with the participation of teachers from different school; lessons learned and results were shared, in particular the positive impact on behaviour, development of skills, leadership and active participation by the students. Although not all targeted indicators with regard to an environmental friendly school environment could be reached, it raised awareness and involved teachers and students.
 - o Interaction with women groups to discuss topics such as WASH issues, water disinfection technologies, and the potential new small-scale water enterprises, etc.

³ Refer to appendices 1 & 2

- Follow-up and monitoring visits were conducted on a regular basis
- A various number of additional activities have been possible thanks to local contribution and third party support, such as:
 - o Regular WATASOL production from the Mini WATA device available in the schools, WATASOL bottles filling and distribution among students, teachers and in the communities, etc.
 - o 13 clean-up programs
 - o 4 street dramas
 - o 20 competitions held within the schools for building up capacity on the necessity of water and sanitation
 - o 6 schools publish a monthly Wall Magazine, aimed at increasing knowledge sharing
 - o 6 Orientation programs
 - o 4 WATASOL stalls
 - o 3 Refresher Trainings
 - o 1 Door to door campaign
 - o 2 Rallies aimed at raising awareness within the communities
- According to reporting⁴ received October 5th, 2016, CHF 5'550.62 of CHF 10'000.00 have been used, thus leaving a spare amount of CHF 5'068.71 (including balance from previous year) to be used for the remaining time of the project in 2016;
- For the three additional donations (individual donors and concert money), a total of CHF 837.65 has been used, leaving a total balance of CHF 2'659.17.
- Overall, we are thus well on track from a budget point of view.

Key challenges / Corrective measures taken

- Cholera cases increased with the start of the monsoon in June, but thanks to ECCAs preventive contribution no such case occurred in ECCA/dropforlife schools;
- Consequences from the 2015 earthquakes are still impacting Nepal and repair work of water infrastructures continued, as well as distribution of free WATASOL.

Next phase / steps

- Continuation of planned activities.

Quality of the report from ECCA

- The report provides comprehensive information on all the activities related to the project. It gives valuable insight on the impact of behaviour and benefits thanks to the project. The new reporting templates agreed upon signature of the agreement have been used.

4. Appendices

For reasons of efficiency, the original reporting templates are added in separate documents to this interim status report. The following documents are included⁵:

- 1) School overview with details on beneficiaries and WATASOL bottles sold
- 2) KPI Tracking
- 3) Financial overview with budget versus actual expenses

⁴ Refer to Appendix 3 for further details

⁵ Please note that these numbers cover the period from Jan–mid-July 2016 only. Not published on our Website.