



# Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES) Nepal

## Country Setting

- Nepal is a constitutional monarchy with a multi-party system. A Maoist insurgency, general political instability and a reduction in tourism caused a negative growth rate in 2002.
- 45 per cent of the population live below the poverty line.
- Nepal has the lowest life expectancy and highest illiteracy rates – especially for women -- in South Asia.
- Nepal is linguistically and ethnically diverse.

## WES Sector Setting

- Although water coverage is relatively high, prevalence of water related-diseases is also high; hygiene, sanitation and water quality need more attention.
- The Government launched the National Sanitation Multi-year Campaign in March 2000 with UNICEF support. This annual event will continue for five years.
- The sector is adjusting to decentralization. The participation of local bodies and communities is a key issue in all government and NGO projects; involvement of the private sector is growing.
- Arsenic has been discovered in the groundwater of the Terai districts; first results indicate that 3 million people might be affected. This has renewed attention on overall water quality standards.

## Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	25,164
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	82
Total adult literacy rate (%)	42

## Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	93	68
Rural	82	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>27</b>

## UNICEF WES Programme

### Main Components

- National Hygiene and Environmental Sanitation Campaign
- Community-Based Hygiene and Sanitation
- School Sanitation and Hygiene Education
- Accessibility of Water Supply
- Water Quality Improvement
- Arsenic Mitigation

### Programme Highlights and Achievements

- UNICEF has a lead role in the revision of the National Sanitation Policy.
- The programme supports government and NGOs to raise awareness and improve hygiene and sanitation practices. It supports water and sanitation in 44 districts, reaching 1.5 million people.
- Capacity building of national sectoral stakeholders is encouraged to ensure sustainability of projects.
- The programme supports water quality initiatives, including arsenic mitigation.
- The School Sanitation and Hygiene Education initiative has been implemented at national level and district level in eight districts.