



WASH Resilient Community of Nepal

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Background

7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal in April 2015, followed by 7.4 magnitude exacerbating the damages caused by the first. The quakes killed over 9000 people.



Out of the 11,288 water supply systems in 14 badly affected districts, 1,570 sustained major damages and 3,663 partial damages.



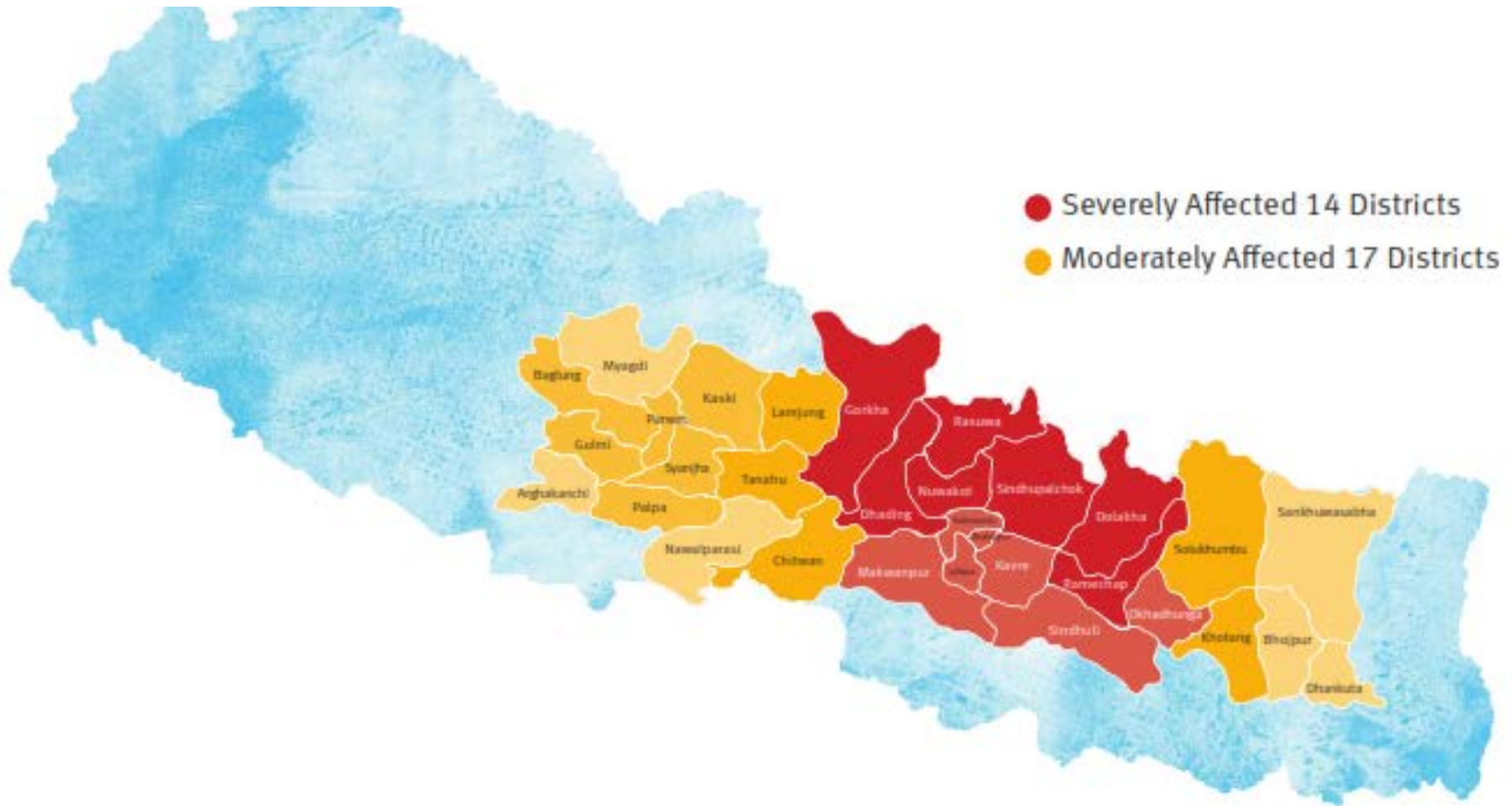
168,000 toilets were partially or totally damaged.



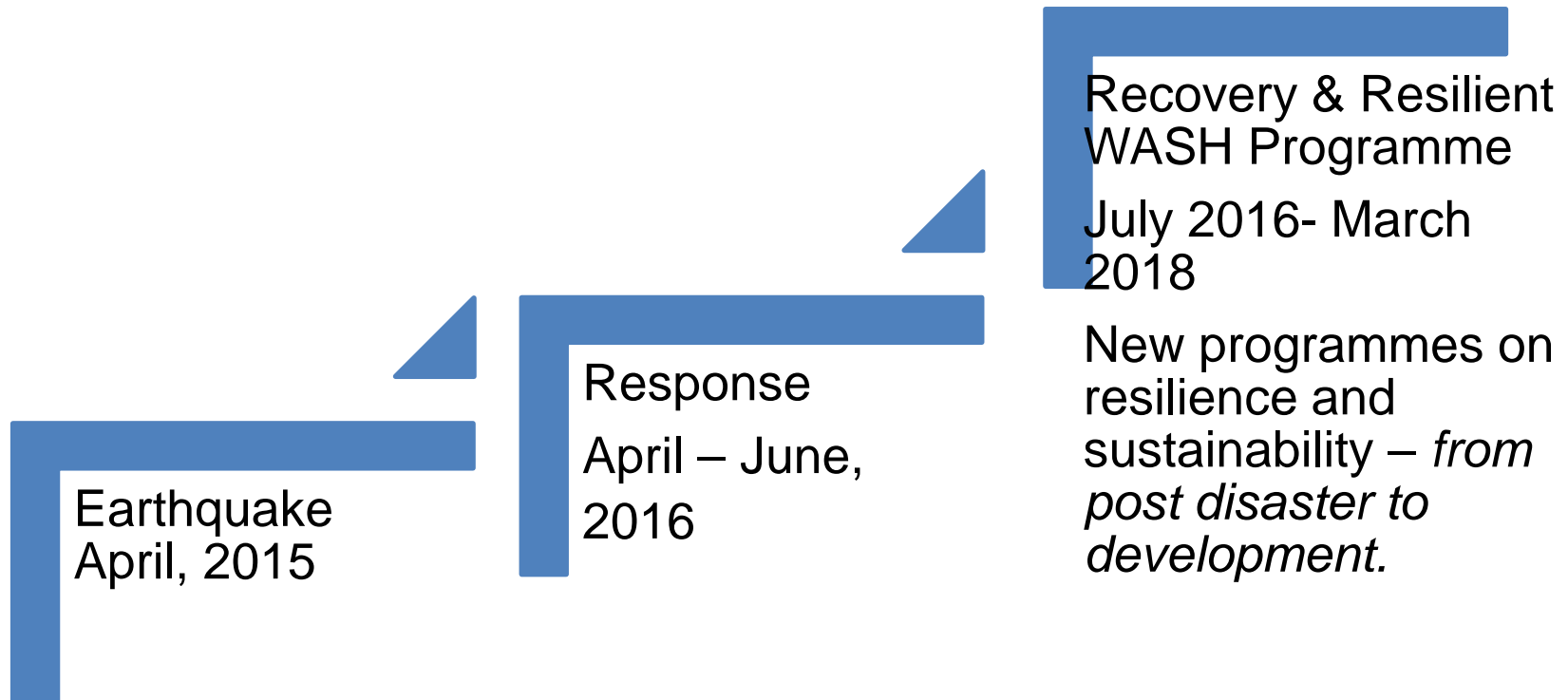
7 out of 23 WaterAid working districts severely hit.



10 out of 36 ongoing WAN supported projects were in severely hit districts



Journey from Response to Recovery



Earthquake relief and response

WaterAid Nepal's response reached 1,60,000 people in 11 severely affected districts



Participated in the **WASH cluster**
Co-leading the Health and Hygiene
Technical Working Group
Hygiene kits distribution and hygiene
promotion including MHM in 11
severely affected districts



Construction of Water Supply schemes
(new and rehabilitation) 56 WSS (in 4
districts)
Water purification, water filter, water
supply inputs-tanks, quick rehabilitation
of WSS



Permanent and temporary toilets with hand-
washing 3700 nos,
support ODF movement.
Inclusive models- with bathing space

Objectives of Recovery and Resilient Programme

Objective 1

- Support the rehabilitation and rebuilding of equitable and safe water supply systems.

Objective 2

- Support the restoration of sanitation facilities in schools, health facilities, public places and households.

Objective 3

- Promote good hygiene practice, including, menstrual hygiene management.

Objective 4

- Build the capacity of partners, communities and stakeholders to better deal with disasters.

Guiding Framework

Nepal Government Flagship 4 – “Integrated community based Disaster Risk Reduction/Management” is led by the Nepal’s Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development.

- *Communities themselves must have the capacity to develop their existing resources (or incorporate new resources), and be willing to improve their capacity and knowledge at a community and individual level.*
- *‘Community’- the smallest unit - group of people covered by a typical water supply system that we are to intervene.*

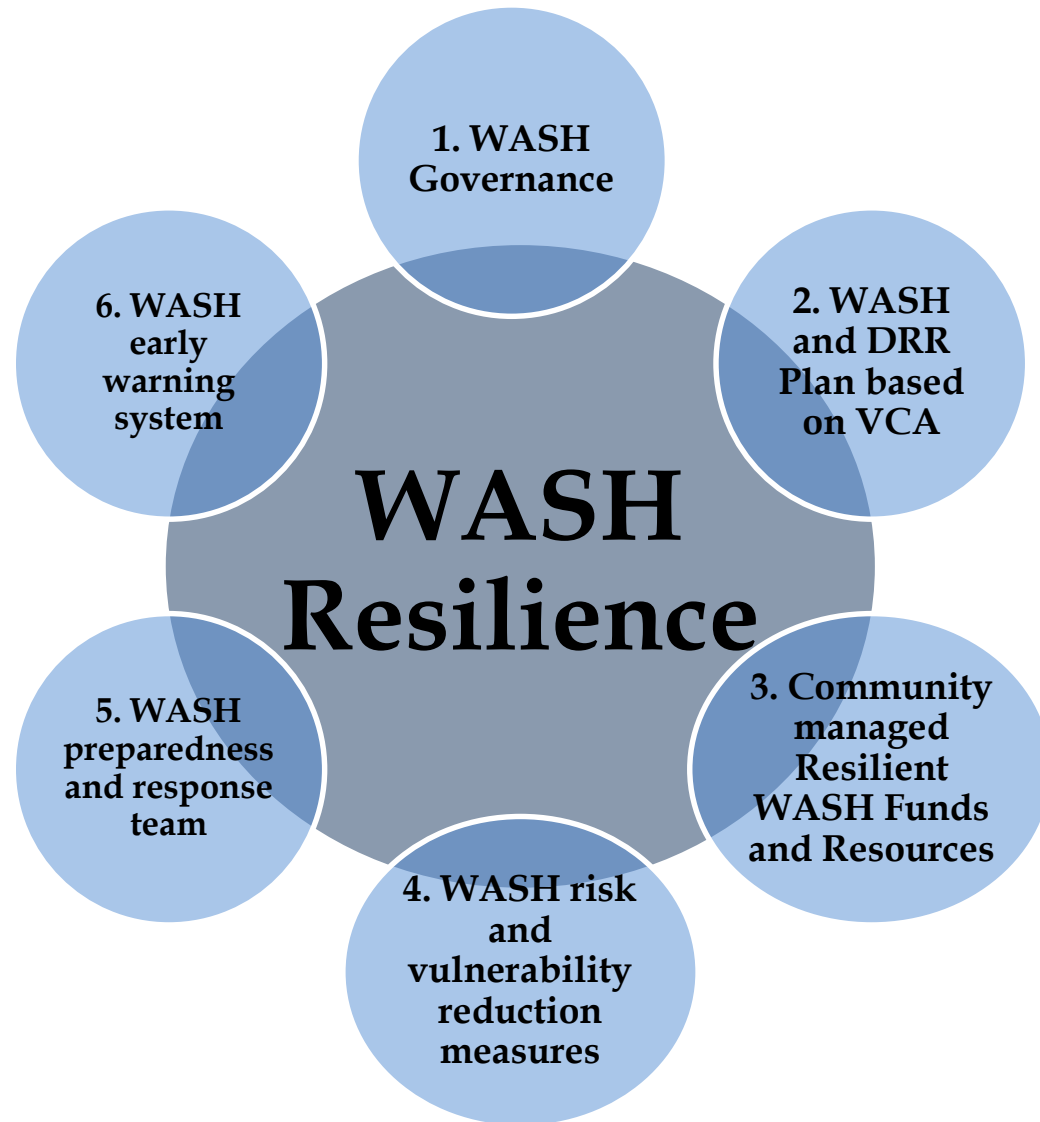
Guiding Framework

WAN identified 6 characteristics as the 'minimum' characteristics that would contribute to ensure WASH resilience in communities through its Recovery and Resilience Programme interventions.

WAN refers to John Twigg's Definition of community resilience:

- *ability of the community to anticipate, minimize, and absorb potential stresses or destructive forces through adaption or resistance (Preparedness);*
- *manage or maintain certain basic functions and structures during disaster events (Response: immediately after disaster);*
- *recover or 'bounce back' after an event (Recovery: sometime after disaster)*

WAN's six minimum characteristics



What are we doing differently?

WASH governance

- Rural/Municipalities WASH Co-ordination Committee are responsible for coordinating, supporting and improving WASH services in the area.
- Communities are aware on WASH related risks and DRR measures.

WASH & DRR plan

- VCA report prepared, shared , understood, agreed and reviewed annually with community people.
- Holistic and community based WASH plan developed based on VCA including WSP for Water Supply Schemes
- Define methods to achieve hygiene behavior change

Community managed WASH fund & resources

- Funds for both DRR and O&M managed by the local government.
- An agreed guideline in place to mobilize the funds.

VCA Mapping and Community Awareness about DRR



What are we doing differently?

WASH risk and vulnerability reduction measures

- Formation of WSP team with capacity for identification of vulnerability and risk reduction measures.
- Multi-barrier approach.
- Monitoring, review and evaluation of the mitigation work in place.

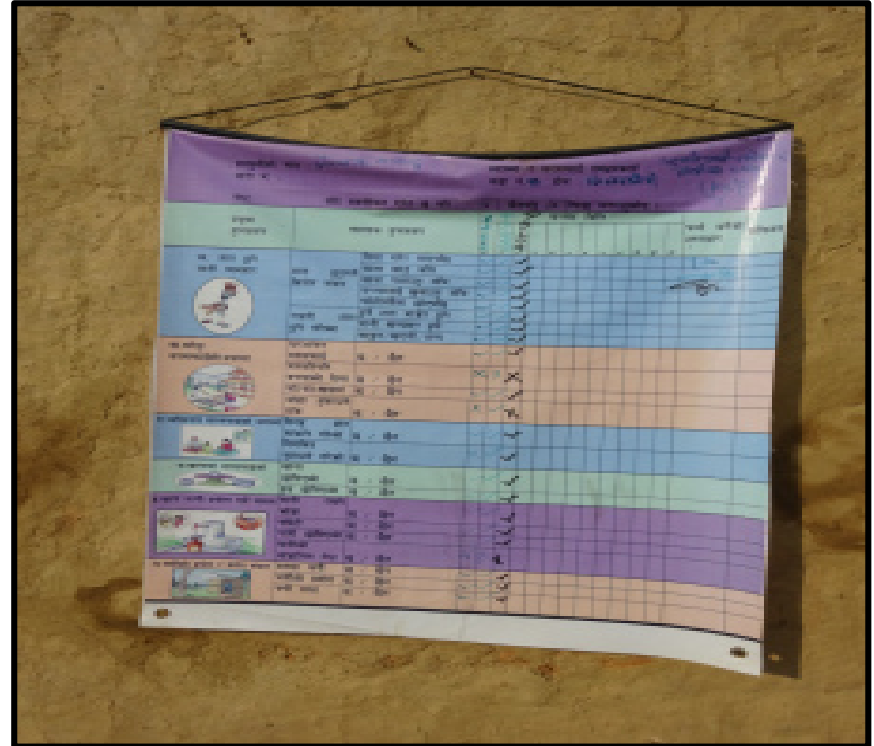
WASH preparedness and response team

- Formation of WASH dedicated preparedness and response team (PRT).
- PRT will train volunteers on emergency WASH.

WASH early warning system

- Surveillance mechanism established to monitor risk.
- Explore appropriate use of mobile application and SMS facilities.

Water Source protection and Household level Hygiene Checklist



Progress Till September 2017

- Total people reached: 24,769 from 4 districts
- Number of water supply systems: 56 (New and Rehabilitation)
- Number of toilets supported : 3700
- WASH resilience capacity building (partners, communities)
 - Integration of DRR into WASH
 - Water Safety Plan including VCA
 - Understanding of WASH resilience by community
- Supported Hygiene promotion including MHM
- Develop WASH resilience Framework- minimum characteristics

Voices from the field

The characteristics of WASH resilience, was not unfamiliar; but we didn't pay enough attention to such things earlier. After experiencing the natural disaster, we now have better understanding of the issue and want to be prepared for any such events in the years to come.

We have now established the mechanisms and we feel that good preparedness reduces the risks. This earthquake taught us that we should always be prepared for any other potential disasters.

(Krishna Sunuwar, 60, local resident and plumber, Kavre).

Voices from the field

This concept places the community at the core of all interventions. However, it is the individual's capacity to cope with future disasters that holds the key to define if the community are WASH resilient or not?

(Mahesh Kharel, Mayor, Panchkhal Municipality)

Voices from the field

Resilience is about people, and not just infrastructure. We have a different way of looking at disasters now as we have a better understanding and experience of strength of our collective and organized actions that is so vital for resilience.

God forbid, should any disaster strike now, we are prepared to face it with our new found strength'

(Bhairab Sedai, 57, President of the Kharelthok-Koshidekha Water Supply Scheme, Kavre)

Way Forward

- Resilience to cope with disasters, as WaterAid Nepal has articulated in its country strategy, is centered on people and their capabilities, effective institutions and mechanisms, aided by adequate technology and infrastructure.
- At its core, the WASH resilience approach is an attempt to engage and capacitate people for preparedness, protection and long-term utilization of the developmental gains by reducing the setbacks through disasters.

Way Forward

- The six minimum characteristics of WASH resilience in communities is in the process of being incorporated to the government's Disaster Management Plan (draft stage)
- Learning, documenting and refining the framework through opportunities for Action-Learning research will be a key aspect for us going forward.



Thank you!

For more information
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