

	(methodology for marker and tagging under development)			
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line (article, item): BGUE-B2021-14.020131-C1-INTPA Total estimated cost: EUR 29 500 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 10 500 000 This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by: - Government of Finland for an amount of EUR 9 000 000 - Government of Nepal for an estimated amount of EUR 10 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing ³	Indirect management with Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs			

1.2. Summary of the Action

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) are the backbone of a resilient society, and have multiple correlations with key development outcomes. However, Nepal has made great advances in WASH, with 95% of people having access to an improved source of water, up from 46% in 1990. However, the most remote rural areas still lack access, thus further increasing geographical inequalities.

The action will focus on Karnali Province, which is the least developed province in Nepal. At least 200,000 people in its rural areas are still without basic water supply, and the systems delivering water to 536,000 rural people need major repair, rehabilitation, or reconstruction (41% of systems in Karnali, as opposed to 34% nationwide). The state of sanitation and hygiene is particularly harsh for women in Karnali and is among the worst nationally, with a high prevalence of harmful practices during menstruation. 10.2% of women in Karnali Province reported having suffered menstrual or childbirth segregation in 2019⁴.

The proposed action aims at improving access to clean water and sanitation and promote good governance of WASH services by local authorities in the most remote and excluded areas of Karnali province. It will strengthen EU strategic links with the provincial and local governments and increase the synergies with existing and future EU programmes in the area, thus improving both impact and visibility through an integrated territorial approach. It is fully aligned with Nepal's green recovery from COVID-19 pandemic.

The prosperity and more specifically the happiness vision of the 15th National Development Plan is at the core of the project. The intervention clearly pursues the goal of leaving no one behind, by delivering last mile inclusive access to water and sanitation in Karnali province. It does so by supporting local governments to improve transparent, accountable and inclusive service delivery, using country systems, thereby strengthening the federal system at the local level, where capacities are weakest. The action will also create synergies with existing EU financed actions in Karnali, notably on climate smart agriculture and inclusive education.

The action is a geographical expansion of the ongoing EU-funded Rural Village Water Resources Management Project (RVWRMP/WAVE), implemented and co-funded by Finland. It intends to deliver sustainable and inclusive WASH services to rural communities of the Karnali province, by targeting 42 out of 79 Municipalities and by building the capacities of the local governments using country systems. The action, aims at establishing an efficient and transparent WASH governance system at municipal level that is capable of ensuring safe, resilient, sustainable and inclusive WASH services for all. The Water Safety Plan (WSP+++) will be applied which includes climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, Operation and maintenance (O&M) and water fee collection, and inclusion issues. Local governments and user groups will ensure the building, repairing and upgrading of water systems, and implement a total sanitation strategy in line with the open defecation free pledge signed by Nepal. The action will also target schools and health centres. The action will make the links between water availability and eco-systemic services, as well as disaster risk reduction through nature-based solutions such as watershed revegetation. Through the establishment of Water user groups, it will promote participatory governance, both in ownership of the service delivery, and strengthening participatory and accountable decision making by local authorities. Human rights, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate resilience are mainstreamed in all

³ Art. 27 NDICI

⁴ MISC 2014 and 2019 data (mid-western mountain development area now correspond broadly to Karnali province. At national level, the percentage went slightly down from 2.9% to 2.5%).