The WASH Alliance envisions a world in which all people have sustainable access to WASH services. To realise this, we need to drastically change the way we approach this challenge. Traditional solutions focused on building infrastructure, are not sustainable and cannot meet the needs of a growing population.

In the countries in which we are active, we therefore work on changing mindsets and creating systems for sustainable and affordable WASH services that can accelerate. This is the only way to adapt to fast population growth. We facilitate the development of a system in which all stakeholders, such as private sector, public sector, citizens and NGOs, work effectively together.

Nepal has around 28 million inhabitants of which more than 30% live below the poverty line, with low access to safe drinking water and poor sanitation facilities. In many villages people still draw water from unprotected sources, such as rivers, streams and unprotected springs, or have to walk long distances and wait in queue at tap stands. Insufficient amounts of water collected compounds poor hygiene habits. Hand washing at critical times (before cooking, eating and after defecation) is very uncommon and so is the use of soap and soap alternatives. Also open defecation is widely common in Nepal. The lack of hygiene, sanitation and safe water sources cause outbreaks of diarrhea and other diseases. Especially during the rainy season, when high temperatures, contaminated water, filthy surroundings, poor hygiene and increase in number of vectors (flies) combine to cause high levels of morbidity, debilitation and death.

Our work in Nepal 2011-2014

In the last 3 years, the Nepal WASH Alliance has been successful to achieve most of its planned results in realising access to WASH. These are the results of a coherent country programme based on three pillars:
1. Building a functioning WASH market
2. Building a functioning public sector for WASH
3. Empowering and organizing citizens

WASH situation in Nepal

- 19% Unsufficient / unsafe water
- 30% open defecation
- 70% Poor sanitation

Highlights of our programme in Nepal:

Building a functioning WASH Market

Involving private sector
There is a good starting point for a greater involvement of the private sector in our work in Nepal. Over the last years, we have successfully involved private sector parties in our work; supported local entrepreneurs to start businesses in ecological sanitation; and trained masons cooperatives. At the same time we supported MFIs to develop credit products for public toilets and household latrines.

Building a functioning public sector for WASH

Increasing government budget
Four locally based financial institutions have institutionalised WASH credit products. Also, budget tracking and policies from governments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals have lead to an increase of public WASH budget. In addition, due to our efforts the government is convinced to create a enabling environment to involve private sectors to support the national target of 100% WASH coverage in 2017.

Empowering and organising citizens

Female leadership
In Nepal, we have realised female representation in community groups between 33% and 50%. Mothers groups, forest groups and female community health volunteers are today leading the Open Defecation Free campaign in Nepal. In addition we supported the development of a women-led WASH cooperative existing of more than 35 women groups, which involves about 600 females community members taking a lead role in WASH.
Programme 2015
Focus areas in our programme for 2015:

1. **Strengthening current activities:**
   Focussing at 3R, Rainwater Harvesting, Water Use Master Plan development, solid waste management, ecological sanitation, household and school sanitation, and mass awareness campaigns on radio.

2. **Menstrual hygiene:**
   Launching a national and international awareness campaign on menstrual hygiene in close collaboration with a producer of sanitary napkins (private company).

3. **Right to WASH:**
   Providing training on the right to WASH, to WASH committees, local governments, community groups and students.

4. **Building public sector for WASH:**
   Support development of post Open Defecation Free guidelines, municipality WASH strategies and post-construction guidelines. Special attention will go to monitoring policy compliance and interacting with governments to ensure adequate fund for operation and maintenance.

5. **Private sector partnerships:**
   Expanding WASH service delivery as well as investigating the role of the private sector and MFIs in sustainability of WASH services. Including training our partners in using business approaches for WASH.

**Capacity development of our partners**

All members of the WASH Alliance work together on the three pillars and collaborate to ensure that WASH services will be sustained and will even scale up after our support has stopped. Therefore we support our members to fulfil their role as facilitators of change and promoters of sustainability. For example, to stimulate environmental sustainability in Nepal, we have been working on 3R and rainwater harvesting. In addition, Multiple Use Systems activities were implemented, such as the use of waste water and slurry of biogas for productive purpose. Similarly, we have been promoting ecological sanitation and making manure of solid wastes management based on the concept reduce, recycle and reuse.

**Sustainability**

Our work is always focused on achieving sustainable results. In order to realise these goals, we have developed the FIETS sustainability approach. This approach consists of five elements of sustainability: financial, institutional, environmental, technological and social sustainability. Special focus within our sustainability approach is the recognition of the interdependencies between water, energy, food security and climate change.