

# Godawari-Prabalya- WASH Newsletter

## PROJECT STATUS, JANUARY - APRIL

The period has been characterized by good cooperation and several advancements. In April, staff from Vakin travelled to Godawari for a knowledge exchange focusing on drinking water, sanitation, and solid waste. A journalist from WASH Khabar reported daily during our trip in April, contributing to the visibility of our project and important issues such as environmental protection, health, and worker safety.

We see a great interest in sustainable water use, where the municipality has increased its WASH budget, and where the project emphasizes the importan-

ce of planning for operation and maintenance after investments have been made. There is also an interest in building local networks to drive issues collectively and exchange experiences in drinking water and sanitation. Data collection is progressing rapidly and provides us with a good basis for activity plans in all workflows.

We also notice the commitment of people living and working in Godawari, both in terms of voluntary efforts and interest in participating in training and events.

Thank you for supporting Godawari Prabalya WASH!



Mr Gajendra Maharjan, Mayor of Godawari lighting a ceremonial candle.

## ACTIVITY UPDATE

### Data management:

- NAWASH data collection soon completed. Solid waste data collection, 2700 HH in May.

### Management/Governance:

- Formed Godawari Water Operators Partnership Network. Improving performance of Water Sanitation Users Committee (WSUC).

### Water production Lele:

- Start Phase 2: construction of rapid sand filter, distribution network and pumping system.

### Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant:

- Land acquisition process, revised design, staff capacity building on CWIS. Health and safety training, for sanitation workers, including Solid Waste.

### Solid waste:

- Budget allocated for SWRMC. Training at ward level, awareness campaign, health and safety focus. Worked with Srijansip Pvt. Ltd to improve waste collection, transportation and segregation.

### IWRM

- Work on Integrated Water Resource Management. River protection campaign.

### WOP Program Support:

- Trainings and technical support. Trip to Nepal, April 2024.

A partnership between Vakin, WaterAid and the municipality of Godawari in Nepal, led by UN Habitats Global Water Operators Partnership and funded by the European Commission. Through knowledge exchange and mentorship, we will strengthen Godawari's work with sustainable water, sanitation and waste management.





## WOMEN'S VOICES EVENT



### FETCHING WATER - A DIFFICULT TASK

*Around 60 women living in water shortage areas in Godawari municipality met with the Mayor.*

On the occasion of World Water Day, Godawari municipality and Godawari Prabalya WASH organized an interaction program between the women from three water shortage areas, The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Godawari municipality and representatives from the Ministry of water supply listened to the women sharing stories from their daily hard work fetching drinking water. The Mayor committed to providing support to solve the drinking water problem.

Some of the women's voices:

"The drinking water source is located quite far from home. I have to go early every morning to fetch water. Otherwise, I won't have time to prepare my children for school. I am very scared of wild animals (leopard), who attacks domestic animals regularly. I don't have any alternative without challenging the situation."

"The dug well is located very far from the home. I have to spend the whole morning fetching water. I have a dream to be employed in an office, to get training, and to have exposure. But I don't have time because of collecting water. My dream is killed because of water."

"I am a 65-year-old woman. I have an asthma problem. But I have to go early every morning to fetch water, and the way is very steep while returning home. Sometimes, I feel that I will die while fetching water."

"I am an elected ward-level female representative. I am supposed to ensure safe drinking water for people, but I spend my whole morning fetching water. It is a terrible situation. If the water problem is solved, many problems will be solved in our community".





## VIEW FROM WSUC

### THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER QUALITY

Mr. Raj Kumar Shrestha is the Chairperson of Lele Water and Sanitation Users Committee, and has been serving as the social worker to improve many areas in Lele.

- I remember an incident when women were struggling to collect water from the community tap. Even after waiting for a long period of time, they didn't get turn to collect water. I was worried about the women's problem and I thought that their life would improve if they got water on their premises.

10 years ago, he decided to improve the water quality of Lele and contribute to ease the work for women. He worked with many government and non-government organizations to improve the quantity and quality of drinking water. However, he was still not satisfied with the service that Lele-WSUC was providing to community people.

- Now I am quite happy and excited. I am working with Godawari Municipality, Vakin and WaterAid team in Godawari Prabalya WASH in Lele WSS.

After exposure visits and capacity development trainings, he feels that his confidence has increased.

- I want to be a part of making one of the best water supply schemes in Godawari municipality.

The improvement that is being done in Lele WSS source area has made it easy to mobilize the community and users.

- I would like to thank all project partners for creating an enabling environment in Godawari municipality and providing technical assistance to Lele WSS through Godawari team.

He would also like to learn from Vakin's experience on drinking water quality.

- I know the importance of protecting water sources to meet the water demand of both present and future generations. For this, I am conducting many awareness campaigns.



*Raj Kumar Shrestha, Sharperson of Lele WSUC*



*Protecting the water source in Lele*



## LOCAL WOP NETWORK FORMED

*Godawari Water Operators Network*

Godawari municipality has, with the technical support of the Godawari Prabalya WASH project, formed the Godawari Water Operator Partnership Network (G-WOP-Network).

The objective of the G-WOP Network is to enhance the capacity of Water and Sanitation Users Committees to improve the quality and quantity of drinking water and share the learnings between WSUCs in Godawari municipality.

Mr. Mahendra Shrestha, who works as the chairperson of the Thaiba Water and Sanitation Users Committee (WSUC), leads the network. In total, 21 members from WSUC have already joined the network, the remaining will join within the month.

Mr. Anand Gautam, WOP Coordinator, shared the importance of forming the G-WOP Network and its working

modality. He also shared the experiences of global WOPs and how Godawari municipality can get new learnings and experiences through the network.

Participants shared their problems, challenges, and expected support from Godawari municipality.

Mr. Achut Raj Regmi, Chief Administration Officer (CAO) from Godawari municipality, requested that all the users committee members should give priority to drinking water while selecting projects at the ward level so that the municipality could allocate budget for drinking water.

He has committed to supporting the capacity-building of the WSUCs committee through this network. The event and news of the network was published on WASH Khabar.com





# TRIP 3 TO GODAWARI

## A VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

In April, 5 staff from Vakin visited Godawari for 8 days of knowledge exchange, with a focus on water, sanitation and solid waste. We had a busy schedule, with field trips, stakeholder meetings, workshops, technical discussions and team building activities.

During the trip we witnessed great progress, for instance in Lele where the water source now is protected, water quality already has improved and expansion of the pipe network is on the way. We also visited other successful projects like Kalithar, where they now have safe drinking water and a tap at every house.

Team Vakin would like to thank our hosts for a perfectly coordinated visit, and for their hospitality and transparency, where we got to witness both success stories and great challenges. Together we can contribute to improvements.

During this trip we had many meetings with end users, worker representatives and decision makers both on local and national level. Team Vakin also had the pleasure to

meet representatives from GWOPA, UN Habitat and EU during our visit.

The visit was well documented, by WASH Khabar and WaterAid Nepal, who posted daily updates on their website and social media.



*FSTP design workshop*



*Godawari municipality, WaterAid Nepal and Vakin representatives*



# DATA COLLECTION

## WASH AND SOLID WASTE DATA

During the trip we had a detailed briefing on the possibility of digitalization and its benefit to Water and Sanitation Users Committees. We also got a look at the NWASH app and how data can be used for mapping of water supply systems, household data, water quality and financial tracking including investments and life cycle costs.

There are approximately 24 000 households in Godawari municipality. Data collection includes:

- All water supply systems (taps, intakes, structures)
- All spring sources
- Interviews with household representatives
- 10% of tubewells
- 10% of household sanitation
- 10% of household solid waste
- WASH in schools, health care facilities and public toilets

Data is collected with GPS which provides a precise location of taps, structures, households and public toilets.

WASH data collection will be completed in May 2024. The solid waste data questionnaire will be revised and data collection for solid waste will continue during May. Project partners will plan for further training in data usage in different workflows, for instance in water resource protection, water and solid waste management and operations/maintenance.



*Public toilet, Botanical garden*



*Nirmala Nagakoti, WSUC representative, participating in a Godawari Prabalya WASH project video.*





## KALITAR SUSTAINABLE WASH



*Chlorine dosing unit at Kalitar*

During trip 3 we went on an exposure visit to a community managed water supply system; Kalitar Sustainable WASH. It is a model collaborative project within the municipality's overall WASH program. The purpose is to provide a safe and sustainable supply of drinking water through the approach of "one house, one tap". The distribution system covers 148 households and 3 institutions in five communities, and a small scale chlorine dosing unit ensures safe drinking water.

The water distribution system is managed by the WSUC, who collects local tariffs from households. They have one staff managing the distribution system. Maintenance costs are not fully covered by the tariff.

We met the Kalitar community and WSUC representatives and had a look at the hygiene training they provide, for instance a water hygiene game and household hygiene checklists.

Household taps with good quality drinking water have improved everyday life in Kalitar and projects like these are a great inspiration for Godawari Prabalya WASH.



*Hygiene checklist*



*Household water meter*





# IWRM AND WATER PROTECTION

## GET TO KNOW YOUR WATER

We had a valuable meeting with the managers of industry, energy and agriculture on the possible pollutants in Godawari municipality. Industries present include quarries, brick and cement factories, textile industry, poultry industry, animal farms, drinking water factories, dairy factories and a brewery. The industries use water from different sources, surface water, spring water, river water and wells.

Wastewater from these industries are a major cause of river pollution. Regulations exist, but they are not fully implemented. The municipality has initiated monitoring on a district level and will make an action plan to prevent pollution.

The agricultural sector is dominant in Godawari with 9600 farms. There are some ponds for rain collection but irrigation is common. We listened to a presentation from a university study who conducted water sampling from the Karmanska river water. The study showed that from a limited amount of parameters tested (pH and salinity), the river water was good for irrigation purposes. There is a need to measure other parameters like heavy metals or microorganisms, but the analysis cost is a problem.

Challenges include:

- Water resource under pressure
- Increased water demand
- Impact of pollution
- Depletion of groundwater
- Drying up spring sources

Our project can contribute to increased knowledge of water quality and to identify possible sources of pollution.

We discussed Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) – water use from different perspectives: economic efficiency, social equality, environmental and ecological sustainability. We also got a presentation of the water resource management plan content.

We also visited the beautiful botanical garden and the Godawari river. We had an interaction with water users committee members from Bishankhu Narayan, Godamachour, and Thaiba water users committee about the river pollution and future action. We also got to interact with the Women cleaning Godawari river campaign. An example of important volunteer work to improve water quality, environment and health.



*Water tankers collect water for household use (not for drinking) after filtering, close to the solid waste segregation center.*





## FECAL SLUDGE TREATMENT



*Visit at FSTP site in Pagaban*

Vakin's technical team went to Pagaban and the ward office for a discussion on the Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) design, with representatives from Godawari Municipality, Kathmandu Valley Water Supply Management Board (KVWSMB) and WSUC members. The meeting took another turn, towards solid waste management, since there is a problem with an illegal solid waste dumpsite on the location of the future FSTP.

A delegation from Godawari Prabalya WASH, WaterAid Nepal, GWOPA and UN Habitat had a meeting with Mr Kamal Raj Shrestha, Director General at the Department of water supply and management. They discussed the possibilities for local partnerships with focus on sanitation.

The director general addressed the challenges with sanitation and solid waste in Nepal, and the need for improvements. Two major problems are finding suitable locations for FSTP and illegal dumping of fecal sludge and solid waste. Also, operations and maintenance are two concerns, where FSTP usually are operated by WSUC, with limited resource and training. There is a need for peer to peer learning between regulators, operators and providers. The director general suggested a workshop with examples from successful projects, also formulating a local regulation procedure.



*Ward office meeting, Pagaban*



*Meeting at the Department of water supply and management*





## FROM DOOR TO SEGREGATION CENTER



*Talking to solid waste customer in Godawari*

The whole team went on a field trip to follow solid waste from household collection in Godawari municipality to the solid waste segregation center at Dhapakhel. The purpose with this trip was to get a clear understanding of solid waste collection, transportation and segregation and of challenges and opportunities.

We had a talk with household representatives, sanitation workers and a meeting with the contractor of the segregation center. After observation we had time for feedback and comments. We also had a meeting with representatives from different sections of sanitation workers from Kathmandu Valley and got their perspective. We also got to see the solid waste data collected so far via household questionnaires.

Challenges in solid waste include public littering, openly burning waste, unwillingness to pay for services, poor work conditions and lack of respect for sanitation workers. Despite some segregation, lots of solid waste is put on a landfill, located in another municipality. Illegal dumping and unofficial landfills are common.



*Sanitation worker collecting household waste*





*Women working at the solid waste segregation center.*

The visit at the solid waste segregation center was an eye opener in many ways. The situation for all sanitation workers is really difficult, with hard and dangerous work and lack of respect from the society. We met women working at the segregation center and representatives from other sanitation workers. Their stories inspired us to include worker safety in our action plans for Godawari Prabalya WASH.

After the visit to the segregation center we had discussions on how we could improve the workplace for the women working at the segregation center. Including better personal protective equipment, access to water for drinking and hygiene and safe zones to avoid reversing trucks.

During a follow up meeting with the contractor, working conditions were pointed out, and the situation immediately improved. We are looking forward to raising awareness of the importance of sanitation workers, who have a key role in a sustainable society.



*Visit at the solid waste segregation center.*

# WARD CHAIR INTERVIEW



*Milan Silawal,  
Ward chair, Ward 5*

Mr. Milan Silawal is the Ward Chair in Ward no 5 and a spokesperson for Godawari Municipality. He was elected for the second time, and has been giving priority to safe drinking water in Godawari municipality. As a result, budget has increased and many water supply projects are running in different wards.

- Investing in drinking water has multiple benefits for people, like health and livelihood.

Mr Silawal is quite worried about the regular operation and maintenance of the water supply systems.

- Fragmented and scattered water supply systems could not afford the cost of regular operation and maintenance of the system.

For this reason, he has been advocating and lobbying for policy-level intervention, which now materialized with endorsement of Godawari WASH Bill 2080.

- I would like to thank Godawari Prabalya WASH team for technical support to prepare the WASH Bill. It will support Godawari municipality to start work on functionality and sustainability of the water supply project.

Mr Silawal appreciates using new technologies in water supply, but at the same time he doesn't want to forget traditional technologies and cultural values of the community.

- I want to continue those traditional technologies which are very effective for the management of water as like Raj

Kulo, (Traditional irrigation canal) Pond construction, and spring source rehabilitation.

He has closely observed the water, sanitation and solid waste related activities in Godawari Prabalya WASH.

- I would like to thank Vakin and the WaterAid team for their overall support to strengthen the institutional capacity of Godawari municipality in WASH, that aided the progress in Lele WSS.

He believes in collaboration, partnership, and the implementation of new technologies, that can provide support to expedite water, sanitation, and solid waste-related activities in Godawari municipality.

- Godawari Prabalya WASH is a good example on how partnership can work in ground level, for the prosperity in Godawari municipality. I am looking forward to a long-term collaboration.



*Presentation of Lele progress at Ward office.*





## PHASE 2 INITIATED, LELE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

*Preparation for rapid sand filter, Lele*

Phase 1 in Lele is completed – a 200 m<sup>3</sup> reservoir tank, intake protection, fencing and storm water drainage. The WSUC has had a 3 day water safety training and started a water safety group. They have also had a roles and responsibilities training and conducted 2 exposure visits, to Pokhara and Pragatinagar Water Supply System (WSS) at Nawalpur. Godawari Municipality has initiated a water operators network in Godawari – a platform for sharing learnings and best practice, plus arranging training programs.

Lele WSS Phase 2 is now initiated, including a 1200 m transmission system and a 16 000 m distribution system, and a rapid sand filter. Water from the reservoir will be divided into one gravity system to lower area and a pumping system for higher area households. The contractor is preparing layout, supply and storage of pipes.

Challenges include:

- Making WSUC fully functional
- Material qualities and SOP
- Pipeline excavation, laying and jointing – need for training in trenchless methods
- Private land issues during pipeline work
- Need for maintenance worker training in leakage

detection and repairs.

- Sustainable budget and tariff that covers both investments plus operation and maintenance.

During Trip 3, members of the WSUC gave feedback on their training and exposure visits. The water quality training was very valuable for them. The exposure visit gave useful information both on water collection, operation and maintenance but also on tariff collection.



*Material and construction discussion, Lele*



# ENGINEER'S PERSPECTIVE

Mr. Sunil Shrestha, Senior Engineer, Godawari Municipality, has been working in the water and infrastructure sectors for a long time in the Municipality. He has been working with Vakin and the WaterAid Team in the Godawari Prabalya WASH Project.

- I feel blessed working with collaboration and partnership within the project. I would like to express my deep gratitude to Mayor Mr. Gajendra Maharjan and the Godawari municipality for selecting me as part of the project team.

Through this project, he has had many opportunities, like internal and international visits, online trainings, and regular feedback. He was impressed with Vakin's working culture, their way of using technologies, and their support.

- I learned a lot about water and sanitation technologies during my visit to Sweden. I also gained knowledge in operation and maintenance, developing and using standard operating procedures, and taking precautions for possible contamination with a significant impact on water quality.

He faced some gaps in the capacity of WSUCs in Godawari municipality. He has been advocating for merging small WSUCs into one large that can serve all wards. Merging could also support collection of tariffs, maintaining transparency and accountability.

Mr Shrestha is happy to see the progress that his team has made in the Lele Water Supply Scheme, where the

Godawari Prabalya WASH project has contributed.

- Now, people are advocating quality drinking water rather than quantity, which is a very positive part of this project.

He is happy to see the collaboration between Godawari Municipality, Vakin, and the WaterAid team.

- The project has initiated a new way working culture, valued the team spirit and respect of the different ideas. The technical support from Vakin and WaterAid Nepal is very appreciable. WaterAid Nepal had provided me many opportunities to build technical knowledge through workshop, meetings and exposure visits.

His expectations from the VAKIN and WaterAid teams are technical assistance and the transfer of knowledge and further long-term collaboration.



*Sunil Shrestha measuring groundwater levels in Sweden*

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