

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 6

# Emergency Rain

Vol. 1 Issue 1

## Publisher's Note

The *Emergency Rain* is a monthly bulletin that comprises the activities and achievements about the Emergency Rain Project. The main objective of the bulletin is to disseminate information to its stakeholders and donor agencies.

GUTHI in partnership with International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance with the support of Republic and State of Geneva is working towards the improvement of the living standard of two project sites – Viswo Niketan Higher Secondary School and Liwali Internally Displaced People camp, which are affected from the 25 April earthquake, through the setup of rainwater harvesting technologies, appropriate sanitation facilities, trainings and support to economic activities.

This bulletin contains people's stories, event base news conducted by the GUTHI and other updates about the project areas along with the testimonials from beneficiaries and stakeholders.



## Project Rain Kicked Off

With the view to raise awareness about rainwater harvesting system and sanitation issues in schools, GUTHI, a non-governmental organization, has organized kickoff event in the premise of Viswo Niketan Higher Secondary School (VNHSS), Tripureshwor on 5 February 2016. The organizer had showcased the posters, rainwater harvesting models depicting the importance of rainwater harvesting and maintenance of the system. Moreover, there were posters to showcase the steps of hand washing and use of toilets and impact of unhygienic behavior to the health.



## Inside

Voices

Taught but not implemented

Struggle for Water

About the Project





Students, government officials and stakeholders have attended the event. Helambar Kadel, Principal of VNHSS, said, "The project of installation of rainwater harvesting in the school is positive step to solve the water issues. And the awareness campaign further helps to get detail information about the system." Kadel is optimistic that the workshop regarding sanitation and hygiene has helped to improve healthy behavior of students.

In the event, issues regarding water shortage and importance of rainwater harvesting in school were discussed. Participants expressed gratitude to be part of the program including Udaya Bahadur Pasakhala, Secretary of Ward no. 11, Kathmandu Metropolitan City Office. Pasakhala stressed on the need of adopting the system to solve the urban water woes. He graced the effort and promised to work together in days to come.

Resource Person Narendra Man Dongol said that rainwater harvesting is a reliable source for mitigating the water problem of urban area. He further said, "The rainwater can be used for household purpose to drinking if installed the system properly."

A student from grade 12 at VNHSS, Nausad Alam, said that the program is beneficial for

him to know about the proper rainwater management. Citing that pure drinking water is burning issues of the world, he said, "Rainwater harvesting system is one of the best solutions to address the water problem. And I will definitely convey the message to my family about the system to cope with the water scarcity in Kathmandu."

Bimala Gurung, Project Coordinator of Emergency Rain, Guthi, said, "We have planned to install rainwater harvesting system in VNHSS in which previous system has been damaged due to earthquake." Gurung also informed that they are planning to assist for reconstruction work in other earthquake-affected areas.

After the formal session, orientation on rainwater harvesting and sanitation was given to more than 500 students through the exhibition in the school premises. Despite the school had rainwater-harvesting system installed earlier, most of the students were unaware. But this kickoff event has ignited curiosity among them to know more about it as expressed by the participants.





## VOICES

The project beneficiaries shared their opinion on the project.



**Narayan Khaitu**, president at Liwali Ganesh Tole Improvement Committee

The major problem of Liwali Camp is safe and pure drinking water. A dug well and a nearby stream are main sources of water in the camp. But for drinking purpose, people have to walk half an hour from the site to fetch water from the public tap. If only, there is a system to purify the water from well for drinking purpose, people at the camp will have great relief. For this, we need to construct a tank with proper water purification system to disseminate water to each household

**Helamber Kandel**, principal at Vishwo Niketan Higher Secondary School

The project of installation of rainwater harvesting in the school is positive step to solve the water issues. And the awareness program about rainwater harvesting system and WASH further helped students and teachers to get detail knowledge. It is glad to know that not only in our school, but we can use rainwater-harvesting system in our households



**Udaya Bahadur Pasakhala**, Secretary, Ward 11, Kathmandu Metropolitan City

The effort of Guthi to solve the water issues in Vishwo Niketan Higher Secondary School by establishing rainwater-harvesting system is remarkable and praiseworthy. This kind of work has to get continued. I am happy to know about the rainwater management and rainwater harvesting system. I will definitely assist this positive effort from my end.





## Taught but not implemented

Students of VNHSS are compelled to use dirty toilets and drink unsafe drinking water

Bijeta Shrestha, 13, and Nirjala Magar, 11, are students of grade six in Viswo Niketan Higher Secondary School. Being part of After School Program conducted by GUTHI, they are well aware about the importance of personal hygiene and drinking safe water.

However, for them what they learnt from school and GUTHI are hard to apply in their own school due to lack of adequate clean toilets and management of safe drinking water in the premises.

"I hardly use school toilets as they are dirty and they don't have water to flush," complained Bijeta. She further said, "Walls of toilets are full of obscene sketches and write ups with no water taps. Although there is a tank outside to fetch water and a mug inside the toilet, students hardly can use them due to hesitation."

According to her, there is altogether 1 toilet for girls and 3 for boys in the school. Girl's toilets are scattered of used menstrual pads and stinks like nothing. Despite having bins to properly dispose used menstrual pads, Bijeta said, "Senior girls just scattered used sanitary pads everywhere in toilets. I don't know why they can't just dispose it in the bin."

Due to lack of water in toilets, students can't flush the toilet after use resulting foul smell and hard to use next time. Limited toilets and maximum users not only resulted for poor hygiene but also hampered in students' study. Students are not allowed to go to toilet any time; the school has allocated two short breaks of five minutes to go to toilet. As the bell rings, students are compelled to stay in long queue waiting their turn not considering cleanliness of toilets. Bijeta said, "Many times awaiting our turns, bell for class rings and we are chased to our class without relieving ourselves."

Nirjala BK also complained about dirty toilets and poor management of sanitation in the school. "We have been taught to flush toilet with water after every use, washing hands with soap but in our school we have neither water nor soap to use," she said in her disappointment.





## Struggling for safe drinking water

After a massive temblor shook the country in April 25, the core city of Bhaktapur witnessed major destruction collapsing hundreds of houses and cultural importance monuments with casualties. As a result many local residents have been displaced from their own native town. Liwali Camp was established after houses of the people living in the southern part of Bhaktapur were destroyed in the earthquake.

The camp constitutes 60 shelters spread over land area of 1,526.22 sq m, which is owned, by Kwopa Engineering College and the government. Six hundred and seven earthquake affected people are now living in temporary shelters made up of tins in the camp. Despite the fact that they have now had a shelter to shed their head, the camp is plagued with severe problem of safe drinking water and electricity. Dug well and

Near by stream are two major sources of water in the camp. Narayan Khaitu, president of Liwali Ganesh Tole Improvement Committee, said that the major challenge to the camp is safe drinking water. He said, "People at camp are totally relying upon the water of the well for every purpose. If only we can use the water of well for drinking purpose, it will relief the whole area."

Khaitu has envisioned constructing 20,000-litre tank to collect water and distribute each house through pipelines. According to him, if things go well as per the plan, every three houses will own a tap in the camp. He also complained about the government's unwillingness to solve the drinking water issue of the area. He presumes that the campsite will last for at least two years.

Hari Sundar Bohaju, resident of a camp, said, "The water from the well is impure for drinking, however, we are using it for cooking." He further said that the main source of drinking water is a public tap half an hour far from the campsite in which water comes once in three days.



**"Internally displaced population living in Liwali Camp has to walk half an hour to fetch drinking water"**





## Emergency Rain: unleashing the potentials

The massive earthquake in Nepal brought everyone on the ground. Many lives were taken and children were affected with their studies and moreover the infrastructures were damaged in the schools that would again impact in the safe water and sanitation access.

The fact-finding study after the earthquake highlighted the scarcity of water and sanitation facilities in the temporary camps where homeless people were taking shelters and the children were under the threat with unsafe water and sanitation services. This led to the development of the Emergency Rain Project. The project aims to support the reconstruction efforts, improve the living condition of affected population by the earthquake in the area and set the necessary conditions to cope with the possible disasters in future.

The project focuses on using rainwater harvesting to serve children in Viswo Niketan Higher Secondary School (VNHSS), Kathmandu and Liwali Internally Displaced Population (IDP) Camp, Bhaktapur, Nepal.

Total of 2220 people will be directly benefitted in the school. Where as, 607 direct beneficiaries and 527 indirect beneficiaries will be served at IDP camp in Liwali, Bhaktapur.

### Expected Outcome:

1. Hygiene practices and sanitation facilities of targeted communities shall be improved and their access to drinking water shall be secured
2. Capacity of communities targeted by the project is strengthened in terms of rainwater management and their resilience to risks and disasters will be improved.

### Achievements so far:

1. Kick off event conducted to raise awareness about rainwater harvesting system and WASH issues
2. Water quality test been carried out
3. Rehabilitation of the existing sanitations started
4. Production of IEC materials and documentation of voices been started for the mass dissemination



### GUTHI

Saraswati Marg, Tripureshwor,  
Kathmandu

Phone no.: 977 01 4255040

Email: [mail@guthi.net](mailto:mail@guthi.net)

Url: [www.guthi.net](http://www.guthi.net)

Fb: [facebook/guthinip](https://www.facebook.com/guthinip)

This publication is brought to you by **GUTHI** in partnership with **International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA)** with support of **Republic and State of Geneva**