



Progress Brief 2014-2016

Sustainable Sanitation & Hygiene for All
in Bhutan and Nepal



Sustainable Sanitation & Hygiene for All (SSH4A) is SNV's comprehensive approach to ensure equitable and sustainable access to improved sanitation and hygiene by supporting the delivery of districtwide rural sanitation and hygiene services. Developed since 2008 in Asia with IRC, the SSH4A approach is now implemented by SNV in 15 countries in Asia and Africa. The SSH4A programme integrates best practices in sanitation demand creation, sanitation supply chain strengthening, hygiene behaviour change communication, and governance including gender and social inclusion. SNV focuses on strengthening the capacities of local stakeholders to plan, implement, monitor, and sustain sanitation and hygiene interventions.

The current phase of the SSH4A programme in Bhutan and Nepal is part of the DFAT Civil Society WASH Fund from May 2014 until April 2018 in partnership with IRC and government partners.

The intended impact of the SSH4A programme is that:

- 85,000 people in Bhutan and 130,000 in Nepal will benefit from access to improved sanitation facilities,
- 145,000 people will have improved hygiene behaviour &
- 330,000 will live within areas declared open defecation free.

By the end of 2016, the programme achieved:



250,000 people gained access to 46,000 new sanitation facilities



58,000 households gained access to a handwashing facility with water and soap in or near the toilet



All existing toilets **are in use** and hygienic standards continue to improve



3 out of 4 people now have access to a sanitary toilet

SSH4A in Bhutan

In Bhutan SNV has been implementing the SSH4A programme since 2008 as part of the national Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Programme with the Ministry of Health. Following a successful pilot phase it is now being scaled up by the government in a phased manner and has now reached nine of the 20 districts. The DFAT-funded programme is supporting the government in this effort by taking the lead in two new districts (Samtse and Trashigang), providing support to two ongoing districts (Pemagatshel and Lhuentse), technical support to PHED leading in five new districts (Mongar, Samdrupjongkar, Wandue, Trashiyangtse and Trongsa) with UNICEF support, as well as providing strategic inputs at the national level.



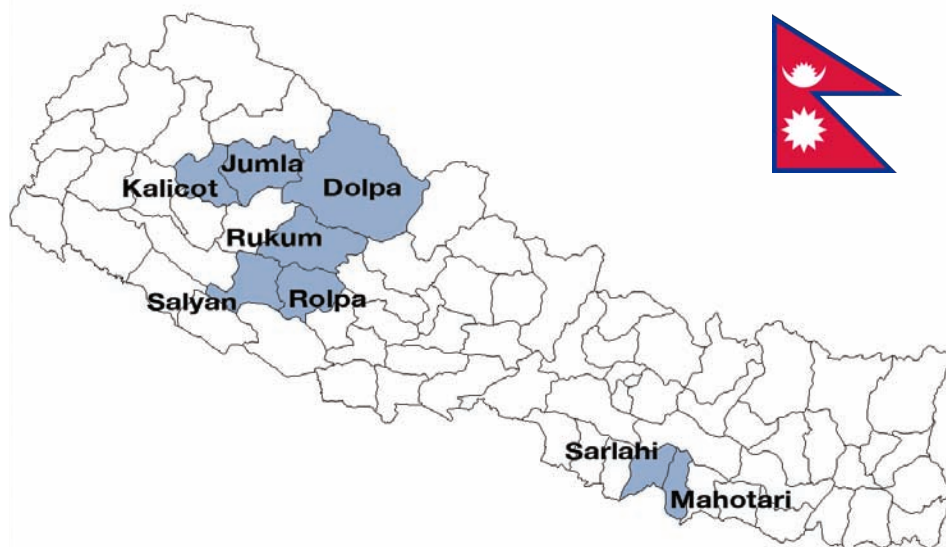
Bhutan: SSH4A programme districts

The DFAT-funded SSH4A programme is implemented in **17 districts** in Bhutan & Nepal. It is expected more than **360,000 people** will directly benefit from the 4-year programme.



SSH4A in Nepal

In Nepal the SSH4A programme was initially implemented in the hilly and mountainous districts of the Karnali Zone in the Midwest. The current DFAT funded programme includes six of the initial districts (Jumla, Dolpa, Kalikot, Rukum, Rolpa and Salyan) plus two new districts (Sarlahi and Mahotari) situated in the southern plains. In addition to the DFAT funded programme, SNV in Nepal is also implementing a DFID-funded SSH4A programme in seven additional districts.



Nepal: SSH4A programme districts

Performance monitoring in the SSH4A programme

A shared monitoring framework with standard key performance indicators is used as part of SNV's SSH4A programme when reporting progress and results. This paper presents the achievements to date on the following four impact indicators:

- 1) Progress in number of households (and number of people) with access to a sanitary toilet;
- 2) Progress in number of households (and number of people) that use a hygienic toilet;
- 3) Progress in number of people using a sanitary toilet when at home (“use by all, at all times”); and
- 4) Progress in number of households (and number of people) with adequate handwashing facilities with soap in or near the toilet.

The above indicators measure changes in behaviour and practices which are the results of qualitative processes. The qualitative information is measured with the help of the Qualitative Information System (QIS) where qualitative information is quantified with the help of progressive scales called ‘ladders’. Households that are at the lowest levels at the start of the programme can climb to a higher level on the ladders developed for each indicator. The value is in analysing and visualising progressive improvements over the course of the programme.

To be able to continuously observe changes in progress across the intervention districts, village-level data is collected by the local authorities. Annual performance monitoring, carried out by SNV and its local partners, complements the existing ongoing monitoring. Since the start of this phase this is done with the help of the Akvo FLOW tool which consists of an Android smartphone app which allows for easy data collection and automated data entries, and an internet-based management tool.

The programme impact presented in this paper reflects the progress made in Bhutan and Nepal – presented as cumulative results – on the programme's four impact indicators since the start of the programme. The impact figures presented in this brief show the cumulative results achieved during the past two and a half year by comparing the progress measured per November 2016 against the baseline obtained in mid-2014.

For Bhutan the results reflect the primarily the progress made in Samtse district. Progress on indicator 1 for the government-led five districts and two on-going districts are shown separately. As work in Trashigang district started only this year, the results will be included in next year's progress brief along with progress in the ongoing districts. For Nepal the results reflect the progress made in all eight focus districts.



Indicator 1: Access to sanitary toilets

This indicator is measured at household level and assesses access to toilets as well as the design and quality of construction of the toilets.

Access to toilets in Bhutan

During the first two and a half years of the project:

Close to 2,300 new toilets were constructed in Samtse district; as a result:

- Toilet ownership increased by 19% to 89% overall.
- Toilet ownership among the poorest 40% of households increased by 24% to 76%.
- Households with access to a toilet reached 91%, either using their own toilet (89%) or using the toilet of someone else (2%).
- The proportion of people defecating in the open reduced by 3% from 12% to 9%.
- 24 communities (sub-district blocks) achieved Open Defecation Free status (53% of the original target of 45%) as part of the national approach.

On top of the achievements in Samtse district the following additional results were realised in Bhutan:

- 9,800 people (~ 2,000 households) gained access to improved sanitation in the two ongoing districts of Pemagatshel and Lhuentse increasing coverage in both to 98%.
- 43,070 people (~9,000 households) gained access to improved sanitation in the government-led districts of Mongar, Samdrupjongkar and Wandue in partnership with SNV and UNICEF.

Access to toilets in Nepal

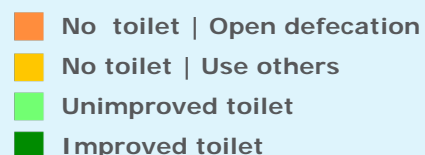
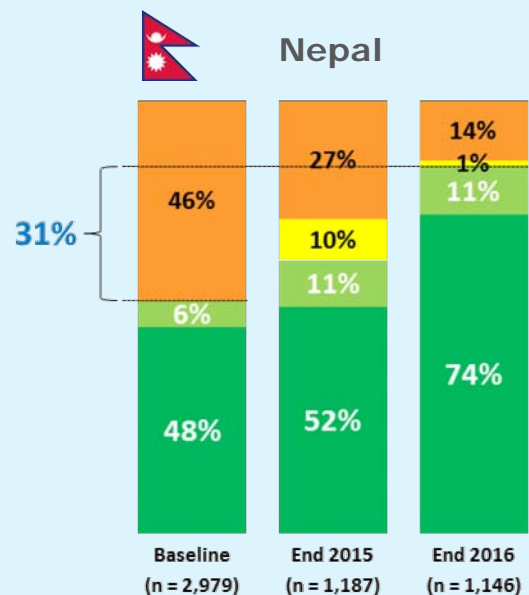
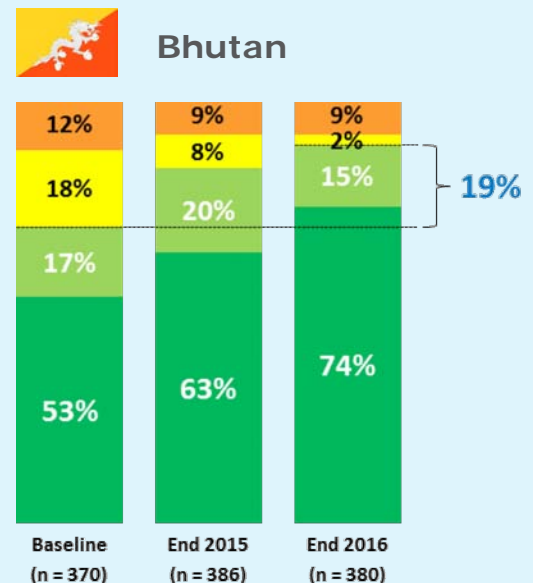
During the first two and a half years of the project:

Some 32,700 new toilets were constructed and as a result:

- Toilet ownership increased by 31% to 85% overall.
- Toilet ownership among the poorest 40% of households increased by 27% to 87%.
- Households with access to a toilet reached 86%, either using their own toilet (85%) or using the toilet of someone else (1%).
- The proportion of people defecating in the open reduced by 32% from 46% to 14%.
- 41 communities (VDCs) achieved Open Defecation Free status (53% of the original target of 77).



Access to sanitation (JMP definition)



Design and quality of toilets in Bhutan

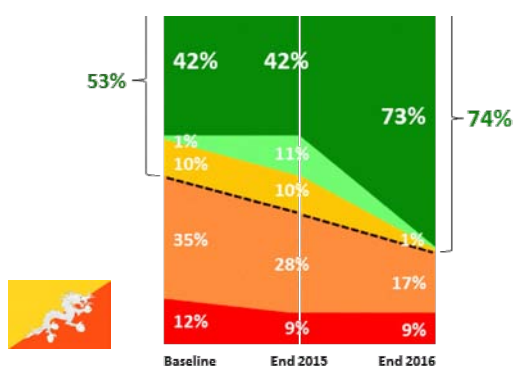
During the first two and half years of the project in Samtse district:

- The overall quality of toilets improved with the proportion of improved toilets increasing 21%, from 53% to 74%.
- The proportion of unimproved and shared toilets decreased by more than 18% to 17%.
- The proportion of environmentally safe toilets among the poorest 40% of households increased by 21% to 42% compared to an overall increase of those types of toilets of 40%.
- 89% of all the existing toilets are pour-flush toilets, which require water for flushing. The remaining 11% consist of simple dry pit latrines

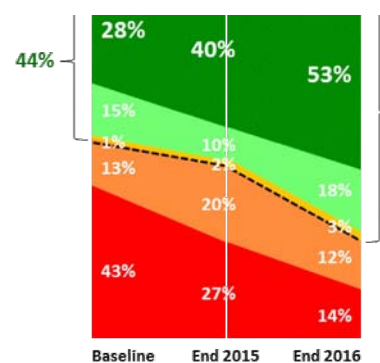
Design and quality of toilets in Nepal

During the first two and a half years of the project in the eight districts:

- The overall quality of toilets improved with the proportion of improved toilets increasing al-most 30%, from 44% to more than 74%.
- The proportion of unimproved and shared toi-lets stayed more or less the same (13%).
- The proportion of environmentally safe toilets among the poorest 40% of households increased by 26% to 56% compared to an overall increase of those types of toilets of 24%.
- Now almost all toilets (97%) are a flush type of toilet.



Access to sanitary toilets



Indicator 2: Hygienic use and maintenance of toilets



This indicator is measured at household level and assesses whether toilets are used or not as well as the quality of operation, maintenance and hygienic status.

Hygienic use of toilets in Bhutan

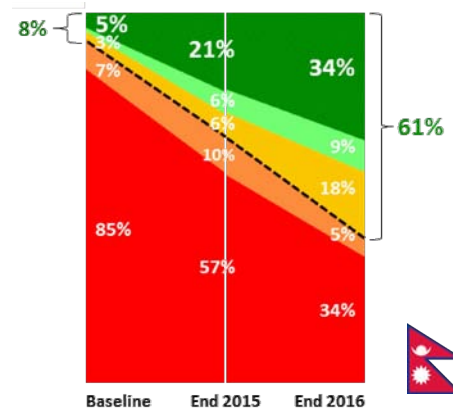
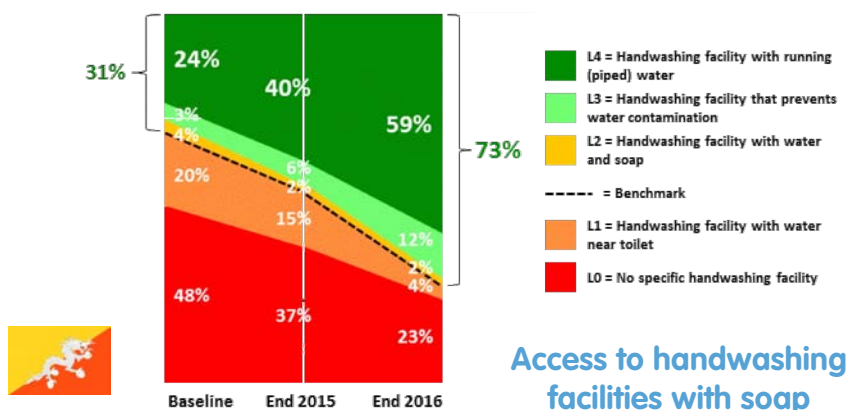
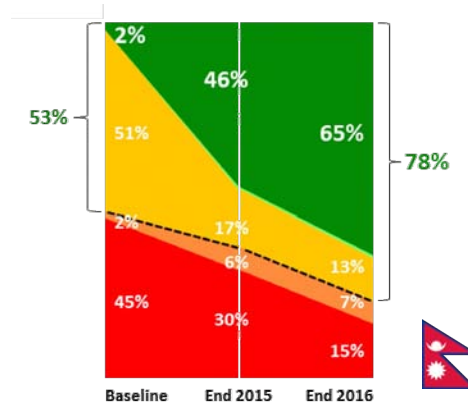
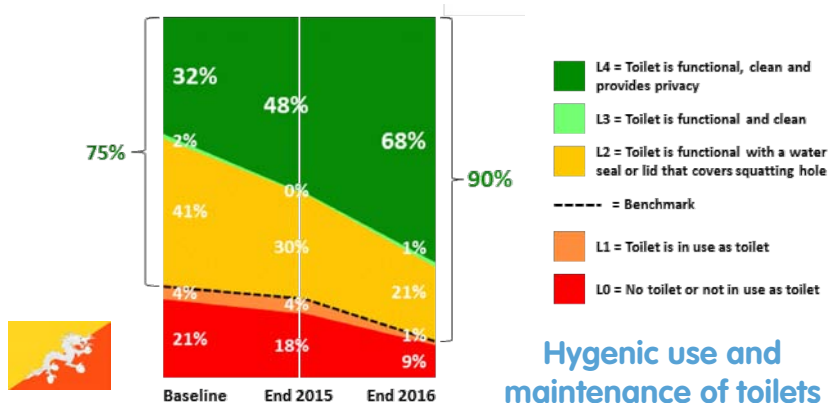
During the first two and half years of the project in Samtse district:

- The proportion of hygienically used and maintained toilets, those on or above the benchmark, increased by 15% to 90% overall.
- The proportion of toilets that meet the highest possible standards (toilet is functional, clean and provides privacy to the users) increased by 36% to 68% overall.
- The higher wealth quintiles are still doing better than the lowest quintiles: 95% of the wealthiest 40% of households versus 62% of the poorest 40% of households use a toilet that is on or above the benchmark.

Hygienic use of toilets in Nepal

During the first two and a half years of the project in the eight districts:

- Almost 195,000 additional people started to use a toilet.
- The proportion of hygienically used and maintained toilets, those on or above the benchmark, increased by 25% to 78% overall.
- The proportion of toilets that meet the highest possible standards (toilet is functional, clean and provides privacy to the users) increased by 63% to 65% overall.
- The proportion of toilets on or above the benchmark increased evenly among the different wealth quintiles with some 25%; however the wealthier households appear to be doing slightly better than the lowest quintiles: 87% versus 81%.



Indicator 3: Access to handwashing facilities with soap



This indicator is measured at household level and assesses the existence and quality of handwashing facilities in or near the toilet as a proxy indicator for the practice of handwashing after defecation.

Access to handwashing facilities in Bhutan

During the first two and half years of the project in Samtse district:

- The existence of handwashing facilities with water and soap inside or near the toilet (on or above the benchmark) increased by 42%, from 31% to 73%.
- Almost 5,000 additional households gained access to handwashing facility with water and soap.
- Although the poorer households are slowly catching up, the wealthier 40% of households (81%) are still doing better than the poorest 40% of households (49%).

Access to handwashing facilities with in Nepal

During the first two and a half years of the project in the eight districts:

- The existence of handwashing facilities with water and soap inside or near the toilet (on or above the benchmark) increased by 53%, from 8% to 61%.
- More than 53,000 additional households gained access to handwashing facility with water and soap.
- Although the poorer households are slowly catching up, the wealthier 40% of households (76%) are still doing better than the poorest 40% of households (57%).

Indicator 4: Using a sanitary toilet when at home



This indicator is measured at household level and assesses issues such as accessibility, convenience and privacy as a proxy indicator for the use of a toilet by all at all times when they are in or around the home.

Using a sanitary toilet when at home in Bhutan

During the first two and half years of the project in Samtse district:

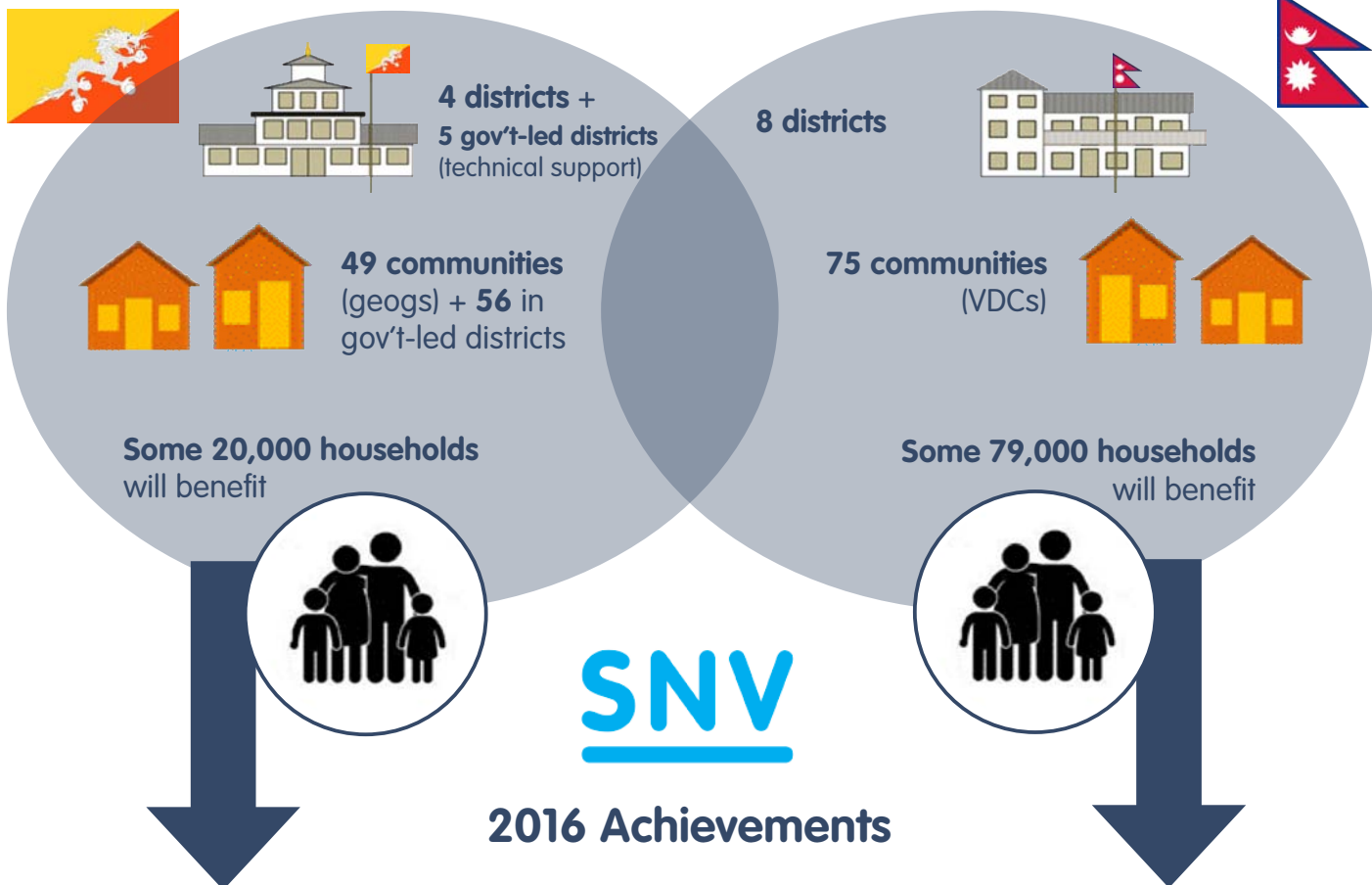
- The proportion of toilets on or above the benchmark increased by 34%, from 46% to 80%.
- The proportion of toilets that meet the highest possible standards (accessible for all, providing convenience and privacy, and no evidence of children's stool) increased by 31% to 71% overall; equal to some 8,500 households.
- Some 8,500 households had access to a toilet that can be used by all at all times when at home, meaning that all faecal matter can be disposed of safely and that no faecal matter was found in or around the house.

Using a sanitary toilet when at home in Nepal

During the first two and a half years of the project in the eight districts:

- The proportion of toilets on or above the benchmark increased by 31%, from 45% to 76%.
- The proportion of toilets that meet the highest possible standards (accessible for all, providing convenience and privacy, and no evidence of children's stool) increased by 46% to 67% overall; equal to some 67,000 households.
- Some 67,000 households had access to a toilet that can be used by all at all times when at home, meaning that all faecal matter can be disposed of safely and that no faecal matter was found in or around the house.





Access to sanitary toilet

Hygienic use & maintenance of toilet

Access to hand washing facilities with soap

46,000 households gained access to new sanitation facilities

All existing toilets are in use and hygiene standards continue to improve

58,00 households gained access to a handwashing facility with water and soap in or near the toilet

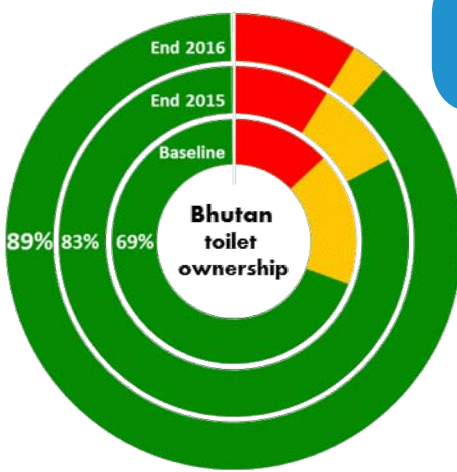
- 13,300 new sanitation facilities
- 32,700 new sanitation facilities

- 49,300 people (90%) are now using a hygienic toilet
- 385,000 (78%) are now using a hygienic toilet

- 5,000 new handwashing facilities
- 53,000 new handwashing facilities

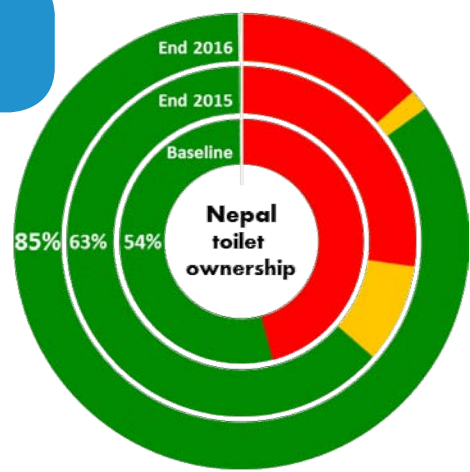
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Access to sanitary toilet



91% of the population had access to a toilet at the end of 2016
(Samtse district only)

86% of the population had access to a toilet at the end of 2016
(All 8 DFAT-funded districts)





SNV is a not-for-profit international development organisation. Founded in the Netherlands nearly 50 years ago, we have built a long-term, local presence in 39 of the poorest countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Our global team of local and international advisors work with local partners to equip communities, businesses and organisations with the tools, knowledge and connections they need to increase their incomes and gain access to basic services – empowering them to break the cycle of poverty and guide their own development.

For more information visit www.snv.org



IRC is an international think-and-do tank that works with governments, NGOs, businesses and people around the world to find long-term solutions to the global crisis in water, sanitation and hygiene services. At the heart of its mission is the aim to move from short-term interventions to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services. With over 40 years of experience, IRC runs programmes in more than 25 countries and large-scale projects in seven focus countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It is supported by a team of over 80 staff across the world.

For more information visit www.ircwash.org.

This progress brief was written by Erick Baetings, IRC Senior Sanitation Expert, with the support from Gabrielle Halcrow, SNV Asia Programme Coordinator (Rural) Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All Programme, and the SNV WASH teams in Bhutan and Nepal.

The results presented in this paper are based on the performance monitoring data collected, managed and analysed by the rural SSH4A teams of SNV Bhutan and SNV Nepal.

This paper can be found on the on the Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All (SSH4A) project page at: www.ircwash.org/projects/sustainable-sanitation-and-hygiene-all



The SSH4A Programme in Nepal and Bhutan is supported by the Australian Government (DFAT) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (DGIS).

Under the SSH4A programme over **46,000 households** have gained access to new sanitation facilities in Bhutan & Nepal

