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Project number



Completion report

Data from our 12 month review has also been included in this report

**Shree Mahendragram School,
and Shree Bhairavi School**

Changunarayan
Government Schools

Project aims

The provision of latrine toilets, hand-washing sinks and safe drinking water for two schools

Project duration

August 2020 to September 2021
(Several delays due to Covid-19)

Project budget

Initial proposal £15,000, actual cost £11,000, funds fully utilised

Contact

For further details please get in touch or visit our website
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‘There was good coordination and communication during planning and construction phases, we felt involved during the whole process.’

Bhairabi School Committee

Background

Despite the earthquake happening back in 2015, there are still many schools without adequate sanitation facilities. Government statistics indicate that three-quarters of the population defecate in the open for lack of toilets. Following defecation, the urine stagnates in one spot and is a strong medium for bacteria to reach the ground water, contaminating drinking water causing diarrhoea and even Hepatitis A.

Nearly 13,000 children die every year due to diarrhoea-related diseases and only 45% of Nepal’s population has access to toilets, according to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Nepal for Water Health (NEWAH), state that the poor provision of toilets and lack of soap for hand-washing, is a strong disincentive for pupils to attend. The dropout rate can be especially high among girls.

We chose to work with these two schools as although their main buildings are in good condition, some basic amenities were missing. Bhairabi School had no drinking water and no toilets, and Mahendragram School toilets were completely run down.

Changes to initial plan

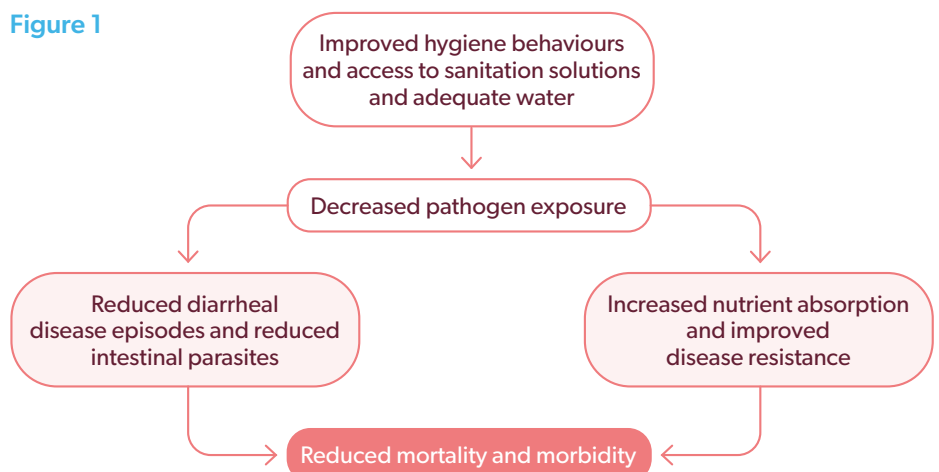
Initially the water drinking facility was to be installed in a different school, Kalika Secondary School, but they managed to acquire government funding for this and therefore didn’t need our help anymore. However, the government funding for the reconstruction of Bhairabi School didn’t stretch far enough to provide a water supply so we stepped in.

Key numbers and achievements

US AID research states that water and sanitation improvements, in association with hygiene behaviour change, can have significant effects on population and health by reducing a variety of diseases. These include reductions in diarrhoea and in parasite infections, increased child growth, and lower morbidity and mortality. These improvements affect health primarily by interrupting or reducing the transmission of disease agents as illustrated in Figure 1 below. Reductions in morbidity are expected to improve nutritional status by a reduction in dehydration, fever and malabsorption of nutrients.



Figure 1



Involve Nepal used the following indicators to measure the impact of these projects.

We used a combination of direct observation and data that the school could provide.

Post-intervention data was collected during our 12 month review.

Mahendragram School

Nursery to Grade 10, ages 3–15 years.
Currently 305 pupils, capacity 400.
Number of staff 20.

In addition to the government funding 4 lockable cubicles, we constructed another 2 cubicles, urinals and hand-washing sinks.

Although Mahendragram School already had some facilities, it was not sufficient for the number of pupils they need to accommodate. Therefore there was often a queue, resulting in defecation around the premises and rushed or no hand-washing behaviours. Another consequence of this, they were finding the dropout rate was mainly amongst girls when reaching menstruation age.

	Staff		Pupils	
	Pre-intervention	Post-intervention	Pre-intervention	Post-intervention
Number defecating around the school compound in a one week period	2	0	35	3
Number with appropriate hand-washing behaviour (after using the toilet and before engaging with food) in a one week period	9	20	43	263
Days off due to unhygienic conditions and contaminated water (mainly diarrhoea, and Hepatitis A) in a one year time period	3	0	52	7
Dropout rate due to poor sanitation and toilets in a one year period	0	0	11	0

Bhairabi School

Nursery to Grade 5, ages 3–10 years.
Currently 57 pupils, capacity 100.
Number of staff 6.

We constructed 3 lockable cubicles, urinals, hand-washing sinks, and a drinking water facility (this includes a filter, purifier and steel tank linked directly to a tap).

The data collected pre-intervention was done at a temporary school 500m away, whilst the whole school was under construction.

	Staff		Pupils	
	Pre-intervention	Post-intervention	Pre-intervention	Post-intervention
Number defecating around the school compound in a one week period	2	0	42	2
Number with appropriate hand-washing behaviour (after using the toilet and before engaging with food) in a one week period	4	6	10	45
Days off due to unhygienic conditions and contaminated water (mainly diarrhoea, and Hepatitis A) in a one year time period	2	0	37	10
Dropout rate due to poor sanitation and toilets in a one year period	0	0	2	0

Other findings

We also gathered the information, shown on the right, during our 12 month review.

Both schools have allocated toilet times to make supervision much easier for the young pupils and equally there is an allocated staff member(s) before lunch to monitor hand-washing. This is usually encouraged by song, going through the different steps of the process, which brings a fun and engaging element. Both schools also found that as the children got older and more independent, they didn't even need reminding anymore.

	Mahendragram School	Bhairabi School
Facility is functioning (including locks on doors)	✓	✓
Hygienic, signs of regular cleaning (no faeces on the floor, seat or walls and there are few flies)	✓	✓
Shows signs of use (well-worn path between school and sanitation facility, signs of wear)	✓	✓
Provision of soap and a drying cloth and steel cups	✓	✓
Hand-washing promotion	✓	✓



Sustainability

Facilities that are operated, maintained and financed by the community are likely to be more sustainable than those maintained by NGOs. Therefore, we agreed the following with the schools involved;

- To transfer relevant skills and information to designated staff members, who are responsible for operations and maintenance of the facilities.
- To be responsible for the maintenance costs. Although, in-kind contributions will be taken into consideration if necessary works exceeds the schools budget.



Sustainability of improved hand-washing behaviours is also key to see health impacts materialise long-term, and all school staff have been trained and encouraged to regularly promote good hand-washing technique.

‘It is very clear that the pupils are more comfortable, we are very thankful for your support’

Mr Srestsa, Headmaster
Mahendragram School

How did Covid-19 affect us?

Our projects were due to start by Autumn 2020, with completion by the end of the year. However, not only did the pandemic make fundraising very tough, Nepal’s lockdown restrictions were very strict.

Whilst schools remained closed for long period of times, eventually certain professions could resume, particularly those outdoors, which meant our works could be done with little disruption and in time for the children to return. However, to keep in line with Covid regulations, we had to limit the amount of people onsite at any given time which made regular monitoring, communication and reporting quite difficult. Furthermore, priorities of our in-country team understandably shifted during the pandemic to stay safe, and to meet the needs to their families and communities. This also led to delays in reporting and meant we were unable to conduct the stakeholder analysis on project completion.

Overall, these projects were quite small-scale and luckily no major issues were reported.

Expenditure

95%
Costs directly related to the project



5%
Running and administration costs

Thank you

Involve Nepal would like to thank all the individuals and businesses that have contributed to our work.

Amélia Henriot
Founder and Trustee

Gokul Thapa
Trustee