



# WATER IN ACTION

Partnerships

Knowledge

Solutions

## Nepal facing major water and sanitation challenges after political unrest

Nepal is a landlocked country high in the Himalayas on the border between India and China. Whilst to the tourist Nepal has a romantic and mystic image it is in fact the 12th poorest country in the world and its population of 27 million have a GDP per capita which is only a third of its large neighbour, India and it is ranked among those countries with the poorest health profiles in the world. Much needed infrastructure investment recently came to a halt during the political turmoil but now is the time to resume development efforts. Borouge is working with the local plastics industry and non-profit-organisations to address some of the most pressing issues.



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## Nepal – economic and political background

Whilst to the tourist Nepal has a romantic and mystic image it is in fact the 12th poorest country in the world and its population of 27 million have a GDP per capita which is only a third of its large neighbour, India. Despite the work of the Asian Development Bank, WaterAid and many other NGO's over many years Nepal is still ranked among those countries with the poorest health profiles in the world.

The recent political instability, which saw the overthrow of the monarchy also created many problems for business and all infrastructure projects were halted. Now that the country is in the process of forming a democratic Government, business can get back on track and infrastructure projects can resume. This is also time to help the plastics pipe industry develop and benefit from the latest products and technology.

## Nepal – the water landscape

Although Nepal has a good rainfall and many rivers the water is rich in minerals and is not fit for drinking without treatment. Therefore wells, springs and streams are the main sources of drinking water and less than 60% of the rural population having access to safe drinking water.

Therefore many within the rural population of Nepal are in relatively poor health and there is a high incidence of waterborne disease. Much needed water treatment plants and water distribution systems need to be installed.

## Nepal – sanitation and health

In a survey in 2000 only 27.1% of rural households had access to latrines and despite many programmes the infant mortality rate is one of the highest in

the world at 82 per 1000 births. Overall water and sanitation related diseases account for 72 per cent of total ailments and diarrhoea continues to be one of the leading causes of childhood deaths.

## Ongoing aid programmes

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has undertaken a major development programme in Nepal. The project has four main strands including health and hygiene education and water and sanitation system development. A major aim is to enable the Government to strengthen its capacity to monitor sector performance while giving a greater role to communities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in direct service delivery. ADB will provide 65% of the project costs of \$53.9 million and Government and local beneficiaries will fund the remainder.

## “Water for the World” activities in Nepal

### Supporting Susma Koirala Memorial Trust

The Susma Koirala Memorial Trust has been helping to provide drinking water in the rural areas of the country since its inception but several of these project plans could not be implemented due to insufficient funds. Borouge is currently working with the Trust on a project to supply water to nearly 200 households and a school in the ancient city of Bhaktapur just 25 km from the capital Katmandu.

### Supporting the local plastics pipes industry

Borouge is supporting the local plastics industry providing knowledge and training in new products and processes and supporting the development of national standards. Recent seminars and meetings have been held to introduce PE100 pipes and to update the current pipe standard which is over 20 years old. At the most recent seminar a full delegation from the Nepal Standard Committee lead by Director General Dr. Sitaram Joshi and Deputy Director Mr. Laxmi Prasad Gupta in Nepal participated.



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