Rural Village Water Resources Management Project RVWRMP

Building Climate Resilience at local levels in Nepal

GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL

EUROPEAN UNION

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Technical Assistance: FCG

RVWRMP:
Building Climate Resilience at local levels in Nepal

- RVWRMP is a water use and management project
  - **Joint cooperation** by the Government of Nepal, Finland, and the EU.
  - **Local level perspective:** Municipality, community, and household levels
  - **Water perspective:** WASH and livelihoods, local water governance, and climate change
  - **Water-scarce areas of Nepal:** Sudurpaschim and Karnali
  - **Not piloting:** 100 000 beneficiaries annually in both WASH and livelihoods
  - **Long-term:** operated since 2006 (15 years of experience) – based on Finnish WASH in Nepal since 1989
  - **Integrated approach:** Managing WASH, livelihoods and other water uses together
  - **Cross-cutting theme:** Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management

Setting the Scene

Water resources getting scarcer in the Himalayan mid-hills of Nepal

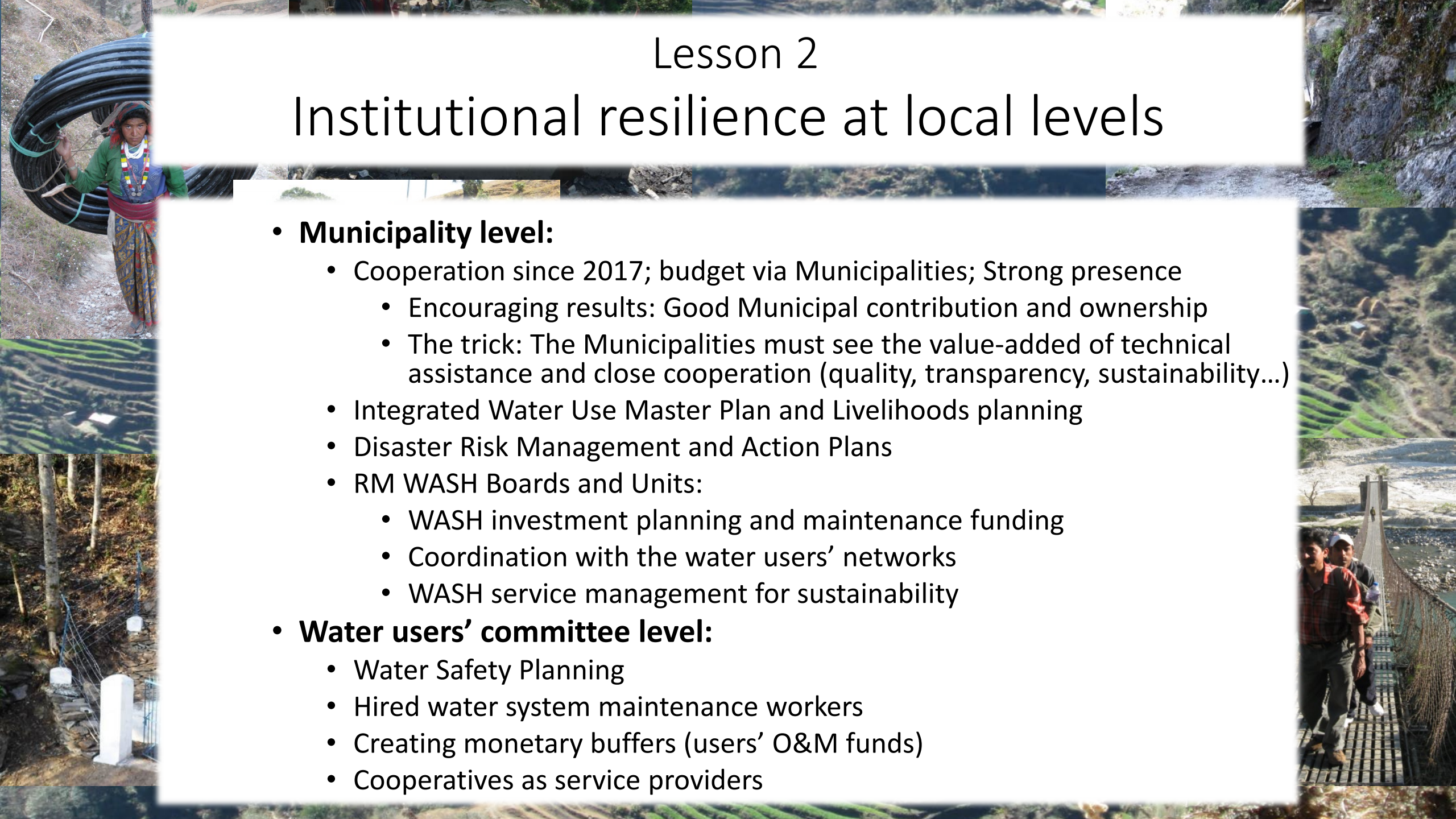
- Impacts of CC on local hydrology
  - Extreme weather events (droughts, floods…)
  - Climate is gradually getting hotter and drier
- Impacts of CC on water resources and services in western Nepal:
  - Source depletion is becoming a big problem (see Tanahun study 2004 vs 2014)
  - Less water available for various uses … while the demand is growing
  - More advanced and more expensive water infrastructure; longer transmission

→Climate change is a risk for the sustainability of the water services

Lesson 1

Infrastructure to trigger sustainable water use

- Climate proofing of water infrastructure…
  - Climate-smart designs and quality construction:
    - Priority to ‘drinking water for all’ over other uses – UN Right to Water and Sanitation
    - Planning: Taking natural hazards and water scarcity into account - Using every drop
  - How: Multiple Use water Systems: waste water and overflow (excess) water
- …enables sustainability and efficiency in water use behaviour
  - Private taps with metering make water use more careful
  - Waste water for home gardening etc.; overflow for irrigation
  - Integrating livelihoods with WASH to gain income → incentive to maintain systems
  - Modern irrigation technologies: Increasing productivity/income per litre of water
  - Water for all at all times: Behaviour change in gendered habits and taboos



Lesson 2
Institutional resilience at local levels

- **Municipality level:**
  - Cooperation since 2017; budget via Municipalities; Strong presence
    - Encouraging results: Good Municipal contribution and ownership
    - The trick: The Municipalities must see the value-added of technical assistance and close cooperation (quality, transparency, sustainability…)
  - Integrated Water Use Master Plan and Livelihoods planning
  - Disaster Risk Management and Action Plans
  - RM WASH Boards and Units:
    - WASH investment planning and maintenance funding
    - Coordination with the water users' networks
    - WASH service management for sustainability
- **Water users' committee level:**
  - Water Safety Planning
  - Hired water system maintenance workers
  - Creating monetary buffers (users' O&M funds)
  - Cooperatives as service providers

Take-away messages:

Available fresh water is getting scarcer.

There is no silver bullet, but…

Actions:

1. Institutional strengthening & ownership: Local Municipalities are key in Nepal
2. Climate-smart infrastructure can trigger sustainable water use behaviour: Multiple Use water System designs
3. Equity & Rights: Priority to ‘Drinking water for all’ at all times