Kathmandu Valley has a high population growth of more than 6% per annum and high population density of more than 10,000 per square kilometer. The population of Kathmandu Valley is estimated at 2.72 million in 2011 and 3.50 million in 2016. Rapid and largely unplanned urban growth, lack of sustainable water sources, and inadequate past investments have resulted in poor availability and quality of drinking water.

Poor access to water has caused increased disease incidence, health risks, and associated economic burdens that disproportionately impact the poor and vulnerable.

In September 2011, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the Kathmandu Valley Water Supply Improvement Project. The project was developed using lessons from previous ADB interventions, and country assistance program evaluation, which pointed to the need for strategic clarity and prioritization of urban infrastructure investments. An important lesson from earlier projects was to give importance to rehabilitation of networks, along with creation of assets. Thus, the project will focus on reducing nonrevenue water (NRW) and improving the existing network. Another lesson is to involve stakeholders; the project has provided adequate resources for the participation of various stakeholders.

The expected impact of the project is sustainable water supply services for residents of Kathmandu Valley. The expected outcome is improved access, efficiency, and reliability of water supply services to the residents of Kathmandu Valley, including poor women and men.

(continued overleaf)
The Project at a Glance

**Cost and financing:** Asian Development Fund, $80 million

**Project approval date:** 16 September 2011

**Project themes:** Environmental sustainability, Social development, Capacity development

**Status of project implementation:** Ongoing

**Expected loan closing date:** 31 December 2016

**Executing agency**

Ministry of Urban Development

**ADB department**

South Asia Department

Urban Development and Water Division

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ADB's Kathmandu Valley Water Supply Improvement Project is in line with the strategic directions of ADB's South Asia Department, which focuses on sustainable infrastructure, climate change mitigation and adaptation, human development, regional cooperation and integration, public–private partnership, and good governance.

The project has also prepared a community awareness and participation plan to involve key stakeholders for widespread, ongoing, and meaningful participation.

The project prioritizes underserved areas and poor sections of the population in Kathmandu Valley. Piped water through individual household connection is expected to relieve women of the drudgery of managing water, giving them more time for social and economically productive activities. The impact and outcome of the project are closely linked with the success of ongoing projects.

Piped water through individual household connection will relieve women of the drudgery of managing water.

There is a gender equality and social inclusion action plan, monitoring and evaluation, and support for project management. This output will continue and enhance support being provided under the ongoing loans.

Change in water conservation, good water management practices including reduce, reuse, and recycle, and rainwater harvesting are also provided.

The project has also prepared a community awareness and participation plan to involve key stakeholders for widespread, ongoing, and meaningful participation.