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Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Health & Population

# Integrating Nutrition and Local Governance: *An Example from Suaahara*



Nutrition Innovation Lab  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scientific Symposium  
18 November, 2014  
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# Presentation outline

- Issues addressed by the program
- Objectives
- Theoretical Framework
- Program Design
- Outcomes and results
- Program Implications
- Conclusion

# Suaahara: Overview

Goal: Improve the nutritional status of women  
and children < 2 years

## Result 1:

Household  
nutrition, health  
and hygiene  
behaviors  
improved

## Result 2:

Use of quality  
nutrition and  
health services  
by women and  
children  
increased

## Result 3:

Consumption of  
diverse and  
nutritious food  
by women and  
their families  
increased

## Result 4:

Coordination on  
nutrition  
between  
government and  
other actors  
strengthened



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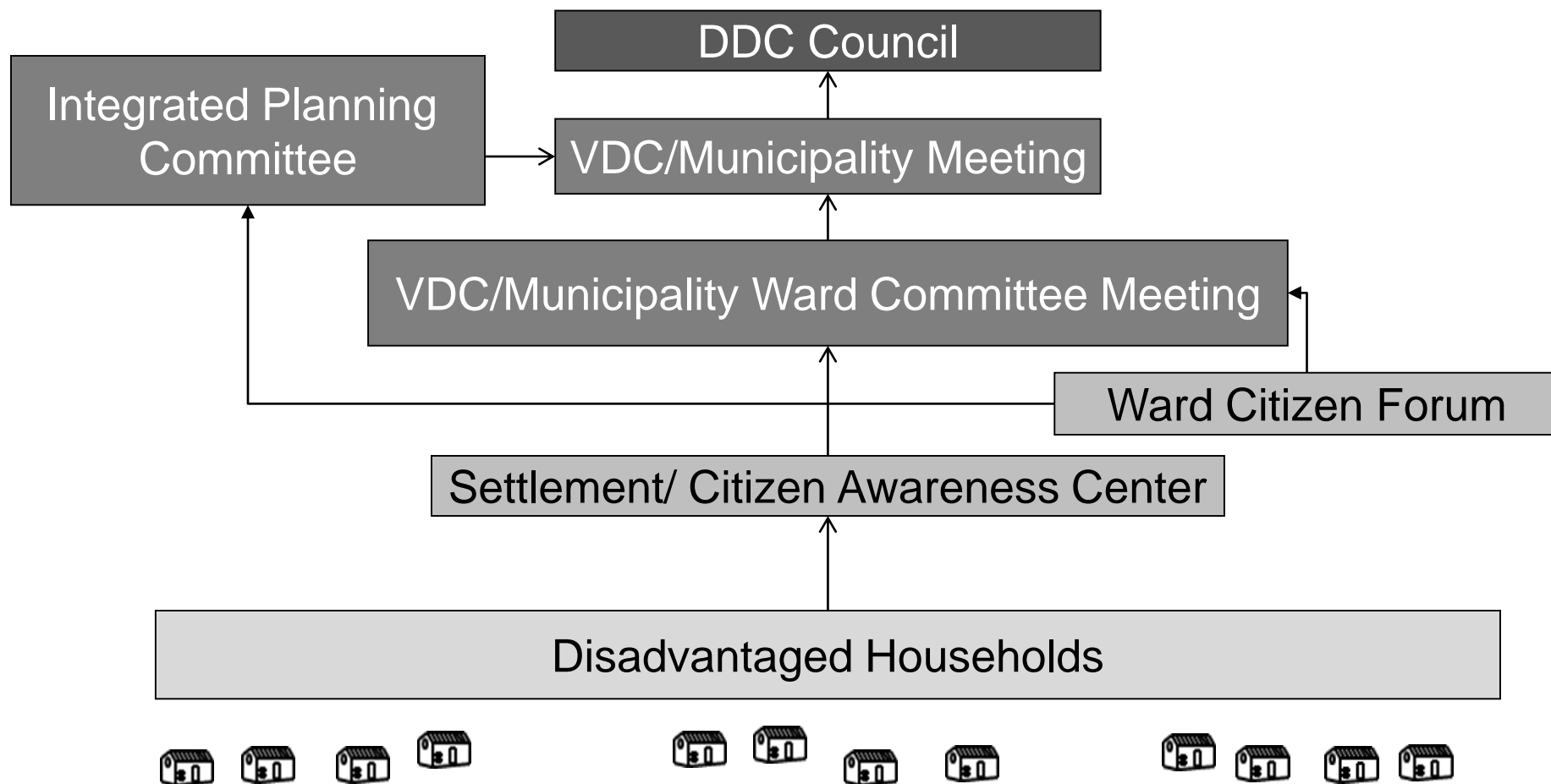
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# Local Planning Process





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# VDC Grants Allocated for Marginalized Groups (approximately \$20,000 Per VDC)

- Dalit and Marginalized – 15%
- Women – 10%
- Children – 10%

# Issues Addressed by the Program

- Poor participation in planning process
- Unaware about budgetary provision for disadvantaged communities
- Limited access to services and resources





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# Objective

Empower disadvantaged communities to actively and effectively participate in local nutrition governance to increase access to services and resources.





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# Conceptual Framework

**Nation:** Followed multi-sector nutrition plan

**Region:** Support regional-level MSNP advocacy meetings

**District:** Discuss nutrition issues in MSNFSSC

**VDC:** Support formation and orientation of MSNFSSCs

**Village & Wards:** Orientation to Ward Citizen Forums and Citizen Awareness Centres

**Settlement:** Orientation and planning

**Household**





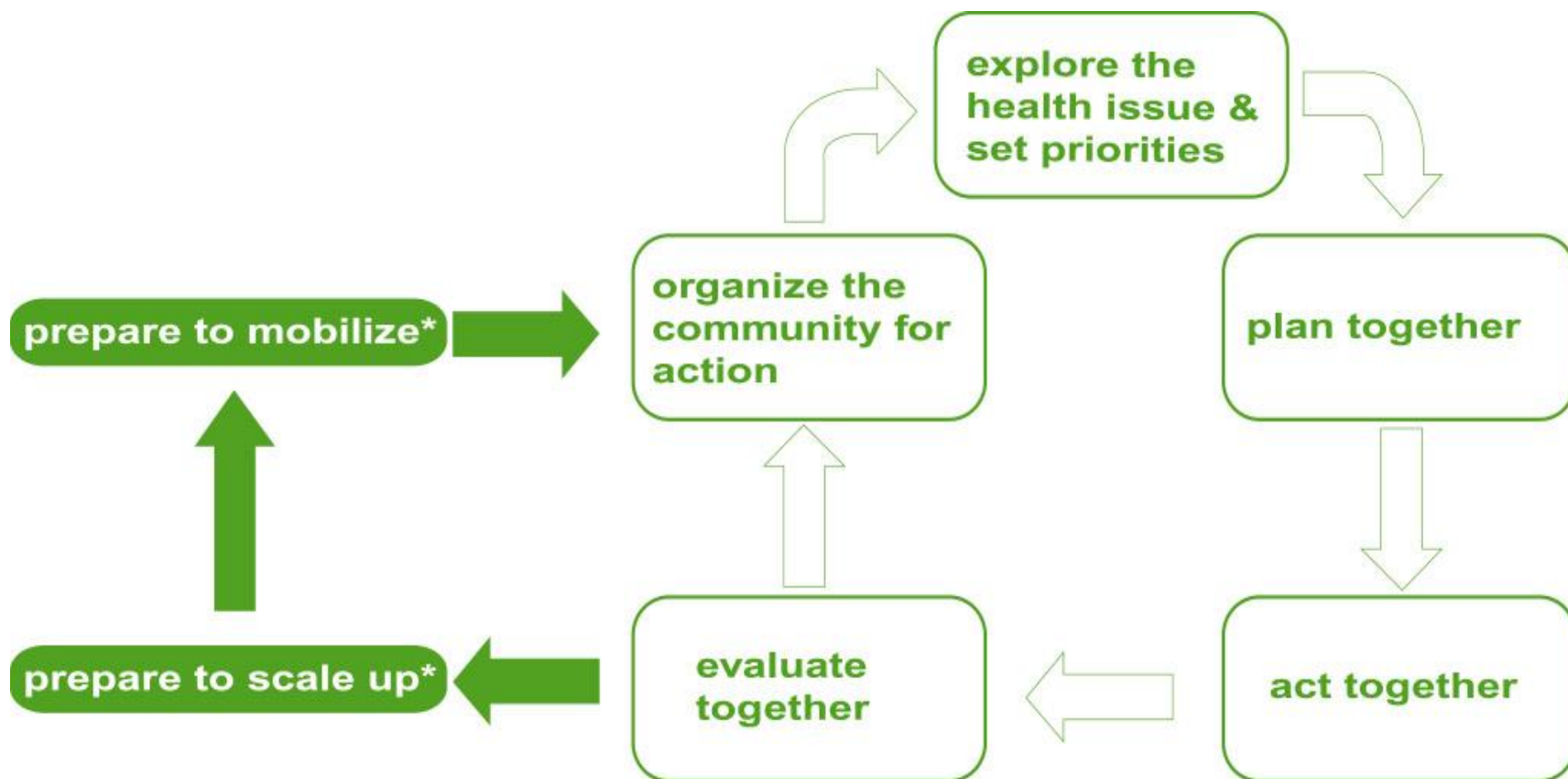
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# Mobilization Process



\*Action by Community Mobilization  
Technical Assistance Team



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# Initial Mapping

## Legend

House



Temple



School



Health Facility:



Tap



Footpath



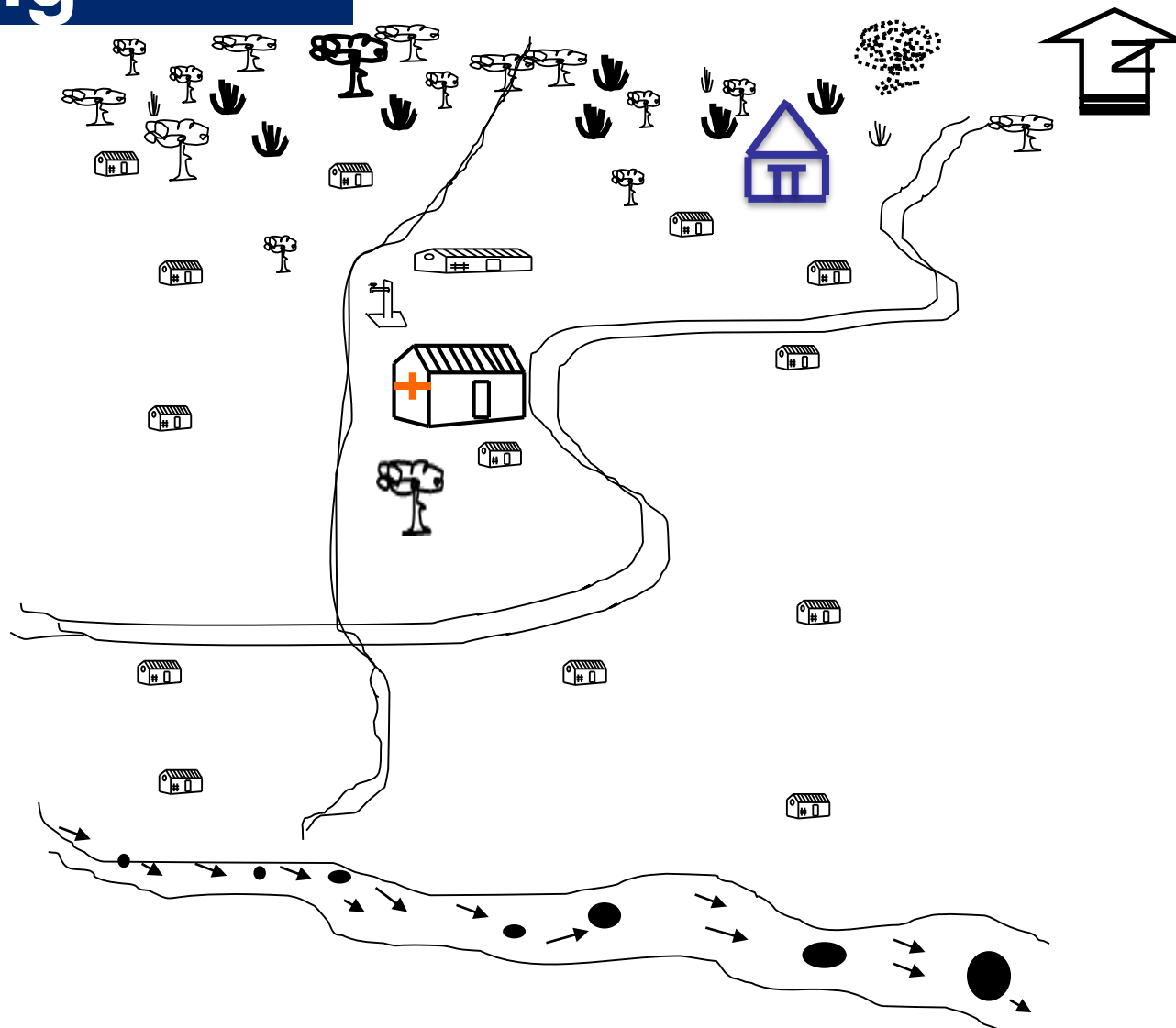
River



Road



Forest



# Advanced Mapping

## Legend

Waste water collection pit



Has toilet (with regular usage)



Participates in group meetings



Rears poultry in the coop



Has kitchen garden



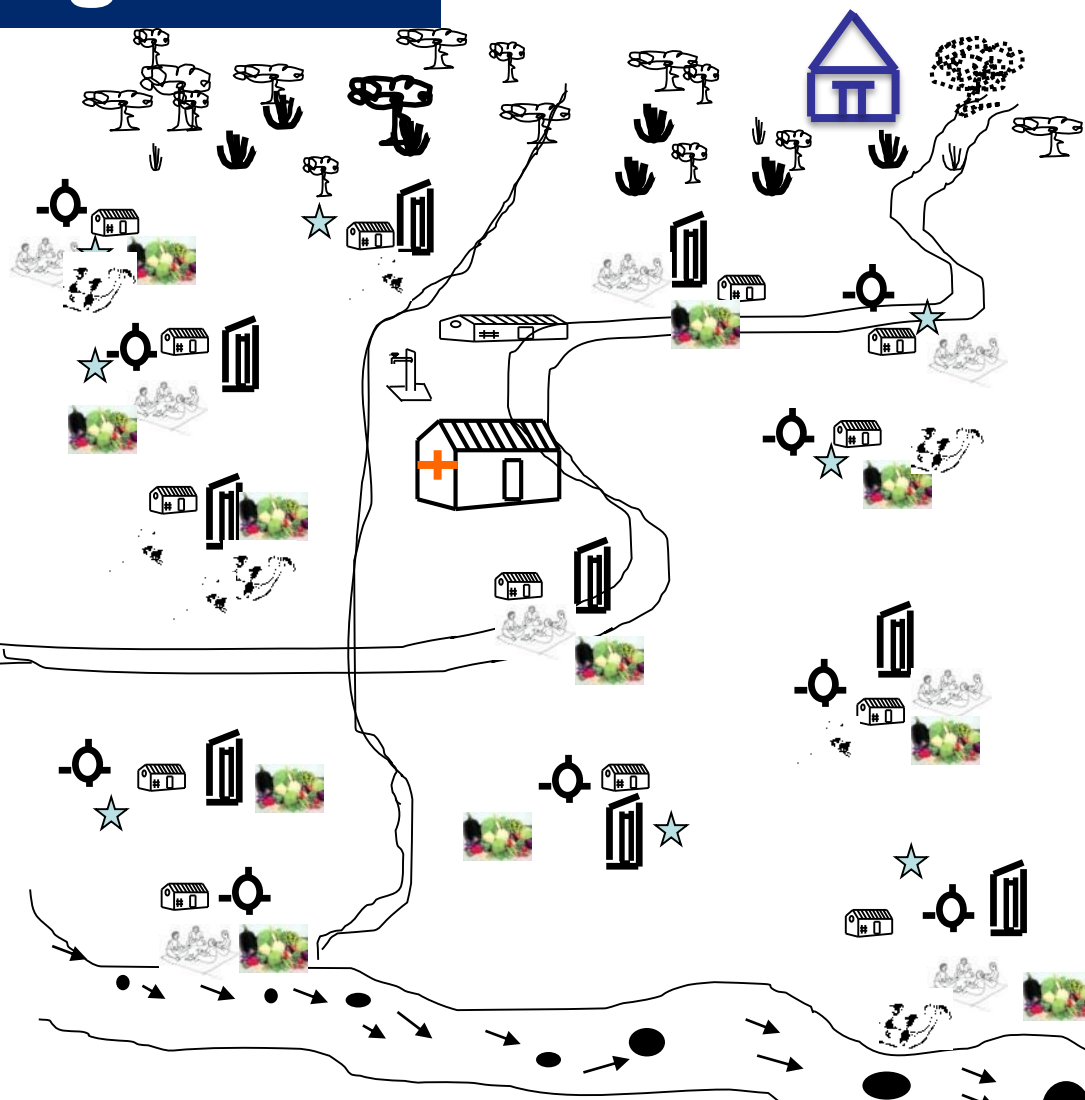
Assists women with household work



Has started fruit farming



Has completed all project nutrition indicators





# Program Outputs

- **900** Social Mobilizers trained
- **2,151** Ward Citizen Forum members trained
- **239** CACs discussed Nutrition issues regularly  
Facilitated establishment of Nutrition and Food Security Steering Committees in:
  - **20** project districts
  - **884/955** VDCs

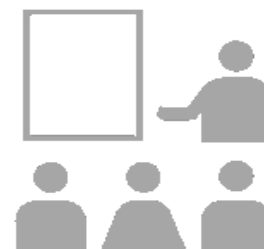
# Program Implications



**Over 10,000 mothers  
& children benefitted**



**Increased Awareness  
on VDC block grant**



**Increased Participation  
in planning process**



**Nutrition is considered  
a priority issue**

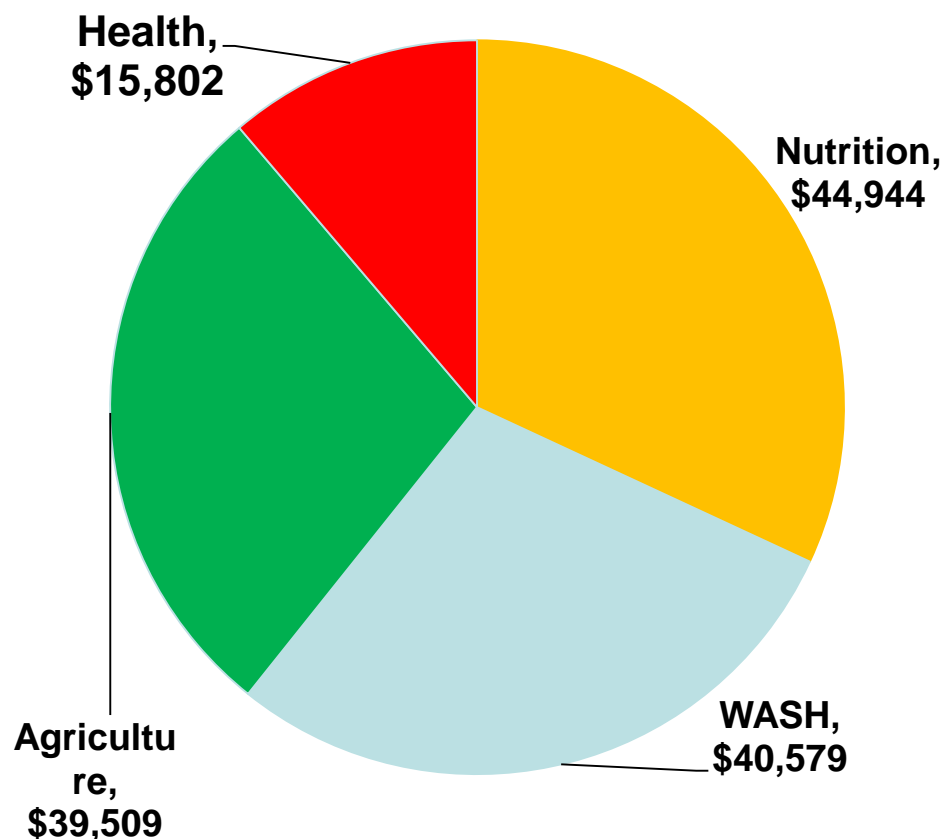


**Enhanced leadership  
capacity of disadvantaged  
community**

# Outcomes and Results

- 13 districts (148 VDCs) allocating budget
- Total allocated amount was \$140,833 for 2014/15
- \$107,489 already used for nutrition activities focused on the 1,000 days households

**Budget allocation in nutrition through VDC block grants**



as September 2014

# Conclusions

- Governance interventions have increased allocations of government resources for nutrition activities among disadvantaged groups
- While allocation of resources is evident, ensuring proper use of these resources requires further effort
- Further research is required to determine the effectiveness of governance interventions on nutritional status





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Thank you Government of Nepal for  
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