



Water Safety Planning for Small Community Water Supplies

Step-by-step risk management guidance
for drinking-water supplies in small communities



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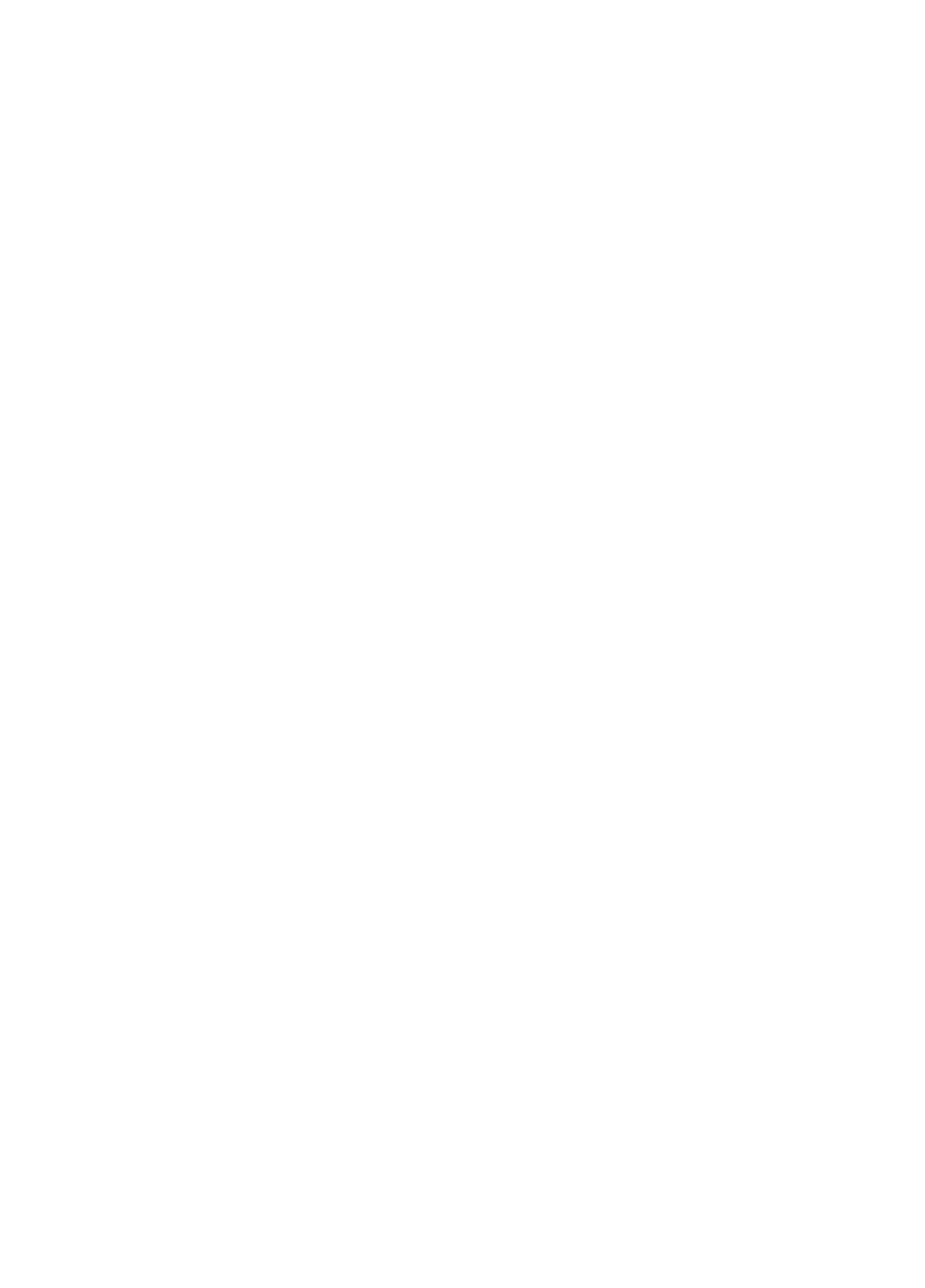
Photographs on cover (from top to bottom, left to right): Water safety plan team members examining protected area around storage tanks supplying piped water to Shisuwa Badahare, Nepal; storage tank in Shisuwa Badahare, Nepal; tapstand in Kavre, Nepal; community meeting to discuss the water safety plan in Kavre, Nepal, August 2009

Excerpt summarized from Government of Nepal (2009):

The water safety plan team for the Kavre water supply analysed the system and identified all critical hazards with support from a water supply engineer. Improvements to the system that required little money were implemented immediately (e.g. installation of a control valve at the intake point, leakage repairs, raising of floor and washout pipe of reservoir tank). During a support visit, the operator expressed his satisfaction, noting that it was now very easy to monitor, operate and clean the system and, additionally, that it now seemed very safe too.

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Preface

The principles and practice of water safety planning are increasingly being adopted around the world as the basis for the provision of safe and clean drinking-water. This process is most pronounced in urban conglomerates where the institutional infrastructure of municipal corporations, parastatal enterprises or private utilities is conducive to their adoption.

Water safety planning has a number of unique characteristics. One of these is its adaptability to different socioeconomic settings. Another is its capacity to be effectively applied at different levels and scales.

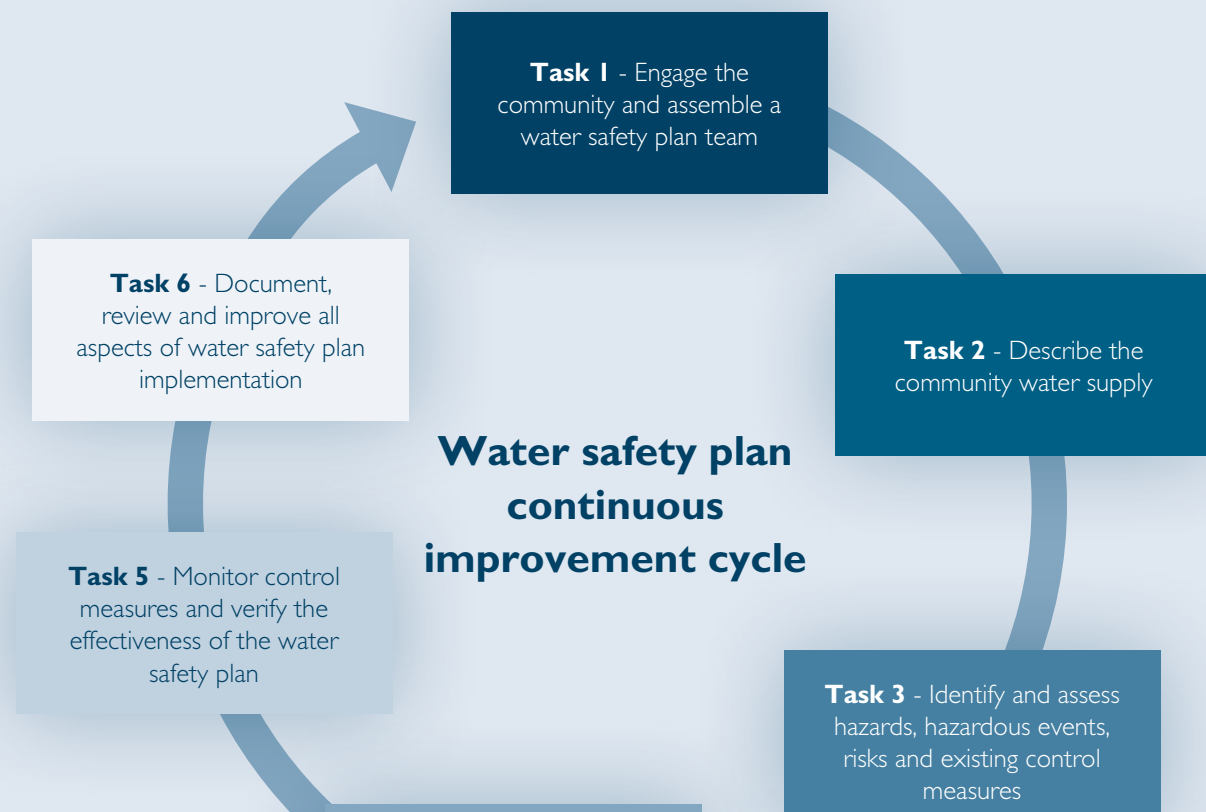
A considerable number of people in today's world have to rely on small community water supplies for their everyday basic needs, both in industrialized and in less developed countries. These communities, often in remote places, tend to lack capacities for essential management, operation and maintenance, and implementation of technical improvements.

Water safety plans provide a reliable framework for such communities to strengthen their capacities and capabilities with a focus on cost-effective management of their water supplies. The present guidance document puts water safety planning in the context of small community water supplies and provides a step-by-step approach for those charged with dealing with the everyday realities of maintaining a reliable, safe supply. It addresses members of small communities themselves, in addition to those supporting them in their endeavours to bring safe and clean water collectively to millions of people.

The International Small Community Water Supply Management Network, hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO), has made it its priority to provide tools, like this manual, that are of immediate practical use. The energy invested by the members of this Network needs due recognition. Both the WHO Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health programme and the Network look forward to feedback from the field on ways to further improve the manual, to be incorporated in the next edition of this text.

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The six tasks to develop and implement a water safety plan in small community water supplies



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