Currently a resource centre network (RCN) of seven organizations has prepared the action plan. The proposal has been submitted to IRC and WaterAid Nepal for financial and professional support for the coming 18 months. We have asked WaterAid Nepal to be a network member and contribute to strengthen the network and its function.

The action plan of the resource centre network aims:

- to strengthen the collaboration at central level, then focus on the needs of intermediate and community levels gradually
- to identify and develop useful information products and disseminate them through newsletters, booklets and awareness campaigns.

NEWAH has planned to address one need of the community regarding spare parts. The objective is to document and disseminate effective information on the availability of spare parts through its newsletter and trainings. The channel for information sharing will be through NEWAH's own regional offices to community level and the resource centre network. Information to the intermediate level will be disseminated through sectoral newsletters, brochures and frequently asked questions (FAQs).

The other network organizations are planning to produce information according to their specialization and will disseminate the information through their own network and the RCN.

The impact of the efforts to address some of the needs of the community and intermediate level will be evaluated in 18 months' time.

**About the authors**

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# web**watch**

## April 2004
## Knowledge sharing and communication issues

The websites covered this time include organizations that have developed conscious strategies towards dissemination and knowledge sharing, as well as those which promote the use of ICTs (information and communications technologies) in development.

- **Knowledge management at WEDC**
  WEDC has developed a proactive strategy for knowledge transfer and research dissemination, and has extensive experience of paper and web-based information provision, networking activities and electronic conferencing. Find out more at:
  **http://wedc.lboro.ac.uk/specialist-activities/interests.php?area=5**

- **Knowledge and information systems of the urban poor (KIS)**
  Part of Intermediate Technology Development Group's work on ICTs, KIS (knowledge and information systems) looks at how the urban poor obtain information and develop knowledge, whether they get what they require and how appropriate it is. It considers ways in which development agencies could fill the gaps and help to strengthen their KIS.
  **http://www.itdg.org/home.html**

- **IDRC Information and communication technologies for development (ICT4D)**
  This is one area of activity of IDRC. It outlines their programmes and centres in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.
  **http://web.idrc.ca/ev.php?URL_ID=30321&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC#8**

- **Bellanet**
  Bellanet promotes and facilitates effective collaboration within the international community, especially through the use of ICTs. It aims to support effective development practice by sharing its expertise in ICTs as well as its skills in facilitating organizational learning and the sharing of knowledge.
  **http://home.bellanet.org/index.php?module=htmlpages&func=display&pid=1**

- **IRC Information and Communication**
  One of IRC's thematic areas is Information and Communication, working towards the creation of a communication culture, where dialogue and participation become second nature. This site links to different aspects of their work and relevant publications.
  **http://www.irc.nl/content/view/full/119**

- **Max Lock Centre: Improving Knowledge Transfer**
  This set of guides is aimed at improving the exchange and transfer of knowledge gathered and generated by researchers to benefit the urban poor in developing countries.
  **http://www.westminster.ac.uk/builtenv/maxlock/KTweb/KThome.htm**

- **Global Applied Research Network (GARNET)**
  GARNET is a mechanism for information exchange in the water supply and sanitation sector using low-cost, informal networks of researchers, practitioners and funders of research.
  **http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/cv/wedc/garnet/index.html**

- **Development Gateway**
  Working with developing countries to build partnerships and information systems that provide access to knowledge for development. Development Gateway exploits powerful and affordable ICTs that were previously unavailable to: increase knowledge sharing, enable aid effectiveness, improve public sector transparency and build local capacity to empower communities.
  **http://www.developmentgateway.org/**

- **ODI Research and Policy in Development (RAPID)**
  ODI's Research and Policy in Development programme aims to improve the use of research in development policy and practice through improved knowledge about research–policy links, improved knowledge management and learning systems, improved communication and improved awareness of the importance of research.
  **http://www.odi.org.uk/RAPID/index.html**

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