RAIN DROPS COUNT – REVISITING 'FINNIDA' RAINWATER HARVESTING JARS AFTER A DECADE

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Background

- **Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Support Programme Phase III ('Finnida project')**
- **Serving the unserved – reaching the unreached -> mountain (hill) top!**
- **Completed total 5,592 rainwater harvesting (RWH) jars within three years of Phase III**

Objectives

- **Practice-focused**
- **Domestic RWH over a decade**
- **Functionality**
- **Operation and maintenance**
- **RWH system owners perspective**

RWH jars House 1

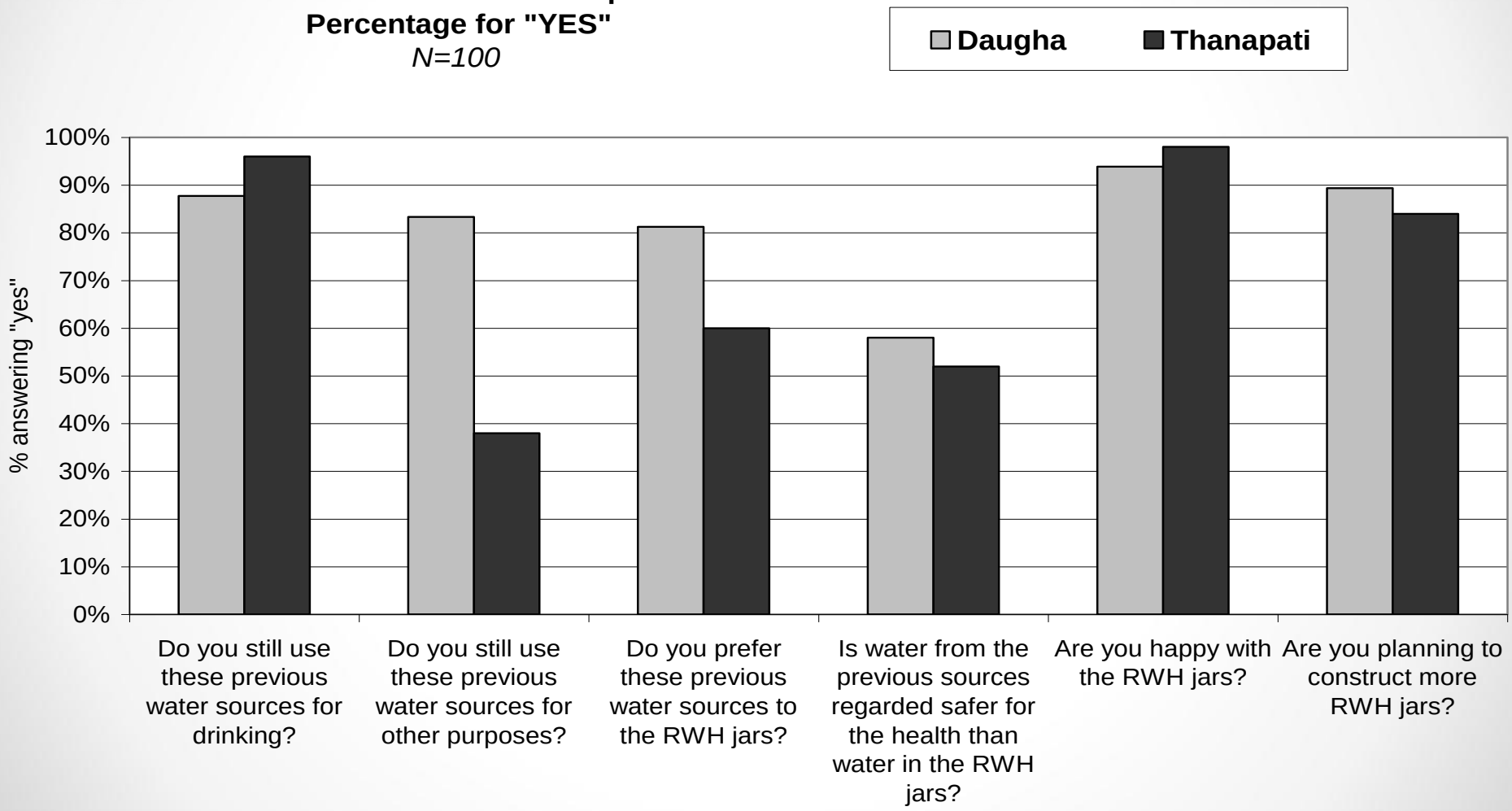
Methodology

- **Survey data 2002-2003 (100 households)**
- **Own field & monitoring reports from 2003 – 2004**
- **Revisiting the site in 2016 (20 households)**

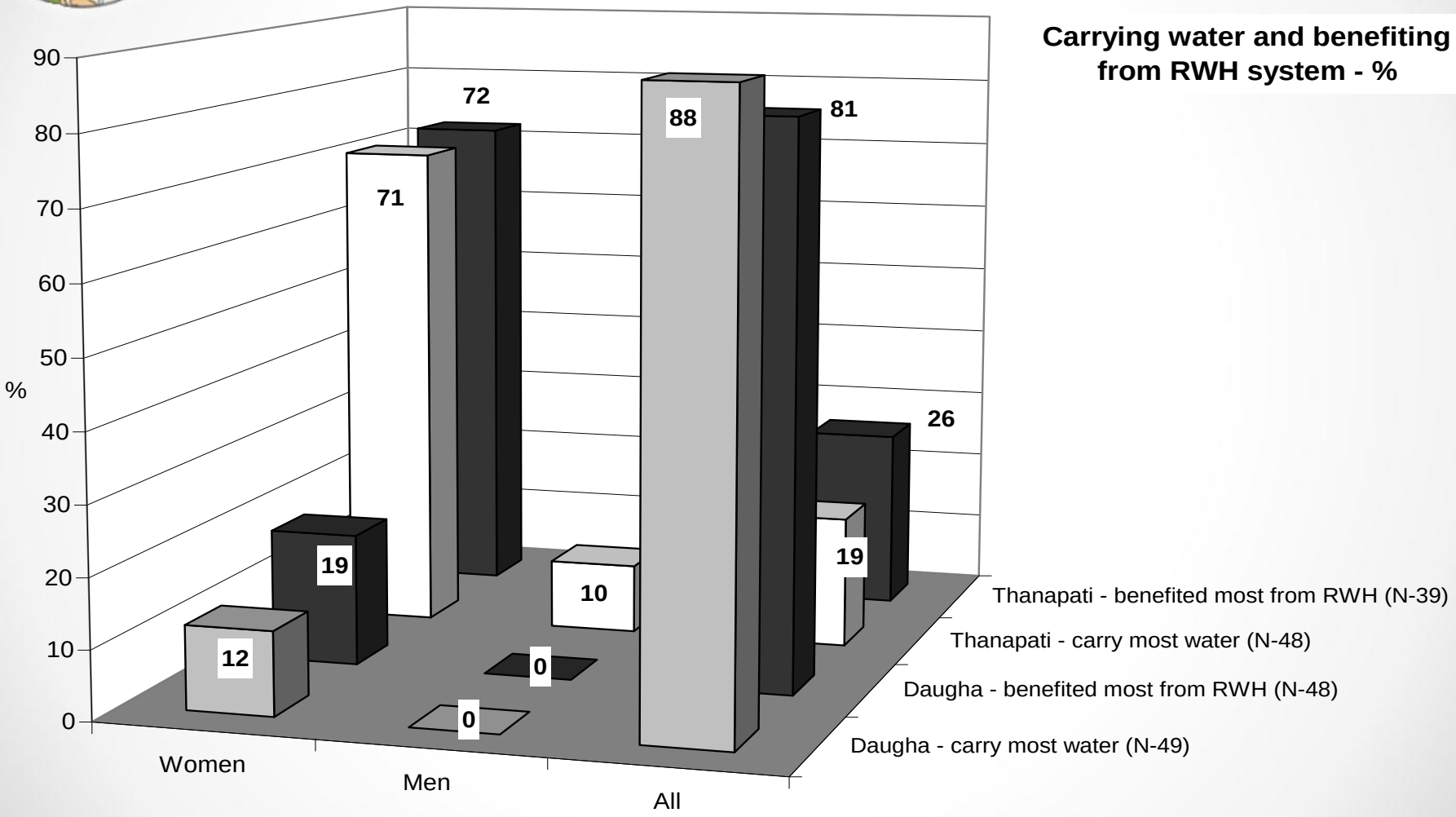
RWH jars House 2

Gulmi district in 2002

Various water source related questions
Percentage for "YES"
N=100



Gulmi district in 2002



Tanahun district in 2002

- **Purkot VDC (27 jars, 166 pop.) & Basantapur VDC (37 jars, 242 pop.)**
- ***"We used to wake up at 4 am to start fetching water before going to work on the fields. In the evenings when we came back, we had to start carrying water again. We used to go to sleep very late. Now we do not have to do that anymore. We can also rest."***

Tanahun district in 2002

- ***"The RWH jar has already made a difference in our lives. Even if we are not using the water from the RWH jar for the drinking yet, it is a great relief. We used to have to walk nearly an hour to collect water. That is one trip only. And that is not including the waiting time at the spring."***

Gulmi district in 2016

- **RWSSSP III supported total 473 people with RWH systems in Baletaksar VDC, Gulmi district, in between 2000-2004**
- **In September 2016, I visited a cluster where 18 households (hh) had constructed RWH jars during RWSSSP III**
- **18 hh of which 2 derelict -> 16 households' RWH systems assessed, serving 70 people**

RWH jars after a decade

- **A range of uses but not drinking**
- **Drinking water from 20-45 minutes away (depending on location of house within the cluster) -> hardship area**

RWH jars House 3

RWH jars after a decade

- **Project funded 2.5 m^3 or 6m^3 RWH jars**
- **In five cases 8 m^3 jars constructed**

- **Households covered for the additional funds needed for a bigger size**

RWH jars House 4

RWH jars after a decade

- **10/15 using first flush system**
- **All cleaning the jar at least once per year**
- **RWH jars, taps and their cover lids all fully functional**

RWH jars House 5

RWH jars after a decade

- **Water available in RWH jars 2-8 months**
- **Different strategies for having the water available for longer periods of time**

RWH jars House 6

Conclusions

- **RWH relevant in all locations …**
- **… even if there is an increasing demand for lift systems in ‘hill’ tops**
- **Sustainability better than I expected**

RWH jars House 7

Recommendations

- **RWH still highly relevant**
- **Multiple-sources for multiple-uses…**
- **… but not necessarily for drinking water?**
- **Recharge! Ponds, pits, dams**
- **Need to be in active menu of options – design improvements**

RWH jars House 8

References

- **Rautanen (2002) Field Report Monitoring Visits to Tanahun and Parbat Districts, 17th to 27th July, 2002. Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Support Programme, Butwal. *Unpublished*.**
- **Rautanen (2002-2004, 2016), *unpublished internal raw data and field reports***

Ackowledgement

- **Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Nepal**
- **Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland**

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Thank you!