

Monthly Round-Up – April 2021

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- **Mask Distribution To Prevent COVID-19 Transmission**



The world is at the core of an unending pandemic, caused by the growth of a novel coronavirus. Due to second wave, India is witnessing a rapid surge in COVID-19 cases. As the number of people with COVID-19 continues to increase in the current pandemic, everyone has a role to play in slowing the spread of COVID-19

transmission. Fighting this disease is our joint responsibility. To help stop the spread of transmission, Water For People India and partner organizations - Mahila Vikash Shilp Kala Prasikshan Sansthan, Sri Ram Foundation, Sarvshree Sewa Sadan, and Geeta Social Welfare and Development Foundation - have jointly collaborated for a mask distribution drive for frontline workers including ASHA, Anganwadi workers, police administration and block officials. More than 700 masks have been distributed in Sheohar district, Bihar covering Tariyani, Purnahiya, Sheohar and Piprahi blocks.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

- **WASH Facilities In Schools**

Poor personal hygiene and inadequate sanitation practices among young children lead to communicable diseases. Water For People India under *Project Sheohar* has intervened in 21 schools with renovated WASH facilities including changing rooms for girls. Additionally, ramps have been built



for differently-abled persons to address infrastructural accessibility, and rooftop rainwater harvesting implemented in schools to conserve water. So far, work has been completed in six schools reaching 2900 students. During construction of the WASH complex, the monitoring

team along with labourers took all precautionary measures like wearing a mask at all times and regularly washing hands whilst maintaining social distancing.

- **Addressing Behaviour Change Through BCC Activities**



To catalyze behaviour change and strengthen positive social norms around WASH among the communities, Water For People India Trust under Project *Swachho Nirapad Parivesh* has implemented social art activities as a powerful and engaging medium. A 10-day SABC training was

imparted to 15 local artists to raise awareness among the communities on issues such as safe drinking water and source sustainability, safe disposal of excreta, household solid and liquid waste, handwashing with soap at critical times, and personal hygiene. Total 8 behaviour change communication activities were organized reaching 664 people in Rajnagar Block, Birbhum district, West Bengal. Feedback forms were filled from the participants to gather information and analyze data to better implement SABC activities for reinforcement of positive WASH behaviours.

- **Awareness Generation on Toilet Usage Through Street Plays**

Aiming to motivate communities to become active agents of healthy living along with keeping their surroundings clean, Water For People India Trust under Project *Swachho Nirapad Parivesh* (Clean and Safe Environment) supported by NSE Foundation performed a street play on April 17 in



Raipur Bagdipara in Khoyrasol block, Birbhum district, West Bengal. These street plays draw attention to issues such as open defecation, toilet usage, sanitation, wet waste and solid waste management and is leaving an imprint on the minds of onlookers. Since awareness plays a major role in understanding the need for sanitation, these street plays send across a very impactful message that connects with the communities. As part of the feedback mechanism,

information is being collected from the audience to analyze and gauge the impact of street plays in spreading awareness on toilet usage.

- **Triggering and CLAS Activity For Sustained ODF Status**



Towards maintaining an open defecation free and clean environment, Water For People India Trust team organized a triggering and Community-Led Approaches to Sanitation (CLAS) activity for sustained toilet usage and maintaining ODF status in Jadavpur Village,

Khoyrasol GP, West Bengal. Triggering is an awareness generation activity performed with the participation of villagers as they confront the crude facts about mass open defecation and its negative impacts on the entire community. The aim is to sensitize the communities on first-hand open defecation habits of other members. Activities including faeces mapping, faeces calculation, and faeces mobility mapping were done. The community members were also educated on five different fecal-oral routes to avoid transmission of diseases like diarrhoea. Pictorial depiction of the fecal-oral route was shared to help participants understand the direct impact of open defecation on overall health and well-being.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- **Strengthening of School Development Committee**

Water For People India Trust facilitated the strengthening of the School Development Committee (SDC) including 19 (Male - 10; Female - 09) members in Tarasole Primary School, Chandrapur GP in Rajnagar Block, Birbhum district, West Bengal. A discussion was held on upcoming project objectives and intervention plans in the school. The SDC was also briefed on



their responsibilities to help prepare the O&M plan, procuring WASH materials and facilitating minor repairing works. Key members representing the SDC included Panchayat



Pradhan, Upa Pradhan, members of the school committee, Shiksha Bandhu, parents, Headmaster, teachers and non-teaching staff.

Additionally, a Child Cabinet formation meeting was also held in Tarasole Primary School involving 19 students. The objective was to strengthen the child cabinet and implement positive peer modelling for safe WASH practices. Elected students were

assigned posts such as Prime Minister, Health Minister, Food Minister, Culture and Sports Minister, Education and Environment Minister with 3-5 sub-committee members allotted for each minister. Each minister has a specific role and function within the cabinet and the student body. The child cabinet would also ensure cleanliness within school premises and monitoring of WASH facilities.

■ Formation of Mother Committee

Water For People India Trust team has institutionalized community-level monitoring through the formation of Mother Committee (MC) in AWCs and schools to ensure a calm environment and impart good hygiene practices amongst children in schools. A meeting was convened on April 7 at Barhra



Daskin Daspara, ICDS in Khoyrasol block, Birbhum district, West Bengal. The mothers are entrusted to check the school for facilities such as safe drinking water, clean toilets, safety mechanisms in place as well as infrastructure, and maintain a log record. This new attempt at increasing accountability of schools and ensuring parents' (mothers) active involvement would go a long way in increasing accountability and ensuring operation and maintenance of WASH facilities.