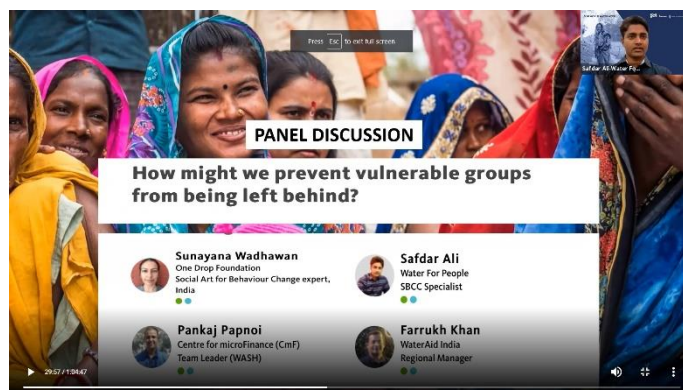


Monthly Round-Up – August 2021

EVENTS

World Water Week 2021 - Building Resilience Faster

The World Water Week 2021 took place in Stockholm, Sweden in an entirely digital format, where speakers from around the world came together to address some of the biggest challenges impacting the globe, including water scarcity, climate crisis, and biodiversity loss. The conversation all through the week (August 23-27) was around the year's theme of *Building Resilience Faster*.



Water For People India in partnership with One Drop Foundation participated in the annual event organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) on August 26. The online panel discussion focused on the theme *"How might we prevent vulnerable groups from being left behind?"* Mr. Safdar Ali, SBCC Specialist from Water For People India was one of the panelists in the SIWI session. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed inequalities in society, where disproportionately women, children, and the most vulnerable are at risk. The interactive session witnessed an array of stakeholders and how they are contributing to this system; hear and see stories of change and learn to adopt behaviour change, such as Social Art for Behaviour Change (SABC) approach, working alongside priority groups, for greater impact. The session included video recordings of social art artists and community members from Bihar and Rajasthan, and how Water For People India and its partners are addressing vulnerable groups using SABC.

The nature of conversations at the World Water Week reflected the sense of urgency and the outcome of the summit accelerated action and built resilience faster by the mass-scale implementation of successful cases.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Rural Piped Water Supplies for Communities



An inauguration programme was held on Aug 26 in the presence of Block Development Officer and Sabhapati in Chichati village located in Baglinga Gram Panchayat, Chikhaldara block, Amravati district, Maharashtra for completion of piped water supply scheme with Functional House Tap Connections (FHTC) to 80 households. During the inaugural program, the Sabhapati and BDO appreciated the work done by

Water For People India Trust team for the water supply scheme - connected to 30,000 litres water storage tank - and the formation of the Water User Committee for operation and maintenance of PWSS. They also appealed to the community to support and monitor the scheme for its sustainability.



Bhoomi Pujan for the construction of a new piped water supply scheme in Solmoh village was done by Mr. Bishwadeep Ghosh, Country Director, Water For People India on July 30 in the presence of the Sarpanch, villagers and Water For People India team. Through this scheme, clean drinking water will be provided to 287 households along with the construction of 20,000 litres water storage tank.



On August 11, a mini piped water supply scheme was inaugurated in the presence of Gram Panchayat members, Block level officials, and community members at Karanjabuni village in Bhabanipur GP, Rajnagar block, Birbhum district, West Bengal. Due to the provision of safe drinking water, total 351 community members from 70 tribal households have benefitted from the scheme.

- **Community and School Level Initiatives for Sustained Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion**



Water For People India Trust with ITC Limited organized an awareness campaign on August 18 under project *Mission Sunehra Kal* on Sanitation and Waste Management at Govt. Upper Primary Samantarpur School in Khordha district, Odisha. Frontline workers including Municipality school, School Management Committee members, ASHA, Anganwadi workers, Khordha Block CRCC, Ex-Councillor, and Environmental Specialist participated in the campaign which received

media coverage in leading Odia dailies - Samaj, Prajatantra, Khabar and Amarisatya online news.

A Community-Led Approach to Sanitation (CLAS) program was organized on August 12 in Chandipur Gram Panchayat, Howrah district, West Bengal. The objective was to build ownership of the community for sustained sanitation and hygiene practices and ensuring co-finance for the provision of WASH assets. Going



forward, Water For People India Trust would organize a series of CLAS programs in the targeted schools to cover villages within 1km radius. A Mohalla Committee training was organized at Khalbari Bustee in Kolkata, West Bengal on August 23 focusing on operation and maintenance, record keeping, leadership development, and solid waste management.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

▪ Navya Foundation Organizes Workshop on Multidisciplinary Show



A 15-day workshop was conducted by Navya Foundation with support from Water For People India for the production of a Multidisciplinary Show (MDS) to educate the rural masses on regular usage of toilets and promotion of water conservation practices. Under *Project Sheohar*, 10 actors were trained from August 16-30 on synchronization of emotions and body language with dialogue for effective and impactful delivery of key messages. They were briefed about the content and key messages related to Sanitation

focusing on regular use of toilets, their operation and maintenance, and the impact of open defecation on health of the community along with water conservation. During the workshop, rehearsals were critically analyzed by the thematic experts, director and SBCC specialist. Based on the feedback of thematic experts, required modifications in the content and narrative were incorporated. A pilot test of the show was also conducted in a gathering of 300 villagers to gauge the effectiveness of the performances.

▪ Harnessing the Potential of Communication

Communication can promote changes in attitudes and social behaviour and help communities to identify sustainable opportunities and development solutions that are within their reach. Different methods of communication and media can facilitate development by encouraging dialogue and debate. Giving a voice to rural women, Water For People India Trust in collaboration with Abhivyakti Media For Development organized a 10-day residential Media and Communications training for women.



Under Project *Mission Paani*, the training held from August 20-29 aimed to build a basic understanding on safe WASH practices; strengthen creative communication skills for SBCC; and implement village wise SBCC activity plan on WASH. Total 23 women participated in the training from the surrounding three villages (Payvihir, Kumbhi Wagholi and Gondwagholi) located in Achalpur block, Amravati district, Maharashtra. Leveraging a participatory approach, the training used innovative methodologies like photo language, interactive video exercises on communication, and Theatre of the Oppressed (TO). During the planning session, participants were further encouraged to organize at least three WASH-related activities in their village in the

coming six months. As part of feedback, women participants expressed that by fostering the exchange of knowledge and information, communication helped them stimulate their awareness and motivation, allowing them to take informed decisions on the crucial issues affecting their lives.

- **Toolkit for Water Mechanics**



Water For People India Trust in partnership with Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited organized a programme on Aug 26 for distribution of tool kit to 27 water mechanics for maintenance and repair of handpumps and piped water systems. The programme was presided by Mr. Vaibhav Waghmare, I.A.S, Ms. Meena Mane, Deputy Collector, Sabhapati, and Block Development Officer of Chikhaldara block. During the programme, water mechanics trained in the

month of February were also provided with a course completion certificate. As part of the skilling enterprise, the training on maintenance and repair of piped water systems will connect the mechanics to communities, institutions, and local government and help sustain their livelihoods. On the occasion, BDO Chikhaldara asked to empanel the water mechanics at the block level and sharing the list with all the Gram Panchayats for repair and maintenance of piped water systems.

- **Mission Paani: Completion of First Phase in Nalanda**

In January 2021, Water For People India Trust in collaboration with RB launched a pilot initiative as part of *Mission Paani* campaign with a twin goal to “conserve and respect” water in two blocks - Rajgir and Bihar Sharif - in Nalanda district, Bihar. Post completion of baseline survey, awareness generation activities were organized through meetings with government officials, PRI members, Farmers club, WUC members, schools and communities. Social art activities like multi-disciplinary shows (MDS) and street plays were also performed for wider dissemination of water conservation practices. The first phase of Mission Paani (Jan-Aug 2021) has been completed successfully.



The initiative aims to generate consciousness, action, and behaviour change to protect and conserve water resources while instilling a sense of respect and conservation habits within communities. In August, two workshops for teachers and students have been organized in Rajgir and Bihar Sharif on rainwater harvesting systems. Around 90 students and teachers along with Block Education Officer and ‘Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan’ Engineers took part in the workshop. During the session, experts provided information about rainwater harvesting structures and their operation and maintenance.

▪ Village Water Security Plan and Sustainability

Preparation of the village and household level water safety and security plans is an important instrument for sustainability of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives. Management for sustainable Village Water Safety and Security (VWSS) is a dynamic process. The preparation of VWSS plan requires significant capacity building at various levels. Capacity building is a 'process to strengthen the abilities of people, organizations and systems to make effective and efficient use of resources in order to achieve their own goals on a sustained basis'.



Under *Project Sheohar*, a follow-up meeting was organized with the support of Mahila Vikash Shilp Kala Prasikshan Sansthan in Jahangirpur GP and Dumri Katsari block to review the progress of VWSSP implementation with PRI members and various stakeholders and discuss the plan for the next six months. At the GP level Sarpanch, Panchayat Secretary, Rojgar Sevak PRI and WIMC members actively

participated and shared their next plan of action. The Sarpanch informed about the approval of the VWSSP plan and its inclusion in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). Additionally, at the block Level the follow-up meeting for VWSSP implementation was successfully done in presence of govt. officials and stakeholders.

In South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Training of Trainers (ToT) activity was conducted on VWSSP. The four-day training was organized by Water For People India Trust with its implementation partner Development Research Communication and Services Centre (DRCSC) in Namkhana block to facilitate the process of VWSSP preparation at ground level along with the local stakeholders and community people. The training included transect walk, resource mapping, social mapping, timeline, seasonal calendar, Venn diagram, and water budgeting. A VWSSP was prepared in Haripur GP of Namkhana Block with the participation of local community people and GP representative.



The training imparted that proper environmental sanitation and hygienic behaviour at the community and household level are the key determinants of safe water. Similarly, community ownership and their ability, willingness to pay, and maintain systems is also vital from the sustainability point of view.