

Monthly Round-Up – July 2021

EVENTS

▪ Melghat Dialogue



A block-level meeting 'Melghat Dialogue' was organized by the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) at Dharni on July 20. The meeting attended by 40 officials aimed to discuss and deliberate on issues related to health, education, water scarcity, and livelihood in the Melghat region. During the meeting, Water For People India Trust gave a brief presentation on *The Water Initiative* project - a joint partnership with Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited in

Chikhaldara block, Maharashtra. The presentation highlighted the ongoing progress of WASH activities in the project areas through the implementation of 'Everyone Forever' model, forthcoming plans on WASH intervention in communities, schools, and Anganwadis; and discussed the opportunities for future convergence with the District. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Vaibhav Waghmare, newly appointed I.A.S officer, Project officer, Sub-Divisional District Magistrate, block-level and government officials from ITDP and Dharni Sub-Divisional office. Representatives from various NGOs working in the Melghat region also participated. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks with the assurance of full support from the district and the respective blocks towards the successful implementation of the program.

▪ On Green Mission: Tree Plantation Drive in Ganjam District

Water For People India Trust along with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) participated in an extensive tree plantation drive on July 14 held by the Soil Conservation Department at Makarjhola Gram Panchayat in Hinjilicut Block, Ganjam District, Odisha. A site was selected to plant the saplings to conserve and protect the soil during the rainy season. During the event, Soil Conservation Supervisor shared his valuable words regarding the importance of tree plantation to prevent soil erosion, safeguarding nature, and controlling floods. GP Sarpanch lauded the efforts of Water For People India Trust team and SHGs for organizing the plantation drive and generating massive awareness among the communities.



COVID-19 RELIEF AND RESPONSE

Combating COVID-19 through Vaccination, Relief Distribution

Safe and effective vaccines are making a significant contribution to preventing severe disease and death from COVID-19. The Government of Bihar took a pledge to vaccinate 60 million people within six months with the support of Sheohar district administration.



Under *Project Sheohar*, Water For People India Trust with the help of Field Facilitators is helping in generating community awareness and busting myths related to COVID-19 vaccine. Several digital contents including folk songs, video testimonials, mural art paintings on roads, and virtual counselling aligned with the guidelines issued by the state government helped in

creating a massive vaccination drive in Sheohar, Bihar. The vaccination campaign has been made effective in a planned manner with the help of frontline workers in remote villages. The commendable efforts of field facilitators have been widely covered in the local print and electronic media for creating a record-breaking vaccination drive. Water For People India team also distributed floor disinfectants among Water User Committees, Farmers Club with the support of partner organizations. Around 6800 floor disinfectants were distributed to sensitize

people to promote regular cleaning and hygiene at home to protect themselves and their families from COVID-19.

Water For People India Trust in collaboration with Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) has started a relief programme to support distressed families with basic survival necessities to help overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. Around 500 vulnerable families, covering 10 GPs in Khoyrasol Block, Birbhum district, West Bengal were reached with food and hygiene kits (surgical masks, sanitizer, soap, towel, phenyl, and grocery items) to sustain amidst the pandemic. Priority was given towards nutritional supplements to the Covid affected families and migrant labourers returning



to their native place for recovery and health care. The list of beneficiaries was finalized with the support of Block Primary Health Centers and respective gram panchayats. In Rajnagar block, Water For People India Trust extended support to 250 families covering 31 villages in five GPs, while in South 24 Parganas (Sagar, Patharpratima and Namkhana) 750 vulnerable families were provided with basic hygiene and sanitization kits with the support of PRI representatives and Block administration. All the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category including SC/STs and minorities.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

▪ Piped Water Supply Scheme for Memna Village



Memna village situated in Amzari Gram Panchayat in Chikhaldara Block, Amravati district, Maharashtra has been provided with safe drinking water through a piped water supply scheme (PWSS) under *The Water Initiative* – a joint partnership between Water For People India Trust and Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited. A source sustainability test was conducted to provide water to 172 households. As part of the intervention, villagers through the government-supported MNREGA scheme provided labour for pipeline excavation and laying the 1044 metre village distribution line along with 204 metre rising main pipeline. A functional household tap connection with a stand post has been provided to every household connected to 15,000 litres water storage tank by the district rural water supply department. Post completion of PWSS, the scheme will be handed over to Gram Panchayat and Village Water Sanitation Committee.

▪ Survey on Solid and Liquid Waste Management

Water For People India Trust with support from NSE Foundation conducted a Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) Survey from July 12-14 covering 10 GPs in Khoyrasol Block, Birbhum district, West Bengal. To implement SLWM initiatives economically and efficiently, the survey aimed at understanding the solid-liquid waste disposal in Gram Panchayats through the sampling method. To help plan the next level of intervention, around nine households were randomly surveyed including few schools and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) to understand disposal of solid and liquid waste at the institutional level. SLWM is one of the key components of Swachh Bharat Mission - Gramin (SBM-G) intending to bring improvement in cleanliness, hygiene, and the general quality of life in rural areas.



■ Field Activities Resume After End of COVID-19 Lockdown



After field activities in West Bengal and Bihar had been paused due to the country-wide COVID-19 lockdown, July month witnessed Water For people India team resuming field activities with COVID-19 safety measures. In three districts, Kolkata, Howrah, and Hooghly in West Bengal, Water For People India Trust team initiated site finalization and pre-construction work including school and community WASH retrofitting work. In Kolkata, meetings were held at Sonai Site-4,

Sonai Site-8, and Sonai-10 on ensuring regular cleanliness, collecting user fees, frequently washing hands, and maintaining hygiene to stay safe. In Hooghly, the team has initiated the school selection process - closed since March 2020 in wake of COVID-19 outbreak - for WASH intervention.

Under Project *Mission Sunehra Kal* supported by ITC Limited, a meeting was organized with the School Management Committee of Saidunessa Girls High School for toilet block renovation, operation and maintenance, and mobilizing co-financing for school contribution. In Sheohar district, Bihar Water For People India has resumed hardware activities at the field level. During ongoing civil work, frontline workers are regularly conducting software activities for following COVID-19 appropriate behaviour (wearing mask, washing hands, and social distancing).

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

■ WASH Training with Partners

Safely managed water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services are an essential part of preventing and protecting human health during infectious disease outbreaks, including the current COVID-19 pandemic. With COVID-19 restrictions in place, Water For People India in collaboration with CSO partner Sarvshree Seva Sadan organized a two-day virtual training on July 26-27 on WASH.



At the outset, participants were given an overview of our impact model *Everyone Forever*. The frontline workers were capacitated to build effective communication skills and local leadership through participatory exercises to facilitate and implement program activities to achieve the goal of *Everyone Forever*. In addition, many topics were covered including the concept of WASH and sustainable access to WASH services, water resources management, need for behaviour change communication, effective counselling, and role of IPC to bring desired change among the communities, along with sharing and collection of knowledge. Total 49 participants attended the training.

▪ Imparting Behaviour Change Through SABC



To catalyze behaviour change and strengthen positive social norms around WASH among the communities, Water For People India Trust in collaboration with NSE Foundation under Project *Swachho Nirapad Parivesh* is empowering communities through Social Art as a powerful and engaging medium. Under this approach, a 10-day training program was conducted with 15 participants on

behaviour change communication with specific focus on local art forms. Various awareness generation activities have been organized at the community level in Rajnagar Block, Birbhum district West Bengal. In July, total 42 SABC activities were organized covering all five GPs reaching 1256 people.

▪ Training on Water Testing for Pre-monsoon

Water For People India Trust in partnership with Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited organized a training facilitated by the community mobilizers on water quality testing during pre-monsoon in five villages (Dhomanbarda, Chichati, Kalapani, Jaitadehi, and Gangadhari) in Chikhaldara block, Amravati district, Maharashtra. Demonstration was provided using a simple and user-friendly water testing kit to measure nine critical water quality parameters and the presence of harmful bacterial pathogens. The water quality of various water sources was tested for contamination and methods were shared with the communities to keep water source safe and prevent waterborne diseases. Total 33 people participated in the training (20 Female, 13 Male)



▪ Mission Paani: Building Water Conscious Communities in Nalanda



Water For People India Trust in collaboration with RB is implementing a pilot project as part of *Mission Paani* campaign with a twin goal to “conserve and respect” water in Nalanda district, Bihar. 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. As a result, water-conscious communities and households will lead the way to conserve and

respect water in five blocks of Nalanda district.

Around 15 training sessions were conducted with 450 farmers on water conservation. The main objective was to sensitize the farmer clubs on saving water through the construction of soak pits, using latest technologies for irrigation, and implementation of rainwater harvesting systems. For increased awareness, knowledge, and water saving practices amongst the households, farmers, schools, and public health institutions, G&G Tele Films has done a video documentation in various project locations capturing key activities highlighting farmer clubs' meetings, Water user committees, newly constructed water points, and water quality testing.



Training of PRIs, WIMC Members on VWSSP

Water Resources Management is one of the key components of Project Sheohar under the 'Everyone and Forever' model of Water For People India. Under *Project Sheohar* Mahila Vikash Shilp Kala Prasikshan Sansthan and Geeta Social Welfare and Development conducted a two-day training and capacity building program on Village Water Safety and Security Plan (VWSSP) in the month of July at Jahangirpur and Sarifnagar Gram Panchayat in Dumri Katsari and



Tariyani Block in Sheohar district, Bihar.



Around 80 people participated in the training which included Panchayati Raj Institutions and WIMC members. The training program discussed the water quality issue in Sheohar and preventive measures to orient and develop the planning and implementation of VWSSP to ensure safe and adequate water supply during all seasons, source sustainability, operation and maintenance of water supply facilities, monitoring water quality, risk assessment, PRA tools for planning and preparation of village

action plan, documentation process and approval by the Gram Sabha. Through the VWSSP activity, various stakeholders including PRI members have been capacitated in the last three years both at the GP and Block level. As a result, approximately 570 soak pits, excavation/rehabilitation of 20 ponds, platform construction of 210 community water points, renovation of 16 wells, and 1250 feet drainage system have been constructed in the last six

months. A follow-up meeting was held to review the progress of VWSSP implementation with PRI members and various stakeholders and to discuss the strategy for the next six months.

Skill Enhancement Training of Jalabandhus, Nirmal Bandhus



A district-level training program was conducted for Jalabandhus (mobile handpump mechanics) on July 7 by Water For People India with support of Sarvshree Seva Sadan in Sheohar district, Bihar. The virtual training was attended by 62 Jalabandhus (24 mechanics participated as freshers) covering all five blocks. As part of skilling and financing for sustainable water systems, the training aimed to communicate the role and importance of Jalabandhus for sustainable access

to safe drinking water, operation and maintenance of handpumps, drinking water quality standards as per IS 10500, and convergence and linkages with Gram Panchayats for scaling business opportunities.

On 9 July, a district-level capacity building training was conducted for Nirmal Bandhus (sanitation workers) in collaboration with Mahila Vikash Shilp Kala Prasikshan Sansthan. Around 48 Nirmal Bandhus participated in the virtual training wherein 11 participants enrolled as freshers. The participants were capacitated for safely managing and ensuring the sustainability of WASH infrastructure in schools. Further, they were apprised about their role and responsibilities, and opportunities to scale up their business. In the end, a group discussion was organized to discuss and deliberate various challenges faced by Nirmal Bandhus and ways to mitigate them.

