

Monthly Newsletter – August 2020

❖ EVENTS

Water For People India Partakes in Gandagi Mukh Bharat Abhiyan

India celebrated its 74th Independence Day on 15 August 2020, observed amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Coinciding with the historic event, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) organized a week-long behaviour change campaign 'Gandagi Mukh Bharat' (Clean India) from 8-15 August 2020. Water For People India Trust in association with National Stock Exchange Foundation under the *Swachho Nirapad Parivesh* (Clean and Safe Environment) project actively participated



in the campaign in Khoyrasol and Rajnagar blocks in Birbhum district, West Bengal to free India of garbage and waste and to reaffirm commitment towards building a cleaner and healthier future. Around 200 people participated with each day set for specific activity. Water For People India team mobilized health centres, schools, Anganwadi centres and communities at district, block and village levels to engage in cleaning, collection of single use plastics, online painting competition, tree plantation, promotion of

❖ WASH AND COVID-19

Battling COVID-19 with Awareness Generation Activities

The spread of the coronavirus is the most serious global health security threat in decades. While COVID-19 continues to spread it is important that communities take action to prevent further transmission, reduce the impacts of the outbreak and support control measures. Living through a global pandemic, Water For People India team has been regularly interacting with communities, children, vulnerable groups living in slums and the elderly to take maximum precautions and the significance of following social distancing norms, wearing of masks and not to spit in the open. In Amravati, Water For People India Trust in partnership with Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited formed a mobilization team and conducted 11 awareness sessions in schools and villages reaching 80 villagers and 40 children.



Water For People India team extended support through workshops to mothers and adolescent girls in





four Anganwadi centres in Rajnagar block, Birbhum, West Bengal. Workshops were conducted by the project staff reaching 42 women on the role of nutrition for growth, immunity and cognitive development and to practice safe menstrual hygiene management.

An awareness program on hygiene, sanitation and safety measures to combat COVID-19 among panchayat members was done at Hajratpur in Khoyrasol block. The program was covered and shared [online](#). Key messages and actions for

COVID-19 prevention and control were organized in 11 schools including teachers and guardians in Wards 76, 77, 78, 79, 80 of Kolkata Municipal corporation. 260 masks were distributed among the guardians and school authorities.

❖ CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

District Level Workshop on Improving Livelihood and Farmers Prosperity

A district level workshop was organized by Water For People India in collaboration with local partner NGO Kanchan Sewa Ashram (KSA) on 8 August 2020. The workshop was attended by officials from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), horticulture department, promoters of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), leaders of Farmers Club and luminaries of Kanchan Sewa Ashram. The workshop discussed the goals and achievements of Project Sheohar launched by Water For People India in 2015 to engage with farmers and provide



livelihood options to double their income by promoting capacity building activities through workshops and trainings, increasing water use efficiency through drip irrigation, rain gun and sprinkler, improving soil health and crop productivity through organic farming, and ensuring linkage of farmers with the agriculture department and new schemes launched by the government. The project team has also relentlessly worked towards adoption of safe WASH practices among the farmers and communities. The participants appreciated the collaborative work done by Water For People India and KSA by promoting sustainable, innovative agricultural practices, providing inclusive market access and building resilient agricultural communities.

Fostering collective effort towards Water Safety and Security in Sheohar



Water Resources Management is one of the key components of Project Sheohar under the 'Everyone and Forever' model of Water For People India. Sarvshree Seva Sadan conducted a one-day training and capacity building program on Village Water Safety and Security Plan (VWSSP) on 20 August 2020 in Piprahi Block, Sheohar district, Bihar. Around 23 people (trained as master trainers) participated in the training which included government officials, Panchayati Raj Institutions, VWSC, WUC and WIMC members from Kamrauli Gram panchayat. 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 in 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. The officials appreciated Water For People India for their greater involvement and performance towards water management, better sanitation and positive behaviour change in nudging people to use toilets in Sheohar.

❖ IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Pipe Water Supply Scheme for Communities in Tetu Village

Tetu village situated in Amzari Gram Panchayat in Chikhaldara Block, Amravati district, Maharashtra has been provided with piped water supply scheme 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 55 households. Villagers through government supported MNREGA scheme provided labour for pipeline excavation and laying the 456-meter village distribution line along with 238-meter 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, a 11-member Water User Committee has been formed for tariff collection and regular O&M of the scheme.


