

# Monthly Newsletter – December 2019

## WATER FOR PEOPLE INDIA

### ❖ EVENTS

#### 1. Water For People India partakes in fortnight-long Saras Mela



Water For People India was invited by JEEViKA - Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society, Govt. of Bihar to participate in the fortnight-long Saras Mela held from 1<sup>st</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> December 2019. A decked-up stall with the theme 'Bihar Swachhta Sankalp 2019 – From ODF to ODF Plus' emphasizing on sustained sanitation campaign to achieve all-round cleanliness under Project Sheohar was

jointly set up by Water For People India and Lohiya Swachh Bihar Abhiyan (LSBA). In addition, Water For People India also organized street plays and multi-disciplinary shows for generating awareness towards toilet use and water handling practices. Held twice a year, the fair is an initiative of JEEViKA, a program of the state government to uplift women in rural areas. The fair witnessed a footfall of about 1-1.4 lakh persons per day.

Water For People India also participated in two panel discussions on 'Challenges and Strategies for single-use plastic ban in villages' (7 Dec 2019) and 'Capacity building and community mobilization for ODF sustainability' (9 Dec 2019) organized by JEEViKA, Govt. of Bihar during the Saras Mela and presented their views on the hazards of plastic pollution and mobilizing the community towards a self-sustainable environment for ODF sustainability. Representatives from UNICEF, LSBA and Aga Khan Foundation were also invited as panelists.



#### 2. 4<sup>th</sup> BIWA meeting to develop joint charter for WASH program



The 4<sup>th</sup> Bihar Wash Alliance Partners meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in Patna, Bihar with representation from national and international NGOs working on WASH programs in Bihar including Water For People India and UNICEF. The meeting aimed to bring together all BIWA partners to work towards a common charter to enable the partner NGOs to develop common ground on issues and strategies in the WASH sector. During the meeting, six thematic sub-committees were formed with Mr. Vivek Sharan, State-in Charge (Bihar) from Water For People India as the lead for 'Water Supply and Quality' sub-committee. As an outcome of the

meeting, a draft framework in the form of a strategic paper entitled 'WASH in Bihar' was collectively compiled by the partners.

### ❖ CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

### 1. Farmer clubs receive subsidy for increasing water use efficiency



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar during the fourth leg of Jal Jeevan Haryana (water, life and Greenery) program at Gadhma village in Sheohar district, Bihar awarded four farmer clubs with Rs. 55 lakh subsidy for encouraging the farmers club as a collective mechanization bank on 80% grant, formed with the joint initiative of Water For

People India and Kanchan Seva Ashram. The club, in its fourth year, uses drip irrigation and rain gun for saving water. Organic kits called 'Kanchan Amrit' are used to make pesticides in the house and the garbage collected is used to make manure.

### 2. Training Program on Faecal Sludge and Decentralised Wastewater Management

School of Water and Waste, Centre for Science and Environment organized a tailor-made 4-day residential training program on "Faecal Sludge and Decentralized Wastewater Treatment" from 17-20 December at Anil Agarwal Environment Training Institute (AAETI) in Nimli, Rajasthan. The training was divided into different modules, comprising of Shit Flow Diagram (SFD), Onsite Sanitation Systems, Faecal Sludge and Decentralized Wastewater Management to meet the need of the target groups. Total 29 participants from diverse background were acclimatized with knowledge, skill and attitude to mainstream urban faecal sludge and decentralized wastewater management. Participants from Water For People India, ECOSAN, Gurujal, World Vision India, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai attended the program with international participants from BORDA, Afghanistan and Afghanistan Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation (AUWSSC).



### 3. 30 Jalabandhus capacitated during second phase training



II and PHE 6 handpump.

A pool of 30 Jalabandhus (Friends of Water) and water collectors were provided training on handpump repairing, plumbing and water testing during the second phase of Jalabandhu training in Khoyrasol Block, Birbhum District, West Bengal. The 4-day training (27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019) facilitated by external resource persons focused on installation and repair of India Mark-

### 4. Imparting hygiene education to mothers in Anganwadi centres

Around 400 mothers in 13 Anganwadi centers were sensitized and trained on the importance of improved water and sanitation facilities; personal hygiene and nutrition including maternal and child health in Rajnagar Block, Birbhum district, West Bengal. The training program held in November 2019 included a sustainability plan of the proposed renovation to be done in Anganwadi centres, schools and communities in two blocks of the district including school sanitation facilities





in one block with maintenance cost provided by the mothers in the form of donation.

## ❖ WASH ACTIVITIES

### 1. School WASH activities



With an aim to address the operation and maintenance of toilet blocks and sanitation facilities to promote a healthy school environment, a cleaning material drive under 'Swaccho Nirapad Parivesh' (Clean and Safe Environment) project was held in Ramdanga and Barghata Primary Schools in Rajnagar Block, Birbhum district, West Bengal on 17<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> December 2019. WASH materials in the form of soaps, washing powder, liquid handwash, brooms, mugs and buckets were provided to the schools by guardians, teachers and the community people, motivated to

contribute to maintaining the cleanliness of the renovated facilities. Total 66 people participated in the drive.

Water For People India intervened Garden Reach Nut Behari Das Girls' High School in Kolkata district was awarded the West Bengal Government district level 'Sishumitra Vidyalaya Puraskar' (child-friendly school) award on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in recognition of their outstanding efforts made for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene interventions and adoption of child-friendly norms and standards in the school. The school has been provided with improved water and sanitation facilities under ITC supported project Mission Sunehra Kal.



### 2. Community toilet inauguration



On 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019, the first community toilet in Ward no. 79 under Kolkata Municipal Corporation was inaugurated by the Ward Councillor and donor representatives from ITC Limited. The renovated community toilet features separate facilities for male and female, change rooms and incinerators along with bathing space with urinals. The project was funded by ITC Limited under Mission Sunehra Kal.