

Monthly Newsletter – December 2020

EVENTS

Great Place to Work Initiative



To make Water For People a great and exciting place to work, India Country Program has started regular interactions and reflection sessions with colleagues to make the organization more close-knit and cohesive. The first in the series was the 'sing your recipe' contest with delectable food entries received from colleagues. To continue the momentum Country Director, Bishwadeep Ghose

mooted the idea of meeting more frequently through brief informal and interesting sessions roving around water to enable a knowledge transfer environment with water experts and practitioners. The first interactive session was held on December 28 on the topic 'Democratisation of Water' by Mr. Puneet Srivastava, Urban Water Advisor, Water Aid. The team members virtually connected on December 29 for the Reflection 2020 session and shared their thoughts, experiences and ideas through songs, couplets, Shayaris (urdu poetry), and brief deliberations highlighting the challenges of the pandemic, lockdown and physical isolation.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Promoting Toilet Usage through PoPs

A campaign was organized in Giria and Sikiri panchayats in Odisha through miking on key hygiene messages by passing through village roads and narrow alleys. Leaflet distribution was done to sensitize the community on regular handwashing with soap at critical times and promotion of toilet usage through Point of Purchases (PoPs).



Awareness on Sanitation, Solid Waste Management & Cleanliness



To provide improved sanitation services to people residing in Kolkata slums, Water For People India Trust has been taking up newer hamlets with the support of the local government. In December 2020, a mass awareness program was conducted in Ward 79 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation to share Water For People India's work on community sanitation, community ownership through

operation and maintenance, cleanliness, solid waste management and promotion of toilet usage. Masks, head caps, sanitizer and gloves were distributed to *Nirmal Bandhus* (sanitation workers) and labourers.

Climate Resilient Agriculture



Climate resilient agriculture has been launched in five villages (Lalgarh, Pardesia, Paharpur, Harnahi and Hathsar) in Sheohar District by the Government of Bihar. As part of the program, implementing agency Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) will monitor and provide agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizer and support in zero tillage farming, sowing expenses amounting to INR 60 lacs for the next five years to the farmers. The selected villages and farmers club are under the aegis

of Water For People and Kanchan Sewa Ashram. Farmers using water saving technologies like drip irrigation, sprinklers, etc., will be provided irrigation support under this scheme. The farmers in these villages are well trained with water saving techniques. At the end of every year, an analysis will be done by KVK and Kanchan Sewa Ashram regarding the capital component to gauge the progress and increment in farmers' income.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

VHNSC Formation in Rajnagar Block



Water For People India under Project 'Swaccho Nirapad Parivesh' (Clean and Safe Environment) supported by NSE Foundation facilitated meetings with 26 Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNCs) across five GPs involving 411 participants (Male: 129; Female: 282) in Rajnagar block, Birbhum district, West Bengal. The meeting was organized with the following objectives:

- Inform members about the role and objectives of VHSNC.
- Motivate them to take part in the planning and implementation of program and take collective action on social determinants.
- Act and form a crucial interface between community and public institutions.

Mission Paani Orientation Workshop

A workshop was organized on December 2-3 by Water For People India Trust for Block Development Officer (BDO), Extension Officers and Gram Sevaks (Village Development



Officers) at Panchayat Samiti office in Chandurbazar and Achalpur Blocks, Amaravati district, Maharashtra. The workshop started with an overview of Water For People India Trust and orientation of officials on Mission Paani - a News18 and Harpic India initiative to conserve water. More than 40 officials participated in the workshop and committed their support to implement the program effectively at the community level.

Training of Frontline Workers

A one-day training of frontline workers was organized on December 18 in Paratwada, Amaravati district under the Mission Paani initiative. Total 24 participants from two blocks – Achalpur and Chandurbazar - including Swachhagrahis, Deputy Sarpanch, Panchayat members and Mission Paani field staff participated in the training. The frontline workers were capacitated to build effective communication skills and local leadership through participatory exercises to facilitate and implement Mission Paani program activities to overcome water woes in two blocks.



Consultative Workshop on Situation Assessment Study on FSM



A district level consultative workshop was held on December 18 with relevant stakeholders on situation assessment study on Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) under the aegis of Water For People India in Sheohar district, Bihar. Water For People India with Ernst & Young jointly shared the findings of the situation assessment study and included feedback on the potential interventions identified with inputs from various stakeholders. A final FSM feasibility study report and Sanitation

catalogue will be shared. Water For People India will also be one of the key members of the District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC), chaired by the District Magistrate as part of Technical Support Unit (TSU).

Reviving the Art of Storytelling

As part of Project Sheohar's Social Art for Behavior Change initiative (SABC), Water For People India and One Drop Foundation is piloting the concept of storytelling (Lok Katha). For documentation of stories and production of storytelling format, a co-creation workshop was organized from December 14-31. A five-day recovery session was conducted by local artists, community members and field staff to get a



sense of folk tales and the art of storytelling. 16 local stories were documented, each enacted in a different style. Field performance of storytelling will begin in the second week of January 2021.

Block Level Workshop on WASH, Water Source Sustainability



A block level workshop on WASH and Water Source Sustainability was organized including 84 participants (Male: 63; Female: 21) to discuss and deliberate the Jal Jeevan Mission launched by the Government of India in 2019, aiming to provide Functional Household Tap Connection to every rural household by 2024. The workshop discussed the present status and challenges of drinking water supply in West Bengal and

discussed the issues to improve the quality of water. Suggestions were also given to find local solutions involving community participation at all levels.

Child Cabinet Formation in Schools

Meetings for Child Cabinet formation have been conducted in 8 schools across all panchayats in Rajnagar Block reaching 173 students (Male: 76; Female: 97). Child cabinets were strengthened to implement positive peer modelling to disseminate good WASH practices among the children and families and to ensure school and classroom cleanliness whilst monitoring WASH facilities. To encourage the students



on their responsibilities, child cabinet badges were provided to them with their respective designation. In addition, meetings were held in 7 schools reaching out to 116 members to strengthen School Development Committee in Rajnagar and discuss proposed key activities towards fund creation for procuring WASH materials and facilitating minor repairing works.

Accelerating VWSSP at Block, GP Levels



Village Water Safety Security Plan (VWSSP) for integrated water resources management is one of the key components of Project Sheohar under 'Everyone Forever' impact model to disseminate the importance of water conservation and making it a community priority. Water For People India in the last two years has capacitated various stakeholders from government and community institutions like Gram Panchayats, District and Block Officials and different committees at village level such as VWSC, WUC, WIMC, etc. To review

the progress of VWSSP, six GP level and one block level follow-up meeting was held in Sheohar



District in December 2020. The purpose was to assess the plan implementation, evaluate the performance of PRI members and other stakeholders, challenges and mitigation approach, and the strategy for the next six months. As a result of VWSSP, the PRI members have been motivated and during the past one year around 600 soak pits, 70 pond excavation/rehabilitation, and platform construction work has been done in 50 community water points.
