

Monthly Newsletter – Dec 2021 & Jan 2022

EVENTS

▪ District Level Workshop on SLWM



Water For People India Trust in collaboration with Ernst & Young (EY) organized a district-level workshop on Solid Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) on 6 December 2021 at Panjab Rao Deshmukh Prabodhini Training Centre in Amravati district, Maharashtra. Mr. Avishant Panda, CEO, ZP, Amravati presided as the chief guest during the event. The objective of the workshop was to discuss and deliberate the progress of SLWM initiated by Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) under Phase-II

in 600 villages in Amravati district. Mr. Hemant Pinjan, State Lead – Maharashtra, Water For People India Trust facilitated the workshop and gave a presentation on the implementation plan to initiate the SLWM work in collaboration with ZP Amravati.

During the workshop, Mr. Sarith Sasidharan guided on approaches to sustain SLWM work with innovative methodologies. He also shared technical information about SLWM and the availability of funds to implement the work. Mr. Rajendra Sawalkar, Executive Engineer (Water Supply) ZP, Amravati expressed the support of his team and offered supervision for the work. Approx. 70 participants including engineers from the village water supply department, SBM functionaries of ZP Amravati, Water For People India Trust Amravati team, and representatives of various organizations working in the domain of SLWM actively participated in the workshop.



▪ Annual Block Level Consultative Meet on WASH



The Annual Block Level Consultative meetings were organized at Sankrail and Panchla Development Blocks in Howrah, West Bengal. The meetings were held in presence of BDO, Joint BDO, Siksha Karmadhaksha, Swastha Karmadhaksha, Sub-Inspectors of Schools, BEO, and Panchayat Pradhans. The discussion was focused on project progress and the next five-year plan to be implemented in the respective blocks for safe WASH

services under the Project *Community and School Level Initiatives for Sustained Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion* supported by ITC Limited.

Another Annual District Level Sharing Meeting was held on 17 December 2021 facilitated by ITC Limited under Project *Mission Sunehra Kal* to share the project progress. The next 5-year plan was also developed in consultation with the key stakeholders. A list of schools in need of clean drinking water and toilet facilities was prepared and circulated. The meeting was attended by Chairman of District Primary School Council (DPSC) Howrah, DIS (PF), AI/S (P.E), AI/S (SE) for DI/S (SE) along with Sub Inspectors of North Circle, South Circle, Panchla, Baniban and Andul West, Sankrail.

VISITS

▪ Visit by Hon'ble State Minister Mr. Bachchu Kadu



Honourable State Minister Mr. Bachchu Kadu visited Ektai village in Chikhaldara block, Amravati District, Maharashtra on 8 December 2021. Water For People India Trust team facilitated the visit and showcased their work under *The Water Initiative* project which is being implemented in 50 villages in Chikhaldara block. All district level and block level officials were present during the visit. Water For People India Trust team also discussed the various challenges faced during the implementation of the project at the village level. Mr. Kadu

appreciated and congratulated the team and gave immediate directives to all concerned officers and local government functionaries to provide their support in scaling the implementation of the project. The visit by Hon'ble State Minister was a great opportunity for the team members to showcase their work in collaboration with the government sector to implement WASH projects and speed up the ongoing project activities.

▪ Country Director's Visit to Birbhum

Mr. Bishwadeep Ghose, Country Director, Water For People India and Ms. Sujata Tripathy, State in-Charge, West Bengal visited Birbhum district on 4 January 2022. An interactive session was held with the Birbhum team, and a strategy was devised to scale up WASH services in all 19 blocks in Birbhum aligned to the 'Everyone Forever' approach that strives to





make sustainable WASH services accessible to every individual and relies on the participation of communities, with 'people' at the core of each.

On 5 January 2022, a meeting was held with Mr. Gopen Paul, Executive Engineer, PHED (Birbhum) to discuss the need for technical support that could be provided by Water For People India Trust for efficient implementation of the "Jal Swapna" program in Birbhum. A draft MoU was also shared with Mr. Paul for his suggestions and feedback. With an aim to provide tap water to every rural household in West Bengal, the State Government has launched the "Jal Swapna" project which will not only ensure safe

drinking water supply to each household but will also help in the further socio-economic development of the rural parts of Bengal. The objective to supply purified drinking water at each home has been taken up to maintain good health and will benefit residents of rural households. The scheme envisages building a pipeline network for two crore households in five years, at a cost of Rs. 58,000 cr.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES



Community Participation Key to Water Supply Success in Villages

Under *The Water Initiative* project, Water For People India Trust in partnership with Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited has completed the piped water supply scheme in Bori and Solamoh villages in Chikhaldara block, Amravati district, Maharashtra. Communities including panchayat members, youth, and women participated enthusiastically through voluntary labour (shramdaan) for pipeline excavation and laying the village distribution pipeline in Solomah (1290-meter) and Bori village (1194-meter) respectively. For regular operation and maintenance (O&M), Water User Committees have been formed for tariff collection. The community involvement and ownership in planning, operation, and maintenance has been key to the successful provision of water services to 162 households benefitting villagers with a functional household tap connection.

Haladipada School Gets New WASH facilities

Water For People India Trust with support from ITC Limited renovated existing toilets, built new ones, and provided handwash facilities in Panchayat High School



near Haladipada, Khordha district, Odisha. On 15 December 2021, the infrastructure addition was inaugurated by the respective MP Mr. Muzibulla Khan, and the Sarpanch of Nalipada Arjunpur. They lauded Water For People India Trust's efforts and pointed out that the 'group handwashing' practice is a path-breaking concept which will ensure children learn and promptly follow the handwashing exercise at appropriate times. Around 68 stakeholders including school authorities, students, communities were also present. Mr. Bibhuti Bhusan Balabanta Ray, Ex-MLA also presided during the event.



Beyond (inclusive) infrastructure development, necessary steps are also being taken to introduce proper sanitation and hygiene behaviours to school administrators, teachers, and students. Immediately following the facility inauguration at Khordha district, Water For People India Trust will build the capacity of students and school teachers to impart good menstrual hygiene management practice and tackle sensitive issues around the topic of menstruation. A Child Cabinet will also be formed where children spread the message of health and hygiene and ensured its practice among their classmates.

▪ **Wall Writing to Spread the Message of Cleanliness**



Wall writing is an attractive way of developing peoples' consciousness to promote clean surroundings and drive home the message of hygiene and sanitation. The activity envisages drawing paintings on the theme of clean and healthy India with thought-provoking messages on compound walls of schools and other public spaces.

Under Project *Swachho Nirapad Parivesh* (Clean and Safe Environment) supported by NSE Foundation wall writing encompassing hygiene messages on the importance of handwashing in eradicating coronavirus and safe drinking water has been done in Barha and Hazrathpur Gram Panchayat in Khoyrasol Block, Birbhum district, West Bengal with the support of Village Water Sanitation Committee. The wall writing activity has been conceived to trigger behavioural change to ensure the use of toilets and spread the message of hygiene and sanitation with a thrust on rural areas. Similar activity has been implemented by the Water For people India team in other project areas with twin objectives of beautifying public spaces and spreading socially relevant messages.



▪ Developing Village Action Plan for JJM in Birbhum



The mandatory village action plan for bringing safe drinking water through individual tap connections to all rural households under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has been prepared for Putka village under Lokepur GP and Jamran village under Kendgore GP in Khoyrasol Block, Birbhum district, West Bengal. A two-day activity was organized by Water For People India Trust on 14-15 December 2021

conducted as part of the Technical Support Unit (TSU), supporting the district for the effective implementation of JJM. The action plans, to be implemented as the master plan for meeting the water needs of villages, will depict the history of water availability, rainfall pattern, drought situation, groundwater level, water harvesting, water-borne diseases, and the situation of water resources in each village.

The activity includes the following:

- Learning the existing status of village water supply including source, water quality issues, if any, and operation and maintenance arrangement.
- Current availability of water in water source (yield measured) and its long-term sustainability.
- Need assessment of water required in the village and the available resources. Based on this, a decision is made for the construction of the Single Village Scheme (SVS) or Multi Village Scheme (MVS).
- Number of existing Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) and number of FHTCs yet to be provided in respective habitation.



In this, the existing scenario of water connection in every household is being documented by involving community people irrespective of gender, age, caste, and class in making a unique social map utilizing various PRA tools like Focused Group Discussion (FGD), Social Mapping, Interviewing, Resource Mapping, etc. The group work method was followed throughout the session to reach the communities at the grassroots level.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Street Play Refresher Training

Under *The Water Initiative* project, Water For People India Trust organized a five-day street play refresher training from 15-19 December 2021 at Payvihir Training Centre in Achalpur block,



Amravati district, Maharashtra. Total 24 artists (16 Men, 8 Women) from three organizations - Shivansh Multipurpose Foundation, Gandharva Bahuuddeshiya Sanstha and Parolkar Sanstha - based in Amravati participated in the training. The objective was to review street play scripts to be performed at various villages in Chikhaldara block. During the training, Gandharva Bahuuddeshiya Sanstha organization incorporated learning of all artists with relevant key messages on sanitation and hygiene along with a preview of each street play. The training was indeed challenging to be completed in five days and roping in new artists. But with creative efforts and theatre exercises, the training was successfully completed. It was a great opportunity for all artists to educate themselves about safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices and express key WASH messages through creative expressions. Each artist gave their creative efforts and hard work to make the play interesting and appealing to a variety of audiences.

In addition, street plays on the theme of school WASH operation and maintenance are being performed for the students in project areas where WASH infrastructure has been completed by the joint approach of Water For People India Trust and School Management Committee. The sensitization among children about the proper use of school toilets and their maintenance and the role and responsibility of the WATSAN committee is also highlighted during the shows. It was very entertaining and important for students because children, as agents of change, took the message



home to inspire their parents and neighbours on hygienic practices and persuade them to build toilets and stop open defecation.

- **Training on Community Video**



Under *The Water Initiative* project, an active group of women and girls have been trained on Community video - a podium to converse important WASH issues of a particular community for overall development. The training session was organized from 19-28 January 2022 in Kesharpur village in Chikhaldara block, Amravati district, Maharashtra. The objective was to form and train a group of 14 women and girls and explain the concept of Community Video and how this would help them understand WASH issues in their village. During the ten-day training organized in

collaboration with Abhivyakti Media For Development, women and girls actively participated to educate themselves about Community Video and build their leadership skills. They learned the nuances of how to do video shoots and editing, take correct video shots, and weave them into a narrative story to produce meaningful videos on WASH issues. Participants also learned about the WASH facilities available in



their village and ways to sustain them through collective efforts. At the end of the training, video screenings were organized at the community level to generate dialogue on safe WASH practices. By supporting the establishment of Community Video in which the disenfranchised produce and distribute their own locally relevant video programs, Water For People India Trust empowers local communities to lead, connect and change, and then voice their issues to a larger audience.

- **Training of Nirmal Bandhus**

Water For People India in collaboration with local NGO partner Mahila Vikash Shilp Kala Prasikshan Sansthan organized a district-level training program for Nirmal Bandhus (toilet

cleaners) on 29 December 2021 in Sheohar district, Bihar. The objective was to capacitate the Nirmal Bandhus on safely managing and ensuring the sustainability of WASH infrastructure in schools. They were also informed about their role and responsibilities and ways to scale their business. Through group discussion challenges faced by the Nirmal Bandhus were listed and discussed to mitigate them. Around 52 Nirmal Bandhus including five freshers from all five blocks of Sheohar participated in the training.



- **Advocacy Meeting with PRI members**



Under *Project Sheohar*, Mahila Vikash Shilp Kala Prasikshan Sansthan and Geeta Social Welfare and Development organized 6 gram panchayat level advocacy meetings with PRI members at Piprahi, Tariyani, and Sheohar blocks in Bihar. The objective was to impart ownership of WASH

infrastructure, orient about the Everyone Forever model to ensure sustainability, and communicate the role and responsibilities of newly elected PRI members. During the event, a list of community water points, schools, health centres, ICDS, and Farmers Club was prepared and shared. In the presence of PRI members and Village Pradhan, an action plan has been prepared to address the existing issues with a commitment to complete them as per the agreed timeline. Around 80 PRI members participated in the meeting from three blocks of Sheohar district namely, Minapur Balha, Belwa, Madhopur Chhata, Hirauta Dumma, Mirzapur Dhobahi, and Narwara.

- **Community Strengthening through SABC activities**



Social Art for Behaviour Change (SABC) revolves around the use of social art to connect with communities and to influence their water, sanitation, and hygiene behaviours because art has the



potential to stir human emotions. The activities include multidisciplinary shows, street plays, and storytelling meant to build awareness and start the conversation on safe water and sanitation.

To drive home the message theme-wise street plays are being done among the target audience including water user committees, farmer clubs, Joint Liability Groups, and

Self-Help Group members. The costumes, dialects, and characters are chosen very carefully to resonate with local communities. Under *Project Sheohar*, SABC activity includes thematic shows focused on specific WASH behaviours to educate and inspire the audience on healthy practices, handwashing and proper use of latrines. A street play centered on personal hygiene and handwashing practice at five critical times has a character named *Gyani Gonu*, a change agent of hygiene practices.

Similarly, the street play titled *Sach ka Sapna* is to make people aware of the serious health hazards posed by open defecation, motivate them to shun unhealthy practices, and make proper use of the toilets to improve hygiene and sanitation in their villages. In the limited duration of a show, the audience is both informed and entertained. The whole idea is to put people and emotions first and to use art as a powerful tool to spread awareness and trigger social change.

Water For People India Trust in collaboration with NSE Foundation under Project *Swachho Nirapad Parivesh* (Clean and Safe Environment) has deployed a SABC strategy under which local participants from communities of Khoyrasol Block have been trained and are currently involved in awareness generation activities at the community level.



SABC activities have been organized in collaboration with police authorities for communities in Khoyrasol to promote *Safe Drive, Safe Life campaign*. Activities were organized in six areas (Bhaddi Bus Stand, Lokepur Bus Stand, Shibpur, Amlakuri, Nakrakonda Bus Stand, Tarapur, and Natsala under Lokepur and Nakrakonda GP) and widely reached the masses. This endeavour created an opportunity for the police authorities to get a glimpse of our social art activities and build a good rapport.

- **Workshop on O&M of WASH Facilities in Schools, Urban Slums**

A workshop on Operation & Maintenance of School WASH Facilities in Howrah, West Bengal was conducted on 13 January 2022 under Project



Community and

School Level Initiatives for Sustained Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion supported by ITC Limited. The workshop witnessed participation from Head Teachers of 11 schools along with the respective Sub Inspector of Schools and Pradhan of Kanduah Gram Panchayat. A joint annual monitoring plan was developed in convergence with the local gram panchayat for the operation and maintenance grant for the schools to be utilized constructively.



A series of training sessions were conducted with Mohalla Committee members of P-17, FCI Jhupri, Khalbari, and local shed slums to sensitize the participants about their role and responsibilities towards ensuring O&M along with proper record keeping. Orientation on

leadership development and generating awareness on Solid Waste Management was also among the prime focus of the training session. A total of 34 Mohalla Committee members participated in the session focusing on Leadership, Operation & Maintenance, Record Keeping, and Solid Waste Management in the urban slums of Kolkata.

- **Strengthening of WUCs for Source Sustainability**

Water For People India's community management approach includes the constitution and operationalization of Water User Committees (WUCs) comprised of users of the water facilities. A WUC manages the operation and maintenance (O&M) of each community water point installed with the support of Water For People India. In addition to collecting water user fees for regular upkeep of the water point, the WUC monitors water quality on a regular basis, promotes safe water handling practices, and encourages adoption of healthy WASH related behaviours and practices. Under *Project Sheohar*, water user committees play an important role in ensuring the sustainability of water infrastructure but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, WUCs meeting could not be conducted resulting in defunct water points.



The field team in project areas supported the WUCs in tariff collection and linked them with the *Jalabandhus* (mobile handpump mechanics). The *Jalabandhus* visited the community water points in their allotted area and fixed the handpumps to reduce downtime. With collective approach of WUCs around 17 water points are now functional, and more than 15 platforms and soak pits have been repaired. Around 116 WUCs have become functional in which 91 WUCs are involved in tariff collection during the monthly meetings.

Water For People India team also insists that WUCs conduct water quality testing at their nearest PHED district lab twice a year. During field visits, WUCs showed their keen interest in water quality indicators and the process of water quality testing. A camp was organized on 23 December 2021 for water quality testing in selected villages in Sundarpur and Murlipokhar villages in Harnahi GP, Sheohar district, Bihar.



The water was tested to check the levels of iron, fluoride and whether it is fit for drinking and cooking purposes. The aim was to train the WUCs so that they can efficiently ensure proper drinking water supply and proper maintenance of water sources.

Release of Water For People India Trust Annual Reports FY 2020-21

(Full & Abridged Version)

We are pleased to announce the release of our [Full Annual Report](#) and [Abridged Annual Report](#) for the financial year 2020-21.



The **Annual Report 2020-21** presents a summary of our WASH activities and triumphs during the COVID-19 pandemic and covers a brief report highlighting **Our Work, Thematic Areas, Working Together with Partners, Combating and Adapting to COVID-19 challenges, Key Events, Success stories (Changed Lives), Dissemination and Communication, Capacity Development Activities, Financial Management and Way Forward**. We thank and acknowledge our team members for their dedication and zeal to continue the work with the community, partners, and institutions within the restrictive framework of new norms and strategies.

DOWNLOAD

Water For People India Trust [Full Annual Report 2020 -21](#)

Water For People India Trust [Annual Report 2020 -21 – Abridged Version](#)

For Past Annual Reports, please visit - <https://www.waterforpeopleindia.org/annual-reports/>