

Monthly Newsletter – January 2020

WATER FOR PEOPLE INDIA

❖ EVENTS

1. 50th Anniversary of World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum observed its landmark 50th Anniversary Summit reflecting the theme “Stakeholders for a Sustainable and Cohesive World” in Davos, Switzerland (21st-24th January 2020). Generating positive impact for all stakeholders, the week-long forum witnessed Water For People - represented by Ms. Eleanor Allen, CEO and Ms. Meena Narula, Country Director, India - as a strategic partner for the newly launched ‘Mission Paani’ water campaign in India focusing on Model SDG 17 activation and forging partnerships to address the impending water crisis in India.



2. 13th Annual Global Water Alliance Conference

Water For People India participated in the Thirteenth Annual Global Water Alliance Conference (4th-7th January 2020) held in Kolkata, India on the theme “Achieving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sustainability Goals for Developing Countries”. Ms. Meena Narula, Country Director, Water For People India was invited to deliver the keynote address on the ‘Role of WASH for accelerating and sustaining progress in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.’ Ms. Dipa Biswas, Program Lead (Kolkata) gave two engaging presentations on ‘Strengthening Community for Creating a Water Resilient Future’ and ‘Achieving Sustainable School Sanitation for Broader Social Development.’ The conference specifically focused on the progress of developing countries on the implementation of social, economic and related policies and projects, in achieving the SDGs for water, sanitation and hygiene for all (2015-2030).



3. 2nd Annual Everyone Forever Milestone Academy Awards Ceremony



Water For People global offices gathered together (virtually) on 14-15 January 2020 to celebrate their progress towards ‘Everyone Forever’ around the world during the Second Annual Everyone Forever Milestone Academy Awards Ceremony. Highlighting the incredible accomplishments from 2019, Water For People India team received two honourable mentions from the Everyone Forever Milestone Committee: Largest District Population to Reach Family Level E Patharpratima, India; and Largest National Water Impact Population - India. Also, Patharpratima, Sagar Island and Sheohar, India made it to the

list of districts that maintained or regained an E or F milestone.

4. Project Sheohar participates in world’s largest human chain event

Water For People India Sheohar team participated in the world's largest human chain event on 19th January 2020. The human chain



involved 5.16 crore people from multiple districts of Bihar, who came together to form a whopping 18,034 km long chain to champion the cause of the environment, as part of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar's 'Jal-Jeevan Hariyali' (water-life greenery) campaign. Water For People India along with CSO partners and people from Farmers' club came in support of the state wide event to advocate water conservation and fight social evils such as addiction, child marriage and dowry.

5. Project Sheohar partakes in 71st Republic Day Celebrations



On the occasion of 71st Republic day celebration in India (26th January 2020), Water For People India Sheohar team won third prize for their tableau highlighting the theme 'water and sanitation' in schools and providing access to safe water through community water points with soak pit for wastewater management and groundwater recharge. Additionally, the district level tableau displayed activities enhancing agricultural water management for sustainable rural development by increasing water use efficiency and adopting organic farming practices like

greenhouse nursery and vermin compost.

❖ MEETINGS

1. Amravati team participates in Melghat Dialogue

A block-level meeting 'Melghat Dialogue' was organized by the Integrated Tribal Development Project office at Dharni on 30th December 2019 to discuss and deliberate on issues in the Melghat region related to health, education, water scarcity and livelihood. The meeting chaired by Mrs. Mitali Sethi (IAS) included Project Officer and Sub-Divisional District Magistrate, Block Health Officer, Churni and other government officials from ITDP office and Dharni Sub Divisional office. During the meeting, Mr. Vijay Singh Bhadoriya, Project Incharge, Amravati presented the Water Initiative program, a joint partnership of Water For People India and Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited in Chikhaldara block of Melghat Region sharing the progress and forthcoming plans on WASH intervention in communities, schools and Anganwadis; and the opportunities for future convergence with the District. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks with assurance of full support from the District and the respective blocks towards the implementation of the program.



2. Meeting with School Management committee

A meeting was held on 24th December 2019 with teachers from 50 schools in Rajnagar Block, Birbhum district, West Bengal to sensitize them on the need for hardware and software activities, including strengthening of School development committee, child cabinets and operation and maintenance for the sustainability of water and sanitation facilities. The schools intervened under National Stock Exchange funded project will be provided with improved water and sanitation facilities.



❖ IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

1. Imparting Menstrual Hygiene Management in school

Water For People India conducted a SWASH (School Water Sanitation and Hygiene) training for girls residing in Tembrusonda Ashram School in Amravati District, Maharashtra on 6th January 2020. The interactive training session aimed to end period poverty by identifying active adolescent girls group leaders for knowledge dissemination; regularizing meeting and hygiene session with adolescent girls; developing a cadre of volunteers (youth) for breaking silence on menstrual hygiene; providing an enabling and supportive environment for adolescent girls in schools.

2. Construction of Khatkali village water supply scheme in progress

Khatkali village, situated in Amzari Panchayat of Chikhaldara taluka, is devoid of functional water supply. A source sustainability test was conducted to assess the sustainability of the open well to be used as the source for the village water supply scheme. A 20,000-litre capacity reservoir construction is in progress aimed at providing water to 104 households along with household tap connections. A meeting has been held with the villagers with active participation of women with following key decisions: (i) a 10 member water user committee including 5 women formed for regular follow-up of the construction work; (ii) after completion PWSS will collect tariff from every household for O&M; (iii) community people to contribute as part



of shramdaan (mass movement) for pipeline excavation for HH connection and rising main pipeline.



3. Triggering, CLAS for toilet usage, ODF sustainability

Reaching out to 500 community people in five Gram Panchayats in Rajnagar Block, Birbhum district, West Bengal, Water For People India with support of National Stock Exchange organized a triggering activity for ODF sustainability which included faeces mapping, calculation of faeces volume and faeces mobility mapping. A short quiz program was conducted to ensure sustained behaviour change communication at the individual and community levels. In another Community-Led Approach to Sanitation (CLAS) activity held on 13th January 2020, child cabinet members actively participated in a sanitation awareness program for ODF sustenance in Joargori Panchayat, Howrah District, West Bengal through street plays and poetry on health, hygiene and sanitation practices. The students were from schools that have been intervened under ITC supported 'Mission Sunehra Kal Project' and have been instrumental in disseminating key hygiene messaging among their peers and within the community.

4. Renovation of school water points

Successful advocacy with Rupuspur Gram Panchayat benefitted 146 students in Chuagarh and Rupuspur Primary schools with revamped water facilities. The water points were provided with a platform, soak pits, a covered chamber and drainage along with a new MARK-II pump head with support from National Stock Exchange and Rupuspur Panchayat.

❖ WASH ACTIVITIES

1. Poster competition to promote cleanliness

Under Swachh Parivesh Swachh Vidyalaya (Clean Environment, Clean school) initiative, a poster and hygiene message writing competition was organized in Belgachhia Urdu High School (21 Jan



2020) and Belgachhia Manohar Academy (15 Jan 2020) in Kolkata, West Bengal. Around 114 students participated in the competition drawing colourful art and creating slogans in English, Bengali and Urdu. The posters were later selected based on merit to draw wall paintings in the schools and to further motivate the students to inculcate good habits.



2. Inauguration of WASH facilities in schools

Water For People India is working in close coordination with government and district administration for implementing WASH facilities in Sheohar district, Bihar. Taking forward this collaboration, a model WASH infrastructure was constructed for two schools - High School, Nawab and High School, Lalgad - with support of Water For People India. The model toilet facility was

inaugurated by the Deputy Development Commissioner, Sheohar district, Bihar on 21st January 2020. He appreciated the quality of construction and the WATSAN committee for its O&M. Similarly, a water and sanitation facility in Ramdanga Primary School in Rajnagar Block, Birbhum district was inaugurated by government officials benefitting 46 students with dedicated handwashing and drinking water stations, and gender-friendly toilets.

❖ CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

1. District level workshop on VWSSP

A district-level workshop on Village Water Safety and Security Plan for integrated water resources management was held at Sheohar Collectorate, Bihar on 3rd January 2020. The workshop aimed to sensitize and orient the district officials and Panchayati Raj Institution members regarding the importance of water, its conservation and making it a community priority.



2. Three-day SBCC Workshop

A three-day Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) workshop (16-18th January 2020) was organized by Water For People India for Project Sheohar field staff in Muzaffarpur city, Bihar to orient them on the tools and techniques of SBCC to mobilize community for desired behaviour change related to WASH practices. About 60 field participated in the workshop.



3. Water For People India supported Farmers' club awarded 'Abhinav Kisan Puruskaar'

Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh from 'Harit Kranti farmers club' in Minapur Balha Gram Panchayat won the 'Abhinav Kisan Puruskaar' for 100 percent organic farming and application of organic manure 'Kanchan Amrit' in fields. The award ceremony was organized by Pusa Agriculture university on 26th January 2020. Mr. Singh has been practicing organic farming after the intervention by Water For People India and Kanchan Sewa Ashram working towards strengthening farmers' club to increase water use efficiency and crop productivity.

