

Monthly Newsletter – July 2019

WATER FOR PEOPLE INDIA

❖ **Water For People India, Suez Foundation collaborate to strengthen effective programming for WASH in schools**

Suez Foundation, experts in water and waste management and presently working in all 5 continents in the service of an efficient and sustainable management of resources, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Water For People India Trust to improve water and sanitation infrastructure including hygiene promotion in Government aided schools in Kolkata, West Bengal.



The collaborative initiative being rolled under *Swachh Parivesh Swachh Vidyalaya (clean environment clean school)* project will commence with two schools - Belgachia Urdu High school and Shilpakala Shiksha Mondir - supported under Department of Education in Ward 3, Kolkata.

Pursuant to the above, a MoU for implementation of the project was signed on 2nd July 2019 in the presence of Dr. Balveer Arora, Mr. Dhruv Prakash as Board Members and Ms. Meena Narula, Country Director from Water For People India. Present from SUEZ Foundation India (SFI) were Mr. Mukesh Grover, Chief Technical Officer & Executive Trustee and Mr. Vinod Simon, Administrator along with their team, who visited Water For People India office in New Delhi.



On 12th July 2019, Water For People India launched the WASH in Schools (WiNS) initiative in Kolkata Municipal Corporation with support of SFI. The project was launched at Belgachia Urdu High Co-Ed school witnessing student strength of around 1400. The launch ceremony was graced by Ms. Narula, Country Director and Mr. Wakeel Ahmad Siddiqui, Director Programs from Water For People India. On behalf of SFI, Project Manager cum Team Leader, Public Relations Officer and Administrator were present during the event.

Piloting with two schools, the project would gradually expand its area of work with specific focus on identifying and integrating best practices from schools with the intent of encouraging innovation, participation, ownership and facilitating sustainable change.

❖ **Cultivating the future: Capacity building of farmers on flood management in Sheohar, Bihar**



Krishi Vigyan Kendra organized a four-day capacity building training program for farmers in Sheohar district, Bihar from 23rd-26th July 2019. The program witnessed participation of 28 farmers from all five blocks of Sheohar and primarily covered the topics to mitigate the problem of flood devastation affecting livelihoods.

○ **Increase in income through vegetable nursery bed:** Sheohar is presently reeling under floods and therefore the farmers are

unable to produce any vegetables. However, they can now prepare nursery bed on their roof tops in a tray and produce and sell these vegetables in the market.

- **Use of new variety of paddy:** During floods, it is impossible to plant paddy seeds in the fields. With receding flood waters, paddy like Sudha 01, *Turanta* (rapid) can be sown immediately as replantation is not required in these crop varieties.
- **Akashmik Fasal Yojna (Emergency Plantation scheme):** During floods, crop production plummets to an all-time low. Through this scheme farmers can produce vegetables through *machana* (terrace farming) and sell their produce as well as use it for personal consumption.
- **Alternative crop plantation:** If paddy crops are destroyed during floods, there are still few varieties of vegetables available which can be planted before Rabi crops for income generation to sustain livelihoods.



❖ VWSSP training workshop held at Paratwada, Maharashtra

A four-day Village Water Safety and Security Plan (VWSSP) workshop was organized by Water For People India Amravati team from 18th-21st July 2019 in Parathwada, Maharashtra with an aim to acclimatize the village communities on provision of drinking water as part of the overall water resources management. The training workshop entailed a field visit to Hirdamal village with active participation of the villagers during the plan preparation exercise. Later a meeting with the villagers from Kalapani, Dhomanbarda, Hirdamal, Mozari and Bhandri was held at Badnapur community center by Amravati team.



Around 100 villagers gathered in the center and the session started with a backgrounder on VWSS plan. During the workshop, the villagers were apprised at keeping not only surveillance to all unit operations in water supply but were also provided with guidelines on do's and don'ts for operation, maintenance, protecting the system from pollution threat, minimization of unaccounted for water, scope of people's participation and sustainability of the system.



The objectives of the workshop envisaged the following: (i) To highlight the importance of source sustainability i.e., demand and supply of water, measures for ensuring source sustainability, various formats and checklists for assessment and action, planning process); (ii) To present the guidelines for water safety plans for rural water supply systems for ensuring safe and adequate water supply in all seasons and explaining the concept, importance, components of VWSS and relevance of community approaches in addition to PRA tools such as social mapping, resource mapping, timeline map, village history; and (iii) Imparting social change through Behavior Change

Communication (BCC) and leveraging tools like IEC materials to address issues for sustainable use of WASH facilities.

❖ **National Reflection workshop held in Kolkata, West Bengal**



Water For People India organized its National Reflection 2019 workshop from 8th-11th July 2019 at conference hall in Jadavpur University in Kolkata, West Bengal. The four-day reflection reviewed last year's progress and planning for the next financial year. Core team members from Delhi, Maharashtra, Bihar and West Bengal participated in the workshop. Ms. Bhumika Piya, India Program Coordinator from Denver, U.S. attended the workshop while Mr. Nick Burn, Chief

Scale & Strategy Officer joined through skype. On behalf of implementing partners, Sundarban Social Development Center and BASIX shared the milestones they have achieved and highlighted their upcoming plans. Additionally, representative from ITC, Jadavpur University, senior consultants of Water For People India were also present and shared their views. A concrete plan was made for financial year 2020 to carry forward the India Country Program.



❖ **Bihar Floods: Water For People India community water points provide flood advantage**

Sheohar district in Bihar has been reeling under floods during the month of July due to heavy rainfall and rampant water discharge from neighboring country, Nepal. Due to incessant flooding, villagers are facing tremendous difficulty to access even basic amenities. Drinking water facility has been affected in all blocks in Sheohar and access to safe water has become a major concern. With the worsening flood situation, Water For People India Trust work for providing community water points in ward 11 of Madhopur village under Tariyani block, wherein 222 families are residing, has been a life saviour. The hand pump was installed by one of the partners, viz; Mahila Vikas Gramin Shilp Kala Prashikshan Sansthan with support from Water For People India in 2018. It proved to be the only accessible and safe source of drinking water during the flood crisis, as the water point has been installed on a high raised platform and is protected by proper concrete structure. The community people were able to access the water point to meet their daily requirements. As part of safety measures, the water is being further filtered and boiled before drinking as oriented by the frontline team and local institution representatives. Around 15 families are using this water source for their sustenance, while most of the other privately owned handpumps in the locality got submerged in the flood waters.
