

Monthly Newsletter – July 2020

❖ IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

1. Community Participation Key to Water Supply Success in Villages



Water For People India Trust in partnership with Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited conducted a source sustainability test for provision of pipe water supply to 56 households in Tembru village situated in Rau Gram Panchayat, Amravati district, Maharashtra. Villagers through government supported MNREGA scheme provided labour for pipeline excavation and laying the 295-metre village distribution pipeline. A functional household tap connection

with a stand post has been provided to every household with a 20,000 litres water storage tank operated through a solar pump by the district rural water supply department. For regular operation and maintenance (O&M), a 10-member Water User Committee comprising of five women has been formed. In Piplya village situated in Chikhaldara block community involvement in planning, operation, and maintenance has been key to the successful provision of water services to 63 households benefitting 211 villagers. Villagers contributed in laying the 632 metre village distribution pipeline connected to the water storage tank. Post completion, a Water User Committee has been formed for tariff collection and regular O&M of the scheme.

2. Renovation of Handwashing Station at Jaitadehi Zilla Parishad School

Jaitadehi Zilla Parishad School in Amravati district, Maharashtra under 'The Water Initiative' now has a renovated handwashing station to address the drinking water needs of 86 school children. As part of the intervention, an existing water tank has been repaired by Water For People India Trust for children to access potable and safe drinking water. For reuse of wastewater, a kitchen garden has been formed inside the school campus for growing fresh vegetables and mid-day meal preparation.



3. PoPs Ensure Adequate Precast Toilets at COVID-19 Quarantine Centres



The Water For People India has been strengthening the rural sanitation supply chain through the development of 'Point of Purchase' (PoP) or sanitation shops. With the COVID-19 pandemic forcing nationwide lockdown, migrant labourers have been hit hard and stranded in places to reach their homes. With the gradual easing of

lockdown, the Government of Odisha has launched a special initiative for safe passage of migrant labourers returning home from the neighbouring states. As part of COVID-19 response, schools have been turned into quarantine centres to be provided with toilet facilities, at a rapid scale. With skilled masons and materials unavailable, Water For People India facilitated the linkage between the Block Development Officer in Hinjilicut Block and PoPs to install precast toilets. Precast toilets are low cost maintenance affordable toilets that require less supervision, time and skilled masons to install at the site whilst maintaining social distancing. The PoPs have been trained by Water For People India as part of the community sanitation program under ITC *Mission Sunehra Kal* to construct individual household toilets for Swachh Bharat Mission. Around 56 precast toilets have installed by PoPs at COVID-19 quarantine centres covering 8 Panchayats in Hinjilicut Block, Odisha.

❖ CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

1. Project Sheohar Storytelling Audition Goes Virtual

Amidst the COVID-19 lockdown hampering life and daily activities of the people, Water For People India under Project Sheohar organized its first virtual audition on 7th July 2020 with the local storytelling artists in Sheohar district, Bihar. The audition entailed selection of local artists using social art to promote and reinforce positive WASH behaviours. Ten artists from five blocks in Sheohar participated in the audition convened by SBCC Specialist, Water For People India in the



presence of Country Manager and SABC Consultant from One Drop Foundation. To make the process seamless, field facilitators tapped into digital opportunities to set the ball rolling in a typical rural setting, in an attempt to not just introduce local artists to technology, but also to open up an alternate gateway to drive participation from remotest corners in Sheohar. Artists virtually shared their experience and art style performance without any hesitation. For the first time, Project Sheohar has rolled out a virtual screening process, enabling artists to stay safe and audition from their homes and the response has been overwhelming.

2. Panchayat Level Hygiene Promotion Session



A training session including officials from five panchayats in Khoyrasol block, Birbhum District, West Bengal was held on safe WASH practices and roles and responsibilities of Panchayat and Village Water Sanitation Committee (VWSC) members regarding operation & maintenance of WASH facilities and following of safety measures to combat COVID-19 transmission. Participants included elected representatives from all constituencies of the Gram Panchayat, VWSC

members and office bearers. During the session, the progress about Water For People India's work in the block was shared including forthcoming plans to build WASH facilities in communities, schools and Anganwadis. The meeting deliberated on the convergent actions required by Water For People



India and Panchayat to achieve the *Swaccho Nirapad Parivesh* (Clean and Safe Environment) targets set for the coming years.
