

Monthly Newsletter – March 2020

❖ VISIT TO PROGRAM AREAS

1. Visit by RB, One Drop Foundation

Ms. Tushara Shankar, Head-CSR and External Relations, Reckitt Benckiser (RB) and Ms. Priya John, Country Manager, One Drop Foundation made a three-day visit to Sheohar district in Patna from March 4-6. The visiting team was accompanied by Project Sheohar along with Ms. Meena Narula, Country Director and Mr. Wakeel Ahmad Siddiqui, Director Programs from Water For People India. The team held an interaction with the Farmers' Club based in Belahia Panchayat, Tariyani block and were appreciative of the various initiatives by the farmers including increase in water use efficiency, solid waste management, production of organic manure, minimizing the use of chemical fertilizers in farms and use of *Azola* (nutritive and cheap organic feed substitute) for dairy cattle. The team was apprised about the behaviour change components such as multidisciplinary shows, street plays and its impact on the community. Later the team also interacted with the Joint Liability Group members and members of Meenapur Federation, a strong 14,000-women member group actively working towards sanitation and awareness generation.



❖ IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

1. Social awareness to combat COVID-19

Under the National Stock Exchange Foundation supported project 'Swaccho Nirapad Parivesh' (Clean and Safe Environment) 14 hygiene sessions were conducted to raise awareness about COVID-19 virus reaching out to 298 students across 14 schools in three Panchayats (Gangmuri Jaypur, Chandrapur and Bhabanipur) in Rajnagar block, Birbhum district, West Bengal. The sessions included advisory on handwashing with soap for 20 seconds, correct way of sneezing and coughing, abstaining from touching mouth, eyes or face with hands and maintaining social distancing of at least 2 meters. A meeting with the Village Water and Sanitation Committee and Panchayat sub-committee was organized in Rajnagar Panchayat on protective measures against COVID-19 symptoms with measures to stop its community spread through IEC materials and wall messaging in public places.



2. Renovation of School WASH infrastructure

Water For People India Trust had renovated water and sanitation facilities in four schools in Ward 3, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, West Bengal under the 'Swachh Parivesh Swachh Vidyalaya' (Clean Environment, Clean School) project supported by Suez Foundation - India. About 2500 students in these schools have been imparted



with education on handwashing, importance of sanitation and personal hygiene and are promoting the same among their peers.

3. Provision of Pipe Water Supply Scheme in Gangadhari Village



To address drinking water needs of 144 households in Gangadhari village situated in Kakadari Gram Panchayat in Amravati district, Maharashtra, Water For People India Trust in collaboration with Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited has provided functional household tap connections with a stand post to every household. As part of the intervention, a 30,000 litres water storage tank has been constructed by the rural water supply department and villagers have contributed in the form of shramdaan (voluntary contribution of labor) for pipeline excavation and 1585-meter village distribution pipeline. With support from Water For People India Trust, a Water User Committee has been formed for operation and maintenance of the water supply scheme.

4. Safe drinking water services in Ashram schools

Water For People India Trust in partnership with Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited has constructed drinking water stations for students with a 10,000 litres water storage capacity tank in Tembrusonda and Jarida Ashram schools in Chikhaldara block, Amravati district, Maharashtra. A handwashing station has been separately constructed for the newly built girls' hostel in Jarida with a storage capacity of 5,000 litres. As part of the intervention around 1800 students will have access to potable and safe drinking water services within their school premises. Both Ashram schools have been provided with manual incinerators for promoting safe disposal of sanitary napkins. Water For People India team in Amravati is also advocating awareness on menstrual hygiene management to adolescent girls.



❖ CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

1. Workshop on O&M of School WASH facilities



Two block-level workshops on operation and maintenance of School WASH facilities were held on March 13 in Hinjicut and Khordha blocks in Odisha. The workshop held under the ITC Limited project 'Community and School Level Initiatives for Sustained Water Sanitation and Hygiene' was attended by the block level officials from the education department, teachers and community members. Through this intervention, Water For People India Trust reached 1835 students in 11 schools.