

# Monthly Newsletter – November 2019

## WATER FOR PEOPLE INDIA

### ❖ VISIT TO WATER FOR PEOPLE INDIA PROGRAM AREAS

#### 1. Visit by CEO, NSE Foundation



In partnership with the National Stock Exchange Foundation (NSEF), Water For People India Trust has launched two projects in Birbhum, catering services through water points in schools, Anganwadi Centres, and communities. The project also promotes institutional strengthening in schools and Gram Panchayats to address the sustainability of the facilities provided. Ms. Rema Mohan, CEO, NSEF made her first visit to Khoyrasol and Rajnagar blocks in Birbhum district, West Bengal on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019. In

addition to meeting the team, Ms. Mohan inaugurated a community water point at Saljore Bauripara, Lokepur Gram Panchayat in Khoyrasol and later visited the pregnant and lactating mothers at Saljore Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) centre. She also visited the water point created for Saljore ICDS and interacted with the beneficiaries about food hygiene maintenance. Ms. Mohan later visited two schools in Tabadumra, Bhabanipur Gram Panchayat in Rajnagar block, wherein the students performed a skit on environment and water conservation. Ms. Mohan was impressed by the progress made and appreciative of the team efforts in a new geography, coordination established with the government and other NSEF partners.

#### 2. Meeting with Board members

A field visit of the Board of Trustees, Water For People India was organised. Dr. Balveer Arora and Mr. Dhruv Prakash visited the Everyone Forever and ITC supported program areas in West Bengal.

On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019, the team visited two schools and two community toilets in Ward No. 80, Kolkata and interacted with the teachers and the child cabinet members to comprehend the intervention process especially focusing on the operation and maintenance systems and the quality of infrastructural child-friendly WASH facilities. The Community Toilet in Sonai was inaugurated by the Board Members in the presence of the local councillor of the Ward. The members also had the opportunity to interact closely with the WATSAN Committees of the community toilets. The next day, the team visited a community water point at Banashyamnagar Gram Panchayat in Patharpratima Block, South 24 Parganas District. Mr. Jagannath Jana, a Jalabandhu shared his experiences as an individual entrepreneur with the team and gave a demonstration on handpump repairing. All team members appreciated Water For People India's ground-breaking work. On 18<sup>th</sup> November, Mark Duey, Chief Programs Officer took part in the debrief by the Board of Trustees and an interactive session with the Kolkata team. The Board members congratulated the teams for a strong focus on sustainability with the gram panchayats, community members and local government. They were appreciative of the leadership and engagement of every team member. One of the key



suggestions was on our position to address immediate relief and response at times of disaster, given the aftermath of cyclone Bulbul in South 24 Parganas.

## ❖ WATER FOR PEOPLE INDIA REPRESENTATION AT NATIONAL EVENTS

### 1. LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND – WORLD TOILET DAY 2019

World Toilet Day was observed on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 on the theme 'Leaving No One Behind' to inspire people to take steps to address the global sanitation crisis. Water For People India in collaboration with Lohia Swachh Abhiyan Bihar (LSBA) celebrated the event as *Swachhta Sankalp Divas* (Pledge for sanitation) along with the State Government of Bihar and practitioners. Celebrating their onward journey towards achieving ODF sustainability, Hon'ble Deputy CM of Bihar Sh. Sushil Kumar Modi released the IEC materials developed by Water For People India and co-branded with the Government of Bihar on key wash behaviours. During her address, Ms. Meena Narula, Country Director said that Water For People India has been working in Bihar for the last 8 years and is developing Sheohar district as the 'Everyone Forever' model. She further expressed her support to collaboratively engage with the Government to advance the goal of Bihar leading on the index of cleanliness. During the event, a multi-disciplinary show (MDS) was organized by Water For People India, which is being used as a tool for behavior change on water and sanitation in remotest villages in Bihar.



World Toilet Day was also celebrated in Anganwadi centres, community and schools across five states – West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Assam. The students participating in the *Prafat Pheris* (morning rallies) shouted slogans on toilet usage, abstinence from open defecation, and the importance of sanitation. Documentaries showing ill effects of open defecation were shown to students and IEC materials like flip cards were used to stop open defecation and using toilets for better health and a healthy future. A Cleaning Material Drive was done at Project Upper Primary School in Balarampur (Odisha), where the school premises were cleaned by the students and the teachers, followed by a WASH material collection drive. A total of 108 soaps, 12 Handwash, and 10 phenyl bottles were collected. An open quiz was held in a public place in Khoyrasol block, Birbhum district to highlight key messages on sanitation. Water For People India disseminated life-saving messages on the critical importance of good sanitation and hygiene through mike announcement, covering 4 Gram Panchayats and 15 villages in Sheohar district, Bihar.



### 2. Global Sanitation Economy Summit

On the occasion of World Toilet Day, the Toilet Board Coalition hosted a four-day Global Sanitation Economy Summit in Pune from 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> November 2019. Through the summit, the Coalition focused on the rising population and corresponding demand for robust sanitation systems and policies creating waste-to-value opportunities for multiple applications, including energy products,



agricultural products, and water recovery. Ms. Meena Narula, Country Director, Water For People India during the panel discussion on 'Engagement Pathways and Partnerships' shared her views to incubate last mile entrepreneurs to create a self-sustaining sanitation ecosystem. The Summit brought together more than 300+ business, investment and sanitation leaders from around the world working at the forefront of the Sanitation Economy to showcase solutions and share best practices.

### 3. 11<sup>th</sup> Sankalp Global Summit

The 11th Sankalp Global Summit - built around the central theme of 'Collaborate 2030: Scaling Entrepreneurship for the Global Goals' - was hosted in Mumbai on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Ms. Meena Narula, Country Director, Water For People India was invited as one of the speakers to share her views on "Financing the value chain beyond toilets." She expressed her views on incentives that can be put in place to improve the business ecosystem and industry initiatives to foster greater support for sanitation solutions in India and the efforts that can be leveraged to address market failures that currently exist. With keynotes from prominent global ecosystem leaders, the 2-day Sankalp agenda aimed to accelerate access to capital, knowledge and networks for entrepreneurs through workshops, panel discussions and speed networking.



### ❖ WASH ACTIVITIES



#### 1. Swachhata Mela goes extra mile to sensitize people about cleanliness

With an aim to endorse a clean environment for human empowerment and as part of 'Hygiene Event in Schools, a Swachhata Mela (cleanliness fair) was organized by Water For People India under Metro Services in Rajnagar High School, Birbhum District, West Bengal on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The event featured a cultural dance, puppet show and

drama to emphasize the value of cleanliness among the students and the adverse effects of lack of sanitation on one's health and the society as a whole.

#### 2. Inauguration of WASH facilities in schools

Concurring with the Children's Day, on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Project Upper Primary School Balarampur in Ganjam District, Odisha celebrated the joyous inauguration of Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) facilities constructed by Water For People India under its project 'Improving Access to WASH in Schools' supported by ITC under Mission Sunehra Kal. About 165 students (93 girls and 72 boys) will be benefited from the facilities at school. Similarly, on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019, Upgraded High School Khandara in Ganjam district inaugurated their WASH facilities under the same project, benefitting 301 students (149 Boys, girls 152) in presence of local elites, guardians, teachers, and students. The project intends to ensure safe water and improved sanitation for school children and staff to strengthen the effective programming for WASH facilities in schools.

