

# Monthly Newsletter – September 2019

## WATER FOR PEOPLE INDIA

### ❖ WATER FOR PEOPLE INDIA REPRESENTATION AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND STATE EVENTS

#### 1. Ms. Narula, Country Director represents Water For People India at 6th India Water Week 2019



The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of India Water Week (IWW) organised by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India on the theme 'Water Cooperation – Coping with 21st Century Challenges' was held from 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in New Delhi. The multi-disciplinary conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble President of India, Shri. Ram Nath Kovind in the benign presence of Shri. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister Jal Shakti and Shri. Rattan Lal Kataria, Minister of State - Jal Shakti.

During the event, Water For People India contributed to two Special Sessions (SS). Ms. Meena Narula, Country Director, Water For People India gave an engaging presentation on 'Water: A Conduit for a Sustainable Future and Social Harmony' as one of the speakers during SS2 and was invited as one of the panelists for a special session on 'Water and Heritage' (SS4). The flagship event witnessed remarkable representation of delegates from various central and state government offices, international representations, civil society organisations, corporates, youth and school students.

#### 2. Two-day consultative Regional workshop on 'Jal Jeevan Mission' held in Odisha

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti organized a two-day consultative regional workshop in Puri, Odisha on 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Shri. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister Jal Shakti, inaugurated the conference comprising of officials from Rural Water Supply Departments, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs) and individuals working in provision of drinking water supply from West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar. Water For People India participated as one of the invitees (12<sup>th</sup> September) during the workshop which commenced with storytelling by means of sand art on the theme 'Water' as a welcome gesture to all the participants. It was followed by a discussion on the salient features of 'Jal Jeevan Mission' that focuses on providing potable water to every household through individual tap connections by 2024.



#### 3. Water For People India at mid-term review of UNICEF WASH program in Bihar

A meeting for mid-term review of UNICEF WASH program was chaired by the Secretary, Rural Development Department, Government of Bihar. Participants included CEO, "Jal Jeevan Hariyali" (Water Life Greenery) Mission; Bihar UNICEF Chief, UNICEF Program Manager; WASH team members; Administrative Officer-cum-in charge, Swachha Bharat Mission (SBM); JEEViKA and members from Panchayati Raj, Public Health Engineering Department and representative from Aga Khan Rural Support Program (India) - AKRSP(I), in addition to Water For People India. The outcome

of the meeting broadly envisaged (i) Development of uniform strategy, messaging and IEC materials for the whole state as a collaborative initiative by development partners, Government of Bihar's Lohiya Swachh Bihar Abhiyan (LSBA) and other departments; (ii) Monitoring mechanism for Open Defecation Free (ODF); and (iii) Focused attention in vulnerable pockets for sustainable sanitation.



During the meeting, Water For People India shared the status of sanitation, ongoing efforts of preparing Village/Ward Water Safety and Security Plans in one gram panchayat of each block in Sheohar district.

#### 4. Third BIWA meeting discuss advocacy at state, district levels in Bihar



The third meeting of Bihar WASH Alliance (BIWA) was organized on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Patna, Bihar. Hosted by Aga Khan Foundation, the meeting jointly discussed the need to include government as one of the stakeholders for development partners to project their work on water and sanitation.

UNICEF further proposed the alliance to organize a WASH conclave for advocacy at the state and district levels. For wider dissemination, it was proposed to engage media to sensitize and promote relevant advocacy issues. The forum would also establish linkages with national networks and hold quarterly meetings. Discussions were held regarding the flagship programs and to develop an exhaustive presentation covering the status, program gaps and recommendations before the government.

#### ❖ CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

##### 1. Training of Social Art Groups in Bihar

Water For People India in collaboration with local partner Geeta Social Welfare and Development Foundation organized a five-day capacity building training of Social Art group artists from 18<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Bihar. Around 60 artists from four social art groups were trained. The workshop was organised for the groups to acclimatize them with their respective plays they will be performing on the field as part of SABC activities. During the workshop value improvisations were made so that the messages are delivered emphatically and in an impactful manner.



##### 2. 29 Jalabandhus capacitated to expedite water services in West Bengal



A pool of 29 Jalabandhus (Friends of Water) were trained on hand pump repairing, plumbing, water sample collection, water testing and report generation in Birbhum district, West Bengal. The Jalabandhus were selected based on discussion and involvement of the local government and would be serving 15 Panchayats in Rajnagar and Khoyrasol blocks.

### 3. Staff capacity building on 'WASH in schools' and 'Swachhata Action plan'

A three-day training was held from 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 on essential components of SWASH, school sanitation action plan and WASH benchmarking in schools in Kolkata, West Bengal. With joint support of National Stock Exchange Foundation (NSEF) and ITC Limited, the project team across three states namely, Assam, West Bengal and Odisha participated in the two-day in-house training followed by an exposure visit to existing school programs facilitated by Water For People India. The objective was to provide a platform for developing a common understanding of SWASH components across implementing teams comprising of 31 members. An exercise with team members was conducted on mapping resources for WASH improvements and operation and maintenance (O&M) in schools.



#### ❖ IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

##### 1. Community awareness program on Sanitation in West Bengal, Odisha

Under the ITC supported project, Water for People India facilitated awareness programs in seven locations in operational districts of Odisha and West Bengal. Around 254 people including students and teachers from 16 schools actively participated in the rallies and magic shows in West Bengal on 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Participants were also quizzed on key messages on sanitation and hygiene like vector borne diseases, critical times of handwashing, causes of open defecation and remedial measures. In five locations, across two districts of Odisha, the key hygiene messages among the masses were disseminated through popular local art forms, like '*ranapa*' an Indian martial dance where actors walked on bamboo sticks and played a two-hour street act on toilet promotion. The main approach was to depict toilet usage and improved sanitation to godliness.

##### 2. Imparting hygiene education in schools in Maharashtra



Water For People India conducted a SWASH (School Water Sanitation and Hygiene) training for students of Kalapani Zillha Parishad (ZP) Primary School in Amravati District, Maharashtra on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The interactive training session entailed (i) Importance of Hygiene and Sanitation; (ii) Importance of cleanliness in schools, lanes, households; (iii) Demonstration of handwashing steps; (iv) Water borne diseases and measures to tackle them; (v) Proper handling and storage

of water and; (vi) Handwashing techniques. Similar training session was conducted in Dhomanbarda ZP Marathi School.

##### 3. Completion of Dhomanbarda Village water supply scheme in Maharashtra

Dhomanbarda village, situated in Badnapur Panchayat of Chikhaldara taluka, was devoid of a functional water supply scheme. 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 15,000-litre capacity reservoir was constructed and from there the distribution network was being laid to 57 households along with household connection. The village water supply scheme has been fully completed. A meeting was held with the villagers



with the active participation of women, wherein following decisions were taken: (i) Appointment of waterman for daily operation of the scheme; (ii) Monthly collection of operation costs by the villagers; (iii) Opening of bank account in the village for deposit of amount collected as part of operation and maintenance; and (iv) Monthly and fortnightly meetings among the villagers to maintain the sustainability of the scheme.

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