

## Monthly Newsletter – September 2020

### ❖ EVENTS

#### National Nutrition Month Observed to Promote Nutrition in Women, Children



Nutrition is essential for health and wellbeing at every stage of life. To create maximum awareness about the problem of malnutrition and reinforce the movement to achieve holistic nutrition, Water For People India Trust team observed the Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2020 (National Nutrition Month) for addressing malnutrition amongst young children and women. As part of the programme, around 24 trainings were organized on health, hygiene and nutrition benefitting 342 mothers in Anganwadi centres in Rajnagar block, Birbhum district, West Bengal. The training discussed maternal and child healthcare

(The 1000-day Window of Opportunity), linkage between Sanitation, Nutrition and Health, hazardous effects of open defecation, and importance of personal hygiene, especially handwashing. Mothers and Anganwadi workers were also informed about various government facilities and schemes related to women and child healthcare.

### ❖ WASH AND COVID-19

#### Community Driven Awareness Program on COVID-19 Prevention and Response

Water For People India Trust in collaboration with Sikiri GP under Hinjilicut Block in Ganjam district, Odisha organized a “Community driven awareness program on WASH and COVID-19” on September 17-18. A tableau in the form of ‘WASH Ratha’ disseminated the importance of handwashing, sanitation and precautionary measures for COVID-19. Leaflets were distributed among rural communities through frontline workers, ASHA and Anganwadi workers with active participation of the GP Sarpanch. Amidst the COVID-19 lockdown hampering life and daily activities of the people, Project Sheohar has gone virtual for implementation of field level activities and has resorted to digital film screening of short films on android tablets, maintaining the lockdown protocols and social distancing to activate target audience on key WASH behaviours in Sheohar district, Bihar.



### ❖ CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

#### WATSAN Committee Training



A one-day training session on ‘Leadership & Networking’ was organized for WATSAN Committee on September 16 in Chumulpukur Community in Hooghly District, West Bengal. An external resource person facilitated the session through various group tasks on team bonding, stakeholder engagement, and role and responsibilities of the WATSAN committee. To enable

Water For People India's exit strategy from the program area as part of Community Toilet Intervention, a session on 'Linkage development with GP' through a structured exercise was conducted wherein participants were informed about the role of committee and advocacy at the GP level. The training culminated with consolidation of learning and recommendations from facilitators and a traditional Santhali dance by the participants.

### Strengthening of PoPs and SHGs to Accelerate Rural Sanitation Drive

On September 18, Water For People India Trust conducted a training session on "Strengthening of PoPs (Point of Purchases) & Self Help Groups (SHGs)" in Hinjilicut block, Ganjam District, Odisha. As part of the training, 25 members from four SHGs and two PoP members and masons participated. Masons were trained on different techniques of low-cost toilet models and PoPs were oriented about daily record keeping, tracking of daily sales, purchase and stock. They were also provided with leaflets to help promote their business.



### Training on Water Quality Monitoring



Water For People India Trust organized training of frontline workers and Jal Surakshaks (water saviours) on water quality monitoring in Rau Gram Panchayat, Chikhaldara block, Amravati district. During the training, community mobilizers were trained on the usage of field-testing kit and to measure nine critical water quality parameters. Around 21 field testing kits were provided for GPs with training conducted at three Gram Panchayats whilst maintaining social distancing as per COVID-19 guidelines.

### District Level Workshop on VWSSP

A district-level workshop on Village Water Safety Security Plan (VWSSP) for integrated water resources management was organized by Sarvsree Seva Sadan in collaboration with Water For People India on September 21 in Sheohar district, Bihar. The workshop helmed by District Magistrate and Deputy Development Commissioner aimed to sensitize and orient the district block level officials and Panchayati Raj Institution members on the importance of water, its conservation and making it a community priority. The officials appreciated Water For People India for their greater involvement and performance towards water conservation and management including the convergence of VWSSP at GP level aligned to Jal Jeevan Mission and Jal Jeevan Hariyali Mission.



### Training on SLWM in Sheohar

Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) is one of the key components of Swachh Bharat Mission - Gramin (SBM-G) intending to bring improvement in cleanliness, hygiene and the general quality of life in rural areas. To implement SLWM initiatives



economically and efficiently, cleaners of Nagar Panchayat working in the selected blocks of Sheohar district were oriented on the process of SLWM, tools and application as part of Project Sheohar. A one-day training session was held on September 18 and facilitated by the resource persons and Water For People India team. Topics covered during the training session included:

- ODF and Sustaining ODF environment
- SLWM practice in rural areas
- Solid Waste Management (SWM) model for rural areas, waste segregation, types of solid waste, steps to SWM
- Treatment of segregated waste, key message of SWM
- Types of liquid waste in rural areas
- Description of 4Rs in SWM and value chain mechanism

### **District Level Sharing and Consultative Meeting**

A District Level Sharing and Consultative Meeting on WASH Convergence and Holistic Development Plan was held on September 24 in Rajnagar and Khoyrasol blocks, Birbhum district, West Bengal. Various NGOs including Child in Need Institute (CINI), Tomorrow's Foundation, Vikramshila Education Resource Society, Help Age India, Pipal Tree Ventures and Innodi participated in the meeting to discuss the following key objectives:



- Sharing of best practices including the formation of Water User Committees, Jalabandhus by Water For People India Trust and NSE in Birbhum district, and its replication and scaling in other blocks.
- Discussion on areas of convergence with government and stakeholders and involvement in Gram Panchayat Development Planning process.
- Discussion on scaling of best practices on WASH, Education, Elderly Care and Livelihood across various blocks in Birbhum.

### **❖ IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES**

#### **Community Managed Piped Water Supply Schemes in Villages**



Water For People India Trust in partnership with Colgate Palmolive (India) Limited has developed an effective operation, maintenance and delivery mechanism of owning a piped water supply to ensure sustainability in Bela village situated in Salona Gram Panchayat in Chikhaldara Block, Amravati district, Maharashtra. Villagers through government-supported MNRGA scheme provided labour for pipeline excavation and laying the 908-meter village distribution. A functional household tap connection with a stand post has been provided to 82 households connected to 30,000 litres water storage tank by the district rural water supply department. Post completion, a 10-member Water User Committee has been formed for tariff collection and regular O&M of the scheme. Similarly, a source sustainability test aimed at providing water to 67 households in Jamun Nala village



situated in Jamli Van Gram Panchayat was conducted. Villagers contributed in laying the 714-metre village distribution pipeline connected to the water storage tank. Post completion, a 11-member Water User Committee has been formed for tariff collection and regular O&M of the scheme.

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