

Annual Report

2021- 2022

Dear Friends, Partners, and all our key Stakeholders, we are grateful for your unwavering support. Over the years, 9,00000 lives have been changed with access to safe water and sanitation. This year we have formulated new strategies to create a lasting change in mobilizing communities to cultivate sustainable, safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WaSH) along with improving economic lives and creating a healthy environment. While the world moved towards normalcy this year, our continued commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remains vital in all we do. Living Water continues to progress despite the challenges facing our world today. We have taken appropriate measures to overcome the challenges with flexibility and resilience and doing everything possible to accelerate access to the disadvantaged sections of society. As we look back with contentment at Living Water India's splendid journey, we would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our communities, partners, and well-wishers for their continued support and trust in us. We are optimistic about the impact we will make together in 2022 and beyond. We're committed to continuing our efforts to uplift those in need with improved WaSH services and livelihood development opportunities.

Anu Abraham

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Events

World Water Day Celebration

Living Water India celebrated 'World Water Day' and facilitated S & H Activities in the communities. The programs were focused on this year's theme, 'Groundwater, making the invisible visible.' Banners were printed in the native languages to make the participants have a better understanding of the importance of this day and the purpose of observing it every year. They were encouraged to put a deliberate effort to safeguard water for the benefit of all. The children enjoyed participating in drawing competitions, speeches, poem recitations, quiz programs etc. Gifts were distributed to the winners as a token of appreciation. The closing of the programs ended with the participants vowing to save water.



Annual Staff Retreat



Living Water India held the much-awaited staff retreat in Medaparthi, a tribal belt in Vishakhapatnam, from 07 – 11 Feb. The annual staff retreat is integral to the organization's strategy to promote staff bonding and generate new ideas for the year. A well-balanced event between fun, indoor and outdoor activities, and work was a perfect breakaway for the staff. The team had the opportunity to have a real- time experience with the tribal communities in the region. The staff retreat is pivotal to the team's harmony and productivity. They engaged in recreating bonds between them through experiential learning methods. The Directors took to the floor to enunciate to the team the purpose of the staff retreats, which is to inculcate Living Water's values, drive cooperation, and nurture interpersonal relationships amongst staff for organizational advancement. Directors led the team in detailed and interactive discussions which involved new strategic measures, staff structural review, etc. The Community Resource Persons (CRPs) also participated in team- building activities and other discussions. A campfire on the closing night was the perfect way to end the retreat.

Team Capacity BuildingWorkshop

Partnering with Clean Water and Energy Trust, Living Water organized a capacity- building workshop for the Living Water team and the Community Resource Persons (CRPs). The team has been enthusiastic about learning new water chemistry methodologies, water purification technologies, and all related issues. The team was exposed to the operating plants in commercial operations, their maintenance and upkeep, and all the reliable problems of running the operations. They learned different technologies of water purification systems and the processes to create demand for WaSH infrastructure in rural communities. At the site, the activities related to social aspects and the value of safe drinking water have been shared and elaborated. The team aims to impart new skills and technologies in the field of WaSH to mobilize these communities.



FIELD ACTIVITIES

Child Care Study beyond School Boundaries

Good hygiene practices lay the foundation for healthy and thriving communities, and children are the best way to start. Teaching them the importance of good hygiene at a very young age will instill in them the responsibility of taking care of their health with utmost care. The S&H lessons and training offered by the Living Water Team are expected to contribute to sustainable development in this area significantly. The trained CRPs visited the schools and conducted practical hand washing training, explaining how diseases are transmitted and ways to resist them through stories and by showing several illustrations. The schools' managing bodies were mobilized through this activity to strive toward clean premises. The water containers and the overhead tanks are being cleaned regularly now.



After-School Learning



We have observed that the children in the tribal communities perform poorly in English and Math, which is an obstacle to future studies and higher education levels. To build a strong foundation in these subjects and social skills in a happy learning environment, Living Water came up with After-school Learning program in the communities. The Community Resource Persons (CRPs) spent a couple of hours daily teaching and helping children to improve their learning abilities and skills. The program has academic benefits and aims at a holistic approach. The focus is on ensuring that children from socially and economically marginalized families access quality education and decrease the high dropout rates. The After-school Learning Program is accepted well by the community children and their parents. The children are learning well and showing day-by-day improvement in their studies and behavior as they were given educational assistance through extra coaching. They are assisted in completing their homework and clarifying their doubts. The children also learn life skills, cleanliness, and good habitual practices.

Climate Resilient Agriculture

Agricultural development in India is highly dependent on rainfall, and climate change brings unpredictable and irregular precipitation. Adverse climate events significantly impact the farming community, especially farmers with small land holdings. Most farmers use outdated seed varieties due to cost implications. Unplanned fertilizer use only adds to the problem and, in the long run, leads to soil depletion and exhaustion, resulting in low yield. It is essential to shift to climate- resilient agricultural practices to respond to challenges posed by climate change effectively.



Living Water organized Agricultural and drip irrigation methodology training by focusing on sustainable agriculture and economic development programs. Community farmers were mobilized and empowered through these activities toward scientific agriculture and organic farming, which would enhance their livelihoods. We have mobilized more than a hundred community farmers to adopt better agricultural technologies.

Waste Management Workshop

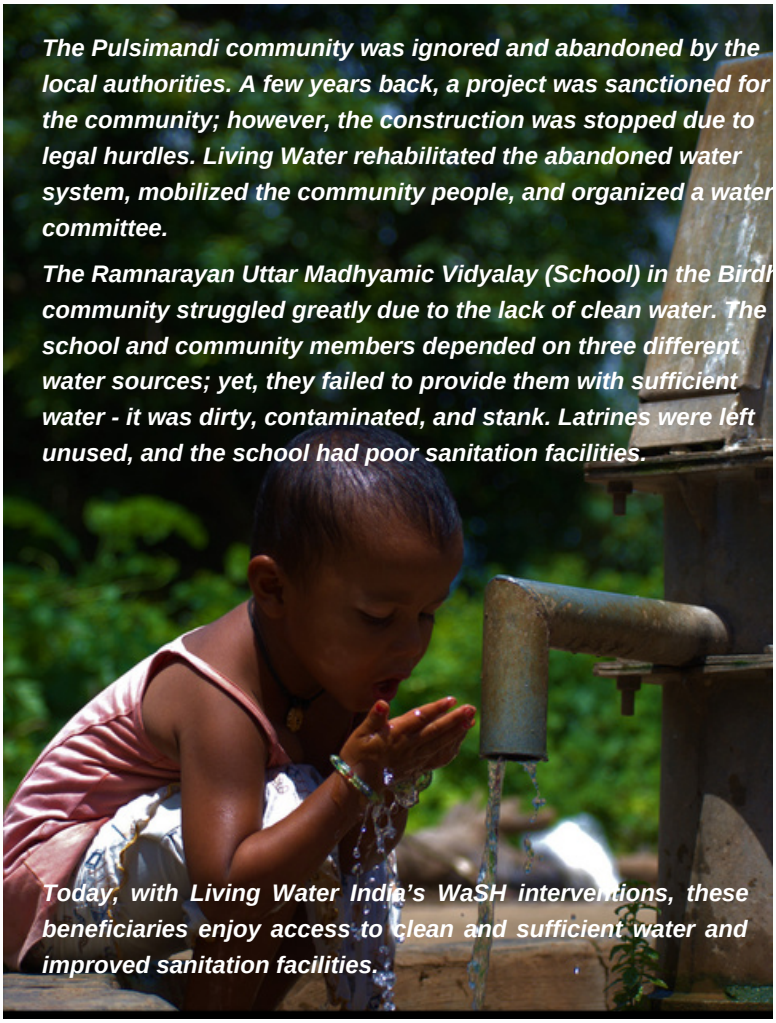
Living Water conducted a waste management workshop for CRPs (Community Resource Persons) to create awareness of improving cleanliness, hygiene, and the general quality of life in rural areas. Sessions were conducted on the need for efficient waste management and the related benefits for their health and overall well-being. They learned important lessons that can inculcate into their daily lives to avoid public health threats. The team emphasized the decomposition of organic and inorganic solid and liquid waste, food waste, fecal waste, etc.



Livelihood and Economic Enhancement



Living Water organizes discussions with the community cultivators to discuss the marketing and grading of agricultural products to sustain the WPA outcomes. Choosing good quality seeds for seasonal farming, storage of agricultural products, grading and cleaning methods to fetch the best prices, and marketing the products in the right market to get maximum benefit were some of the topics discussed during this interactive session. Community farmers have gained knowledge in sustainable agricultural practices, including plantation knowledge, paddy cropping, line-plantation techniques, etc. These sessions were carried out as demonstrations where farmers could receive practical knowledge.



Water Projects

Living Water provided simple wells and Complex Wells to communities and schools that struggled daily due to the lack of clean water.

S & H Awareness

Living Water conducted Sanitation & Hygiene Awareness Programs in several communities. S & H activities promote community hygiene, domestic cleanliness, and personal hygiene. Educating students on Sanitation and Hygiene is pivotal in bringing behavioral change and making the communities understand the importance of adopting healthy habits.

S & H Awareness Programs



Community hygiene is an important barrier to many infectious diseases, including fecal-oral diseases, and promotes better health and well-being. Living Water makes every possible effort to encourage good Sanitation and Hygiene practices in communities. We conduct awareness programs emphasing on the immense significance of hygiene. The tribal community members are mostly illiterate, and they lack even basic knowledge about the importance of using safe water, and many people suffer from waterborne illnesses. To overcome this situation, the Living Water team reaches out to the members with essential health and sanitation tips that would help them in their daily lives. Hundreds of community people have been trained on different topics and lessons on hygiene. Through continuous approaches and training, several families have embraced good hygiene practices in their daily lives and are constructing their home latrines. Living Water provides them with all the technical support needed in this drive.

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Program

To build a healthy family in a society, the role of women is very important. Most adolescent girls living in rural communities do not have adequate knowledge about puberty and menstruation, resulting in poor health conditions. Managing menstruation hygienically and with dignity is crucial for the health and well- being of young girls. They believe in superstitions and follow different cultural practices degrading their health and social life.



Living Water's Community Resource Persons (CRPs) are able to focus on young women's health and regularly train them on menstrual hygiene. A combination of WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) and MHM awareness programs has promoted a long-lasting impact on women's health.Efforts are put to teach them to manage their menstruation period hygienically, independently, comfortably, safely and with dignity. The team's efforts and works are successful as we observe new confidence in young girls to discuss menstrual matters freely and openly breaking the taboo on this topic

Latrines to Promote Hygiene

Convincing rural communities with the benefits of using toilets remains an issue in India. Several communities continue to practice open defecation; despite the availability of toilets. The only way to address this issue is to find an effective way to change the attitude.



Living Water constructed five latrines in the Medaparthy Community in the WPA to promote sanitation practices. We have already gifted this community a borehole for safe water and now take measures to improve their sanitation. Four of the latrines have western stances, and one has an Indian stance. Each latrine with neatly tiled floors and painted walls has a hand wash station and shower accessories. These interventions are envisioned to bring significant change in people's behavior. The community members supported the team by offering labor.

Exposure Visit



Watershed management is a great way to create sustainable processes at the village level, it helps replenish the groundwater, and improves agricultural yields. Partnering with Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) Living Water conducted an exposure visit as a part of the watershed management program. The visit aimed to build aspirations among farmers to scale up their initiatives to increase agricultural production and productivity through irrigation.

Stories from the field

A Single Mother who overcame her water struggles

Poduni Mutulama, a resident of Rangaseela Village in Hukumpeta Mandal in Visakhapatanam district, is excited to talk about the changes safe water brought to her village. Mutulama was married at a young age. The responsibility of raising her daughter came to her after her husband's death. "Earlier, our main water source was a piped water supply. However, since it came from a spring that was a few kilometers uphill, it used to be muddy at times. In summer, the spring would dry up, and women had to bear the brunt of this crisis because they had to arrange water for the family. I used to spend 2 to 3 hours each day fetching water. The water was contaminated, and malaria and typhoid were very common in the community. Every year my family would go through a severe bout of recurrent illnesses. I used to spend all my hard-earned money on medical expenses." She added, " My parents were farmers. Though I have an elder brother, as a girl, it was my responsibility to help my mother with household chores and fieldwork, and I could study only till 5th standard." But despite the many hardships Mutulama went through, she was determined to give a better life and education to her daughter, which was her husband's dream. When the Living Water team reached this village for the first time, the Rangaseela community was going through severe water scarcity. Despite Mutulama's repeated pleas to secure a borehole, the local authorities turned a deaf ear.



Following the community's request for a reliable water source, Living Water provided them with a borehole.

Mutulama says with a big smile, "My life has changed with this borehole, and I have safe drinking water near my house. I fetch water conveniently and save time! Living Water's Sanitation and Hygiene classes taught us about personal hygiene and the importance of keeping the village surroundings clean. This has brought a significant and visible change in our community". Defeating her struggles, Mutulama is an inspiration to many women in her village.

CLEAN WATER, BETTER LIFE



Meena, a 30-year-old community member of the Durga Amman Nagar and a mother of three children shared, ‘we have been living in this place since 2020. Though we were street players at one time, the pandemic restricted us from conducting any shows, and eventually, we stopped having street performances. Now we are forced to work as daily wage laborers, some in the fields while others work as helpers in small restaurants. We lack basic facilities and go through many struggles. I make multiple trips to an open pond 2 kilometers away to collect water for my family. The pond water is contaminated with dirt and waste as people from other communities bathed here and tend to their domesticated animals. Since we do not have latrines, we go to the fields and come and wash here. And, we are forced to use the same water for drinking and cooking purposes! Every child in our community is burdened with the responsibility of fetching water from distant places. Having come from a different region and settled here, we faced discrimination and were not welcomed by the locals. I went through a lot of humiliation and suffering when I was pregnant. Those were the worst days of my life as the burden of fetching water from distant places and taking care of household chores affected my health severely.

But now, with the borehole provided by Living Water, we get clean water near our houses. women and young girls no longer have to go through humiliation and shame. We are making a covered bathroom where we can have their baths in private. I do not have to send children to fetch water anymore and they can lead healthier lives.”











Thank You

For your interest in Living Water.

Please visit our website to learn more about our work.

www.indialivingwater.org