



water for people  
INDIA  
EVERYONE • FOREVER



# HOPE

*Working Towards a  
Water Secure Future*





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## ➤ THE REGION



*Chikhaldara block in Maharashtra's Amravati region has been facing acute water shortage for several decades now.*



*Inhabited largely by tribal population, this tucked away hilly region receives decent rainfall during monsoon but is unable to recharge its ground water due to the rocky terrain.*

*This has created several challenges in the lives of people here especially women, children and the elderly.*





## ➤ THE PROBLEM



*Sometimes alone, sometimes in groups, these women along with children would walk for hours on undulating terrain crossing jungles to reach the water sources*



*A typical day in any woman's life in Chikhaldara block would involve waking up at odd hours to start their journey to fetch water for their families.*



*Carrying heavy loads of water on their head, severely impacted their physical health. Adolescent girls, pregnant women and elderly too had to go through the ordeal. Life was tough.*



## ➤ THE PROCESS



### HEMANT PINJAN

State Program Lead, Water for People India

“ Our decision to work in Chikhaldara block was based on recommendations made by the District Administration, Amravati. There are two main factors - one, it is a remote, tribal region and second, the acute shortage of water that had made the lives of its inhabitants miserable. ”

### VIJAY SINGH BHADOURIYA

Program Coordinator, Water for People India

“ The then District Collector helped us understand the urgent need for the intervention in Chikhaldara block. He informed us that as it is a hilly area, rainwater runs off without recharging the ground water. This has led to perennial water crisis in the region. ”



### JAYANT BABRE

Block Development Officer, Chikhaldara, Amravati

“ Water for People’s strong presence in Chikhaldara block has supported government in one of their most ambitious plans, the Jal Jeevan Mission. As this plan aspires to provide clean drinking water to every household, Water for People’s efforts to create public awareness on cleanliness and sanitation has provided an impetus to our work in this remote area. This will ensure that the current population and their future generation will understand the importance of clean water and use the benefits for their overall development. ”



*Water for People India, after several rounds of meeting with district administration and understanding the chronic water crisis in the area, decided to work in the region.*

*Regular visits to villages, meeting and understanding challenges faced by various sections of different communities supported the organization to design its intervention.*



*They bring together the villagers through their Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) approach to understand the severity and the impact of water scarcity on their individual, family and community life.*



*From the very first meeting, they lay emphasis on community ownership of which ‘shramdaan’ forms the foremost component. The community members are involved in all the activities from inception of the project till the end.*





## ➤ IMPLEMENTATION



### JAYSHRI GANO SAWALKAR

Local, Hirdamal Village, Chikhaldara, Amravati



I am a resident of Hirdamal village. Earlier, we would walk for hours to fetch water for our daily use. Today, Water for People has made our lives easier. They have repaired the faulty water taps and have constructed water reservoirs in our village



*The first and foremost step is the problem analysis – Is the water source perennial and sustainable? Is there a need for constructing a new water reservoir at an appropriate location or the old one is required to be repaired?*



*Community members come together to find answers and implement the solution. Right from excavation work to installing the pipelines, community members voluntarily contribute their ‘physical hardwork’ – the Shramdaan!*

*The Shramdaan allows them to participate in these activities with a sense of ownership. They take more interest in maintaining the water pipelines, reservoirs and in creating awareness among their peers regarding water conservation. Some of the work, like excavation of pipeline, was also done under MGNREGA.*





*By working together with community members, Water for People India has been able to provide water in 50 villages of Chikhaldara block, putting an end to decades of struggle of carrying head loads of water.*





## > SUSTAINABILITY



### KIRAN KATLEKAR

Member, Water User Committee, Village Khatkali, Chikhaldara, Amravati



In Khatkali village, we have formed Water User Committee to supervise the water usage and maintenance of water pipes and reservoirs. As members of this committee, we have divided the responsibilities among ourselves. Some are responsible for the water tank while other groups of members look after the pipeline and taps. Water for People has made us self-sufficient. We feel confident and proud while performing our duties.



**What is the mark of a successful initiative? The sustainability component. Water For People India's idea of forming 'Water User Committees' in villages of intervention, has turned out to be a great success.**



**Community members volunteer to become part of Water User Committees in their respective villages. They meet regularly to discuss the challenges, take decisions pertaining to maintenance, taxation and sustainability of the project.**





## ➤ SKILL BUILDING AND LIVELIHOOD

### SURESH BELSARE

Waterman, Village Khatkali, Chikhaldara, Amravati



I have been trained to work as a 'Waterman' in my village. The kit provided by Water for People includes a drilling machine, a cutter, and tools that can repair faulty water taps. Whenever a tap is broken or if there is a slight leakage, I repair it using the toolkit. This training has benefited all the watermen in different ways. Today, I work in the neighboring villages and earn anything between INR 50 to 100 per day.



*Water For People India provides extensive training to the interested local community members to work as mobile water mechanics in and around their villages. They are trained to fix plumbing issues related to water pipelines, taps and reservoirs.*

*To ensure that community members do not have to rely on outside help, Water For People India built the capacity of individuals in these villages offering them an opportunity to assist the villagers and earning a livelihood simultaneously for themselves.*





## ➤ CONSERVING WATER/RESPONSIBLE WATER USAGE



### SUKHLAL JHAMALKAR SARSATI

Local, Village Pipadari, Chikhaldara, Amravati



We used to fetch water from sources located far away from our villages. Today, we have water pipeline here. Water for People has taught us the importance and ways of conserving water. In case the water overflows from the taps, it goes directly to the kitchen gardens through a drain.



*Along with providing access to water, Water For People India created awareness among villagers towards mindful usage of water.*



*In their monthly meetings, Water User Committees – guided by members of Water For People India, make sure to discuss with villagers the different ways in which they can conserve water*

*The concept of Kitchen Gardens has really intrigued the villagers through which they are not only conserving water but are growing fresh, green vegetables in their backyard.*





## ➤ MAKING LOCAL GOVERNANCE EFFECTIVE

### NEETA JADHAV

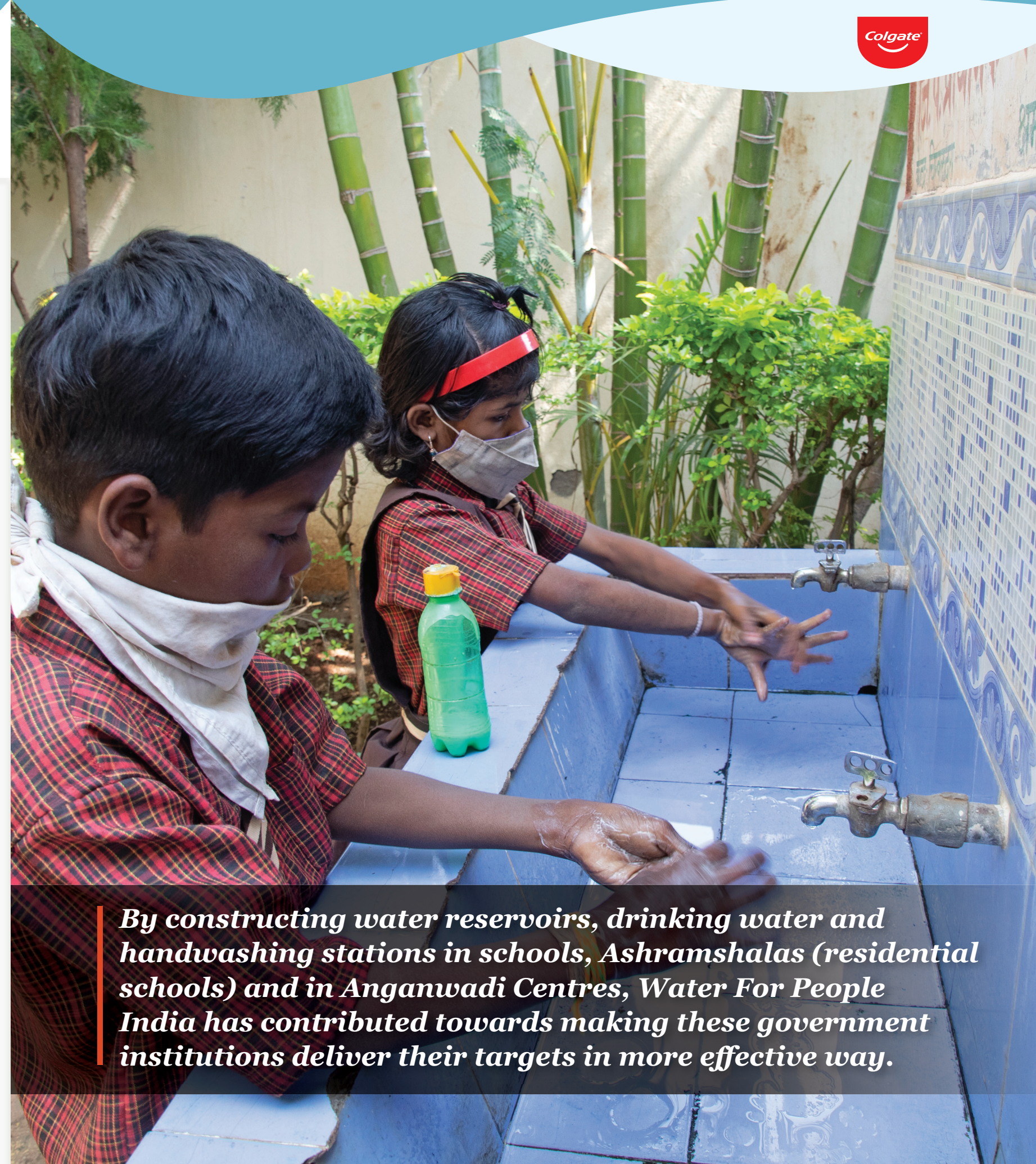
Principal, Govt. Ashram Girls School, Village Tembhrusonda, Chikhaldara, Amravati



There are 917 students in my school. The formation of the Child Cabinets and the consequent trainings provided to our students by Water for People has brought positive changes. Students are now confident and are learning to lead and present themselves. Besides, they have received useful information about personal hygiene, which they not only practice themselves but impart the same to the younger children. I want thank Water for People for this great initiative.



**Another impact of this initiative by Water For People India has been the increased efficacy of the local governance systems like Panchayats, Anganwadi Centres and Government Schools.**



**By constructing water reservoirs, drinking water and handwashing stations in schools, Ashramshalas (residential schools) and in Anganwadi Centres, Water For People India has contributed towards making these government institutions deliver their targets in more effective way.**





*Today, the availability of safe drinking water has allowed these institutes to fulfill the basic requirement of maintaining sanitation and hygiene for village children. Regular meetings organized by teachers has helped create awareness among these young minds ensuring a better future for the coming generations of Chikhaldara.*



## ➤ INSTILLING LEADERSHIP SKILLS AMONG CHILDREN



### STUDENT

Govt. Ashram Girls School, Village Tembhrusonda, Chikhaldara, Amravati



There was no water station in our school. Our students were facing several challenges related to water. All the students and teachers would stand in the same que for drinking water. A lot of time was wasted, and they would come late to their classes. Now that we have a water station in our school, students do not face any problem and time is also saved.



*Inspired by the enthusiasm shown by children in meetings organized in schools, Water For People India formed Child Cabinets in village schools.*

*After initial guidance on maintaining WASH practices in schools, responsibilities were divided among members of these Child Cabinets. Some look after the kitchen hygiene while others are responsible for maintaining cleanliness in the school premises.*



*Today, these children are leading the way for a better, healthier tomorrow by creating awareness on water and water related areas like WASH in their schools, families and societies.*



## ➤ AWARENESS ON MENSTRUAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT



### RUPALI MANKAR

Teacher Govt. Ashram Girls School, Village Tembhusonda, Chikhaldara, Amravati



Changes have been observed in the behavior of girls regarding menstruation. Earlier, they hesitated to talk about anything remotely related to menstruation. Our consistent efforts to create awareness among them related menstrual health management has led to girls becoming confident about sharing their concerns related to their menstrual health. The training sessions organized by Water for People has inspired girls to maintain personal cleanliness and hygiene.



**Availability and Accessibility to water directly impacts the Menstrual Health of Adolescent girls. In areas dominated by water scarcity, it is the health of the menstruating girls and women that suffers the most.**



**Understanding the severity of the issue, Water For People India decided to make awareness on Menstrual Health Management an integral part of its initiative in schools of Chikhaldara.**

**Regular workshops and training sessions led by schoolteachers and Anganwadi workers has led to visible change in the behaviour of adolescent girls towards menstruation health practices.**





## ➤ PROMISE OF A BETTER FUTURE

*Today, there is an evident change in the lives of the communities of villages where Water For People India is working. Community members have taken the responsibility of maintaining the water pipes, tanks, motors and most importantly, for the prudent usage of water.*







*With improved availability and accessibility of water, their lives have been renewed – they now know how water impacts their health, livelihood and future. They are now working towards saving water for the next generation!*





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