

100 Days Campaign to Provide Piped Water Supply to Anganwadi Centres and Schools

Case studies from Bihar

UNICEF – Bihar Field Office, WASH Section

A Middle School in Purnea, Bihar, Gets a Complete Makeover Through the 100 Day Campaign

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Dirty, broken and slightly scary: words that perhaps would have been appropriate adjectives to use to describe Middle School Basantpur one year ago. With 499 students (264 boys and 235 girls), along with 6 staff members (4 male and 2 female), the school had an untapped potential in teachers, students, alumni and the surrounding community. However, at the time, it was not a healthy and nurturing environment for students to learn and grow. The school lacked a boundary wall, space for handwashing with soap, waste disposal systems, running water and even a drainage system, which led to knee-deep flooding during the monsoons, rendering the school area almost useless at certain times.

However, this all changed in December 2020. The school decided it was time to



Example of waterlogging on school grounds. Sometimes the

boundary walls around the school, as well as the reconstruction of the school's toilets with improved waste management systems. This included leach pits, soak pits and compost pits. Further, riding the momentum, the school began work on all aspects of WASH, beginning with accessing a piped water supply for the school as part of the 100 days campaign.

upgrade its infrastructure and environment and searched for opportunities. First, as part of its COVID-19 response programming, UNICEF extended technical support to the school administration for the installation of handwashing stations in the school, to provide safe hygiene practices for the students. UNICEF also worked with the school administration to begin the construction of

“Paani ke liye hum chapakal se paani peete the. पानी के लिए हम चाँपाकल से पानी पीते थे. चाँपाकल का इतना साफ़ पानी नहीं आता था। अभी पेजल की व्यवस्था हो गयी है तोह यहाँ से आसानी से पानी पीते हैं. लाइफ बहुत इजी हो गई है. खाने की भी क्वालिटी बेहतर हो गई है।”

“We used to drink water from the handpump. The handpump’s water was not very clean. The water provided through the tap connections have now made drinking water accessible.

Life has become easier. The quality of food [using this water] is much better”

– Aditya Kumar, Class 7th, Bal Sansad Pr... Minister, Peer Educator and SDMC member



Aditya demonstrates handwashing with soap at the new handwashing station provided to the school, thanks to the support of GP Cellulose

Starting with piped water supply under the 100 Days Campaign and moving on to a holistic approach to WASH, the school now

“हमारा यह ही लक्ष्य है की ऐसा करो की मेरा स्कूल स्वच्छ और अच्छा बने, की कोई बीमार नहीं पड़े, और हम पूरे स्कूल को स्वच्छ बनाके रखें।”

“[Our aim is to] keep the school clean and well maintained. So that, no one falls sick and the entire school continues to remain clean and hygienic.”

- Shivam Kumar, Student, Class 7th, Health and Sanitation Child Cabinet Minister and Peer Educator

includes a drinking water station with piped water

Speaking about the incessant problem of water logging from the year before, the school's principal explained how bad the situation was just a year back:

“यहाँ लग भाग ३ फ़ीट या 2 ½ फ़ीट पानी जमा होता था। हमारे बच्चों का पैठ भीग जाता था। कितना उठाते तब भी। उस समय शर्म आती थी जब हमारी महिलाएँ, हमारी बहन,



supply, a handwashing station with elbow operated taps, separate toilets for girls and boys – all equipped individually with water supply, soak pits for greywater, a deep burial pit for menstrual waste management, a thriving kitchen garden, and stunning wall paintings on messages for WASH across the school building and classes.

Thanks to GP Cellulose and its support, the students, teachers, parents and community leaders were able to build momentum for improving school grounds and translate their enthusiasm into other improvement projects as well.



The school courtyard, before in Nov 2020 (left), and after in February 2021 (right). Fixing the drainage system on school grounds both helped students stay clean and healthy, and gave them a chance to plant a kitchen garden at school.

The school is now also a single use plastic-free zone, having realized their own ability to make change for the better. In addition, with the support of the community, the village mukhiya (community volunteer), and the block development officer, all inspired by the new WASH project that has beautified school grounds, community members came together to fill the swampy trench with sand, and redirect drainage away from the school grounds. This in turn opened up space for the school to plant a small ‘kitchen garden’, which became a passionate interest for some children.

The work is not yet done. UNICEF in India is collaborating with various government bodies, civil societies and community leaders to come up with plans that ensure sustained access to these WASH facilities by keeping them operational for years

to come – but everyone agrees that what has happened at Middle School Basantpur was a hopeful first step.

A greywater management wonderland – UHS Vishanpur

High School Vishanpur, Malahriya village, Malahriya Gram Panchayat, Block Kasba Purnea district

Had you walked into Upper High School Vishanpur, in Purnea district, one of Bihar’s most challenged districts, before October 2020, it would have been a completely different and concerning picture. Now, the school boasts that it has all of the required number of functional tap connections mandated for a high school to have – nine. All of these tap connections have been fitted just a few months ago under the government’s 100 Days Campaign, which sought to prioritize piped and tapped water connections to last mile schools and pre-schools across the country. The strategic part, however, is not just the existence of these tap connections but rather of the fact that each tap connection is linked to a common or individual grey water management system. Every tap caters to some purpose for using non-toxic greywater: for gardening purposes, the tap could be in the compound of a growing tree; for recharging groundwater, it could be emptying water into a soak pit; another tap was simply hovering over a patch of ground growing coriander, so that spilled water would be used automatically for growing aromatics.



Functional tap connection placed in a tree compound for effective use of any spills or overflow

“Yaha pe sab connected hai. Humaare paas kitchen garden hai jahan paani chapal se nikal ke jaata hai. Humne saare nal aise lagaae hai ki agar kuch bhi paani idhar udhar gire toh uska wahi istemaal ho jaaye. Khaane aur peene ke liye toh ab bahut aasani ho gayi hai, warna humaare paas filtration systems bhi hai jiska pehle istemaal kiya jaata that.”

- Shri Suchit Kumar, Headmaster

This high school always had the basics – toilets and a handpump station. However, it was lacking proper handwashing stations, which was alarming in the context of the COVID-19

pandemic that raced through rural communities, such as those in Purnea. With support from GP Cellulose and on-ground partners, UNICEF was able to help the school access a handwashing station, and provide it piped water supply. This type of engagement and investment in the school encouraged it to go beyond simply using water and toilets. It wanted to do more for its students, after seeing others believe in its potential.

At a prominent location in the centre of the school there lie two massive receptacles. The two receptacles have bolded words

written on them – “*Sookha Kachra*” (dry waste) and “*Geela Kachra*” (wet waste). These receptacles, having been smartly placed in plain sight of all who traverse the school grounds, act as a gentle reminder to all students to constantly work towards effective and eco-friendly waste management. The school also boasts of multiple toilets, gender-segregated so that girls could be provided necessary privacy, in all corners of the school. The main building of the school also has a rainwater harvesting structure functioning through its rooftop, ensuring that it is able to have a climate-resilient option in place.

The school’s headmaster understands, though, that these structures do not run perfectly forever by themselves. To ensure that the hundreds of students who pass through the schools’ doors are always able to access these services, the school also employs a sanitation worker once a week at the rate of 500 rupees per day for regular operation, maintenance and upkeep of the WASH facilities to ensure that this newly gained access to sustainably managed water – alongside existing sanitation facilities - is not lost any time soon.

“Pehle hum dekhte hai agar class saaf hai ya nahi. Saaf safai karte hai. Uske baad saabun se haath dhoke, uske baad class mein baith jaate hai... Kachra jahan gandagi rehta hai toh koodedan mein hi phekte hai. Warna uske phelne se bimaariyo ho sakti hai aur. Geele kachre se cheer banaya jaata hai,-

- Anand Kumar, age 15, student



UHS Vishanpur’s headmaster standing with two of the new functional tap connections. Just a few months ago, the school was reliant on locally connected handpumps, which meant that water was not always sustainably sourced or accessible, and it was hard to know if it was of good quality.