

Annual Report 2019-2020



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1. ABOUT US

Sanitation First India (SFI), a UK based charity is registered in India as Wherever the Need India Services (WTNIS), not-for-profit company incorporated under Section 8, formerly Section 25 of the Companies Act (CIN No: U85190PY2009NPL002266) in 2009. The organization focuses on promoting and providing safe & sustainable sanitation solutions

Vision

A world where everyone has access to clean, safe and sustainable WASH services.

Mission

To promote sustainable non-sewered sanitation for better health, hygiene and savings

To preserve and rejuvenate scarce water resources for drinking and promote water conservation through use of non-sewered sanitation technologies.

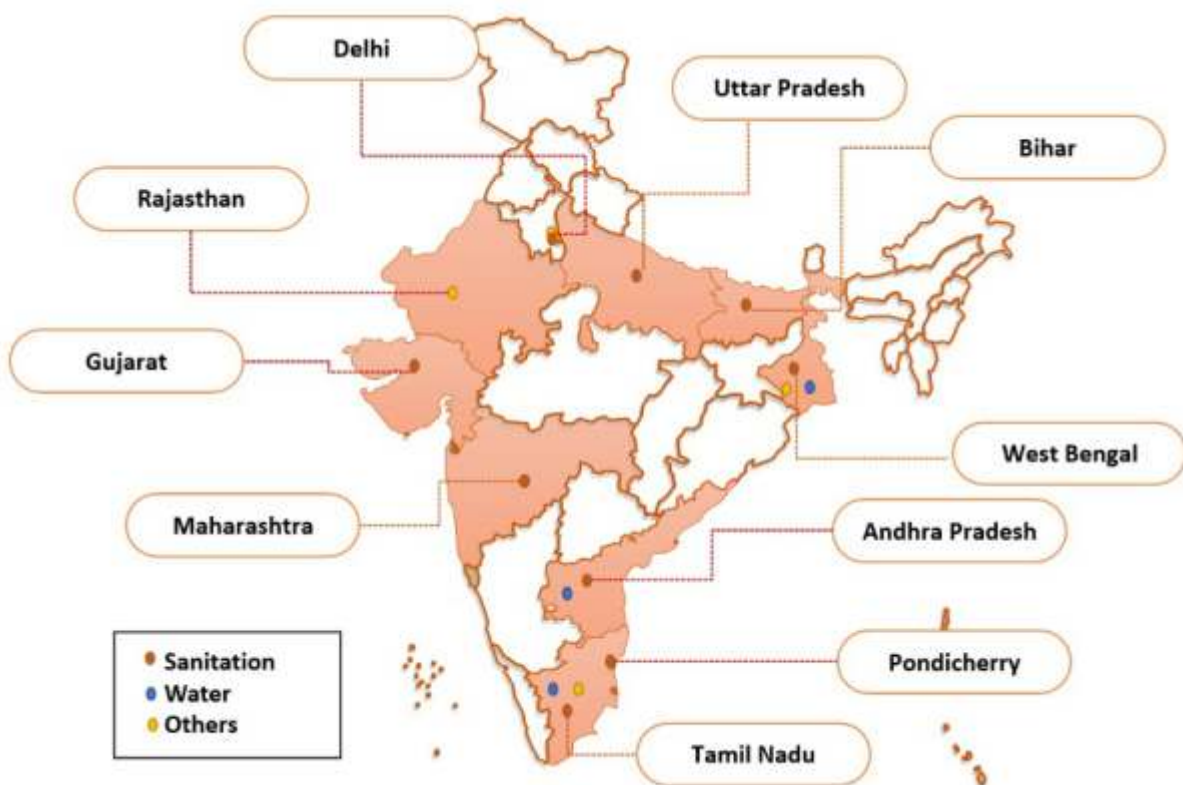
To prevent untreated waste from entering the environment or polluting water sources

To facilitate water efficient agriculture

To provide innovative yet economic technologies for sanitation, waste management & MHM

2. OUR FOOTPRINTS

We have worked in 08 States and 02 Union territories



3.OUR PROGRAMMES

3.1 Rural Eco sanitation

Sanitation First India has facilitated construction of over 5000 family ecosan toilets in rural areas of India and through motivation and monitoring closely with the community has achieved an enviable adaption rate of 98-99%. The compost generated by these families are deployed by them as agricultural inputs thereby increasing productivity by 17-37% and water retention by over 25%

3.2 WASH in Schools

Sanitation First India has worked in over a hundred schools providing sustainable, pollution free eco-sanitation blocks, handwash stations, training in general hygiene, handwashing and menstrual health and safe drinking water. Over the last year, SFI has created the flagship Happy Periods project through which adolescent boys and girls are taught about handling adolescence, puberty, menstruation and creating a facilitative environment in schools. Reusable cloth pads and incinerators are provided in schools to ensure a sustainable menstruating environment as well.

3.3 Container Based Sanitation for urban slums (GROSAN)

Sanitation First India has developed a first of its kind container-based sanitation system in India and probably Asia. This technology was among the top three innovations acknowledged by the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Government of India in a nation-wide Swacchovation contest in 2018-19. Container based sanitation has been implemented in the urban and peri-urban slums of Puducherry and Cuddalore respectively and we have been running currently over 150 container based GroSan toilets catering to over 6000 individuals who would have otherwise resorted to open defecation.

3.4 Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS)

Decentralized wastewater treatment systems use a natural biological process to treat wastes from a toilet and recycle clean water for flushing and cleaning purposes. Sanitation First India has engaged with this technology in rural areas as well as in schools. In this system, there is no change in the manner the user uses the toilet. However, the waste is recycling without entering the sewer system or polluting the environment.

3.5 Water Conservation

Sanitation First India has been a pioneer in designing sustainable and conservative water management systems to provide safe drinking water to vulnerable communities. This includes construction of water tanks, water purification systems, natural horizontal roughing filters to deal with presence of elements in high quantities in water, and revival of traditional water sources.

3.6 Technical Assistance

Sanitation First India has been a sought-after technical service provider. It engages in evaluations, impact assessments, providing technical advisory and bespoke training programmes on a variety of WASH subjects.

4. THE YEAR THAT WAS

4.1 Family Ecosan Projects

During the year 2019-20, three family ecosans were provided to very deserving physically challenged or women headed households through the support of an individual donor, Mr Ravishankar Thyagarajan.



Figure 1. Jeeva of Kundiyamallur inaugurating the ecosan provided to her house



Figure 2 Physically challenged Vaitheeswari of Nathamedu with her toilet



Figure 3 Physically & mentally challenged Soundararajan of Jayankondam with his toilet

4.2 WASH in Schools Projects

Sanitation First India has been actively working with schools in providing adequate safe drinking water facilities, sanitation blocks as per UNICEF – WHO guidelines and sustainable menstruation facilities. During the year 2019-20, SFI partnered with AM Foundation, Sanitation First UK and the Australian Consulate Chennai through their Direct Assistance Programme to support WASH in Schools activities.

4.2.1. Chennai

Two new sanitary blocks with 62 urinals and 2 toilets, a 10,000 litre overhead tank with borewell and necessary motor and pipe fittings and renovated handwash units with concrete platforms were provided to the Government Higher Secondary School, Padasalai Street, Manali, Chennai with support from AM Foundation. These infrastructures will benefit around 3000 students and teachers in the school.



4.2.2 Cuddalore



During 2019-2020, Sanitation First India built a new toilet block with 58 urinals, two ecosan toilets and a separate napkin changing room attached with incinerator in the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Bhuvanagiri through joint funding from Sanitation First UK and AM Foundation. The existing toilet block was also completed renovated and re-painted. The infrastructure thus created would cater to 1850 girls and 43 staff. The students were also trained on the use of ecosan toilet, basic personal hygiene, menstrual hygiene and hand washing.



Oasis School & Home for special children caters to about 120 physically and mentally challenged children, many of whom are abandoned, as well as 12 teaching and support staff. The thirty-year-old hostel building became dilapidated, rendering the toilet block and kitchen unusable. This resulted in children sleeping in their classrooms and food being cooked in the open or under the staircase during rains.

Sanitation First India with the generous support of Sanitation First UK constructed a brand new kitchen with a functional borewell, as well as physically challenged friendly toilet block with Decentralized Wastewater Treatment System (DEWATS) – the first of its kind in a school in India. The teachers and children were also trained in handwash and menstrual hygiene.

4.2.3 Happy Periods

Happy Periods was a flagship project of Sanitation First India launched during the year 2019-20 in schools of Cuddalore and Chennai with support from AusAID and the Australian Consulate, Chennai. The programme aimed to sensitize teachers and students of both genders about puberty, adolescence, menstruation and creating a facilitative environment in schools during menstruation. A total of 509 teachers and 10,223 students (7,593 girls and 2,630 boys) were trained as part of this project. The project attracted media attention and was featured in an article in The Federal that can be accessed here: <https://thefederal.com/health/2019/09/26/time-for-men-to-talk-about-it-period/>

The project was presented at the first India Menstrual Hygiene Management summit in New Delhi in September 2020. A poster on the same was selected for presentation in the UNICEF MHM virtual conference 2020.



4.2.4 Distribution of Reusable sanitary napkins in schools to facilitate sustainable menstruation

With the support of Women & Girls UK and AusAID, reusable, anti-microbial sanitary napkins were distributed to girls and the female teachers in middle and high schools of Cuddalore and Chennai where there were no incinerators. The purpose was to wean girls away from creating and accumulating menstrual waste and ensure they adapted sustainable menstruation early on in their lives.



Over the year, 2300 teachers and students in 13 schools received these pads produced by SafePads™, Denmark.



4.3 Inner City Sanitation Projects

Sanitation First's container-based sanitation project for inner city slums provides last mile coverage to safe sanitation and ensures sustainability of open defecation status in urban slums which are crowded, encroached or denotified where it is not possible for the Government to provide sanitation services.

During the year 2019-20, 25 GroSan toilets became functional through the support of A M Foundation in three slums of Puducherry, thereby providing access to safe sanitation to over a thousand migrant workers, nomads, poorest of the poor, transgenders and physically challenged.

4.4 Evaluation of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funded project in three states

Sanitation First was commissioned by the Centre for Advocacy and Research to conduct evaluation of the second phase of their Urban Sanitation Programme funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on "Aligning with national program and policies on sanitation: Enhancing community engagement and demand generation" in select implementation areas of Delhi, Jaipur and Kolkata. The assessment was conducted by the SFI team and Ms. Padmapriya TS, Chief Executive presented the findings at the dissemination meet held in New Delhi in the presence of the Chief Secretary, Delhi, Mr Vijay Kumar Dev, IAS, the Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Mr Rajiv Ranjan Mishra IAS, senior Urban Local Body officials of Delhi, Jaipur & Kolkata, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation representatives and its partner agencies, Community Management Council women and members of the press.



4.5 Restoration of traditional water body



Sanitation First India has been working in Kumudimoolai for a long time and has constructed a 60,000 litre capacity water tank and more than 350 EcoSan toilets in this village which happens to be the first ever Panchayat to be fully covered with EcoSan Toilets in Tamil Nadu. The water available for irrigation here comes from the mines of Neyveli Lignite Corporation. While this enables water to be available for agriculture throughout the year, the prolonged waterlogging turns the soil saline and other chemical residuals from the mines make it unfit for drinking. The overhead tank built by SFI, is located about 1.75 Km away from the village. The water stored here is collected

from the Paravanar river basin and meets the drinking and cooking needs of the village, and for all other domestic needs, they depend on the surface water tank of the village called Pillaiyar Koil Kulam.

This Pillayar Koil Kulam was in a poor state of repair and hence the villagers were unable to store water or use it effectively. SFI with support from Mr Ravishankar Thyagarajan and the family of legendary writer, Mr Ashokamitran, as well as the local community was able to clear the garbage around the tank, desilt it, strengthen the embankments on the East and South, build a new flight of stairs on the Northern side and repair the old steps both in the North as well as West, repair and reconstruct the inlet and outlets for easy circulation of water through the year, and construct 20 metre retaining wall in the North and 13 metres in the West to ensure proper retention of water in the tank. These efforts have led to the storage of 3.5 million litres of water for domestic use of the village.



4.6 Leaving No One Behind

Sanitation First India has been including beneficiaries of all kinds in its programmes so that no one is left behind in the access to safe and sustainable WASH services. It has customised its training programmes for the mentally and physically challenged children as well as excluded communities such as transgenders. Sanitation First India team celebrated the Global Handwashing Day with children in Oasis School & Home for Special Children. We were delighted to teach the physically & mentally challenged children the right way to wash hands at critical times.

The transgender community in Kanuvaipet slum of Puducherry had no option but to open defecate as they were not allowed access into the public toilets. Sanitation First India which has been walking the talk on leaving no one behind, provided GroSan toilets to these beneficiaries through support from AM Foundation, because of which today, 40 transgenders have access to safe and sustainable sanitation with dignity and privacy close to their homes



5. FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

5.1 Borewell for Oasis School and Home for Physically and Mentally Challenged, Cuddalore



Apart from raising corporate and institutional donations for specific projects, Sanitation First India was also able to leverage on the power of social media to reach out to individual donors.

Through a Facebook and LinkedIn appeal, SFI was able to raise over Rs. 2.1 Lakhs during March & April 2019 for installing a new borewell in the Oasis School & Home for physically and mentally challenged in Cuddalore. SFI wishes to thank the individual donors, particularly Ms. Usha Ramachandran of Coimbatore, for passing the message around to compassionate donors. The list of people who supported this initiative are as follows:

Ms Gayathri Chandrasekar, Mr Srinivasan, Mr Dhanush Raveendran, Ms Usha Ramachandran, Mr Sundararajan Padmanaban, Mr Nazan Hussain, Mr Subramaniam, Ms Parvatha Vardhini, Mr Ramesh B, Mr Muthu Venkata Subramaniam, Ms Kavitha Sundar, Mr Udhaya Kumar, Mr Jayakumar Muthukamatchi, Mr Srinivasan, Ms Sonu Hemanii, Mr Rajesh Kumar, Mr Mohan Gandhi, Mr Jayakumar Srinivasan, Mr Paramasivan Krishnamoorthy, Mr KDVS Narayanan, Ms Deepika Murali, Mr Kalyan Muthusamy & Pinnacle Women's Welfare Association.

5.2 Donations in kind from India Silk House

Media Professional Ms. Devasena Subramaniam contributed Rs. 2000 towards provision of reusable SafePads to the physically and mentally challenged girls in Oasis Home. She also put SFI in touch with Ms Resham, of the legendary India Silk House, that was shutting down operations. Ms Resham generously donated uniform materials, bedsheets, towels, curtains, shirtings and suitings for the physically and mentally challenged children and sarees for the care givers in the orphanage.



5.3 Crowdfunding for construction of sanitation block in Adi Dravida Primary School, B. Adhanur

Sanitation First India has enrolled in crowdfunding platforms such as Give India, CAF, Super Human Race, Goodera and GoodCSR. A portion of the funds required for construction of a toilet block in the Adi Dravida Primary School, B. Adhanur was raised through Give India and remaining has been sourced by Sanitation First UK.

6. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EXPERIENCE SHARING

6.1 Centre for Science and Environment

Chief Executive Ms Padmapriya TS and Dr S Paramasivan, Founder and Chief Mentor of Sanitation First India were invited to participate in the Technical Session on - On Site FSS Containment - Existing and Best Practices' conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment as part of the SFD week at the Anil Agarwal Environmental Training Institute, Neemli, Rajasthan.

Ms Padmapriya presented on the container-based sanitation solution for urban slums - GroSan toilet model. This led to it being featured on CSE's MOUNT platform. <https://www.cseindia.org/grosan-toilet-9441>



6.2 Sanitation Technology Platform (STeP)

Research Triangle Institute (RTI) supports Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) through the Sanitation Technology Platform (STeP). STeP helps to de-risk and bring to market sanitation technology innovations funded by the BMGF. STeP undertook a short-term preliminary study to understand the costs of existing community and public toilets that are being purchased and operated in India. Sanitation First's GroSan toilets were featured in this study which was released towards the end of 2019 and the full report can be found here: https://stepsforsanitation.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/10/12729_STeP_MURT_Costing_Public_Good_Track_FINAL-copy.pdf

6.3 Cranfield Water Science Institute, UK

Grosan toilet model was featured in a circular economy case study by the Cranfield Water Science Institute, UK. Ms. Jenica Dixon of CWSI had visited the WTNIS project sites in July 2019 to interview stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project and the case study has since been accepted for publication.



6.4 WaterAid India

Sanitation First India was invited to participate in two key consultations called by WaterAid India on Terrain Appropriate retrofitting solutions to sustain open defecation free status in India

post SBM Phase I and 'Community participation, operations and maintenance in Piped Water Supply Schemes'



6.5 Investing in Sanitation Cycle conference, UNICEF, New Delhi

Sanitation First India's poster on GroSan Toilets was selected for presentation under the theme Piloting a new toilet model for UNICEF's conference on Investing in Sanitation Cycle held in India Habitat Centre, Delhi on 9th and 10th of January 2020



7. COLLABORATIONS

7.1 Media Workshop with Press Institute of India

Sanitation First India partnered with the Press Institute of India to conduct a media workshop for journalists about positive reporting on sustainable WASH. The workshop was well attended by members of the press as well as students of Journalism. The speakers included Ms. Padmapriya T S , Chief Executive, Sanitation First India, Dr Paramasivan, Founder, WTNIS, Mr S N Srikanth, Ambassador WASRAG and Ms Seetha Gopalakrishnan, Program Associate, Care Earth Trust.



7.2 Parmarth Nikethan, Rishikesh

David Crowweller, Sanitation First UK co-founder, Ms. Padmapriya T S, Chief Executive and Dr Shanmuga Paramasivan Founder & Chief Mentor of Sanitation First India held fruitful conversations with the Pujya Swamiji and the Global Interfaith WASH alliance team of Parmarth Nikethan, Rishikesh on the construction of two Decentralised Wastewater Treatment Systems in the ashram as well as a village in Rishikesh. The same is expected to be rolled out in 2020-21.



7.3 Poshtik Network, Delhi

Sanitation First India has been focusing on nutritional awareness, training and linkages of excluded communities as part of their comprehensive WASH programmes. SFI chief executive Ms Padmapriya TS, participated in a workshop on scaling up Double Fortified Salt organised by the Poshtik Network in Delhi to understand opportunities and avenues for our communities



8. VISITORS

Every year, Sanitation First India receives donors and visitors from the UK who had supported their projects in the previous year and who have expressed interest in supporting new projects for a field visit. This year 11 visitors including those from Sanitation First UK and Ripples were on a three-day visit to the projects in Cuddalore and Pondicherry.



9. AWARDS & RECOGNITION

9.1 MHM Summit, September 2019

Sanitation First India was awarded the “Unsung Heroes Award” for its innovative Happy Periods programme involving men in menstruation awareness during the India MHM Summit 2019, organised by Gramalaya in New Delhi .



9.2 ICC Social Impact Awards, February 2020

Sanitation First's InnerCity Slums - Container Based Sanitation Project won the ICC Social Impact Awards 2020 in Clean Water and Sanitation - Small projects category. Dr.Paramasivan, Founder & chief mentor received the Trophy from Dr. Shashi Panja, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal — at The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata.



9.3 Appreciation letter from the Puducherry Corporation

The Puducherry Municipality issued a letter in appreciation of the installation of urinals in the Puducherry New Bus Stand, under the Puducherry ICS project due to which open defecation which had been prevalent in the bus stand had been brought under control.

10. HAPPY VOICES



Family Ecosan - Mr Jayshankar a 48-year-old amputee of Kundiyamallur, had been provided a family ecosan with ramp and handrail to help him and his family of wife and two daughters to be able to access safe sanitation with dignity last year. The toilet has made a lasting change in the life and lifestyle of the family, particularly Mr Jayshankar. "Earlier I had developed gangrene in my foot, and water used to ooze when I tried balancing my weight to walk long distances to find a secluded spot to defecate. Moreover, not

wanting to disturb my wife during the day to help me walk up to defecate, I did not take any food, fearing the need to urgently go to the toilet. Now, all that has changed. I eat well twice a day and use the toilet whenever I need, without waiting for my family to help me. I wish to thank WTNIS and Mr Ravishankar from the bottom of my heart" says Mr Jayshankar

GroSan Toilet - According to Sasika (Transgender, Kanuvapet) "Including me there are 40 of us in Kanuvapet were using the community toilet for years, however we fear using the facility during the day for being bullied hence go only at night. When we came to know about SFI's GroSan toilets, we approached Sanitation First for help. They understood our concerns immediately placed a GroSan unit in Kanuvapet. Now all of us use it without any fear. The staff of SFI treat us like sisters. They also taught us about ecosan, how to use it and its benefits. We thank Sanitation First and its team for all the support"



WASH in Schools - Ms Vijaya Headmistress GHSS Manali - "On behalf of the management, PTA and children of the Government Higher Secondary School, Padasalai Street, Manali, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the wonderful facilities that WTNIS has provided for our children through support from AM foundation This will go a long way in helping children in maintaining their health and hygiene."



Happy Periods Project - E K Pradeep, Teacher, Kundiyamallur High School "It is very sensible to provide this training to both male and female teachers. I have always wanted to teach children to only dispose napkins in the incinerator and also about use of sanitary products. However, I did not have any information on the same. I will now not only teach my students but also share this information with members of my family"

Happy Periods Project - Harini, Class XI, Government High School, Kurinjipadi says, "I never knew boys also attained puberty. When I came of age, my mother and grandmother comforted me and explained all about menstruation. However, now that I know that boys also attain puberty, I will explain all this to my younger brother, so that he is comforted, and understands what is happening to him".

OUR PARTNERS

 <p>sanitation first</p>	 <p>AM Foundation A cleaner, healthier, better life.</p>	 <p>marico</p>
 <p>स्वच्छ भारत Government of India</p>	 <p>स्वच्छ भारत एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर</p>	
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<p>Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation</p>	 <p>Women and Girls</p>	<p>BOMBAY URBAN INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE FOR DEVELOPMENT</p>

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