



Wherever the Need

Annual Report 2021 - 22



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1. ABOUT US

Wherever the Need India Services (WTNIS) is a not-for-profit company incorporated under Section 8, of the Companies Act (CIN No: U85190PY2009NPL002266) in 2009. It is a sister organization of Sanitation First UK (SF UK) operating in India with the same name through a license agreement with SFUK. The organization focuses on promoting and providing safe & sustainable WASH solutions.

Vision

A world where everyone has equitable and safe access to sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Mission

To provide equitable access, address inequalities, and protect **WATER. WOMEN. WORLD**

2. OUR REACH

- Over 5000 family ecosan toilets, conserving over 1.12 million litres of water and converting human waste into 5.4 tonnes of pathogen free compost each year
- Over 250 school sanitation complexes, built as per WHO-UNICEF standards
- Change rooms with manual incinerators for sustainable menstrual health in schools.
- Asia's first container-based sanitation infrastructure in Puducherry & Cuddalore
- Award-winning Happy Periods Curriculum on adolescence, puberty and menstruation that has been rolled out to over 2000 teachers, 2000 students and 6000 women in the community. This year, over 100,000 beneficiaries to be trained
- India's first project on Endometriosis and other menstrual disorders among vulnerable women
- Research project on reuse of humanure as agricultural input with the prestigious Cornell University USA & Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

3. OUR ALIGNMENT TO SDGs



4. THE YEAR THAT WAS

4.1 Family Toilets

4.1.1. Family Ecosan

From providing large number of ecosan toilets in areas where open defecation was rampant, we have now come down to providing them to those who are the most deserving or physically challenged as several Central and State government schemes have been focussed on providing individual household toilets. During the year 2021-22, three individuals in Cuddalore district were supported with ecosan toilets in their households

- Ms Valarmathi, our Ecosan Mason of Kothavacheri, who lives in a thatched hut with her husband, mother-in-law and four children
- Ms Rosemary of Kurinjikudi, who is a person with physical disability and lives alone
- Ms Geetha of Nathamedu, who has loco-motor disability and lives with her mother-in-law, husband and three children in a thatched hut

4.1.2 Toilets for Disabled women and girls, Project Udhayam



WTNIS supported the District Administration of Virudhunagar in building 25 out of the 100 inclusive toilets for women and girls with disability under the Project Udhayam. David Crossweller, Co-founder, Sanitation First UK, inaugurated a couple during his visit to India in February 2022, along with the District Collector, Thiru. J Meghanath Reddy IAS

4.1.3 Movable toilet for the Better Home Shelter, Chennai

WTNIS supported the women with disabilities who stay at the Better World Shelter with a movable toilet with ramps and handrails that can be easily accessed by wheelchair bound women. This toilet was inaugurated by David Crossweller, Co-Founder, Sanitation First UK and the same was featured in the Indian Express in an article Hygiene without Hurdles : <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2022/jan/27/hygiene-without-hurdles-2411641.html>

4.2 Wash In Schools Projects

4.2.1 Toilet Infrastructure



With support from thoughtful donor Mark Collins in the UK who rowed the Atlantic to raise funds for building toilet blocks for vulnerable children, brand new units for boys and girls were built at the Husainy High School, Ramapuram. The girls block also had a manual incinerator attached to a napkin change room to enable girls to practice safe menstrual health. A solar operated handwash unit working from a recycled oil drum unit was also provided in the school to promote hand hygiene.

The boys toilet block at the Cheddilal Government High School, Puducherry was completely renovated with support from Joe & Chiara from the UK.



Not just Wherever the Need's but also India's first ecosan toilet block built at Government Middle School, Mathuranthakanallur by WTNIS seventeen years ago, had been damaged during the lockdown. This was repaired and the waterlines reinstalled to make the toilet unit fully functional. It was indeed a heartening moment to meet the children in the school, whose parents had been students when the toilet block was originally built.

4.2.2 Handwash Units

A total of 31 pedal operated handwash units were installed in 21 schools across Chennai, Tiruvallur and Puducherry with funding from Goldman Sachs Gives and St James Place Foundation to enable children in Government schools to practice safe hand hygiene during and after the pandemic. These units will continue to benefit over 17,000 children and their teachers. Around 375 litres of liquid soap were also distributed to these schools alongside the machines.



4.2.3 Happy Periods



As schools remained closed for best part of the academic year 2021-22, Happy Periods trainings were taken out of schools into the communities and villages across Tamil Nadu to address period poverty caused due to closure of schools and loss of livelihoods. Over 3000 women and girls received sustainable hygiene kits comprising of four reusable anti-microbial sanitary pads, one anti-microbial Super Towel and two two-ply masks, in a reusable bag with logo.

The following were the locations and details:

Location	Nature of beneficiaries
Arumparthapuram, Puducherry	Vulnerable women
Tiruvallur	Widows & their adolescent girls
Naduveerapattu, Krishnapuram PHCs & Kurinjipadi GH	Health Care Workers
Iruvelpattu UPHC & Sirumadurai PHC	Health Care Workers
Vadapalani	Sanitation Workers
Pattipulam	Irula Tribal Women
Better World Shelter	Physically Challenged Women
MCCSS Home	Orphanage for children
Vellore	Narikuravas and vulnerable women
Nariyamputhur and Mottur	Irula Tribal Women
Pammal	Widows
Gorimedu, Salem	Vulnerable Women
WISHALL, Tondiarpet	Adolescent girls from vulnerable families
Chinnakurumbedu, Nilgiris	Members of Health SHG of Nilgiris Adiwasi Welfare Association (NAWA)
Pudhukadu, Nilgiris	Adolescent girls
Archeden, Nilgiris	Vulnerable adolescent girls & anganwadi workers
Periyar Nagar, Nilgiris	Tribal women & adolescent girls
Muthalamman Koil	Girls from tea estate workers' families
Haalkadu, Nilgiris	Eucalyptus leaf picker women and girls
Ammanadu, Nilgiris	Tribal agricultural labourers
Keezhakozhikarai & Melakozhikarai, Nilgiris	Vulnerable adolescent girls
Thirupathur	Gypsy women and SHG members rearing milch animals
Karisalkulam, Paaraipathi & Koodakovil, Madurai	Vulnerable women and girls
Mariyalaya, Chennai	Home for vulnerable girls
Gandhi Nagar, Indira Nagar & Satyavanimuthu Nagar, Chennai	Slum dwellers
Mandapam Srilankan Refugee Camp, Ramanathapuram	Displaced women and girls (Refugees)
Adi Andhra Abhivriti Seva Sangam, Chennai	Tribal Sanitation workers
Othakadai, Madurai	Muslim women
Thiruparankundram, Madurai	Vulnerable rural women
JJR Nagar & Sathyamurthy Nagar, Vyasarpadi	Children from daily wage earner families
St Lazarus Home for Girls	Orphans and Semi-orphans
Virudhunagar	Sanitation & Health workers
Palamedu, Madurai	Vulnerable women
Sempattu Srilankan Refugee Camp, Trichy	Displaced women & girls, slum dwellers
Church of Sinai, Sithalapakkam, Chennai	Vulnerable women & girls
Vyasarpadi	Mothers of adolescent girls from wage-earner families that had already undergone training



An external third-party evaluation of the Happy Periods trainings and distribution of sustainable hygiene kits has been initiated and is likely to be completed by the end of April 2022.

Once schools reopened in November 2021, dedicated Happy Periods trainings were conducted for children of Adi Dravida Welfare schools in Cuddalore and Villupuram in partnership with the Adi Dravida Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. Over 3000 boys and girls received the trainings and sustainable hygiene kits were provided to the girls and female teachers.



4.3 Inner City Sanitation Project

WTNIS's container-based sanitation project for inner city slums intended to provide last mile coverage to safe sanitation is coming to the last leg of management. The three-year-old hand holding period for the first phase was completed in August 2021 and the first batch of twenty-five toilets were handed over to the beneficiaries.



A handover letter was drafted for each toilet that included the location of the toilet, the names of the heads of households who share the toilet and their willingness to take over and use and maintain the toilet themselves. The same was read out to the beneficiary families so that they understood the contents of the letter. The letter was then signed by representatives of the user-families and the process was photographed. All toilets were geotagged using GPS Camera. ID proof of the beneficiary families, namely aadhar card, ration card or voter ID were collected as proof of residence and authenticity of the user families. Copies of the original were also made to

the Commissioner of the respective municipalities for information. With regard to the four urinals that were placed in the Puducherry Bus Stand, a letter intimating the completion of the project was submitted to the Commissioner of Puducherry Municipality for their consideration and acceptance to run and maintain the toilets. Since the municipality was unclear about where the fifth urinal was to be placed, it was agreed with them to have it placed close to a factory – Prasad Industries, Etchankadu, Ariyankuppam, where the public complained of frequent urination by passers-by and employees working in the factory. The factory agreed to support the maintenance of the toilet and hence based on the request by the residents and acceptance by the factory, the unit has been installed there.

4.4 Restoration Of Waterbody

With the generous support of Mr. Ravishankar Thiyagarajan, desilting and clearing of the inlets and outlets, strengthening of bunds and repair of steps in the Northern side of the Kumulimoolai Pillayar Koil Kulam was completed in September 2019. In the 2021-22, the walls on three sides, steps and ramp were rebuilt, and the entire tank could now comfortably hold 3.5 million litres of water.



The completed tank was handed over to the village on the 4th of September 2021 and a documentary titled “Thanneer” to show the individual social responsibility of Mr Ravishankar Thiyagarajan in restoring the village tank in Kumudimoolai to which he has no connection, to honour the sentiments and passion of his father and legendary writer, Shri. Ashokamitran, was released in January 2022 by Dr Thamizhachi Thangapandian, Member of Parliament, South Chennai Constituency. The event was presided by Mr Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS, Commissioner and Principal Secretary, Greater Chennai Corporation.

4.5 Covid Relief Work

Sanitation First was involved in providing various items of relief materials to health care workers, sanitation workers, patients and other vulnerable members of the community during the COVID 19 lock down, the details of which are given below:

- During the second wave of Corona, the number of people affected in rural areas was increasing because of people who not following SMS (Soap & Water, Mask & Social Distancing) protocols. Sanitation First vehicle was sent around villages in Bhuvanagiri block of Cuddalore district to sensitize the villagers about COVID appropriate behaviour.
- 21 oxygen concentrators were distributed to PHCs in Kanchipuram, Villupuram and Southern Districts of Tamil Nadu. Out of these, fifteen were distributed through the Industries Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr Thangam Thenarasu. Apart from this, three thousand litre capacity handwash units, four solar operated/gravity fed oil drum handwash units, 33 pedal operated sanitizer stands, 4000 N95 masks and 5500 hand gloves were provided to health care workers in three PHCs of Cuddalore, two PHCs of Villupuram and general hospitals at Cuddalore and Kurinjipadi.



- Dry rations were distributed to widows and vulnerable women in Pammal, sanitation workers in Vadapalani, Irula tribal communities in Pattipulam, and Nariyamputhur as well as 115 tourist guides and small vendors in Mamallapuram to tide over the loss of livelihoods and income during the COVID 19 lockdown.



4.6 Birthing Centre At Padur PHC

The Primary Health Centre at Padur, near Uthiramerur, Kanchipuram district caters to a population of 28,000 vulnerable people, mostly tribal, from 35 nearby villages. These people do not have access to transport or other private health care facilities in the neighbourhood, and hence primarily depend on the PHC for their health and well-being.

With support from Sanitation First UK and Energy Aspects Foundation, WTNIS was able to provide a separate examination table for women, a full-fledged birthing unit, comprising of a labour room, labour ward both with attached toilets, a nurses station, waiting area and lobby with ramp and handrails. All the equipment in the labour room, along with inverter were also provided. A waste segregation room was also constructed to store and dispose off waste safely. The first baby was delivered here in the month of March 2022.



4.7 Menstrual Disorders & Endometriosis Awareness



4.7.1 Menstrual Disorders training for vulnerable women:

As an extension of the Happy Periods Project in communities, WTNIS conducted an awareness session on menstrual disorders among 200 vulnerable women in Poothurai village in Kanyakumari district August 2021. The tool for the Endometriosis study – the first of its kind among vulnerable women in India was also tested during this awareness session. Similarly, as part of Daan Utsav, an awareness session was conducted for

vulnerable, trafficked and orphaned women and girls of Christ Faith Home through Dr Chitra Jeyaraj of Apollo Hospitals.

4.7.2. India's first study with vulnerable women on Endometriosis:

An MoU was signed with the Sacred Heart College, Thirupathur for carrying out India's first Endometriosis project among 8000 vulnerable women across 16 districts of Tamil Nadu.



4.7.3. Webinars on Womens' Health & Well-being: Apart from the face-to-face awareness sessions, several online guidance sessions were conducted on various topics related to womens' health and well-being, through leading experts in the topic. The details of these sessions are as follows:

- Managing Diabetes after menopause – Dr Kalaiselvi Vairavel, MD
- Managing menopause – Padmapriya T S
- Prevention, early detection and treatment of breast cancer – Dr Mary Manonmani, MD
- Common questions with women taking COVID 19 vaccination – Dr Easwari Narayanaswami, Block Medical Officer, Vembakkam, Tiruvannamalai District

4.8 MHM Champions' Award

WTNIS received the MHM Champions Award at the Gramalaya MHM Summit, held in SRM University, Kattankulathur. WTNIS was also part of panels and judged the poster presentation by public health students in the two day conference.



4.9 International Toilet Fellowship



A week – long International Toilet fellowship was conducted in Chennai by Recyclebin in collaboration with the Greater Chennai Corporation and Toilet Tales. WTNIS was invited to be a mentor for the toilet fellows and deliver a session on sanitation and hygiene in public toilets. Nisha Kesavan, also delivered a session for school and college children during the valedictory.

5. MEDIA & EVENTS

- The Vogue Magazine carried on article about WTNIS's work in keeping girls in schools via the Happy Periods Programme : <https://www.vogue.in/culture-and-living/content/sanitation-first-end-period-poverty-rural-india-menstrual-hygiene?fbclid=IwAR0CIpebu-fhfD37PpmD6yThVlzzLBuNylX0RMYCeJF0TuRITZ1NQfZXG4c>
- Nisha Kesavan, Manager – Projects, India won the first prize in the short film category for her documentary “My First Period” from the Society for Menstrual and Hormonal Disorders. An article on the same was carried by DT Next.

- A competition was conducted in October on the occasion of Global Handwashing Day among school children where WTNIS had provided pedal operated handwash machines. The children sang and danced to show how they had imbibed the right technique of handwashing and two best video entries from Husainy High School, Ramapuram, Chennai and KRM Brothers Government High School, Tiruvallur were awarded the first prize.
- Articles appeared in The Hindu, Tamil Magazines Kumudam, Kumkumam, Hindu Tamil Disai and Madras Musings about the restoration of the Kumulimoolai water tank by legendary writer Shri. Ashokamitran's family.



- For World Toilet Day, a poster was released on Valuing Toilets. This poster is intended to help children in Government schools understand, respect and value the toilets that are provided to them and appreciate their role in keeping them healthy, growing and active without ailments.

- The WTNIS senior management along with Sanitation First Co-Founder, David Crowweller, met the Tamil Nadu Education Minister, Mr Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi and briefed him about the investment to the tune of INR 30 crores that the organization had made in Government schools of Tamil Nadu. An offer was made to provide the Happy Periods curriculum over Kalvi TV and also train the Illam Thedi Kalvi volunteers on the same.



- Over a thousand students of the Sacred Heart College Thirupathur attended the Endometriosis Awareness session conducted by WTNIS in March 2022 on account of Endometriosis Action Month.



- David Crosweller and Padmapriya T S met Konda Vishweswar Reddy, Ex-MP, Chevella constituency to learn about the regular operations and maintenance of school toilets in his constituency. The former parliamentarian has created a revolving fleet of trucks that carry high jet motors, adequate water and cleaning materials and go around schools, with the staff driving the truck, cleaning the school toilets on a regular basis. This has helped in better operations and

maintenance of the toilets instead of frequently building new ones, and prevents toilet blocks from being closed up due to lack of funds for cleaning and maintenance.

- SFI was happy to be invited to the Christmas celebrations organised by Dr John Joseph Foundation at the CSI school for the Deaf, Mylapore along with District Child Protection Officer Ms Suryakala, and Gynaecologist Dr Kamala Selvaraj. Children with hearing impairment and autism had a great time, dancing and playing games. On behalf of Sanitation First India plates and tumblers were provided to the children.



- Chief Executive T S Padmapriya's conversed with Raman VR , Head of Policy, WaterAid India as part of a series of discussions with WASH practitioners to highlight the different technologies and innovations that are available for use to achieve sustainable sanitation access for all. (https://youtu.be/nQIJkc_1PiQ)
- Padmapriya T S conducted a webinar for the students and professors of Ganpat University on the topic "The role of sanitation in menstrual health"
- Sanitation First Co-Founder David Crosweller and Chief Executive, WTNIS, Padmapriya TS met the Industries Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Thangam Thenarasu to discuss about the circular economy model of agriculture to reduce dependency on chemical fertilizer. During the meeting, the Minister was briefed about Sanitation First's work and investment in his constituency in Virudhunagar. The minister handed over a letter of appreciation to Sanitation First for the support rendered during COVID emergency.
- Padmapriya T S spoke on 25th March in RUSA 2.0 - International Conference on Circular Economy, Gender and Sustainable Development organised by Bharathidasan University.

6. OUR PARTNERS



7. CONTACTS

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