

# Watershed

empowering citizens

Watershed India, with its local partners, is investing in strengthening the capacity of CSOs in two states (Bihar and Odisha) to ensure that the voices from the grassroots get heard at the top. Through a series of interventions, the programme endeavors to translate evidence, knowledge, and lessons from local and community level interventions upwards to influence governance and policy at the state and the national level.

## akvo.org

Akvo leads the monitoring and data support for India and international programs. Akvo builds capacities of program partners to generate and translate data into evidence for advocacy around issues for sustainable water & sanitation services.



IRC is the consortium lead for this programme internationally. In the India programme, IRC provides support on sustainable water and sanitation services for all.



Wetlands International (South Asia) is the lead of the consortium in India. In addition to managing the programme in India, WISA provides technical support for integrating water resource management considerations in the initiative.

Facilitate improvements in governance and management of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services.

### Contact:

For more information on the India programme, reach out to

Dr. Rifesh Kumar,  
Wetlands International (South Asia)

[rifesh.kumar@wi-sa.org](mailto:rifesh.kumar@wi-sa.org)



Watershed

empowering citizens

## About Watershed India

Watershed<sup>1</sup> India aims to facilitate improvements in governance and management of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services along with water resources on which such services depend. Between 2016 to December 2020, the partnership seeks to increase recognition of water resource management interface in WASH programming, to ensure sustainable WASH service delivery.

Good WASH governance requires the active and meaningful involvement of users (particularly women) of WASH services, service providers, and water resource users. A strong civil society is essential to ensure that the voices of users are heard by service providers and the government.

In India, over decades, the national level Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have played an important role in getting universal water and sanitation coverage recognized as an important element in the national development agenda. However, the capacity of local CSOs (at the state and district level) to engage in these issues remains limited.

<sup>1</sup> Watershed is a Strategic Partnership between the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IRC, Wetlands International, Akvo and SIMAVI in six countries (Uganda, Kenya, Mali, Ghana, Bangladesh and India).

## Focus Elements of the Program

### SHIFTING FOCUS FROM INFRASTRUCTURE TO SERVICES

The partnership aims to shift focus from creation of infrastructure to service delivery. In the WASH sector the focus of governments and/or donor organisations for long has been on infrastructure coverage of population. Infrastructure creation is crucial to get services. However, continued services require management of infrastructure - including planning, budgeting for maintenance (minor and major repairs and replacements), and monitoring.

### FINANCIAL PLANNING

The focus is on understanding lifecycle costs of WASH service infrastructure (over one-time development cost) in financial planning. The partnership aims to capture the flow of funds (ideally a mix of government, community and the household) to the local body in order to enable effective planning for WASH (accounting for regular operation and maintenance, support to the community or line departments for monitoring service levels, and replacements over a period of time).

### WETLANDS AND WATER SECURITY

The focus is to enhance recognition of water security planning as a means of effectively allocating water for various ecological and human uses including water for WASH. The partnership aims to develop capacities of the communities to plan based on an understanding of local hydrological and geo-hydrological conditions and identify opportunities to improve their natural capital (such as wetlands), moderate hydrological regimes and contribute to groundwater recharge.

### INCLUSION

The focus is to improve access to water and sanitation services for those who are currently excluded as well as supporting wider processes to ensure that their rights and needs are recognized. The ultimate goal of the partnership is to facilitate active and meaningful involvement of the community (particularly marginalized groups, including women) in WASH governance and policy.



### BIHAR

#### Samastipur District



An NGO founded in 1996 that has been working on urban and rural development issues in over 7 districts in Bihar. Nidan is the state partner in Bihar, focusing on Samastipur District.



### ODISHA

#### Ganjam District



An NGO founded in 1990, working primarily on livelihood issues across 21 districts in Odisha. Gram-Utthan is the state partner in Odisha, focusing on Ganjam District.

## TECHNICAL PARTNERS



Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA) is a non-profit, nonpartisan policy research and advocacy organization, to promote transparent, participatory and accountable governance in the country, and advocate for a people-centered perspective and rights-based policy environment for equity and social justice.



ACT strives to strengthen livelihoods in arid and semi-arid regions by improving access to technological and institutional solutions to resolve ecological constraints, in collaboration with communities.