

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Consultation on the Contribution of the
Swachh Bharat Mission
Towards Achieving SDG6 in India



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), in collaboration with the Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), with technical support of Fresh Water Action Network South Asia (FANSA) hosted a three-day Consultation on the critical theme of “Leave No One Behind” particularly with regard to access to Water and Sanitation (SDG 6) at Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh from the 16th to 18th of December.

GIWA, WSSCC and FANSA decided to join hands with society, to hear what the voiceless and the invisible have to say, learn from each other, identify solutions, and move forward together towards Reaching the Furthest Behind First.

The consultation was organised with the aim to include those who have long been excluded in the benefits of development. Furthermore, to ensure that no one in India will be left behind in access to the human rights of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), including menstrual hygiene and health, and in the access and use of related WASH services.

GIWA, WSSCC and FANSA deeply believe that this achievement will greatly contribute to the wider and fuller enjoyment of all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible human rights for everyone, and for an increasingly equitable society for all women, men and children.



The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) was launched by UNICEF at their World Headquarters under sponsorship of the Government of the Netherlands & USAID, as the world's first initiative engaging the planet's many faiths as allies in efforts to create a world where every human being has access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and proper hygiene.

The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) is a global, multi-stakeholder membership and partnership organization that works with poor people, organizations, governments and local entrepreneurs to improve sanitation and hygiene at scale.

Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA) is a global network of people implementing and influencing water and sanitation policy and practice around the world. FAN works to improve water management by strengthening civil society to influence decision-making.

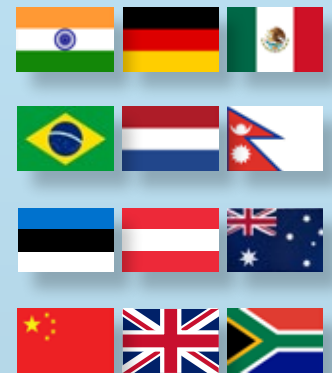
The consultation brought together the following groups:

- 1 Farmers
- 2 Elderly
- 3 Youth
- 4 Women
- 5 Dalits
- 6 Adivasis
- 7 Urban Poor- Shanty Dwellers
- 8 Urban Poor- Homeless
- 9 People Living with HIV
- 10 Female Sex Workers
- 11 Persons with Disabilities
- 12 Manual Scavengers
- 13 Transgenders & LGBTQI
- 14 Migrants & Refugees

The Consultation Included Representatives From:



12
COUNTRIES
PRESENT



17+ **INDIAN STATES**
PARTICIPATED

30+ **NAT'L & INT'L**
ORGANIZATIONS
INVOLVED





Continuing Gandhiji's Mission

This Summit was also in honor of 150 years of Mahatma Gandhiji's birthday with the dedication to Gandhi Forever! Gandhiji's teachings and message are just as crucial today as they were during Independence. In accordance with Gandhiji's great vision, GIWA, WSSCC and FANSA came together to strengthen ties across all segments of society and foster societal engagement across all borders and boundaries, towards a more just nation and world for all.



“Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest person whom you may have seen, and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to them.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

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गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat



जल शक्ति मंत्री
भारत सरकार
Minister for Jal Shakti
Government of India

17 DEC 2019

MESSAGE

I am happy to know that Global Interfaith WASH Alliance in collaboration with the Water Supply Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and FANSA is hosting "Leave No One Behind: Consultation on the Contribution of Swachh Bharat Mission towards achieving SDG-6 in India" at Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh in the lap of Himalayas and on the holy banks of Mother Ganga.

This is a noble and commendable initiative that brings together 14 key groups of vulnerable populations through an inclusive approach for achieving Sustainable Development Goals with focus on water and sanitation and hygiene, including menstrual hygiene and health. Through these initiatives, we are following the ideals of Mahamta Gandhiji towards Cleaner India.

My Ministry will be happy to extend any kind of support that you may need in bridging the gaps and reaching out to the people for Swachh Bharat Mission and ODF+ India. I am certain that by working together, we can accomplish the objectives of our mission and SDG-6.

(Gajendra Singh Shekhawat)



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हरदीप एस पुरी
HARDEEP S PURI



आवासन और शहरी कार्य राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
नागर विमानन राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री
भारत सरकार

Minister of State (I/C), Housing & Urban Affairs
Minister of State (I/C), Civil Aviation
Minister of State, Commerce & Industry
Government of India

MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to know that Global Interfaith WASH Alliance in collaboration with the Water Supply Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and FANSA is hosting "Leave No One Behind: Consultation on the Contribution of Swachh Bharat Mission towards achieving SDG-6 in India". The idyllic Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh, on the banks of the Ganga is the perfect location for such an event.

Under Prime Minister Modi, the Govt. of India believes in providing Sarvodaya through Antyodaya, in other words, Reaching the Farthest First. The success of the Swachh Bharat Mission is just one example of this government's efforts in delivering essential goods and services to those at the bottom of the pyramid. I commend the organizers for launching this initiative that brings together a diverse group that best represents our most vulnerable populations. Such efforts have ensured that the Swachh Bharat Mission has transitioned from a project of the government to a Jan Andolan, i.e. a social movement, akin to the struggle for independence.

I look forward to receiving the recommendations and learnings from this Summit. I am certain that by working together we can ensure that no one is left behind as we strive towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.


(Hardeep S Puri)

New Delhi
16 December 2019

Faiths Come together for LNOB Inaugural Ceremony



The Summit was inaugurated by the heads of 6 major faith traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism, Jainism & Christianity. All of them shared their inspiring messages and set the tone to ensure that No One Was Left Behind. These leaders included also representatives from the marginalized communities including women and LGBTQI. They also added their recommendations and suggestions towards the day long Consultations and contributing points for the Outcome Document.



"The root problem is when we leave the ONE Behind... then we see separation. But when we remember the One is in all... then only can we ensure everyone is included, welcomed, and celebrated."

- Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati
President, Parmarth Niketan
Co-Founder/Chair, GIWA



"Those who don't recognise and understand their self can never understand others. So, we must understand ourselves, start with our homes and then expand to our communities and our world."

- Maulana Kokab Mujtaba
President, Ulema Foundation of India,
Director, Jamia Alia Jafriya Trust



"EVERY individual must have access to everything they need to ensure that their basic human rights are fulfilled... We must dissolve the divisions between 'us' and 'them' in order to move forward"

- Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati
Secretary General, GIWA



"I'm proud to be here at Leave No One Behind Consultation. Whether it's protecting our environment, conserving water or working for the marginalised communities, these are all services that are very core and essential to the Sikh tradition."

- Sardar Paramjeet Singh Chandhok
Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee,
Rajinder Nagar Ward



"Committing ourselves to DOING more good is crucial. There is less negativity in the world than positivity, but the positivity is most passive. So, we must ACTIVELY do more positive."

- Sadhvi Shilapi
Veerayatan, Kutch,
Eminent Jain Leader



"These challenges we face today are interconnected, universal, and affect all human beings. Let us bring Faith into Action to ensure that No One is ever left behind."

- Father Philip Kuruvilla
Priest, Indian Orthodox Church
Working with HIV/AIDS & LGBTQ Communities



"Hearts can change, feelings can change, everything can change in our daily life. Friends, if you can change, then the world can change!"

- Mufti Nasihur Rahman
'Swachh Maulana',
Islamic Cleric



"Faith brings light both within ourselves and in our societies. Once we light ourselves then we can ensure light everywhere. Once there is light, compassion and love for all then no one can be left behind."

- Drikung Acharya Kinley
Secretary, H.H. Drikung
Chetsang Rimpoche



"Gender Budgeting is a must! [Transgender] can no longer just be a token face or body... We demand to have our voices heard and opinions shared. It is time for change."

Laxmi Narayan Tripathi
Mahamandaleshwar of Kinnar Akhara,
Transgender Advocate



With the theme of Leave No One Behind and celebrating diversity with a call to action, GIWA planned a special *Hand Painting Pledge* in conjunction with the Inaugural Ceremony to inspire participants and dignitaries to join hands and hearts, pledging to be the change they want to see for a more inclusive and just world.



Consultation

The full day consultation brought together 14 marginalized groups in two segments to discuss the achievements of the Swachh Bharat Mission and how to bridge the gaps, if any remained, for the SDG 6.2. Each group was led by a trained Rapporteur and Facilitator who guided them along the UNRC Framework for the Consultation so that a three page document per group could provide an adequate and concise summary of the detailed discussions.



Cultural Performance



Divine Dancing by the Odissi Natya Sala led by Anita Babu and her troupe performed a special piece entitled Agni Kanya, illustrating the struggles of every women and how the time has come to rise above these challenges to find the shakti within.

Thereafter, a short dance prepared by the young students of the Parmarth Gurukul shared about the harms of Single Use Plastic and inspired everyone to protect their environment by making small changes in our day to day lifestyles.

Ganga Aarti Ceremony

The beautiful spiritual happy hour, thanksgiving ceremony at sunset on the holy banks of Mother Ganga brought together interfaith leaders and represented the diversity of the different sects within the Hindu tradition. Eminent saints including Pujya MM Swami Harichetanandji, Pujya Swami Hath Yogiji, Pujya Swami Rishishwaranandji and others had a beautiful meeting with Pujya MM Lakshmi Narayan Tripathiji before the ceremony to discuss how the upcoming Kumbh Mela in Haridwar could reflect the Leave No One Behind theme.

During the lighting ceremony they reaffirmed their pledge and also led the many hundreds of devoted masses, who had come to offer their prayers in the aarti, in a pledge that everyone, across all castes and creeds, races, religions, social classes and sexual orientations, would work to ensure No One is Left Behind. There was also a special premier of..... . There was also a special premier of GIWA's new film highlighting the great partnership with WSSCC to bring Menstrual Hygiene Awareness and Management.



Summary Presentations

The remarkable three-day “Leave No One Behind Summit” came to a close the evening of 18th December, giving hope to around 14 communities whose voices usually go unheard and whose needs go unnoticed and are typically left behind in access to benefits of development.

The last day began with 5-7 minute summary presentations from day long consultations on the previous day - each of the 14 groups shared their findings and recommendations.



Some of the pertinent recommendations included:

- 1** There should be equal participation of marginalised communities, especially sex workers, in policy formulation.
- 2** A Welfare Board for Transgenders should be established in every state. They should be respected in the workplace.
- 3** Handholding support has to be given to Nigrani Samiti under SBM Program.
- 4** The number of toilets should be increased in hospitals. A curriculum should be introduced with regard to water, health & hygiene in government schools.
- 5** Manual scavengers should be treated equally in society.

[“Executive Summary”](#)

[Click to see a full list of Recommendations](#)

Q&A Session With Experts



After the presentations, there was a special session with experts followed by a question and answer period, brilliantly facilitated by Santosh Mehrotra, Professor from Economics, JNU; joined by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Swachh Bharat Mission, Director, SLWM Shri Anil Sharma; Secy General, GIWA Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati; from WSSCC James Wicken, Enrico Muratore and Vinod Mishra; National Human Rights Commission Registrar Indrajit, Finish Society Abhijit Banjeree, Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, Lucknow Dr Avanish C Mishra, Artist, Advocate and Founder Misaal Mumbai Rouble Nagi, Sulabh Sauchala Hrishikesh Sharan and many others



Concluding Ceremony

The concluding ceremony summarised the recommendations from the 14 marginalized groups found in the two day consultation by Murali, Snehalatha and Sridharan of FANSA Team. An inspiring pledge was led by Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary General, GIWA, with Puja Swami Chidanand Saraswati, Founder/Chair, GIWA, Puja MM Swami Ishwar Das, Puja MM Swami Dayaram, Mufti Nasihur Rahman, Father Philip, members of WSSCC, FANSA, Anil Sharma Director from the Jal Shakti Ministry, experts and all of the esteemed participants of the Summit to work together to bridge the gaps and build an ODF+ India.



In her concluding remarks, **Sadhvi Bhagawati** shared, “It is important to take this experience from the banks of Mother Ganga with you to understand deeply that we are beyond the borders and boundaries of caste, colour, creed, race, religion and region. This is what the rivers flow teaches us how to live with no discrimination, no expectation, no vacation and no hesitation. Therefore, we must work to eliminate the sense of us vs them from our own minds and then the from our communities.”

In his concluding remarks **Puja Swami** shared, “Its time for everyone to recognise the immense power and potential we each have to be and bring the change we want to see in the world. This is the vision that Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi saw when he declared the Swachh Bharat Mission to bring Mahatma Gandhiji’s dream to fruition of Sanitation at the forefront of our sustainable development. Let us all take this vision and make it a people’s led mission to make the last mile with No One Left Behind.”

Anil Sharma shared, “As per the study of IMF, this SBM has strengthened the safety of women and increases their work place participation. UNICEF also illustrates in a study that households in an ODF village in India save an average 50,000 INR annually, so these achievements are truly a great milestone in the history of our nation and speak volumes of our accomplishment.”

Vinod Mishra, WSSCC India Head stated, “Swachh Bharat has made incredible strides making India proud globally. However, as we have been here and identified the traditionally marginalised groups and commit to working together to addressing these gaps its time that we ourselves ensure the linkages and partnerships continue to ensure No One is Left Behind”

James Wicken, Head of Global Policy Advocacy, Innovation Unit, WSSCC expressed, “There is a huge transformational potential to go beyond simple issues of sanitation and bring about real changes in society. That is what this partnership with GIWA was founded upon.”

Enrico Muratore shared, “Its been such an incredible journey to see this Summit come to fruition and I look forward to the inclusion of these recommendations in the Niti Ayog’s Voluntary National Review as well as SACOSAN next year.”

Final Ganga Aarti

The evening Ganga Aarti's were a great coming together at the conclusion of each day as everyone gathered together to sing, pray, offer their gratitude and just be together in the spirit of a one world, inclusive family. The last day's Aarti welcomed Pujya MM Ishwar Dasji, Pujya Swami Dayaramji, Yogacharya Anand Mehrotra, Founder of Saatva Yoga as well as celebrated the contributions of all organisations who took part in the historic event.



Menstrual Hygiene Management at LNOB

Throughout the three day Consultation an interactive MHM Lab was set up to encourage dialogue and discussion around Menstrual Hygiene Management to break the silence around periods. The lab sometimes became so large that the walls of the makeshift tent had to be lifted to accommodate all of the participants as our MHM Educators shared about the stigmas, taboos associated with menstruation.



Finally, at the closing of our Leave No One Behind Summit, the WSSCC Team visited GIWA's newly created Swachhta Shakti Theatre. Among the people who visited the center were: WSSCC India Head Shri Vinod Mishraji, James Wicken, Head Global Policy, Advocacy, Innovation Unit, Geneva and Enrico Muratore Aprosio, Technical Expert on Leave No One Behind, Equality and Non-Discrimination and Gender, Trupti Ashtankar, WASH Support Office and Aishwariya Mishra. During the visit, members of our LNOB Transgender and LGBTQ Community group also joined us to pledge on breaking the silence around menstruation, bringing the light of education, empowering women to take care of their health first and to take action towards improved MHM.



Offering Gratitude:

We express our deepest gratitude to all of the organisations representing the vulnerable groups and NGOs working for the rights and welfare of these marginalized population groups for identifying, preparing and mobilizing suitable representatives for the consultation:

1. Global Interfaith WASH Alliance
2. Water Supply Sanitation Collaborative Council
3. FANSA
4. Parmarth Niketan
5. Ulema Foundation of India
6. Drikung Kagyu Institute
7. Veeryatan, Kutch
8. Harijan Sevak Sangh
9. Paryavaran Mitra
10. All India Network of Sex Workers
11. National Confederation of Dalit Organisations
12. Indian Institute of Youth & Development
13. Swajal, Uttarakhand
14. Centre for Advocacy and Research Rouble Nagi, Rouble Nagi Art Foundation
15. Tech Avenue Education Trust
16. Lok Kalyan Seva Kendra, Jharkhand
17. Viswayuak Kendra, Delhi
18. Neetu, Telangana
19. Ojus Medical Institute
20. Asian Interfaith Network for HIV/AIDS (AINA)
21. Sathi All for Partnerships
22. PRATINIDHI, U.P.
23. Centre for Holistic Development
24. Confederation of Voluntary Association
25. Aga Khan Foundation
26. Finish Society
27. Bharat Patwal Executive Director at Institute for Development Support
28. Divine Shakti Foundation
29. Ganga Action Parivar
30. The Untouchables



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/sanitationforall



@wash_alliance



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www.washalliance.org



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