

THE GLOBAL INTERFAITH WASH ALLIANCE (GIWA)

- **Background**

An estimated 5 billion people across the world are members of religious communities, underscoring the critical role religious leaders can play in addressing seemingly intractable problems – such as access to safe water and sanitation.

The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) is world's first initiative that is 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.

Launched by UNICEF at UNICEF World Headquarters under sponsorship of the Government of the Netherlands and USAID, GIWA envisions a water-secure world in which safe and sustainable drinking water and improved sanitation will be accessible for all.

- **Location, Date**

Uttarakhand, 2014

- **Areas**

Rural and urban

- **Stage/Scale**

Ongoing

- **Objective of the assignment**

To create a world where every human being has access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and proper hygiene.

- **What was done**

- **Eco-Friendly Toilets:** In India, some 24% of young girls drop out of school simply because they don't have access to the privacy of enclosed toilet facilities. In addition, India loses an estimated 6.5% of its GDP every year due to the lost revenue and poor health that results from inadequate WASH. All the while, the environment becomes sullied by the open defecation of a population nearly the size of two United States of America put together. In response, GIWA is working to provide toilets to places that need them most, including schools, places of worship, and large festivals, such as the Kumbh Mela, which don't have enough toilets to keep masses of people, the environment, and especially water sources, healthy.
- **Bio-Toilets:** Bio-digester toilets represent the latest answers in sanitation. These toilets, developed by the Department of Defence's DRDO, uses a harmless anaerobic process which naturally dissolves all waste. The only outputs are clean, odourless, virtually pathogen-free water, which can be used for irrigation. Clean biogas is also produced, which can be harnessed to provide power for households, entire villages, even automobiles. All of this is done without chemicals, for an environment that is clean, green, healthy and serene.

- The Women for WASH Initiative:** This initiative enables disadvantaged women to join forces as cooperative entrepreneurs. Together, they are learning to earn lasting livelihoods by producing household toilets and other life-saving necessities whilst also learning how to help lead entire regions towards realizing the vision of WASH for all. Through their entrepreneurial efforts, WASH Revolutionaries will work to trigger demand for improved WASH conditions as educators and motivators in their own right, thus growing family incomes, improving community health, and saving lives as their neighbours become customers. This initiative is enabling women from villages and slums to become WASH entrepreneurs. Together, they are assembling to build toilets, sell toilets and wage their own local Revolution against pollution, hardship and disease by helping to ensure their neighbours embrace, and have access to toilets, clean water, and more.
- To meet increased WASH demands, Revolutionaries are also be trained to build hand-washing stations and sell other WASH necessities that will reduce the number of children who suffer unnecessarily from deadly WASH-related diseases.
- In Uttarakhand, women are coming together as never before to not only make an income, but to lead the way towards great and lasting change. Together, through their drive and effort, they take their messages, and their wares and services, from community to community, home to home and heart to heart, until their local Revolution against pollution, hardship and disease has been won.



- The World Toilet College:** This one-of-a-kind institution provides students from across India with the skills, tools and knowledge they need in order to realize Swachh Bharat Mission goals. The classes include: Household Sanitation and Hygiene, WASH in Schools, “Sanitation Ambassador” training for communities and outreach workers, Toilet Building 101, Professional Restroom Cleaning, and more.



- Located within the large campus of GIWA's Secretariat, the World Toilet College was launched in 2015 in partnership with GIWA, the World Toilet Organization and RB. Today, it is providing the knowledge and skills necessary towards directly addressing India's pressing sanitation needs. The primary goal of the World Toilet College is to provide gateways towards employing the world's most innovative tools, techniques and technologies to inspire, inform and engage the people of India across multiple sectors for a healthy, Swachh Bharat. Through its many classes and workshops, the World Toilet College is serving to usher forth fascinating discussions covering the gamut of sanitation discourse: from hands-on evaluations of natural and conventional toilet and sewage management systems, to low to high-tech cleaning methods, to the latest findings in behaviour change communications and community triggering and beyond.

- **Financials**

Not available

- **Implementer Contact Persons**

- The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance
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- **Sources and References**

- The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance website – www.washalliance.org