

Activity Report

2017-18



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Contents

<i>Sl.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Page</i>
1	About WLF	3
2	Governance and Financial Management	3
3	Projects and Activities	5
	3.1. Rural water supply augmentation in Jharsuguda, Odisha	6
	3.2. Ground water recharge in Rajkot city, Gujarat	7
	3.3. Empanelment applications to ICFRE & UNICEF	8
	3.4. Project on urban water governance in Hyderabad	8
	3.5. Guidance on rain water harvesting and recharge	9
	3.6. Study and documentation on tank silt utilization in AP & Telangana	9
	3.7. Capacity building, workshops and events	9
	3.7.1. Student internship from Azim Premji University	9
	3.7.2. Capacity building of youth on environment at Yadagirigutta, Telangana	9
	3.7.3. <i>Sujalam-Suphalam</i> water campaign in Yadadri-Bhongir dt.	9
	3.7.4. Campaign on water conservation by NABARD	10
	3.8. Documentation, publications and dissemination	11
	3.8.1. Publications in peer-reviewed journals	11
	3.8.2. Contribution of best practices to GSDR 2019 report	11
	3.8.3. Contribution of case study to compendium of best practices by CIPT, New Delhi and USAID	12
4	Priorities for the year 2018-19	12

1. About WLF

Water and Livelihoods Foundation (WLF) is a non-profit public Trust, without affiliation to any political party and is secular in character. The Trust emerged in the context growing water scarcity in India and has the vision of striving towards a water-secured society. WLF shall promote water resources conservation and management addressed towards betterment of livelihoods of poor and needy in rural and urban areas.

WLF emerged as an organization with focus on water related issues and associated livelihoods, from the rich experiences of Sustainable Groundwater Management (SuGWM) Project, a project implemented by Centre for World Solidarity (CWS) during 2011-16 and funded by EU and Bread for the World (BfdW), Germany. The Chief Functionary and founding staff of WLF come from the SuGWM project of CWS and have cultivated rich experience in water conservation, management and related livelihoods enhancement, both at grass-roots level and policy engagement, over last 20 years.

1.1. Vision of WLF

Vision of the organization is 'Realizing a water-secure society by facilitating interdisciplinary convergence of hydrological and social sciences'. WLF strives to achieve its vision through its activities and programs.

1.2. Objectives of WLF

Following are the three specific objectives of WLF:

- Achieving water security and livelihoods enhancement of poor through community development initiatives, action research and innovating better water, sanitation, irrigation and agricultural technologies and processes that helps in better water harvesting, recharge, efficient use of resources, reducing environmental pollution, improves farm productivity and ultimately enhances incomes to farmers and people in general.
- Education, skill development, dissemination and capacity building activities for human resources in CBOs, grass-roots NGOs, their networks, Government staff, local bodies, children and youth for improving knowledge, behavioral change, better productivity in their work, skill enhancement, livelihoods and career development
- Collaborate with other civil society organizations, farmers associations, mutually-aided cooperative societies and cooperative societies; strengthen their capacities in water management and sustainable livelihoods and facilitate network programs on issues and themes around water management and livelihoods

2. Governance and Financial Management

The apex governance structure in the organization is the Board of Trustees (BoT). The key functionaries of the organization include three Trustees (including the Chairperson) and one Chief Functionary, who is also the ex-officio member of the

Board. The BoT meets at least twice a year and discusses on various policy matters and program priorities of the organization. Following are the details of the three Trustees and Chief Functionary of Water and Livelihoods Foundation:

1.	Udayashankar Chaturvedula	Chairperson	Development worker
2.	Sreekumar Nhalur	Trustee	Social Work
3.	Someshwer Rao Vanaparathi	Trustee	Finance sector expert
4.	Venkata Ramamohan Ramachandrula	Chief Functionary	Social Work (Employee of WLF)

2.1. Policies and guidelines

WLF has developed and adopted a bouquet of operational policies such as Gender policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Finance Manual, Program guidelines and HRDM manual. All these policies and guidelines together form the “Team Manual” of WLF and guide all its operations.

Core values of the Organization:

The organization has few Core values which it would not compromise on:

- Non-discrimination
- Gender Equity
- Inclusive approach
- Eco-friendly approaches
- Transparency

Each of these values is elaborated in the Program Guidelines, which is also available on the organizational website (<https://www.wlfoundation.net/governance.html>).

2.2. BOT meetings and major policy outcomes

The BoT of WLF conducted two BoT meetings during the reporting year (April 2017 to March 2018) (on 20th May 2017 and 16th Sep 2017), and discussed various actions to be done by the Trust during the year. Following are the major areas of BoT discussions and decisions:

- a) Discussed and approved various financial reports and activity reports of previous year (2016-17)
- b) Focusing on capacity building, grass-roots actions and collaborations with like-minded organizations
- c) Obtaining TAN for the organization from IT Dept.
- d) Pursuing the FC prior permission application pending with FCRA division of Ministry of Home Affairs GoI
- e) Sharing of governance and financial details on the organizational website (www.wlfoundation.in) and updating the same periodically

2.3. Financial systems and sources of funds

A well-laid out finance manual and rules are in place in the organization. Accounts are maintained on fund-based accounting practice with cash-based expenditure booking system. All the accounts are maintained in the Tally ERP 9 software and all the required physical records of income and expenditure are maintained and updated periodically.

Both the local and designated FC bank accounts are with the Bank of Baroda, Tarnaka Branch, Secunderabad, India. WLF obtained 12A registration certificate from Income Tax Dept. under the URN: AAATW4026G/07/16-17/T-1399 with effect from 16th June 2016. During the reporting year, WLF applied and got the TAN number (HYDW01203G).

Funding sources during 2017-18:

WLF mobilized financial resources for its charitable activities through grants, donations and small technical support services during 2017-18. Funds mobilized were spent primarily on the activities that contribute to achieving its major objectives, viz., water security, capacity building and livelihoods improvement of poor and small, marginal farmers in its operational areas. Details of income-expenditure and balance sheet of the organization are presented separately in the annual audited financial statements.

3. Projects and Activities

To realize its vision and objectives, the organization undertakes various programmes, activities and projects which fall under three broad categories:

- Sustainable water management and livelihoods
- Capacity building and collaborations with other organizations
- Documentation and publications on learnings of the organization

Various initiatives and projects undertaken so far under the above sections are mentioned below, a description of which is given in the following sections of this report:

1. Rural water supply augmentation in Jharsuguda, Odisha
2. Ground water recharge in Rajkot city, Gujarat
3. Empanelment applications to ICFRE & UNICEF
4. Project on urban water governance in Hyderabad
5. Technical guidance on rain water harvesting and recharge
6. Study and documentation on tank silt utilization in AP & Telangana
7. Capacity building, workshops and events:
 - Student Internship from Azim Premji University, Bangalore (May-June 2017)
 - Capacity building of youth on environment at Yadagirigutta
 - *Sujalam-Suphalam* water campaign in Yadadri-Bhongir district
 - Campaign on water conservation by NABARD
8. Documentation, publications and dissemination

3.1. Rural water supply augmentation in Jharsuguda, Odisha

WLF, in collaboration with AFPRO, provided technical services to SACH, New Delhi in 22 remote tribal habitations in Lakhanpur block of Jharsuguda district, Odisha. SACH was assigned the task of providing water supply and individual sanitary units to these 22 habitations (around 1800 families) by Ib Thermal Power Station (ITPS), owned by Orissa Power Generation Corporation (OPGC), Govt. of Odisha. WLF has the specific role of –

1. Carrying out investigations about availability of ground water and surface water supplies to meet the water supply requirements of target villages
2. Design of water supply scheme(s) with provision for household connections

Towards accomplishing the first role, groundwater investigation study was conducted during 19-26 Feb 2018 at 14 locations in the villages around the OPGC-ITPS plant area, in Lakhanpur Block of Jharsuguda district, Odisha to find out the feasible bore well sites for designing and construction of water supply schemes in the villages. Simultaneously, tentative locations of water storage tanks were decided and pipe network layouts were marked in each of the habitations. The present project is essentially to provide water supply facilities through household level connections that meet the water requirements for sanitation as well as other domestic needs. SACH, the implementing agency of this project, is already engaged in construction of individual sanitation units at household level in these villages.

Following are the beneficiary villages and their GPs:

GP	Revenue Village	Habitations
Tilia	Tilia	Tilia
		Nawapara
		Kantatikra
		Tetlakudli
		Bhagwanpali
	Fatapalli	Fatapali
	Charmal	Charmal
		Badasarva
		Bagbahal
		Gusura
		Koltikra
		Siyapali
		Thurupali
		Uperpada
	Bargamal	Bargamal
	Singhaipalli	Singhaipali
		Gadgad bahal
Kumarbandha	Rengali	Rengali
		Kotatikra
		Kisanpada
		Sardapalli
		Temporipara



Ground water survey in progress



Existing solar water taps and traditional ponds in the villages

There are existing sources such as hand-pumps, solar community taps, traditional ponds etc. But, these sources are not providing door-step water delivery required for use of sanitation units. Current initiative plans to provide piped water schemes to these villages with door-step connections. Around 1800 Families in 25 habitations in 6 revenue villages are expected to be covered by the water supply systems. They will utilize the water facilities for both sanitation and other domestic needs after installation of submersible pumps in the drilled bore wells and through domestic water connections in the project areas.

A detailed report on the ground water investigations was submitted to SACH in March 2018. The studies found that out of the total 14 sites investigated using resistivity survey techniques; six sites were found to be suitable with potential for moderate ground water yield. The report recommended to test-drill at these locations for determining the actual yield. Design of single village or multi-village water supply schemes will be done based on the yield obtained.

3.2. Ground water recharge in Rajkot city, Gujarat

Mr. Ramamohan, Executive Director, WLF, with support from few external technical experts, provided services to International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), New Delhi on augmenting local ground water resources in Rajkot city,

Gujarat, India. This project was started from 01st Nov 2017 and goes till 30th April 2018. The project primarily carried out the following three tasks:

1. Quality assessment of ground water
2. Ground water availability and scope for rain water harvesting
3. Suggest possible options for reuse of treated wastewater from existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)
4. Design of pilot projects for rain water recharge and mitigation of surface flooding

By end of March 2018, a draft report on above aspects was submitted to ICLEI. Incorporating various suggestions and feedback on the draft report, a final report will be done by end of April 2018.

3.3. Empanelment applications to ICFRE & UNICEF

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) invited expert individuals and organizations to submit applications for empanelment with them to carryout planning, capacity building and monitoring activities related to water, forestry and environmental conservation done by ICFRE. WLF has submitted the application and provided necessary documents pertaining to the legal requirements and expertise.

Also, UNICEF, New Delhi invited applications from experts in WASH area to be part of the roster of experts being prepared at the national level. A covering letter with motivation and suitability; a format detailing past experience in WASH and sample of two publications were required to submit the application. The roster of experts will remain valid for four years period. As WLF does not meet the minimum years of experience criteria, Mr. Ramamohan applied for this enrollment as an individual expert.

3.4. Project on urban water governance in Hyderabad city

During 2016-17, WLF initiated a study in Hyderabad city on participation and performance of Residential Welfare Associations (RWAs) in managing bulk water supplies from Hyderabad Water Board. It was found that there are around 300+ such RWAs in different parts of Hyderabad. These RWAs receive bulk water from the Board and distribute water to their residents. Since, billing, revenue collection, water infrastructure maintenance and grievance redressal were done directly by RWAs, it was found that the Non-Revenue Water (NRW) and Revenue Recovery (RR) are much better compared to the over-all performance of Board in the city.

During May-June 2017, two students (Niba and Sanjana) of M.A. (Public Policy and Governance) from Ajim Premji University (APU), Bangalore worked as interns with WLF. They studied two RWAs – Vayupuri (in Sainikpuri) and Jalavayuvihar (in Kukatpally)- and came out with initial findings. Nine performance indicators and benchmarks were used to assess the performance of RWAs in water supply management.

As a follow up to this small activity, a concept proposal, titled ‘Decentralization of urban water governance: Examining evidences in Hyderabad City’, with a total

budget of Rs. 14,35,600 was submitted to APU against their call for innovative research proposals in Dec 2017. The proposal envisages to carry forward the work already done by more detailed study of 3-4 RWAs and coming out with a policy brief on the best practices in urban water governance over a period of 18 months starting from June 2018. Proposal from WLF got short-listed in the first round of evaluation. A detailed proposal was submitted for final round of evaluation in April 2018. The results of this evaluation are expected by end of May 2018.

3.5. Guidance on rain water harvesting and recharge

Based on the success of ground water recharge through existing dried-up and functional bore wells, many farmers in India (mainly from different parts of Telangna & Andhra Pradesh, but also few from other States like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan) approached for guidance to replicate the technology in their own farm lands. WLF provided the advisory services and guidance to 45 such farmers during the year, without charging any cost to them. Further, few people from urban areas like Bangalore, Chennai, Surat, Delhi, Hyderabad approached WLF and benefited from guidance in recharging the roof-top rain water to ground water in their house / apartment / gated community premises.

3.6. Study and documentation on tank silt utilization in AP and Telangana

WLF has taken up a project on documenting best practices in tank silt utilization, with support from WASSAN Foundation, for a period of seven months from Oct 2016 – April 2017. By end of March 2017, the study was completed and a draft report was ready. During April 2017, the draft report was finalized by taking feedback from Wassan Foundation and other experts. The research report will be useful for many civil society organizations, Government departments and other donors as a ready reference on best-practices in tank silt utilization.

3.7. Capacity building, workshops and events

One of the objectives of WLF is to build capacities of communities, farmers, partner organizations and their network towards realizing its over-all goal of sustainable livelihoods of poor. During 2017-18, WLF collaborated with reputed organizations like Azim Premji University and NABARD and contributed to the capacity building of different stakeholders. Following are the various capacity building efforts made by WLF:

3.7.1. Student Internship from Azim Premji University (APU)

Two students of M.A. (Public Policy and Governance) from APU, Bangalore worked as interns at WLF during May-June 2017. During this period, these students were involved in data collection and analysis related to Residential Welfare Associations (RWA) in bulk water supply distribution in Hyderabad city. The students were guided to collect and analyze data of Benchmark indicators related to water supply of several cities in India and examine the correlation between Non-Revenue Water (NRW) / Revenue Recovery (RR) with extent of metering done to individual water connections. These students also got exposure to the ongoing field level work done by WLF and were taken to field visits for interactions with cooperatives of women and farmers in Yadadri-Bhongir district, Telangana. The internship opportunity helped the students to gain hands-on experience on the functioning of an NGO and implementation of rural development activities.

3.7.2. Capacity building of youth on environment at Yadagirigutta, Telangana

Staff from WLF participated as resource persons in a national level meeting cum training program organized by PEACE, Bhongir for rural youth from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on the theme 'Youth in Environmental Conservation'. The event was held during 25-26 May 2017 at Yadagirigutta, Telangana with the participation of 40 participants.

3.7.3. Sujalam-Suphalam water campaign in Yadadri-Bhongir dt.

On 28th April 2017, Eenadu newspaper and the District Administration of Yadadri-Bhongir district organized a water campaign meeting at Bhongir. Local NGOs, experts from Jayashankar Agricultural University, officials from DRDA, farmers and women from IKP groups participated in the meeting. Smt. Anita Ramachandran, District Collector was the chief guest and local elected representatives and researchers were the key speakers on the occasion. Mr. Ramamohan from WLF participated in this event and delivered a talk on the importance of ground water recharge and augmentation for sustainability in agriculture.



3.7.4. Campaign on water conservation by NABARD

On 9th May 2017, Mr. Ramamohan from WLF participated in the *Jaldoot* Volunteers Training event organized by NABARD as a part of the larger Water Campaign being carried out in Telangana State. The event was organized at Siddipet with around 65 participants from different NGOs and CBOs from the Siddipet district. Mr. Ramamohan provided inputs on groundwater budgeting and optimum maintenance of micro irrigation equipment.



3.8. Documentation, publications and dissemination

During the reporting year, Mr. Ramamohan made efforts to capture the major trends, learnings and policy messages from the grassroots work of WLF and documented them in the form of publication of as articles in peer-reviewed journals in India.

3.8.1. Publications in peer-reviewed journals

One Commentary article titled 'Swachh Bharat Mission: Bottlenecks and Remedies' was published in the Economic and Political Weekly issue dated 20th May 2017. The article discussed different impediments to achieving 100% sanitation coverage under Swachh Bharat Mission and suggested remedial measures.

A research communication on 'Converting Dried-up Bore wells as Ground Water Recharge wells: Case Study' was submitted for publication in Current Science Journal during July 2017 and a revised version was submitted in Sept 2017, after the peer-review and suggestions. The paper captured earlier experiences of Mr. Ramamohan on bore well recharge as well as the works done by WLF since June 2016. The paper advocates replication of converting dried-up bore wells as recharge wells in the hard-rock areas of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana benefiting lakhs of small farmers depending on ground water for irrigation. The paper was accepted for publication in May 2018 and expected to be published within two months.

3.8.2. Contribution of best practices to GSDR 2019 report

Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2019 is an initiative of UN that captures the progress of achieving SDGs by 2030. The Report, planned to be brought out every four years, will provide guidance on the state of global sustainable development from a scientific perspective, which will help address the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, provide lessons learned, while focusing on challenges, address new and emerging issues and highlight emerging trends and actions.

An independent group of experts working on the first of the GSDRs, called for local inputs from different individuals and organizations on best practices and innovative ideas that contribute to achieving one or more of the SDGs. Different innovative research studies, such as energy-water study by Ramamohan and Sreekumar, and

publications done by WLF were shared with the GSDR team. These contributions were acknowledged by the team and expected to contribute to the enrichment of the report.

3.8.3. Contribution of case study to compendium of best practices by CIPT, New Delhi & USAID

Centre for International Projects Trust (CIPT), with support from USAID collected and compiled different best practices in water and agricultural sustainability during 2017. A total of 32 case studies from across India appeared in this publication. An article on one-acre drip irrigation system innovated for low-yield bore wells and water with higher hardness levels was also included in this publication.

4. Priorities for the year 2018-19

During 2017-18, which is the second year of its operations, WLF made efforts to collaborate with various academic and government organizations (such as APU, NABARD and Rural Development Departments) and carried out capacity building and developmental activities to the best of its abilities. WLF could also spread its activities beyond Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and initiate activities in Odisha and Gujarat.

During 2018-19, WLF would continue to make efforts to network with different like-minded institutions and further expand its work in different parts of India. WLF will also make efforts to appropriately document and disseminate key messages from its grassroots work, contributing to the policy dialogues at State and National level.

Since CSR has been emerging as a major driving force for developmental work in India, WLF will make focussed efforts during 2018-19 to collaborate with corporate entities. Generation of new and innovative research ideas; launching exploratory studies on such ideas and coming out with innovative technologies that benefit small farmers will remain on the top of the agenda for WLF. WLF will also engage itself in inter-disciplinary areas of work, such as ground water and energy linkages, particularly in Telangana where Government initiated 24x7 power supply to agriculture from 1st Jan 2018.

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