Arghyam
Safe, sustainable water for all

Scaling participatory water management

Annual Report

2022-23

Contents

Foreword

Sunita Nadhamuni
Chairperson, Arghyam

It is with a sense of accomplishment and anticipation that I write this foreword reflecting on a 2022 of significant strides and promising possibilities in our pursuit of water security in India.

A few months ago, the Jal Jeevan Mission crossed the monumental milestone of 100 million household tap connections signalling hope for safe drinking water in rural households. This juncture in the four-year old mission calls for investing in the operation and maintenance of water supply schemes and in source sustainability for long-term viability of program benefits.

The ever-escalating impact of climate change was felt in the devastating floods in Assam and Bihar in 2022 and the unprecedented drought in Maharashtra the same year, followed by the deluge in North India in 2023, stresses the urgency to invest in both adaptation and mitigation strategies.

On the water quality front, the emergence of contaminants like uranium and microplastics poses a new challenge, endangering human health through water and the food chain and urgently necessitating a dedicated thrust into research and mitigation strategies.

Amidst these challenges, India's G20 presidency has spotlighted the power of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in solving complex social issues at scale. This has been best illuminated by our digital payments story through UPI (Unified Payments Interface) which has fast-tracked India's digital inclusion by a phenomenal 40 years! With India at the forefront of innovative technology adoption, the potential for tools such as language translation and speech-to-text to empower rural frontline workers is immense.

It is against this backdrop that we continue our highly relevant work to enable water security by leveraging technology to scale proven, community-based models in partnership with Government and civil society organisations. This year we witnessed encouraging progress on multiple fronts. In the Mukhyamantri Gramin Peyjal Nishchay Yojana program in Bihar and in the INREM water quality course, it's heartening to see our interventions gain significant traction and improved adoption on the ground, with households and government functionaries.

In Karnataka, our partner FES is working with the Government on the Jal Sanjeevani program implementation of groundwater management under NREGA, and this promises to be a good model for scale.

On a recent visit to project sites in Meghalaya with fellow board member, Neelima Khetan, our interactions with community members, front-line workers, Government officials, and partners yielded a few takeaways:

- With 2 decades of committed work in the water sector, Arghyam has earned the credibility and trust of the sector.

- Arghyam's strategy of enabling water security through the innovative use of technology in Government programs is - timely, relevant, and much needed.

- While still early, looking at initial pilots and drawing from examples in other sectors, technology can be a powerful tool for efficient implementation, monitoring and scaling of interventions. There are strategic technology partnership opportunities to leverage the Digital Public Goods and Digital Infrastructure momentum for the water sector.

- The key challenge is to keep the focus on the final outcome of inclusive water security while implementing specific process improvement or capacity-building interventions.

Arghyam has had a recent change of guard. Our CEO Mala Subramaniam completed her term and stepped down from her role in May. We thank her for her dedication and leadership in steering Arghyam over the last 10 years, especially as we embarked on our complex scale journey in 2018. I'm happy to welcome Anuj Sharma as our new CEO.

Anuj is a veteran in the water sector and brings his substantial intellect and expertise to bear on the problem of water security. A thinker, prolific reader with a strong bias for field action, he is as passionate about water security and sustainability as he is about building a strong team to act on it. Supporting him is Manu Srivastava as COO with two decades of experience in delivering technology solutions for Government programs across India.

I'm confident that Arghyam is very well-equipped to take big, bold strides to operationalize our strategy of water security for all under this able new leadership. On behalf of the Board, I congratulate the team on an excellent year and look forward with excitement to the coming year.

Preface

Jayamala Subramaniam
CEO, Arghyam

11 years is a long time to get a bird's eye and a worm's eye view of any sector and indeed it has been my privilege to get this immersive experience of the water sector through Arghyam. I came in with a lot of hope and a big dose of naivete in 2012 not having any prior experience in water or indeed development but only with the deep desire to use my time to influence better outcomes for the public good. I must say that it has been a roller coaster ride of many challenges, much inspiration, progress, frustration and moments of epiphany. Through it all, the constant was the sheer grit and optimism of fellow travelers be it team members and stakeholders across Samaaj, Sarkaar, and Bazaar that kept the wind in the sails and provided the soft-landing space to both manage the lows and enjoy the highs.

As I look back on some of the pivot moments, I can recall with a deep sense of fulfillment our collective persistence in bringing Participatory GroundWater Management into the mainstream as a critical idea for thought and action for better water security in India.

Through that emerged other equally key threads for Participatory Springshed Management and Participatory Water Quality Management with a special focus on chemical contamination of water. All of these are today accepted as central to managing India's water more sustainably and equitably, but I have been privy to the effort and patience that it takes to make such changes happen so that they can get their due attention in policy and public funds.

Equally exhilarating and humbling has been the ride of the last few years to see how we can imagine the use of digital to design for the scale of participatory methods in water management. This has been an intense journey of introspection and exploration to look at what needs to change and what needs to stay the same for us to accelerate the provision of better water to the many million people who are still deprived of this necessity. The learning curve has been sharp, innovation has been rapid, we had to swiftly

accommodate and assimilate new partners and new skill sets and mesh them with what already exists so that we could establish newer normals. This work is ongoing, and I see this as needing to continue so that the sector can establish exemplars at scale that don't exist today. This will continue to test the known norms of funding, process and practice until we can make visible changes on the ground in water for the people, at scale. I hope we can collectively support this opportunity and need with the appropriate combination of risk assessment and impact expectations for it will take a lot of our imagination and intent to make the shifts in action that will be necessary.

I realize that these 11 years I have had the honor of being able to use the heart and the mind in service of the problem and make the twists and turns necessary only because we were supported wholeheartedly by Rohini Nilekani, our founder Chairperson, and the board.

I can't thank them enough. To the team, I say go for it! - the next big thing awaits you round the corner. To our stakeholders in Government, NGOs and service partners, I say we exist for and because of you, so thank you.

So long friends. I remain in your debt for giving me much more than I could have ever expected, I will carry these memories and cherish them forever.

My best wishes to Arghyam and the sector and my special thoughts of support for Sunita Nadhamuni - our Chair and Anuj Sharma- our new CEO as they steer the team forward.
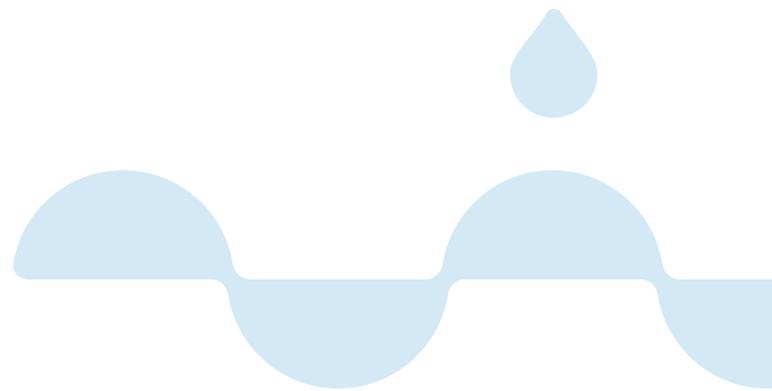
Executive Summary

Arghyam's current journey has been focussed on connecting Samaaj, Sarkaar and Bazaar to scale participatory approaches in water management. We have attempted to stitch together partnerships where civil society and market can play effective roles in government programs, which allocate large sums of money to water security - and do this by bringing communities into the center.

We believe that digital tools can play an enabling role in community participation and in creating visibility of people, process and artifacts at scale. This requires a different kind of digital that is built with the principles of societal thinking keeping the first-mile at the center.

Looking back at the various engagements and partnerships, we found three main elements that are necessary to scale participatory programs. First, every program requires a preparatory or design phase to map the objectives, and roles to define "who" does "what" along with how to capture the processes and milestones digitally. This exercise is co-created with the program core team.

Secondly, we need digital tools that can generate trusted data as and when work is happening on the field.

This saves time and effort involved in data collection for the first mile while creating observability of processes as they happen. And third, there is the support for deployment of digital tools and program management to ensure focus on effectiveness and data based governance.

Across all our programs, we see the role of trusted data in empowering stakeholders at all levels - from the first mile closest to the communities to the program functionaries and program managers. We believe that open, trusted data on trained people, content, water security plans, etc. can convert expenditures into assets and nutrients for the ecosystem. We have understood the need for Program Design, Digital tools and Deployment & Program Management Support as key areas to invest beyond domain expertise on water if we have to scale participatory approaches in water management.

Program Highlights

With Jal Jeevan Mission, the largest drinking water scheme by the government of India to bring clean drinking water to every rural household in India going strong, we have grouped our partnerships and engagements this year under 3 areas: Operations and Maintenance, Source sustainability and Water quality.

Operations & Maintenance

Community-led Sustainable O&M of Single Village Water Supply Schemes in Bihar

Source Sustainability

Build capacities of government functionaries of MGNREGS to enable community-led scientific planning to improve groundwater in Karnataka

Water Quality

Building capacities of JJM system functionaries through Water quality management course

School Students (JalDoots) as community change agents to spread the message of safe water in Assam

1

Operations & Maintenance

Community-led Operations and Maintenance of piped water schemes in Muzaffarpur District, Bihar

◎ **Program objective**: Improve system capacities for community-led Operations and Maintenance of piped water supply schemes in 548 wards across 3 blocks of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar

Partners: AKRSP(I), Panchayati Raj Department (Govt. of Bihar), Water for People

Scale: 70,000 households with 3.5 lakh population

Approach: Design for scale using digital tools to amplify the first mile capabilities while providing observability to stakeholders at various levels

Mukhyamantri Gramin Peyjal Nishchay Yojana (MGPNY) was launched in 2016 by the Bihar Government and was executed by the Panchayati Raj Department (PRD) and Public Health Engineering Department (PHED). The program now continues under Jal Jeevan Mission, and as per the government dashboards, the State has achieved 96% of the targeted household tap connections. This partnership focuses on community-led operations and maintenance (O&M) for the drinking water infrastructure.

AURAI

MINAPUR

BARURAJ

SAHEBGANJ

KANTI

BOCHAHA (SC)

GAIGHAT

MUZAFFARPUR

PAROO

BANDRA

DHOLI (MURAUL)

KURHANI

SAKRA

Arghyam has partnered with Aga Khan Rural Support Program India (AKRSPI) and Water for People (WFP) to demonstrate a scalable O&M model led by local institutions in three blocks of Muzaffarpur district of Bihar. The program targets 548 ward-level water supply schemes in the Sakra, Bandra, and Muraul blocks under the Mukhya Mantri Peyjal Nishchay Yojana of the Panchayati Raj Department.

In June 2021, the Government of Bihar issued guidelines for the operation and maintenance of water supply schemes - Dirgh Kaalin Anurakshan Niti (Long-term maintenance policy) through Ward Implementation and Management Committees (WIMCs). The program has been designed keeping in mind the available functionaries within the system and focuses on building the agency of mandated institutions, which in this case is the Ward Management and Implementation Committee (WIMC) and the front line workers, Anurakshaks responsible for the O&M at the ward level.

Program Design

The AKRSP(I) field staff (CRP) has deliberately been kept minimal to reflect the functionaries available at the PRD department. For e.g. there is one CRP for 3-4 GPs just as the Panchayati Raj department has a Technical Assistant for every 3-4 GPs. The relationship between the APRSP(I) field staff and the front line, communities and the government functionaries has been critical to the change achieved on the ground.

In order to improve efficiency and effectiveness, the program has been designed to generate data and capture it as an ongoing process when activities are being rolled on the ground, whether related to capacity-building initiatives, tasks performed by Anurakshaks as they discharge their O&M responsibilities, or to monitor concurrently the functionality of the scheme and community engagement measures.

Digital Tools

The Participatory Digital Attestation (PDA) tool enabled the CRP to have training content available to them on their phones, so they can refer back to it. Anurakshaks were trained on and had access to the basics of O&M, water quality testing, monitoring, community mobilization, etc. The department could view the training status of all Anurakshaks across the district. It is also making the data of the trainees available to other departments, who may want to involve these frontline staff in other programs.

At the time of writing this report, Avni was being designed to help the Anurakshaks to log critical tasks in real time to help them create digital records of their interactions. These include water quality testing, logbook maintenance, tank cleaning, and jal chaupal and WIMC meetings. This would reduce their manual efforts and generate trusted data to create visibility at all levels in real time.

m-Gramseva from eGovernments Foundation is a software platform that enables rural local bodies to manage revenue and expenditures related to water supply projects. In the process of being rolled out, it will help WIMCs to track billing, tariff collection, and expenditure and provide relevant dashboards to other stakeholders.

The digital tools provide comprehensive insights into diverse aspects, such as functioning of the scheme (consistent water supply and reasons for disruptions), financial status (tariff collection, expenditure), community engagement (Jal Chaupal and WIMC meetings, tank cleaning activities), and water quality data (test results using Field Test Kits).

The results of building local institutional capacity by the CRPs with support from the government are promising. The front line Anurakshak's understand their role and feel more confident in performing their duties. Empowered by training and digital tools, Anurakshaks display increased confidence and efficiency.

Communities are actively involved, getting more consistent water supply and willingly contributing to water usage charges.

In order to execute a sustainable O&M model, the program had to be designed to support community participation, enabled with digital tools to minimize effort and supported for deployment of the tools and program management.

As the Jal Jeevan Mission expands nationwide, replicable and adaptable O&M models become essential.

The work in Muzaffarpur stands as a testament to technology's role in participatory O&M approaches for village schemes. With Bihar's structured guidelines in place, this data-centric water management model is poised to make waves across the state.

₹60,00,000+
collected as water user charges in 400 wards

115 non functional schemes restored

466 Water Tanks
& pipelines cleaned by wards with their own funds

500+ Jal Chaupals
and 1100 WIMC meetings facilitated

2
Source
Sustainability

Jala Sanjeevini, Karnataka

◎ **Program objective**: Build capacities of government functionaries of MGNREGS to enable community-led scientific planning for groundwater improvement in Karnataka

👥 **Partners**: FES, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department (Govt. of Karnataka), Socion

🖥 **Scale**: 8 districts (Chikkaballapur, Chitradurga, Davangere, Kolar, Koppal, Mandya, Raichur, and Tumkur)

✅ **Approach**: Design for scale using digital platforms and adopt data-based governance

The Government of Karnataka has embarked on an ambitious initiative to work with communities to increase groundwater levels across all the villages in the state. The Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department (RD&PR) launched Antarajala Chetana in 2020, which was renamed as Jala Sanjeevini in 2022 aimed at achieving this goal by implementing water conservation and Natural Resource Management (NRM) by leveraging MGNREGS.

Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) has an MoU with MGNREGS to support in building capacities of technical and non-technical staff to implement Jala Sanjeevini across 8 districts (Chikkaballapur, Chitradurga, Davangere, Kolar, Koppal, Mandya, Raichur and Tumkur) in Karnataka.

Demonstration:
FES had demonstrated the ridge-to-valley approach in the planning process by the functionaries of MGNREGS in 53 gram panchayats. The demonstration inspired the guidelines for Jala Sanjeevini by the state.

Design phase:
In order to scale this demo in-line with the guidelines of Jala Sanjeevini, FES along with Socion worked together with the state core team to build a scalable program design. It involved a detailed preparatory phase of mapping all the actors in the program, their roles, tasks to be done, training requirements for each actor to perform their tasks, and atomised training material.

The program design is a well-defined and structured process of mapping of key stakeholders, inputs, outputs, and activities based on the "unit of change" to articulate 'who' does 'what' and 'how' in simple terms. The program design is built to be first-mile centric and scalable across the state. This design phase helps to build an operational strategy with clear milestones and program governance.

Once the design was ready, it was rolled out starting with capacity building, virtual mentoring sessions by the state along with periodic reviews by the department leadership on the progress.

Digital Platforms:
The program deployed PDA and CLART to empower the first mile and the field staff with knowledge, data and information they need to get the job done and generate data to create visibility of all the tasks performed after capacity building throughout the planning process at the GP level to support the state in data-based governance.

Participatory Digital Attestation (PDA) platform (developed by Socion) was used for capacity building to give visibility of trained people, ensure liquidity of content, and to track tasks performed by the actors on the ground post training.

Composite Landscape Assessment and Restoration Tool (CLART) is a GIS-based tool developed by FES to enable scientific planning by the technical staff for supply-side interventions for water conservation and natural resource management.

Barefoot Technicians, Technical Assistant Engineers and other technical staff of MGNREGS were trained to use CLART to follow a community-centric planning process along with social mobilisers Grama Kayaka Mitras (GKMs) to mobilize the community.

CLART suggests a set of structures most suitable for that location based on the recharge potential of the soil.

The participatory rural appraisal process when used along with CLART empowers the local community members to participate in the decision-making process. It fosters inclusivity and ensures that local perspectives, needs and preferences are considered during the planning exercise in addition to being scientific.

Periodic virtual interactions over zoom between the field staff and the technical experts were held to facilitate knowledge sharing and problem-solving. It enabled Barefoot Technicians and Technical Assistant Engineers to address challenges promptly and collaboratively. Moreover, every intervention that is submitted on the field was reviewed by the Technical Coordinator to ensure the correctness of the proposed structure before it gets into the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for gram sabha and panchayat approval.

Deployment and Program Management Support:
When thousands of people are trained and are expected to follow a process, there will be gaps in information flow and execution. Digital tools can enable scale and speed when they are deployed to 100% adoption. The digital deployment requires facilitation and program management support with data-based governance on a weekly basis with the state leadership. This kind of support is extremely critical to review and take decisions to close gaps in HR and process with the continuous feedback from the field to the state on a real-time basis.

The deployment strategy of Jala Sanjeevini program was structured to achieve four key objectives:

1. Translate the program's vision and desired outcomes into well-defined, manageable tasks and activities for on-ground execution.

2. Identify distinct actors within the program and assign them specific tasks based on their designated roles, ensuring a focused and coordinated approach.

3. Outline the types of data to be collected at different levels of program activities for monitoring and management of progress.

4. Establish accountability in the program by assigning responsibilities and clearly delineating roles at every level.

In essence, the program's detailed operational strategy serves as a guiding framework that enables effective execution, informed decision-making and sustained accountability.

3,178
front line functionaries trained

1.1 lakh
works submitted

74%
works vetted remotely using CLART

100%
of GPs reached

The Jala Sanjeevini program journey embodies the importance of Phase 0 in crafting a robust program execution strategy. By meticulously integrating process mapping, functional grid creation, clear task definition, milestone establishment, input and content mapping, resource gap analysis, and proactive decision-making, we have observed that a program can be rolled out with operational efficiency at scale.

Digital tools like CLART simplify technical planning and ensure that community resource persons are able to prepare such plans with community participation. The platforms and governance framework provide real-time visibility of the progress in tasks to manage performance, verify activities and outputs.

3
Water Quality

Water Quality Management Course: Democratizing knowledge and building the ecosystem to solve challenges in water quality

Program objective: Build capacities of water quality professionals in Jal Jeevan Mission ecosystem with focus on Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance to address local challenges and build community awareness on water quality testing

Partners: INREM Foundation

Scale: Participants from 350 districts in 28 States

Approach: Design to leverage digital tools and networks while focusing on raising community awareness for improved field tests in villages

Water quality is emerging as a critical challenge in large parts of India and threatens the drinking water security of over 100 million people exposed to various geogenic and anthropogenic contaminants. With drinking water planned to reach each and every household through functional household tap connection, as envisioned by the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the importance of raising awareness of water quality problems and building the supporting ecosystem to action on the issue has become highly relevant. Our partner INREM Foundation is the water quality thematic lead in Jal Jeevan Mission.

In August 2021, INREM Foundation, in collaboration with partners such as Gram Vikas, AKRSPI, UNICEF, Water Aid, Tata Trusts, and others, launched an online course on Water Quality Management (WQM). The course was designed to build community awareness and empower local actors to identify and solve WQ problems across India through the cascade of trainers, experts, mentors and learners.

INREM team created a course outline based on the guidelines of JJM, developed the content and took feedback from diverse stakeholders.

The primary objective of this course is to empower both beginners and experienced Jal Jeevan Mission functionaries with foundational knowledge on water quality management in a simple and accessible manner. The online course contains 9 modules with 22 sub sections covering topics such as WQ Basics, IEC and behavior change communication, and other actions related to Water Quality Monitoring and Support (WQM&S) under the JJM. Several senior department officials working in JJM took the course and recommended it to their colleagues. Previous graduates of the course, came back as trainers in subsequent sessions creating a self propagating network.

After the completion of the course, INREM hosted a mentoring network to allow the participants to continue to engage with other Water Quality Champions on a weekly basis. This network fostered a collaborative environment, enabling members to share challenges and solutions. In total, 45 mentoring sessions were held, involving 800 participants from diverse backgrounds. All the case presentations from these sessions are available on the Water Quality Network platform.

INREM used the Participatory Digital Attestation (PDA) platform to empower the participants to have access to the training material on their mobile phones, share them with colleagues effortlessly, fostering collaborative learning. The PDA platform gives visibility of trained people, connecting them with governmental programs and other initiatives, unlocking opportunities for further engagement.

All successful course participants received digital certificates, enhancing their professional credibility.

Many proudly displayed their association with the WQM Course on platforms like LinkedIn, indicating their dedication to water quality management.

Since its beginning, the course has completed 14 batches, equipping 1545 participants from 28 states and 350 districts. These 'Water Quality Champions' have been instrumental in increasing water quality awareness, training village resources, and conducting water quality tests. More than 100 people have come back as trainers amplifying the course's outreach.

INREM Foundation's WQM Course showcases the incredible power of knowledge sharing and collaboration. Through digital means, effective partnerships and an empowered network, the initiative has boosted community participation in water quality management and surveillance, consequently enhancing field-level tests by communities. The echoing impacts of knowledge and collaboration stand as a testament to the potential of data-driven water quality management.

1545
Participants

28
States

350
Districts

MP moved from 14th to 4th in FTK tests nationally in FY2023. Increased FTK tests from 1.6 Lac in FY'22 to 3.6 Lac in FY'23

CINI/CSPC developed program on Water Safety to work in 300 tribal habitations and 100 developed program on Water Safety to work in 300 tribal habitations and 100 coastal villages

Jharkhand has replicated the capacity building model

48 interviewed participants trained about 12,500 FLWs in 5000 villages.

WQM Course and its Network Effect

The impact of the course goes beyond education. It has forged a network of water quality professionals equipped with knowledge and confidence. This network has become a valuable resource, ready to engage with diverse programs and organizations. It has sparked peer-to-peer learning groups to emerge. The course has also spawned a state-level training hub on Water Quality in Jharkhand and other states.

WQM Course participants on the Participatory Digital Attestation (PDA) platform

JalDoot Program in Assam

◎ **Program objective**: Train one lakh JalDoots across 20,000 piped water schemes in Assam starting

👥 **Partners**: INREM Foundation, Public Health and Engineering Department (Govt. of Assam)

🔲 **Scale**: 20,000 JalDoots in Phase 1

≣✓ **Approach**: Enabling school students (JalDoots) as community change agents to spread the message of safe water

INREM Foundation has established a partnership with the Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED) of the Assam Government to create a network of volunteers, particularly among school students from class 9 and 11 (JalDoots) across Assam, who will play a pivotal role in driving positive change within their communities. Currently under design and testing phase, the program envisages JalDoots as informed social communication volunteers to spread the message of safe water and community responsibility within villages as part of the IEC activities under JJM. The program will also seek to develop civic muscle in the students to be aware of the community issues and develop critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving skills.

They will amplify community involvement and feedback, conduct transparent assessments of the existing Water Supply Schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission Program and nudge the communities to move away from the hand pumps towards consuming the safe drinking water from taps.

The program's dual impact – improved health through safe water and youth engagement – reflects the core ethos of INREM Foundation and PHED's collaborative pursuit.

The implementation of the JalDoot Program will be executed in phases. Initially, 219 Panchayat and Rural Development (P&RD) blocks, including 144 education blocks, with approximately 5,000 Water Supply Schemes (WSS), will be covered in the first phase. As the program progresses, the initiative will extend to cover the rest of the 20,000 WSS. Each of these blocks will have JalDoots selected, preferably students with interest in science, and a strong focus on encouraging female students. It is projected that within the framework of this program, around 1 lakh JalDoots will be trained across all districts of Assam.
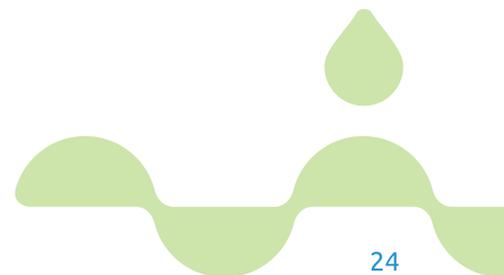
Through their initiatives, INREM Foundation strives to create awareness, promote data-driven actions, and empower communities to address water quality challenges across India effectively. By leveraging innovative tools, and simplifying complex data, INREM plans to create a model that can be adopted by other States to tackle their growing water quality challenges.

The program plans to use innovative approaches like chatbots to engage with the students, nudging and supporting them as they perform the activities on the ground and collect data. While helping the JalDoots and communities understand the water supply systems better, this process will provide valuable feedback to the administration to work towards improving the service delivery to the rural communities.

A Water Quality Data Insights Dashboard has been developed to communicate and simplify water quality data for communities to understand the quality of water they consume.

It demystifies water quality data by mapping it at different scales and providing features such as contamination hotspots and trends. It can generate insights for stakeholders at various levels, empowering them to respond effectively to local water quality problems through customized Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) support, also known as Data-to-IEC. The data aggregated as Water Quality Insights Dashboard will become a part of Assam Jal Jeevan Mission MIS (Management Information System).

Reflections and Summary

Across our partner programs and interactions with the ecosystem, some common themes are emerging.

1. Community Resource Persons (CRPs) play a key role in community-led programs. They are the eyes, ears and legs of any program. They interact with the communities, understand their pains, work out the solutions that have their buy-in and ownership, create the plan with their own local knowledge and leveraging expertise and help to implement the plan. Building their skills, knowledge and confidence are necessary to scale any community led program.

2. Making trained CRPs visible paves the way for the ecosystem to leverage the expertise and skills of local resources to accomplish program outcomes faster and better while providing livelihood opportunities to the CRPs.

3. We need to design capacity building as a continuous process - one that allows for regular interactions with experts and peers to build communities of practice, and offers knowledge resources in the form of atomised content in the local language.

4. Every program generates data on people, content and artifacts. If this data is collected in a trusted way and made visible as assets for communities, other current and future programs and the ecosystem, it will enable the ecosystem to build upon the previous efforts instead of starting from scratch every time.

5. Digital tools are normally designed for reporting. However the tools that lend for scale have to be designed to empower the first mile.

6. To scale participatory approaches in government programs, we need to invest in designing the program with a first-mile lens, embed digital tools that are built with societal thinking principles and support the deployment of digital tools and program management.

Financial Statements

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO,
THE TRUSTEES OF ARGHYAM

Opinion

1. We have audited the financial statements of **Arghyam ('the Trust'), 599, 12th Main, HAL IInd Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560008 (Permanent Account Number: AABTA0028M)**, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023, the Income & Expenditure Account, the Receipts and Payments Account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

2. In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at 31st March 2023, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

Basis for Opinion

3. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by ICAI. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Trustees and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

4. Trustees are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the aforesaid Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

5. In preparing the financial statements, trustees are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

6. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Trust's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

7. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

8. To identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and to obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor's opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

9. To identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and to obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the auditor's opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion,

10. To evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

11. To conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion.

   Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.

12. We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

for Singhvi Dev & Unni LLP

Chartered Accountants

Firm Reg. No: 003867S/S200358
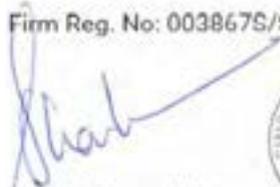
Shashi Kumar HD

Partner

Membership Number: 235431

Bengaluru

Date: 30-08-2023

UDIN: 23235431BGQRSW1578

Arghyam
599, 12th Main Road, HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560008

Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2023

Particulars	Sch No.	As at March 31, 2023 Amount (Rs.)	As at March 31, 2022 Amount (Rs.)
I. SOURCES OF FUNDS			
1. Corpus Fund	1	1,38,20,48,154	1,43,65,86,830
2. Reserves and Surplus	2	0	0
3. Long Term Liability	3	1,23,28,559	0
3. Current Liabilities and Provisions			
a. Current Liabilities	4	4,11,806	54,54,723
b. Provisions	5	10,714	11,044
TOTAL		**1,39,47,99,233**	**1,44,20,52,597**
II. APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
1. Fixed Assets	6	9,71,704	11,85,749
2. Investments	7	1,37,25,26,545	1,41,68,51,370
3. Current Assets, Loans and Advances			
a. Cash and Bank Balances	8	1,30,48,187	1,30,99,206
b. Other Current Assets	9	63,58,819	84,04,682
c. Loans and Advances	10	18,93,978	25,11,590
TOTAL		**1,39,47,99,233**	**1,44,20,52,597**
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts	26		

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Balance Sheet

for Arghyam

Sunita Nadhamuni
Trustee

Dr. Janhavi Nilekani
Trustee

Kiran M Anandampillai
Trustee

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 30 - 08 - 2023

As per our report of even date

for Singhvi Dev & Unni LLP
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 003867S/S200358

Shashi Kumar HD
Partner
Membership No.: 235431

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 30 - 08 - 2023
UDIN: 23235431 BGQRSW1578

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Arghyam

599, 12th Main Road, HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560008

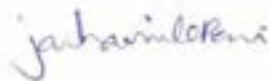## Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended March 31, 2023

Particulars	Sch No.	Year ended March 31, 2023 Amount (Rs.)	Year ended March 31, 2022 Amount (Rs.)
Income			
Interest Earned	11	8,46,83,928	9,75,19,622
Other Income	12	8,69,158	8,19,360
TOTAL (A)		**8,55,53,086**	**9,83,38,982**
Expenditure			
Administrative Expenses	13	78,30,952	83,27,770
Depreciation and write off	6	3,00,497	4,74,805
Water Security Programme: Capacity Building at Scale	14	10,87,15,981	12,47,53,485
Relief Grants And Donations	15	34,22,939	3,69,33,277
India Water Portal	16	1,18,08,102	86,59,111
Advocacy, Research And Communication	17	80,13,291	87,85,884
TOTAL (B)		**14,00,91,762**	**18,79,34,332**
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) (A-B)		**-5,45,38,676**	**-8,95,95,350**
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts	26		

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Income and Expenditure Account

for Arghyam

As per our report of even date

for Singhvi Dev & Unni LLP
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 003867S/S200358

Sunita Nadhamuni
Trustee

Dr. Janhavi Nilekani
Trustee

Kiran M Anandampillai
Trustee

Shashi Kumar HD
Partner
Membership No.: 235431

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 30-08-2023

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 30-08-2023
UDIN: 23235431BGQRSW1578

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Arghyam
599, 12th Main Road, HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560008

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended March 31, 2023

Receipts	Sch No.	Year ended March 31, 2023 Amount (Rs.)	Year ended March 31, 2022 Amount (Rs.)
Balance brought forward:			
Cash & Bank Balances			
Cash on Hand		2,066	294
Citibank - XXXXXX5806 (Savings A/c)		2,82,997	17,75,969
ICICI - XXXXXXXX6493 (Savings A/c)		30,14,311	33,40,324
Kotak Mahindra - XXXXXXXXXX0503 (Savings A/c)		751	802
State Bank of India - XXXXXX6314 (Savings A/c)		61,41,913	4,70,324
HDFC Bank LTD - XXXXXXXXXX1744 (Savings A/c)		22,48,152	1,62,38,965
YES Bank Ltd - XXXXXXXXXX0087 (Savings A/c)		1,22,411	79,771
Linked deposits with Bank		12,86,605	12,57,114
Receipts from Investments (Matured during the year)	24	94,43,00,000	64,29,50,000
Assets Scrapped during the year		691	
Interest Earned	18	8,69,88,625	9,87,28,035
Other Income	19	14,85,918	6,73,889
TOTAL		**1,04,58,74,440**	**76,55,15,487**

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Receipts and Payments Account

As per our report of even date

for Arghyam .

for Singhvi Dev & Unni LLP
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 003867S/S200358

Sunita Nadhamuni
Trustee

Dr. Janhavi Nilekani
Trustee

Kiran M Anandampillai
Trustee

Shashi Kumar HD
Partner
Membership No.: 235431

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 30-08-2023

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 30-08-2023

Arghyam
599, 12th Main Road, HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560008

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended March 31, 2023

Payments	Sch No.	Year ended March 31, 2023 Amount (Rs.)	Year ended March 31, 2022 Amount (Rs.)
Water Security Prog: Capacity Building at Scale	20	11,34,06,228	13,43,18,428
Relief Grants And Donations		34,22,939	3,69,33,277
India Water Portal	21	1,18,08,932	86,81,096
Advocacy, Research And Communication	22	80,13,291	89,86,528
Administrative Expenses	23	84,27,901	1,12,53,083
Fixed assets		87,143	3,43,869
Payments for Investments made	24	89,97,76,661	55,19,00,000
Balance carried forward:			
Cash on Hand		1,222	2,066
Citibank - XXXXXX5806 (Savings A/c)		-	2,82,997
ICICI - XXXXXXXX6493 (Savings A/c)		20,32,117	30,14,311
Kotak Mahindra - XXXXXXXXXX0503 (Savings A/c)		135	751
State Bank of India - XXXXXXX6314 (Savings A/c)		1,05,87,737	61,41,913
HDFC Bank LTD - XXXXXXXXXX1744 (Savings A/c)		9,923	22,48,152
YES Bank Ltd - XXXXXXXXXX0087 (Savings A/c)		4,17,053	1,22,411
Linked Deposit with Banks	25	2,12,570	12,86,605
TOTAL		**1,05,82,03,852**	**76,55,15,487**
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts	26		

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Receipts and Payments Account

As per our report of even date

for Arghyam .

Sunita Nadhamuni
Trustee

Dr. Janhavi Nilekani
Trustee

Kiran M Anandampillai
Trustee
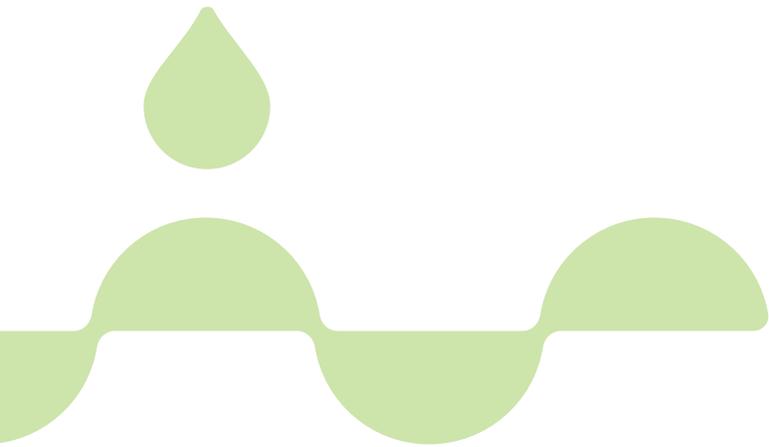
Place: Bengaluru
Date : 30-08-2023

for Singhvi Dev & Unni LLP
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 003867S/S200358

Shashi Kumar HD
Partner
Membership No.: 235431

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 30-08-2023

For more details, please write to info@arghyam.org

Arghyam
Safe, sustainable water for all

599, 12th Main Road, HAL II Stage,
Indiranagar, Bengaluru - 560068.

info@arghyam.org

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www.indiawaterportal.org