

CLTS Foundation NEWSLETTER

October – December 2016



**Igniting
Action:**
Creating communities

Highlights:

- > CLTS Foundation in Haryana
- > Lesotho: Rewriting history
- > AFCOSAN 1: Daring to dream of ODF Afghanistan
- > Reading: Dr. Kamal Kar's Exclusive Column



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CLTS Foundation begins scaling up Institutional Triggering in Haryana

CLTS Foundation has kick-started scaling up institutional triggering with Government of Haryana and World Bank beginning at Karnal district in a bid to boost efforts of elimination of open defecation in the state under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin.

This first institutional triggering exercise followed by a field visit was part of a series of interventions in the state of Haryana wherein CLTS Foundation is working in association with World Bank and Govt. of Haryana to scale up community-led total sanitation in a phased wise manner in all the districts of the state to eliminate open defecation.



Figure 1 Dr. Kamal Kar interacting with participants during one of the trainings

A five-day Training of Trainers on the CLTS approach was held in Haryana Institute of Rural Development (HIRD), Nilokheri, Karnal district, Haryana from 15 – 19 November 2016 with half a day strategic meeting with the DCs, ADCs of the participating district in the presence of the ACS of Haryana. (Click [here](#) to read the full story)

How this African country is rewriting its sanitation story in the SDG era



Figure 2 CLTS Foundation team (Dr. Kamal Kar and Preetha Prabhakaran) with Mr Tlali Hlasa, Director of DRWS, Ministry of Water (far right) and the World Vision team in Lesotho.

Recently, CLTS Foundation was invited by the Department of Rural Water Supply, Ministry of Water, Government of Lesotho to facilitate a series of consultation meetings with sanitation actors and sector players at the national, district and community level in assessing the country's sanitation situation. This initiative, with support from World Vision and UNICEF in Lesotho, is a move towards setting Lesotho back on track in achieving universal access to sanitation for its population during the SDG period. CLTS Foundation will work with the Government of Lesotho and sanitation stakeholders in the country to draft its new sanitation policy and put in place a roll out plan to implement and scale up Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) across its 10 districts.

Lesotho is one of the smallest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with a population of a little over 2 million people, most of which are rural. [The country is landlocked within South Africa](#), one of the most developed countries in

the continent in terms of access to basic education, primary health care, access to water and sanitation, infrastructure, per capita income, livelihood opportunities and other basic indicators of development. In contrast, Lesotho's access to most of these indicators is very dismal and skewed in comparison to even some of the other smaller countries in the region. Lesotho has fallen short of achieving most of its Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and ranks 161 out of 188 countries, in the Human Development Index (HDI 2014). According to the Lesotho Demographic Health Survey (LDHS) 2014, 38% of the rural population continue to practice open defecation (OD). The under-5 mortality rate is high with 85 deaths per 1000 live births and the infant mortality is equally alarming at 59 deaths per 1,000 live births. The maternal mortality ratio has been increasing steadily since 2001 and stood at 1,143 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2011 despite various initiatives. Additionally, the 2014 LDHS survey showed that 33% of children in Lesotho are stunted and 11% are severely stunted. An estimated 3% of children were found to be wasted during the survey while 10% was found to be underweight. (Click [here](#) to read the full story).

AFCOSAN 1: Afghanistan aims to end open defecation through Community Led Total Sanitation by 2025

Afghanistan hosted its first ever international conference on sanitation – AFCOSAN 1 – with a call to scaling up sanitation progress and end open defecation in the country through community-led total sanitation by 2025 (five years before the end of SDG deadline of 2030).

Her Excellency Rula Ghani, the First Lady, while speaking at the inauguration of AFCOSAN on 22 November said that sanitation and drinking water were the top priorities of the Afghan government. "Sanitation is a key driver for our government. It has to be scaled up for the better health of our children and women. Unfortunately, the lack of clean toilets in schools is a concern. I

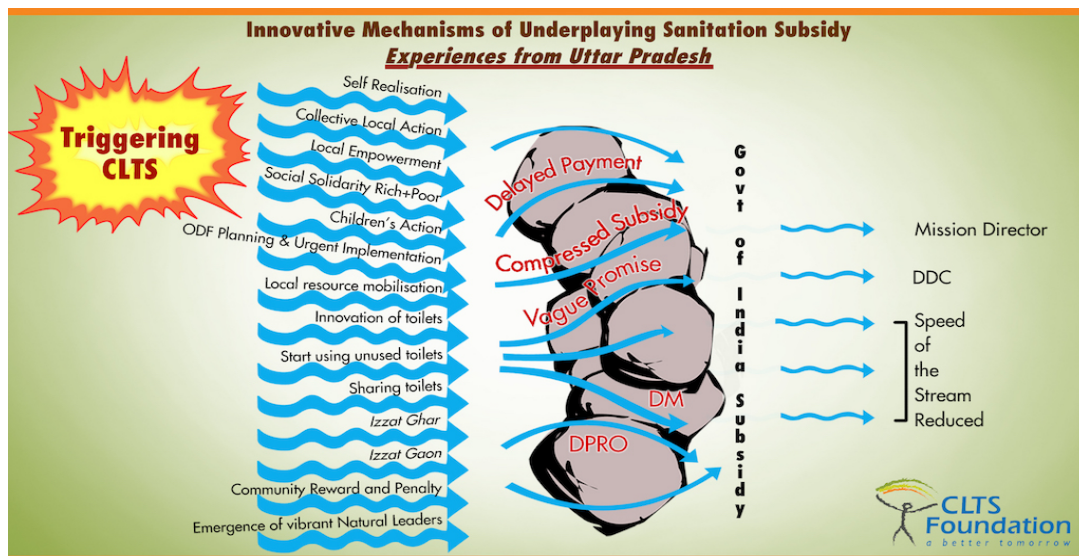


Figure 3 Dr. Kar sharing the dias at AFCOSAN 1 with Minister for Rural Water and Sanitation and Senior UNICEF Representatives at Kabul.

hope the discussions from AFCOSAN will help in finding solutions," she said. The Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), H.E. Engineer Nasir Ahmad Durrani said: "According to the latest Afghan Living Conditions Survey (ALCS) of 2014, 81 percent of the Afghan population use some kind of toilets. This is a higher proportion than some of our neighbors. Yet, 19 percent of the population still practices open defecation. WHO and UNICEF estimated that since 2001, over five million Afghans gained access to an improved sanitation facility and that the number of people practicing open defecation fell by 1.6 million, to around 4.5 million people today". (Click [here](#) to read the full story).

READING

Dr. Kamal Kar: The struggle to overcome the 'Sanitation Subsidy Monster' in India



How can Uttar Pradesh, one of the global epicenters of open defecation, eliminate this scourge through Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)?

A couple of months ago, I was invited to participate in a major state-level advocacy and training workshop, 'Good Practices on SBM-Gramin: Brainstorming for achieving ODF Uttar Pradesh' by the Government of Uttar Pradesh as a resource person in Lucknow on 17th and 18th September 2016.

A few vibrant and enthusiastic District Magistrates (DMs), Chief Development Officers (CDOs) and District Panchayat Raj Officers (DPROs) from eighteen districts of Uttar Pradesh were invited to participate and share their experiences of implementing Swachh Bharat Mission in their respective districts. Their participation in the two-days workshop highlighted some very interesting and intriguing facts and explicitly explained how the young and energetic officials have been fighting the 'household subsidy monster' in making villages open defecation free (ODF) in the state of U.P. In India, upfront household level hardware sanitation subsidy has been a feature of

sanitation programmes over the past many decades, with the centre contributing 75% and the state providing the remaining 25%. The subsidy amount has been increased more than ten times over in the last couple of decades, with it now standing at Rs. 12,000/ per household.

The [CLTS approach](#) was introduced in India in early 2001-2002 in the state of Maharashtra as a pilot in two districts, Ahmednagar and Nanded. The [CLTS pilots](#) were successful and subsequently, the approach was introduced in all the 32 districts in the state through series of hands-on training workshops, advocacy, and post-triggering follow-up activities. The success of CLTS in the state brought high-level delegations including ministers and secretaries from the states of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan to the [ODF villages in Maharashtra](#). Interestingly all the state officials who visited the [ODF villages](#) were motivated by the power of CLTS in changing the mindsets of the community in stopping open defecation. The then Secretary of Government of India, in a conversation with me, remarked that he was not only very happy but also surprised to see Maharashtra, one of the poorest performing states in the country to emerge as top performing states by adopting [CLTS approach](#). (Click [here](#) to read the full column).



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