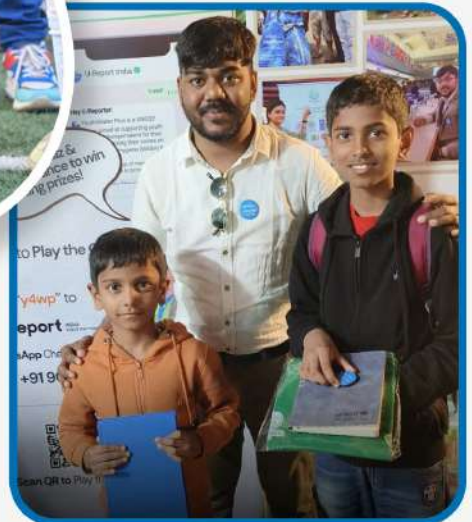




Youth4Water Plus

Newsletter | Volume 4 | April 2024

“Let’s commit to work together, to make water a force for cooperation, harmony and stability, and so help to create a world of peace and prosperity for all.” – António Guterres



The Editorial Team

Prof Anjal Prakash

Research Director,
Bharti Institute of Public Policy,
Indian School of Business

Sahil Sharma

Sr. Manager,
Communication & Influence,
Water For People

Dr. Shakuntala Pratihary

Writer and Founder,
Center for Research and
Community Action Trust

Tript Kaur

Education Officer,
UNICEF Odisha

Soumyadip Dewanji

Design Team Lead,
Youth4Water Plus

Message from for every child



In this Issue

- 02 Cover story:
Youth4Water Plus
Champions Ways
for Water
Conservation on
World Water Day
- 03 Climate and WASH
Guardians
- 04 Changing Lives
Drop by Drop
- 05 News: Water
Warriors Digest
- 06 Spotlight

Dear Youth of Odisha,

As we reflect on the incredible journey of Youth4Water Plus from August 2021 to February 2024, the milestones achieved together are nothing short of extraordinary. From three dedicated partners, we have grown to a formidable Forty-One. Our reach has skyrocketed from 5000 to 500,000 young minds, eager to make a difference. Within a short span, we witnessed registrations for online WASH modules surge from zero to an impressive 174,000. More than 25,000 youth actively participated in ground-level events, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose.



The Youth4Water Plus campaign set a record for handwashing in India and orchestrated the historic Odisha Conference of Youth. We proudly facilitated youth participation in prestigious global events such as COP 28 and the UN Water Conference, showcasing our commitment to shaping international dialogues on water and climate.

Amidst these achievements, the formation of the Youth Leaders Council stands out as testament to the emergence of dynamic leaders within our community. Witnessing these individuals, fueled by passion, ideology, and integrity, spread their wings and soar has been immensely gratifying.

"I want every youth to be an environmentalist at heart"

- Shipra Saxena



As we look to the future, we invite you to join us in the next phase of our transformative journey. Our expanded focus includes themes vital for a sustainable future: Urban Resilience (Air Pollution and Urban Flooding), Water Conservation and Conservation of the Mangroves, Responsible Consumption, Forests, and Green Skilling.

Together, we aspire to engage with more than 10 lakh young minds, uniting under these critical themes to create meaningful impact. We extend an open invitation for you all to be an integral part of this exciting venture. Let's continue building a legacy of change and empower the youth to be the driving force for a sustainable and resilient future.

Join us, as we embark on a journey of impact! 😊

Sincerely,

Shipra Saxena

Shipra Saxena
WASH-CCES Specialist, UNICEF Odisha

Youth4Water Plus champions ways for *Water Conservation* on **World Water Day**



March 22, 2024, witnessed a clash of teams on the football ground and a convergence of hearts and minds united by a shared goal – Water for Peace. Youth for Sustainability and Odisha FC, collaborated under the banner of Youth4Water Plus and organised a friendly football match at the Odisha Football Academy Ground, Unit-1.

The event was supported by esteemed partners including the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Mission LiFE, National Museum of Natural History and Prangan by Mango Hotels, Bhubaneswar Knights Roundtable 230, Bhubaneswar Queens Ladies Circle 130 as its hospitality partners.

The event transcended the boundaries of sports to champion a noble cause. Under the banner of 'Football Match for Water Conservation and Peace,' the players and the spectators immersed themselves in camaraderie and commitment. As cheers reverberated across the stadium, posters advocating for water conservation were poignant reminders of the urgent need for collective action. In the heart of the game, a powerful message resonated – that through unity and determination, we can tackle the challenges that threaten our most precious resource.



The photos from the event were featured on UN Water's Instagram Handle.

This friendly football match served as a dynamic platform to teach the importance of responsible water usage. As sports fields require significant water for maintenance, leveraging a football match to spread water conservation messaging becomes particularly relevant. Before the match, participants discussed the value of water and the critical need for its responsible utilization.

In the canvas of creativity and the sports arena, Youth4Water Plus continues to inspire and unite, weaving a tapestry of hope and resilience in the journey towards a sustainable future.

#MoPokhariMoSelfie Campaign

Youth4Water Plus, along with its partners, mobilized the "Odisha Pokhari Saptaha" (Odisha Pond Week), aspiring to revitalize our connection with disappearing ponds and their ecological importance.

Through multiple innovative initiatives, including community yoga sessions by the ponds & #MoPokhariMoSelfie movement, youth were encouraged to engage with and appreciate these aquatic treasures.

Additionally, enthusiastic youth participated in weekly plogging activities, demonstrating a commendable dedication to environmental stewardship.

The campaign also celebrated the World Poetry Day with a collection of poems advocating for water conservation, followed by a "Water for Peace" themed painting competition at BK College of Arts and Crafts that provided a platform for budding artists to express their passion for environmental protection.

The paintings were featured on UN Water's Facebook page. These efforts not only honored our heritage, but they also emphasized the importance of preserving water resources for future generations.



Climate & WASH Guardians

Youth4Water Plus Champions Shine at IGSSS Youth Fest 2024 'You Waah'!!!

In a resounding celebration of youth, innovation, and advocacy, the Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) organized the much awaited Youth Fest 2024: 'You Waah'. Held at the Vishwa Yuva Kendra in New Delhi on February 27th and 28th. The event brought together a multitude of young minds eager to engage, learn, and make a difference.

The Youth4Water Plus campaign, a prominent advocate for environmental consciousness and water sustainability, played a pivotal role in the fest. The event witnessed the active participation of esteemed individuals, including Nilamadhab Patra, Abhishek Mani, and Prasamit Kanungo, who shared their insights, experiences, and passion for creating positive change. The heart of the Youth4Water Plus presence was a dynamic stall adorned with a plethora of knowledge products. The stall served as a hub for interactive discussions and information exchange, offering visitors a deep dive into the initiatives and innovative solutions spearheaded by the Youth4Water Plus community. The Youth4Water Plus stall also received the Critic Award for this presentation.



Pic: Youth4Water Plus team giving the presentation

Open discussions, compelling presentations, and collaborative group work allowed the young participants to showcase their understanding and commitment to these pressing concerns.

The stellar representation by the Youth4Water Plus champions during the fest resonated with pride and dedication. These young ambassadors enthusiastically and passionately conveyed their vision for a sustainable future, leaving an indelible mark on the audience. Their engagement in open panel discussions showcased their knowledge and demonstrated a collective determination to address challenges and drive positive change.



Pic: Youth4Water Plus team participating in group work

As a testament to the impact and significance of the Youth4Water Plus movement, a panel discussion was held, inviting the youth to voice their perspectives on critical issues such as climate change, and environmental sustainability and water conservation.



Pic Credit: Rutika Nath

A Saltwater Crocodile

Bhitarkanika National Park

Changing Lives Drop by Drop

Odisha Youth at COP28: Insights & Collaborations with DoEFCC



Pic: COP28 experiences shared by youth delegates from Odisha in presence of the Director, Environment cum special secretary

In a groundbreaking session on March 1, 2024, the Department of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change of the Government of Odisha, India, took significant strides towards a sustainable environment. The Youth4Water Plus campaign emerged as a key protagonist in the dialogue, amplifying the voices of five dynamic youth representatives who had served as ambassadors during COP28 in Dubai in the year of 2023. These representatives, from partner organizations like the Bakul Foundation, the Sattvic Soul Foundation, and the Youth for Sustainability Alliance, played a crucial role in shaping the narrative of the session.

The youth's recommendations and collaborations underscored a forward-thinking approach. The Odisha Conference of Youth (OCOY), an assembly of 150 participants representing diverse backgrounds, yielded the Odisha Youth Statement – a foundational document that influenced the National Youth Statement at LCOY India. The youth urged official accreditation of OCOY by the Department of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change of the Government of Odisha.

Emphasizing collaborative initiatives on designated awareness days, the youth proposed coordinated efforts on World Water Day, World Environment Day, Oceans Day, and the International Day of Forests. These initiatives aim to bridge the gap between awareness and action, making environmental consciousness an integral part of local communities' ethos.

The youth also advocated for inclusive representation at COP29, urging crucial support to facilitate the participation of indigenous, tribal, rural, and disabled youth from Odisha.

In a bid to influence climate action at the grassroots level, the youth proposed submission of a comprehensive recommendations for the upcoming climate budget. This initiative aims to ensure that resource allocation aligns with the priorities of the environmental conservation and climate change mitigation. Underpinning these proposals is Vision 5T which stands for Transformation, Transparency, Teamwork, and Technological Innovation, and Time-Bound Action.

The young people recommended incorporating the Youth4Water Plus youth body as a valuable advisory resource for the department, signifying a commitment to a holistic and impactful approach to climate action in Odisha.

Empowering Nagada Village Through Youth-Led Initiatives on Menstrual Health and Hygiene



Pic: The Youth4Water Plus team facilitating a session on MHM in Nagada, Jajpur

Nagada village in Odisha, India, once grappling with malnutrition and poverty, has witnessed a transformative journey led by the Youth4Water Plus team. In 2023, they initiated a 'Youth Choupal' to raise awareness about climate change, and in 2024, they returned with a focused agenda on Menstrual Health and Hygiene, targeting the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group within the youth demographic.

Recognizing the initial challenge of engaging with the reserved youth, the team immersed themselves in the local culture, sharing an eco-picnic with Sal tree leaf plates and reusable utensils to highlight the harms of single-use plastics, emphasizing hygiene, and addressing health concerns. Through interactive activities, including the 'Red Dot' campaign symbolizing open dialogue, the youth gradually opened up, shedding inhibitions. A young girl's artistic representation of a pad added a touch of joy to the discussions.

As the program concluded, Nagada village radiated with positive energy, marking a transformative shift. The 'Youth Choupal' not only sowed seeds of awareness but also empowered the community to break the silence and stigma surrounding menstrual health, fostering a more informed and empowered Nagada village.

Wonders of Bhitarkanika: Exploring Nature's Trail and Conservation Efforts

The nature trail at Bhitarkanika National Park provides access to study its diverse ecosystem components. Mangrove forests, avian diversity, wetlands, and estuarine environments are present. Fauna includes saltwater crocodiles, deer, monitor lizards, and rhesus macaques, highlighting the area's conservation importance.

The large leucistic saltwater crocodile, Gori symbolizes park conservation initiatives. The on-site museum interprets the region's natural history and cultural significance.

Visitors can observe crocodile developmental stages at the Hatchery exhibits. Notably, the trail facilitates community outreach and youth programs to raise awareness and mitigate human-crocodile conflicts locally. Overall, it enhances public understanding of the park's ecosystem, biodiversity, and conservation management.

Water Warriors Digest

Symposium on Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation

In a remarkable gathering, Youth4Water Plus brought together over 100 passionate young minds from diverse regions of Odisha for a one-day symposium on Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation. The symposium aimed to foster collaboration, share knowledge, and ignite innovative ideas among the youth to address pressing environmental challenges. Held in collaboration with UNICEF, FORCE, Bikash Saathi, and the Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar, the symposium received significant support, creating a platform for meaningful discussions.



Pic: Group photo at the symposium

Youth Statement on Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation: A Unified Vision

A Youth Statement was created, calling for:

- Gender equality in environmental protection
- Solutions for human-wildlife conflict
- Environmental justice and sustainability
- Community empowerment and traditional knowledge integration
- Action on climate change and resource conservation
- Sustainable infrastructure and organic practices
- Youth participation in decision-making
- Respect for wildlife habitats and noise reduction
- Public waste management and native species protection
- Green corridors and agroforestry



Pic: Attendees sharing their views on Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation

The symposium had marked a significant milestone in the journey towards sustainable environmental practices, underlining the crucial role of youth in shaping a future we can all be proud of. Youth4Water Plus remains committed in fostering environmental awareness and collaborative efforts for a greener, healthier planet.

#GreenHustlers: Spotlight on WASHpreneur A. Rojalin Reddy!

Youth4Water Plus joined Youth for Sustainability for the impactful #GreenHustlers campaign. This innovative initiative seeks to unite eco-entrepreneurs, investors, businesses, and startups, fostering connections and enhancing visibility across various platforms.

One shining star of this campaign is WASHpreneur A. Rojalin Reddy, who has emerged as a #GreenHustlers champion. In an inspiring showcase of entrepreneurial spirit, Rojalin shared the compelling journey behind her business idea, Giftbati. Her passion for upcycling shines through, emphasizing the transformative power of sustainable practices.



Rojalin's journey is a testament to the incredible potential within eco-entrepreneurship. Giftbati, with its commitment to upcycling, not only contributes to environmental conservation but also stands as a beacon of creativity and innovation.

As a #GreenHustlers champion, Rojalin exemplifies the core values of the campaign - sustainability, innovation, and the power of collective action. Her story inspires us to rethink our approach to business, showcasing that eco-friendly practices can be impactful and economically viable.

The other WASHpreneurs featured were Habish Nayak, Founder of HNN; Ratikant Pradhan, Founder of R.K. Agro; and Rakesh Behera, Founder of Wash Monkey.

Youth4Water Plus Unites for Sustainable Solutions at the Sisir Saras Mela 2024



Pic: The Stall received 1st prize in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Secretary of Odisha

At Sisir Saras Mela 2024, the Department of Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department (PR&DW), Govt. of Odisha, hosted a standout stall in collaboration with the Youth4Water Plus Campaign, winning the first prize in the IEC category. Running from January 6th to 15th, 2024, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, the stall, backed by Youth4Water Plus & National Cadet Corps volunteers, was a vibrant hub for learning about Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), climate, and the environment.

The stall left a lasting impact from an impressive crocodile model crafted from waste materials by ITI Bhubaneswar students to engaging quizzes by U-Report and drawing competitions facilitated by Youth4Water Plus. Showcasing the state government's initiatives, particularly the successes of Swachh Bharat Mission 2 (SBM 2) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the stall became an interactive space adorned with compelling displays, 3D models and best-out-of-waste products by SHG members.

Spotlight

Introducing the Youth4Water Plus Team

The Youth4Water Plus campaign is really happy to announce the successful beginning of a new phase in 2024.

We'd like to introduce our new team and share the enthusiasm with which, we are sure, we'll do even more work toward healing the planet together.



Dharmananda Sundaray
Campaign Manager



Abhishek Mani
Spokesperson, International Relations



Subhrasima Mohanty
Behaviour Analyst



Priyanka Panda
Coordinator, Events and Content

Need to get in touch? We've got you covered! 📞

Feel free to contact us using the information below:

- **Phone:** Dial our helpline at +91 86550 78473 or any of the numbers given below to speak with our friendly team.
- **Email:** Feel free to shoot us email at youth4watercampaign@gmail.com for any inquiries or feedback.

Connect with the Youth4Water Plus team!

1. **Dharmananda Sundaray:** +91 99371 13418; s.dharmananda2020@gmail.com
2. **Abhishek Mani:** +91 63940 13068; abhishekmani831@gmail.com
3. **Subhrasima Mohanty:** +91 94387 28310; subhrasimam@yahoo.com
4. **Priyanka Panda:** +91 79784 69502; ppriyanka2905@gmail.com

We value your inputs and are here to assist you every step of the way.

Don't hesitate to connect with us. Let's make a difference together!

With a happy heart and a determined mind, we're looking forward to working with you as partners and creating new milestones.

Lead. Conserve. Thrive.



Ripples that Shape Life

Millenia ago,
For man to quench his thirst,
The Almighty, the creator,
Draped the earth with water first.
He'd warned,
Every time you sin,
a pinch of salt would dissolve in the oceans.
Man thought and thought,
We have plenty to drink;
Our sins would not count.
God loves us so much,
He'll keep us safe and sound.
When the man was out,
Merrily sinning.
God made those glacial rivers,
Stiff and stilling.
This date, you see,
A drop is hard to come by;
Man digs deeper,
All he does is try.



~ by *Samriddhi*, Bhubaneswar

Painting on **Plastic Pollution** *A Silent Threat to Marine Life*

~ by *Jhansi Rani Sahoo*
Kalinga College of Art
Bhubaneswar



YOUTH 4 WATER
PLUS

LEARN MORE ABOUT US

www.youth4water.org

FOLLOW
OUR WORK
ON

[@Youth4WaterPlus](https://www.instagram.com/Youth4WaterPlus)