**WASH Implementation Guide for Communities**

Our CBO is known mostly for its strong focus on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). Clean water and good hygiene practices are the backbone of healthy living. We use a community-friendly guide to ensure that households, schools, and the larger villages have access to safe water, clean surroundings, and proper sanitation facilities.

**How We Do It Step by Step**

1. **Water Interventions**

We start by educating the community on how to fetch and handle water properly. Many families get water from rivers, boreholes, or dams which may not be safe. We show them how to treat water by boiling, using chlorine, or filtering. We also promote storage in clean, covered containers to avoid contamination. In some cases, we support rainwater harvesting using simple tanks or gutter systems so that families have clean water even during dry seasons.

1. **Sanitation Improvements**

Sanitation is a big challenge in many villages. We encourage every household to have a latrine, and we demonstrate how to build affordable pit latrines using locally available materials like timber, mud, and iron sheets. We also discourage open defecation because it spreads diseases. In villages, we often use the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach, where people analyze the dangers of poor sanitation and come *together* to improve their environment.

1. **Hygiene Education**

Personal hygiene is at the heart of disease prevention. We train households on proper handwashing with soap at key moments such as before eating, after visiting the toilet, before cooking, and after handling animals. In schools, we build or support the setting up of “tippy taps” so that children can easily wash their hands. We also teach women and youth on safe food preparation, menstrual hygiene, and waste management at the household level.

1. **Involving Everyone**

One of our strongest methods is involving all groups in the community. Women are empowered to lead hygiene practices at home, men are engaged to provide support for sanitation facilities, and youth are mobilized for clean-up exercises. Even children in schools are included because they are powerful agents of change who influence their families.

1. **Monitoring and Sustainability**

We do regular follow-ups to check if families are keeping their compounds clean, their water safe, and their toilets usable. We also build local champions within the villages who can continue spreading hygiene messages without waiting for outside support.

**Why This Matters**

Through these WASH activities, we have seen a big reduction in diseases like cholera, diarrhea, and typhoid. Families save money because they no longer have to spend on frequent hospital visits. Clean surroundings also give dignity and pride to the community, while safe water gives hope even in dry seasons.