



**USAID**  
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Gap Inc.

Dear Women + Water Alliance Stakeholders,

We are pleased to share that [WaterAid](#) has joined the USAID Gap Inc. Women + Water Alliance (W+W Alliance) as an implementing partner! WaterAid will complement the work of existing partners (CARE, Water.org, and the Institute for Sustainable Communities) and will focus on improving and sustaining the health and well-being of women and communities touched by the apparel industry by ensuring continuous access to clean drinking water. WaterAid will prioritize the role of women and youth in this process, training and empowering them to plan for and maintain their community drinking water resources including ensuring safe quality access. These women and youth will develop as leaders, representing their communities' needs and working with local government bodies to ensure strong and sustainable systems are in place.

An updated W+W Alliance infographic reflecting this exciting update is available for download [here](#).

*"WaterAid is proud to join the Women + Water Alliance. We bring 35+ years of experience promoting access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to communities in need and look forward to working with the W+W Alliance partners to empower participating communities to manage their drinking water for the long term.*

*– Sarina Prabasi, Chief Executive Officer at WaterAid America*

What have we been up to since we connected last?

- Water.org signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Madhya Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission providing for greater access to WASH financing solutions in target communities. This MoU solidifies their support as key players to help Water.org increase access to improved WASH services through financing solutions at the household level.
- CARE is continuing to implement P.A.C.E. trainings with over 800 learning groups across Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. In addition, CARE is preparing for intensifying their men's engagement efforts to build greater buy-in for WASH investments at the household level, as well as interface meetings where Water.org can share possible WASH solutions. Read about how one learning group used collective action to drive change for clean water in their community below.
- ISC is in the process of launching two innovative pilots focused on water stewardship in cotton and fabric mill communities based off the completed research and analysis of ~100 global best practices. Learn more [here](#).
- Gap Inc., in partnership with the W+W Alliance partners, continued their efforts to promote water stewardship and collaboration to address the global water crisis – particularly through leveraging women's leadership. This included a World Water Day event at the State Department focused on, "A Call to Action: Supporting Women Through Water World Water Day 2019" with Una Hrnjak-Hadziahmetovic from Gap Inc. and Kelly Alexander from CARE sharing about the work of the W+W Alliance and the role the private sector can play. Read more on our blog posted to Global Waters [here](#).

#### Where to connect with us next?

We're excited to share the W+W Alliance will be featured at the 2019 [Stockholm World Water Week](#) at the showcase event on Wednesday August 28th, "[The Power of Catalyzing Women's Leadership to advance WASH Adoption](#)". This year's World Water Week theme focuses on "Water for society – including all". We believe this theme aligns strongly with the work that we are doing in India and look forward to sharing more with those of you who will be in Stockholm in August!

-Melissa

#### **Melissa Fifield**

*Senior Director, Sustainable Innovation*

*Gap Inc. Global Sustainability*

## STORY OF CHANGE



Photo credit: CARE India

### **P.A.C.E. group from Dharukhedhi (Dewas District), India**

Dharukhedhi is a small village in Sonkatch block of Dewas district in the state of Madhya Pradesh. After learning of the importance of WASH from the P.A.C.E. training delivered by CARE, the women in this learning group discussed a handpump in the premises of a local Government School that had no proper drainage system. Dirty water accumulated near the handpump and had become a breeding place for mosquitoes. Children attending the school used the handpump regularly for drinking water and played near the accumulated water posing a risk to their health. The women decided to collectively do something about this issue. They worked in partnership with men in their communities to clean the area around the

handpump, they arranged funds for proper future and sustainable drainage of the handpumps, and planted new plants to keep the area clean for their children and their community.

***“Team work can make the dream work”***

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**Stay connected!**