

- **Title of grant:** Fostering Learning and Collaboration Among Foundation WSH Partners in India
Subtitle (more descriptive title):
- **Name of lead organization:** Dasra (legal entity: Impact Foundation (India))
- **Primary contact at lead organization:** Deval Sanghavi
- **Grantee location:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Developing country where the research is being or will be tested:** India
- **Start and end date:** 2015-2018
- **Grant type:** (e.g. Global Challenges Explorations, Reinvent the Toilet Challenge, Other) **(NA)**
- **Grant size in USD:** 3,739,497 as per grant database: <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/How-We-Work/Quick-Links/Grants-Database#q/issue=Water%2C%20Sanitation%2C%20and%20Hygiene>
- **Short description of the project:**
Dasra will function as a central secretariat for Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's (BMGF) Water Sanitation & Hygiene (WSH) India portfolio, representing a cumulative investment of nearly US\$ 200 million. The secretariat will focus on major objectives listed below:
 1. Develop a Community of Practice through fostering collaboration between BMGF WSH partners
 2. Build organizational capabilities so that WSH partners become sustainable and scalable
 3. Facilitate the dissemination of knowledge to other stakeholders in the WSH sector in India so that the impact of the WSH partners' work is amplified

This investment aims at achieving ongoing collaboration between partners by ensuring that they are actively connected, and have easier means to increase their level of shared understanding, coordination and access to resources. This in turn would create the space for collective intelligence and action to emerge in the form of knowledge pieces, and joint projects which will act as guidelines and examples of successful implementation on the ground. The knowledge pieces and learning from joint projects will be disseminated to a wider audience, i.e., stakeholders in government, the private sector, media and research, to ensure that any stakeholder that is developing a sanitation strategy will keep the whole sanitation value chain in mind, especially the importance of effective Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) through robust city wide planning and diagnostics.

- **Goal(s):**
This investment aims to enable BMGF's WSH partners to form a community of practice around urban sanitation in India, focusing on priority areas such as non-sewered sanitation and Fecal Sludge Management. This community of strong, sustainable social organizations will partner with key stakeholders to amplify the effect of its work and improve sanitation outcomes at a large-scale in India.

- **Objectives:**

Collaboration between BMGF WSH partners:

A major focus shall be on building a 'community of practice' from within BMGF's India WSH partners. By bringing together partners through annual workshops and further interactions, the partners shall become better aware of each other's work and thereby become better placed to leverage each other's existing resources and expertise to fast-track progress and not reinvent the wheel in different geographies. Over time, the goal is for them to also become a stronger combined voice that can better represent practical, on-the-ground knowledge to shape policy on a state as well as national level.

Since BMGF's WSH portfolio represents a cross section of partners, across various initiatives and geographies, it is important that the experience, learning and tools that each has developed through the foundation's investment over the years be collated and combined to derive maximum value and leverage in the sector. The compiling and sharing of this knowledge, including case studies, best practices, process documents and tools (developed for city surveys, planning and diagnostics), will create greater efficiencies in the work of the foundation's existing and developing portfolio, as well as for other players in the sanitation ecosystem. Documentation of innovative interventions and their track record of success is also essential to bring them into policy discourse on sanitation and to create greater avenues for replication.

Dasra and the partners will work together to create a bank of relevant knowledge resources which are hosted and shared through existing sanitation-relevant online platforms.

Building Sustainable Organizations, and Helping Scale Organizations:

Besides serving as a platform for BMGF's portfolio of partners to better understand each other's work, workshops shall also include basic modules to help strengthen the partners' organization capabilities – through topics such as Strategic Planning, M&E and Reporting, Storytelling and Fund Raising.

Amplification of BMGF WSH partners' work to multiple stakeholders:

Dasra will facilitate the dissemination of the knowledge created, and increase awareness on critical WSH issues such as FSM through both online and offline platforms. The goal will be to drive greater visibility for BMGF's partners and their knowledge expertise, amongst diverse but relevant stakeholders such as the government, private sector, media, public policy experts and potential funders. Directing funds as well as policy focus to the most impactful interventions and solutions has become even more critical with the increased funding to the sector as a result of the current government's push on sanitation. The Dasra amplification and compilation will also facilitate the foundation's ability to leverage its multiple existing and new investments more effectively.

4. Research or implementation partners:

BMGF's network of WSH partners in India will all be critical stakeholders participating in the implementation of this program, over the three-year span of the project.

Links, further readings – results to date: *We would be best positioned to answer this question after a year of project implementation, bearing in mind the nature of our project.*

5. Current state of affairs:

The project is currently in an initial phase of implementation. As of now, Dasra has worked with BMGF's India WSH team to map partners, and will be developing an online dashboard to capture highlights of their work.

Further, it has engaged BMGF to identify a group of 19 partners, who will serve as an initial focus group for the range of engagements outlined in the objectives of this project. Dasra has visited over ten organizations, and has solicited their inputs on how the outcomes of this grant can be best achieved.

Over the coming months, Dasra will be designing a digital learning platform; will host a convening for all India WSH Partners; determine capacity building needs, and map services for relevant partners; and will identify the most effective mechanisms for sharing and disseminating knowledge amongst partners and a broader network of stakeholders in WSH.

We would be best positioned to answer the below two questions after a year of project implementation, bearing in mind the nature of our project.

6. Biggest successes so far:

7. Main challenges / frustration:

Last updated: May 2017