

## Development Alternatives Participates in PANIWATER Stakeholder Meet held by NEERI (Nagpur)



**D**evelopment Alternatives (DA) recently showcased its impactful contributions at the General Assembly meeting convened by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) in Nagpur, focusing on the PANIWATER project—a significant initiative under the India-EU water partnership. This three-day event, held from January 22nd to January 24th, 2024, provided a vital platform for stakeholders to engage in meaningful discussions and deliberate on pivotal aspects of water management.

Sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to support Indian collaborators, the PANIWATER project is dedicated to advancing six distinct water treatment technologies. Three of these technologies are specifically designed to enhance drinking water quality, while the remaining three address wastewater treatment challenges. The project spans across diverse Indian geographies, including Goa, Nagpur, Bundelkhand, Delhi, Udaipur, and Khagaria in Bihar. DA played a crucial role in accelerating the social sustainability impact of these technologies on the ground within these regions.

This involvement encompassed a comprehensive approach, starting with the assessment of water vulnerability and community needs through baseline socio-economic surveys. DA utilised GIS tools to map water quality data, identified relevant governance practices and policies around water sources, and built the capacities of local stakeholders in the project areas. These efforts were aimed at informing the technology development process for more sustainable outcomes, coupled with engaging key stakeholders to design behavior change communication strategies for post-project sustainability.

Baseline surveys were conducted in six villages of Bundelkhand, ten villages of Khagaria, ten institutes in Udaipur, and a locality in Goa. GIS mappings for water contamination were meticulously carried out, and a series of workshops and training sessions were organised to disseminate knowledge and empower local communities.

Furthermore, DA made a significant contribution by delivering a lecture on wastewater generation, treatment, and reuse to enhance the capacities of Indian Airforce Officers and their families in Vayusena Nagar, Nagpur. The session included discussions on various water treatment methods based on design and operation, shedding light on the rising issue of Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs). The lecture concluded with a call to actively participate in household waste and wastewater management, promoting their reuse through engaging discussions. These events are poised to serve as foundational pillars for the accelerated adoption of community-led technical interventions in water management.

