

Village Life Improvement

IND-MUS-EMP-P04



Northern India



Water & Sanitation

Total Budget

Project Timeline

\$65,100

JAN 18

JUN 22



Overview

This 4.5 year project focussed on three key aspects that contribute to poverty in remote villages in northern India: a lack of access to clean water, a lack of sanitation facilities and food insecurity. Our partner had ambitious plans to work in 20 villages in the area. Pilot programs were run to gauge community interest and fine-tune the roll out. Initially two water systems were built in two villages and in a joint effort with village women, green houses were constructed in four other villages. The vegetables were grown to improve nutrition (a major issue in this area) and provide cash crops for sale to the nearest big town. Twenty latrines were built in four villages and sanitation and hygiene training was provided. Year 3-4 saw a further 20 latrines, 6 water systems, and 5 green-houses constructed.

Objectives

Impact



20 Water systems constructed

20 water catchments and accompanying water storage tanks were constructed in 15 villages (benefitting 2400). Some villagers donated land for the catchments and the community is responsible for their maintenance and repair.



Latrines built for 100 families

Over the course of this project, 100 latrines were built for families in 15 villages. The community participated in all construction activities. 950 people are benefitting from the new latrines.



20 Green-houses constructed

20 polyhouses were constructed with assistance from self-help groups (SHGs), with the aim to give the most disadvantaged women the means and know-how to grow vegetables for market and to provide reliable income.



75 Self-help groups formed

75 SHGs were formed and continue to run across 15 villages. Each group received team-building and capacity-building training, as well as technical training on water-catchment and polyhouse maintenance. Members provide mutual support.



Life change

- Improved diet leading to less malnutrition and greater energy to earn an income
- Less time spent collecting water increases opportunities to undertake other income generating activities, or even just to draw breath
- Reduced risk of injury to women at night and improved health of the entire village through access to latrines



Sushma's Story

Sushma (left) moved with her two daughters to a new village to escape the trauma of losing her 7 month old son to illness and then being blamed for his death by her husband and in-laws, who taunted her relentlessly. Her husband would drink and then beat and abuse her and she felt pressure from the in-laws to have another child even though she was not ready emotionally. Even in her new village she had trouble finding a job due to poor literacy, but she was introduced to our partner who was able to help build a polyhouse for her to grow vegetables to sell at market. Whatever she earns, she gives 10% to the SHG in return for their help.

Water catchments enable villagers to plant crops and fruit trees and revitalise the environment



For the benefit of all

Construction of a water catchment system for one village has brought the whole village - men and women - together and seen everyone benefit. Now they have consistent water supply throughout the year, enough for their livestock and for irrigating the fields. Greenery is returning to the village, improving the environment and increasing crop yields. And with plenty of water to go around, women no longer have the back-breaking burden of walking long distances carrying water, reducing back issues and improving their health. For the first time in the project, men have participated and worked together with the women for a successful outcome. A village thriving through teamwork!

