

**Donor name:** Fondation Eagle

**Fondation Eagle reference:** FF 0642

**Name of Charity:** IMPACT UK

**Introduction:** A grant from Fondation Eagle in October 2022 enabled IMPACT UK to work with our longstanding local partner, the KEM Hospital Research Centre (KEMHCR), to support the so-called rural 'Tribal' communities of Soygaon Taluka in the Aurangabad District of Maharashtra State, an area which was heavily affected by the economic and health impacts of the pandemic. Your funding made possible a crisis feeding programme at a time of great need and has since enabled the installation of wells in five villages that previously had no water source.

**Date of grant accepted:** 11.10.2022

**Amount:** GBP 33,073

**Conversion rate, date & amount in local currency:** Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 96.68 INR (18.07.2022)

**Expenditure:** GBP 12,716 = feeding programme | GBP 26,934 = water project | Total= GBP 39,650

**Overspend:** GBP 6,577 (as detailed in expenditure statement)

**Name and exact location of the project:** Soygaon Taluka in the Aurangabad District of Maharashtra State

**Period of Project:** October 2022 – December 2023

**Project beneficiaries:** 4,200 people are benefiting from safe water project and 540 families (approximately 2,700) people benefited from food aid



*Five communities in Soygaon Taluka now have access to clean water thanks to their new village wells funded by Fondation Eagle*



## **Details of the project:**

IMPACT UK has worked in partnership with the KEM Hospital Research Centre (KEMHCR) in Pune since 1990, most recently supporting its 'Tribal Empowerment' programme, which trains 'Barefoot Doctors' to serve remote rural villages. According to the most up to date census data, Soygaon has a population of approximately 113,087 people living within 82 villages and hamlets. Throughout the worst of Covid-19 pandemic, this project was a lifeline through the provision of mobile clinics; a 24-hour mental health helpline; and an emergency feeding programme.

It was whilst conducting follow-up in the area in June 2022, that our KEMHCR colleagues observed that a high proportion of people within the communities were still struggling to meet their basic needs for food, water and

shelter. Field workers know these communities well and rural poverty is widespread but they were shocked to see so many families on the brink of survival.

The KEMHCR's Director, Doctor Laila Garda described the following after situation after her 2022 field visit: *'The project area is tribal, remote and poverty stricken. Families are currently facing starvation on account of lost wages. There is no work in these villages, except for some minimal seasonal income from collecting mahua flowers. Many families have lost bread winners to COVID, resulting in a significant number of young widows and orphans, who have no one to take care of them except maybe old grandparents. People are surviving by eating gum from trees, berries, wheat husk gruel and in desperation, animals like snakes, frogs and rats. Malnourished children are everywhere. There is no government help for people. We were in tears when we left.'*

We shared these findings with Fondation Eagle and were so grateful that you stepped in with a pledge to install wells in five villages where there was no accessible clean water source; and crisis food parcels to be distributed to the families most at risk from hunger and malnutrition. The following villages were prioritised for assistance:

1. Vetawadi Village (population 800) – water and feeding programme
2. Rampurwadi Village (population 500) – water and feeding programme
3. Nimbayati Village (population 400) – water and feeding programme
4. Palaskheda Village (population 500) – water and feeding programme
5. Sonaswadi Village (population 800) – feeding programme
6. Jangla Gaon and Jangli Tanda villages (population 2,000) – water programme

### Crisis feeding programme

As soon as we received Fondation Eagle's grant, fieldworkers were assisted to identify families by the local Gram Panchayats (village councils) in order that those most in need could benefit. Young widows with children; elderly people living alone; large families (10+) with only one earner; and those with a monthly income of less than Rs.2000 per family were prioritised.

Initially the plan was to providing food support to 269 families but local publicity, as a result of your donation, leveraged further local funding from well-wishers in Pune, meaning the KEMHCR could double the number of families receiving food parcels and expand the packs to include additional locally donated items (tea powder and flour). Therefore, in total, 540 households benefited from three months' supply of emergency food rations. The food kits comprised of wheat flour, rice, pulses, oil, tea powder and soap. Some of the people who benefited from the emergency food parcels:



**Sundrabai (78)** a widow from Rampurwadi village. *'I am illiterate. I live alone. I have cataracts... I am not been able to do any work for 10 years... My monthly income is Rs.1000 which I get from Government. It is not sufficient for me to survive. During the lockdowns, I was starving. Also, the will to live was over. However, a widow like me was helped by a very good food packet. That's why God stood by us in the form of Madam to keep us alive in this world'*



**Sayrabi Ibrahim (48)** from Vetawadi village. *'My house is a kaccha hut...I am married and illiterate. There are total six members in our famil... Since I had TB twice, I have a constant cough and my son is mentally retarded. Currently I am cured of my TB with medicine. But I don't feel like working because of constant coughing... My husband is the only earner in our house, and our monthly income is Rs.1800 to Rs.2000. After receiving food packets my family is able to eat at least once a day and we don't starve. We are grateful to God who sent this madam to help us'*



**Shepdabai (76)** from Nimbayati village. *'I am a widow.... I am suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure, and I could not purchase medicines on time as I cannot afford it...Our total monthly income is Rs.1800. Our work was closed during Corona, so the time of starvation was upon us. I am very thankful to the donor for providing us with food packets knowing our time of hunger.'*

## Construction of five clean water wells

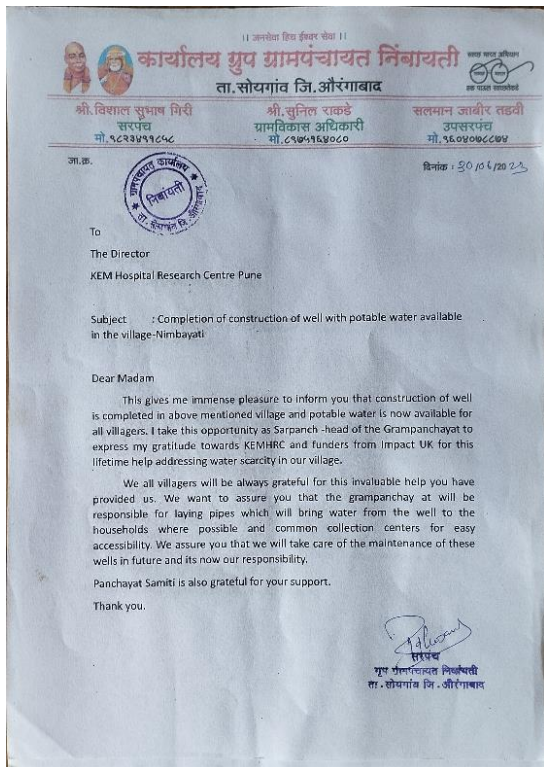
Water scarcity is a huge challenge in this area of Maharashtra. The landscape is steep and hilly and when it rains, water flows away off the igneous rock causing widespread water shortages. Many wells are privately owned, and it is not uncommon for people in the target communities to walk many miles each day to collect water. Furthermore, many private owners close access to their wells in February and March to preserve their supplies. Five communities were chosen to benefit from your funding, and wells have been installed in each. The water has been tested by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to ensure it conforms to their safe water quality standards. Documentation has been provided as an appendix to this report.

### Nimbayati Village

Nimbayati, a tribal village located in Soygaon Taluka within the Aurangabad District of Maharashtra State, was faced with water scarcity challenges. Situated at the foothills of a mountain, the village had a single well that had run dry, forcing villagers to make a strenuous 3km journey to a neighboring village to collect water. Unfortunately, even that water source was unreliable, especially during the arid summer months, due to low water levels. The only well within Nimbayati was in disrepair, rendering its water unfit for consumption. Thanks to your generous support, a new open well was constructed in Nimbayati village. Surprisingly, water was struck at a depth of just 35 feet, despite the typical recommended depth of 50 feet for open wells. The well has been fully equipped with cement rings to ensure its structural integrity. The villagers, in collaboration with the local Gram Panchayat, initiated the installation of a pipeline network from the well to various accessible points within the village.



*"Initially because of lack of water children used to come school dirty and had to be sent back, in this time we have seen the difference now children are coming cleanly dressed to school"*  
- Village school teacher



Letter of certification from the Gram Pachayat of Nimbayati



Video testimony from Mr Anil Tadavi, Gram Panchayat member, Nimbayati Village. Mr Anil describes how grateful the community are. Disabled and older people now have access to clean water and the water source is helping farmer to grow their crops too.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1regkk8MsDjVjyTF\\_RkB1q3\\_mc8DsQWvj/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1regkk8MsDjVjyTF_RkB1q3_mc8DsQWvj/view?usp=drive_link)



## Testimony from community member – Mrs Tabbasum Tadavi

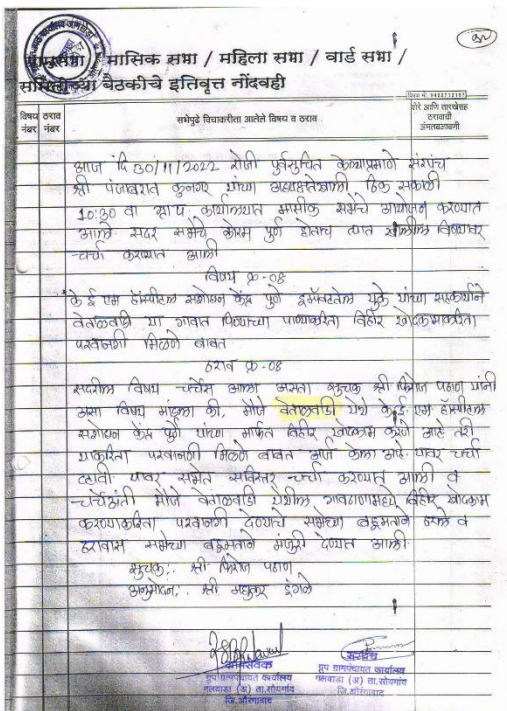


In this video testimony, Ms. Tabbasum who works as a Community Resource Person (CRP) and shares her of how the new well has transformed village life. Previously, half of the village area did not have drinking water and people had to walk 2-3 km for drinking water. The well was not maintained and water level was low. So, it was not possible for older people or disabled people to easily reach that well or even to fill up and carry their water pots. This village is mostly daily wage labourers and because they spent much of their time fetching water, it impacted their wages. The new well has solved these problems and Ms Tadavi thanked the KEM Hospital Research Centre through IMPACT:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TMEMiFAt07JXMj8pqSpqyPawlWwYyG4e/view?usp=sharing>

## Vetalwadi Village

Vetalwadi is a large village comprised of three hamlets nestled at the foothills of a mountain, with a population of 800. Prior to the commencement of the project, the village faced a critical shortage of drinking water. Villagers walked approximately 3-kilometers to a nearby village to collect water. The construction work of an open well has now been completed. The depth of the well is 50 feet and there is a good supply of water. There are also live streams of water coming into the well-meaning water levels will be maintained in the summer months. The installation of pumps along with a pipeline to supply water to various points for the villagers is also complete. This community has an extremely active Bachat Gath (women’s saving group) and they are committed to helping to maintain the well.



Letter of certification from the local authorities





*The completed well at Vetawadi Village*



### Rampurwadi Village

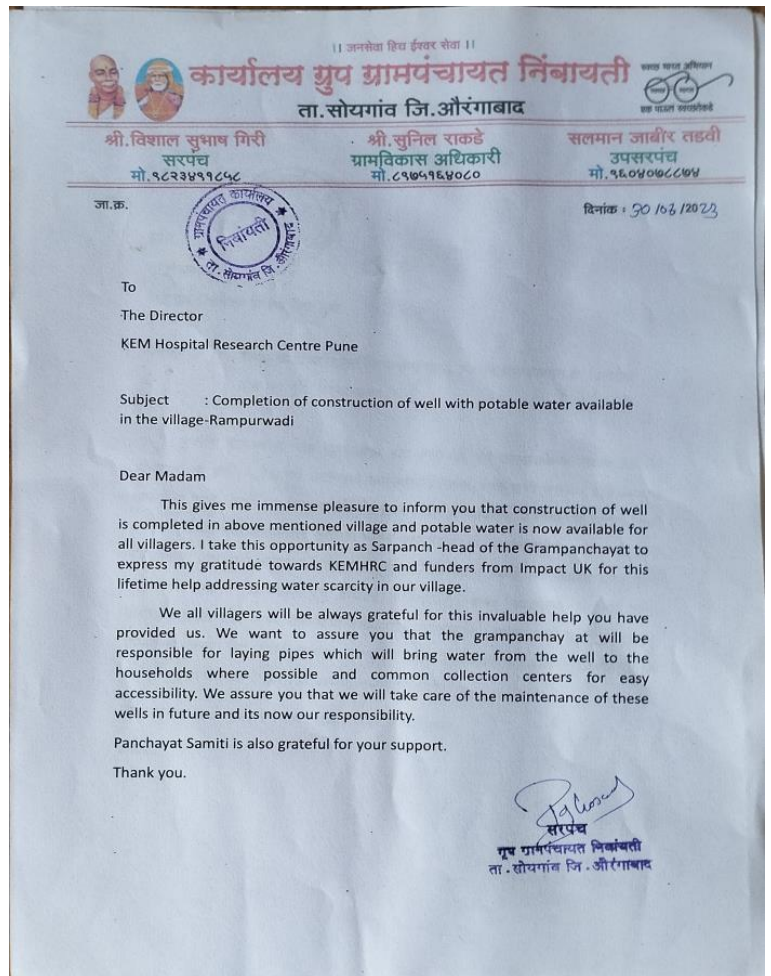
Rampurwadi is comparatively a smaller village with a population of approximately 500. This village's population comprises of mainly elderly people as young population have migrated out in search of work. It is very difficult for the elderly population to walk 3-4 kilometers daily to get water. The construction work of the open well in Rampurwadi has now been completed. The depth of the well is 50 feet. There is a good amount of water in the well and there are live streams of water coming into the well so that the water level will be maintained in the summer months.



*"Water used to be carried from far distances in different ways on a bicycle for example, but more often than not it was carried on the head, this resulted in illness of the back and neck"*



*The completed well at Rampurwadi Village with some of the completed pipelines to homes*



Letter of certification from the Gram Pachayat of Rampurwadi Village

**Video testimony from Community Member:**

Mrs Ushabai describes how much the well has benefited older people.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DYeXwn9VG2Xu-YhvpNZK26yzP3\\_zn9k0/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DYeXwn9VG2Xu-YhvpNZK26yzP3_zn9k0/view)



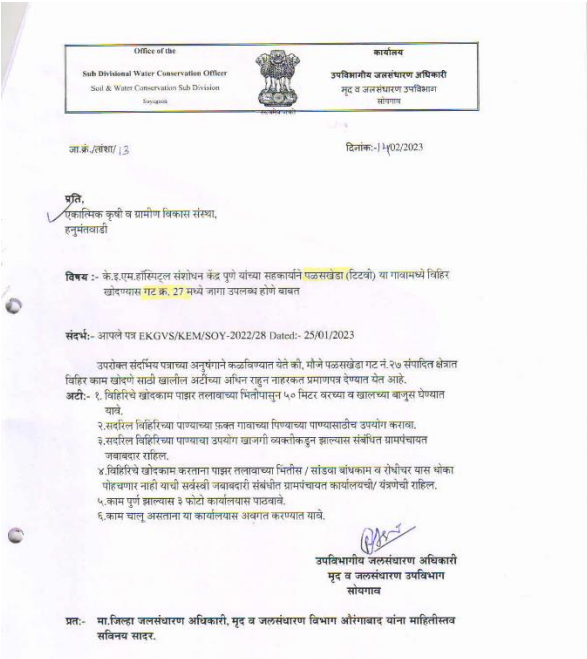
**Video testimony from Community Member:**

Mr Shambu More describes how villagers are very happy with their new well.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DYeXwn9VG2Xu-YhvpNZK26yzP3\\_zn9k0/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DYeXwn9VG2Xu-YhvpNZK26yzP3_zn9k0/view)

**Palaskheda Village**

This smaller village is at the foot of a mountain, there is no road beyond this point. It comprises of a tribal population of approximately 500 people. Previously the only water available to the village community was a small well approximately four kms away on the other side of a thick forest. This posed a threat however as there was a very real risk of being attacked by wild animals. The people of the village were delighted to be chosen as recipient for this new well. Obtaining government permission for the use of the land for the well was challenging and it took longer than usual to get necessary approvals and certificates. But the well is now complete and all the pipelines have been set up in order to bring safe clean water to this remote village.



Letter of verification relating to the Palashkedha Village well from the Sub Divisional Water Conservation Office

**Video testimony from Community Member:**

Mrs Hasnurbai Bala Rashid (age 70) describes how before the well it used to take 3-4 hours to collect one pot of water by hand. She is so pleased that the next generation will not face the same water shortages:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DYeXwn9VG2Xu-YhvpNZK26yzP3\\_zn9k0/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DYeXwn9VG2Xu-YhvpNZK26yzP3_zn9k0/view)

## Sonaswadi Village

Sonaswadi was initially identified as a village with sufficient need for a well, considering their lack of a clean water source. A comprehensive geohydrological survey was conducted, and digging commenced. Upon reaching the standard and recommended depth of 50 feet for an open well, no water was found, revealing the well to be dry. Consultation with experts and ongoing monitoring was sought throughout the process, but the outcome was that no water would be reached and another village was identified.



50 feet down the well was dry

## Jangli Tanda and Jangla Gaon

It was decided that the villages of Jangli Tanda and Jangla Gaon would replace Sonaswadi Village as beneficiaries of your grant, since they have the same Gram Panchayat governing body. Both are located in a mountainous area near to Ajintha Leni and the total population between the two communities is around 2,000. Neither village had a sufficient water supply and people had to walk far to get water. It is most commonly women who are sent to collect water and this can put a great strain on women's health, causing back and neck problems. The construction went smoothly and pipeline has been fitted to both villages, enabling people from both villages to have safe, clean water.



## **The IMPACT – messages from the beneficiaries**



*“There used to be many illnesses amongst us as the old well was very far way and was never cleaned. We are very happy with this well as we can bathe when we want and have water for cooking also”.*

*“I could not have a bath for eight days because my daughter in law had to walk very long distances to bring water. She could not carry enough for me. I used to manage somehow. Now I can have a bath. I am very happy and grateful for this new well”.*

*“There used to be constant fighting for water. Getting water was very, very difficult. Now it is much easier and the community is able to get water when we need it. We are very grateful”.*





*“We have many times paid for water. This affected our food. Now that money is saved and it helps us so much that water is in our village”.*

*“Before this, there was hardly any water, the pump did not work and there were fights over what little water there was. We are happy to have this working well”.*

**‘We are indeed grateful indeed to IMPACT and the generous Donor for supporting us in this very precious exercise of providing clean water to areas where there was none’**  
KEMHCR’s Director, Doctor Laila Garda



**Thank you** so much for supporting IMPACT in addressing the pressing needs of these five rural communities in Soygaon Taluka. Even during the best of times, people living in this area face the challenges of rural poverty. And malnutrition, plus lack of clean water and sanitation, exact a heavy toll on people's health and prospects. These challenges were compounded by the pandemic and thus your support could not have been more timely. The five wells will continue to benefit the people living in these village for many years to come.

**Expenditure:**

		Budget	Expenditure
Village wells	Cost per well	5 villages	5 villages
Labour (It typically takes 6 workers an average of 20 days to install each well)	875	4,375	4,375
Drilling machinery	1,042	5,210	5,210
Raw materials	1,459	7,295	7,295
Pipes and electric motor	417	2,085	2,085
Transportation, site supervision and food and accommodation for onsite labourers	573	2,865	2,865
Hydrogeological survey and water purity analysis	650	3,250	3,850*
Sub-total	5,016	25,080	25,680
Project Management (@ 5% of original budget)	250	1,254	1,254
Grand total	5,266	26,334	26,934

\* Note: The additional £600 added to the expenditure line was for the unsuccessful digging of the well in Sonaswadi.

		Budget	Expenditure
Emergency food assistance	Unit cost  (per family, per month)	3 month supply for 269 families (5 villages)	3 month supply for 540 families (5 villages)
Food parcels – including 30kg rice (16), salt (1), dal (2), cooking oil (1) and soap (1)	21	5,649	11,340 *
Human resources, logistics and transportation	-	770	770
Sub-total	-	6,419	12,110
Project Management @ 5%	-	320	606
Grand total	-	6,739	12,716

\*Note: The need for food aid in the project area was even greater that the KEMHCR had originally anticipated. Thanks to Eagle's initial commitment of GBP 6,739, funds to expand the feeding programme from 269 to 540 families were leveraged from well-wishers in Pune. The overspend of £5,977 was met by these local contributions. Locally sourced donations of wheat flour and tea powder were also included to the food kits.

The total project overspend was £6,577 and met by local contributions.