

File form: 0642

Construction of clean water wells and crisis feeding programme in Maharashtra State, India

Funds received: 11.10.2022

Amount of grant: GBP 33,073

Conversion rate: Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 96.68 INR (18.07.2022)

Total number of beneficiaries: 2,450 people benefiting from safe water project and 540 families (approximately 2,700) people benefiting from food aid

Expenditure: GBP 6,739 = feeding programme GBP 19,673 = water project

Balance remaining: GBP 6,661

Background

Thanks to support from Fondation Eagle, IMPACT has been working with our longstanding local partner, the KEM Hospital Research Centre (KEMHCR), to support the rural 'Tribal' communities of Soygaon Taluka in the Aurangabad District of Maharashtra State. The economic and health impacts of the pandemic have been sharply felt by the communities of this region and your funding for a crisis feeding programme has been greatly appreciated by people living in the five beneficiary villages. This grant is also funding five village wells, the installation of which remains in progress.

Target communities

1. Vetalwadi 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 Village (population 250) – water programme

Crisis feeding programme

The above villages were selected to benefit from your support by fieldworkers from the KEMHCR, who identified a high proportion of people within the communities struggling to meet their basic needs for food, water and shelter. *'There is a huge unmet need here to provide at the bare minimum food packets to starving families until they can pick themselves up with some more sustainable income post COVID. Currently a significant number of families are facing starvation on account of loss of wages and the sharp rise in the costs of food and other items. Nutrition wise, many are surviving by eating gum from trees from surrounding forests, wheat husk gruel and collecting "maua" flowers to sell from which they make a pittance.'* – KEMHCR

Thanks to your commitment to providing crisis food parcels for 269 families, our local partner was able to leverage additional local funding from well-wishers in Pune, enabling them to just over double the number needy families receiving aid. 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.

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.

Case stories recorded by fieldworkers:

Rampurwadi village

My name is Sundrabai Mohan Sonwane. I am 78 years old. I am a widow. I live in Rampurwadi village. My house is a kaccha hut. I am illiterate. I live alone. I have cataracts and have not had any treatment. I am not been able to do any work for 10 years due to my age. As I am alone, there is no one to earn in the house. 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.



Vetalwadi Village

My name is Sayrabi Ibrahim Mevati-Pathan. I live in Vetalwadi village. My house is a kaccha hut. I am 48 years old. I am married and illiterate. There are total six members in our family which consist of my husband, 3 daughters and 1 son. 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. I have been at home for eight-nine years. Since then, I am not doing any work due to illness. 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.



Niyambati Village

My name is Shepdabai Kashinath Garud. I live in Nimbayati village. My house is a kaccha hut. I am 76 years old. I am a widow. Total three members live in our family, me, my son and daughter-in-law. I am suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure, and I could not purchase medicines on time as I cannot afford it. I have been doing farming and farm labor since before Corona. After that I was doing dry land farming and now, I can't do anything. There are two earning members in our family. 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. The same helped a little further. It will be good.



Construction of wells:

This region's geography is hilly and characterised by steep slopes and valleys made of igneous rock. When it rains, the water flows away, resulting in widespread water shortages. Existing wells are few and far apart, with access at the discretion of private owners, and people typically have to walk long distances over difficult terrain to collect water each day.

Five villages facing water scarcity were shortlisted to benefit from this grant. Fieldworkers commenced the project in November 2022 by seeking permission and 'no objection' (NCO) certificates from local Gram Panchayats in order to avoid any future disputes regarding the ownership of the wells.

Hydrogeological studies were then undertaken by a government expert, which is a mandatory requirement in India. The surveys established the groundwater levels and type of soil in each location, in order to establish the most suitable type and placing for each well.

Nimbayati Village

Nimbayati is a village with a population of approximately 400 people, situated at the base of a mountain. There is one well in the village which is in a state of disrepair and the water cannot be used for drinking. Villagers therefore walk between 2-3 kms to collect drinking water from a nearby community.

With Eagle's funding, an open well is being constructed, as per the recommendations given in the hydrogeological survey. At the Grampachayat monthly meeting at Nimbayati on 28.12.2022 the No Objection Certificate (NOC) was issued to KEM Hospital Research Centre and the location marked as a public place for availability of drinking water. Work has begun and water was hit at a depth of 35 ft. Digging is ongoing to 50 ft. then cement rings will be put in place to strengthen the structure.

Annexure 1 contains supporting Marathi documents, including the NCO certificate and survey report.



The surveyor at work in marking the well's location and a photo from the site location

Vetalwadi Village

The village has a population of approximately 800 people, living within three hamlets. At present there is no source of drinking water and they walk 3kms daily to fetch water for all their requirements. Discussion at the meeting of Gram Panchayat was held on 31.12.2022 and the relating documents signed and agreed (see annexure 2).

The survey indicated an open well as the most suitable solution for this location and construction to a depth of 50ft has been complete. There is plentiful water in the well, with live streams replenishing it, meaning that the water level will be well maintained in the summer months. The installation of pumps along with

pipeline to supply a communal water to villagers is ongoing. Please see **annexure 2** for associated documents.



The open well with streams of water at Vetawadi



Construction work of the open well in Vetawadi

Rampurwadi Village

Rampurwadi is a small community with a population of 500 people. There is no source of water and this presents many challenges for the mainly elderly population, who have to walk 3-4 kms per day to collect water. Most of the young people in this community have migrated away from the area in search of work.

The construction work of the open well in Rampurwadi has been completed to a depth of 50 feet. There is a good amount of water in the well and there are live streams feeding it. The installation of pumps, along with a pipeline to supply a communal water collection area in the village, is underway.

Annexure 3 contains supporting documents for this site, including the NOC from villagers, Survey report etc.



Depth of the well is 50 feet. There is a good amount of water in the well



Completed construction work of the open well in Rampurwadi

Sonaswadi Village

Sonaswadi is a community with 800 villagers, including small hamlets nearby. Due to the inadequate sources of drinking water, the village was selected for an open well and a site was located. However, after drilling to 50 feet, which is the standard and recommended depth for an open well, water was regrettably not found. Unavoidably this is sometimes the case, as hydrogeological surveys are never 100% accurate. The option of installing a bore well was also explored and discounted due to the nature of the red basalt rock in the area.

Annexure 4 includes supporting documents e.g., NOC from villagers, Survey report etc.



The rock at the bottom of well is red basalt rock and at 50 feet down was found to be dry

Jangla Gaon (population 250) is another village in need of a clean water source, and it is now being explored to benefit from the remainder of the funding available. Initial discussions have been conducted with the villagers and the Grampanchayat.

Palaskheda Village

This is the last village at the bottom of a valley, from where there is no further road. The population of this village is around 500. There were multiple attempts in the past to install a bore well but it did not succeed. There is only one open well which is private and people face many difficulties to access the water. The next nearest well is towards the forest and 4kms away and here there is a threat of wild animals attacking people when they collect water. Hence an open well is proposed in this very remote and interior village.

There were challenges faced in acquiring government land for the village. As the village is surrounded by forest, the majority of the land is under the supervision of Forestry Department, so it took a little longer to acquire the necessary approvals. The paper works is now in order (see **annexure 5**) and the work will be starting in May.



Looking for water points

Thank you for reaching out to support these communities in these challenging times. We look forward to keeping you updated.

Expenditure:

		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 than 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.

		Budget	Expenditure
Village wells	Cost per well	5 villages	
Labour (<i>It typically takes 6 workers an average of 20 days to install each well</i>)	875	4,375	3,500
Drilling machinery	1,042	5,210	4,168
Raw materials	1,459	7,295	5,836
Pipes and electric motor	417	2,085	0
Transportation, site supervision and food and accommodation for onsite labourers	573	2,865	2,292
Hydrogeological survey and water purity analysis	650	3,250	3,250
Sub-total	5,016	25,080	19,046
Project Management @ 5%	250	1,254	627
Grand total	5,266	26,334	19,673