



# THE JAL BHAGIRATHI FOUNDATION

## Strategic Vision

The Jal Bhagirathi Foundation is driven by a vision of water security, sustained by responsive governance and inclusive growth leading to sustainable development.

## Mission

Jal Bhagirathi Foundation exists to provide an enabling environment in which the desert communities of the Marwar region can access adequate drinking water for humans and animals within the constraints of environmental equilibrium by leveraging traditional knowledge and appropriate technology, facilitating village institutions of collective wisdom and building local capacities for community mobilization in an atmosphere of transparency, participation and accountability, through a process of networking and advocacy.



## Core Values

- Organizational thinking and action shall be rooted in respect for the communities with whom we work and their collective wisdom to promote sustainable levels of human interaction with the environment.
- Be committed to change and inclusive growth, proactively seeking participation of all those affected by our programs and facilitating women's access to economic resources
- Shall uphold the highest standards of integrity in all our professional and organizational actions, committing to Total Quality Management, with continuous internal improvement
- Commitment to unqualified support to People's Rights (including the right to water) with the belief that our work will be successful if it eventually contributes to improved public governance.

## Commitment To Action

**1st Commitment:** By 2015, an enabling environment for community action created which improves access of communities, especially women and disadvantaged groups, to safe drinking water and sanitation in 400 villages of the Thar Region.

### Outputs:

- Improved availability of drinking water for poor households and their livestock through creation of decentralized water harvesting and storage infrastructure
- Community management systems established under the project ensure equitable access to water at the village level, especially for women and disadvantaged groups
- Successful demonstration of community models and technologies for providing safe drinking water
- Increased adoption of household sanitation systems and hygiene practices by communities

**2nd Commitment:** By 2015, participation and representation of women and disadvantaged groups increased in water management and local institutions in 400 villages

### Outputs:

- Gender and inclusion concerns integrated in training resources.
- Increased representation of women and disadvantaged groups in local institutions set up for water management.
- Increased participation of women in planning and management of water and sanitation projects at the village level.
- Enhanced visibility of women in public meetings and local decision making bodies.

**3rd Commitment:** By 2013, the outreach of the Water Resource Centre strengthened for wider extension and replication of

community based approaches in water management in the project districts, state wide and nationally

### Outputs:

- Public recognition of the Water Resource Centre as a centre of excellence for training and knowledge on water sector, with a focus on the poor
- Capacity building of at least 5000 number of people from villages, community based organizations, NGOs, PRIs and government officials through participation in training, workshops, orientation and exposure at the Water Resource Centre
- Enhanced visibility of project results and best practices at state, national and international levels
- Strengthened institutional capacity for influencing community centered and rights based approaches in policies and programs.

**4th Commitment:** By 2015, access of local communities to sustainable livelihood strategies and options improved in 100 villages

### Outputs:

- At least six models of community managed enterprises for improving quality and supply of safe drinking water successfully demonstrated
- At least four community managed rural tourism sites are operational and linked to established tourist networks
- Livelihood and micro-enterprise development services available for at least 100 villages through the four livelihood resource centers established under the project

## Projects

### Vulnerability Reduction through Community Empowerment and Control of Water

This is a flagship project supported by UNDP and the Italian Development Cooperation and is being implemented (2005-2009) in villages of Jodhpur, Pali and Barmer Districts. JBF has mobilized communities and created an Institutional framework of Water User Associations for the construction of over 190 water harvesting

structures in 131 villages and 43 *dhanis* (hamlets). External Evaluations reveal that more than 85% of households in the project area have benefited from improvements in the accessibility and prolonged availability of water.

### Replicable Village Model Of Participatory Water and Sanitation Management

The project is being implemented with support of "Wells for India", and envisages developing village Janadesar in Jodhpur as a model village to showcase judicious water management practices. A comprehensive village action strategy is being implemented so that the village can be evolved and developed as model village. Besides water management the village will be developed as model sanitation villages showcasing best practices in waste water and solid waste management.

### "Community Video Unit" for development and social change in Jodhpur, Pali and Barmer districts of Western Rajasthan

This project is implemented in collaboration with Video Volunteers and is supported by the Irish Aid. The Community Video unit set up under this project is an effective tool for highlighting developmental issues to advocate policy reforms and draw the attention of opinion makers to grass roots issues of concern. All the Community Video Unit (CVU) videos project the message that local people need to take the lead in their own development, and culminate in an 'action point,' something concrete and locally do-able. The videos inspire audiences with 'success stories' of local people who are making a difference, and the screenings and discussions provide otherwise absent platforms for the community to come together to discuss constructive steps.

## Direct Intervention

**1. Drinking Water Security:** Drinking water security by creating the availability and access of drinking water for humans and animals through local institutes, leveraging traditional knowledge and appropriate technology in an environmentally sustainable manner.

### Direct intervention by:

- (a) Mobilizing communities
- (b) Facilitating social capital



- (c) Reviving traditional water conservation systems

#### Indirect intervention by:

- (a) Promoting regional network
- (b) Capacity building of stakeholders

## 2. Mobilizing people around Drinking Water Issues:

**Awareness campaigns:** 12 project level & 37 block level and 190 village level campaigns have been organized resulting in awareness and generating demand for construction and renovation of community rain water harvesting structures.

#### Five different types of events are organized:

- *Jal Shiksha Abhiyan* (Water literacy Campaign)
- *Jal Chetna Yatra* (Water Awareness and Mobilization Campaigns)
- *Vatavaran Nirman Yatra* (environment building campaign) for mobilisation communities for construction of water harvesting structures. 190 *yatras* have been carried out so far.
- *Jal Chetna Shivir* (mass Mobilisation and Training Camp) attended by > 8000 men and women and 150 community leaders.
- *Jal Chetna Samvad* (Water Awareness Dialogue) attended by 300 prominent community leaders.

**3. Facilitating Social Capital:** JBF has helped establish a three tier structure of local governance for water with the bottom tier which consists of *Jal Sabhas* (water user associations) with at least 30 members representing different sections of the village community. These members select/elect six office bearers including women. So far 250 *Jal Sabhas* have been established

#### 4. Participation of Backward Communities:

JBF has successfully implemented a policy of positive discrimination by motivating the backward communities (including scheduled castes/tribes as well as other backward communities and minorities) to make their own tanks. Backward communities owned 90% of the tankas in the sample while SC/ST communities owned 44.5%.

#### 5. Norms for Equitable Distribution of Water:

(a) **Norms for Village Ponds:** used by multi-caste people, managed by multi-caste *Jal Sabhas*. All castes and communities from specific villages are allowed to take water with tractors at a pre-determined rate per tractor. Poor people from the village draw

water directly from the source at no charge.

(b) **Norms for *Beris*** (recharge wells) : At a multi-caste Judia village people draw water from the same *Beri*. Since they were more than willing to overcome caste differences if it meant having access to water at their doorstep.

#### 6. Norms for Maintenance of

**Structures:** Several villages have established a system of charging a small fee ranging from Rs 20 to 100/- for each tanker of water drawn, higher fees are charged for tankers from neighboring villages who did not contribute in its construction. The money raised is put in a *Jal Kosh* as maintenance fund that sustains the project.

#### 2. Creation of a Cadre of Village

**Volunteers:** A fairly large cadre of village volunteers called *Jal Karmis* has been established as active office bearers of *Jal Sabhas* who have volunteered to mobilize other villages to set up their own *Jal sabhas*. *Jal Karmi* training and capacity building workshops are held periodically.

**3. People's Contribution:** Community members contribute 30% to 50% of the capital cost in constructing the water structure through cash for which a separate bank account is opened by the *Jal Sabha* and accounts training is given to its members. They also take full responsibility of the maintenance of water harvesting and storage structures through a water fund (*Jal Kosh*) created at the time of its construction.

#### 4. Financial Sustainability of *Jal Sabha*:

Self-financing mechanisms constitutes contributions raised from members from time to time as well as fees charged from tankers drawing water from the water harvesting structure which is deposited in a *Jal Kosh* or water fund in the Bank account operated by the *Jal Sabha*.

**10. Reduction in Conflicts:** In the pre-project period, conflicts over drinking water among villagers were frequently reported. However, increased drinking water security has led to reduced conflicts, even during the water stress months of summer. This is largely due to the increased supply of water from the water harvesting systems and a institutional framework which enables resolution of conflicts through dialogue. During the water stress months of May and June, water is provided through



tankers as a relief measure, thus alleviating the stress and minimizing the conflicts.

#### 11. Reviving traditional water conservation

**systems :** 250 water harvesting structures – Community *Tankas* 76, School *Tankas* 28, Community *Beris* 4, *Nada /Nadis / Talabs* 142 in 181 villages and 69 *dhanis* (hamlets) has been created at a average cost of Rs. 95,000/- per structure.

#### (a) Increase in Access to Drinking

**water:** Poor and scheduled caste communities now have their own community water storage devices. Hence access has improved significantly for all especially the poor. Along with access to water, the quality of water has also improved.

#### (b) Reduction in Water Distress

**Months:** Water distress months have reduced significantly in all villages, ranging from 6 to 8 months depending on the local situation.

#### (c) Reduction in Cost of water

**Supply: Cost of water supply has gone down on account of:**

- Repair of old unused *tankas* and *nadis* etc
- Creation of increased storage structure closer to home.
- Access to rainwater during the four monsoon months when rainwater can be harvested and used directly instead of spending money on fetching water from a *nadi /talab*.

#### Indirect Intervention:

#### (a) Promoting Regional Networks:

The Marwar Lok Vikas Jal Manch, a network of 125 civil society agencies of Marwar region, has been established by JBF and registered as a Trust on 16th Jan 2008. The *raison d'être* of the network is “to create a platform for voluntary agencies to address common issues for development of economically and socially disadvantaged groups in Rajasthan and to promote sustainable management of natural resources”.

### (b) Capacity Building of Members:

With the completion of facilities at the Water Resource Center, it has become an institution of networking and capacity building of NGO's and other community based organizations.

### (c) Women's Empowerment and Participation in Water Management:

In view of the semi-feudal social relations in the project area, improvement in gender relations and empowerment of women is an important objective which is sought not only through their inclusion in water management groups but also through supporting SHG's working for thrift and credit.

### (d) Micro – enterprise activities of 'Jal Mandals':

*Jal Mandals* or women SHG's are supported to take up livelihood activities in the emerging service sector of distributing drinking water. The "Paniharan Project" is located at Village Pachpadra where a Reverse Osmosis plant has been established to convert saline water supplied by the Government into potable water for local consumption. Eight *Jal mandals* of Village Pachpadra have taken up the supply of drinking water to residential areas and offices nearby, as a livelihood activity. Apart from the water sector, women members of *Jal Mandals* have taken loans for a variety of activities like, animal husbandry, non-farm activities like trading, retail shop, tailoring, etc

### (e) Policy Research and Initiatives at State Level:

JBF's policy initiatives have been focused at the State Level since water

is a state subject. In Feb 2005 it organized a conference on Ground-water issues drawing experiences from other States. The conference triggered public debate and the recommendations found their way into the Water Policy recommendations to the State Government as well as the EU State Partnership Program for Water Sector reforms. In Oct 2005 JBF organized a convention to debate a Water Policy for the State by 250 political leaders which was Chaired by the present Indian President HE Smt. Pratibha Patil. In March 2006 JBF hosted a Regional Consultation on water conflict resolution mechanisms which was inaugurated by HRH the Prince of Wales and delegates exchanged leanings and shared experiences from countries of the Indian sub-continent.

(f) **Networking and Linkages:** At the local level JBF has initiated the formation of a network of 125 like-minded civil society institutes. At the National and International levels, JBF has secured membership in various forums including IUCN, WWF, various Task Forces and Steering Committees at State level. JBF is also a Founder Member of *Jal Biradari*, a national level network of NGOs working for sectoral reforms in the water sector.

rooms, conference facility for 400 persons, discussion rooms, meetings rooms, classrooms and residential facilities for the participants.

JBF has a coordinating office in Jaipur, the State capital and four block-offices in the field area.

**Human resources:** The JBF organizational structure is a unique amalgam of village-level volunteers and a professional resource base. The 1850 village-level volunteers are being assisted by 85 members of a professional and technical workforce in effectively adopting a rights-based approach by mobilizing communities, planning, implementing and monitoring of development interventions. This partnership aims at building capacities of the volunteers to enable them to deal with micro-level development works independently. The professional workforce is also involved in generating socially sound technical innovations, facilitating policy advocacy and networking.

**Management Systems:** JBF has adopted international management standards of operations and been awarded an ISO 9001-2000 for its management systems and procedures. The objectives mandated by the organization are realized by instituting a transparent and accountable work-culture which provides quality management for optimizing efficient utilization of resources in program implementation and establishes a sensitive and responsive organization which effectively responds to the requirements and concerns of the beneficiary communities.

## Organizational Structure

**Physical Infrastructure:** The main offices of the Foundation are located at the "Water Resource Centre", at Jodhpur which has been developed as a spacious and well planned complex with training

## Addresses

### Registered Office:

"The Water Resource Centre", Maharaja Gaj Singh Jal Sansthan  
Bijolai, Near Kaylana Lake  
Jodhpur, INDIA  
Tele-Fax: +91 291 2751556

### Head Office:

D-66 (B), Sawai Madho Singh Road Bani Park, Jaipur 302 016,  
INDIA  
Telephone +91 141 4025119  
Fax: +91 141 2280964

Email : [jal@jalbhagirathi.org](mailto:jal@jalbhagirathi.org)

Website : [www.jalbhagirathi.org](http://www.jalbhagirathi.org)

## Board of Trustees

1. Maharaja Shri Gaj Singh : Chairman
2. Shri Rajendra Singh : Vice - Chairman
3. Shri Prithvi Raj Singh : Managing Trustee
4. Maharani Hemlata Rajye : Trustee
5. Ms. Kanupriya Harish : Trustee

## Legal Status

- Jal Bhagirathi Foundation was settled as a Public Trust on 15th January 2002 and Registered on 14th May, 2002, Registration Number: 06/2002/Jodhpur.
- FCRA Number:125610038, dated 6th January 2003
- Registered under section 12A of Income Tax Act 1961.
- Donations exempted under section 80G of Income Tax Act 1961.

