

WATER BENEFIT CERTIFICATE PROJECT

PROVIDING CONSISTENT ACCESS TO QUALITY DRINKING WATER

ADDRESSING INDIA'S SANITATION CRISIS

CLEAN WATER ACCESS IN INDIA

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

The **problems** related to unsafe, contaminated water are well known. According to UNICEF, almost fifty per cent of the developing world's population – 2.5 billion people – lack improved sanitation facilities, and over 884 million people still use unsafe drinking water sources. Nearly 2 million children alone die each year from waterborne diseases – that's roughly one child every fifteen seconds. In India, these problems are particularly acute. Out of a population of 1.2 billion, 88 per cent have intermittent access to improved water sources and only 31 per cent have access to adequate sanitation facilities.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

WaterHealth has developed an immediately deployable solution that purifies any available water source, effectively delivering a safe and financially sustainable solution to the quality problem, one community at a time.

WaterHealth India is a wholly owned subsidiary of WaterHealth International, a company that aims at providing scalable, safe drinking water solutions to underserved areas in India through advanced technology and self-sustaining business models based on WaterHealth Centres. These centres house water purification equipment to treat locally available water to the quality standard set by the World Health Organization (WHO) for a nominal usage fee that is determined appropriate and affordable based on consultations with the local communities.

WaterHealth also works with local government bodies to identify suitable installation sites where safe drinking water can be accessed by the locals or supplied to their homes depending on their needs. These centres are designed to replace local wells and other water supplies in which the water quality is not assured and can result in the spread of waterborne diseases. Once the community provides land and the source of raw water, WHIN invests in and installs state of the art water purification systems using ultra violet (UV) and reverse osmosis (RO) technology while also employing community members to run the installations.

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Location:
Karnataka, India

Project type:
Clean Water Access

Project standard:
Gold Standard Water

Total water volume:
35.000 m³/a

Project start date:
August 2014

Project Partner:
WaterHealth India

Validator:
SGS



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HOW DO WATER BENEFIT CERTIFICATES HELP?

WaterHealth customizes the technical specifications of its installations based on local raw water quality to best suit the requirements of the community, and adheres to nationally and internationally prescribed standards. With over 500 centres built in India since 2006, WaterHealth plans to build at least 30 more installations in urban and peri-urban areas around Bangalore over the next 7 years using revenue from WBCs.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

-  Decentralized community water systems not only provide easy and affordable access to safe drinking water, but also generate employment for local youth and women who operate the installations.
-  WaterHealth also undertakes extensive hygiene awareness campaigns in all communities where centres are installed. These alert community members to the dangers of waterborne diseases and the importance of good hygienic practices to ensure that water sold at the centres is consumed safely in the home.
-  WaterHealth works closely with community members to develop various payment options to ensure that its water services are affordable to all.

WHO IS BEHIND THE WATER BENEFIT CERTIFICATE STANDARD?

The Gold Standard Foundation, First Climate Markets AG and more than twenty **Water Benefit Partners** (blue chip corporates, public institutions, NGOs, research institutes) have developed the Water Benefit Certificate Standard as an innovative financing mechanism to support water projects in regions particularly affected by water-related problems. **Water Benefit Partners** is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) that was formed in 2011. The partnership was initiated by First Climate Markets AG and is co-funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC).