



WaterSafe to Aid the Drought-Affected Villages of Barmer, India

Barmer, Rajasthan, faces chronic water scarcity due to minimal rainfall and high temperatures. Villagers endure strenuous journeys to access water sources. The WaterSafe initiative aims to address these challenges by improving water accessibility and quality, significantly enhancing the lives of Barmer's residents.

<https://www.fps.com/watersafe-by-fps/>

Table of Contents

3	Background
5	Executive Summary
6	Project Objectives
8	Geographic Area
9	Project Impact
11	Partner with Us

Background

The district of Barmer, located in the arid western region of Rajasthan, faces significant challenges regarding water availability, quality, and management. Situated within the Thar Desert, one of the most water-stressed areas in India, the district experiences extreme climatic conditions characterized by scanty rainfall, high temperatures, and rapid evaporation rates. As a result, water scarcity is a chronic issue, with limited surface water sources and groundwater reserves being the primary sources of water for both domestic and agricultural purposes.

The depletion of groundwater resources is a major concern in Barmer, driven by excessive extraction for irrigation, industrial, and domestic use. Unregulated drilling of borewells has led to a decline in the water table, exacerbating the water crisis and threatening the sustainability of water supply in the region. Additionally, the quality of available water is often compromised, with high levels of salinity and fluoride contamination rendering much of it unsuitable for consumption. Poor infrastructure for water storage, treatment, and distribution further compounds the challenges, leading to unequal access to safe and reliable water services across different communities within the district.



Efforts to address these water-related challenges in District Barmer require a comprehensive approach that includes sustainable water management practices, conservation measures, and infrastructure development. Strategies such as rainwater harvesting, promoting water-use efficiency in agriculture, and regulating groundwater extraction are essential for mitigating water scarcity and ensuring long-term water security.



Moreover, investments in infrastructure for water storage, treatment, and distribution are crucial to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities for all residents. Collaboration between government agencies, local communities, and relevant stakeholders is essential to implement effective solutions and safeguard the water resources of District Barmer for future generations.

In the vast expanses of the Thar Desert, water stands as the most precious commodity, a lifeline in an environment marked by its scarcity. Access to water here is a daily struggle, with sources often distant and the quality not always suitable for consumption. In this harsh landscape, the task of collecting and storing water falls heavily upon the shoulders of women and children. They undertake long and arduous journeys, traversing vast distances to secure this essential resource, a task that demands immense physical effort and endurance.



To alleviate the burden of water transport, innovative solutions such as WaterSafe have been introduced. The WaterSafes are designed specifically for the needs of rural communities in arid regions like the Thar, offer a practical and efficient way to carry water. Unlike traditional methods such as jerry cans or buckets, the water backpack redistributes the weight of the water onto the shoulders, thus relieving the strain on the head and spine. Constructed from flexible polyethylene with a sturdy, puncture-resistant outer shell, the backpack ensures durability and longevity in challenging environments. Moreover, its removable plastic liner, sanitized by exposure to sunlight, maintains hygiene standards crucial for safe water storage and transportation. As a result, the WaterSafes provide a convenient and accessible means for villagers to transport household water, offering a tangible improvement in their daily lives amidst the harsh realities of desert living.



Executive Summary



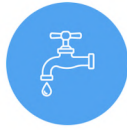
In the vast expanses of the Thar Desert, water stands as the most precious commodity, a lifeline in an environment marked by its scarcity. Access to water here is a daily struggle, with sources often distant and the quality not always suitable for consumption. In this harsh landscape, the task of collecting and storing water falls heavily upon the shoulders of women and children. They undertake long and arduous journeys, traversing vast distances to secure this essential resource, a task that demands immense physical effort and endurance.

To alleviate the burden of water transport, innovative solutions such as the WaterSafe have been introduced. The WaterSafes are designed specifically for the needs of rural communities in arid regions like the Thar, offer a practical and efficient way to carry water. Unlike traditional methods such as jerry cans or buckets, the water backpack redistributes the weight of the water onto the shoulders, thus relieving the strain on the head and spine. Constructed from flexible polyethylene with a sturdy, puncture-resistant outer shell, the backpack ensures durability and longevity in challenging environments.

Constructed from flexible polyethylene with a sturdy, puncture-resistant outer shell, the backpack ensures durability and longevity

Moreover, its removable plastic liner, sanitized by exposure to sunlight, maintains hygiene standards crucial for safe water storage and transportation. As a result, WaterSafe provides a convenient and accessible means for villagers to transport household water, offering a tangible improvement in their daily lives amidst the harsh realities of desert living.

Project Objectives



1 Alleviate Physical Burden

The primary objective of WaterSafe is to reduce the physical strain and endurance required for water transportation, particularly for women and children in rural communities of arid regions like the Thar Desert. By redistributing the weight of water from the head and spine to the shoulders, WaterSafe aims to relieve strain and mitigate health risks associated with long and arduous journeys to fetch water.

2 Improve Accessibility

WaterSafe aims to improve access to clean and portable water by providing a practical and efficient means of carrying water over long distances. By offering a convenient alternative to traditional methods such as “Ghada or buckets”, the WaterSafes make water transportation easier and more accessible for villagers, thereby enhancing their quality of life and reducing the daily struggles associated with water scarcity.

3 Ensure Durability and Hygiene

Another objective of WaterSafe is to ensure durability and hygiene standards crucial for safe water storage and transportation in challenging desert environments. Constructed from flexible polyethylene with a sturdy, puncture-resistant outer shell and a removable plastic liner sanitized by exposure to sunlight, the WaterSafes are designed to withstand harsh conditions while maintaining hygiene, thereby ensuring the safety and quality of transported water.

Project Objectives



4 Empower Rural Communities

WaterSafe aims to empower rural communities in arid regions like the Thar Desert by providing them with a practical and accessible tool to manage their water needs more effectively. By offering a tangible solution to the daily struggles of water collection and storage, WaterSafes empower villagers to take control of their water resources and improve their resilience to water scarcity.

5 Foster Sustainable Solutions

The WaterSafes seek to foster sustainable solutions to water-related challenges in arid regions by promoting the use of innovative technologies and materials. By encouraging the adoption of WaterSafes and similar solutions tailored to the unique needs of rural communities, the objective is to promote sustainability and resilience in the face of ongoing water scarcity and environmental pressures.



Geographic Area

Barmer, Jaipur, Jaisalmer and Sanchore districts of Rajasthan State



05

blocks have been distributed to

21

Gram Panchayat have been covered

35

villages have been supported

The implementation of WaterSafe distribution drive in these specific regions aims to address the water scarcity issues faced by communities living in arid environments. Through targeted efforts in these districts, the project seeks to create a lasting impact on water management practices and promote sustainable development.

6.000

WaterSafe backpacks have been distributed in Barmer, India.

Project Impact

The WaterSafe project has significantly alleviated water scarcity in arid regions, improved water management, and improved sustainable development. Below are the impacts:



Improved Health and Well-being

The introduction of WaterSafe has a significant impact on the health and well-being of villagers in arid regions like the Thar Desert. By alleviating the physical burden of water transportation, particularly for women and children, WaterSafes reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injuries and health issues associated with carrying heavy loads over long distances. This, in turn, improves overall health outcomes and quality of life for individuals who no longer have to endure the strain of arduous journeys to fetch water.



Enhanced Access to Clean Water

WaterSafe plays a crucial role in improving access to clean and potable water for rural communities in water-scarce regions. By providing a practical and efficient means of carrying water, WaterSafes enable villagers to transport larger quantities of water over longer distances, thereby ensuring a more reliable and consistent supply of water for household use. This improved access to clean water has far-reaching benefits for hygiene, sanitation, and overall community health.



Sustainable Water Management

WaterSafe contributes to sustainable water management practices by promoting the use of innovative technologies and materials that are durable, long-lasting, and environmentally friendly. The design of WaterSafes, with their flexible polyethylene construction and sunlight-sanitized plastic liners, ensures durability and hygiene standards crucial for safe water storage and transportation in challenging desert environments. This promotes the conservation and efficient use of water resources while minimizing environmental impacts.

Empowerment of Women & Children

The introduction of WaterSafe empowers women and children who traditionally bear the responsibility of water collection and storage in rural households. By relieving them of the physical burden of water transportation, WaterSafes enable women and children to allocate more time and energy to other productive activities such as education, income generation, and community engagement. This empowerment fosters greater gender equality and socio-economic development within rural communities.

Socio-economic Benefits

The adoption of WaterSafes brings about socio-economic benefits for rural communities by reducing the economic burden associated with water transportation and storage. Villagers save time and money previously spent on purchasing or repairing traditional water containers such as jerry cans or buckets. Additionally, the improved access to clean water facilitated by WaterSafes enhances productivity in various sectors such as agriculture, education, and healthcare, thereby contributing to overall socio-economic development in water-stressed regions like the Thar Desert.

WaterSafe empowers women and children who traditionally bear the responsibility of water collection and storage in rural households.





Partner with us to sustain life!

To realize our goals, we are seeking support and funding from partners with like minded ESG ambitions, to help us solve the issue of water insecurity.

If you see possibilities to collaborate or create a partnership, do not hesitate to contact your local sales representative, or reach out to us via: watersafebyfps@fps.com