



# The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, India (HSBC India)



## Water Resource Management for Adaptation to Climate Change through Community Action in the Thar Desert, India

CASE STUDY

### Summary



Picture 1: Potaliya - In anticipation of rain - happy to be working together

HSBC supported Jal Bhagirathi Foundation (JBF) to implement an integrated water resource management project in 2012–13 to deepen the partnership's work from 2009–10 in project village Surani (Jodhpur district). The project transformed Surani into a model village of best practices in water, sanitation, hygiene and environmental management. In 2013-14, HSBC supported JBF to scale up the programme. This transformed four villages into models for community-based water resource management. The project benefitted over 5000 people from the local communities and their livestock directly. HSBC is scaling up the intervention with JBF in four further water-stressed villages of Barmer in 2015.

### Objective of Intervention

To showcase how water-stressed vulnerable communities can be supported with water resource management infrastructure along with capacity building to adapt with climate change through water security.



## Type of Intervention and Location

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CSR project on Integrated Water Resource Management to enable access to safe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene towards Climate Change Adaptation in the desert region

## Description of Intervention

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Recharge Well, a Water Channel, one Community Rainwater Harvesting cum storage facility near Panchayat office, and one such facility in a school compound have been constructed as per the need in these villages.

- 100 household-level underground water harvesting structures have been constructed across four villages.
- 300 household toilets have been constructed across the four villages.
- Water Catchment Common Lands and Village Pasture Land have been developed in the four villages for common community benefits.

## Intangible or Tangible Benefit

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The villages receive about a week's rainfall in a year. The intervention has made water available in these villages for 11–12 months in a year as against about six months earlier.

- Village-level community-water harvesting structures have increased storage capacity and improved access to water during the stressed months before and after monsoon.
- Water catchment common land and village pasture land have been developed so that help increase water holding capacity of the landscape, check desertification and make more fodder available for animals.
- 100 household-level underground water harvesting structures have helped improve access to water, reducing the drudgery of women who had to fetch water as head load from long distances.
- Construction of 300 household-level toilets has helped improve access to hygienic sanitation. Behaviour change communication and capacity building of the communities have helped them adopt these and avoid open defecation. This has also helped empower women with enhanced security and privacy as they had to earlier walk away from home to lonely fields in order to relieve themselves often in the dark before sunrise or after sunset.



## About HSBC

HSBC's origins in India date back to 1853, when the Mercantile Bank of India was established in Mumbai. The Bank has since, steadily grown in reach and service offerings, keeping pace with the evolving banking and financial needs of its customers. In India, the Bank offers a comprehensive suite of world-class products and services to its corporate and commercial banking clients as also to a fast growing personal banking customer base.