



# IMPACT REPORT

# WATER SECURITY



Prepared On:

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Prepared By:

**Raah Foundation**

## WATER SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS

**Raah has successfully converted 150 villages, (that's 60,000 individual tribals) into water positive villages, an award winning effort that has been recognised by the United Nations. We aim to turn over an additional 55 villages by 2030, a mission that's already been set in motion.**

# A DRY WELCOME



## A thirst for Change

*As the first rays of dawn touch the parched earth of rural Maharashtra, a symphony of metal pots and weary footsteps begins to unfold. Here, in the heart of our villages, mothers and daughters commence their daily pilgrimage to distant water sources, a journey that grows ever more arduous as the wells and rivers that once nurtured their ancestors run dry. This is not merely a quest for water; it is a fight for survival, a testament to the resilience of a community facing the dire consequences of a world that has turned its back on them.*

*And as the evening descends and the night sky blankets our villages, the stars bear witness to a resolve that burns brightly—Raah's resolve to reclaim the right to water, to life, and to the prosperity that once defined the soul of Maharashtra's Western Ghats.*



# MISSION VISION



In Maharashtra, Jawhar & Mokhada stand out as one of the regions with the highest rainfall, yet they swiftly transform into one of the most water-scarce areas post-monsoon, greatly impacting the indigenous tribal communities. These communities are often trapped in a cycle of poverty, forced migration, and deprivation. The area is particularly challenged by low human development indicators.

Our role?

Raah Foundation has been working in some of these villages since its conception in 2011. Our intervention model is fairly basic and philanthropic by design. It works in 1's & 3's without forcing us to retrofit a problem into an existing solution. Each community is different, their struggles will vary depending on the preexisting natural conditions such as topography and hydrogeology.



## THE PROBLEMS

## THE SOLUTIONS

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



A brief understanding of what we do and what we have been up to.

## GUIDELINES

Raah Foundation's Water Security program is guided by the following principles:

- **Community-based research:** To identify their needs and develop solutions that are sustainable for and by them.
- **Holistic:** Addressing all aspects of water security, including access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education.
- **Sustainable:** The program is designed with an exit strategy based on each communities needs and hence differs from village to village.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Our ground level data collection proudly screams numbers, numbers and more numbers!

- **Provided access to clean water to over 1 million people**
- **Reduced waterborne diseases by 50%**
- **Increased school attendance rates by 20%**
- **A 90% decrease in time spent collecting water.**
- **1076 million litres of rainwater harvesting capacity created.**





# RAAH'S WORK



Sakhri Check Dam repair

*To maximise the intangible impact of our work, Raah believes in co-creation, a way to empower the community with a sense of ownership via local hiring, a way to guarantee the future maintenance of the structures we help build.*

*The field team is trained with soft skills before they are sent to interact with a specific community, for it is the community that needs to accept our intervention, for us to have any sort of real and self-sustaining impact.*

Having placed Bob the Builder on a pedestal, Raah takes its building and repair duties very serious.

No project is left unfinished no matter the circumstances. Our years of experience has resulted in some extremely talented shapeshifting skills.



Dhanushi Check Dam repair

2023 PROJECTS



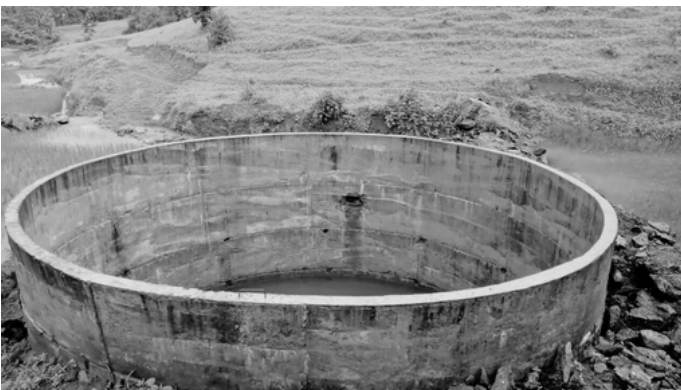
Khandipada Check Dam repair



Kardaipada Open Well



Borshet Open Well construction



Kelchipada Open Well



Dhanushi Bore well recharge

# OUR IMPACT

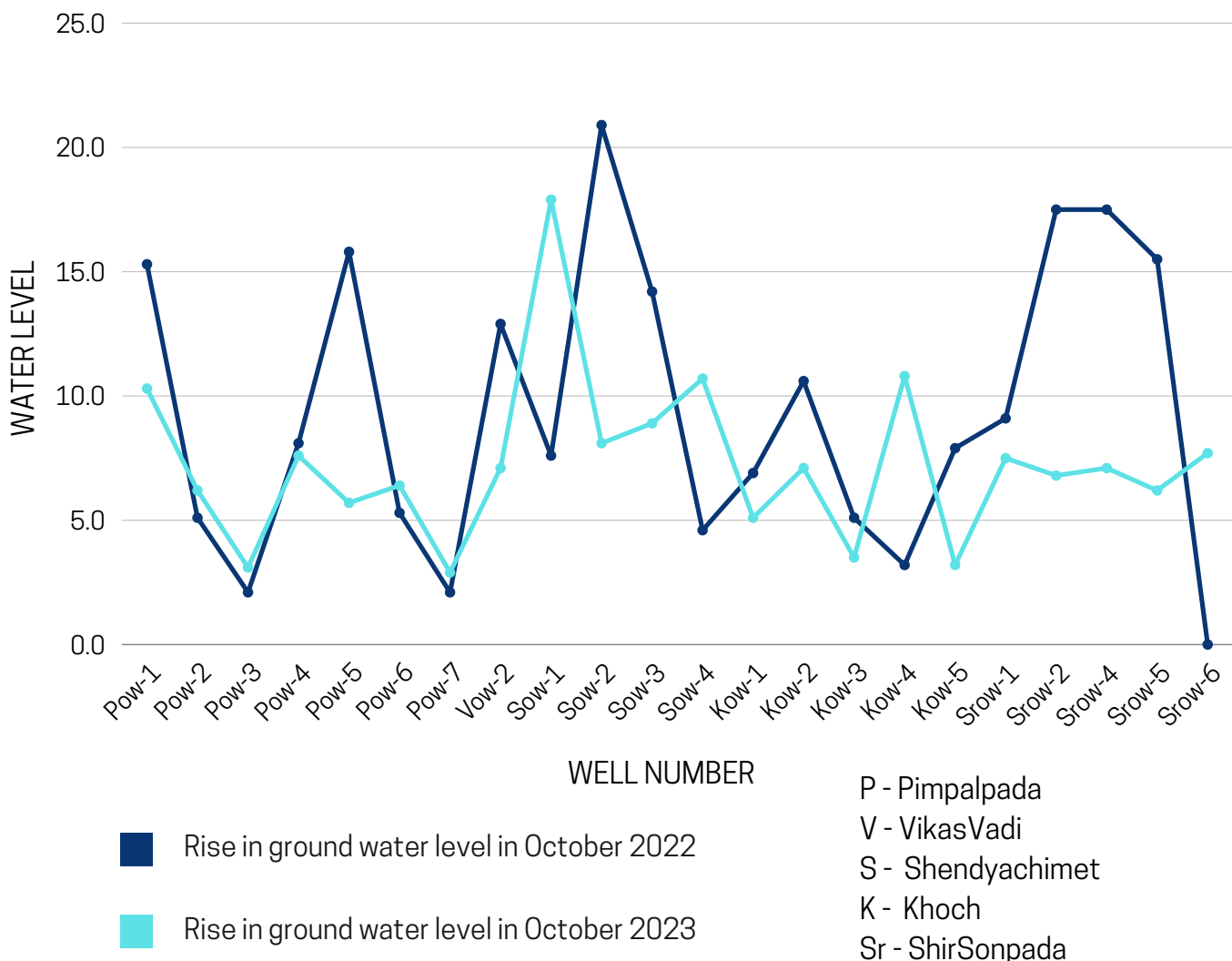
Sample size - 15 villages across Jawhar and Mokhada



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Situated approximately 140 kilometers from Mumbai, the regions of Jawhar and Mokhada stand out as one of Maharashtra's precipitation-rich areas. Integral to Mumbai's water supply are the large dams dotting this landscape. Geologically, the topsoil here is notably thin, measuring a mere 3 to 6 feet with a low clay content resulting in poor water retention. Beneath, lies a substantial layer of impermeable basalt rock.

The indigenous communities, primarily reliant on subsistence agriculture, cultivate crops such as rice and millets during the rainy season. 2 months down the line and the area is barren, it turns into a hostile environment for nature to nurture. Lacking formal education and specialized skills, they gravitate towards neighboring urban hubs, engaging in unskilled labor, notably in the construction sector. This migration pattern leaves women and children behind, confronting formidable challenges in securing basic necessities, particularly access to water.



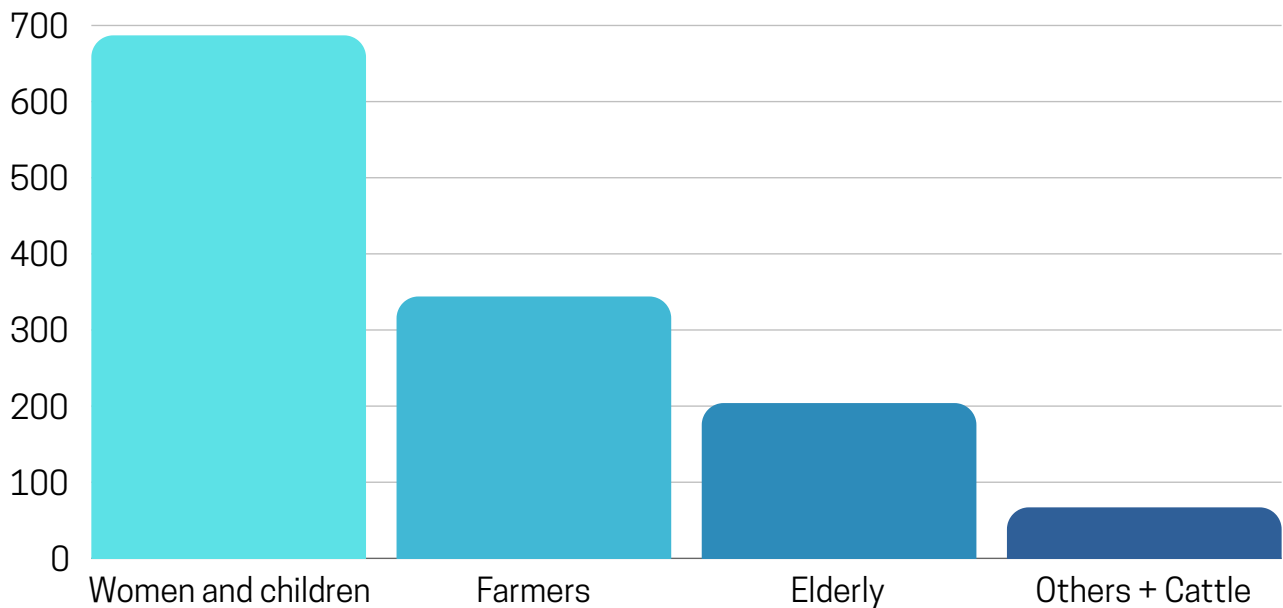
# OUR IMPACT

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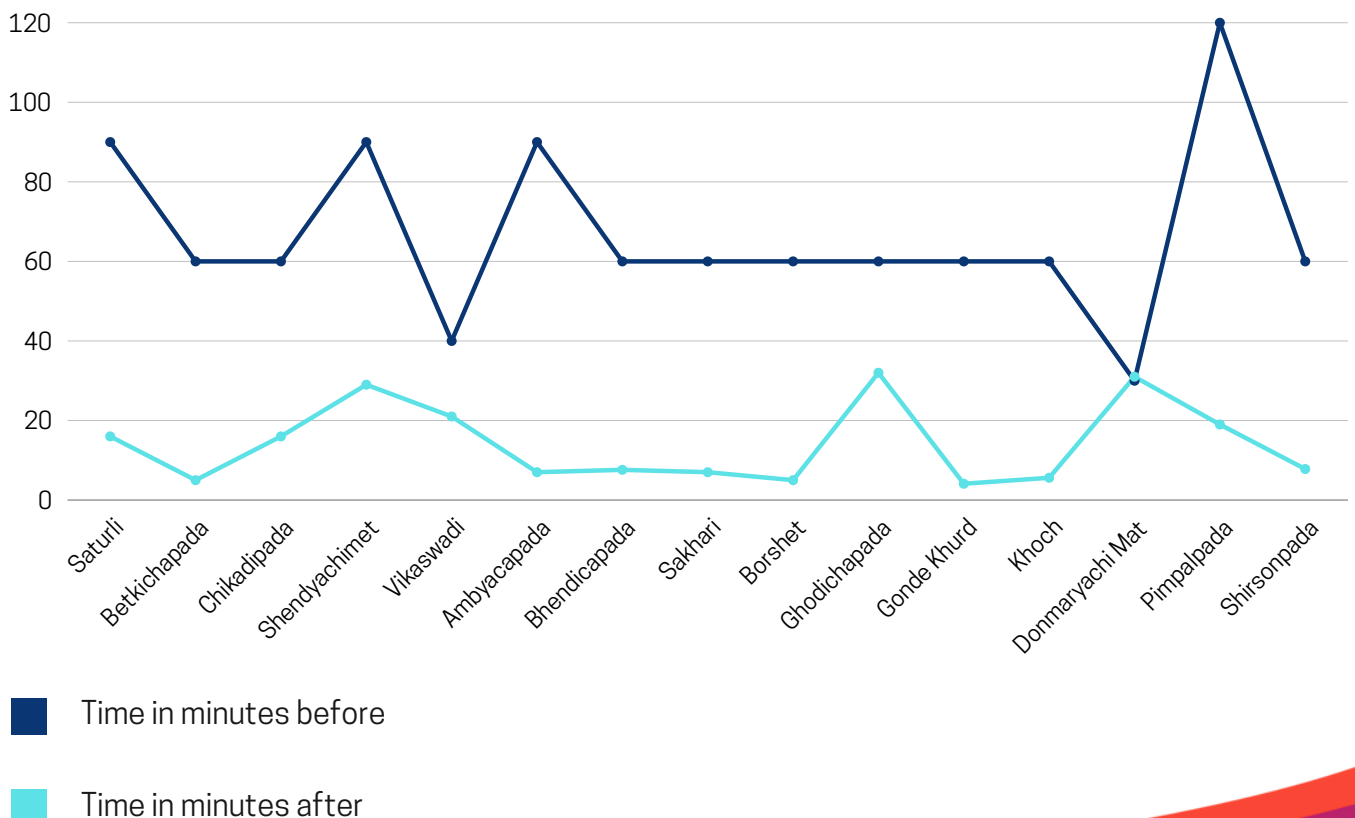


## COMMUNITY IMPACT

### PEOPLE AFFECTED



### TIME SAVED THROUGH WATER ACCESSIBILITY





# FUTURE OUTLOOK

Groundwater crisis has deepened in parts of Maharashtra, with 16 districts experiencing significant depletion in the groundwater table after monsoon 2023.

[Times Of India - 7th January, 2024.]

## EXPECTED INTANGIBLE IMPACT

- Accessible water **saves women 5-8 hours** of walking daily with 10-15 kilos worth of water carried on their heads.
- Clean water reduces diseases, improving overall health in the interiors of the state.
- Daily bathing with available water **boosts overall mental health and physical hygiene.**
- Saved time **empowers girls and women**, allowing them to spend time in school or learning new skills respectively.
- Water for livestock improves their health and **reduces owners stress level.**
- Water for crops keeps farmers local, **breaking poverty and migration cycles.**
- Access to water allows parents to focus on nurturing children.



# FUTURE INTERVENTIONS

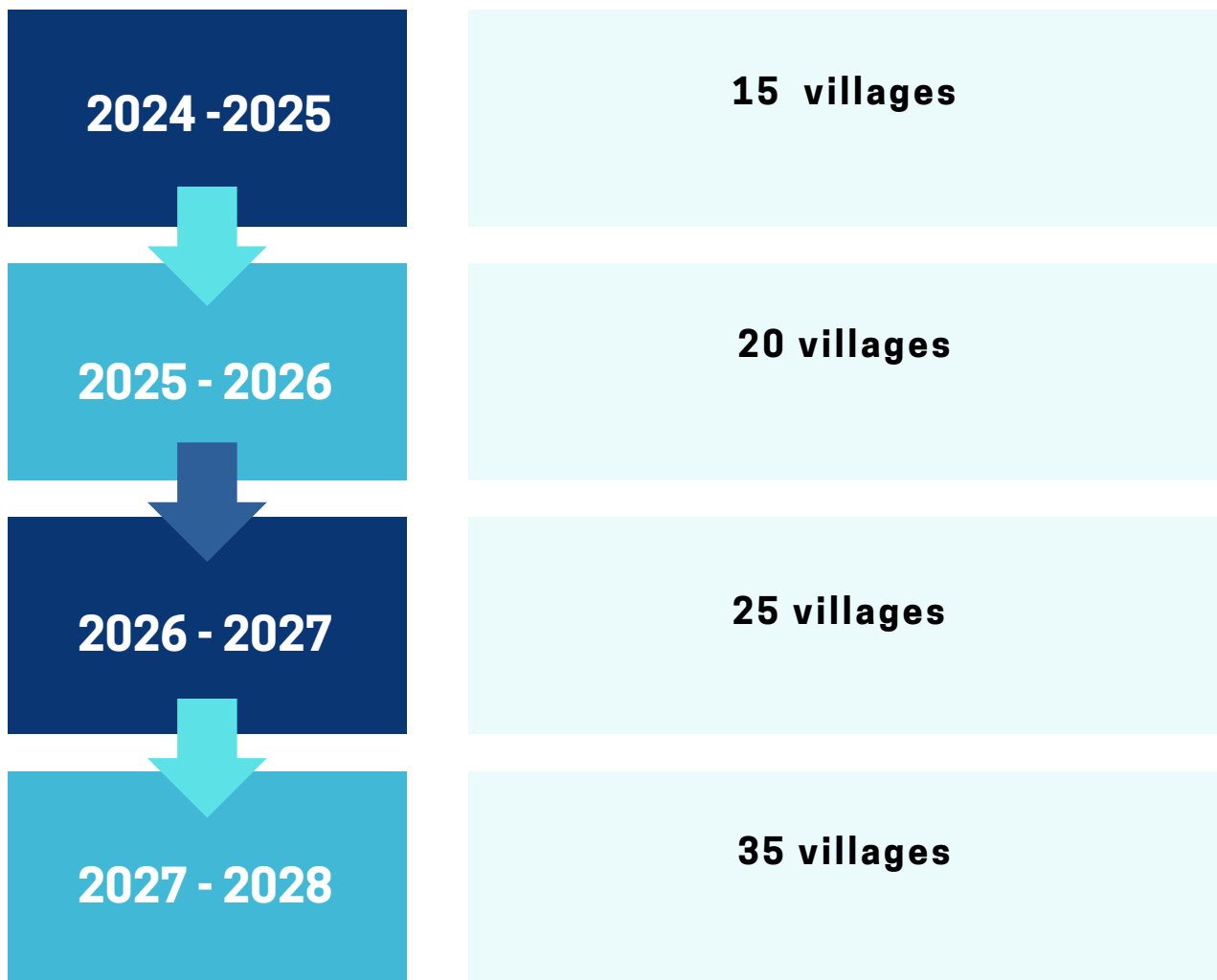


## MAKING 150 VILLAGES WATER SECURE BY 2030

*"Traditionally, water security was seen as a technical issue of water supply and management, with a focus on meeting water demand through infrastructure development. However, it has now expanded to encompass a broader range of social, economic, and environmental factors, including water quality, water allocation, and water governance."*

~22 Feb 2023 by The Water Diplomat

Maharashtra heavily relies on groundwater, which is rapidly depleting due to over-extraction for various purposes. Unequal distribution of water resources exacerbates water scarcity in some regions while others face surplus. Inadequate water management, coupled with climate change impacts and social hierarchy, further strains Maharashtra's water resources, escalating conflicts over water distribution and use.





# CONTACT US

Reach out to us if you'd be interested in joining or supporting our foundation as a whole or a specific program. Our team would be more than happy to assist you in any and all ways possible!



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