

 water
health

India



WaterHealth Centers

WaterHealth International 

WaterHealth International provides decentralized, scalable, safe and affordable water solutions to under-served communities using competitively priced technology wherever it may exist to open water centers.

Launched in 2009, Not-for-profit , Drinking Water , South Asia: India

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Problem Addressed

Every year millions of people, most of them children, die from diseases like cholera that are associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WHO 2004). Nearly 2 million children die each year from waterborne diseases, that's roughly one child every fifteen seconds. Up until recently, the response to the water crisis has been focused solely on water availability, not on the critical issues of quality or sustainability. Roughly 25 percent of the earth's population is forced to rely on contaminated water sources for basic needs.

Access to water only solves part of the problem. Traditional solutions like borewells and water delivered by tanker trucks are viable options for water access, but they can easily become compromised. Borewells can become irrevocably contaminated or dry up, while trucking in water from non-reliable sources is neither safe nor sustainable. A safe, clean and sustainable water supply is the only effective solution. WaterHealth's immediately deployable solution purifies any available water source, effectively delivering a safe and sustainable solution to the quality crisis, one community at a time.

Innovative Approach

WaterHealth's model is based on sustainability, ensuring that these units are operationally sustainable over the lifetime of their existence. This involves doing two things differently. First, they choose sites which have a high need and also a possibility for sustainability. They have a well-established criteria, including need, potential, and technical feasibility in each community, to determine where they can be most sustainable. Secondly, they ensure that the quality of the water they deliver is consistent across all centers, creating a comparable standard.

Program Solution

WaterHealth's game-changing strategy combines the use of decentralized purification centers in partnership with local communities to create a scalable and sustainable solution for processing healthy drinking water.

Using off-the-shelf technologies (including UV light disinfection), their market-tested WaterHealth Centers efficiently purify any available local water source to exceed WHO-quality drinking water standards. WaterHealth Centers employ

local workers to maintain, test and dispense “always pure” water at an affordable cost. And those who cannot travel to a WaterHealth Center have the option to have the purified water delivered directly to them. At less than US\$10 per person, WaterHealth can provide a decade of healthy drinking water to communities in need. Other solutions to the water crisis require ongoing investment, but their ground-breaking business model creates a sustainable community solution that improves lives, facilitates growth and enriches local economies. For example, a commitment of US\$25,000.00 provides a typical community in India with their own WaterHealth Center and service for 10 years.

Communities not only realize immediate benefits from improved health and wellbeing brought by clean water, but also benefit economically by sharing in a portion of a Center’s net earnings and ultimately by vesting in full ownership of that Center. This unique win-win relationship means that access to safe, reliable water can become a reality for 100s of millions of people – creating a bridge today to a better tomorrow.