

## Report back to The Funding Network

### 1. Name of your organisation and date funded by TFN:

FRANK Water (Charity number 1121273). Funding received December 2015.

### 2. What was the project you sought funding for from TFN?

What are its aims and objectives? Have these changed since receiving TFN funding?

The aim of the project was to secure access to safe water for three tribal communities in Madhya Pradesh who are at high risk of debilitating fluorosis from contaminated drinking water working with our partner the People's Science Institute (PSI)

The key objectives were to:

- Identify rural communities most in need of access to safe drinking water.
- To educate and raise awareness raising on the benefits of safe drinking water and the importance of hygiene.
- To improve access to safe and sustainable potable sources of drinking water to the community.
- To train and empower community based institutions for the monitoring and management of safe drinking water.
- To carry out monitoring and evaluation activities by collecting relevant data as agreed with FRANK Water Projects

The Key objectives have not changed since receiving TFN funding.

### 3. Were you able to do this work as you described it in your application and presentation?

Yes – FRANK Water and our partner in India; PSI were able to implement the activities of the project as planned as we have already gained invaluable experience of implementing projects of this nature previously with similar communities.

What evidence do you have for the success or failure of the funded project?

The three rural communities of Chotichetri, Bankpura and Banjari were identified as having a lack of access to safe drinking water and the communities in most need of the support from FRANK Water.

Planned awareness raising and education activities were conducted in each community by:

- Simple posters being displayed explaining the cause of fluorosis and how it can be avoided.
- Hand washing workshops for children were provided through schools.
- Individual and group sessions were given by PSI staff on self-hygiene and cleanliness around the house for women, including storage of cooking water and drinking water and covering utensils to protect them from waterborne diseases.

A safe drinking water supply system has been successfully installed in each of these communities with Water User Groups (WUGs) formed for regulating water services at the village level. These WUGs have been trained in cleaning of water tanks, chlorination, maintaining cleanliness around

the water tanks, repair works, holding monthly meetings and taking down the minutes of meeting, collecting monthly contribution and depositing the amount in the WUG's bank account.

**4. If you were not able, please explain what happened and why?  
We believe the project has been successful and met its objectives.**

**5. Can you measure, assess or describe the change that happened as a result of this work?**  
What actual change did the funded project generate? What proportion of the project/work did TFN fund (eg all/x%)?

**Evaluation of the project activities and outcomes has shown some positive results:**

1. Comparison of baseline and endline data indicates there has been a decrease in the urinary fluoride levels, a decrease in incidents of waterborne diseases and a decrease in time spent collecting water.
2. There has also been a reduction in the amount spent on medications and increase in hand washing and improved hygienic behaviour.
3. Specific impact assessments have also shown:
  - In Chotichetri the average amount of water available to each family increased by 36%
  - In Chotichetri the incidents of joint pain decreased by 45%, whereas in Banjari incidents of typhoid decreased by 57% and stomach ache by 54%. In Bankpura incidents of Diarrhoea decreased by 50% after installing a new safe source of water.
  - Families in our three communities now make a significant monthly saving on the money spent visiting the doctor or on medications. In Banjari the average saving is 560 Rupees which is 83%
  - In all three communities we saw a behavioural change in hygiene and handwashing. There was an overall trend in an increase in the use of soap when washing hands and corresponding decrease in using soil or water alone.

The Total project cost, to support three rural communities was £24,996. TFN funded almost 20% of the total cost of this project with the remainder being funded through other trusts and foundations and FRANK Water unrestricted income raised through events and appeals.

**6. As a result of presenting at TFN, did you experience any of the following;**

In the past 12 months FRANK Water has seen an increase in subscribers to our mailing list and more recently an increase in regular givers. We are developing our Trusts and Foundations fundraising further and since the TFN funding was granted at the end of 2015 we have secured a further six grants from new trusts that had not previously funded us. Although we are unable to directly attribute these successes to TFN funding, we believe that our partnership with TFN has improved our credibility as a charitable organisation and helped us reach new audiences and individuals particularly through the TFN hosted dinner in London.

**7. Could you give us an estimate of how many people have been reached by the TFN funded project/work and by how much?**

The total number of people reached in this project is 2,450, across 250 households. Therefore TFN directly funded safe water, sanitation and hygiene for approximately 490 men, women and children.

#### **8. Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of funding from TFN?**

Dilip Bundela is nineteen years old. Dilip was born disability-free but at around the age of four, he started to suffer terrible pain in his joints. The pain was constant and as time passed, Dilip's legs began to change shape, becoming bowed and wasted.

Dilip has skeletal fluorosis - caused by too much fluoride in the water supply. Dilip's family and neighbours would all drink from the same tap but Dilip was unlucky. We don't know why – it may be that he has a vitamin or mineral deficiency, was particularly malnourished or that his body couldn't dispose of fluoride as well as some others.

For the most part, people living in remote, rural parts of India don't understand how fluorosis happens. It's considered a sort of curse or punishment for something they did wrong in a past life. Children that suffer some kind of disability are said to be 'from a lesser god.'

Dilip and his family live in Bankpura village, in the Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh – one of the three villages that the TFN funding has helped to support. The fluoride levels in Dhar are significantly higher than recommended, due to large amounts of naturally occurring fluoride in the ground. Dilip relies almost completely on his mother to get in and out of bed, around the house and out and about. When Dilip's mother goes to work as a labourer, he is left alone. Finding and fetching water for her family is just one more time-consuming chore that she's responsible for.

With our partner PSI, FRANK Water has worked alongside the Bankpura community to help them develop their own low-impact, environmentally sustainable safe water supply. Having identified a safe water source, the village has laid pipes from the source to fill a large communal tank in the village that in turn, feeds multiple taps across the village.

Today, Dilip and his family have a safe, fluoride free tap just outside their house. Dilip's mother can fetch water from outside her front door, saving her time and worry. And, whilst there's no guarantee, Dilip may see an improvement in his fluorosis now that the water he drinks is safe.



#### **9. Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any significant change(s) which our donors would be interested to know about (these changes do not need to be related to the experience of presenting at TFN).**

In the past 12 months FRANK Water has spent time developing its capacity both here in the UK and overseas in India.

At the start of the summer we recruited our first Finance Manager part time, to help strengthen and improve our internal Financial procedures. Alongside this we recruited a new member to the

fundraising team to focus on securing money from trusts and foundations – an area we have had limited capacity to explore and grow previously.

We have also developed our Trustee Board further by recruiting new trustees who can provide additional expertise in areas such as fundraising, strategy and Finance and work closely with staff in helping them deliver their objectives .

Finally, we made a strategic decision to expand our work to a second country which will be Nepal. We intend on implementing similar projects to communities where the need is the greatest and will use our long history of success and expertise to enable us to do this once funding has been secured.

**10. Do you have any other comments regarding TFN funding?**

We would like to once again thank the board of TFN for their generous support in funding the life changing work we do in India

**11. Can you please include any relevant photos or clips that may relate to the project.**



Figure 1. Inauguration of new water system in Bankpura village



Figure 2. Testing water samples in the field



Figure 3. Talking with local women on health and hygiene issues