

# WATER FOR LIFE – INDIA AND NEPAL

## Improving Access to Safe Drinking Water for Rural Populations



### LOCAL CONTEXT

In both India and Nepal, safe drinking water is scarce and has created a public health crisis. Karuna-Shechen has initiated water projects in the state of **Bihar**, India, where the Shechen Clinic is located, and in the **Banepa** Valley of Nepal.

Bihar is a dry tropical region with rainfall only two or three months a year.

Water is abundant in Banepa, but safe drinking water is extremely scarce.

Limited access to safe drinking water is a major factor in the health of all populations:

- 60% of all childhood diseases in the world are caused by infectious diseases or parasites transmitted through unsafe drinking water.
- Unsafe drinking water can lead to cholera, polio, amoebic dysentery, meningitis, hepatitis A and E, yellow fever and a large number of parasites.

### PROJECT STRATEGY

A different strategy must be employed for each country in order to respond to its unique needs:

- **India:** construction of deep water pumps (30m) in order to access the pure ground water,
- **Nepal:** utilization of a rainwater collection system with an underground reservoir.

**Project Manager:** Karuna-Shechen via Shechen Clinici (India) and Karuna-Shechen (Nepal)

**Location:** 12 villages in Bihar (India) and one school in Banepa (Nepal)

**Sector :** Health

**Direct Beneficiaries:**

**India:** 12 villages (8,500 people)

**Nepal:** one school (130 people)

**Budget for India: \$17,000 USD**

**Budget for Nepal: \$10,000 USD**

### PROJECT GOALS

**Provide sufficient access to safe drinking water** for 12 villages in Bihar, India, and one rural school in the Banepa Valley, Nepal.

- ↳ To help these populations maintain personal health and hygiene and to diminish the prevalence of diseases related to unsafe drinking water

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### INDIA: WATER PUMPS

- In 2008, Karuna-Shechen, through the Shechen Clinic, installed one water pump in each of 12 villages in Bihar.
- Karuna-Shechen plans to complete the project by building a **second pump** in each village.
- This project will be carried out directly by the Shechen Clinic.

#### NEPAL: RAIN WATER COLLECTION

- Karuna-Shechen will provide access to safe drinking water to a rural school in the Banepa Valley; the school has no access to water.
- The project will make water available through a rainwater harvesting system, a traditional technique that is currently in use throughout the world.
- Karuna-Shechen will install a rainwater collection system on the school's grounds and an underground 100,000 liter water tank.
- The project will be administered by Karuna-Shechen and two of its partners: Barefoot College (India) and Namaste Banepa (Nepal).

#### DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

- **India: 8,500 people** in 12 surrounding rural villages far from the small town of Bodhgaya
- **Nepal: 122 children and 8 teachers** at a small rural school in Banepa with no access to safe drinking water.

#### EXPECTED RESULTS

- **Better conditions** for personal hygiene
- **Prevention of disease** caused by the consumption of contaminated water
- **Improved health** for mothers and their children.

## **PARTNERSHIP: BAREFOOT COLLEGE AND KARUNA-SHECHEN**

The partnership between Karuna-Shechen and the Barefoot College began in 2010 with a joint solar electricity project in India.

**Barefoot College**, an Indian organization that was founded 40 years ago, successfully develops community activities throughout the world. Their goal is sustainable development: to empower villages to use their own skills and knowledge rather than rely on outside help.

## **PARTNERSHIP : NAMASTE BANEPA AND KARUNA-SHECHEN**

The partnership between Karuna-Shechen and Namaste Banepa began in 2009 with the sponsorship of 20 school children.

Namaste Banepa is a small Nepalese organization that helps disadvantaged children attend school and develops campaigns for the prevention of uterine prolapse. The organization also makes it possible for women suffering from the condition to receive surgery.

## **FUNDS NEEDED**

**Karuna-Shechen is raising money to finance:**

- 1) One water pump for each of the 12 villages in India, and**
- 2) A rainwater catchment system for a school in Nepal**

**Total cost for 12 water pumps in India: \$17,000 USD**

(Cost of one water pump: \$1,400 USD)

**Total cost for a rainwater collection system in Nepal: \$10,000 USD**

(Costs include the construction of the water collection system and the water tank)

*To receive more information about this project, please contact one of Karuna-Shechen's branches.*



## **PROJECT MANAGER: KARUNA-SHECHEN**

**Karuna-Shechen is a humanitarian organization that implements health and education projects in the Himalayan region.**

**Founded and directed by Matthieu Ricard and inspired by the ideal of compassion (*karuna*) in action, the organization is deeply rooted in the traditions and values of the communities it serves.**

**Since 2001, Karuna-Shechen has initiated and developed 111 projects in India, Nepal and Tibet, propelled by the conviction that access to basic health care and education is a right for all.**

**[www.karuna-shechen.org](http://www.karuna-shechen.org)**

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