GLOBAL GRANTS COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Beneficiary community or institution

Village: A village named **Wakalwadi**, consisting of about 350 people, belonging to the Village Panchayat of **Khutal Baragaon**, Taluka - **Murbad**, District – **Thane,** in the satate of **Maharashtra**, India. The village is located in the hills of the Western Ghats of India, about 70km from the town of Murbad, and about 120km from the city of Navi Mumbai.

Groups in the community that would receive a clear, direct, and immediate benefit from the Project

Women, Farmers and Cattle:

1. The primary beneficiaries will be the women of the village as they will have access to water for drinking, washing clothes and washing utensils near the village instead of having to collect it from a stream that is located nearly 750 m away and is accessible only via a treacherous route.

2. The second beneficiaries will be the farmers in the village who will have access to more water for their crops. In addition, this project will help them save precious top soil which is eroding away during heavy monsoons.

3. The village cattle will be the third beneficiaries as they will have access to drinking water easily.

Beneficiaries' demographic information, if relevant to the project

Tribals: The villagers are tribal people, a community that has remained marginalized and economically backward since time immemorial. Primary occupation is farming and cattle rearing. Rainfall is plenty, about 2500 mm, but limited to the monsoon season of 3 months. Without adequate water storage, there is acute shortage of water for the remaining 9 months of a year. Another problem is that the village is located in a hilly area formed primarily of basaltic rock. Top soil is mostly thin. Heavy seasonal rains lead to soil erosion.

Who conducted the assessment? (check all that apply)

☒ Host sponsor members

☐ International sponsor members

☒ A cooperating organization (Dr. Dhananjay G. Mahajan of Malati Vaidya Smriti Trust.)

☐ University

☐ Hospital

☐ Local government

☐ Other

Assessment dates

August 2019: Dr Dhananjay Mahajan has visited the site multiple times over a period of 2 years. In the month of July 2019, he approached our club for support to this project. He has already executed a Pilot Project at the said village with financial support from the Rotary Club of Bombay Powai, District 3141, in the Year 2018-19, under the RID 3141 District Grant Project No 1975002. The President of the Club at the time was Mr. Hanuman Tripathi and the Project Director was Mr. Vivek Govilkar.

On 29th August, Rtn Sankalp Gupta, Secretary (2019-20), Rotary Club of New Bombay Seaside (Host Sponsor Club) and Dr Dhananjay Mahajan visited the site and identified the Principal works to be done under this Project. This is also to be noted that Rtn Sankalp Gupta himself is a Civil Engineer from IIT Mumbai and has in-depth knowledge about the subject.

What methods did you use? (check all that apply)

☒ Survey

☒ Community meeting

☒ Interview

☐ Focus group

☐ Asset inventory

☐ Community mapping

☐ Other Click or tap here to enter text.

Who from the community participated in the assessment?

Mr. Shankar Songal: +91-84128-28406, +91-85548-52150

Mr. Pramod Songal

Elected Members and Villagers who have farm land near the river

List the community needs you identified that your project would address.

1. Water for farming of a 2nd crop during the water scarce months of January to mid-June

2. Easy access to water near the village - for drinking and domestic use – all year round

3. Prevention of soil erosion along the river banks

4. Water storage in the de-silted weir will also be available for use by other villages downstream

5. Drinking Water for cattle

List any needs you identified that your project would not address.

1. Water supply to other near-by villages that are also water stressed post-monsoon

2. Adequate drainage facility for waste water

3. Tap water directly to individual households

List the community's assets, or strengths.

1. Experience – The villagers have experienced the benefit of the partial de-silting work done last year. Some villagers were able to grow a 2nd crop. Land near the river bank was saved from washing away.

2. Hard work – villagers are willing to work on a 2nd crop

3. Unity – Work together to use and maintain common village assets

Considering the needs and assets you listed, explain how you determined the project's primary goal.

Dr. Dhananjay Mahajan has been going to the village for the last two years and discussing issues related to the water scarcity. During discussions with the villagers, they pointed out to the silt formation and water supply issues. Dr. Dhananjay observed had a first hand observation of the amount of silt that has accumulated in the reservoir, which was almost 10 feet in height. He also observed serious soil erosion caused by the river which has spread out as its bed has become shallow due to the silt and the observed destruction of paddy crop due to river water entering into the fields. He heard the pain that women go through due to lack of water. They walk through treacherous hilly path every day to fetch water for daily use. He also observed river pollution caused by women washing clothes directly in the river water and cattle freely entering the river for drinking, since there is no provision for water in the village for cattle.

He also observed that due to the unavailability of water during the months of October to Mid-June, the younger generation flocks to cities for want of work to support their families.

How would your project's activities accomplish this goal?

The project aims at doing the following four distinct things.
1. De-silt the reservoir. The removed sand and gravel will be used to line up the river bank on the downstream side.
2. Build a water supply pipeline from the river to the village.
3. Make provisions for cattle for drinking water within the village.
4. Make provisions for a community washing station in the village so that women do not go to the river for washing clothes and hence polluting the water.

What challenges have prevented the community from accomplishing the project's goals?

Murbad Taluka and this gram panchayat is basically an Adivasi (tribal) area with low economic status. Agriculture and unskilled labour are the only means of survival.

The community is mostly illiterate and has no means of earnings other than depending on farming, grazing animals and dry wood-picking from the nearby forest and offering their unskilled labour in urban markets.

Lower income and paucity of the funds from the government bodies have been the biggest hurdles for their growth. The government does not do maintenance of such weirs on the river and such large repair jobs are beyond the capabilities of the local farmers or the Village panchayat. Budget of the Project as given in Page 6 of "Project Report" (**F. COST**) will reveal that such projects are beyond the capacity of the local population.

How is the community addressing these challenges now?

The community is just living with the challenges. The challenges are far too big for them to handle, due to multiple factors: their financial limitations, lack of knowledge on how to solve their problems, and lack of a vision of the future.

They helplessly see the erosion of their land and destruction of their crop due to river waters. More and more people stop doing farming and go for daily labour in nearby cities.

The young working population flocks to the nearby cities in search of jobs to support their families.

The women-folk spend their valuable time fetching water from long distances and on treacherous terrain.

Why are the project's activities the best way to meet this community need?

The whole village will benefit from the water apart from direct beneficiaries. Farmers will benefit since although the region gets 2500 mm rainfall, it just runs-off due to unavailability of adequate storage.

In addition, the ladies of the village will be saved from the arduous task of fetching water from long distances and thus would be able to devote more time to support their families.

Cattle will have a separate and easily accessible drinking water source, thereby, facilitating healthy growth in cattle population.