Water for our Daughters
How water gives women and girls a voice, a choice and a future
We’d like to thank everyone who has helped us to help rural communities in India combat water poverty, and in particular:

**Individuals**
- Joss Baker
- Georgina Brindley
- Julie Bushell
- Polly Cantle
- Nicky Cole
- Sue English
- Kay Fernandes
- Rebecca Flach
- Zoe Anne Gibson
- Daniela Healey
- Carolyn Humphrey
- Nashir Karmali
- Jo Lakeland
- Elizabeth Lamont
- Nick Langham
- Margaret Lawson
- Jamille Malcolm
- Jessica Midwinter
- Christian Moore
- Margaret Mouland
- Yvonne Ndhlala
- Helen Pakeman
- Samantha Percy
- Russell Purslow
- Sheila Reddy
- Kev Sandall
- Paul Sansome
- Katie Seal
- Joy & David Slim
- Jo Tanter
- Carol and Ray Thomas
- Maureen Thornton
- Gabie Waugh
- Catherine Wharton
- Angela Willis

**Groups**
- Art Asia
- bmore creative
- Fair Ground Fair Trade shop, Wimborne, UK (Maureen Pascall, Margaret Pearce, Anne Solomon)
- Fairtrade at St Michael’s at the Northgate, Oxford, UK (Daniella Cromwell, Gilly Robins)
- Faringdon Singers (Terence Carter, Karen Vogt, Sjoerd Vogt)
- Pizza Express
- Richard Steel & Partners
Dear friends,

I read recently that there are still around 600m people in India who don’t have direct access to a toilet. It seems that momentum is building in the Indian government to reach its target of providing 120m more toilets by 2019 (as part of the Swachh Barat Abhiyan/Clean India Mission), but what’s the point of toilets if nobody uses them?

While the government focuses on building toilets, Wells for India needs to tackle the huge cultural and educational shift required to ensure toilets are actually used, maintained and truly owned by village communities so that they become the norm over time. Women in particular see toilets as offering security, dignity and privacy for themselves and their daughters, and as such, they play a vital role in promoting their installation and use to others.

For those of us who grew up in environments where to have and use a toilet was the norm, it may be difficult to comprehend why others would need to be convinced. Consider – if your family traditions dictated that open defecation was more hygienic (as is still the belief in many rural communities), would you argue? Surely stark statistics such as ‘1000 children under five die due to poor sanitation every day’ can influence a positive change.

Following our highly successful work in Janedesar (with partner, Jal Bhagirathi Foundation who are profiled on pages 4 & 5), I’m very pleased that we have just started two new sanitation projects. One is in a part of the Thar Desert where the harsh conditions dictate an adapted approach due to very low water levels. The second is in the Wakal river basin, south of Udaipur where only 4% of households had toilets before. We hope that these projects will be used as best practice models to encourage other villages to get involved in the future, though as always, our ambitions outweigh our resources!

So I’ll sign off with a heartfelt thank-you for your continued support, and with your help, we’ll reach even more communities in the future. Mahatma Gandhi said it best in 1925: “Sanitation is more important than independence”.

Marc Wilson
Chair of Trustees
PARTNER PROFILE: JAL BHAGIRATHI FOUNDATION (JBF)

WASH & Dry

The region of Marwar/मारवाड़ (coming from the Sanskrit word for ‘the region of the desert’), is a dry sandy plain lying northwest of the Aravalli hills in Rajasthan. Encompassing the Great Indian (Thar) Desert, it is prone to devastating droughts, forcing rural communities to migrate on foot for hundreds of miles in search of water every year.

In 2002, Marwar (or Jodhpur region), was hit by acute water shortages bringing devastation. In response, HH Gaj Singh II, Maharaja of Jodhpur – Marwar, Rajendra Singh (known as the ‘Water Gandhi’) and Prithvi Raj Singh formed the Jal Bhagirathi Foundation (JBF). Established to enable communities of the Thar Desert to access enough safer drinking water for families and their essential animals, JBF has supported more than 450,000 people and over 1 million livestock over the past 13 years. Wells for India continually seeks ways to showcase and replicate best practice methods of reviving traditional water harvesting systems. The first project with JBF in 2008 was designed to do this – showcasing judicious water management in model villages to encourage others to follow.

When the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) project began, less than 2% of eight target villages had adequate sanitation, but by 2014, it had risen to 81%!

Yashwant Sinha, Project Manager at JBF commented: “Since we have worked with Wells for India, our belief in traditional water management wisdom as the most vital alternative to sustainable water supply, has been re-established.”

Building on the successes of the WASH project, Wells for India is now supporting JBF to harness water (to drink) and sanitation in five villages in the
harsh conditions of the Thar Desert. The project has already begun to construct 115 water catchment systems, more than 100 toilets (channelling funds leveraged from the Indian Government’s ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ Clean Up India Mission), and is trialling the use of ‘bio sand filters’ – water filtration systems that use natural materials of rocks and sand. But as, or if not more important, it will raise awareness and teach more than 900 children and adults how to improve water and sanitation practices and take care of the hardware, which will be locally owned and maintained.

JBF has set ambitious targets to meet by project-end (September 2016), but with their caring expertise, there’s every reason for the desert communities of Marwar to be optimistic about the future.

1,500 toilets were constructed in 30 villages last year!

Rajendra Singh wins Stockholm Prize for Water 2015

MEET

GANGA DEVI

Ganga Devi, 62, is a mother of three, wife to Mangi Lal, and an inspiration to women and girls in Janadesar village in the Jodhpur district of Rajasthan.

Since the JBF/Wells for India projects began in 2008, Ganga Devi has been teaching and showing women how to transform their family’s lives through simple improvements to how they keep clean. She can not only build a toilet, but also explain why they are safer and more hygienic for women in particular to use, than the deeply entrenched tradition of open defecation.

Ganga Devi’s confidence has grown so much that she now proudly manages a women’s savings group who make purchasing decisions together (instead of men) for things they couldn’t afford alone, like tools for agriculture.

Ganga Devi commented: “Now I am more confident and knowledgeable, I am happy to speak about why it is good to keep clean and use toilets, even in big meetings. I feel my opinions are as good as any man’s!”

1,500 toilets were constructed in 30 villages last year!
Wem for India!

A round of applause for Julie Bushell from Wem in Shropshire, UK, who tirelessly organises a postal quiz for Wells for India twice a year, and this June, also hosted a mammoth curry supper. 53 diners from as far afield as Edinburgh collectively raised £600 (after expenses) from supper tickets, a raffle and card sales.

Cakes for Cash at Kings Worthy

Classes 3B & 3S from Kings Worthy School near Winchester were so inspired after Wells for India community supporters, Jo Tanter and Pam Meir, gave talks about water and sanitation in India last term, that in July they hosted a grand bake sale. The cakes and cards raised an amazing £176.

Famous Photos

A photo exhibition called ‘Good Planet! Water!’ at the Royal Galleries of Ostend, Belgium, included work that our photographer friend, Dieter Telemans, took of Wells for India projects. The exhibition launched in June and lasted throughout summer.

Super Supper Club

Dr Nashir Karmali, director of the Alchemy Health Clinic in Wimborne, Dorset, UK, visited our projects last year and was inspired to begin a Supper Club, held every few months. The first supper in May raised a fabulous £1,400!

Get Involved

How can you fight water poverty?

- Do a sponsored walk
- Give a talk at school
- Donations for Diwali

Why not host an event to celebrate Diwali or Christmas and raise some cash for Wells for India, so families in rural India can celebrate the gift of water too!

Buy a Wishing Well gift

- Give a talk at school
- Donations for Diwali

Why not host an event to celebrate Diwali or Christmas and raise some cash for Wells for India, so families in rural India can celebrate the gift of water too!
Inspiring Indian Photo Exhibition

Local professional photographer, Paul Sansome, hosted a photo exhibition at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens in Romsey, UK, throughout June, making a donation on every Rajasthani photo sold, and profits from a photo lecture of India, raising almost £800. Come and visit when we team up again next year.

Water Cycle

See the beauty of Rajasthan by bicycle – join the Discover Adventure’s ‘Cycle Rajasthan’ challenge on 4 November 2016 (other dates available in February & November 2017) and get sponsored for Wells for India at the same time – why not get a team together! [www.discoveradventure.com/challenges/rajasthan-cycle](http://www.discoveradventure.com/challenges/rajasthan-cycle)

Great Global Citizens

For Hounsdown School’s Global Citizenship Day, Wells for India Trustee, Kevin Cook and community supporter, Nick Langham challenged 240 Year 8 pupils to work out the best water solution in different geographical areas of Rajasthan. The school near Southampton, UK, said thank-you by raising £255.

Chauka

A Chauka (from the Hindi word for ‘square’) system is a method of harvesting monsoon rainwater in arid areas. Land is divided into square shaped embankments. As one fills, water flows into the next, in a chain reaction. This keeps moisture across the field all year round and recharges groundwater, improving agriculture and grass production.

Om Prakash Explains...
Without Water

In rural India, traditionally, women find and provide water for the family’s needs for drinking, washing, cooking and cleaning. They typically spend 1/3 of their lives fetching and queuing for water, walking five miles a day. A ‘matka’ pot weighs up to 20kg and women will carry one or two on their heads, even when pregnant. It is back-breaking, relentless work.

Often, the water they fetch is contaminated so they are left with an impossible choice: certain death without water, or sickness that could lead to death, with it. *Every minute, a child dies of a water-related disease.*

When women can’t provide enough, their daughters must help. While education for all 6–14 year olds is compulsory, girls as young as 8 years old drop out to fetch water and take care of siblings or livestock.

Cycle of Water Poverty

Whether it’s to fetch water (and care for siblings because mothers are fetching water), or a lack of privacy when they hit puberty because 4 out of 10 schools don’t have working toilets, all too often, girls are dropping out of school.

Growing up with little or no education means girls don’t know their rights, they don’t have a voice and they don’t have a choice about how to live their lives. Without water and sanitation, they cannot attend school, and they cannot earn an income. They’re more likely to get married young, have children, and the cycle of water poverty begins again, only worse.

Help us break the water poverty cycle – Show your support for the Water for our Daughters Appeal today.

Sanitation Saves

Of the 2.5bn people living without basic sanitation, 800m are in India, and women struggle the most. Strong cultural beliefs are that open defecation is the most hygienic – only 1 in 3 women has access to a toilet. Without a toilet, it is unacceptable for women to relieve themselves during the day, yet waiting for nightfall to have privacy gives women severe health problems, and puts them at risk of injury and assault. Through lack of knowledge, facilities, and in shame, most girls have poor personal hygiene, which can lead to psychological and to reproductive problems.

Help us reach 1 girl in each of our 50 villages and give her a voice, a choice and a future.
If you are a daughter, you have a daughter, or you know a daughter, PLEASE HELP US RAISE £500 FOR ALL 50 VILLAGES and not only change a daughter, but her family, her village and her community, forever.

With only £500, Wells for India can provide:
A Roof Rain Water Harvesting System (RRWHS) collecting monsoon water from roof guttering into an underground storage ‘taanka’, providing drinking water. (Wells for India co-invests in RRWHSs with the community so their ownership and maintenance ensures sustainability.)

She can stay in school & play like a child
Educational materials so that she and her whole school can learn about the importance of good personal hygiene and water conservation

She can be smarter & have a voice
Training for her family and neighbours about why and how to use toilets – Wells for India supports the community to leverage funds from the local ‘Panchayat’ government to fund the building of toilets

She will be safer & more confident
Life-saving water filters to make dirty water cleaner and safer to drink

She will be healthier & stronger

Can you imagine a life without water or sanitation?

Please give as generously as you can but any donation will make a difference – every drop counts.

Please make cheques payable to ‘Wells for India’ to Wells for India, Basepoint, 1 Winnall Valley Road, Winchester SO23 0LD, UK or go to: www.wellsforindia.org

If you are a daughter, you have a daughter, or you know a daughter, PLEASE HELP US RAISE £500 FOR ALL 50 VILLAGES and not only change a daughter, but her family, her village and her community, forever.
Sharing and Learning

We’ve enjoyed sharing what we’ve learnt and hearing from others this summer at lots of meetings and events. We’d like to do even more in 2016 to keep water and sanitation high on the agenda, so let us know about any events we should be attending: events@wellsforindia.org

Summer Supporters

Wells for India enjoyed the chance to catch up with friends and supporters at our summer supporters’ evening in June. We enjoyed the conversations as much as the meal!

Festival Fun at the Southampton Mela

Thanks to our friends at Art Asia, we enjoyed a great day at the 13th Southampton Mela (meaning ‘gathering’ or ‘fair’ in Sanskrit) where families enjoyed a wide range of South Asian music from Bollywood to Bhangra, Flamenco to Folk. Look out for us at the Southampton Mela 2016!

Discussions on Development

Our India Country Director, Om Prakash Sharma, enjoyed a lively discussion at a round-table event organized by the Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD) in June, on ‘The Role of NGOs as Critical and Constructive Agency in Development’. FSD supports interns from America to work in projects in India, including with our local partner, Mahan Seva Sansthan (MSS). Wells for India supports the Gandhian principles of volunteerism, working with many volunteers and interns for a common good.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

We’d love to see you at our up and coming events. We’re adding more to the list all the time but here are a few dates for the diary:

13 OCTOBER 2015
‘Voices from the Desert’ – Annual talk by Om Prakash Sharma in the Undercroft at Winchester Cathedral in Hampshire followed by a curry supper at the Bengal Sage Indian Restaurant. Reserve your place by calling +44 (0)1962 832 692 or email office@wellsforindia.org.

13 FEBRUARY 2016
St. Paul’s Church, Winchester (SO22 5AB) will be hosting the ‘Fusion Choir’ in a concert (including our very own Trustee, Maureen Gupta) where proceeds will jointly benefit the church and Wells for India.

Contact us at events@wellsforindia.org for more information about these events, and register for future events listings at the bottom of our homepage: www.wellsforindia.org
Commendations & Competitions

Wells for India is proud to work with leading organisations in India to tackle water and sanitation, whose expertise is recognised in national and international awards.

The Water Man of India Wins the Stockholm Water Prize 2015

Wells for India is delighted that long-standing partner, adviser and friend, Rajendra Singh, (known as the Water Man of India) has won the Stockholm Water Prize (equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize), for his work on Indian rainwater harvesters called ‘Johads’. The award, which was presented by HM King XVI Gustaf of Sweden on 26 August 2015, annually recognises the outstanding achievements of those who contribute to the conservation and protection of the world’s water resources.

Jal Bhagirathi Foundation wins World Water Council Prize

Jodhpur-based Wells for India partner, Jal Bhagirathi Foundation (JBF), has won the Global Showcase Water Prize of Daegu Gyeongbuk at the World Water Council’s forum in South Korea. Billed as the largest water event in the world, it occurs every three years and brings together global decision makers to discuss water sustainability, and awards a prize of USD $30,000.

JBF were also recognised in The Times of India 2015 Social Impact Awards in the category of environment for not only reviving water sources, but also for their impressive sanitation work and their approach to empowering communities.

COMPETITION

WATER WARRIORS WIN!

Find out what this animal is & win a water bottle

Clues:
1. They are the largest of all Asian antelopes
2. They are as sacred to Indian people as precious drinking water, so even though they are a pest, they are protected
3. Wells for India gives seeds to families to farm crops, who protect them with high hedges but these cheeky herbivores can jump right over!

(Hint: to find the answer, look for information about farming on our website: www.wellsforindia.org)

E-mail your answer, name and address to: getinvolved@wellsforindia.org. The first FIVE right answers will be sent a water bottle!
Christmas Colours

Our new range of stunning Christmas and greeting cards have been designed and donated by friends of Wells for India, so 100% profit goes to our cause. Our wide range of artwork makes for the perfect gift, from hand-painted silk paintings from rural communities in Rajasthan, to wood-block and graphic limited edition prints of our favourite card designs.

Order your cards and artwork now by completing the order form on page 15 and sending us a cheque, or go to www.wellsforindia.org/shop

Gorgeous Greeting and Christmas Cards

Make someone smile by sending one of our gorgeous greeting cards, or a pack is the perfect present.
Stunning Silk Paintings

These are a few examples of a much wider range. They are ready for framing, postage is £3.50. Go to www.wellsforindia.org/shop to view more, or to arrange a viewing, contact shop@wellsforindia.org

**Daily Water Collection** (55 × 41.5cm): **£15**
A familiar scene of women fetching water from a well.

**Festival Elephant** (62 × 48cm): **£12**
A beautiful Asian elephant in full procession regalia.

**Field Flower Bouquet** (43 × 56cm): **£12**
Lovely Indian flowers set amongst sprigs of wheat.

**Dancing Horse** (56 × 39cm): **£12**
A dancing festival horse, dressed to impress.

## Prints

Our cards look stunning when framed and displayed. Here are two in larger sizes that would make lovely gifts.

**Bright Tiger: £25**
An iconic symbol of India, this eye-catching Bengal Tiger mirror-painting will brighten up any wall. White mount, ready for you to frame.
(43 × 31cm including mount)

**Rajasthani Elephant: £25**
This wood-block stamp of an Asian elephant in a festival procession is bold and beautiful. White mount, ready for you to frame.
(31 × 31cm including mount)

For our extended range of cards, paintings, running vests and more, go to: www.wellsforindia.org/shop
Gifts that Give Back

Giving a friend or loved one a Wishing Well Charity Gift is a lovely way to show you care, and will directly help people struggling with the impacts of water poverty in rural India.

LEARN A LESSON . . . . £5
A teaching pack provides the tools to teach a classroom of 25 children how good hygiene practice can save lives.

FILTER DIRTY WATER . . . . . . . £10
Every minute, a child dies from a water-related disease. A simple filter makes life-saving water safer to drink.

GIFT OF THE GAB . £43
Help communities to multiply the impact of our work by securing support from local government schemes to improve access to water and sanitation. Your gift will enable us to coach village leaders for a whole year to know what to say and do.

MEND A WELL . . . . £407
A large village well in rural India can often be the only source of free water for miles around but if it’s not looked after, it can get contaminated. Your gift will allow Wells for India and the local community to fix a well to benefit all.

POT LUCK . . . . . . . . . . £6
Women in rural India still carry traditional clay matka pots on their heads for up to 8 hours a day, fetching water. Metal matka pots are lighter, cleaner and stronger, and 10 pots will benefit a whole family.

TREAT A TOILET . . . . £9
Government grants are paying for more and more toilets to be built in rural India, but Wells for India ensures people know how to use and look after them. Training 30 toilet champions can change a whole community.

LADLE IT ON . . . . £12
Water is precious, so when you have it, you need to keep it clean, or risk spreading waterborne diseases. 200 metal ladles will provide for a whole community to hygienically share water, and will last a lifetime.

PLEDGE A PLANT . . £32
Once a community has water, it can grow produce to make a living. Your gift will enable Wells for India to provide 100 fruit and fodder plants for villagers to sow and sell.

FOOD FAIR . . . . £108
Even with produce to sell, it’s difficult for communities to reach customers. With the help of your gift, Wells for India will host a food fair 4 times a year, creating a market for people to sell their produce and support their families.

CATCH AND KEEP RAIN . . . . £315
A roof rainwater harvesting system captures and stores precious monsoon rain from the roof of a family’s house to provide life-saving drinking water.

SEE RIGHT FOR HOW THE WISHING WELL WORKS
Order Form

CHRISTMAS CARDS
One pack of 8 cards and envelopes: £3.50 (per design)
All designs are left blank for your own message

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<th>Tārā Star</th>
<th>Jewel Star</th>
<th>Deer in the Birch Wood</th>
<th>Reach for the Stars</th>
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Total Cost of Christmas Cards (£)

GREETING CARDS
One pack of 8 cards and envelopes: £3.50 (per design)
All designs are left blank for your own message

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<th>Tree of Life</th>
<th>Jaipur Kite Festival</th>
<th>Miriam</th>
<th>Water Bearer</th>
<th>Peacock</th>
<th>Little Elephants</th>
<th>Rajasthani Elephant</th>
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Total Cost of Greeting Cards (£)

WISHING WELL CHARITY GIFTS

|----------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|

Total Cost of Charity Gift(s) (£)

HOW THE WISHING WELL WORKS
1. Choose a Wishing Well Charity Gift.
2. Complete the order form, write a cheque and send it to us.
   OR
   Make a Bank Transfer (see overleaf).
3. We will send you a gift card for you to give to your friend or loved one.

To find out more and buy, visit: www.wellsforindia.org/shop/wishing-well

COST SUMMARY

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Please make cheques payable to Wells for India and mark on the back: Merchandise
Placing Your Order

PAYING BY CHEQUE

Complete this form, ensuring all relevant sections are filled in. Then enclose a cheque for the total amount and post it to Wells for India.

Make cheques payable to Wells for India and mark on the back: Merchandise

PAYING BY BANK TRANSFER

Make your payment to HSBC
Acc No: 71734407
Sort Code: 40–46–39

Then e-mail office@wellsforindia.org detailing:
Your contact details
Delivery address (if different to contact details)
Your order
Total amount paid

Wells for India will confirm receipt of payment, then post your order.

GIFT AID

If you buy a Wishing Well Charity Gift or make a donation, Wells for India can claim an extra 25p for every £1 at no extra cost to you, on this and all future donations:

I am a UK tax payer and I want Wells for India to reclaim tax on all donations I make.

Signature
Date

CONTACT DETAILS

Name
Address
Postcode

Telephone
We will only contact you if there is a query with your order

Email
Tick if you do not want to be contacted with updates

Delivery Address (if different from above)
Name
Address
Postcode

WHERE TO SEND THIS FORM

Please send this completed form and cheque to:

Wells for India
Basepoint
1 Winnall Valley Road
Winchester
Hampshire SO23 0LD
UK

+44 (0)1962 832 692
office@wellsforindia.org

Is there anything else you’d like to see in our range of gifts? Share your ideas here or email office@wellsforindia.org
Rural communities in India are hit particularly hard by adverse weather conditions, since their main source of food and income is from subsistence agriculture. Climate change is increasingly affecting the monsoon rain patterns, making it hard to predict when and how much rain will fall, which affects how much rain can be captured for drinking.

Monsoon Report 2015 for Rajasthan state, India

**West:** Partners including Jal Bhagirathi Foundation (JBF – see profile on pages 4&5) report that most of the Roof Rain Water Harvesting Systems (that capture monsoon rainwater from roof guttering into underground storage ‘taankas’) are completely full or overflowing from abnormally high levels of rain.

**Aravalli Hills:** Partners such as Mahan Seva Sansthan (MSS) report that in the short term, heavy rains have damaged many houses, but in the long term, there will be higher ground water saturation, which will improve harvests of winter crops.

**Sambhar Salt Lakes:** Partners including Gram Vikas Nav Yuvak Mandal (GVNML) report that more rain is needed.

**North East:** Partners including Prayas Kendra Sanstha Har soli (PKS) report that more rain is needed.

**OVERALL MONSOON RATING 2015:**

**SATISFACTORY**

Severe Summer Sandstorms

The Indian summer of 2015 saw one of the worst sandstorms Rajasthan has seen in decades. Taking the lives of nine people, the sandstorm ripped through the state, causing major damage to houses, uprooting trees and cutting power supplies.

Anyone for Golf?

Just when we thought the weather couldn’t get any more extreme, we saw hail stones the size of golf balls in India earlier this year. The erratic and destructive storms caused damage to crops, vehicles and buildings, as well as shutting down power for hours, leaving people stranded.
Smashing Supporters!

Wells for India is supported by a loyal team of international community supporters who voluntarily give their time and energy in various ways throughout the year, in the UK and India. If we had more community supporters, we’d do even more, so please contact getinvolved@wellsforindia.org with your offers of help!

Inspirational Interns

If you’re looking to strengthen your CV, gain real-life charity experience, use skills that you enjoy (not necessarily what you are studying!), and give back to a great cause, then why not apply to the Wells for India Voluntary Internship Scheme.

We accept applications from second year undergraduates upwards to postgraduates all year round to work in our Winchester, UK, office or at home (depending on your role).

Send your CV and a brief note about what you can offer to: getinvolved@wellsforindia.org

Time to be a Trustee?

Are you passionate about water and sanitation issues? If you have expertise in your field plus a good sense of governance and accountability, and can spare some time, then help shape the future of Wells for India and become a Trustee to our UK board. Formal meetings are held quarterly, though you will have the opportunity to get more involved in different areas of work, depending on your skills, time, and the needs of the charity. You can also visit our projects in India. Register your interest by e-mailing: office@wellsforindia.org

“I have gained and learnt a lot from my placement, getting involved in a wide variety of tasks. The team are very friendly, allowing me to do tasks that suited my interests. The experience I’ve gained has made me more focused than ever to follow my career path in human rights.

Yvonne Ndhlala from Zimbabwe
BA (Hons) Politics & Global Studies
University of Winchester
Mira’s Story

Her name is Mira: eight years old, she lives in the hamlet of Malkus-ki-dani in the Thar Desert.

Mira’s life, like that of most girls from poor families in Rajasthan, had been harsh. As a girl in her household she, like her older sister, Pintu, looked after their younger siblings’ needs. They also looked after their elderly grandparents and a herd of goats which were so vital for her family’s income and nutrition. Though she was still small, she was expected to fetch water with the other women, often from far away.

It was lucky for Mira that her mother was so strong. Many mothers die in childbirth, and children often suffer from severe malnutrition, anaemia and water-related diseases.

Today Mira’s life is changing. The drudgery of walking long distances with her mother and Pintu to find water – carrying heavy ‘matka’ pots on their heads – is over.

Wells for India and their local partner, Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS), came to Pabupura village in the Jodhpur District of Rajasthan. A great awakening happened there, and in surrounding villages. In the sand and dust of the Desert, they gave Mira’s family the support and means to build a taanka (water storage tank) in their hamlet.

Instead of backbreaking journeys searching for water, Mira now goes in the cool of early morning to the catchment area of the taanka just outside their home. She simply lowers her bucket down to sweet drinking water.

But even more exciting for Mira is that her parents have told her she can go to school for the first time! This was her mother’s dream for Mira and her sister – longing for her own daughters to have what had been impossible for herself. Mira was named after the famous poet of long ago, Mirabai, who had sung songs of freedom for the poorest people of the lower castes. Now this Mira has a future to dream of!

BY MARY GREY, CO-FOUNDER AND CO-HONORARY PRESIDENT OF WELLS FOR INDIA

IF YOU WANT TO HELP GIRLS LIKE MIRA TO HAVE A BETTER LIFE, PLEASE SUPPORT THE WATER FOR OUR DAUGHTERS APPEAL. FIND OUT MORE ON PAGES 8 & 9
EVERY DROP COUNTS!

WHERE YOUR £1 GOES

ENSURING GOOD GOVERNANCE

INVESTING TO GENERATE FUTURE FUNDS

DELIVERING PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES IN INDIA

Wells for India

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Our Areas of Work

- Building to capture and retain water
- Building to improve access to safer drinking water
- Building to improve sanitation
- Strengthening community governance
- Educating communities to make best use of scarce water and improve sanitation
- Empowering communities to develop ways to earn a living
- Enabling women to have a voice, a choice and a future
- Supporting communities in water emergencies

Keep up to date with the latest news and events – Go to www.wellsforindia.org and drop your email into the ‘Stay Updated’ Box & follow us on Facebook!