



St Michael's Charities 2021

News from WaterHarvest

Those who attended the Zoom meeting in April with the WaterHarvest team, including Om Prakash from India, will remember how worried they were about the way the pandemic was developing there and the impact this might have on their work in poor rural communities of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The hope was that, after the annual pause in construction work during the summer monsoon, they would be able to resume their programme of building underground water collection tanks in October. This is the project which we are supporting at St Michael's.

We recently had a most encouraging email from Julia Seal at WaterHarvest in which she told us that they had indeed been able to resume their activities and were well on their way to meeting their target of building 40 taankas in time for the next monsoon rains to fill them. A full taanka will typically provide a family with safe drinking water for nine months.

Here are some extracts from Julia's email, along with a photograph of one of the beneficiaries.

"A quick update: the GRAVIS taanka project is going well, 20 tanks built since October and well on the way to achieving 40 by end of March. It's a 15-month project and there's high energy and determination to complete as many as possible before the monsoon.

Om is in good heart – there's very little Covid in the villages, but little adherence/understanding of social distancing or mask wearing...

Our man concerns are supply chains and price hikes – we're reckoning 35% increase for budgeting purposes.

The picture shows a visit by Sunita to the home of Keva Ram who has physical and learning disabilities. He's 26 and lives with his father. This new project is working alongside families who have a person with a disability, in this case to a) get government funding for a new roof, b) install roof rainwater harvesting and a fully accessible water tank and c) install/modify the family's toilet arrangements for accessibility.



Please pass on our warmest wishes to everyone at St Michael's and our thanks for your fabulous support and, thereby, encouragement – equally important!"

Please remember the work of WaterHarvest and our other St Michael's charities this Lent and consider supporting their wonderful work through our [Lent Appeal](#).