



SEQUOIA + WE

April 2018

Thank you Sequoia

Educating children empowers the next generation with the life skills to transform their lives, the lives of their future children and their communities. Sequoia's unwavering support and investment in the education pillar in Kalthana continues to create sustainable impacts across every pillar in the community. By improving access to schools, equipping students with learning supplies, and providing resources like sanitation trainings, children are able to share knowledge with their families. In turn, households have the power and dignity to support themselves.

Thank you Sequoia, for your continued support of WE and the community of Kalthana. We are proud to share the progress of our five-pillar development model and the impact we are creating together, in Kalthana.

Construction Updates

As of December 2017, the WE Villages team has successfully completed a number of infrastructure projects aligning to the education, water and health pillars. The completed projects have resulted in a one fully-furnished classroom, a computer lab, a solar battery room to support the technology of the computer lab, three commode latrines, a hand-washing station and the renovation of the Anganwadi rehabilitation centre.

In addition to the completed infrastructure, the WE Villages team has continued to work on several construction projects at various stages of completion, including; the school boundary wall, the garden terrace wall, the third classroom and the primary school's latrines. We look forward to updating you on the progress of these projects in our next report.



Above: Sequoia employees at build site in Kalthana, India

Pillar Updates

EDUCATION

Sequoia's commitment to the education pillar and the construction of fully-furnished classrooms has been supported by educational programming to ensure all students have access to quality education and are empowered to create positive social change within Kalthana.

Over the last quarter, 48 student members of the school environmental group from grades four and five, participated in two sanitation, health and hygiene trainings. The purpose of the extracurricular group is to maintain cleanliness of the class room and to ensure all students are demonstrating healthy and hygienic habits.

During these trainings, students learn through hands-on educational activities that outline the importance of hand-washing, covering ones' mouth while coughing or sneezing and simple home remedies. Understanding how to prevent illness and improve health is positively correlated with higher attendance rates which directly impacts current and futures generations in Kalthana.



Above: Sequoia employee participating in school lunch program

HEALTH & WATER

The health and water pillars in Kalthana work in cohesion in terms of projects and programming. Both pillars have a strong focus on preventative measures rather than treatment as understanding prevention is crucial in breaking the cycle of poverty.

Since 2012, WE Charity has worked in partnership with the community of Kalthana and the central government in India. In accordance to this partnership, the WE Villages team has rehabilitated the community health centres for women and children, known as Anganwadis. These centres are utilized for community outreach programs, health trainings and allow women and young children to access preventative health care treatments such as dietary supplements.

During the last quarter, six women participated in health trainings at the Anganwadi in Kalthana. During these sessions, the women discussed several health and sanitation topics, including; the importance of drinking boiled water, hand-washing practices, utilizing smokeless chullahs and best practices for growing their own vegetable gardens to help combat malnutrition. By offering the women in Kalthana to attend these health trainings at the newly renovated Anganwadi, they become equipped with the skills and resources they need to raise their families and live happy and healthy lives.

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

The objective for the food and agriculture programming in Kalthana is to improve food security, enhance nutrition and increase crop yields. The 13 beneficiary households that partook in agricultural trainings this past year learned new agrarian practices to improve their crop yields and decrease their plant mortality rates. These practices included; row planting, intercropping corn with soya beans and applying appropriate fertilizers. Despite the unpredictable and erratic monsoon season, a majority of the beneficiary household farmers saw an increase in crop yields, likely due to the improved seeds and best practices learned during the agricultural trainings. In the last quarter, winter crop seeds were distributed to the 13 beneficiary farmers, including; improved wheat seeds, chick peas and fertilizer. We look forward to reporting on the success of their upcoming harvest in our next report.

OPPORTUNITY

The opportunity pillar is the key to long-term sustainability of the WE Villages projects. In India, the opportunity pillar is focused on working with women specifically on animal husbandry projects.

Currently in Kalthana there are two women self-help groups with 13 beneficiary households. All of the households have received five female Sirohi goats, bringing the total to 65 female goats and four bucks. Following the distribution of animals, each woman participated in trainings to ensure they are optimizing their livestock resources.

These trainings focused on; preventative health care for the goats, immunization, deworming and understanding shelter needs. Moving forward, the women will begin to breed their goats with the bucks and sell their offspring, bringing in additional income to each of their own households and they will have the opportunity to re-invest some of their earnings back into future animal husbandry projects.



Above: One of the Sirohi goats distributed to the women in Kalthana

Testimonial

Meet Babudi Bai, a 25-year-old woman living in Kalthana with her Mother-in-law, Father-in-law, her husband and three young children. Her husband is a priest at a temple that is not within proximity to their home, this in combination to his many religious duties, leaves Babudi Bai responsible for all family matters as her husband resides at the temple most days and nights.

Prior to the renovation at the Anganwadi, Babudi Bai was not aware of what the facility had to offer in terms of services. Since the renovation, Babudi has benefited from the Anganwadi services immensely. She shared the following story with WE Charity:

“Earlier the Anganwadi was not functioning properly because of its poor infrastructure. The situation was very bad and tough for the children and the Anganwadi staff during rainy season because there was a roof leakage problem. Due to this, many parents, including myself, never used the Anganwadi. Also, I was not aware about the various benefits and services provided by the Anganwadi. After attending WE Charity health training program and because of the rehabilitation of the Anganwadi I came to know about the different services offered by the Anganwadi for children and pregnant women. Services also include vaccination and health check-ups.”



Above: Babudi Bai, 25 with her son Nirma, 3 and her mother – in-law, Dolki Bai, 55 in the Anganwadi in Kalthana.

“I also came to know about the process of how mothers can go to the hospital for delivery of their babies; and all the benefits of hospital delivery with doctors and nurses instead of home delivery. The Anganwadi workers helped to take me to the hospital for the first time to give birth to my daughter Nirma who is now three months old. And I was lucky I went to the hospital to give birth because I was anemic and had a lot of bleeding during my delivery. The nurses gave me blood and ensured a safe delivery for myself and my baby. If I had not gone to the hospital and gave birth at home like I did with my other two other children, I would most probably have died from all the blood loss.”

“By giving birth in the hospital I got some cash benefits from the government of 4,900 rupees, as well as ghee, porridge and biscuits. All mothers who give birth at hospital get these items. I would not have known about this if not for the Anganwadi. I now go to the Anganwadi regularly for health checkups and I receive nutritional packets to help me to overcome anemia. My baby also gets checkup at the Anganwadi; and my other two children attend the Anganwadi regularly for nursery school where they receive hot lunch every day. They also receive regular vaccinations at the Anganwadi.”

“It makes me feel very happy that my children are getting an education and health check-ups regularly, both of which I would not be able to obtain without the Anganwadi. I am grateful for the renovation and the services offered at the Anganwadi.”

Thank you Sequoia!

We are honored to be partnered with Sequoia. The care and dedication Sequoia employees have bestowed upon WE has been truly remarkable. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks for taking the time to travel with us this past February to see the meaningful impact Sequoia’s generosity has made in Kalthana. We look forward to sharing more updates on the community in the future.



Above: The Sequoia Impact team on their trip to Kalthana, India, February 2018.