



# India

## Rural Water and Sanitation

### Location

Ponnai Village, Vellore, India

### Partner Church

Church of South India

### The Situation

Poor Hygiene, inadequate quantities and quality of drinking water and lack of sanitation facilities causes thousands of deaths from preventable diseases each year in India. Many victims are women and children in rural areas suffering from chronic poverty and under development.

Malnutrition and diarrhoea caused by unsafe water are also common problems especially among the children of the Vellore area. Finding and transporting water remains the responsibility of women and young girls leaving little time for other activities such as education.

### The Project

The Drinking Water Sanitation & Hygiene Project aims to improve community health and productivity by providing access to a safe water supply for 10 identified villages. The project provides water pumps, tanks, drainage, hygienic latrine facilities and boreholes. The project also provides community management and education workshops on sanitation, health and hygiene. Brouchers, special classes drama and dance are also used to raise community awareness of sanitation and hygiene.

A total of 3,086 people in 695 households will benefit from access to clean water facilities and training.

### Achievements

In September 2008 three villages in the region received access to clean water through water tanks, hand pumps and taps. Last year an underground borehole was also drilled for use by three of the Ponnai villages.

In addition to these facilities a community water committee has also been formed to review the progress and sustainability of the project. The committee meet every month to plan and review the work of the project.

### The Future

In the near future the project will begin to focus on sanitation and education programs through local women's groups. Correspondingly community men's group will also be formed to involve more of the community in the water and sanitation project.

To empower the community the project will train village volunteers to take on leadership roles. These volunteers will educate the community about issues such as sanitation, domestic violence and education. In addition to this a coordination committee comprising of members from all villages will also be formed to monitor the work of project in the Ponnai villages.

### Get Involved

We invite you to get involved with the project by supporting the work financially, praying for the success of the project and receiving regular updates.

### Contact UnitingWorld

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