Key outcome: Through this intervention, 1500 children are served safe drinking water in high salinity affected area in Churu. As a part of advocacy, Save the Children has submitted a note on WASH designs including RWH models to State water and sanitation mission for scale up with national flagship programs i.e. TSC, water quality program in Rajasthan. Mr. Sharma, Superintendent Engineer, PHED had visited to project villages in Churu and seen the RWH models both at household and Anganwari level. He was interacted with community and women to know about the RWH benefits and their roles and participation. He so impressed to see the RWH models and community contribution.

Due to consistent efforts, the State government has issued a letter to all Districts Collectors for developing district convergence plan and incorporation same designs and drawing in ongoing national flagship programmes.

by September last year and some of the water was diverted for kitchen gardening. Mr Kashi Ram, Member of MSG happily informs that due to the construction of household RWH Tank, household toilets, drains, NADEP’s there is no stagnant water in the village, no mosquito breeding and village looks very clean. The availability of rain water which is free from the chemical and bacteriological impurities, round the year has become boon in disguise in the village Lautana Sadasukh in which the ground water is unfit for human consumption due to high TDS/salinity.

**Promotion of Traditional Practice Water Kund Rooftop Rain Water Harvesting System In Churu to Ensure Safe Drinking Water to Children In High Salinity Area’s in Churu, Rajasthan**

Save the Children, India is implementing an integrated health, nutrition, water and sanitation project “Aapn swathya Aapne Hath” (Our Health is in Our hands) from Jan 2009 in partnership with three local NGOs, two technical resource agencies and local communities to decrease new born and child mortality and malnutrition in three districts viz Tonk, Banswara and Churu of Rajasthan.
Under the project, water quality testing was done in all drinking water sources and prepared village water security plan in 110 villages & 13 urban wards in 3 project districts in Jan 2010. The water quality problem in Churu was found alarming due to high salinity in all 50 project villages, the level of TDS, Chloride and Hardness in ground water are extremely high compared to their maximum permissible limits making the water unfit for consumption. Churu is the most affected district of Rajasthan where 86% water sources have higher levels of TDS/Salinity. As per study, 60% household has traditional water kund (RWH) and being used for drinking purpose. Due to success of tradition practices, save the children is promoting improved Rooftop Rain Water Harvesting structures (RWH) at household level to meet out water demand to children and community in highly water quality affected villages.

**Step by Step - Process**

In each village, save the children is undertaking the construction of household rooftop rain water harvesting tank through partner agency namely Bhoruka Charitable Trust (BCT) in 50 villages of Churu district.

The village meeting is organized by the Village Health and Sanitation Committee and is attended by the project team members from BCT and share the water quality data and water security plan as well. The technical options including drawing and cost are shared in the meeting. The discussions on the various aspects viz. Construction cost, cost sharing, operation and maintenance etc. discussed in the meeting. The RWH is selected by the VVSHC in the villages where the water source has high level of TDS, Chloride and Hardness. The beneficiary selection is made based on the following project guidelines:-

- There are less than 5 years old children in the family.
- None of the family members is in the Government or a member of Gram Panchayat.

- The family is poor and needy.
- There is no existing roof to rain water harvesting arrangement or proposed in the household any other scheme.
- Community contribution up to 20% of total cost for individual household RWH (water Kund).
- The following points are kept in view before taking up the construction of Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting Tank.
- The location of the water Kund should be near to the house, within the boundary wall of the house.
- There should be complete transparency about the cost of materials supplied by the project and the cost of materials as well as labor contributed by the household.
- The material supplied by Save the Children through the project is an incentive for construction of water kund (RWH).
- The family should assure the use & maintenance of water kund after construction.
- The construction should be carried out as per the technical manual of the WaterAid.

The capacity of water kund (RWH) is 15000 liters at household level for a family of 5 persons to cater to the demand of 10 liters water per person per day for 300 days; however it depends of number of person, water demand, roof area and rainfall for designing of RWH capacity. The estimated cost of 15000 liters RWH constructed in brick masonry is Rs 35000/-. The project provides materials viz cement, sand, grit, mild steel bars, stone slabs, PVC pipes, window with frame, shallow Handpump, name plate, Joli and chip costing Rs 25000/- to each household as an incentive.

The household provides 3000 bricks and contribute for the labor for construction of the tank which is almost Rs 10000. The RWH is circular in shape having 8 feet inner diameter and 11’3” depth. In village Lautana Sadashukh total 70 RWH (water kund) were constructed in three habitations last year before rainy season.

A shallow hand pump is fitted on each tank for pumping out water from the tank.

In each habitation Users Group has been formed. During the Women Support Group (WSG) meeting the group informs that all the tanks got filled up during rainy season and all the households are using the water from tanks for drinking and cooking. They like the taste of water due to which they drink more water. The WSG informs that there are no cases of diarrhoea in the households having water kund. Each family tests the bacteriological quality of water twice a year using H2S strip vials provided by the project. In case the H2S strip vial test indicates bacteriological contamination in the water, the bleaching powder is added through the window provided on the top of the tank for inspection and cleaning. The women do not store water at home due to round the clock availability of potable water with in the household. The public hand pump / open well water are used only for cleaning and washing. Therefore the frequency and quantity of water collected by each household from the public hand pump / open well has been reduced due to which women are spending more time on household activities which they used to spend in collecting water before the construction of household RWHs (water kunds).

During the Men Support Group (MSG) meeting at village Lautana Sadashukh the MSG informs that the RWH provides sufficient water storage at the household level and can be refilled when gets empty through a water tanker.

The WSG members also informs that during last rainy season the tanks got filled up...