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## DESILTING OF VILLAGE PONDS TO COLLECT WATER THROUGH RAINWATER HARVESTING



*Pond desilted with IDRF support in Madathukuppam village, Thiruvallur district, is filled with water for household consumption after the rains.*

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IDRF is helping desilt ponds (removal of bed sand) in villages that have been choked with silt and weed as a result of annual flooding over the years. This has contaminated the water and made it unsuitable for human consumption and other needs.

Once the ponds are desilted, and obstructions to the water flow are removed, the rainwater starts to collect in them and water can be safely used for household consumption after filtering and boiling it.

These village ponds are about 0.4 to 0.8 acres in size and benefit about 5,000 to 10,000+ people each. The villagers also help enthusiastically in the desilting process by providing labor. It generally takes about 7 to 18 days to desilt one pond and the mud and debris removed are used to strengthen the pond-bunds and plant tree saplings.

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**Your donation of \$4,000 will help desilt one pond, construct steps, lay rainwater inlet pipes, fix a donor name stone next to the pond and provide water to about 5,000 villagers facing water shortage.**

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