



SMALL-SCALE

WaterHealth International

WaterHealth International (WHI), based in India, offers customers safe, affordable drinking water by developing and marketing community-owned, decentralized water purification and disinfection systems and services to underserved villages. It has helped reduce the spread of waterborne diseases and has sparked a new sector for delivering clean water in India.

WHI's technology for purifying bacterial contamination in collected surface water was developed after a waterborne cholera epidemic in 1993 killed 10,000 people—in just one month. Each WHI system has the capacity to serve 2,500 to 5,000 people a day. Water is sold for less than \$.01 per liter.

An initial investment from the Acumen Fund in 2004 helped the company launch its first community water system in India. Because of WHI's significant impact on rural health, IFC has made three separate investments in WHI since 2009, totaling over \$20 million. Now, WHI has more than 300 water systems. About 250,000 people purchase safe water regularly. ♦

Source: IFC and Acumen project materials

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