Every once in a while, we at Outreach International have to take a few steps back from our work to really appreciate its impact. To consider the totality of every successful project, every empowered mindset, every new generation born into a world more capable of ensuring its success is to witness the awesome power of what happens when we care for one another.

It starts with you. Your capacity for love and enduring belief in the potential of all persons continues to make possible every single thing we do at Outreach. Your generosity continues to truly, measurably change the world for the better every single day. Your gifts support our mission in every way – far beyond practical and material needs; you inspire all of us with your enthusiasm and partnership, and offer comfort and encouragement to our community partners, who know that you care enough about their wellbeing to help them reach their fullest potential. You matter so much to all of us at Outreach, and by extension, mean so much to the future we all share.

This partnership update represents some of the latest ways you have touched the lives of our community partners, and provides a closer look at why you matter so much. From everyone in the Outreach family, thank you for your trust, partnership, and love. You make so many good things possible.

Ghodabadi’s Field of Expertise in India

Earlier this summer, teams in Ghodabadi, India implemented a brand-new irrigation system for their fields. Previously, Ghodabadi lacked any connection between the land they use to cultivate crops and the two small rivers that encircle their village, which made the community dependent on seasonal, monsoon-powered rains to nurture their crops, which don’t always show up when they were needed. Without the ability to manually irrigate their crops, yields could vary wildly year to year, making the prospect of farmers earning a reliable level of household income each season impossible to predict.

Ghodabadi’s situation meant that harvests only came once a year. Farmers would spend a few months planting, cultivating and harvesting, if rains came as predicted, with the rest of their time spent idling at home, with no more work to do, and no opportunities until monsoon season returned the next year.

With facilitation from Outreach Field Staff, Ghodabadi’s community-led team worked together to access the funding and resources they needed to quench their fields’ thirst. Over the span of a few months, community members met to discuss the issue and consider all possible solutions. From there, they identified a government office that could provide the grant money to cover material costs for a new irrigation system, and worked together to draft a request letter, role-play among themselves to prepare for an in-person visit to the office by local leaders and collected contributions from other team members to cover their travel costs. Their preparation paid off, and their request was approved after two follow-up visits. Electric motors in the “power house,” built near one of the rivers
surrounding their village, draw water into a system of pipes that bridges the gap between the riverbanks and their shared plot of land, allowing Ghodabadi’s farmers to work year-round for the first time in their community’s history! More than half of Ghodabadi’s residents are direct beneficiaries of this project, with the other half benefiting indirectly, thanks to the economic impact that comes with a sustainable level of income — more than double their previous annual earnings.

Additionally, the community appointed leaders to manage the project’s ongoing upkeep, electing a president, secretary and treasurer to oversee maintenance duties, as well as tending to the community’s new group savings account, which they named the “Ghodabadi Irrigation Committee,” at a local bank, to sustain the project for years to come.

It’s a big deal for everyone in Ghodabadi. As Sangana, a member of the community-led team in Ghodabadi told us, “My father and grandfather dreamt for this facility, but failed to experience this system of cultivation in their lifetimes. Today, we have this project because of the unity among our village’s people. One person cannot do anything for the community, but when all village people join together for any issue and mobilize, that issue will be resolved.”