

Enhancing role of Self-Help Groups for Sustainable WASH in the Face of Climate Change

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Climate change negatively impacts WASH services

Water is the primary medium through which we feel the effects of climate change.

Draughts



Inhibiting good sanitation and hygiene

Floods



Water contamination, vector borne diseases

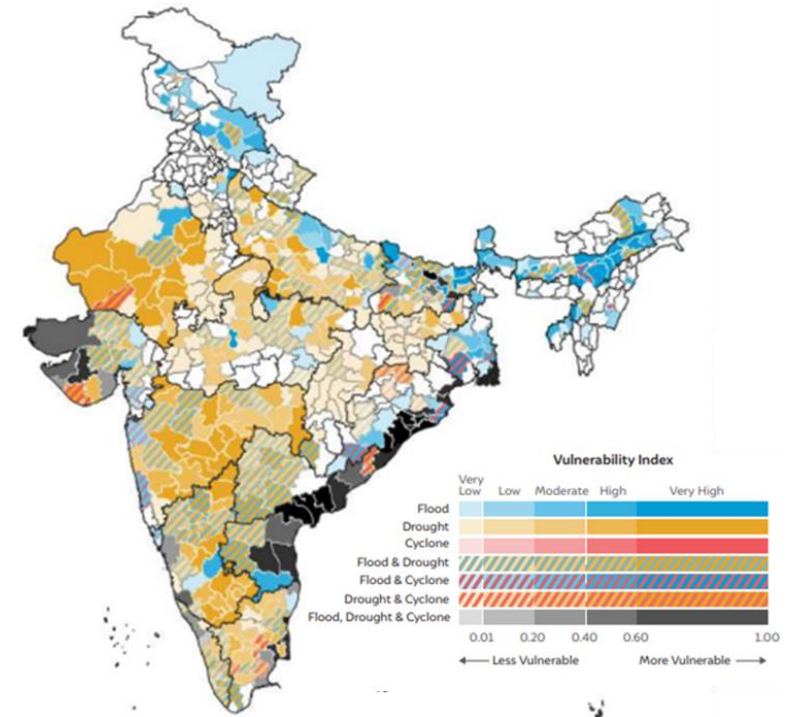
Cyclone



Damage to Water and Sanitation services compelling communities to switch to unsafe practices

Water and Sanitation infrastructure and service disruptions due to climate change impacts cause huge economic losses

India is 7th most vulnerable country to the climate hazard



27 out of 36 states are highly vulnerable to climate change impact

UNICEF, Why Water, Sanitation and Hygiene must be top of your Climate Agenda <https://www.unicef.org/media/109481/file/WASH%20Climate%20Paper.pdf>

Building Climate-Resilient WASH for Climate-Impacted Vulnerable Populations, Water for Women India, <https://www.waterforwomenfund.org/en/project/water-for-women---india.aspx>

Mohanty, Abinash, and Shreya Wadhawan. 2021. Mapping India's Climate Vulnerability – A District Level Assessment. New Delhi: Council on Energy, Environment and Water, <https://www.ceew.in/sites/default/files/ceew-study-on-climate-change-vulnerability-index-and-district-level-risk-assessment.pdf>

WASH sector presents a huge opportunity to contribute to global climate change adaptation and mitigation goals

Water supply

Sanitation

Mitigation

1. Water quality monitoring
2. Monitoring and reducing NRW
3. Reducing pollution of intake water, thereby reducing energy demands for treatment.
4. Installation and maintenance of renewable energy sources systems (especially solar) for water pumping etc.

1. Optimizing logistics, such as in the design of fecal sludge management systems that include fleets of trucks, transfer stations, and treatment facilities.
2. Utilizing fecal sludge for composting and biogas production in agriculture and energy production, such as fecal sludge briquettes for fuel and biogas plants etc.

Adaptation

1. Conservation of natural streams
2. Water demand management
3. Groundwater recharge and aquifers management
4. Household and community level water conservation
5. Revival of traditional water conservation practices etc.

1. Improving IHHT coverage
2. Using the low water consumption toilet designs
3. Provision of Scheduled desludging services
4. Reuse of treated wastewater
5. Managing stormwater drains etc.

In urban areas, many of these initiatives and services are provided by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) through their own staff, by engaging private service provider or with support of Civil societies.

Communities, in the form of **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, can play an important role as service providers. Being a part of the local community, **their community knowledge and social networks can be leveraged** to deal with some of the **complex climate change related problems**.



Initiatives of the Government of India for SHG engagement in sanitation and water sector

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are financial intermediary committee composed of 10-20 members.

SHGs are formed under ‘**National Urban Livelihood Mission**’, Government of India with an aim of providing livelihood to alleviate poverty.

SBM-NULM convergence in India

- With sanitation infrastructure being constructed under **Swachha Bharat Mission**, there emerged need of **skilled human resources** for its sustained operations.
- **GoI** launched guidelines for **SBM-NULM convergence in 2018**, which suggested a win-win for both.
- Guideline encourages ULBs to engage SHGs for provision of **various sanitation services**



SHG engagement for water governance under AMRUT

AMRUT Mitra initiative by MoHUA to engage women SHGs for water management activities such as:

- Water demand management,
- Water quality testing,
- Water infrastructure operations etc.



SBM-NULM convergence in Maharashtra

- Govt. of Maharashtra under the guidance of **Directorate of Municipal Administration** has led the SBM-NULM convergence.
- Various convergence related initiatives, with support of sector partners, have been initiated **since 2020**.

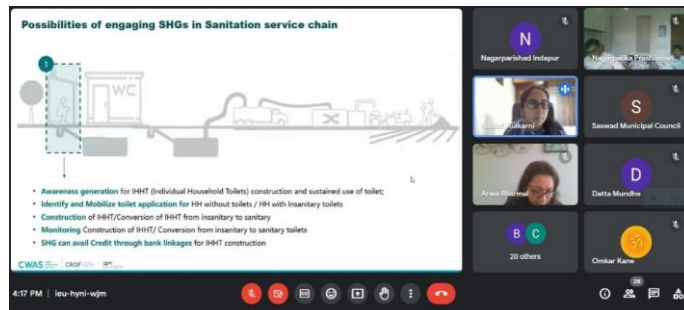
Visits/consultation with 50+ cities of Maharashtra



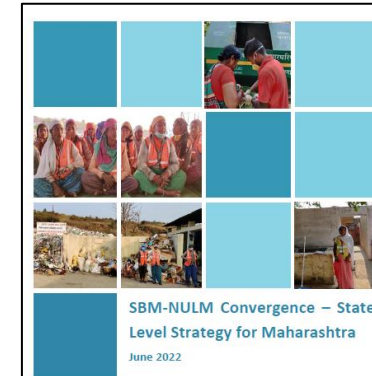
Compendium on best practices



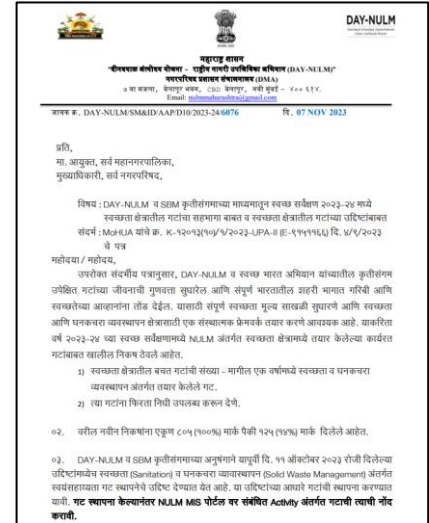
Division level workshops and online trainings of ULBs



Policy Guidelines: NULM-SBM Convergence



Letter from DMA office to all the ULBs



State Government of Maharashtra is in the process of passing a GR on engaging SHGs in Sanitation and other municipal services

City led initiatives for SHG engagement by ULBs and facilitated by State

SHG engagement for FSSM

Septic tank desludging in **Latur, Vasai-Virar, Kurduwadi, Madha**



O&M of Grey water treatment plant in **Sinnar**.



Cleaning of Community toilets in **Hingoli, Khopoli**.



Urban Forest and Garden O&M in **Sinnar, Wai, Karad**



SWM and other activities



Awareness generation in **Hingoli, Mira-Bhayandar**



SWM in **Bhadrawati, Tuljapur, Panchgani**.



O&M of MHM machines in **Wai**



ULB office cleaning in **Rahuri**

SHGs providing sanitation services crucial in mitigating climate change impacts



- **Wai, Sinnar, Satara and Karad** are medium sized town with population in range of 50K –150K
- These ULBs, with support of CWAS, have **formally engaged SHGs for reusing treated used water** from the FSTP/STP and GWTP for **maintenance of garden & Urban forest.**
- **GWTP** in Sinnar is **operated by an SHG**

- **15,000 Sq mts** of land developed as garden and urban forest.
- **5500+ trees of 25+ species** planted
- **67+ Million litres** of treated water used to water the plants and **Sludge used as fertilizers** at the urban forest or taken away by farmers.
- **~7000 tons** of CO₂ to be sequestered over 25 years
- Attracting **bird species and butterfly** – previously not seen



Formal SHG engagement empowers the SHGs as well as benefits the work

Key features of SHG engagement:

- **Formal engagement** through contracts with **clearly defined scope of work** for the SHGs
- **ULB's support:** Provide training, access to electricity, water and sanitation facilities etc. at workplace
- **SHGs work is regularly monitored** and are **paid monthly** by the ULB

Benefits of engaging SHGs:

- ✓ Knowledge of local practices and conditions **benefits the work**
- ✓ Communities become more **aware and sensitive** towards environment
- ✓ **Financial and social empowerment** of local women SHGs

*“Through this work, we started **earning regularly**. It enabled us to meet some of the financial requirements of our families and especially **supported us during Covid lockdown**. Our work has also made us **sensitive towards environment**”*



*“Our work has enabled us a **regular source of income**. It also gives us **great satisfaction** as we contribute to **keep the city clean and beautiful**. We also take **pride** in opting an **unconventional job** and being able to perform it well”.*

SHGs supported to build climate resilient WASH facilities through access to credit

Sanitation loans mobilised in Jalna district, Maharashtra through MAVIM with support from CWAS for construction of individual toilet

- **250 SHGs** mobilised in Jalna district of Maharashtra for access to credit for construction of **individual household toilets**
- MAVIM, resource organisation to GoM was engaged to **mobilise loans, SHG bank linkage, monitor completion of toilet construction, awareness generation** etc.



Water-Sanitation loans mobilised in 8 districts of Maharashtra through MAVIM with support of CWAS and Water.org

- **MAVIM** with support of **Water.org** and **CWAS** mobilised **3664 WSS** loans from 8 districts of Maharashtra.
- The loans were borrowed for **construction of new toilets, improving old toilets, getting piped water connections, improving water quality** etc.



Govt. of Maharashtra conducted discussion with cities to scale up SBM-NULM convergence

State-level working group made visits to cities to understand the opportunities and challenges for SBM-NULM convergence



SHGs from most of the cities expressed willingness to participate in provision of sanitation and other municipal services

Activities of interest to SHGs which would help in **maintaining climate resilient infrastructure and mitigating greenhouse gas emission:**

- Conducting Awareness and surveys for FSSM/SWM
- Collection and composting wet waste at area level
- D2D collection, transportation and treatment of solid waste
- Sanitary napkin manufacturing and marketing
- MHM infrastructure O&M
- IHHT application mobilisation
- Reusing treated water for O&M of gardens/Urban forest/Nursery
- O&M of CT/PTs etc.

Sensitisation and capacity building of the SHGs as well as the ULBs required to undertake the activities



Lessons regarding SHG engagement from ULBs of Maharashtra...



Operational Modalities



1. Tender for SHGs only



2. SHGs friendly contract clauses (relaxation in EMD, tender fee, penalties etc)



3. On time payment by ULB and reporting by SHG



4. Geographical proximity to work areas



5. Women friendly work spaces



Local government and other stakeholders support



1. ULB's support, trust and directives from State Government



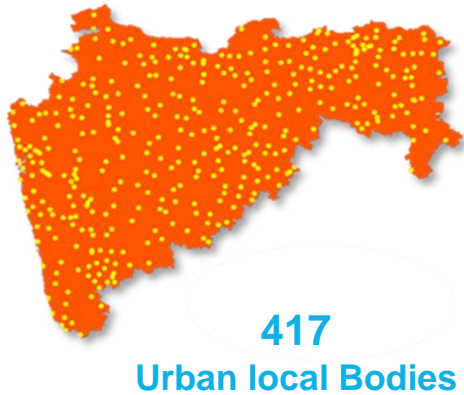
2. Active participation of ULB in capacity building and hand holding



3. Resource organization/sector expert support for training and access to credit

Scaling-up SHG engagement in the state of Maharashtra...

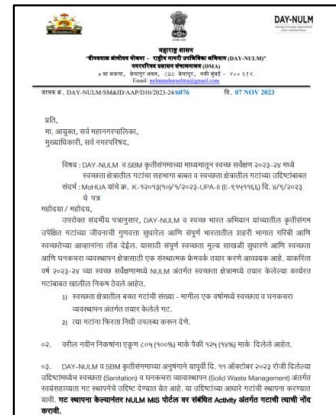
Scope for SHG engagement



- ✓ 220+ operational FSTPs
- ✓ 1.6 lakh+ new CTs and PTs
- ✓ 500+ MRF and waste compost facilities constructed
- ✓ Presence of 90,000+ SHGs

Efforts to scale up the SHG engagement:

- GoM is in the process of **passing a GR** on engaging SHGs in Sanitation and other municipal services
- **Letter issued from DMA** office to all the ULBs urging to engage SHGs in Sanitation and SWM
- National level initiatives such as **AMRUT Mitra** being implemented in the state.
- **Good practices** documented and shared at different State and National.
- **Capacity building and training workshops** of ULBs and SHGs are being conducted



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Thank You

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