

Promoting Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Climate Resilient WASH through Women-led Community Based Groups: A Participatory Study

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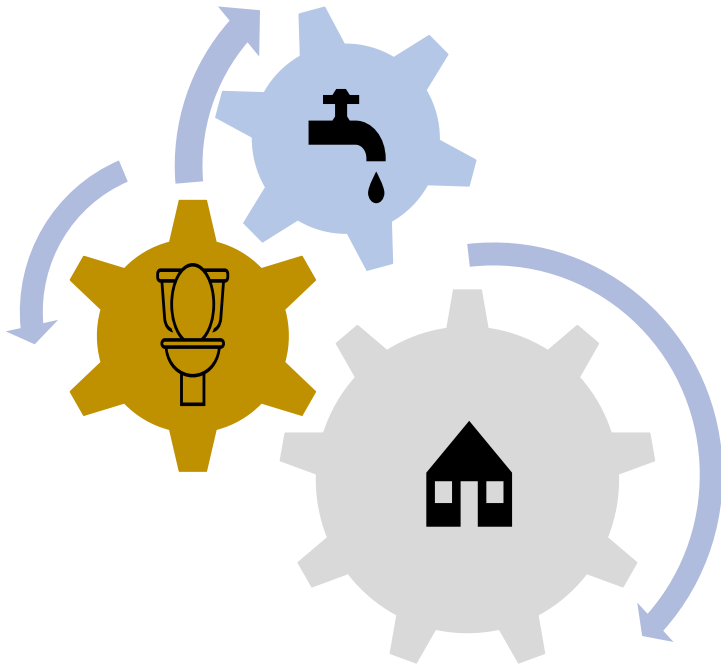
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Climate Resilient WASH: Localised adaptive capacity

Improving **localised adaptive capacity** is key to providing climate resilient WASH.

Climate Resilient WASH



Increased frequency of natural disasters like – flooding, cyclone, droughts, heat waves and ensuing threat of pandemics is a big challenge for climate resilient WASH.

Improving adaptive capacity* of local community to adapt to impacts of changing climate is important for climate resilient wash.

Adaptive capacity of a system is a function of **availability of and access to resources by vulnerable subsectors of a population** (Kelly and Adger, 1999)

Odisha has made significant progress in providing basic infrastructure and services to Urban poor residing in slums



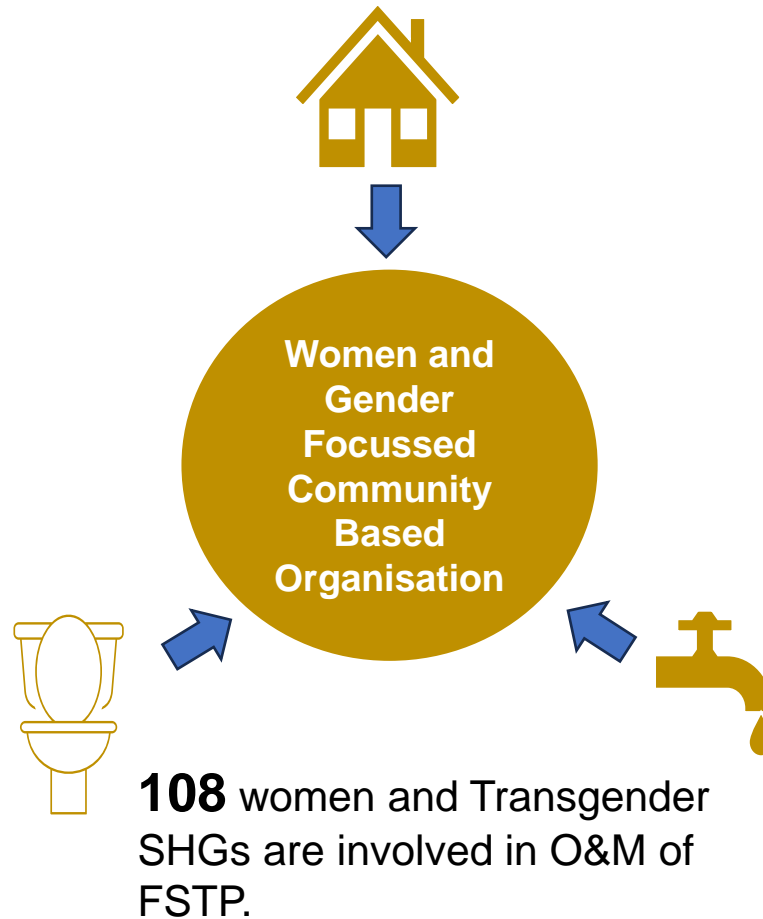
2813 Slums have piped water supply
~3.9 Lakh slum households have piped water supply



~2.48 Lakh slum households are provided tenure security



~1.5 Lakh IHHL were constructed
113 cities have operational FSTP



2901 women and transgender groups involved in SWM.

“Ensure women’s fair representation in mainstream decision-making institutions and governance platforms to help them shape laws, policies and programmes that affect their lives.”

“Build the capacity of women and gender-focused community-based organizations.”

“Empowering women as agents of change and innovation and not to depict them only as the victims of climate change”

Source: Odisha Climate Action Plan, 2021-2030

Source: Odisha Inclusive Urban Sanitation Policy, 2024

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Research Objectives and Methodology

Research Objectives

- What is the role of the women and gender focused community based organisations (constituting of SHGs and SDAs) in promoting climate resilient WASH in slums?
- What are the opportunities, challenges and barriers for CBOs in promoting climate resilient WASH?

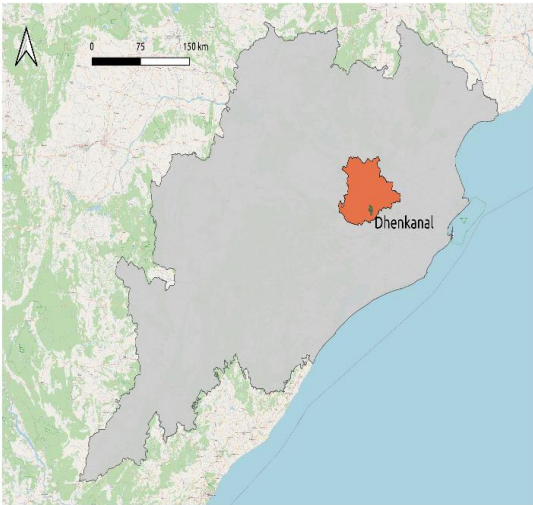
Employed Participatory Research Methodology

FGD and Semi structured interviews were conducted with women and transgender members of CBOs, marginalized groups within the slums along with ULB officials.

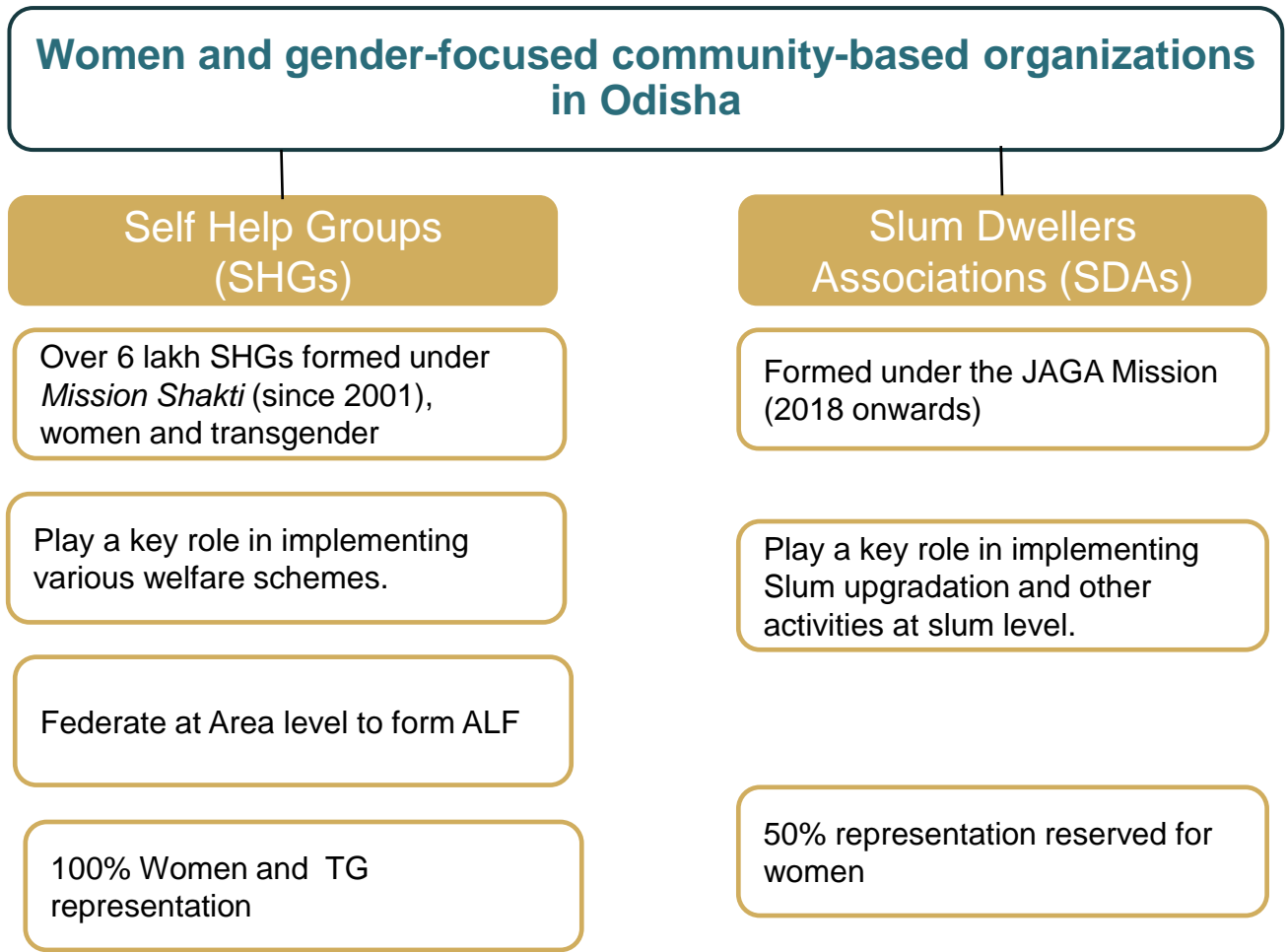
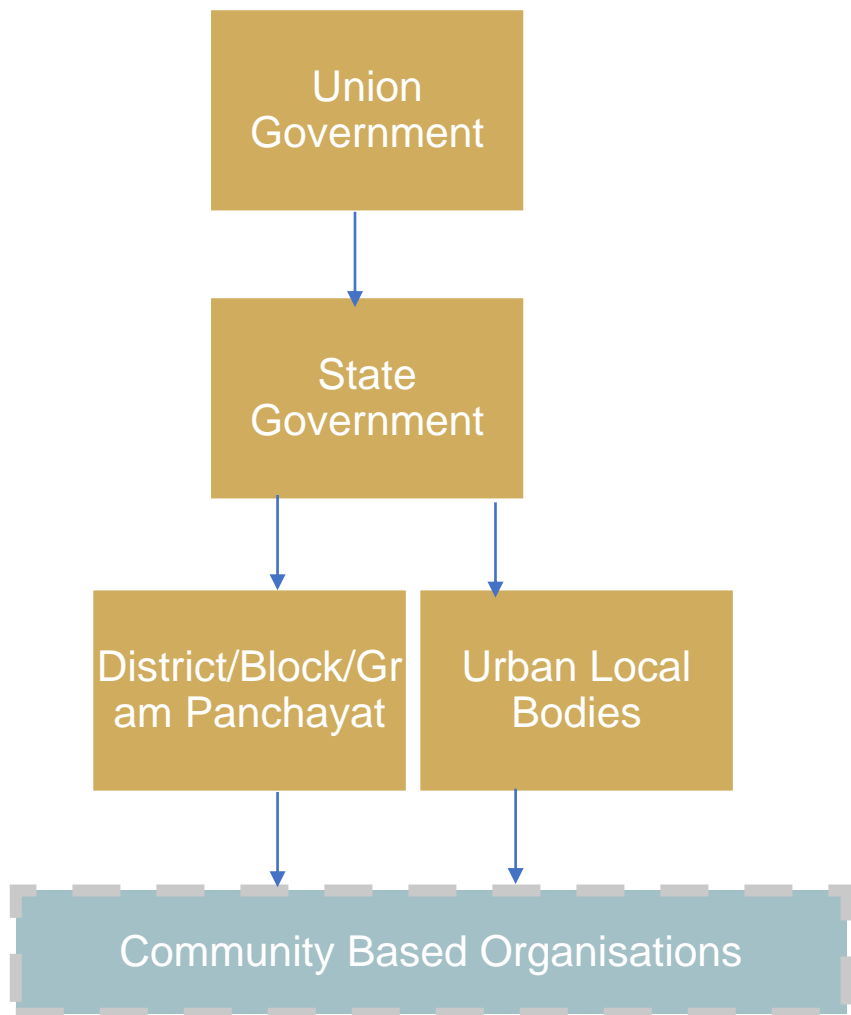
The study was conducted in 2022 in 5 slums in Dhenkanal Municipality.

Slums were selected based on following criteria:

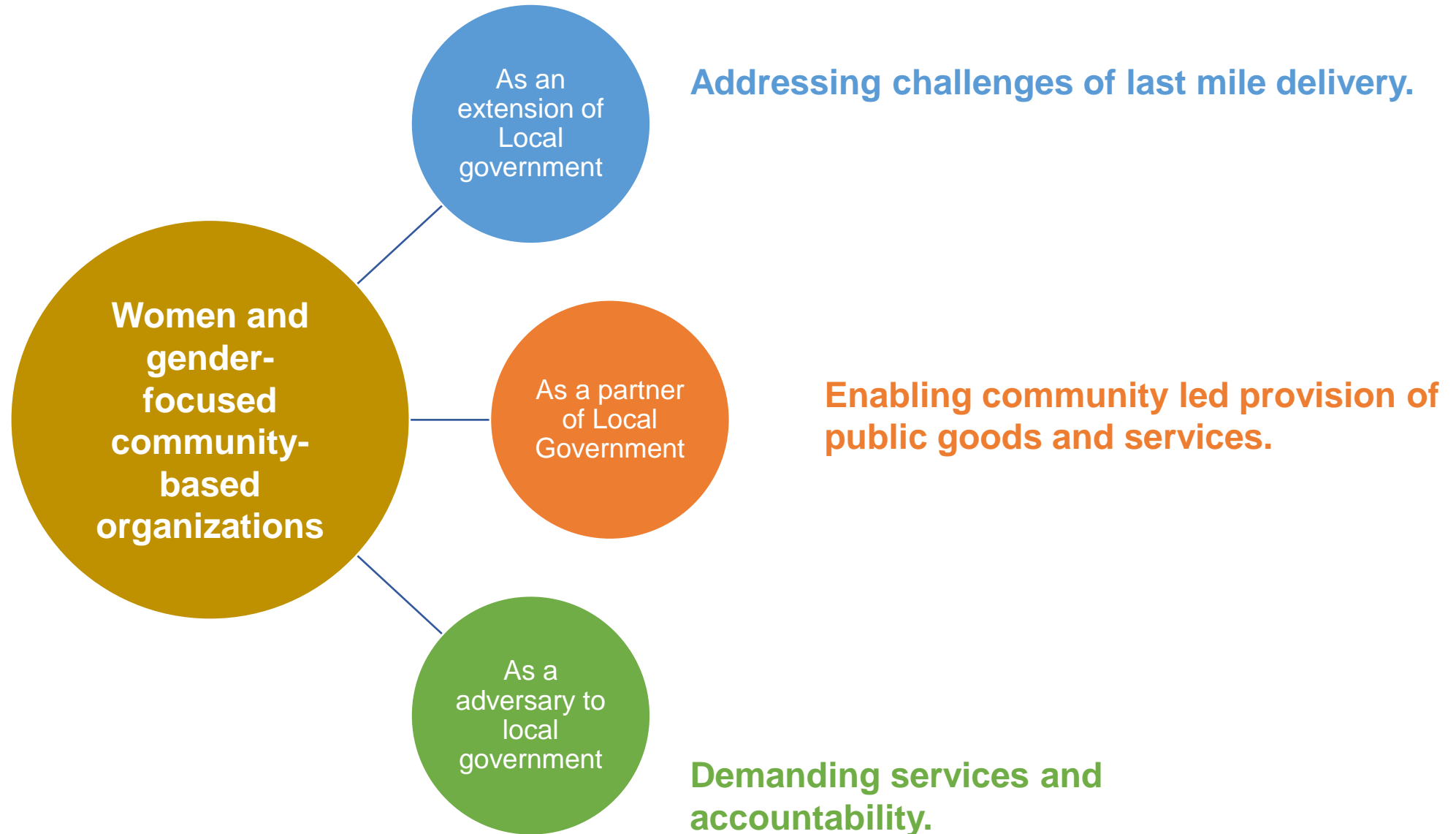
- Significant SC/ST Population
- Adequate Gender representation in both SHG and SDA
- SHG and SDAs are active



Women and gender-focused community-based organizations in Odisha



Improving adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities and households



Improving Adaptation: Addressing challenges of last mile delivery

Supporting ULB in providing relief and generate awareness during disasters.

- CBOs were involved in raising awareness about COVID-19 safety protocols (wearing masks, using sanitisers).
- CBOs were involved in COVID testing, and tracking the number of COVID cases.
- Ensuring migrants who came back followed quarantine norms
- Providing employment support through UWEI.
- CBOs also facilitated preparation and distribution of free cooked food for 3 months.
- The SHG members availed bank loans during COVID-19 to meet personal and medical expenses owing to pandemic.
- Ensuring COVID safety protocols were followed by everyone.
- In cases of water scarcity during pandemic, CBOs facilitated water supply from ULB through tankers in peak summers during lockdown.

Improving Adaptation: Addressing challenges of last mile delivery

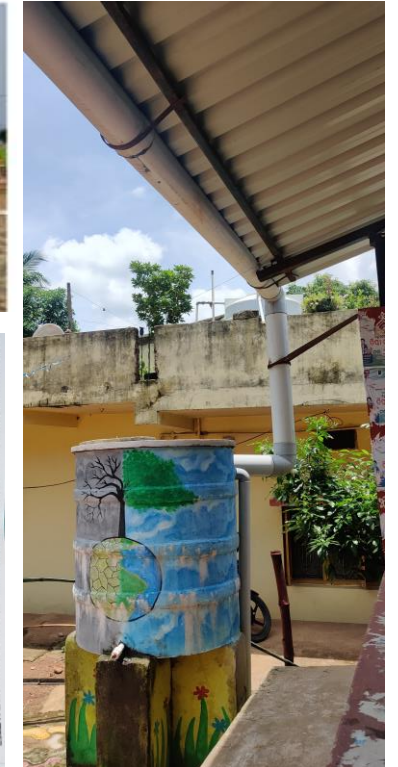
Supporting Urban Local Bodies in Land rights distribution and Slum upgrading

- CBOs helped in identify landless people in the slum and help urban local bodies(ULB) during land distribution under JAGA Mission.
- CBOs helped in creation of community assets like water-harvesting infrastructure, individual water taps, drainage systems, and toilets.
- They also undertook operation and maintenance of infrastructures like park, open gym, *parichaya centre*, and other community infrastructure.



Before

After



Improving Adaptation: Enabling community led provision of public goods and services

SHGs are involved in operation of SWM operations.

- SHG members run Battery Operated Vehicle (BoV) for solid waste collection.
- One Transgender SHG is also involved in operation and maintenance of the MRF facility in Dhenkanal.
- 45 BoVs are operated by women. These operators are called *swachha karmis*. Almost 3 to 5 BoV operators are from the rag picker community. 1 or 2 are from transgender community.



Improving Adaptation: Enabling community led provision of public goods and services

SHGs, through Area Level Federation, are involved in O&M of FSTP in Dhenkanal

- In 2020, ALF undertook a work order for the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of FSTP in Dhenkanal through a direct contract between the ALF and the Dhenkanal Municipality.
- 10 individuals hired by the ALF for O&M of the FSTP, including the driver and the helper of the cess pool vehicle. Additionally, they also operate the call center for providing desludging services.
- For maintaining the cess pool vehicle, they undertake any repair work of the vehicle and daily check the air in tyres, oil, distil water and PPE kit in the vehicle.



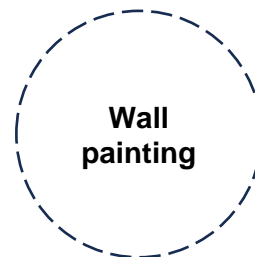
Improving Adaptation: Enabling community led provision of public goods and services

Providing livelihood support to urban poor through Urban Wage Employment Initiative and MUKTA

- CBOs have executed more than 300 small works. The cost of the projects ranged between INR 50,000 to 15,00,000.
- In two and a half years, nearly projects worth 10 crores have been implemented
- In 2021-22, almost 320 projects were implemented through CBOs
- CBO Members earned 7.5% commission on the total labour cost.



Almost 400 rain water harvesting structured were created through SHGs and SDAs.



Improving Adaptation: Demanding accountability and services

SHGs and SDA members help slum dwellers access public goods and services

- CBOs approach the ULB for toilet construction and issues related to reimbursement of the subsidy amount for the IHHL construction.
- CBOs facilitate in addressing issues related to water shortage and linking households to desludging operators for FSM
- CBOs facilitated slum dwellers in accessing basic services like making Aadhar card, ration card, electricity connections etc.
- CBOs also ensure that services like maintenance of streets, drains, and community toilets are undertaken regularly.
- During pandemic, CBOs monitored proper disposal of medical waste like masks, gloves etc and solid waste.



Challenges in Improving Adaptive capacity

Addressing the last mile delivery

Limited administrative and project execution capacity of CBOs.

Not enough clarity on roles and responsibilities of CBOs.

Limited access to financial resources for CBOs.

Enabling community led provision for public goods and services

Only few members take active participation in functioning of CBOs.

Conflict over sharing of revenue and resources among SHG members.

Conflict in SDAs due to political ambitions of its members

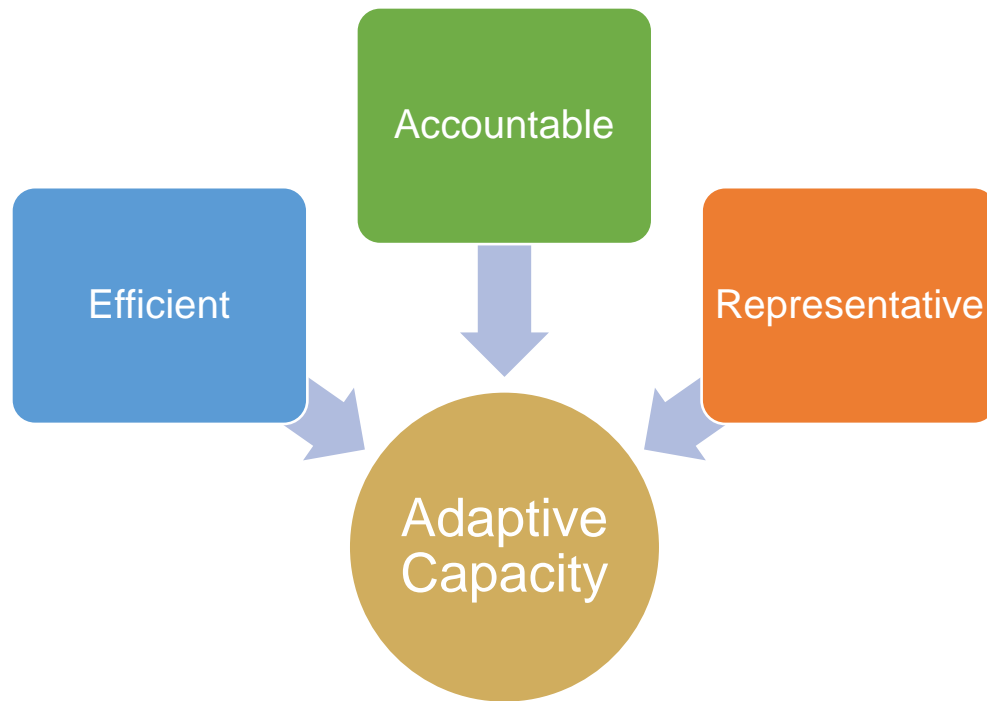
Demanding accountability and services

SHG and SDAs are dependent on government for resources and thus have limited power to hold the local government accountable.

Excess dependence on income from execution of state programs undermine the ability of SHGs to carry out their traditional livelihood.

Tension between different roles played by CBOs constrains adaptive capacity

Adaptive capacity of women and Gender focused CBOs is strained by tension between the different roles played by them in provision of basic services.



- CBOs are conflicted between their role as extension of local government and their role in holding the local government accountable and demanding services.
- CBOs are able to improve efficiency of service delivery by addressing the issue of last mile delivery but has limited success in ensuring representation of marginalised groups in community led service delivery.
- The delinking of efficiency and accountability in public service delivery can be a major issue.

Way Forward: Improving Localised Adaptive Capacity for Climate Resilient WASH

Build Capacity

- Skill development of SHG members
- Increase administrative and project execution capacity of SHG and SDA members.
- Promote leadership skills among SHG and SDA members.

Provide Resources

- Create additional income generating opportunities for SHG
- Strengthen the linkage between SHGs and financial institutions.
- Providing opportunity for SDAs in deciding resource allocation.
- Linking SHG and SDAs to climate financing mechanism like carbon trading.

Institutionalise

- Clearly define roles and responsibilities for SHG and SDA
- Strengthen the resource distribution framework among SHG members
- Relation between SHG and SDAs to be clearly defined.
- Relation of CBOs and ULBs should be defined properly for CBOs to act effectively as Fourth tier of governance

Thank You

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