



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

DE-RISKING AGRICULTURE

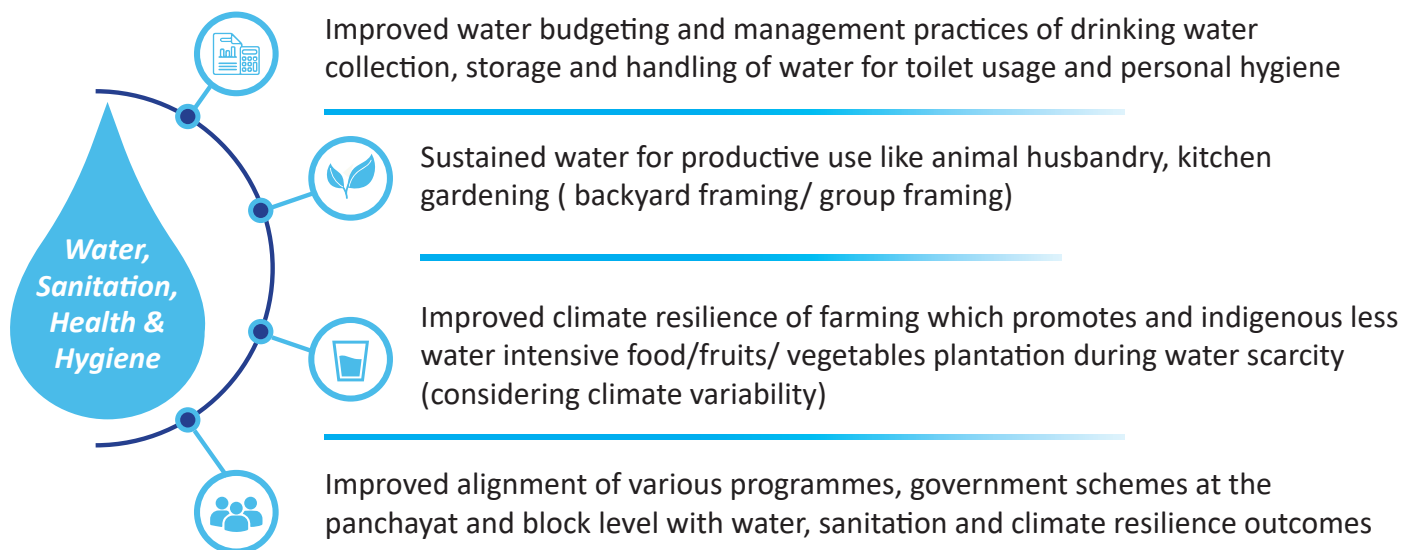


Context

The Marathwada region of Maharashtra has experienced the highest rainfall deficit in the past decades, with multiple years of drought and unsustainable agricultural practices that focus on cultivation of water-intensive cash crops. This has had a negative effect on the water security of the community, along with poor sanitation and hygiene practices.

SSP's Approach

We address the complex issues of climate change, gender roles and their impact on water, sanitation and hygiene by positioning women key change agents. Women play the role of 'Sakhis' and are trained to lead knowledge transfer and behaviour change for improved WASH practices, water management and conservation, adoption of climate resilient farming practices and linkages with government schemes. Development of their capacities trickles down to the households they are directly working with, and helps build social capital in the community.



Women leaders promote participatory water budgeting, allocation and conservation through community level convergence of relevant government schemes to provide last mile access to WASH and nutrition related products. They also track behaviour change at the household level through home visits on indicators including use of clean drinking water, adoption of kitchen gardens and construction and use of toilets and soak pits (waste water). Result areas include water security for safe water, sanitation and hygiene for vulnerable households in the climate threatened regions of Maharashtra.





The Change

SSP has addressed the closely linked issues of WASH through improved water management and climate resilient farming practices at the household, community and farm.

Improved household water security for sustainable water management during lean period.

Successful convergence of schemes through linkages in ATMA, POCRA, Swachh Bharat Mission, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and the water supply department in rural Maharashtra.

Increased advocacy by grassroots women leaders with their local government for water security through convergence of various development schemes.

Improved community resilience towards food security and productive use of water through better allocation and participatory water budgeting techniques.

Create of a cadre of trained Sakhis for improving last mile access to WASH related product and services and strengthen the services of Swachhata Grahis, Aanganwadi Women Workers and ASHA workers for larger outreach.

Impact

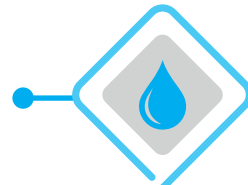
SSP has been implementing the wSHARP -Women-led Sanitation, Hygiene and Resilient Practices Project with technical support from UNICEF from 2018 onwards in Osmanabad, Solapur and Latur districts in Maharashtra:

Outreached and trained 10,000 households, on techniques of water allocation during lean periods. 4,200 families are practising different safe water methods at home to ensure safe & quality drinking water for families.

2,000 women farmers trained (using demonstration) on Climate Resilience Farming practices with a focus on cultivating with bio-farming inputs. 2,650 families are cultivating fodder & practice water allocation for animals at home.

4,100 families are using toilets regularly even in periods of water scarcity.

Convergence of schemes through linkages in ATMA, Pocra, SBM, MREGS, water supply department with an achievement of 2,828 families benefited Rs. 64,00,000 from the above Marathwada districts.



100 Sakhis were trained as WASH specialist to inspire more than 500 women leaders actively involved in WASH. An achievement of generating substantial knowledge of water, sanitation & hygiene practices through more than 400 community level awareness meetings.

Improved storage and conservation of water through coverage of 3,000 soak pits

5,500 women and girls have adopted safe menstruation practices.



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