

Meeting with Mr. Harsh Kothari (Policy & Governance Advisor, UWEI)

Date: Thursday, 04/02/2021

Time: 4:00 pm – 4:45 pm

Venue: Online (Telephonic Conversation)

Attendees:

- Stakeholder – Mr. Harsh Kothari, Policy & Governance Advisor, UWEI
- CRDF Team – Ms. Riya Mallick, Research Associate (Consultant)

Purpose of the Meeting/ Consultation:

Meeting objectives to discuss:

1. To understand how JAGA Mission is performing as a major Participatory Platform in Bhubaneshwar.

Discussion:

Question 1: When this initiative was started?

Stakeholder Response

- On 18th April, 2020. When the COVID situation was taking place in India during February and March, 2020, Govt. of Odisha decided to launch this initiative within 2 weeks with very strong mandates to support the Urban Poor (Local & Migrant Labours).

Question 2: Is it an individual program or collaborated with other development programs?

Stakeholder Response

- This is mainly an individual program. But it has convergence of other programs like Mission Shakti and JAGA Mission because all these programs work in similar objectives to empower urban poor. But it has its own fund.

Question 3: Who is the head of this initiative?

Stakeholder Response

- Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) is the nodal department. But as it is a bottom up approach so the first proposal come from the Ward Committee (WC) and then the ULB committee will approve the proposal and release the work order. On field these proposals will be implemented by SDAs and SHGs.

Question 4: How they receive the fund and use the fund?

Stakeholder Response

- The government initially divided the ULBs in 4 categories such as Municipal Corporation, Notifies Area Council (NAC), Municipality and AMRUT City.

According to these categories and size government distribute the funds and as per the project list the ULBs implement it.

Question 5: How they have managed COVID situation?

Stakeholder Response

- Initially it was very difficult to get every committee in one platform such as SHGs, SDA, WC, ULB etc. With the help of Capacity building program at the grass root level and through creating mass awareness this initiative was started. It has given the basic health security (social distancing, wearing of masks, sanitization etc.). Later on when people started joining this program and now government has decided to make UWEI as a permanent scheme.

Question 6: Does UWEI are collaborating with SDA, SHG and other participatory platforms?

Stakeholder Response

- Yes. Close to 500 SDAs and more than 6000 SHGs around Odisha are part of this program. As the scope of the program is very clear and the work should be labour oriented and giving employment to them, so less conflicts take place in between the different associations. At present they are planning to make it more open ended so that they can take different opinions and build that mechanisms and bring everyone in the same platform.

Question 7: Who operates the bank account?

Stakeholder Response

- State transfer the funds to the ULBs and they transfer the funds to the implementing partners according to the project proposals. And wages will be sent directly to the labours.