Gram Vikas:
Building dignity through community
managed rural water and sanitation
Orissa, India
Area of operation

Gram Vikas works with
* 19 districts
* 450 habitations
* 28,000 families
* 140,000 people

Gram Vikas: aiming to reach a 100,000 families by 2010
**Context**

**ORISSA**, a state in India with a population of 38 million:

- High rates of morbidity and mortality causing ill-health resulting in loss of livelihood
- Over 80% cases traced back to contaminated water
- High rates of reproductive and gynaecological problems among women
- High mortality of children
- Over 94% in rural Orissa doesn’t have access to protected water
- Less than 1% have access to sanitation facilities
MANTRA: Basic principles

- **Dignity** - essential to life
- 100% inclusion: “all or none”
- People ‘can and will’ pay for quality but there are ‘social costs’
- Equal participation of women
  - elaborate investment in capacity building of women
- Creation of corpus fund before start of work; Poor pay less; better off pay more
- Cost sharing by all sections of society - Gram Vikas, beneficiaries, government & society at large
Process for Sustainability

Financial capital

• Generation of *Corpus fund* @ Rs.1,000 (~ $22) per family for meeting future social costs, ensuring 100% at all times

• Identification of maintenance mechanisms
  • Contribution from harvests; community pisciculture; monthly payments
Institutional mechanisms

• Formation of General bodies of men and women
• Representative Village Executive Committee - formalised as a legal body
• Self-governing norms made and enforced by communities
  - fines imposed for non-compliance
Physical assets created
Redefined Social and Gender relations
Promoting livelihoods
Community capital

• First experience in managing own village institution & finances builds capacities & confidence
  - Learning to deal with conflicts and act as pressure groups
  - Learning to question & hold accountable
  - Learning to maintain public accounts, organize elections and meetings

• Villages are able to influence decision making in local government structures
Some tell-tale figures

- 290 villages – 22,161 families; corpus of Rs.26.1 million
- Government development funds of Rs.7-10 million accessed annually directly by villages
- 848 women’s SHGs with 11,329 members
  - Own funds of Rs. 11.1 million
  - Loans accessed in excess of Rs. 14.8 million
- 85% reduction in incidence of water-borne diseases
- 100% immunisation of children
- 100% enrollment of children in school; attendance over 80% for girl children
An equitable and sustainable society where people live in peace with dignity.