

CLIMATE CHANGE IS AFFECTING WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN COASTAL BANGLADESH

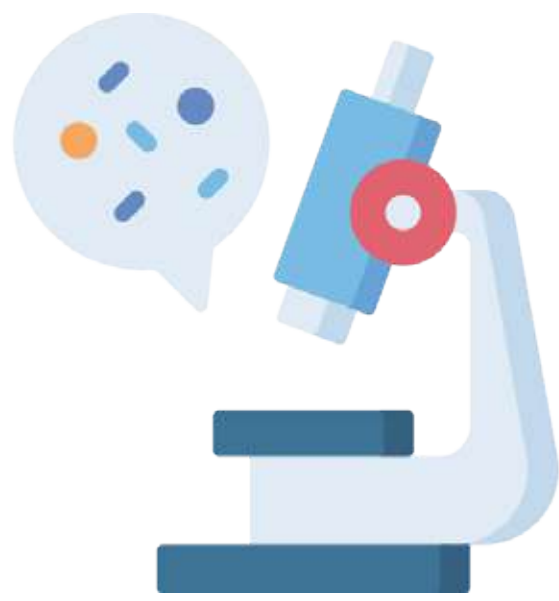
Evidence from 400 Women in Climate-Vulnerable Shyamnagar, Satkhira



400 women surveyed



7 unions in Shyamnagar Upazila



48 laboratory tests completed



Data collected: Oct–Nov 2025

STUDY DESIGN

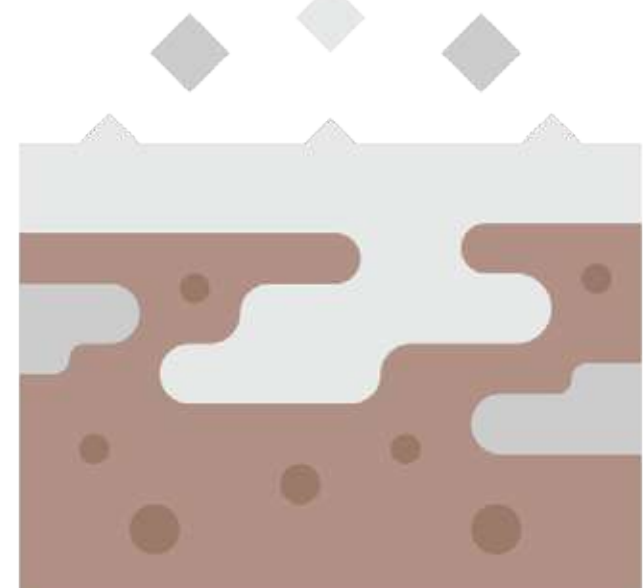
Community-based convergent mixed-methods study

- o Household survey
- o Anthropometric measurement
- o Clinical symptom screening
- o Laboratory confirmation (culture)
- o Statistical modelling

1. CLIMATE STRESSORS: MULTIPLE THREATS



92% Cyclones



62.5% Salinity Intrusion



57.5% Flooding

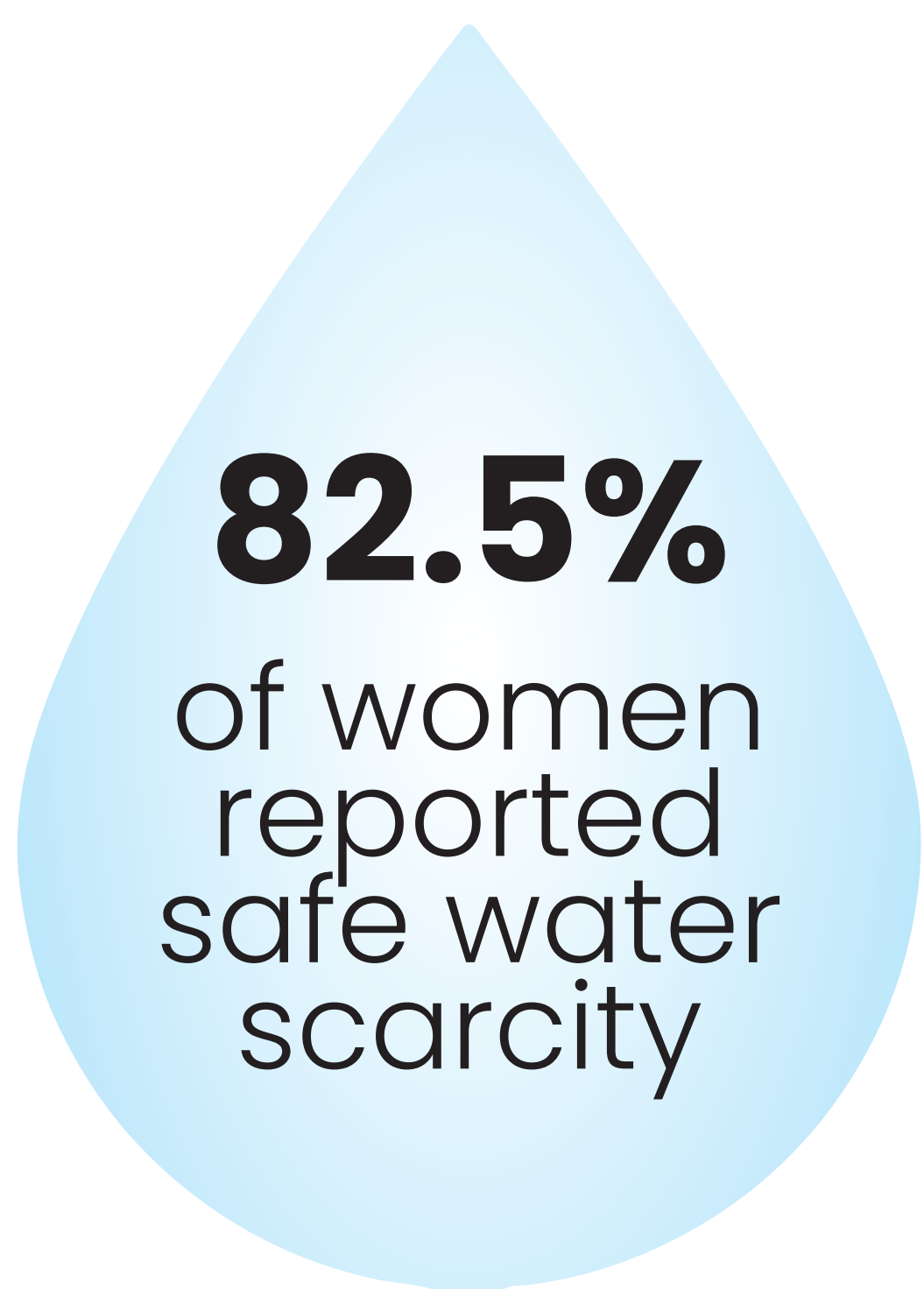


42.5% Drought/Water Scarcity

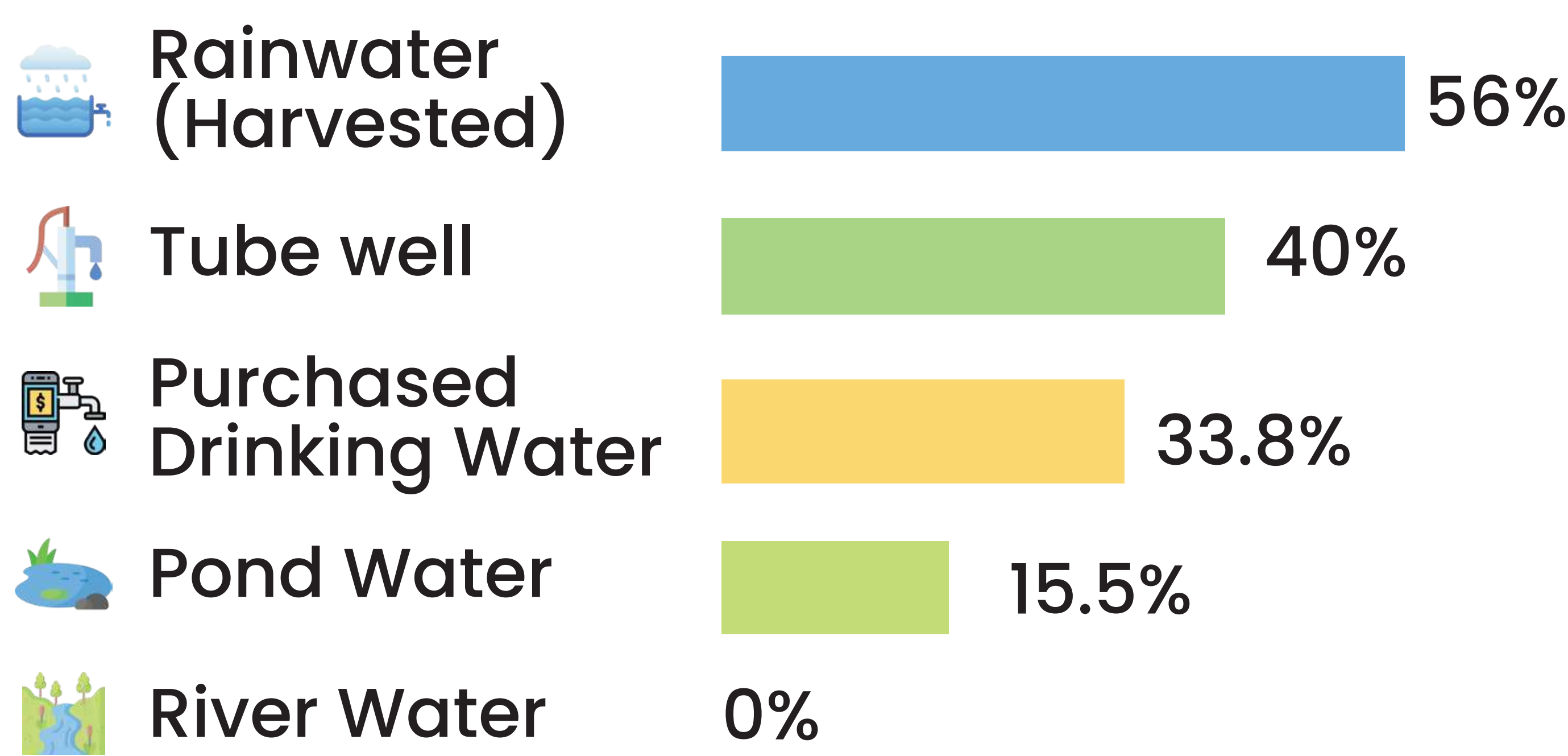
Women are exposed to overlapping climate hazards throughout the year

2. WATER INSECURITY: A DAILY STRUGGLE

SAFE WATER CRISIS



Sources of drinking water



Most women rely on multiple water sources to cope with increasing salinity and freshwater shortages.

3. HOW CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS WOMEN'S HEALTH



Climate Change



Salinity intrusion



Water Scarcity



Long term contact with saline water

Daily exposure through



HOUSEHOLD WORK

(Water collection, cleaning, hygiene management)



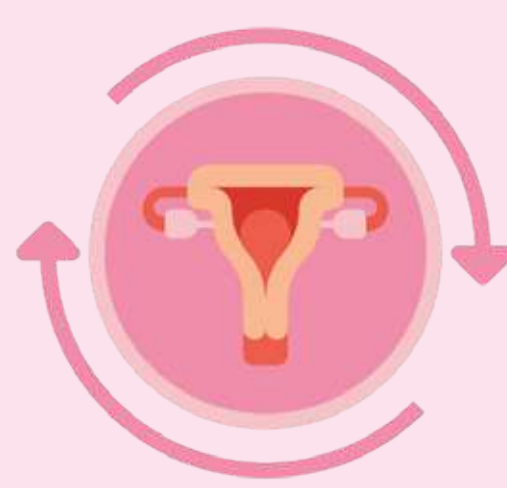
OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE (Fisheries, Shrimp farming, Agriculture, Day labour)



INCREASED REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RISKS

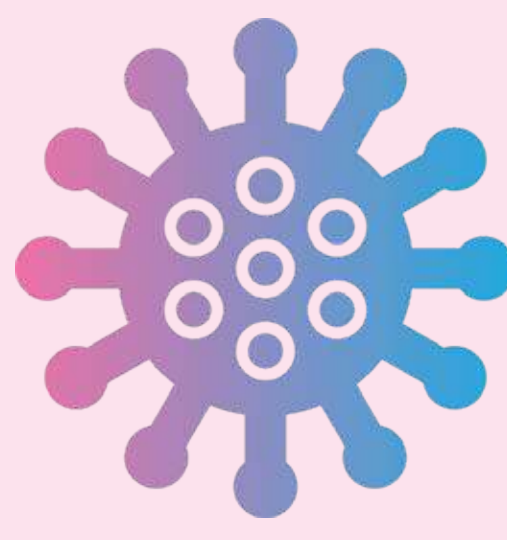
Environmental and occupational salinity exposure increases risks of reproductive health problems.

4. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IMPACTS



MENSTRUAL HEALTH

Nearly 50% reported irregular menstruation
High prevalence of menstrual disorders



REPRODUCTIVE TRACT INFECTIONS

86% (344 out of 400 women) reported at least one PID-related symptom
48 women tested in laboratory; pathogens confirmed among symptomatic women



MATERNAL HEALTH

Pregnancy complications remain common
Water, nutrition and environmental exposure influence pregnancy outcomes



NUTRITION

68.5% of women consumed protein-rich foods three days a week or less

Climate stress, poor nutrition and infections together threaten women's reproductive health and well-being.

5. KEY EVIDENCE FROM THE STUDY



82.5% of women experienced a safe water crisis



62.5% identified salinity intrusion as a major climate threat.



86% (344/400) reported at least one PID-related symptom.



80% of households earn less than BDT 15,000 per month.



68.5% consume protein-rich foods 3 days a week or less.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CONFIRMED

- Higher environmental salinity exposure increases reproductive health problems.
- Occupational exposure (fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, day labour) significantly increases the risk of PID symptoms.
- Water insecurity and low income reduce menstrual regularity and increase complications.

(Ordinal Logistic Regression)

CLIMATE ADAPTATION IS NOT ONLY ABOUT PROTECTING LAND AND LIVELIHOODS, IT IS ALSO ABOUT PROTECTING WOMEN'S HEALTH, DIGNITY AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS.

6. WHO IS MOST AT RISK?



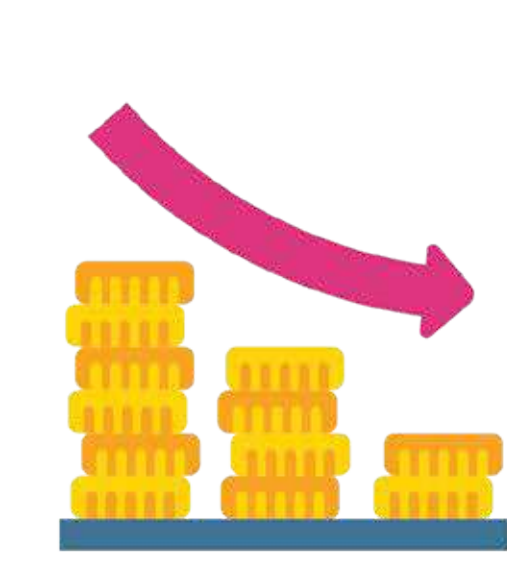
Women managing household water



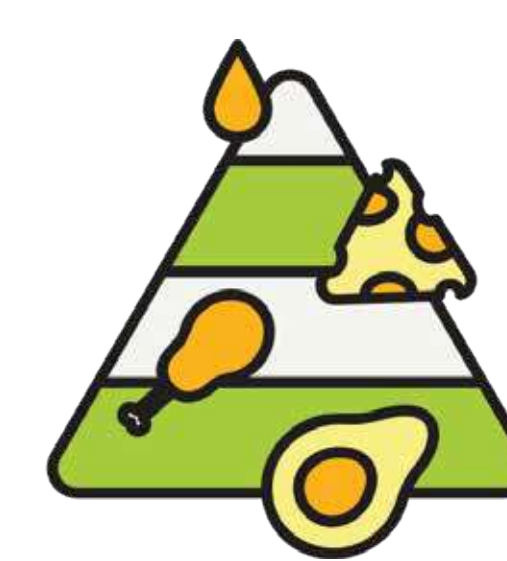
Women in fisheries and aquaculture



Women in Agricultural works



Low-income households



Women with poor nutrition and health

These vulnerabilities are amplified by gender inequality, limited services and climate stress.

7. WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE? PRIORITY ACTIONS



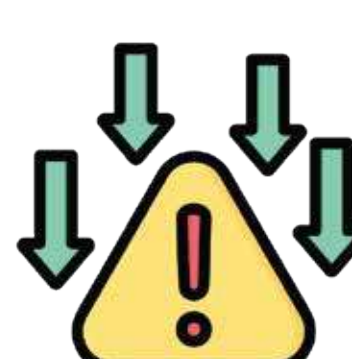
Ensure safe freshwater access for all



Strengthen reproductive health services in coastal areas



Integrate women's health in climate adaptation plans



Reduce salinity exposure risks



Improve menstrual health and hygiene support



Investment in climate-resilient health

Study Conducted by:
Center for Participatory Research and Development
Supported by: HEKS/EPER

