SITUATION
• Ever since MHT started working with the Bakkarwala community in 2017, even before the AIWASI intervention, it has been dealing with issues of water quality.
• As the community received poor-quality water, there were increased cases of waterborne diseases, which affected their health and livelihood.
• Many blocks depended on tanker water for their daily needs. As the frequency of tankers was low, they had to store water for a longer duration. This affected its overall quality when used for drinking / household chores.

ACTION
• MHT started raising awareness about the importance of good water quality. Capacity building was done with CAG members on the parameters and process to perform water testing.
• Water surveillance training includes 12 chemical tests to measure the quality of water supplied to the community through different water sources, including water from DJB water tankers, water supplied through pipelines, and groundwater.
• The CAG members from all 7 blocks of Bakkarwala themselves carried out all tests at MHT center.
• These tests started in 2022 under AIWASI, and are recurring tests that are carried out almost every 3 months.
RESULTS

• Out of all the blocks, H-Block water samples were the most contaminated, followed by F and C-blocks, with different parameters exceeding permissible limits.
• Groundwater in a majority of the blocks was the most contaminated of all water samples, with different parameters and tests exceeding permissible limits of chemical components.
• The CAGs approached the DJB with these test results and demanded a new water pipeline, as the current one is damaged/broken at places, due to which sometimes the sewer water gets mixed with the water supply.

WAY FORWARD

• Taking action on the application made by CAG members, the DJB started working on the root cause of contamination; process of fixing the broken pipeline. This was possible due to the CAG’s persistent efforts.
• This activity has now become a community-driven initiative, which is also sustainable in the long term.
• It is also a cost-effective activity, which can be done by the CAGs without any external intervention.