



# Local Government Practices

## Covid Times Update

### Glimpse from UMC's groundwork

Issue 5, May 2020

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#### **Compilation from States and Local Government responses on COVID-19 outbreak**

In the wake of current COVID 19 outbreak that has taken over many parts of the world only in a mere span of few months, the government is facing an unprecedented challenge of protecting its citizens from the virus and from the economic slowdown caused by the nationwide lockdown imposed since the March 25,2020. While in the past, the country has successfully emerged out of a crisis caused by virus outbreaks, the challenges envisaged in the present context are multi-fold and of a larger scale.

Therefore, we bring to you interventions by local governments, community and states at large to keep you posted with the measures that have proven to be effective in various situations. This update brings to you stories of MISAAL samitis and other groups that we are working with across different cities.

#### **Jodhpur: MISAAL Settlement Committees in Jodhpur lead in identifying community needs and providing services with Jodhpur Nagar Nigam**

Under MISAAL intervention area in Jodhpur, there are 51 MISAAL Settlement Committees (MSCs) in 57 slums. These have been formed with an active participation of community leaders. MSCs act as a platform for the communities to come forward, discuss and address their concerns related to sanitation and other development issues.

In these testing COVID times, these MSCs have taken up the role of slum level response committees, identifying the needs and placing these demands to the relevant authorities.

With continuous efforts and liasoning with Jodhpur Nagar Nigam, committee members have been effectively mobilising cooked food/dry ration for people in need. Apart from that members of MISAAL committees are reaching out to the communities in their respective areas to find out their well being and mapping the need of the people manually. With the help of mapping of vulnerable households, committees were able to connect 200 households (with an approximate population of 1000) with Jodhpur Nagar Nigam in five highly affected slums of Jodhpur.



Food distribution by Jodhpur Nagar Nigam in the community

### **Ahmedabad: Committee members as warriors against COVID 19**

As Ahmedabad is facing continuous lockdown since past 45 days, MISAAL Sanitation Committees (MSCs) are playing a crucial role in providing relief during this humanitarian crisis. One of the committee members from Nagoriwad, Jagdish Bhai took an initiative and mapped the households in the slums which needed support for either dry ration or cooked food. It was found that an approximate 150 people from one of the most vulnerable slum named Nagoriwad were in urgent need of ration.

In order to mobilise ration for the needy, the MSCs contacted the local organisations/volunteer groups for funding. After several attempts, one volunteer group 'Department of Happiness' came forward to provide ration for the needy.

The committee members with the help of community at large arranged the necessary resources and logistic arrangements for cooking food like utensils, gas etc. Due to such efforts and strong leadership of MSC and especially Jagdish bhai, a community kitchen was set up and a team of 7 members are now cooking daily meals for 150 people. The food is distributed to them at their doorsteps to restrict chaos and maintain social distancing in the community.



Community kitchen set up by MISAAL Settlement Committee members in Nagoriwad slum



## Porbandar: MISAAL Settlement Committees actively reaching out to the marginalised communities

MISAAL Sanitation Committee of Khadpith (RakhadadaDevipujak MISAAL Committee) took an initiative of preparing food for 105 households of Khadpith which is located on creek and is not easily accessible.

The committee, with the help of local volunteers and temple trust managed the ration and resources for establishing the community kitchen in the slum. To adhere with the norm of social distancing and avoid overcrowding, the committee also took the responsibility of door to door distribution of food in the slum. Masks and gloves were given to the volunteers responsible for cooking and distribution of the food in the community. Thus, the committee has demonstrated leadership by standing for their community to mitigate some of the needs of their community.

## Kulfiwalas from Porbandar became Social Entrepreneur

Lockdown has affected the livelihood of many, especially those working in the informal sector. One such highly affected communities, residing in Kumbhalwada slum of Porbandar city, is involved in *Kulfi* making. The current lockdown has flattened their business prospects for this season and forced them to dispose all their raw material which they purchased by investing their savings. This has left them with multifaceted challenges.

As most of the people in community have cookery skills, six women came forward to cook meals for 150 people and men helped them in chopping vegetables, kneading dough etc. The members of the communities managed to raise funds and resources with the help of local NGOs and individual donors. Thus, building on their collective strength in such critical times, the community served their own need of food at no cost.



Kulfiwalas from Porbandar serving food in the slum

## Partnering with Samhita to offer Cash Relief to Informal Sanitation Workers

In this unprecedented times of COVID the most affected are from vulnerable communities such as sanitation workers and waste pickers. Therefore, UMC in partnership with Samhita (through corporate CSR funding) supported direct cash support to the frontline soldiers like sanitation workers and waste pickers who work tirelessly during COVID times to provide essential services to the citizens.

A cash transfer for Rs.3000/- was provided to 100 beneficiaries in Ahmedabad as a pilot. After the successful implementation of the pilot second round of direct cash is now being made available to 650 beneficiaries in four cities of Odisha and Telangana.

This was made possible with the support of NULM team at Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and Commissioners of Dhenkanal, Paradip and Warangal.



Beneficiary family of the cash transfer

### New Episodes on U-LEARN

In the [episode 13](#), 'Mol,' Ramila and Sushila discuss managing business properly in order to avoid losses. Watch this episode to learn how to assess profitability of enterprises properly and how to overcome losses.





In the [episode14](#), 'Shehri Sehbhagita Manch,' the community and urban local body come together on a platform to discuss and resolve their issues. Watch this episode to learn everything about 'Shehri Sehbhagita Manch.'



**You can follow the journey of Sushila, Gul and Ramila from struggling to save money to becoming entrepreneurs on U-LEARN, a mobile and desktop application.**

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