



**Issue No. 20, October 2020**

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The country is in the midst of the lockdown being lifted. But there is no escaping the increase in COVID-19 cases. In such a situation, it falls upon the governing bodies to support the under privileged and the vulnerable. This month's update brings some of our initiatives and support to national, state and city governments towards strengthening safety net to the urban poor.

We are thankful to the Govt. of India, Govt. of Gujarat, Govt. of Odisha, Govt. of Rajasthan, Govt. of Telangana, local governments, our funding partners - BMGF and USAID, and our community engagement partners for their continued support.

### **Seeds of Change**

#### **Transgender SHG in Warangal Take Up Nursery Development as an Alternate Livelihood**

Telanganaku Haritha Haram is a large scale tree plantation program. It was initiated by the Government of Telangana in the 2015 with the objective to increase tree cover in the state from 24% to 33%.

This year, the Greater Warangal Municipal (GWMC) has planned to establish 17 new nurseries within its jurisdiction in order to provide new plant saplings. The land for these nurseries have been earmarked as well. Furthering its intent of encouraging women and vulnerable communities, GWMC has decided to handover the responsibility of operations and maintenance of a few nurseries to the transgender community. GWMC has proposed to provide the initial training before handing over the nurseries. GWMC will also pay Rs. 11,000 to each person every month as O&M wages, for a period of one year.

The UMC team in Warangal, Ramana and Manishankar, helped identify interested members from the transgender community. Siri, Puri and Shailu from three existing transgender SHGs Loukyam, Sneham and Adrushtam groups came forward to take up this livelihood opportunity. These seeds of change will support the groups to start an alternate livelihood during the pandemic and live a life of dignity.



**Figure 1-3: Siri, Puri, and Shailu being trained to take care of the nursery**

### **A Path to Self-employment Decentralised Solid Waste Management**

The Government of Odisha has been making concerted efforts to engage SHGs in meaningful livelihood opportunities. To further this vision, the Paradeep Municipality, with technical support from UMC engaged 10 members from the Maa Bahuchara Mata SHG for operations and maintenance of a micro-composting centre (MCC) and material recovery facilities (MRF). This SHG is a group of transgenders who have signed an MoU with the Paradeep Municipality.

The SHG has 10 members, 5 of whom are engaged at the MCC and MRF facilities. The Paradeep Municipality compensates these members as per the latest notified minimum wage standards. In total, a sum of ₹45,510 is paid monthly by the Paradeep Municipality - it is deposited directly in the SHG's bank account. The MoU also specifies that the revenue collected after sale of dry recyclables would also be deposited in the SHG's account.

UMC has supported in bringing transgenders under the SHG fold. They are now also registered as part of Mission Shakti/DAY-NULM SHGs.



**Figure 4: The SHG members at the micro composting centre**

### **MoHUA Launches Two Products of UMC on 2nd October 2020**

**UMC is Honoured to Provide Technical Support to Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)**



**Figure 5: Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, the Union Minister, MoHUA, GOI launching the Sanitation Mapping Tool on October 2nd, 2020**

The two tools which were launched are a [Sanitation Mapping Tool](#) and a [Ready Reckoner](#) for urban local bodies. Both these tools support creation of a safer, cleaner, sustained sanitation improvements in cities across India and were launched on 2nd Oct 2020 at a event that marked the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the 6th year of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U). The tools were launched by Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, the Union Minister, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), and Mr. D.S. Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA.

The Sanitation Mapping Tool has been developed to help the ULBs to make their public and community toilets (PT/ CT) ODF+ compliant. It will enable the ULBs to identify infrastructure gaps and prepare a repair and refurbishment plan with cost estimates based on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal; monitor cleanliness of PT/CT periodically; monitor infrastructure and cleanliness status at the state/city level. The tool has been prepared by UMC under the USAID supported Moving India Towards Sanitation for All (MISAAL).

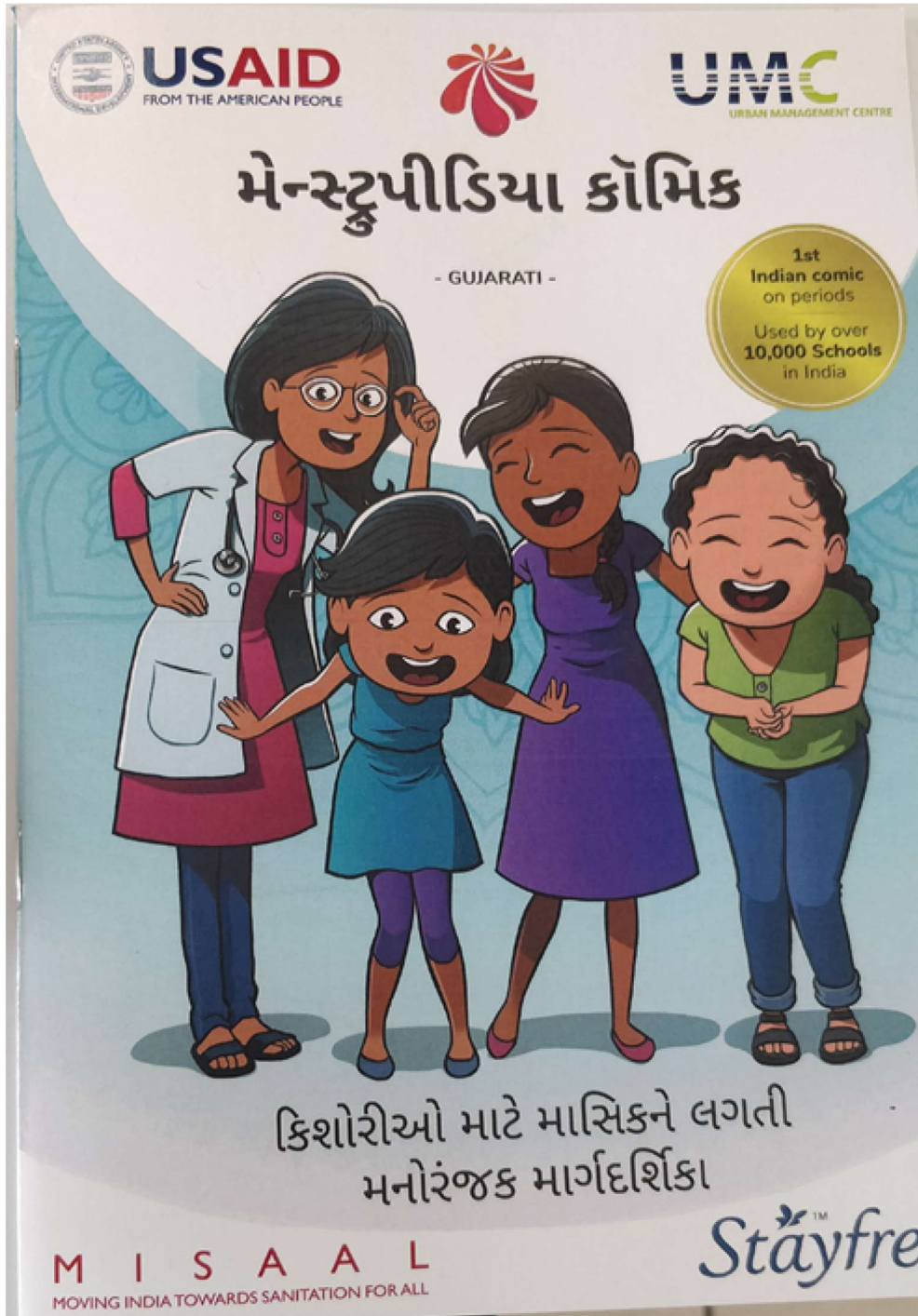
The second tool is a ready reckoner for ULBs to guide them in taking necessary actions to safeguard sanitation workers. The reckoner defines the categories of sanitation workers, the risks associated with their jobs and highlights the importance of ensuring safety of sanitation workers. It also brings attention to the relevant laws, regulations and advisories that delegate responsibility to ULBs and empower them to create a safe working environment for sanitation workers. It provides a detailed roadmap to ULBs on the provisions that should be undertaken to make sanitation work safe. ULBs can work with stakeholders at community, local and state levels to develop a comprehensive strategy for convergence and implementation of the steps suggested in this section.

The reckoner also includes specific strategies for safeguarding sanitation during the COVID-19 pandemic and brings leading practices from across the country to build a comprehensive understanding. This reckoner was prepared with support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

### **Breaking the Taboo Around Menstruation** **Improving MHM Awareness Amongst Adolescents in Ahmedabad**



**Figure 6 : Distributing *Menstrupedia* to all the participants of the awareness campaign.**



**Figure 7: The Menstrupedia book distributed as learning material amongst adolescent girls.**

UMC with its community partners and in collaboration with Menstrupedia conducted an awareness campaign in poor settlements of Ahmedabad.

The campaign aimed to increase the understanding of menstruation and reproduction cycle, the significance of hygiene practices and nutritional requirements in the body during menstruation. The sessions were taken by a master trainer from Menstrupedia. After each session, a Menstrupedia comic book was given to the girls. The session was extremely well received by the participants with a lot of questions and discussion around the topic. Many opened up to talking about such a taboo subject and discuss their concerns related to menstruation. UMC is now planning to scale up this initiative across other cities with our MISAAL committees in order to help more adolescent girls.

## A Community Toilet For the People, Designed By the People



**Figure 8-10: Participatory exercise to design public toilets in Jodhpur and Porbandar**

The intent towards a participatory approach towards designing their community toilet was to listen to the voice of the community for whom the toilets are being designed. Since they are the end users of the facility, it is important to understand their views and inhibitions to using these toilets. Every community has a different outlook as well as needs for the shared sanitation services. In a business as usual scenario, these concerns are more often than not, left unvoiced.

The UMC team, in partnership with the ULBs of Porbandar and Jodhpur, have initiated such meetings with communities. The use of interactive means- collective drawings, making physical 3D models and having open discussions regarding how they intend to use the facilities have helped to keep the community in constant loop about the development of their designs. UMC is helping in the procurement processes for these designs.

## **Rapid Assessment Report on Health, Safety and Social Security Challenges of Sanitation workers during COVID pandemic, a joint initiative with WaterAid India**

The Urban Management Centre and WaterAid India jointly conducted a rapid assessment to understand the health, safety and livelihood challenges faced by sanitation workers in India during the COVID-19 pandemic. This involved telephonic and face-to-face interviews of 95 sanitation workers and 12 urban local body officials from 18 cities/towns across 9 States/UTs of India, conducted between 26th May and 8th June 2020. Nine different categories of sanitation work were covered: domestic waste collection, street Sweeping, cleaning at hospitals/quarantine centres, desludging of sewers/septic tanks and FSTP operations, drain cleaning, cleaning of community/public/institutional toilets, rag picking, waste collection at hospitals/quarantine centres, dry latrine cleaning. Read the report [here](#).

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