

# UMC Update

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As communities across India try to bounce back and restructure their lives in post-COVID lockdowns, we continue to provide support to help them become more resilient.

As we celebrate Diwali, we hope we can make a transformative difference to the lives of migrant workers, and help SHGs and urban local bodies function to navigate these difficult times smoothly.

This month, through our programs, we worked for a brighter tomorrow.

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.

## MOU signed between Urban Management Centre and Surat Municipal Corporation



UMC signing MOU with Deputy Municipal Commissioner, Surat Municipal Corporation.

The Urban Management Centre (UMC) and the Surat Municipal Corporation signed an MOU on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to kick start the **Empowering Migrants for Building Resilience through Comprehensive Entitlements** (EMBRACE) program in Surat. We are also working closely with and benefitting from the unrelenting support of the Government of Odisha and Ganjam District Administration.

The objective is to help migrant workers who suffered during the COVID-19 crisis return to safer working conditions and that migrant workers benefit from existing social protection schemes and other social entitlements.

While there are a plethora of social security schemes already at the national and state level, but migrant workers often fail to benefit due to lack of card portability, lack of domicile, or other administrative constraints. Because of this, most urban poverty alleviation programs, including the ones that cover health, nutrition, immunization, banking, and shelter services remain inaccessible to them. In coordination with Surat Municipal Corporation, the team also engaged factory owners, the workers' union (Pravasi Shramik Suraksha Manch), and our partner, Ajeevika Bureau to understand different perspectives on the issue and come up with solutions to improve their living conditions.

UMC's approach is to work on the enumeration of migrant workers and their families both at the source and the destination and to support systems that help them gain access to social, health, and financial safety schemes. In addition to this, the organizations will also link workers and employers via job portals to ease seeking of employment.



A worker engaged in thread making in one of the power loom units in Surat.

## MISAAL Committees and ULBs Collaborate to Improve the Living Conditions in Low-income Settlements



Left: MISAAL committee members discussing daily service monitoring 'Bindi' Chart with ULB officials in Jodhpur.



Right: MISAAL committee members discussing settlement improvement plans with ULB officials in Porbandar.

MISAAL committee members presented the issues in their settlements related to water, sanitation, and cleanliness to their respective ward officers in Sambhalpur, Porbandar, and Jodhpur. These meetings are a step towards collaborative solutioning to these persistent issues and range from infrastructure improvements to improved operations.

The ward officers have resolved to meet regularly to address other concerns and work together to find practical solutions. The Samiti members are now able to articulate their needs and aspirations and have become agents of change.

Such platforms for continued engagement of ward officials with citizens need to be created, nurtured, and strengthened. Ward Committees as envisaged under the 74<sup>th</sup> CAA and the Shehri Sahabagita Manch as advised by MoHUA could provide such platforms across the country.

### Support to Jodhpur Municipal Corporation on Implementing COVID-19 Awareness Activities

This awareness drive was a part of the state-wide initiative on "No Mask, No Entry" or the "**Toko, Corona Roko**" campaign in Rajasthan where Jodhpur Municipal Corporation partnered with the UMC to mobilize the MISAAL committees.

The MISAAL Committee members led this awareness drive to tell people about the importance of wearing masks to counter the spread of COVID-19. As a part of the drive, they also listed out other safety measures that the people in the settlements of Jodhpur could adopt.



Left: MISAAL committee members participating in "Toko, Corona Roko" campaign rally with Municipal Commissioner of Nagar Nigam Jodhpur.



Right: MISAAL committee members taking swachhata oath on Global Handwashing Day in Jodhpur.

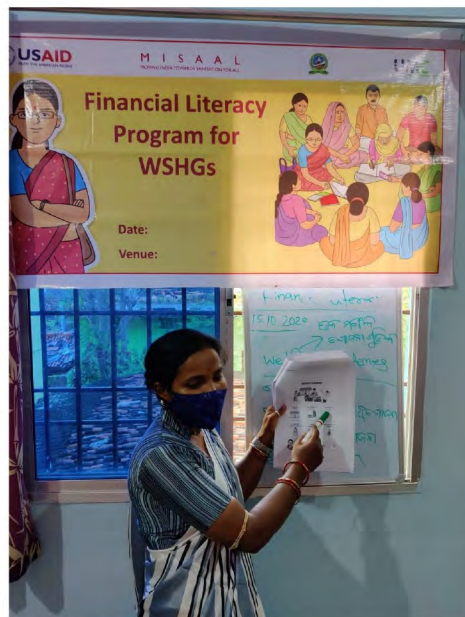
## Kids Communicate the Importance of Handwashing and other COVID-19 Safety Measures through Creative Posters

On the occasion of the Global Handwashing Day on 15th October 2020, the MISAAL committees, MISAAL Fellows, SHGs and the children engaged under the program came together to highlight the importance of handwashing among their peers and communities. To reinforce the message among children, they also conducted arts and crafts activities.



Children engaged in 'Gyan thi Gammat' - learning through fun initiative under MISAAL showcasing awareness posters made for Global Handwashing Day.

## SHG and Enterprise *Shuru Karne Ke Baad* - Providing Financial Literacy to SHGs in Sambhalpur



ALF member explaining the financial literacy module to SHG members.

We conducted a five-day training program to help the SHGs in Sambalpur become more financially literate. UMC's Financial Literacy Module was prepared as part of our ongoing technical support to the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. As a part of the program, topics like cash flow management, budgeting, savings and investments, and entrepreneurship are introduced, to help SHG members leverage government schemes and subsidized business loans for livelihood.

Now that SHGs have begun to run their own enterprises, the next step was to support them to make smart financial decisions to improve their business efficiency and maximize their profits. This workshop which was organized with the support of the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation is the beginning of several such workshops where we work.



Financial literacy training program for SHGs.

### **PM SVANidhi Scheme: Nearly 6.5 Lakh Loans Disbursed to Street Vendors in 4 Months**

Support to street vendors under the PM SVANidhi Scheme reached a milestone of nearly 6.5 lakh loans disbursement between June-October 2020. The government scheme focuses on granting street-vendors access to subsidized loans to restart their business post-lockdowns. Since the launch of the scheme, over 26 lakh applications have been received and more than 13 lakh loans have been sanctioned.

UMC provided technical support in the design and implementation of this scheme which makes it possible for urban poor street vendors to get access to a working capital loan of up to INR 10,000 without providing any collateral.

Under the scheme, the socio-economic profiling of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families in 125 cities will also be undertaken so as to link them to existing social and financial schemes of the government.



A customer using digital payment at a street vendor.

## UMC with Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation Ensure Provision of Safety Kits



Distribution of PPE kits to sanitation workers by Hon. Mayor and Commissioner, GWMC.

The UMC team led the distribution of PPE kits in Warangal to 400 sanitation workers in Warangal. This has been especially important amid the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. This was made possible by CSR support from SAMHITA and whole-hearted support of the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC). The PPE kits included masks, gloves, aprons, gumboots, helmet, soap, and sanitizer. With the support of GWMC's health and sanitation teams, ward wise data of all the contractual sanitation workers was collected. UMC ensured that the PPE kits were made available based on specific sizes as required

for the workers. The training was also provided so that the workers could learn how to use the PPE kits correctly. The whole process was spread across six days to enable social distancing. Each day, a batch of 50 sanitation workers were given their PPE kit and given training for its usage. After 15 days, the team also collected feedback from the workers on the usage of PPE kits.



Distribution and Training workshop for Sanitation workers on the usage of PPE organized by UMC with support from GWMC and MEPMA - TS.

### **Transgender Women SHGs Chose Alternate Livelihood Options in Warangal**



Training workshop for transgender group on O&M of community toilet and maintaining records.

Under the DAY-NULM and the SBM convergence program, ten transgender women's self-help groups have been formed in Warangal. UMC in collaboration with GWMC and MEPMA Telangana has been helping them explore avenues to earn a sustainable livelihood. After one of the newly formed groups expressed an interest in sanitation work, UMC worked with various organizations to educate them on the scope of work in the field.



Training SHGs in pre-bid meeting on filling tender for O&M of community toilet.

A training was organized on 16th July 2020 with ASCI and MEPMA to explain the standard operating procedures related to the maintenance of Community Toilets. In the training session, 14 trainees learned about record keeping, special safety and hygiene measures during the COVID-19 crisis, and other important responsibilities.



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