

As we enter 2021, leaving behind a year full of uncertainties and challenges, let us look forward to a year filled with growth, strength, and a commitment to work in solidarity as a community to promote and protect health, foster equity today and in the future.

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 most of all, our partners in the communities all over India for their continued support.

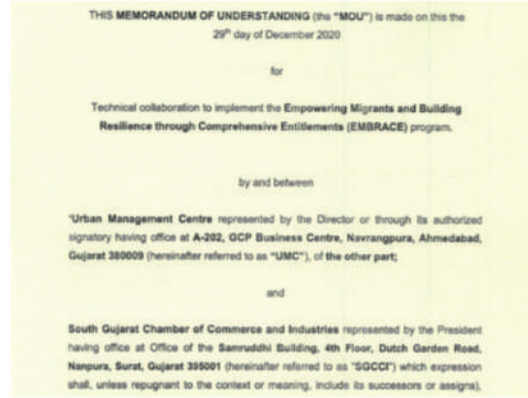
Migrant Cell Linked with City Livelihoods Centre Inaugurated in Surat

The Surat Municipal Corporation, in pursuit of its objective of supporting migrant workers in the city, inaugurated a Migrant Cell within its City Livelihoods Centre. The Migrants Cell was inaugurated by Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Steel. During the event, UMC and Surat Municipal Corporation exchanged an MOU to reaffirm their mutual support towards enabling social security to migrant workers living in Surat. UMC will be supporting SMC in strengthening this migration cell. Our mandate here is twofold because the City Livelihood Centre is a mechanism envisioned under the National Urban Livelihood Scheme to strengthen SHGs and other groups of urban poor and grant them access to the market and skill training. UMC is acting as technical support units to the National Urban Livelihood Mission in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

UMC has also signed a formal memorandum of understanding with the South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industries to establish a SGCCI Workers' Welfare Program Cell and develop Integrated Smart Services Platform (ISSP) to coordinate the support from powerloom/ textile units. The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) is an apex body of Gujarat, focusing on growth and development of trade and industry of Southern Gujarat.



Inauguration of Migrant cell and formal contract sharing between Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) and Urban Management Centre (UMC)



Mr. Dinesh Navadia signing the formal MOU between The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) and Urban Management Centre (UMC)

Garima Scheme - Beginnings of Enumeration and Reforms

The Garima Scheme is a unique, intersectional social development project that aims to make lasting change in the nature of sanitation work in the State of Odisha. It is the first to focus on identifying sanitation workers in the state not only through the lens of caste but also through the lens of employment. It aims to eliminate the root of the problem by making sanitation work safer for everyone.

UMC has been providing technical support to the Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD) and has helped conceptualize this scheme. As one of the first steps, HUDD is initiating a survey of eligible sanitation workers across the six major cities of Odisha. UMC, as the technical support unit, is working in the field to support the municipalities that are responsible for conducting the surveys. We are engaging with volunteers from the Safai Karmachari Andolan to identify the core sanitation workers who will be eligible for the scheme. Using this peer-to-peer survey methodology, as well as snowballing tools, we hope to ensure that no deserving workers go uncounted and that the entire process is fair and transparent. The Survey was kicked off on the 19th by the HUD department and UMC through a training session for the SKA's volunteers. Bezawada Willson reiterated for everyone the importance and uniqueness of this scheme and also impressed upon the entire group the importance of being methodical and patient.

The month was accompanied by another major milestone, i.e. the notification of sanitation workers as highly skilled by the Labour department of the Govt. of Odisha. To support the reforms envisioned by the Garima scheme, the labour department, for the first time in this country, specifically listed sanitation work as Skilled work. Certain hazardous occupations such as Septic tank and Sewer line cleaning have also been notified as Highly Skilled, making the workers eligible for hazard allowances and other benefits. The overall impact is estimated to raise incomes for sanitation workers by close to 50%.



Shri Bezwada Wilson - National Convenor of SKA, Shri Ashok Sadangi - JS HUDD addressing the enumerators during the training session



Enumerators participating in a mock-up of the survey

Supporting Capacity Building of Area Level Federations in Dhenkanal

UMC led a 2 days training program for Self Help Group members from all over the city of Dhenkanal. The training was attended by representatives of all 25 Area Level Federations in the city. (ALFs are macro groups formed of 10-15 SHGs that live close to each other, and come together for peer-learning and enterprise development). The training focused on the foundational best practices for SHGs, also known as Panchsutra, as well as specific modules to strengthen their bookkeeping skills for internal lending. The training used the e-learning platform developed by UMC - [U-Learn](#). The training was also attended by the Executive officer, Municipal Engineer, and City Mission Manager of the city, as well as all the community organizers. This gave the ALF members opportunities to discuss the challenges they have been facing.



Left:ULB officials orienting ALF members on the training program Right: ALF members promising regular book keeping

Training of Sanitation Workers on use of Personal Protective Equipment at Berhampur under the Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge

Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge is a nationwide challenge for cities to ensure safety in sanitation work. It aims at preventing hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks through mechanization. Under the challenge, Berhampur Municipal Corporation organized a training session on “Personal protective equipment for sanitation workers” with the support of UMC on 20th Jan 2021. The training session went through operational details important for Sanitation workers such as the correct usage of, and care needed during donning and doffing PPE; its maintenance and disposal. More than a hundred core sanitation workers as defined under the scheme were part of the training.



Sanitation workers of Berhampur attending a training on use of PPEs

Enumeration of Migrant Workers and their Families Kicks off for the Ganjam-Surat Migration Corridor

Urban Migration in India is characterized by a lack of identity and support for the migrant, regardless of where they come from and where they are going. It has also been demonstrated that it is characterized by a lack of data. Under the EMBRACE program, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation UMC is working with the Surat Municipal Corporation and the Ganjam District Administration to evolve mechanisms to find migrants in both their home and destination states, to share anonymized data with relevant administrations for decision making, and to facilitate the delivery of various entitlements to the migrant and their family. Starting December, we have begun the enumeration of migrant workers in Surat, and have reached over 2000 workers. We have also started the delivery of entitlements on a pilot basis. We are grateful to our partners Aajeevika Bureau and Gram Vikas for supporting us in Surat and Ganjam.



Left: Enumeration of families of migrant workers in Mohuda panchayat of Kukudakhandi block Right: Enumeration of individual migrant worker in Mohuda panchayat of Kukudakhandi block



Orientation of migrant workers in Kosad Awas, Amroli in Surat

Launch of Main Bhi Digital Campaign

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is implementing PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) to facilitate microloans up to Rs.10,000 to street vendors. Digital onboarding of the Scheme beneficiaries is an integral component of the scheme, helping to build the credit profile of the street vendors to facilitate formal credit for their future needs.

The Ministry launched a special campaign 'मैं भी डिजिटल' (*Main Bhi Digital*) from January 4-22, 2021. This campaign was launched to primarily educate street vendors for timely repayment of loan EMIs in order to be eligible for the next higher tranche of loan as well as to use digital payment mechanisms. UMC is supporting DAY-NULM in supporting the design and implementation of this scheme. For the campaign, UMC is assisting in the day-to-day coordination activities for the campaign with all the states and cities including backend data monitoring support. To watch the films on training for the PM SVANidhi click [here](#) and [here](#).



ULB functionaries collecting data from street vendors for socio economic profiling

UMC Expands its “*Gammat thi Gyan* or Learning with Fun” Initiatives in Porbandar, Jodhpur & Sambalpur

In response to the school shutdowns promoted by the pandemic, under the USAID supported MISAAL program, UMC has been conducting the “*Gammat the Gyan*” initiative. This started in Ahmedabad where 5 young leaders from our intervention communities were given training and tools to teach children in their communities. We call them our MISAAL Fellows. Over the last 2 months, we have expanded the initiative to 6 more communities across Porbandar, Jodhpur & Sambalpur.



Learning with fun initiative in Sambalpur, Jodhpur and Porbandar. Children can be seen attending learning sessions.

Ahmedabad Felicitates MISAAL Fellows, MISAAL Settlement Committees (MSC) and IEC Mandal for their Participation in Wall Painting Competition

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) organized wall painting competitions and awareness activities to sensitize communities towards sanitation and hygiene. MISAAL Settlement Committees (MSC), IEC Mandal and MISAAL Fellows participated in these activities along with other volunteers. About 70 participants and 24 teams participated in the wall painting competition in December 2020. AMC awarded three community members for creating a short film and in theatre. UMC has supported and will continue to support AMC in strengthening their connection with their community which resulted in MSC members and other residents of the settlements being happy to be recognized and it has motivated them to actively participate in the future.



AMC felicitating MISAAL Settlement Committees (MSC) members and MISAAL Fellows

MISAAL Settlement Committees and ULBs Partner Towards Implementing Settlement Improvement Plans

The MISAAL Settlement Committees (MSC) in Porbandar & Sambalpur met with their ward officers and presented their Settlement Improvement Plans (SIP) and the daily tracking tool - '*Bindi Chart*' that they have been maintaining to monitor municipal services.

The MSCs are receiving positive responses from city officials and are partnering with them to improve municipal services in these underserved areas. UMC continued to support MSCs in taking full ownership of the SIPs they prepare and are working with the ULB officers to implement it. Municipal officials visit these settlements and meet with the Samiti members. Misaal Samiti members have been added to ward level monitoring groups.

Increasingly, across the four cities, municipal officials have recognized the strength of these community forums and are leveraging their strengths to ease service delivery.



Left: MISAAL committee putting up their plan in the settlements Right: Filling their *Bindi* Charts.

UMC encouraged MSCs to conduct awareness activities in their settlements on adopting safe sanitation and hygiene practices. Some MSCs in Sambalpur have also decided to conduct mass cleaning activities on a regular basis representing the spirit of volunteerism.



Left: Mass cleaning done by MISAAL committee in Sambalpur Right: MISAAL committee members in Sambalpur developed their own messages through paintings to spread awareness in their own settlement



Left: Members of MISAAL committees from ward no.13 met ward officers to discuss their SIP and presented a painting made by them to the ward officer to establish a collaborative partnership Right: MISAAL committee members from Kumbharwada in Porbandar met the chief officer to discuss their concerns and SIP

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