

It's difficult to believe that one-Tenth of 2021 is already over. Everyone had a vision for how India will look in 2020, and now we are living the future. Now, we are, in our own ways trying to build a similar vision for how the world will be in 2050. This month's update brings some of the initiatives taken by our community along with our support to national, state, and city governments towards strengthening the safety net for 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 most of all, our partners in the communities all over India for their continued support.

## **The Next Generation: UMC conducts training of Newly Elected Representatives from Jodhpur, Leh and Kargil**

One of the most important stakeholders in the local democratic processes are our Corporators. They serve as a final link between the people and their governments. However, there are few programs under which they are given opportunities to understand their powers, the various laws and acts under which they can take decisions, and the cutting edge for government programs and urban systems. UMC has been working with elected and executive arms of the government for over 20 years. In these training programs we have engaged directly with newly elected councilors to capacitate them on programs like the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and more general issues of Participatory Local Governance.

### **i. Training the elected ward councilors in Jodhpur**

In Jodhpur, UMC collaborated with the Municipal Corporation to conduct orientation and training of about 160 ward councilors. The objective was to orient ward councilors on their roles and responsibilities as ward sanitation committees (WSC), an important part of achieving the objectives of SBM. Through this training, the elected officials received an opportunity to figure out how to best advocate for their electorates in the SBM implementation.



Training of elected officials in Jodhpur

### **ii. Training the elected representatives of Leh and Kargil Municipalities in Delhi**

UMC facilitated the training of the elected representatives of Leh and Kargil Municipalities on Urban governance and sanitation management as a part of the larger exposure program conducted by Leh Environmental Development Group and BORDA. The first half of the training included a brief introduction

to the existing legislative framework and the various governance mechanisms for implementation of the framework. They were oriented on the importance of engagement with the local communities, the importance of people's participation in effective governance, formation of ward-level committees among other things.

The second half of the training focussed on the importance of sanitation worker's safety and the city's role in enabling it. They were oriented on sanitation value chains, mechanisms to improve the safety and dignity of sanitation workers, and innovations in mechanization.



Left: Participants learning through interactive games. Right: Manvita Baradi, director, UMC conducting the training session.

### **Supporting home composting implementation across cities of Telangana**

The Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration (CDMA) and Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) in Telangana are collaborating to implement on-site composting for Homes and Bulk Waste Generators across cities in the state. Under this model, Community Resource People, who work under MEPMA have been engaged to work directly with Bulk Generators and set up systems for effective IEC.

Operational guidelines for home composting have been implemented at the State level and issued to ULBs. The guidelines contain a brief overview of home composting, details of various technologies and processes, the key considerations for proper composting, do's and don'ts of composting, and the frequently occurring issues in the compost pits and their solutions.

UMC has also prepared a draft advisory containing the instructions for identification of CRPs, identification of units for pilot intervention, the terms for payment of CRPs, the formation of home composting cell, etc.



Operational guidelines for Home Composting

### **MISAAL Committees work with Sambalpur Municipal Corporation to decide routes and schedules for garbage collection**

MISAAL Committees in Sambalpur have worked with the Ward officers from Sambalpur Municipal

Corporation to organise regular internal meetings with all their staff deployed in the settlement. A big milestone was the community and the ward officers collectively deciding on schedules and routes along with stop points for garbage collection vehicles and assignment of sweeping staff. The Ward officers encouraged MISAAL committee members to maintain Bindi Charts so as to capture the change in municipal services and report their concerns on a regular basis along with regular feedback. Such initiatives from SMC are motivating MSCs to participate in strengthening municipal services. UMC will keep facilitating this connection between ULBs and MISAAL committees. Communities can play an integral role in the management of urban sanitation services. Leveraging SHGs to create livelihoods in urban sanitation can be the answer to the challenges we are facing today. Read more at: [Click here](#).



Ward no. 16 meetings in Sambalpur, where 6 MSCs represented settlement level concerns and suggested improvements in ward level meetings

### **EMBRACE program enables convergence between Surat Municipal Corporation, CSCs, and The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Ganjam District Administration**

Under our Empowering Migrants for Building Resilience through Comprehensive Entitlements (EMBRACE) program, we have enumerated over 3000 migrant workers and over 700 families in Surat and Gajam under various social security schemes. Due to various factors, it sometimes becomes difficult to cover everyone through door-to-door enumeration. In order to make sure that no one is left behind, in addition to our door-to-door enumeration, we have set up alternate ways for workers to get enumerated under EMBRACE.

#### **i. Common Service Center (CSC) Camps at a Powerloom Industrial unit in Surat**

Under our EMBRACE program, with the support from the Southern Gujarat Chamber Of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), we set up the first pilot CSC camp set up at Bikawala Industrial unit (Powerloom). The objective of the camp was to bring the CSC to the migrant workers' doorstep and facilitate their enumeration under various social schemes without them having to lose out on their daily wage. In the first camp, 30 migrant workers availed benefits under the different schemes at the CSC camp set up on 20th February 2021. The migrant workers were satisfied with this initiative and we consider it to be a successful pilot.



Migrant worker's document verification and form filling at CSC camp.

#### **ii. Setting up of Kiosk Booths in Ganjam district, Odisha**

In order to trace back the families of migrant workers (of Surat) back in Ganjam, an alternative way of enumeration was initiated by setting up kiosk booths. These booths were set up for workers who were missed during the door to door enumeration and could not avail the entitlements.

The kiosk was set up in four panchayats- Mohuda, Dengapadar, Gandadhar, and Kokaloba. A total of 113 families and 17 individual migrant workers were enumerated through the kiosk. It was a collaborative effort by both the Gram Vikas team and respective government stakeholders. The Block Development Officers of respective blocks introduced the team to the respective head of the villages & Sarpanch, Aanganwadi and ASHA workers anchored the enumeration process on the field.



Left: Enumeration of worker's families in Gandadhar gram panchayat Right: Enumeration of worker's families in Kokaloba gram panchayat

### **MISAAL Fellow inspires transformation of a dilapidated space into a playground**

We sometimes forget how much strength and sheer perseverance our communities bring to the table. Our [MISAAL Fellow](#), Rajni and Kausalya Mahananda, a state level footballer started their own football classes and built a playground for children. Kids from Gobindtola, Odisha who were learning with our MISAAL fellow did not have any opportunities for formal coaching. Rajni understood the importance of sports in the learning process, and requested Kausalya, a rising star in their area to teach these kids football after their regular classes. They also identified a piece of land within the community that could possibly be turned into an impromptu playground. Everyone from their community came together to clear bushes and create space for a playground where the kids can play badminton, Kabaddi, and football. The joy in the eyes of these kids when they saw that they can be a catalyst to change was an inspiration to us all.



Playground created for children

### **Taking Charge of your own livelihood - Expanding [U-Learn](#) Platform to more underserved communities**

The Urban Learning platform has been built from the ground up to be an effective engagement tool for underserved communities. The content on [U-Learn](#) is story-based and gives communities a familiar framework within which they can learn about NULM and its benefits. Over the last month, we introduced many new communities to the platform and engaged them in continued learning.

#### **4- day virtual training program for sanitation workers of MP, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, and Jharkhand**

UMC, in partnership with WaterAID conducted a four-day virtual training program for sanitation workers SHGs from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar formed by WaterAID India. The training was rolled out in 2 phases. The first phase was the Training of Trainers which included training the state coordinators, district coordinators, and Community Resource Persons. It was conducted on 5th February 2021. The training focused on the integration of the Self-Help Groups under DAY-NULM, [SHG panchasutra](#), orientation on various National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation benefits, Government social security and welfare schemes, engagement in sanitation based alternative livelihoods, etc.

The second phase of training was organized from 19th - 24th February for SHGs themselves. They were oriented on their rights under the Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, the DAY-NULM program along with the benefits available to them if they get registered as SHG under DAY-NULM. The training guided the beneficiaries on the step-by-step process of SHG formation using [U-Learn](#).



Virtual training of sanitation workers of MP, Chhattisgarh, Bihar & Jharkhand

#### **Survey to enumerate sanitation workers under the Garima Scheme reaches its first milestone**

In collaboration with Safai Karamchari Andolan, UMC rolled out a pilot survey on 8th February 2021 to identify and enumerate sanitation workers under the Garima scheme in the six major cities of Odisha (Berhampur, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Rourkela, Sambalpur). The learning from this survey will be upscaled in 108 other ULBs of Odisha.

UMC has identified settlements where most sanitation workers reside by taking inputs from the ULB staff and SKA volunteers. In each identified habitation of sanitation workers, a survey is carried out after a community meeting where our city coordinators brief the community about the [Garima scheme](#) and the enumeration exercise.

Enumeration is carried out through a mobile app developed for the survey. The app is available in both English and Odia. Within the first fifteen days of the enumeration survey, more than 1,000 respondents have been surveyed by the enumerators.



Left: Snapshots of the mobile app developed for the survey. Right: Community meeting before enumeration in Berhampur.

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Urban Management Centre,  
A-202, GCP Business Centre, Opposite Memnagar Fire Station,  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009, India  
[info@umcasia.org](mailto:info@umcasia.org), [www.umcasia.org](http://www.umcasia.org)

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