

This month's update brings you some important stories from our work strengthening cities in India. It covers our direct support to the National and State Governments for their various programs. It also captures our direct interventions in the communities which initiated leadership and a thirst for knowledge and education. We also have some talk sessions that you might be interested in.

Our director, Manvita Baradi, recently spoke about the need for viable grey water management techniques to prevent unsafe disposal of grey water into open grounds/ water bodies at the sustainability fair 2021 organised by the Dr. K C Patel Centre for Sustainable Development at IIT Gandhinagar.

Our deputy director, Meghna Malhotra, was one of the key speakers for the sixth edition of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) Energy Access Dialogues where she explored possibilities for Enabling Access to Clean Cooking Energy for the Urban Poor. You can access the discussion at: <https://bit.ly/39PwTdy>.

Please forward this newsletter to anyone that might be interested in this work. You can also email ([info@umcasia.org](mailto:info@umcasia.org)) if you want to access any of the material developed in this program.

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.

## Technical Support to State and National Government

### National: Support to SVANidhi se Samridhhi

SVANidhi se Samridhhi, a component of PMSVANidhi scheme, was rolled out by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The program aims to give beneficiaries of PM SVANidhi an opportunity to access other benefits under other government schemes. After a socioeconomic survey is conducted of each beneficiary and their family. The profile so generated, identifies their potential eligibility for select Central government schemes.

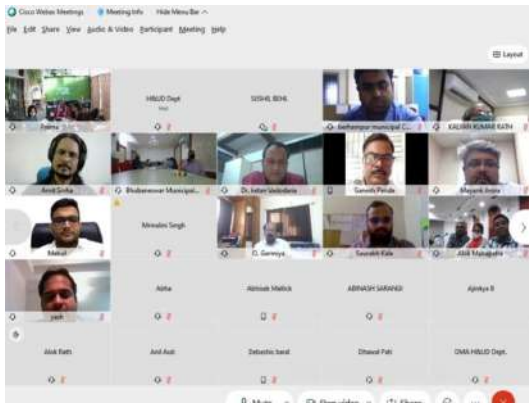
UMC has been helping MoHUA conceptualize the administrative structure, financial structure, implementation structure and identify the central schemes for the SVANidhi se Samridhhi component. UMC also supported the development of the IT tool and the questionnaire for the profiling of the beneficiaries under the scheme.



City Level Camps for Svanidhi se Samridhhi

## **Round table consultation for better for PPE for Sanitation Workers**

The Garima Scheme is a unique, intersectional social development project that aims to bring safety and dignity to sanitation workers in the State of Odisha. As the TSU, UMC had conducted a study last year in collaboration with the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation to assess suitability of PPE for sanitation workers. We identified that PPE designs need to be improved to make them more gender inclusive, more comfortable for long periods of use, and with more design nudges to encourage proper use. This we made possible from extensive feedback from the workers as well as first-hand measurements of user habits. To facilitate innovative designs, the Housing and Urban Development Department, Odisha, and UMC jointly organized an online roundtable consultation with various PPE manufacturers, health and safety experts, as well as representatives from the Bureau of Indian Standards. The findings from the study will help designers and manufacturers will further develop new PPE prototypes and define new standards.



Left: Roundtable virtual Consultation Right: Workers wearing modified PPE

## **Enabling Entitlement delivery for migrant workers**

In continuation to our efforts to enumerate migrant workers under our EMBRACE (Empowering Migrants in Building Resilience through Comprehensive Entitlements) program, we set up total Common Service Centre Camps in Surat to facilitate enumeration under various social schemes identified under the program.

In Ganjam, individual migrant workers were enumerated through kiosks & household visits with support from Sarpanchs, Anganwadi, and ASHA workers. In addition to enumeration, the UMC initiated the application process for key national entitlements for the enumerated families of migrant workers.



Left: Door-to-Door enumeration of migrant workers Right: Enumeration at the CSC camp

## **Decentralised Composting in Telangana**

As a part of UMC's TSU support to the Telangana State Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas, we are helping the state create mechanisms to promote composting among households and bulk waste generators. Community Resource Persons within the state are being trained on the state level implementation strategy for home composting, its importance & the various methods available for the same. Most recently we conducted a training session for the CRPs working with the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation.





Training of Community Resource Persons on the implementation strategy.

### **Technical Evaluation & Appraisal of project reports for Legacy Waste quantification**

Continuing our support as TSU to the Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban, Gujarat, UMC conducted virtual training of 22 class A ULBs of Gujarat on the techniques of legacy waste quantification and to help the cities explore the technical feasibility of initiating remediation at the existing dumpsite. UMC also conducted a meeting for all the ULBs for assessment of data filled by the cities through an in-person analysis. Based on the gaps, we re-oriented the cities about the different methods the ULBs can use to quantify the legacy waste in their jurisdiction.



Giving ULB official in-person analysis of reports.

## **Our Communities are leading the way for a better tomorrow**

### **Jodhpur MISAAL committees say - let's talk Period!**

Menstrual health and hygiene is something that isn't talked about enough. UMC with support from UNIPAD has initiated menstrual hygiene management awareness sessions in settlements of Jodhpur for adolescent girls. A safe space was ensured for their queries as well. The sessions revolved around various products available in the market along with the use, disposal, and suitability of the products. UNIPAD distributed around 90 reusable pads to ensure girls adopt appropriate hygiene practices.

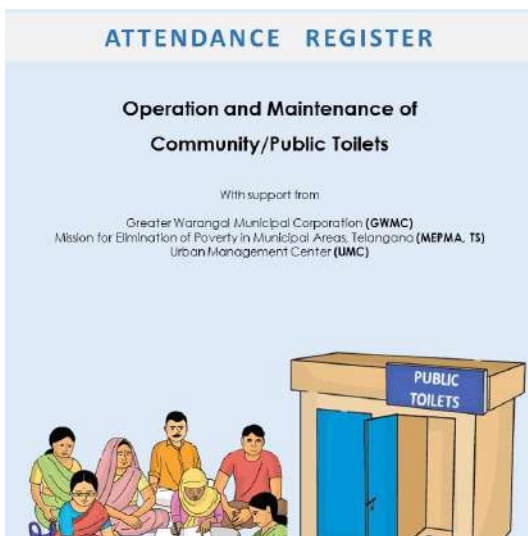


## Supporting Self Help Groups run enterprises in Warangal & Bhubaneswar

Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation handed over operation & management of 62 public toilets to Self-Help Groups & State Level Federations in Jan. To ensure the sustainability of their enterprise, GWMC & UMC with Telangana State Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Area organised a training on the importance of bookkeeping & record maintenance.

SHGs, SLFs & sanitation inspectors were given hands-on training using the bookkeeping manual developed by UMC with support from GWMC and TSMEPMA. The manual includes standard bookkeeping formats & a user guide with each format. Pamela Satpathy, GWMC Commissioner along with Shri Rajareddy Bommana, Chief Medical Officer for health officially released the training manual developed by us.

UMC has also formed waste pickers SHGs in Bhubaneswar under DAY-NULM and SBM convergence program. With support from Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, we have trained over 100 SHG members over the course of 2 months on the importance of developing soft skills such as interpersonal skills, communication skills, listening skills, time management, and guiding them to become in charge of your own livelihood. The training is conducted through interactive sessions & group exercises with assistance from U-learn.



Left: Training Manual cover page Right: Training SHGs on soft skills

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