

Co-Create City

Ramdev Nagar Community, Bhuj (Kutch) India

SELF RESILIENT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION

Covid-19 co-creation action series



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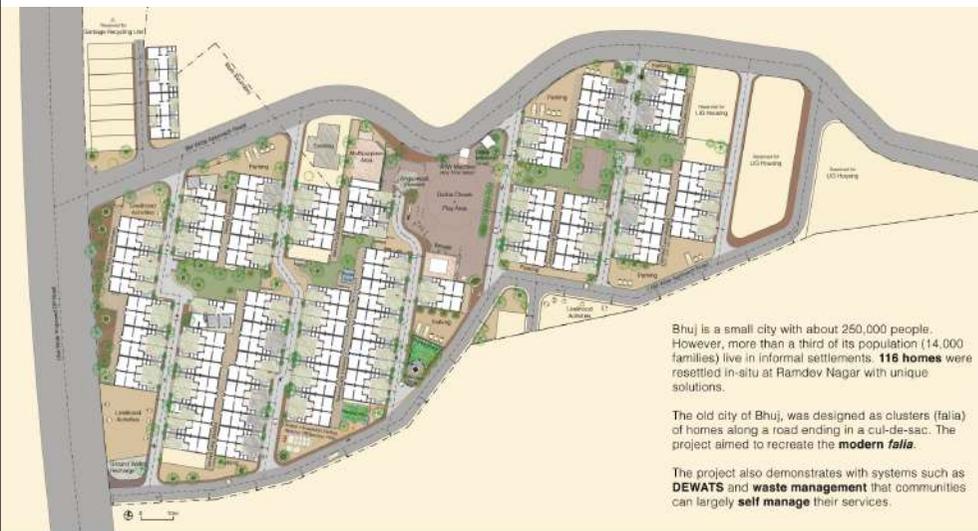


Introduction

RAY was launched in 2009 to provide housing and services to the urban poor living in slums in the major cities of India. Bhuj being a smaller city was not under the scheme then. Hunnarshala Foundation at that time along with the supporting NGOs had started working with the slums of the city through a collaborative program called 'Homes in the City' (HIC). Under the HIC program, financial and technical assistance for building houses was given to 120 families living in different slums of Bhuj. This was done through the leadership of Self Help Groups (SHGs) active in the slums. Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS), a partner organization working on the agenda of women empowerment was facilitating the formation of SHGs in the slums.

The network of SHGs was instrumental in identifying vulnerable families and provides them loans which in addition to the grants available under HIC were used to build 120 houses.

The 'Homes in the City' (HIC) is a project implemented by five like-minded organizations in the city of Bhuj in Gujarat and supported by Misereor. The broad goal of the project has been to develop Bhuj to be a city where the citizens, particularly the urban poor, improve their socio-economic condition and access basic civic services through political participation in local governance.



Ramdev Nagar Slum Redevelopment
Bhuj

2017-2019 PHASE 1
2019- Ongoing PHASE 2



Core issues / Findings from co - research

While understanding the Informal Marginalised communities; slum settlements, street vendors, migrants, waste pickers, pastoral communities, and female sex workers. We found out various issues during the Pandemic which were faced by all these informal groups in Bhuj.

- Issues in getting regular **work** in case of migrant workers/laborers and fruits and vegetable vendors. All business activities stopped as a result people who live in the slums were **jobless** for quite some time, in the target group area (Ramdevnagar community) most people are on **daily wages job**, some are in catering jobs as well in mandap/ bamboo pavilion services, some of them are in construction work.
- **One of the main issues was food** as there was no income because of any work opportunity.
- The government did mobilize free ration from fair price shops through PDS (<https://epds.nic.in/>). Also, civil society organizations including HIC partners supplied ration kits to most vulnerable families and some cash dole was provided as well which helped the people a lot in these unprecedented situations.
- **Medical / Hygiene / Healthcare** facilities access.
- **Lack of awareness** about pandemic- Covid.





Distribution of cash support through Bachat Mandal (SAVINGS GROUPS) in slum settlements. (Source: HIC)

Way forward to make resilient BHUJ

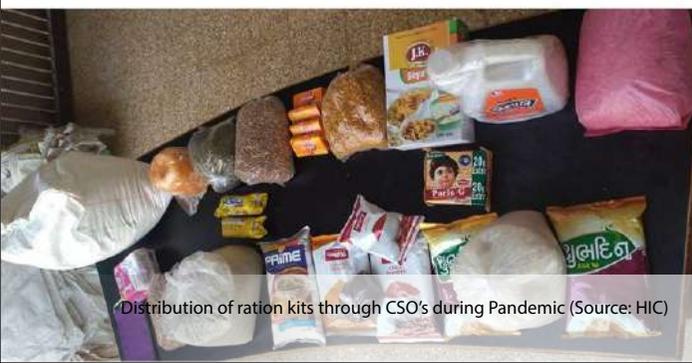
Ensure access to housing, tenure security, basic infrastructure facilities such as water supply, sanitation, social security, awareness about the environment, governance, gender justice, education, etc.

Ensure that our cities become self-reliant for their requirements like water supply, food security, etc. In Bhuj, many initiatives such as rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, conserving water bodies, making kitchen gardens, etc., are being undertaken to make the city self-sufficient in terms of its water and food requirements.

Create market chain linkages for groups involved in the production and supply of perishable items such as milk, vegetables, fruits, etc., to protect their livelihoods as well as prevent a food crisis. HIC; our partner organization working on that.



- 5 kg Wheat Flour
- 2 kg Rice
- 1 kg Sugar
- 1 kg Salt
- 1 kg Black Peas
- 1 kg Jaggery
- 500 gm Moong Dal
- 500 gm Tuver Dal
- 500 gm Groundnuts
- 500 gm Tea
- 200 gm Turmeric
- 200 gm Red Chilli Powder
- 125 gm Mustard Seeds
- 1 litre Oil
- 2 Bath Soaps
- Sanitary Pads
- 2 Masks



- 10 kg Wheat Flour
- 3 kg Rice
- 2 kg Sugar
- 1 kg Salt
- 1 kg Black Peas
- 1 kg Jaggery
- 1 kg Moong Dal
- 1kg Tuver Dal
- 1 kg Poha
- 1 kg Groundnuts
- 500 gm Tea
- 200 gm Soya chunks
- 200 gm Turmeric
- 300 gm Red Chilli Powder
- 150 gm Mustard Seeds
- 2 litre Oil
- 4 Bath Soaps
- Sanitary Pads
- 2 Masks

Distribution of ration kits through CSO's during Pandemic (Source: HIC)



Initial COMMUNITY MEETINGS by Hunnarshala Team for DEWATS on site

Actions and Activities under the project

- **Community activation/ Social Process: Community mobilization / Committee Formation.** Meetings with the community's current registered body and on-going process for a new body formation.
- **DEWATS– Regularization and Training;** Handholding and Facilitation (use of treated/recycled greywater at community and household level); **access to water.**
- **Kitchen Garden-** Use of recycled water for Kitchen garden and plantation at Ramdevnagar community and also in other slum communities. At city scale - by various communities in different wards in Bhuj. **A woman's driven process.**
- **Learning course/Education for Youth–** Activities/Dialogues with youth from slum communities and Kutch University on housing, environment, water, gender, and governance. (in collaboration with 5 partners under HIC)

Other Activities

- **Biogas plant** installation ongoing in Bhuteshwar, Bhuj with HIC.
- **Solar lights** – by partner organization SETU under HIC.



STRATEGY

- COMMUNITY MOBILISATION
- COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT
- CITY AWARENESS SCALE
- SELF EDUCATION ON CONCERNS & NEED THROUGH
- ADVOCACY POLICY MAKING
- PARTICIPATORY APPROACH BETWEEN ALL STAKEHOLDERS.
- GOVT. SUBSIDIES

