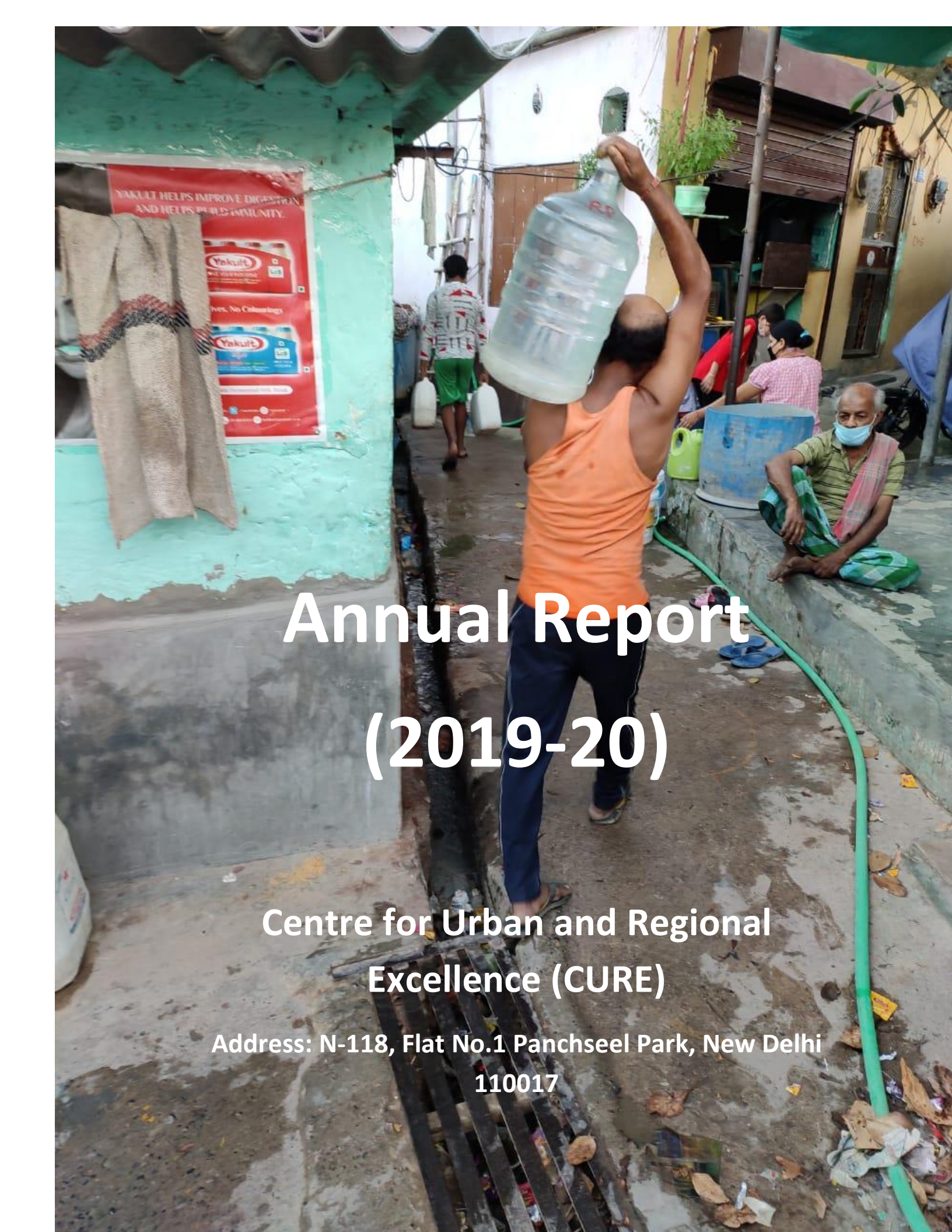




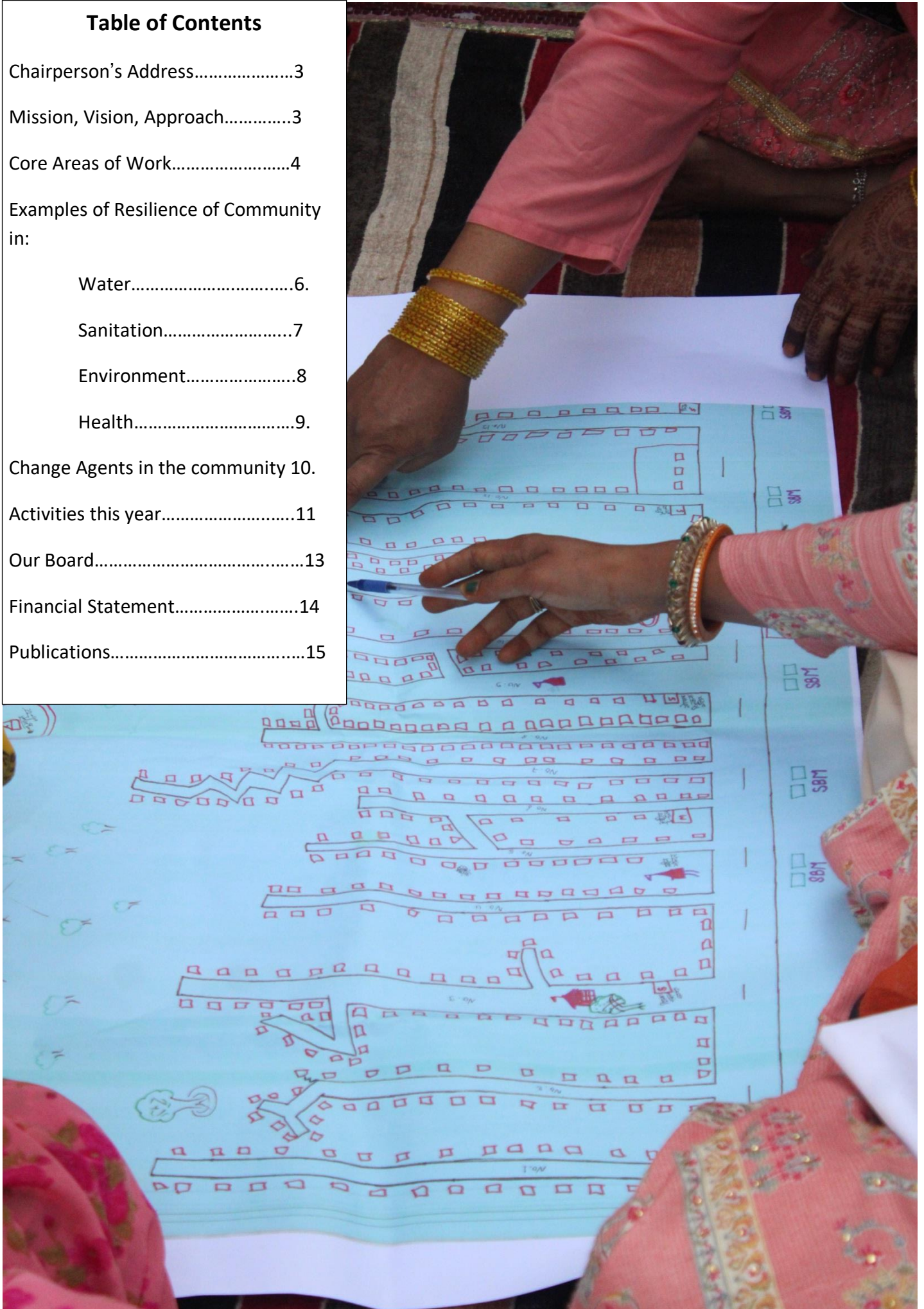
Annual Report (2019-20)

Centre for Urban and Regional
Excellence (CURE)

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A background image showing several women in colorful saris, some in pink and orange, others in green and blue. They appear to be in a community setting, possibly a meeting or a workshop. One woman in the foreground is wearing a pink sari with a floral pattern. Another woman in the background is wearing a green sari with a patterned border. The image is slightly blurred, focusing on the text boxes in the foreground.

From the Director's chair

One of the joys of preparing an annual report is that it gives us the opportunity to look back at what we could accomplish in the previous year and the challenges and opportunities that we have had. We in CURE strive to achieve sustainable and inclusive urban development using a communitarian approach.

In 2019-20 our focus was on strengthening water resilience where the urban communities could understand, develop and design sustainable and resilient systems of water harvesting. CURE worked with local communities to ensure better water-use behaviour, conservation practices, harvesting and using rainwater, restoring groundwater by recharging excess water into the ground and treating and reusing wastewater in an effort to pave a pathway for cities to become water resilient through active engagement and participation of communities.

Many cities, including Agra where CURE facilitated Rain water harvesting, have changed the building bylaws to make rainwater harvesting mandatory. CURE is working with the cities' local bodies to ensure behaviour change with respect to water. A Practitioner's Guide has been developed by CURE to provide detailed, systematic information on building rainwater-harvesting systems with groundwater recharging. The thought is to facilitate cities on the path of water resilience and restoration of the ecological balance of the area.

I would like this opportunity to extend a warm thank you to all our CURE team, friends, well-wishers and co travelers without whom this journey would have been a challenge.

Dr Renu Khosla

Mission Statement:

CURE's mission is to achieve three goals; reconnected urban societies that take informed decisions to ensure sustainable urban development; strengthened local agencies with capacities for participatory community development and real evidence built from the ground up for effective service delivery.

Vision Statement:

CURE India envisions a world where all people are equal and must get access to an equal level of services, where every home has taps and toilets to live a life of dignity and where sustainable improved environment and consequent well-being exists

Approach

Communitarian approach of CURE in its work advances the resilience of urban community by enabling them to identify and prioritise their concerns, make choices and agree on solutions, prepare development plans and strategies for implementation, contribute resources and share in the maintenance of facilities. This approach helps connect the individual with the community.

Resilience & Information

Urban communities in the slums show incredible resourcefulness and resilience in the face of hardships in their daily life. They strive for solving water and sanitation problems, digging and covering drainage and ditches, planting trees to improve environment. These may require specialised skills and substantial resources, which they may not have.

CURE for the last two decade has been facilitating, enabling & strengthening urban by providing scientific solutions in water conservation, proper sanitation, planned housing and clean environment leading to better quality of life.

CURE is focuses has been on building resilient communities and cities. It helps cities with the preparation of citywide slum upgrading and environmental resilience plans. The plans are designed to do three things:

- level people up - ensure equality,
- connect all the dots - ensure comprehensive and
- sustainable ecological solutions and integrate people within the city's fabric - ensure inclusive development.



CURE works with urban informal and low-income communities to un-think, reimagine, innovate and de-engineer solutions to include and integrate people in the processes of city development.

CURE works on several issues to make a sustainable change in the lives of people by engaging the community to take pride in the improvement of their neighbourhood, nurturing them to be equal and make them capable and resilient. Some of the focus areas of work are:



Water & Sanitation

To setup improved and integrational WASH services to poor communities that are innovative, scalable, sustainable and community-led to ensure equality, better health and enhanced productivity for sustained poverty reduction
Number served by water projects: 18500 HHs
Number served by sanitation projects: 114000 HHs



Environment

To promote community-managed sustainable clean healthy environment in urban slum settlements and schools by creating basic water, sanitation, housing facilities and waste management in urban areas
Number served: all projects (7,500 HH in Shamli, Dharamshala and Agra)



Education

To increase knowledge of confronting upcoming challenges related to climatic changes and its impact on urban informal settlements through formal education among students and professionals.
Number served: 6.500 children



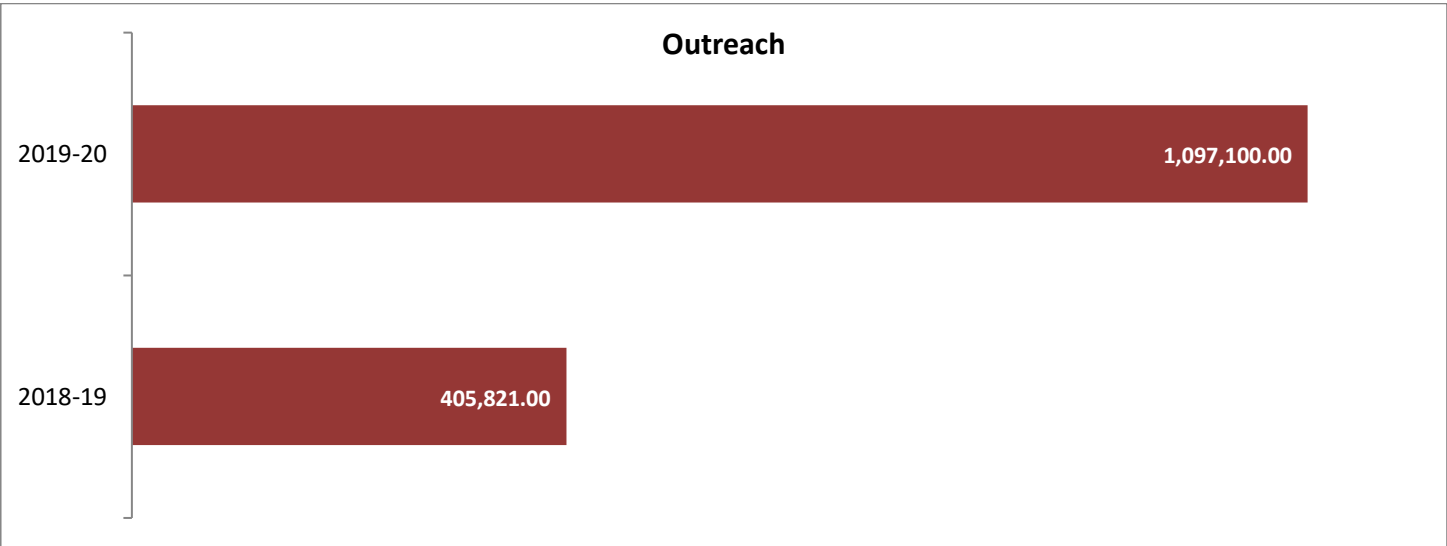
Health

To encourage and sustain community partnerships to create awareness about social determinants of health and influence decisions in implementation of public programmes.
Number served: 78,000 HHs



Slum Upgradation

To develop, community-led, integrated inclusive and equitable models for slum upgrading and sustainable livelihoods, capable of replication and scale
Number served: all projects 600 Women (Agra, Delhi. Dharamshala, Shahajahanpur)



POTABLE WATER SUPPLY..... Rain Water Harvesting

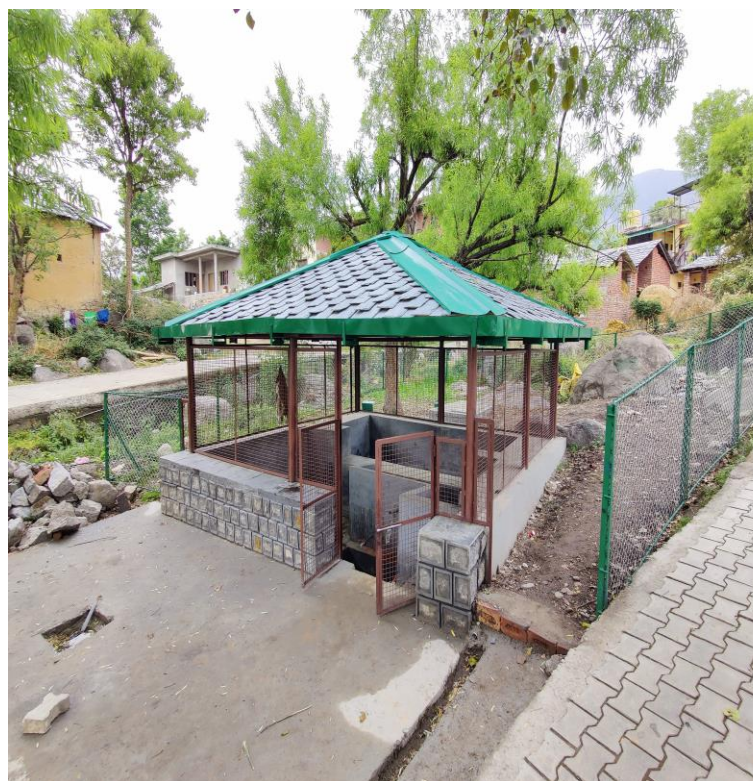
Five key water resilience activities were conducted to repair and restore groundwater aquifers:

- rainwater harvesting at household and community level;
- recharging rainwater overflows into the ground to restore groundwater;
- treating and recycling, black and grey wastewater in storm water drains by promoting an ecosystem of solutions;
- mobilise communities to repair its water bodies and recharge their abilities;
- promoting behaviour change in water use and extraction practices towards valuing and conserving the natural resource.



"There was no water in the area, so we either used dirty water or purchased water. CURE helped us in Rain Water Harvesting.....It is like a water bank. We take out stored water in times of need."

.... Bharti Devi, Community member



OUTCOMES of their resilience

Economic: Saving on buying water for cooking and drinking and out of pocket expenses for water-borne diseases by harvesting 693,500 litres rainwater between (2019-20) by seven community RWHs. Schools saved cost of a year's water supply by tankers after RWH tanks, and increased enrollment and attendance, especially of girls. The city is estimated to have saved \$5 million in energy costs in pumping, treating and supplying water to these neighbourhoods.

Social: Area cleaned up, land values were raised. Communities collectively managed water resources gaining greater solidarity, empowerment, social respect and stronger safety nets.

Environmentally: Damaged aquifers are repaired and slums are transformed into cleaner, healthier livable habitats. Local farmers are switching from sewage to clean water farming with potential impacts on the food-chain

Number of people benefitted: 18500 HH

Donor: USAID

SANITATION SERVICES Improved WASH Services

Resilience of community is seen in bringing improved and integrational WASH services by creating partnerships to:

- equip every home with taps and toilets;
- introduce better health;
- ensure equality;
- enhance productivity for sustained poverty reduction.

Before and After CURE intervention:



PROCESS of becoming part of the solution to urban resilience:

Innovating service delivery models like decentralised and de-engineered solutions like simplified sewers, slum networking, cluster septic tanks, customised home toilet, financing models, slope restoration and wastewater treatment to prevent flooding etc. are used. Additionally SANMAN (SANitation MANager, aGIS based tool is applied to

A behaviour change communication (BCC) programme is undertaken to encourage behaviour change to sustain the initiatives.

Health outcomes are approached ecologically by CURE with slums participating in the solution to improve them.

Number of people benefitted: 114,000 households in 140 slum settlements in 08 cities.

Donor: USAID

CLEAN ENVIRONMENT IN SCHOOLS..... an ecosystem approach

Resilience of the community for clean environment and its sustainability was supported by shifting the focus to school and students. Six municipal schools in East Delhi were being developed as zero-waste schools using an ecosystem approach.

- improving school toilets - making them functional
- behaviour change among students for hygienic use of toilets
- improving drinking water facilities,
- harvesting rainwater,
- recharging wastewater and excessive rainwater into the ground
- greening the school compounds.



OUTCOMES of their resilience

Children monitor hygienic behavior of peers and take the messages home to parents creating a seamless link between school and home sanitation practices.

Number of people benefitted: 6500 kids

Donor: FINCHAM, USAID

HEALTH SERVICES.....addressing maternal and child health services

Reproductive health knowledge and services in 22 slums of Agra was supported by USAID and the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM).

- every settlement created Community Health Committees to create knowledge and persuade pregnant women for prenatal and child health checkups.
- water and sanitation interventions were supported.
- new toilets in homes of pregnant and nursing women were built using the CAP technical and financial model.



"Now about 95% of our children do not fall sick. Earlier they drank dirty water, which caused ill health. With CURE's assistance they now understand the importance of clean water. After Rain Water Harvesting they now get clean water to drink at home"

.....Lokendra Pal Singh, Community member

OUTCOMES of their resilience:

A **City Health Plan** to provide a framework for future health interventions in a comprehensive manner.

A replicable urban health model that comprehensively manages preventive and curative health issues among the poor in cities.

Number of people benefitted: **78,000 HH**

Donor: USAID, FORD Foundation

BUILDING RESILIENT URBAN COMMUNITIES (BRuCom)

Architects and urban planners, who can deal with the complex challenges of sustainable social housing and the development of inclusive urban communities are in huge demand. The Building Resilient Communities project aims at

- a. fostering collaboration between different Higher Education Institutes in-and outside India.
- b. increasing the relevance of Architecture and Planning Education in developing resilient urban communities.
- c. assisting current teaching approaches and developing new course and curriculum that take account of societal needs and the complex challenges of sustainable social housing

Seven organisations including planning and architecture institutions and NGOs are a part of this project.

Change agent in the community

A central Delhi slum, Kali Bari, with 360 settlements had similar constraints like any other slum of the capital – long queues for water at community taps, women fighting to fill water, debilitated condition of unclean community toilets, dirty water seeping out of open drains on accessways and into the houses. Meenu Singh, a resident of this settlement, rallied women from her community to resolve this problem. With assistance from CURE, which is implementing the USAID assisted Pani Aur Swachhata mein Sajhedari (PASS) in the settlement, the women mapped the settlement, identified the resources available, the gaps and issues and came up with potential solutions. With the assistance of CURE facilitators the women's group, led by Meenu Singh, started writing request letters to improve their settlement's water and sanitation conditions. This led to Meenu Singh's popularity and she was elected the Pradhan (Chief) of the settlement.

Soon Meenu, the Pradhan, formed groups to work with CURE and Municipal Corporation to improve civic facilities. She and the group continued writing letters to the authorities for granting them the service and facilities. As a result water collection points were increased, the water supply improved in the settlement, community toilets increased and even a seat for the differently abled people was added. With support from CURE's PASS project and the Municipality, drains and sewer lines were connected and open drains were covered. A dedicated place, called community resource centre, was provided for children to play and learn, women to hold meetings to discuss challenges and brainstorm how to solve them, the Government doctor to treat the people and children's immunization programs. The youth learns computer skills and other market-oriented trainings as well as benefit from the government schemes and programs that are available on-line.

Meenu, with her leadership skills and support from CURE, involved the community in their own progress. Technology was used by PASS project to bring the community together, as the Pradhan and members of groups shared their experiences and lessons learned on the WhatsApp group formed by PASS. The community found a leader who could channelize the resilience of her fellow community members to improve their quality of life.

Enhancing ResilienceActivities conducted this year

Exploring Bio-Remediation Techniques at Varanasi

To enhance resilience of the urban community CURE is planning to implement an eco-technology project in Shahjahanpur with USAID. A project site visit has been conducted in March 2020. Another potential site for similar intervention emerged at Varanasi in partnership with GWRPL (Green water revolutions Pvt Ltd). After discussion with Mr. Yeshwant Kulkarni (MD, GWRPL) Project Associates took a closer look and understood the practical nuances of the project.



Plumbing Training- Jaipur

The community is accustomed to issues around water supply, leakages and breakages in the pipelines, blockages in drains and contamination of water due to the pressure on water and drainage system caused by infrastructural bottlenecks and high population density in the settlements. Availability of plumbers within their own settlements can reduce their expenses to mend these problems, as these issues call for trained skilled plumbers owing to their technocratic nature. The solution was reached after multiple discussions with community leaders; the CURE team conducted a plumbing training program. The 15-day curriculum served dual purpose of improving technical capacity of the community through skill building and creating avenues for livelihood. A total of 27 interested community members participated in the training program. The focus was mostly given on hands-on practical applications of pipings, fittings, joints, leveling, selection and usage of tools, fixing etc. The participants' knowledge and understanding were tested through in-training quizzes and practical. Upon completion, all candidates were handed a certificate of completion by Mr. Manu Sharma, the Assistant Engineer of PHED.

Basic Computer Training

In order to ensure the proper functioning of the Community Resource Centre (CRC), the members of the CRC operating group were provided training on the basics of using a computer. The month-long course covered the basics of Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint, accessing and browsing information over the internet, creating an email ID, writing emails, typing in Hindi and English and record keeping. In addition, the participants also learnt how to take a print, scan documents and make copies of official documents like government forms. This training too served as livelihood generation option. All the participants were tested for their understanding and were awarded a certificate of completion.

Resilience of the community manifested into improvement of services through their hard work and dedication, supported and channelized by CURE



Kids study, and play here in the resource centre.

Intense brain-storming sessions result in well-articulated demands from the government



We built a place so that our kids can develop properly.

CRCs have become the hub for women and child activities, skill development, health camps etc.



I want each house in this settlement to have their own water supply.



We've installed more water points.

Increase in water collection points have improved the lives of women, who are responsible for water collection and management in nearly every household in urban settlements

INCLUDE

CURE is the Secretariat of INCLUDE, a platform of Indian NGOs that are deeply committed to build local capacities of communities, cities and organisations and promote strong advocacy in favor of slums and low-income settlements. It also nurtures the next generation of NGOs.

The network, including SPARC, MHT, Shelter Associates, South Asia HomeNet, Habitat for Humanity, India, YUVA and CURE, works together to create a more inclusive framework that leverages state resources and programs.

For more information on INCLUDE please visit INCLUDE.ORG.IN

Board members and meetings

Abdul Rahim

Ashwajit Singh

Chetan Vaidya

Dr. Dinesh Mehta

Kaustav Kanti

Gangadhar Jha

Jasmin Singh

Madhav Raman

Nabaroon
Bhattacharjee

Meera Mehta

Rolee Aranya

Neeraj Jain

Ratan Chhabra

Tanya Singh

Usha Rana

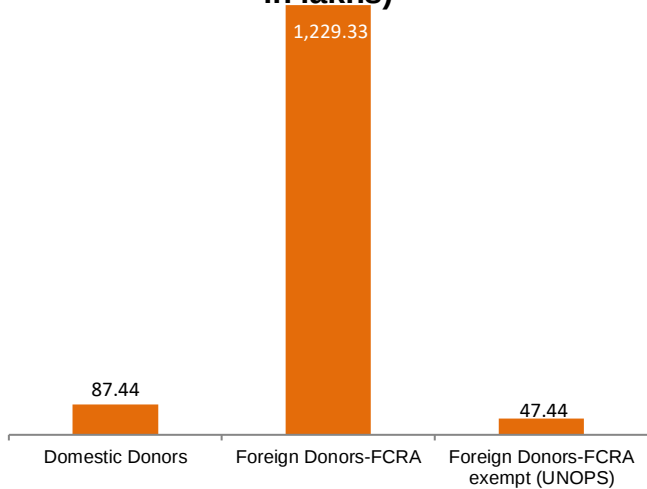


Group photo of staff

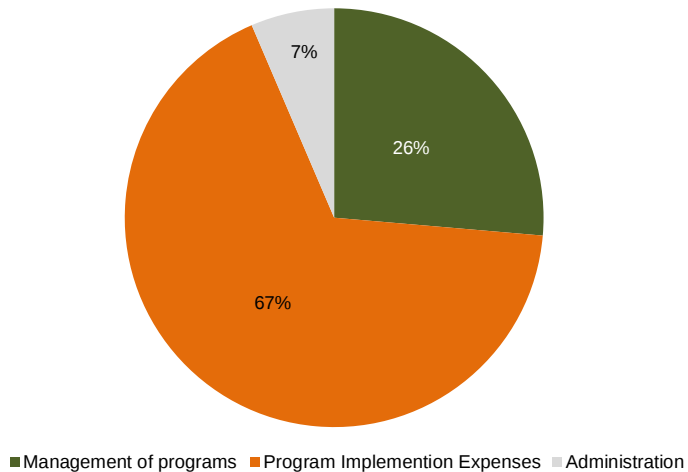


Financial report

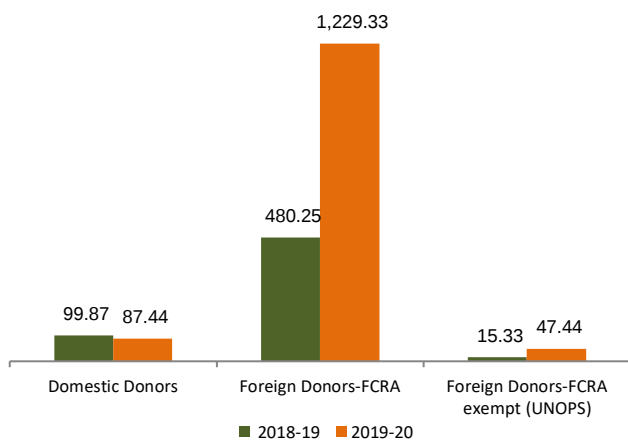
Amount received from donors (INR in lakhs)



Amount spent by category (%)



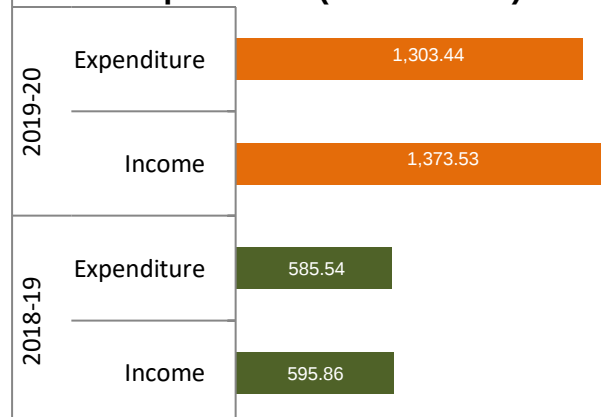
Amount received during present and previous years (INR in lakhs)



List of Donors



Comparative Income Vs. Expenditure (INR in lakhs)



PUBLICATIONS

1. Participatory Action and Research as a Framework for Transdisciplinary Collaboration

A Pilot Study on Healthy, Sustainable, Low-Income Housing in Delhi, India

Emily Nix, Jacob Paulos, Clive Shrubsole, Hector Altamirano-Medina, Kristine Belesova, Michael Davies, Renu Khosla and Paul Wilkinson

Available at: https://cureindia.org/assets/files/Nix_et_al-2018-Global_Challenges.pdf

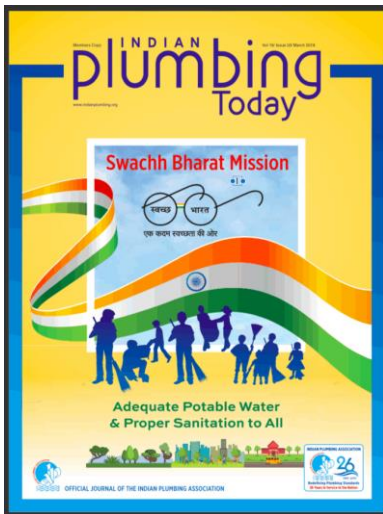
FULL PAPER

Transdisciplinary Collaboration

Global
Challenges
www.global-challenges.com

Participatory Action Research as a Framework for Transdisciplinary Collaboration: A Pilot Study on Healthy, Sustainable, Low-Income Housing in Delhi, India

Emily Nix,* Jacob Paulose, Clive Shrubsole, Hector Altamirano-Medina, Kristine Belesova, Michael Davies, Renu Khosla, and Paul Wilkinson



2. Case Study of Sanitation of Slums in NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh

Self-Building Mechanism under Swachh Bharat Mission

By Suhasini Gupta

Available at:

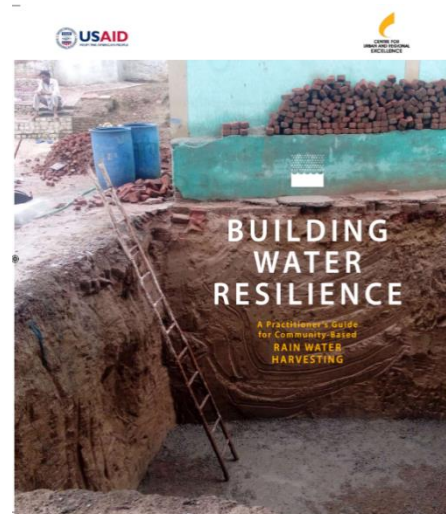
<https://cureindia.org/assets/files/ITP%20March%20for%20Whatsapp.pdf>

3. Building Water Resilience

A Practitioner's Guide for Community-based Rain Water Harvesting

Edited by Shveta Mathur

Available at: https://cureindia.org/assets/files/CURE_Final.pdf





To know more about our programs and support us please visit us at:

<https://cureindia.org/>

To meet beneficiaries of our program and staff please contact us between Monday to Friday (1000 hours to 1830 hours) at:

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