

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23



**CENTRE FOR
URBAN AND REGIONAL
EXCELLENCE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	1
Director's Message	2
About CURE	3
Vision Statement.....	3
Mission statement.....	3
Approach.....	3
Our Work area	4
USAID SAMAGRA Urban Health Project In Bhatti Mines, New Delhi	5
Resilience School Project With Oak North Foundation	9
Swachhata Mein Sajhedaari With Interglobe	13
Water Hub	16
Publications	17
Community Rainwater Harvesting for Water Resilience.....	17

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As I look back on the past year, I am inspired by the unwavering commitment and resilience of the communities we work with and the CURE team. The year 2022-2023 has been transformative, filled with progress as we continue to empower urban informal and low-income communities to take charge of their development.

At CURE, our work is rooted in the belief that sustainable change is achieved when people are actively involved in shaping their own futures. Over the last year, we have strengthened our efforts to foster community-led solutions that address pressing urban challenges, including access to basic services, sanitation, housing, and environmental sustainability. By enabling communities to drive these initiatives, we are laying the foundation for long-term, inclusive growth.

Our communitarian approach continues to guide us, ensuring that the voices of the people are central to every intervention. This has allowed us to create spaces where individuals and families can come together, identify challenges, and develop solutions that are both practical and sustainable. Through our collective efforts, we are not only improving lives but also nurturing a culture of shared responsibility and resilience.

As we look ahead, CURE remains dedicated to fostering partnerships, strengthening community capabilities, and advocating for an inclusive approach to urban development. The work we have done together over the past year is a testament to the power of collaboration, and I am confident that with your continued support, we will reach even greater heights in the years to come.

Thank you for your trust and belief in our mission. Together, we will continue to build more equitable, sustainable cities for all.

Warm regards,

Renu Khosla

Director, Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE)

ABOUT CURE

The Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE) is a not-for-profit, 'unthinking' development organization that works with urban, informal, and low-income communities. CURE's strength is its communicant approach. CURE believes that community participation is a 'powerful organizing ideal' - the scaffolding that fosters sustainable development in and of communities. It seeks to build real and meaningful partnerships in cities that contribute to the plan and design of local interventions. CURE facilitates processes that enable people to come together, recognize their problems, articulate their needs and concerns, and plan solutions designed to improve the quality of their lives with equitable solutions for basic urban services - taps and toilets at home, housing, livelihoods, health care etc.

Vision Statement

CURE India envisions a world where all people are equal and must get access to an equal level of services. CURE believes in demonstrating several integrative models of sustainable urban development where the poor are enabled to build home toilets and houses, connect to potable drinking water, get access to waste management services, harvest rainwater and be water resilient and improve their living environments.

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.

Approach

Communitarian approach of CURE in its work advances the resilience of urban community by enabling them to identify and prioritize 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.

OUR WORK AREA

The Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE) adopts a communitarian approach at the heart of its core strategies. This approach measures the return on investment by the resilience and self-sufficiency of the communities, empowered to drive their own success stories with minimal intervention from CURE. Leveraging innovative engineering designs and methods, CURE ensures comprehensive and sustainable ecological solutions that integrate people seamlessly into the city's fabric. By partnering with like-minded donor organizations, various agencies, and government departments, and with active community involvement, CURE has focused its efforts on areas with the greatest need, striving to bring dignity and improved living conditions to people's lives.

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 neighborhood, nurturing them to be equal and make them capable and resilient.

Some of the focus areas of work are:

- Slum upgrading
- Water
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Environment
- Housing
- Livelihood

USAID SAMAGRA URBAN HEALTH PROJECT IN BHATTI MINES, NEW DELHI

Water Accessibility and Infrastructure Enhancements

The USAID SAMAGRA project undertook significant efforts to improve water accessibility and infrastructure in Bhatti Mines. Initial technical assessments revealed critical areas for improvement. In response, water pipelines were extended to underserved homes, ensuring reliable access to clean water. The project also introduced innovative drainage solutions to better manage stormwater. Additionally, simplified sewer networks and compost pits were established, integrated with city services to enhance waste management and support sustainable agriculture.

Community involvement played a crucial role in the project's success. Residents participated in water testing and the maintenance of submerged pipelines, fostering community ownership. The installation of new borewells further addressed water scarcity, improving access to water for daily use.

Sanitation and Hygiene Initiatives

To address sanitation challenges, the project piloted bio septic tank toilets, providing a sustainable solution for waste management. Cleanliness drives and educational initiatives through Community Resource Centers (CRCs) raised awareness about hygiene and sanitation. These centers also hosted training sessions to equip residents with the knowledge and skills needed for maintaining a healthy living environment.

The project introduced door-to-door waste collection and segregation, significantly improving waste management practices. Advocacy efforts resulted in enhanced maintenance of public restrooms, which contributed to better community health outcomes.

Environmental Sustainability

A key achievement was the restoration of a local pond, previously used as a landfill. This project involved removing legacy debris and revitalizing the pond's ecosystem. The transformed pond

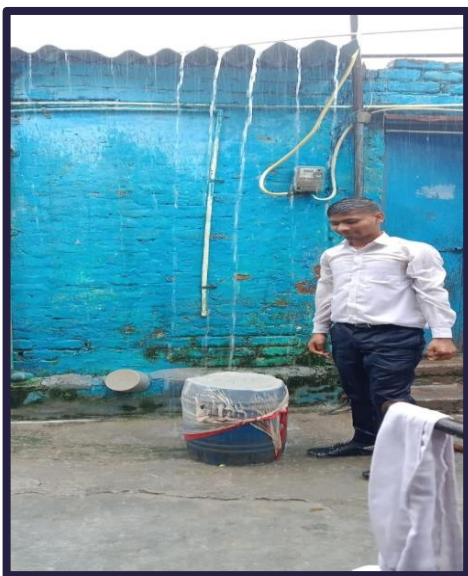
now serves as a recreational area, enhancing both environmental quality and community well-being.

The project implemented comprehensive waste management programs focusing on composting and recycling, reducing the environmental footprint of the community. Energy efficiency was promoted through the installation of metered power connections in households. Additionally, the project collaborated with city-level stakeholders to integrate environmental considerations into urban planning.

A community monitoring committee was established to oversee environmental conservation efforts, ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of the project's initiatives.

Impact

The USAID SAMAGRA project has made substantial progress in improving water, sanitation, hygiene, and environmental conditions in Bhatti Mines. These efforts have not only enhanced the quality of life for residents but also promoted sustainable practices and community resilience. Moving forward, the project aims to build on these successes, continuing to innovate and expand its impact in the community.



Households initiating rainwater reuse



Construction of household toilet in Bhatti Mines



Plantation drive by youth group



Tankers sourced



Borewell drilling at Kaluram Chowk



Pond Rejuvenation

RESILIENCE SCHOOL PROJECT WITH OAK NORTH FOUNDATION

Water Resilient Infrastructure

The Resilient Schools project, supported by the OakNorth Foundation, implemented comprehensive water management systems at Government Model Sanskriti Primary School, Dhanwapur, and Government Primary School, Fazilpur Jharsa in Gurugram. The installation of two Rainwater Harvesting Units ensures a reliable water supply, particularly during emergencies and droughts. This harvested water not only supports daily school needs but also serves critical functions such as firefighting.

Additionally, three Groundwater Recharge Units have been installed to effectively raise local water tables. These units also play a key role in preventing water seepage into classrooms, thanks to retrofitted roofs that enhance the infrastructure's resilience.

The project also implemented two Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS), which recycle and reuse 89,600 liters of wastewater annually. This treated water is used for irrigating landscaped areas, significantly reducing overall water demand. These systems are integrated with four Hand Washing Platforms and Drinking Water Platforms, designed to meet school requirements and accessibility standards, setting a benchmark for water management in educational institutions.

Sanitation and Hygiene Initiatives

As part of the Resilient Schools project, extensive efforts were made to improve sanitation and hygiene within the school communities. Waste segregation systems were established, with separate bins for dry and wet waste. This initiative was complemented by behavior modification and education campaigns to teach proper waste management practices. Daily waste collection services were organized to ensure timely disposal, and wet waste was directed to composting facilities.

To further enhance sanitation, the project included infrastructure upgrades such as remodeled restrooms and the installation of compost pits, reducing instances of open defecation. These

measures, combined with initiatives to improve water quality and access to safe drinking water, have significantly contributed to better public health outcomes.

Zero Waste Initiative

The project also focused on transforming schools into green spaces that emphasize environmental sustainability. This was achieved by implementing the principles of refuse, reduce, reuse, and recycle. The project successfully created 1440 square meters of green spaces and planted 550 saplings, enhancing biodiversity and improving air quality. The use of compost produced from wet waste for these plantations highlights the project's commitment to sustainable waste management.

To further integrate sustainability into the school environment, kitchen gardens were established to educate students about sustainable agriculture and promote healthier eating habits. Efforts to reduce dark spaces and increase green areas have not only beautified the school grounds but also fostered a healthier ecosystem.

Impact

The Resilient Schools project has significantly improved water management, sanitation, hygiene, and environmental sustainability at the participating schools. These initiatives have created a safer, healthier, and more sustainable learning environment for students and staff. Looking ahead, the project aims to continue expanding these green and sustainable practices, setting a standard for educational institutions and contributing to broader community resilience.



Kanhai School Rainwater recharging DEWAT



Boys Toilet



Girls Toilet



Toilet



Roof repairing



Cleaning rusting and Painting Swings



Children Toilet



Handicapped Toilet



Staff Toilet

Infrastructure upgradation in School



**Community
engagement
(plantation
drive)
introducing
green & unused
spaces in school**



kitchen garden (GMPS Kanhai)

SWACHHATA MEIN SAJHEDAARI WITH INTERGLOBE

Sanitation and Hygiene Enhancements

The "Swachhata Mein Sajhedaari" project in Hanuman Camp focused on improving sanitation and hygiene standards in underprivileged slum communities. The project adopted a comprehensive approach that included infrastructure upgrades, community education, and beautification initiatives, all aimed at enhancing the quality of life and public health.

One of the project's key accomplishments was the development of a sustainable solid waste management system. Plans were finalized with the community for door-to-door waste collection, a crucial step toward improving cleanliness and reducing health risks associated with improper waste disposal. This initiative is set to significantly mitigate issues related to unsanitary living conditions.

Community Engagement and Infrastructure Upgrades

The community actively participated in the national "Swachhta Pakhwada" initiative, particularly through 'Shramdaan'—a volunteer-driven cleanliness drive. This collective effort demonstrated a strong commitment to maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

The project also focused on upgrading and maintaining community restrooms to ensure access to hygienic facilities. These improvements were vital in promoting better hygiene practices and preventing health issues. By providing well-maintained restrooms, the project aimed to encourage the community to adopt and maintain high standards of personal hygiene.

Drainage and Water Management

Addressing waterlogging issues was another critical aspect of the project. Plans for a new drainage system were developed to improve living conditions and reduce the prevalence of waterborne diseases. This infrastructure enhancement is expected to alleviate the chronic problem of standing water, which poses significant health risks.

Educational Programs and Community Outreach

Educational programs were implemented to equip residents with essential knowledge and skills in sanitation and hygiene. These programs aimed to raise awareness about the importance of cleanliness and proper waste management, thereby fostering a culture of health and hygiene within the community.

Impact

The Swachhata Mein Sajhedaari project has laid a strong foundation for improving sanitation and hygiene in Hanuman Camp. By combining infrastructure improvements with community engagement and education, the project has made significant strides in enhancing public health and overall quality of life. Moving forward, the project will continue to focus on sustaining these improvements and expanding initiatives to further uplift the community.

Waste segregator at Hanuman camp



Cleanliness Drive



Cleanliness alongside the Drains in Hanuman Camp



WATER HUB

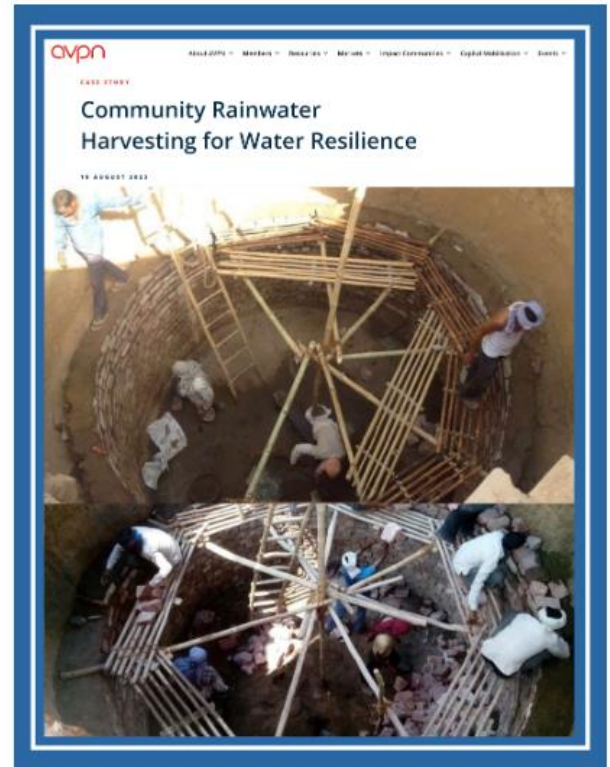


The Water Security and Sustainability Hub project along Delhi's Barapullah drain is an innovative initiative aimed at addressing water challenges, initially on three settlements—Jagdamba Camp, Andrews Ganj, and Madrasi Camp—the project emphasized community mobilization and involvement. Initiatives includes resource mapping to identify community needs, forming groups for collective action, and conducting water testing to assess quality and quantity. Surveys to measure water pressure help plan identify areas needing better water supply. These efforts not only gather crucial data but also raise awareness among residents and empower them to contribute to sustainable water management. By integrating cutting-edge technologies and community participation, the project sets a standard for inclusive urban development, promoting water security for local communities.

PUBLICATIONS

Community Rainwater Harvesting for Water Resilience

Agra faces water scarcity due to contaminated Yamuna River, affecting impoverished people and causing health problems, poverty, and illness. CURE works on rainwater harvesting to improve urban impoverished communities' water resilience. Community-led projects aim to build socially coherent, water-resilient neighbourhoods, involving knowledge sharing and active participation in rainwater collection systems.



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

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