

Individual Household Sanitation Project

Supported by NOV India CSR

Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad, Maharashtra (2015–2016)

Project Overview

Maharashtra Social Housing and Action League (MASHAL), with financial support from NOV India under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, implemented an Individual Household Sanitation Project aimed at improving access to safe and dignified sanitation facilities for vulnerable families residing in informal settlements across Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad.

The project was conceived in response to the continuing sanitation challenges faced by slum communities despite earlier investments in community sanitation infrastructure under various government schemes. While several sanitation initiatives had improved access to shared facilities, many households continued to lack private toilets, particularly women, children, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities.

Recognizing this gap, MASHAL undertook a focused intervention to construct individual household toilet units for economically vulnerable families living in slum settlements. The project aligned with the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission and contributed towards improving public health, hygiene, safety, and dignity among urban poor communities.

Project Goal

The project aimed to provide access to safe, hygienic, and sustainable individual household sanitation facilities for low-income families residing in informal settlements and underserved urban communities.

Project Duration

- Planned Duration: May 2015 to April 2016
- Actual Implementation Period: November 2015 to August 2016

Project Coverage

The project was implemented in selected slum settlements across:

- Yerawada, Pune

- Hadapsar, Pune
- Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) Area

Key Project Outputs

- Construction of 150 individual household toilet units.
- Improved sanitation access for vulnerable urban poor households.
- Strengthened community awareness regarding sanitation and hygiene.
- Enhanced participation of local communities and elected representatives in sanitation planning.

Beneficiary Identification and Community Mobilization

A major component of the project involved identifying the most deserving households requiring sanitation facilities. MASHAL leveraged its long-standing presence and extensive experience in Pune's slum communities to undertake detailed field assessments and consultations.

The project was implemented in two phases:

Phase I – Yerawada

Yerawada was selected as the initial intervention area due to MASHAL's longstanding engagement in the locality through various housing and community development programmes, including large-scale in-situ housing projects.

Field teams conducted extensive surveys and consultations across settlements such as:

- Nagpur Chawl
- Jayprakash Nagar
- Mahatma Gandhi Nagar

Through community meetings and beneficiary assessments, eligible households lacking access to sanitation facilities were identified. Under the project, **67 individual household toilets** were constructed in Yerawada.

Phase II – Hadapsar and Pimpri-Chinchwad

The second phase expanded project coverage to settlements in Hadapsar and Pimpri-Chinchwad, including:

- Mahatma Phule Vasahat
- Sainath Vasahat
- Ramoshi Ali

Community engagement was particularly important in these areas because earlier commitments regarding toilet construction had not materialized, leading to skepticism among residents. MASHAL organized multiple meetings with community members, local leaders, and elected representatives to build trust, explain project objectives, and secure community participation.

The organization also facilitated discussions with local corporators and municipal authorities to resolve infrastructure-related challenges, including drainage connectivity and service linkages essential for toilet functionality.

Planning and Design Process

Since this was MASHAL's first large-scale initiative focused exclusively on individual household toilets, considerable effort was invested in designing a technically sound, durable, and user-friendly sanitation model.

The organization evaluated sanitation models implemented by various agencies and conducted consultations with contractors, engineers, and beneficiaries. Rather than adopting low-cost solutions that often lacked basic amenities, MASHAL prioritized quality, usability, and long-term sustainability.

Each toilet unit was designed to include:

- Brick masonry construction.
- Internal plastering and waterproofing.
- Ceramic tile flooring and wall dado.
- Toilet seat and sanitation fixtures.
- Overhead water storage tank.
- Plumbing and drainage connections.
- PVC door and ventilator.
- Electrical light point.

- Adequate ventilation and user safety features.

The average investment per toilet unit was approximately ₹23,000, including construction materials and labour costs.

Innovative Site Planning Solutions

One of the greatest challenges encountered during implementation was the severe space constraint within dense slum settlements.

MASHAL adopted innovative and context-specific design solutions to accommodate sanitation facilities within highly congested residential structures. Depending on site conditions, toilet units were constructed:

- Within existing ground-floor layouts.
- On mezzanine floors.
- On upper floors of structurally safe buildings.
- In carefully selected external locations where internal construction was not feasible.

For multi-storeyed structures, structural assessments were undertaken and technical approvals obtained to ensure safety before construction.

Throughout implementation, MASHAL maintained a policy of prioritizing in-house sanitation facilities while making limited exceptions for extremely vulnerable households where no alternative solution existed.

Project Implementation

The implementation process involved multiple stages:

Documentation and Beneficiary Verification

Eligible beneficiaries submitted required documentation, including:

- Identity proof.
- Residence proof.
- Utility records.
- Photographs.
- Relevant ownership or occupancy documents.

Necessary agreements and beneficiary contributions were completed prior to construction.

Construction Process

Construction activities were carried out through nine empanelled contractors under MASHAL's supervision. Work was executed in phased stages to ensure quality control and timely completion.

Monitoring and Quality Assurance

MASHAL conducted regular site inspections and technical supervision throughout the construction process. Completion certificates were issued following verification of construction quality and functionality.

Community Participation and Stakeholder Engagement

The project placed significant emphasis on community participation and stakeholder collaboration.

MASHAL organized:

- Community consultations.
- Awareness meetings.
- Beneficiary orientation sessions.
- Coordination meetings with corporators and municipal representatives.

These efforts helped build confidence among beneficiaries and strengthened local ownership of the intervention.

Outcomes and Impact

The project generated significant improvements in sanitation access and quality of life for participating households.

Improved Access to Household Sanitation

A total of **150 individual household toilet units** were successfully constructed, providing safe and convenient sanitation access to families that previously lacked adequate facilities.

Enhanced Health and Hygiene

Improved sanitation facilities contributed to better hygiene practices, reduced exposure to environmental contamination, and enhanced public health outcomes within target communities.

Increased Safety and Dignity

Private sanitation facilities particularly benefited women, children, elderly individuals, and vulnerable household members by improving privacy, safety, and dignity.

Community Confidence and Trust

The successful completion of the project strengthened community trust in participatory development initiatives and demonstrated the effectiveness of collaborative CSR interventions.

Key Learnings

The project generated several important insights:

- Availability of drainage infrastructure is critical for successful sanitation interventions.
- Community trust-building is essential in areas where previous commitments have remained unfulfilled.
- Individual household sanitation projects require flexible and context-specific design solutions.
- Quality construction significantly enhances beneficiary satisfaction and long-term usability.
- Close coordination with local government representatives facilitates smoother implementation.

Project Significance

The NOV India-supported Individual Household Sanitation Project demonstrated how targeted CSR investments can address critical urban sanitation challenges among vulnerable communities. By combining technical expertise, community participation, and stakeholder engagement, MASHAL successfully improved access to safe sanitation facilities for underserved households.

The initiative not only contributed to the broader objectives of urban sanitation and public health but also reinforced the importance of community-centered

infrastructure development. The project's success led to continued demand for similar interventions and established a replicable model for future household sanitation programmes in urban informal settlements.