



Aga Khan Agency for Habitat
India

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025





Aga Khan Agency for Habitat
India

AGA
KHAN
AGENCY
FOR
HABITAT
INDIA

ANNUAL REPORT
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Suhail Nathani
Chairman
Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India

As cities across India grow and climate change intensifies, the need for resilient, inclusive, and sustainable urban development has never become the need of the hour. At the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) India, we are working at improving environment, infrastructure, and community empowerment to build safer, healthier, and climate-resilient habitats for vulnerable communities.

In urban areas, our work focuses on strengthening climate adaptation through nature based and community-led solutions. From retrofitting housing societies with green infrastructure to reducing the

“Using tools such as GIS mapping, risk assessments, and participatory planning, we ensure that development is both data-driven and rooted in local know-how. Our programs are backed by participatory, data-driven planning, mapping hazards and assessing vulnerability.

impact of urban heat islands, our interventions are designed to improve lives while reducing carbon footprints.

Water security continues to be a growing concern, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas. Through initiatives such as rainwater harvesting, refurbishing water bodies, and participatory water governance, we are helping communities enhance their water

resilience in the face of uncertain rainfall and growing demand. Similarly, in coastal regions of Gujarat and Maharashtra, our community-led resilience building efforts are helping villages respond to climate-induced disasters such as cyclones, storms and floods.

Our programs focus on building the capacity of local communities, especially women and youth, and institutions through training, disaster preparedness planning, and awareness campaigns. Using tools such as GIS mapping, risk assessments, and participatory planning, we ensure that development is both data-driven and rooted in local know-how. These are backed by participatory, data-driven planning, mapping hazards and assessing vulnerability. Nurturing local leadership through training and awareness programs and empowering communities is what we believe real resilience springs from.

Whether it is mitigating urban heat, restoring coastal ecosystems, improving access to water, or enabling safer housing, our goal is to strengthen the resilience of communities to withstand climate shocks and build long-term sustainability. This work is made possible through our partnerships with local governments, civil society, research institutions, and donors whose steadfast support and shared commitment enable us to pilot innovative models, scale community-led solutions, and sustain long-term impact on the ground. Together, we are shaping a future where vulnerable communities have the opportunity to live in dignity and security in the face of changing climate.

We are privileged to be a part of the Aga Khan Development Network. The values, ethics and technical expertise they bring to AKAH India enables us to better serve the local communities we work with. For this we remain grateful.



FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Prerana Langa
Chief Executive Officer
Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India

Climate change is no longer a distant challenge—it is an urgent reality. Over the past year, the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India (AKAH) India, has deepened its commitment to building resilient, inclusive communities.

A major milestone during this period was the launch of the Mira Bhayandar Climate Action Plan—a data-driven and community-anchored strategy to guide local climate responses. Our analysis uncovered a critical insight: over 40.5% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions stem from residential energy use. In response, we implemented a landmark retrofit in Nav Yuwan, now recognized as Asia's first IFC-World Bank EDGE Advanced-certified green retrofit of an existing housing society. With over 40% energy and water savings, this model demonstrates that decarbonization of urban homes is both achievable and scalable.

In 2024 alone, India experienced more than 80 heatwave days, putting over 1.05 billion people at risk of heat stress. Recognizing the urgency, we've supported cities in developing adaptation and mitigation roadmaps, with a sharp focus on urban heat resilience—especially for informal sector workers and their families.

Our on-ground interventions are already delivering impact:

- In informal settlements, passive cooling solutions have lowered indoor temperatures by 4–5°C, enhancing comfort, health, and dignity.
- Through the Green Schools initiative, municipal schools are achieving 20% improvements in energy and water efficiency, while fostering a culture of climate awareness among young learners.

These are not isolated efforts—they are part of a systemic, integrated approach. Across Gujarat and

“In 2024 alone, India experienced more than 80 heatwave days, putting over 1.05 billion people at risk of heat stress. Recognizing the urgency, we've supported cities in developing adaptation and mitigation roadmaps, with a sharp focus on urban heat resilience—especially for informal sector workers and their families.”

Maharashtra, we are restoring traditional water bodies, implementing rainwater harvesting, and reinforcing coastal buffers—securing both ecosystems and livelihoods. We are embedding resilience not just in infrastructure, but in governance—through partnerships with local governments, scientific assessments, and empowered communities.

At the heart of our work is a singular conviction: resilience begins with people. Guided by science, informed by lived experience, and driven by collaboration with donor partners/government/community, we are demonstrating that locally grounded solutions can drive large-scale, replicable climate impact.

We are not merely responding to climate change—we are shaping a future where communities can thrive amid uncertainty. Let us continue to lead with urgency. Because the time to build resilience is not tomorrow—it is now.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS BECOME SELF-RELIANT

Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) India was established in 2000 with the vision of creating habitats that allow communities to be resilient to disasters, adapt to climate change, and thrive. With a focus on climate resilience, various initiatives of AKAH India works to reduce vulnerability to climate change and disasters through community-led efforts with a strong synergy between traditional knowledge, innovation, and technical integration. It is a Section 8 nonprofit organization and a member of Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). Headquartered in Mumbai, AKAH India works in Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Telangana. It has directly impacted 2.5 million individuals.

VISION

To create habitats that allow communities to be resilient to disasters, adapt to climate change, and thrive.

MISSION

Enable communities to be resilient through technical expertise in climate action, risk reduction and habitat improvement.

I PLANTED A TREE!!!



Aga Khan Agency for Habitat
India

Tree
PLANTATION
DRIVE

ONLY ONE EARTH



#treeplan



FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

AKAH India collaborates with urban communities to safeguard habitats against natural hazards as well as mitigate the impacts of climate change, such as heatwaves, sea-level rise, and unpredictable weather patterns.

OUTREACH:
29,916

URBAN HABITAT RISK RESILIENCE



As natural disasters are becoming an increasing phenomenon, it is critical to help vulnerable communities mitigate risk, adapt to climate change, and be able to recover from shocks to improve their quality of life.

OUTREACH:
4,70,134

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



TOTAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH: **8,45,551**



WATER SECURITY MANAGEMENT



AKAH India is committed to ensuring water availability, accessibility, and reliability for all through community-led models. These models tackle various issues related to equitable water distribution, groundwater replenishment, water conservation, and enhancing water quality.

OUTREACH:

1,15,691

COASTAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE



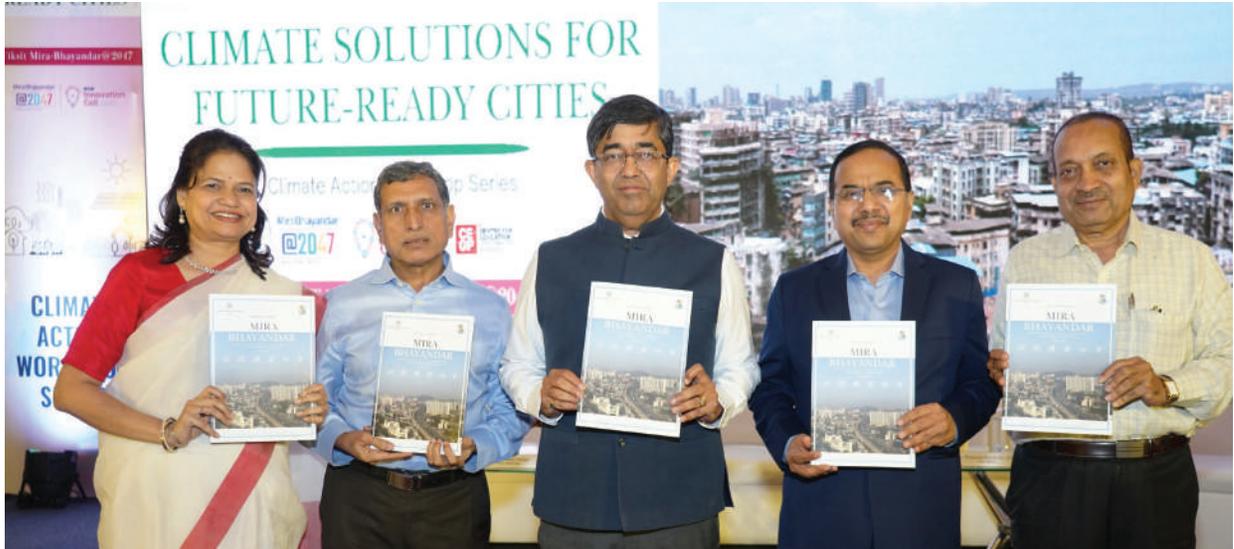
AKAH India is engaged in the development of ecosystem-based models for coastal restoration and biodiversity conservation. These efforts aim to enhance the resilience of communities in the face of climate change and natural hazards.

OUTREACH:

2,29,810

MILESTONE

LAUNCH OF MIRA BHAYANDAR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



On January 29, 2025, the Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC) and Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India launched the Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation Climate Action Plan. Mira Bhayandar is among the fastest-growing cities in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and one of the 42 AMRUT Cities in Maharashtra. The City Climate Action Plan aligns with Maharashtra’s net-zero targets and the National Action Plan on Climate Change. Mira Bhayandar Climate Action Plan outlines actionable, scalable solutions into a cohesive resilience framework. The plan aims to transform the city into a climate-resilient urban center by 2047, with a focus on achieving net-zero emissions through various measures, including renewable energy adoption, energy-efficient buildings, and improved waste management.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

<p>ENERGY AND BUILDINGS: Promoting green retrofitting, solar power adoption, and energy-efficient appliances</p>	<p>WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT: Implementing conservation measures and improving water management systems</p>	<p>URBAN FLOODING: Initiating improved drainage and flood mitigation strategies</p>	<p>URBAN GREENING AND BIODIVERSITY: Increasing green cover and biodiversity within the city</p>	<p>MOBILITY AND AIR QUALITY: Promoting sustainable transportation for improved air quality</p>	<p>WASTE MANAGEMENT: Implementing better practices, including waste reduction, recycling, and composting</p>

“The Mira Bhayandar Climate Action Plan serves as a comprehensive blueprint to mitigate environmental risks, bolster urban resilience, and foster a healthier, greener future for generations to come. Our collaboration with the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) India has been central to this endeavour. By incorporating multidisciplinary insights from experts, stakeholders, and local citizens, the plan robustly addresses key focus and establishing a foundation for long-term transformative impact.”

-Shri Radhabinod Aribam Sharma, Commissioner and Administrator (I.A.S),
Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation

URBAN HABITAT RISK RESILIENCE



Our Approach

Implementing comprehensive strategies such as cooling solutions and creating green assets to help urban areas withstand and adapt to environmental stress



Mira Bhayandar | Maharashtra

PROJECT: Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation Climate Action Plan

LAUNCHED: January 2025

MIRA BHAYANDAR CHARTS 23-YEAR CLIMATE PATH TO CUT EMISSIONS

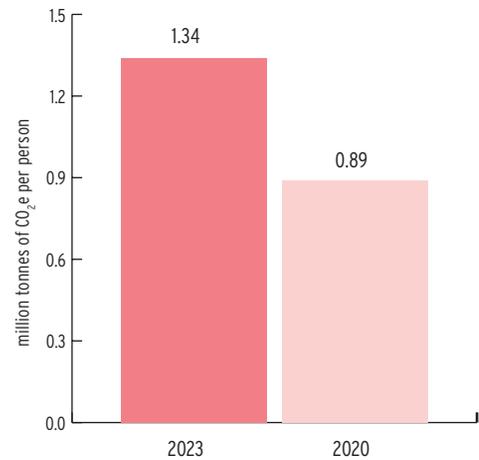
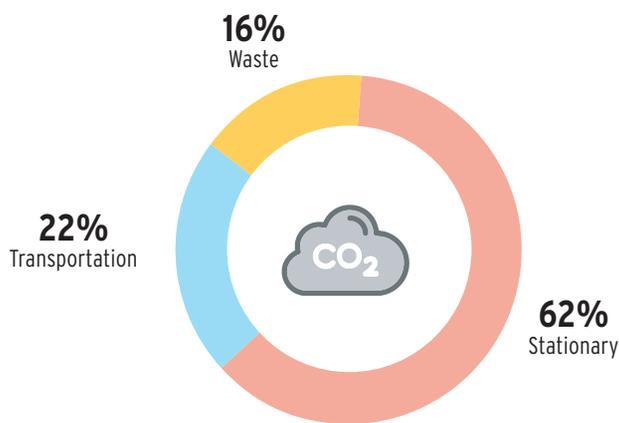
In a milestone for urban climate action, the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH), in partnership with the Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC), unveiled the city's first Climate Action Plan, charting a path for Mira Bhayandar to emerge as a climate-resilient city by 2047. The plan was shaped through a rigorous process of peer reviews with leading national and global institutions — including the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group, Maharashtra Power Development Corporation Limited (Mahapreit), National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), Wipro Foundation, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), World Resources Institute (WRI), Centre for Environment Education (CEE), and C40 Cities — ensuring that the strategies reflect both scientific rigor and global best practice.

Mira Bhayandar is among the fastest-growing cities in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). The satellite city has witnessed significant urban growth due to its comparatively lower cost of living. Between 2005 and 2022, the city's built-up area increased by 50.05%, while vegetation declined to 13.6%. This urban expansion has

led to a 0.46°C rise in annual temperatures, intensifying challenges such as urban flooding, water scarcity, and traffic congestion. By presenting insights on greening the city for decarbonisation, the Climate Action Plan becomes a key milestone in the effort to combat these issues. The plan prioritises energy management and renewable energy generation, water conservation and flood mitigation, urban greening, improved air quality and waste management, and sustainable transportation solutions for the city.

The city's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory highlights that 62% of carbon emissions originate from stationary energy sources, 22% of emissions are due to transportation, and 16% of emissions stem from the waste sector. In the mitigation plan, the MBMCCAP outlines targeted actions across key sectors. Under the Planned Scenario, improving the local energy mix in support of national Grid Reduction efforts can reduce emissions by 23% by 2050. The Ambitious Scenario focuses on expanding rooftop solar across buildings, solarising municipal infrastructure, and promoting energy-efficient appliances, achieving a 24% reduction.

GHG EMISSIONS OF MIRA BHAYANDAR



Climate Action Workshop

The Mira Bhayander Climate Action Plan was officially announced on January 29, 2025, at the Climate Action Workshop, attended by prominent policymakers, industry experts, and sustainability leaders. The City Climate Action Plan aims to introduce eco-friendly practices that integrate seamlessly into daily life in the satellite city that is facing growing urban challenges.



RAPID CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT

The Rapid Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) of Mira Bhayandar meets the minimum requirements for evidence-based decision making, providing a qualitative assessment of risk. It has been conducted in four parts (table below).

CLIMATIC HAZARDS			
URBAN HEAT 	URBAN FLOODING 	COASTAL RISKS 	AIR POLLUTION 
<p>The built-up area in the city has increased by 50.05% between 2005 to 2022 and the vegetation cover was reduced to 13.6%. This resulted in the annual temperature rise by 0.46 degree celsius</p>	<p>The city is facing major urban flooding challenges due to waterlogging. This is caused due to an undulated and clogged drainage system as well as a poor discharging capacity of accumulated water during peak rainfall</p>	<p>The coastline of Mira Bhayandar has eroded by 0.5 km in the past 15 years (2008 to 2023). The climate-induced coastal risks not only threaten the livelihoods and food security of the vulnerable communities but also displace them, leading to social instability</p>	<p>The city has 1 ambient air quality monitoring station under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme. The air pollution data reveals that the city's PM2.5 and PM10 levels exceed the WHO's air quality standards by 14 and 9 times, respectively</p>
EXPOSURE		<p>WARD-LEVEL VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS</p> <p>AREAS TO BE MOST AFFECTED DUE TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population Density: Wards 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 20, and 22 • Building Density: Wards 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 • Susceptibility of Informal Settlements: Wards 1, 2, 11, 13, 15, and 16 	
VULNERABILITY		<p>WARD-LEVEL VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS</p> <p>AT-RISK AREAS AND AT-RISK POPULATIONS TO BE AFFECTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Healthcare: Ward 23 • Access to Education: Wards 10 and 22 • Access to Gardens and Public Parks: Wards 2,4, 5, 9, 11 and 12 • Access to Public Transport: Wards 4, 6, 13, 21, and 24 • Access to Disaster Shelters: Wards 3, 5, 6, 9, 20, and 22 	
RISK ANALYSIS		<p>WARD-LEVEL RISK ANALYSIS</p> <p>ASSESSMENT OF HAZARDS, EXPOSURE, AND VULNERABILITY OF AREAS AND POPULATIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very high risk: Wards 4 and 5 • High risk: Wards 6, 17, 20, and 22 • Moderate Risk: Wards 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 18, and 19 	



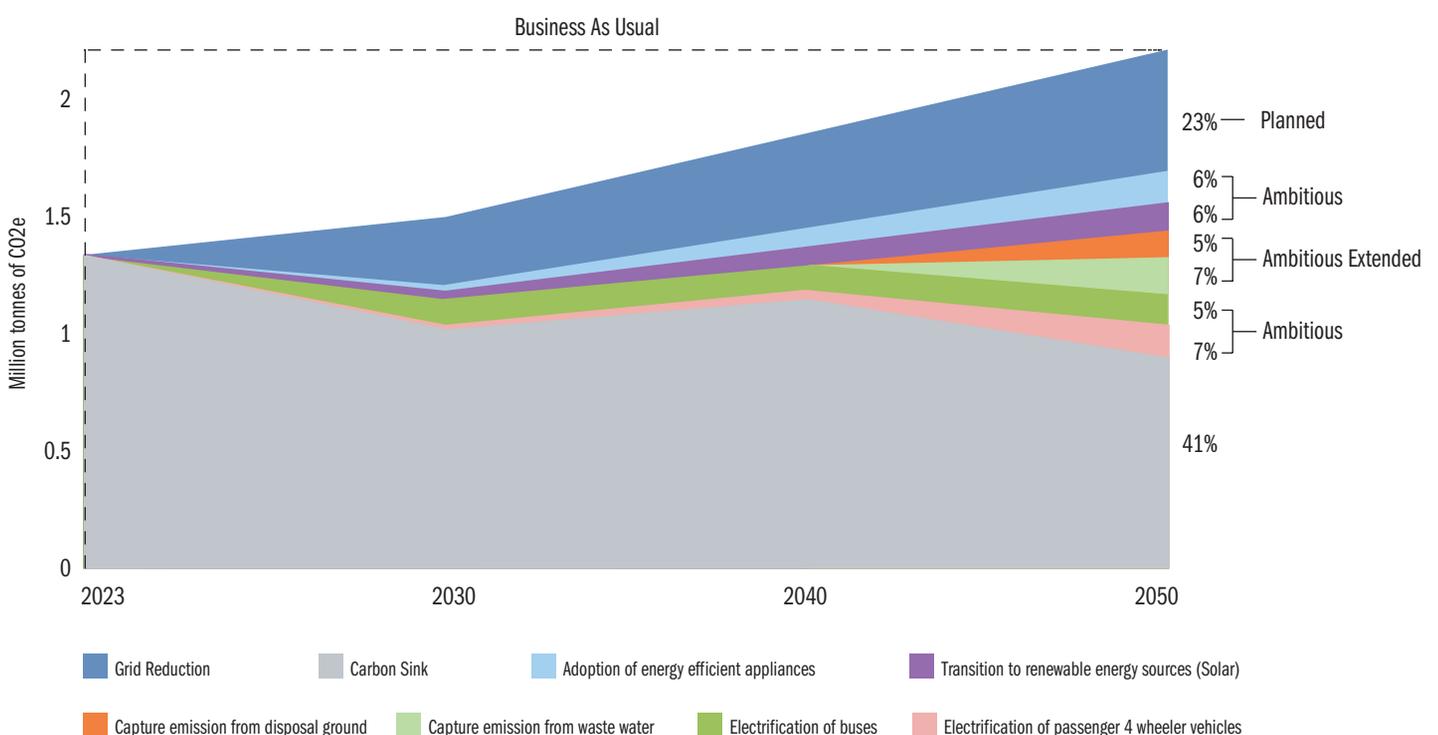
Rooftop Solar Systems installation to enhance energy-efficiency as part of the MBMCCAP demonstration

MITIGATION ACTIONS UNDER THE MBMCCAP

In order to meet the internationally agreed-upon goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, there are a number of key priority actions and recommendations broken down by sector that could help lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Owing to limitations in methodology and data, the MBMCCAP has only enumerated the mitigation potential of 7 recommendations. The city can support the ongoing Grid Reduction efforts at the national level by enhancing its local energy mix and reducing 23%

of emissions by 2050. This comes under the Planned Scenario. By adopting rooftop solar infrastructure across residential, commercial, and industrial buildings, solarising municipal infrastructure like streetlights and facilities, and promoting energy-efficient appliances such as BLDC fans and BEE star-rated devices, the city can reduce emissions by 24% by 2050 under the Ambitious Scenario. Furthermore, under the Extended Ambitious Scenario, the city can achieve an additional 12% reduction in emissions from the waste sector.





Maharashtra | Gujarat | Telangana

PROJECT: Housing Improvement Program

PROMOTING RESILIENT AND CLIMATE ADAPTIVE HOUSING

Towards ensuring safer living environments and resilient building infrastructure, AKAH's Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) promotes safe and sustainable housing societies by integrating community awareness, green infrastructure, structural safety, and climate resilience it addresses the multifaceted needs of housing societies

INITIATIVES:



Community Awareness & Capacity Building

- Conducted 38 awareness programs across Gujarat, Telangana, and Maharashtra on climate adaptation, housing governance, maintenance, and green living
- Engagements at IBNG Connect and Kadam Badao, Hyderabad, emphasized the need for professional repair and maintenance in housing societies
- 70 youth from across the globe joined the Global Encounter Visit at Chitrawad, fostering cross-cultural learning on resilience



Climate Change Adaptation

- Rainwater Harvesting Systems installed at 5 sites in Hyderabad and Gujarat, benefiting over 115 housing units



Structural Assessments & Repairs

- Detailed Structural Diagnosis (DSD) completed for over 23 buildings across various project locations
- Rapid Structural Diagnosis (RSD) conducted for over 500 housing units across various project locations to evaluate early-stage structural safety



Safe Housing & Pre-Planning

- Safe housing assessments for over 100 units in Hyderabad and Gujarat
- Pre-planning and due diligence completed for 2 housing societies across 385 units



Institutional Facility Upgrades

- 8 schools and hostels were supported for repairs, waterproofing, fire safety, and design planning across Gujarat, Telangana, and Maharashtra
- Completion of design phase of Aga Khan Hostel, Hyderabad

Application of Solar Reflective Index paint on a school terrace in Mira Bayandar



IMPACT



41%

Energy savings achieved



35%

Water savings recorded



59%

Material savings implemented



11-15

Million kwh generated annually by rooftop solar systems



264.96

eCO₂/year reduction in operational CO₂ emissions

Installation of motion sensor dimmable lights



Mira Road | Mumbai

PROJECT: Energy-Efficient & Cooling Interventions in Nav Yuwan Housing Society

A MILESTONE IN GREEN RETROFITTING RESIDENTIAL BUILDING (ASIA'S FIRST WORLD BANK IFC EDGE CERTIFIED BUILDING)

India's rapid urbanisation is driving up carbon emissions, with cities emerging as major contributors to the climate crisis. Residential buildings alone are responsible for 12.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions. With temperatures in parts of India soaring to nearly 50°C during peak summers, there is an increasing reliance on energy-intensive cooling systems like air conditioners. In this context, upgrading existing housing through green retrofitting emerges as a crucial climate strategy. AKAH India is leading this shift through a model initiative in Nav Yuwan Housing Society, Mira Road, Mumbai.

According to the Mira Bhayandar Climate Action

Plan, residential buildings contribute to 40.5% of total emissions. The project interventions included the installation of rooftop Solar Systems for decentralised energy generation, Brushless Direct Current (BLDC) fans and LED lights to cut power usage, and water-saving appliances to optimise water consumption. Additionally, a 500 sq. ft. kitchen garden with 15-20 sapling varieties was also introduced within the housing society. Implementation of these solutions has successfully reduced emissions by over 60%. The project has received EDGE Advanced Certification from International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank, marking it as the first existing housing society in Asia to achieve this recognition.

IN FOCUS

A pilot project of energy-efficient retrofitting solutions at Nav Yuwan Housing Society, Mira Road, Mumbai

Installation of 1,000 energy-efficient BLDC fans at Unit Level

44 kWh rooftop solar system at society level

Implementation of 174 motion sensor lights in common areas

Low-flow fixtures installed in bathrooms and kitchens across 280 households

Introducing a 500 sq. ft. kitchen garden with 15-20 sapling varieties

OUTCOME

Reduced energy consumption in 280 households, leading to lower electricity bills

Significant reduction in water consumption, contributing to conservation

Use of less embodied carbon in materials leading to resource efficiency

Rooftop Solar System generates electricity and reduces grid dependency

Reduced carbon emissions, mitigating the impact of climate change



Mira Bhayandar | Mumbai

PROJECT: Building Institutional Resilience to Heat

CLIMATE-RESILIENT UPGRADES FOR COOLER LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The impacts of climate change disproportionately affects the vulnerable groups especially children and their education. Taking a step towards enhancing thermal comfort and energy-efficiency of schools, AKAH India has retrofitted three selected Municipal Schools located in heat-stressed zones in Mira Bhayandar. As part of this initiative, 96 Brushless Direct Current (BLDC) fans, 24 motion sensor lights and 22 dual-flush

cisterns have been installed to achieve a target of minimum 20% improvement in energy and water efficiency. The solar reflective index (SRI) paint used on the walls and roof of the school are effective to reduce heat absorption and lower usage of cooling appliances during summer season, leading to cooler environments and significant energy savings.

IMPACT



53%

Reduction in electricity consumption



47%

Water efficiency achieved

96

BLDC fans

24

Motion sensor - dimmable lights

22

Dual Flush Cisterns

IN FOCUS

Enhancing thermal comfort and energy efficiency in Municipal schools



Building institutional resilience by reducing electricity and water consumption in schools



OUTCOME

Installation of BLDC fans, motion sensors help in energy savings

Ensuring cooler indoor environments due to better air circulation

Less water wastage because of dual-flush cisterns

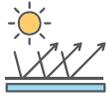
“The heat here is unbearable—we often have to close the school early or adjust timings, affecting children's education.”

- Pradnya Krishna Kant, Principal, MBMC School no. 11.



Application of Solar Reflective Index paint on the school walls

IMPACT



43

Households benefited from solar reflective index paint

35

Households had aluminium foil installed

8

Households Used Wood Wool Insulation

40

Households installed aluminium foil with ventilation core



20°C

Decrease in rooftop temperature and 3-5°C reduction in average indoor temperature

Heat reduction measures like ventilation cores in 40 housing units, along with wood wool panels, and aluminum foil layers help improve airflow, enhance thermal comfort for residents.

“With cooling solutions, I can handle work and home without feeling drained.”

- Ashwini Khamkar, Resident, Mira Bhayandar



Mira Bhayandar | Mumbai

PROJECT: Cooling Solutions in Informal Settlements

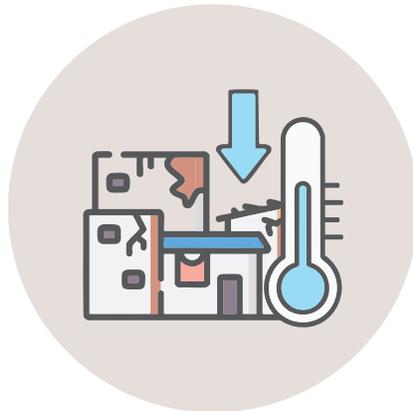
IMPLEMENTING COOLING INFRASTRUCTURE IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

Informal settlements in cities are most susceptible to urban heat, floods and air pollution. The lack of cooling infrastructure, reliance on heat-trapping materials, and economic vulnerability turn extreme heat into a struggle for survival. The Urban Heat Island (UHI) Assessment done by AKAH India as part of the Climate Action Plan for Mira Bhayandar City, reveals that surface temperatures in these settlements were approximately 4°C higher than in surrounding areas. This is due to the predominant use of heat-absorbing materials such as corrugated roofing sheets that intensify the indoor temperature. High humidity levels during peak summer months further exacerbate the impact, affecting the health of household members and necessitating them to

incur additional costs for cooling solutions. AKAH India is addressing urban heat stress challenges for vulnerable communities by implementing cool solutions in three targeted settlements of Mira Bhayandar. Cooling solutions such as Solar Reflective Index (SRI) paints, alufoil, wood wool panels and ventilation cores have been implemented in 126 slum households. These measures are expected to lower indoor temperatures by 3-4°C and reduce rooftop surface temperatures by approximately 20°C, delivering immediate and perceptible relief to residents.

The initiative integrates green technologies, passive cooling strategies to build heat resilience for vulnerable communities in cities.

IN FOCUS



Addressing urban heat stress challenges for vulnerable communities in three informal settlements in Mira Bhayandar



Wood Wool Panel installation in slum households

OUTCOME

Reducing heat absorption and keeping indoors cool

Thermal comfort due to lowered daytime and night temperatures

Better productivity of women who run small-scale businesses indoors

Reducing cases of fatigue and exhaustion



Thane District | Navi Mumbai | Maharashtra

PROJECT: Creation of Green Assets in Urban Areas
PARTNER: IndusInd Bank Limited

REVIVING URBAN BIODIVERSITY THROUGH GREEN ASSETS

Rapid urbanisation and expansion of housing and infrastructure in urban and peri-urban regions have led to the depletion of green cover in cities. This decrease in natural habitat has adversely affected the environment, leading to deteriorating air quality and rising pollution levels. Of the total green cover in Thane, 50%-70% comprises non-native tree species, a clear sign of decline in indigenous biodiversity.

With the Creation of Green Assets project, AKAH India aims to increase the green cover

in Thane district. The initiative adopts the Miyawaki method, a proven afforestation technique pioneered by Japanese botanist Dr. Akira Miyawaki. It involves planting native trees closely together in a small area, forming a natural forest. This technique promotes biodiversity, accelerates growth, and enhances the ecosystem's health. Over the course of two years, the project has focused on restoring degraded urban spaces, increasing biodiversity, and actively involving local communities in conservation efforts, laying the groundwork for a greener Thane.



57,040

Saplings planted across 4 locations



91

Tree species recorded, indicating strong species diversity



18

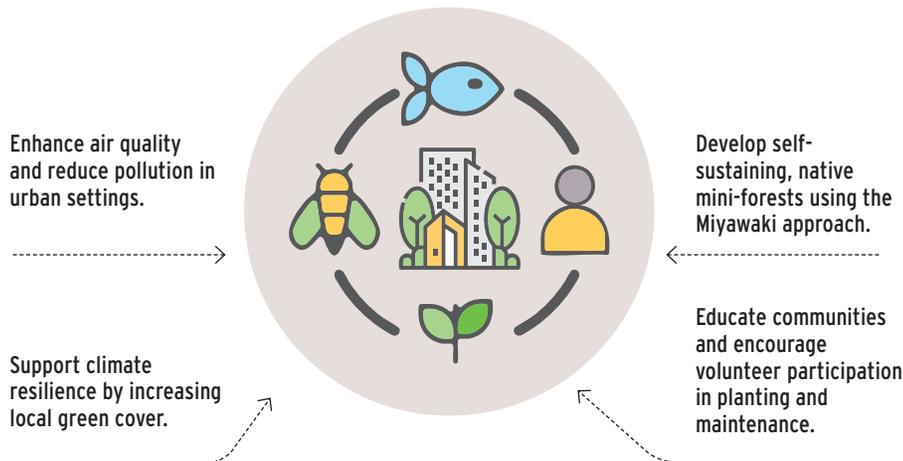
Solar street lights installed



8

Micro water-saving techniques implemented

IN FOCUS



OUTCOME

Improved air quality, localised cooling effect, and reduced waste site visibility

Scale-up to other locations in Navi Mumbai with similar ecological stress



Miyawaki Plantation in Turbhe Dumping Ground, Navi Mumbai



Adilabad | Telangana

PROJECT: Decarbonisation Initiative

IMPACT

SUSTAINABLE MEASURES TO REDUCE BIODIVERSITY LOSS



17,800

Saplings Planted.

Increasing the green cover by tree plantation is one of the easiest, most effective and long-term sustainable measures towards reducing the loss of urban biodiversity. A plantation drive was organised at Adilabad, Telangana attended by 70 volunteers and Ismaili CIVIC. In total, 400 saplings (13 different native and fruit bearing species) were planted at three Ginning factories including the Mahalaxmi Cotton Mills, Malpani Cottons and Venkateshwara Cotton Trading Company, a graveyard and a colony.

IN FOCUS



Urban plantation drive to enhance green cover and reduce biodiversity loss in industrial areas.



Tree Plantation in Adilabad, Telangana

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



Our Approach

Mitigating effects of disasters and emergencies, while minimising risk through planning, community awareness, and post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation

RESPONSE AND READINESS INITIATIVES

Response and Readiness (R&R) program builds community-level disaster preparedness and response capacity, helping vulnerable communities mitigate risks, adapt to climate change, and recover from shocks. Through

risk assessment, planning, education, and recovery efforts, AKAH India works to strengthen resilience and ensure swift, effective disaster response.

SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM KEY INITIATIVES



Training of Trainers for existing and new members of the Search and Rescue Team (SART) to enable them to lead capacity building efforts in their communities.
19 participants



Screening and recruitment drive for onboarding Search and Rescue Team (SART) team members in Maharashtra and Gujarat.
67 participants



Training sessions on essential rescue techniques for building proficiency in managing emergencies during the monsoon season.
27 participants



5-day Training on Urban Search and Rescue in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
24 participants



DISASTER ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE TEAM KEY INITIATIVES

3-day-First Aid Training program for the Disaster Assessment and Response Team (DART).
9 participants



Session on the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in identifying post-disaster needs and assessing damage.
10 participants



Disaster Risk Reduction Mock Drill

Building Emergency Rescue - Disaster Risk Reduction Mock Drill



Fire Safety Mock Drill in Godbhunder Road



Water Rescue Drill in Godbhunder Road



Civil Defence Mock Drill

Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India was invited by the Civil Defence Department, Government of Maharashtra, under the direction of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to participate in a comprehensive mock drill aimed at enhancing emergency response and preparedness. This inter-agency exercise brought together critical first responders—including AKAH India, Civil Defence, and the Fire Brigade—to simulate coordinated actions in the face of a disaster. It tested the agility, coordination, and rapid response of the units involved, reflecting the real-life complexity of urban search and rescue missions.

The Emergency Management team demonstrated its integrated emergency response capabilities, including Search and Rescue operations, First Aid & Mass Casualty Management, Incident Command System deployment, Rapid Needs Assessment, Community-level disaster readiness and volunteer mobilization.

Participants: 13 SART members, 2 DART members, and 4 first responders



Other Activities



Cyclone DANA monitoring through maps, alerts, and status updates



Heatwave & monsoon preparedness through posters & communication materials



Emergency Preparedness training for senior citizens



Fire Demonstration at Palace View Jamatkhana



30. Organized workshops, shakeout and fire drills for external partners.

Milestones

1. AKAH India led a highrise rescue and mass casualty management mock exercise as part of the 61st Anniversary Awareness Event of the Civil Defence Department in September 2024.
2. AKAH India mobilised trained volunteers and arranged critical equipment and supplies for rapid deployment.
3. The joint exercise created a holistic approach to disaster management and commitment to building a culture of safety.



AKAH India-Civil Defence Partnership Mock Drill

BUILDING COMMUNITY'S CAPACITY TO RISK

AKAH India, focuses on disaster resilience through Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Institutional Safety. AKAH prioritizes the development of early warning systems and the construction of safe shelters to protect vulnerable communities. Trained

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) further train local volunteers to respond quickly and effectively during emergencies. This promotes preventive action with an objective to minimize the damage caused by natural calamities.

KEY INITIATIVES



75
Climate Risk Assessment & Climate Action Plan (CAP)



63
Climate Change Awareness Programs (CCAP)
8157 participants



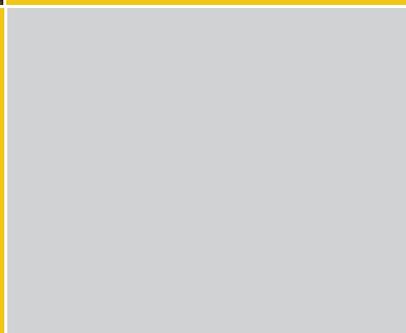
15
Climate Action Group (CAG)
460 participants



8
Disaster Management and Development (DMD) training
510 participants



3
Disaster Preparedness Training sessions for Learning Resource Centers (LRC) for senior citizens, and Climate Action Campaign's Seasonal Preparedness initiative
362 participants



125
Community Centres across India celebrated International Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) day.
13,188 participants



Knots & Lashing Activity for SART volunteers



Programs & Workshops

5

Climate Change Adaptation Workshops in Gujarat, Telangana and Western India region;

717 participants

7

Shake out drills for School Safety Week with in Gujarat; **2,100 students' participation**

6

Emergency Preparedness Trainings for NSS students in Navi Mumbai;

342 participants

1

ICS 100 training for Local Council leadership, senior volunteers in Gujarat ; **18 participants**



First Aid Training to DMD members

Casualty Transportation Activity to SART members



WATER SECURITY MANAGEMENT



Our Approach

Ensuring long-term water security through surface and groundwater management, including restoring water bodies and rainwater harvesting, which are the simplest and best measures for conserving water



Wardha | Maharashtra

PROJECT: Holistic Rural Development Program - Parivartan

PARTNER: HDFC Bank Private Limited

RELIABLE ACCESS TO WATER THROUGH RAINWATER HARVESTING

Across 15 villages in Karanja and Arvi, Wardha - Maharashtra the Parivartan sustainable development program collaborates with communities to implement holistic rural development initiatives and climate resilient practices. The program is aimed to promote Natural Resource Management, healthcare and hygiene, education and livelihood enhancement in the state.

The program focuses on ensuring reliable access to water through rainwater harvesting systems and construction of water storage units, including ponds, nala/channel deepening and community pond desilting for improved groundwater recharge. Under the Education and

Awareness drive, school refurbishment has been undertaken thereby improving learning environments. Street plays and awareness campaigns have been conducted on topics like WASH, environment, and menstrual hygiene. Renewable energy infrastructure, such as solar street panels, was introduced to power homes and streetlights. The project provided training in climate-resilient non-farm livelihood skills, enabling communities to diversify their income sources, to build resilient to climate change. Leadership and community institutions have been built to strengthen local governance and ensure sustained project outcomes of restoration efforts.

Desiltation of Community Pond in Wardha



IMPACT



3

Check dams



10

Community ponds



15

RRWH structures



30

Provided access to water micro-saving tools



28

Health Camps



164

Solar Street Lights



7

School Refurbishment



Installation of RRWH structures in school facilities

IN FOCUS

Natural Resource Management to ensure water-security

Hygiene, health and sanitation practices

Infrastructural support in form of solar street lights and school refurbishment

Leadership Training and Institutional Development of local community

Promotion of alternate climate-resilient livelihoods



OUTCOME

- Natural resource management through farm ponds, nalah, sprinklers
- RRWH ensuring provision of drinking water year-round to schools
- Improved learning environment with school refurbishment
- Informed local community on WASH, menstrual hygiene and sanitation practices
- Financial empowerment of women by adopting alternative livelihoods



Kandla | Kutch | Gujarat

PROJECT: Prabhat - Community-Led Water Stewardship Program

PARTNER: Hindustan Unilever Limited

EMPOWERING VILLAGES FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP

The program is dedicated to promoting integrated, community-led water security management in vulnerable marshy wetland regions prone to cyclones. Its primary objective is to enhance groundwater levels by implementing suitable interventions based on hydrological research and GIS mapping across six villages in Kandla, Gujarat. The project integrates groundwater recharge, community infrastructure development, efficient water-use technologies, and participatory governance under the globally recognised Alliance for Water Stewardship

(AWS) standards. The project's core objective is to mobilise rural communities to sustainably manage and maintain water infrastructure while strengthening local water governance systems. It supports the construction and rejuvenation of community ponds, check dams, and rooftop rainwater harvesting systems in schools. A significant focus of the program is on capacity building. This includes regular stakeholder meetings, village water committee engagement, and training sessions on water quality monitoring.

Construction of Percolation Pond in Bhadreswar





PRA activity sessions with the local community

Enhance groundwater levels based on hydrological research and GIS mapping

IN FOCUS

Maintain and rejuvenate existing water infrastructure

Promote water savings techniques among local community



Formation & trainings of water user groups

Mobilise rural communities to sustainably manage and maintain water infrastructure

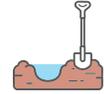
OUTCOME

- Construction of water conservation structures -ponds, check dams, dugwells ,RRWH
- Water savings techniques for efficient use by local community
- Formation of 6 water user groups for effective monitoring
- Village Water Committee meetings and capacity-building workshops
- Empowered community in water quality testing through 'DIY' trainings

IMPACT



14x14x3ft
Community pond created



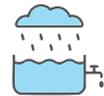
4.68 km
Water canal cleaned and desilted



25
Water Micro Saving Techniques applied



42
Borewells/dug wells recharged



4
RRWH structures built with storage facility

25
RRWH structures repaired & restored



3
Conducted water quality trainings



10
RRWH structures installed



1,200
Saplins planted through community-led drives



Installation of RRWH structure for groundwater recharge



Vasai Block | Palghar | Maharashtra

PROJECT: Environmental Health Improvement Program (EHIP)
PARTNER: Larsen and Toubro Hydrocarbon Engineering Limited

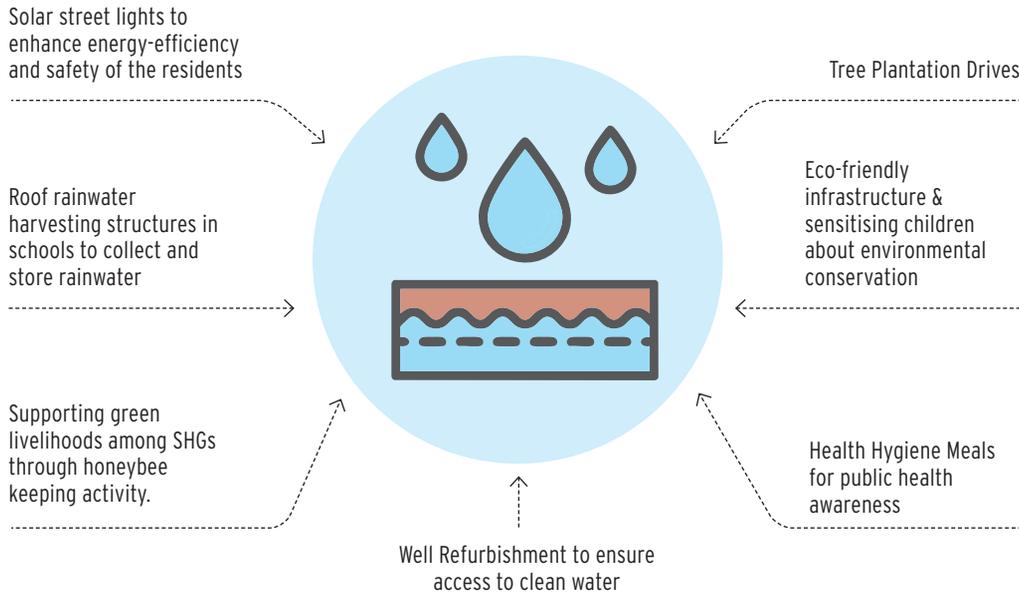
COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVE ENSURES INCREASE IN GROUNDWATER LEVEL

Environmental Health Improvement Program (EHIP) is a comprehensive rural habitat development initiative that focuses on enhancing sanitation and water security across eight villages and twenty-two tribal villages in Vasai, Palghar. In partnership with local communities, the initiative undertakes a range of water security measures. These include constructing rooftop rainwater harvesting systems, building sub-surface bunds, rejuvenating water sources, and repairing existing infrastructure such as wells. These efforts have led to a notable average increase of three feet in the groundwater table, improved quality of

drinking water and its availability to the local community throughout the year. EHIP has also introduced upgraded sanitation facilities, achieving total elimination of open defecation in the targeted areas. To support climate resilient livelihoods, the program promotes alternative green initiatives, including creation of kitchen gardens and bee-keeping. These initiatives enhance economic opportunities for community members, especially women. Other interventions such as installation of solar panels have expanded access to energy sources in tribal villages contributing to holistic development.

IMPACT

IN FOCUS



OUTCOME

- Access to potable water to students throughout the year
- Improved quality and level of groundwater
- Women empowerment through microenterprises
- Green alternative livelihood opportunities for tribal women
- Facilitating access to sanitation facilities and encouraging health and hygiene knowledge



7 RRWH structures (installed)



7 SHGs trained in honeybee keeping



534 Beneficiaries of kitchen gardens



2 Well Refurbishments



30 Solar Street Lights Installed



2 Schools Refurbished



20 Health & Hygiene Awareness Melas Held



2 Locations engaged in Indigenous Warli Art Painting



Well refurbishment in Vasai

“Bees once terrified me. Now, maintaining healthy bee colonies has become a source of hope and green livelihood option.”

- Sakshi Nagesh Gaikar, Karjon, Vasai
(One of the beneficiaries of honeybee keeping project)



Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar | Maharashtra

PROJECT: PSAKFE - Restoring Ecology along the Urban Riverfront at Kham River
PARTNER: Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan Fund for Environment (PSAKFE)

RESTORING ECOLOGY ALONG KHAM RIVERFRONT

In Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, the Kham riverfront restoration project focuses on reclaiming a vital waterway from years of neglect. The Kham river - a vital freshwater source - has suffered significant ecological degradation due to rapid urbanisation, industrial discharge, deforestation, and inadequate sewage management. The project aims to reverse the damage to ecological balance by implementing nature-based solutions, including bioremediation, shoreline stabilisation, native vegetation, wetland creation,

and the development of a biodiversity park. Owing to strategic interventions, a 26,000-sapling Miyawaki forest now breathes life into a concrete area, while a newly-approved Biodiversity Park and safety upgrades along riverbanks, is reviving the city's natural heritage. The project focuses on empowering communities, integrating green infrastructure into urban plans, and aligning with climate goals. Echoing a call for greener, cleaner living, the project combines environmental stewardship with civic action.

Creation of Biodiversity Park near Kham River



IMPACT

IN FOCUS

Water quality improvement through bioremediation and pollution reduction

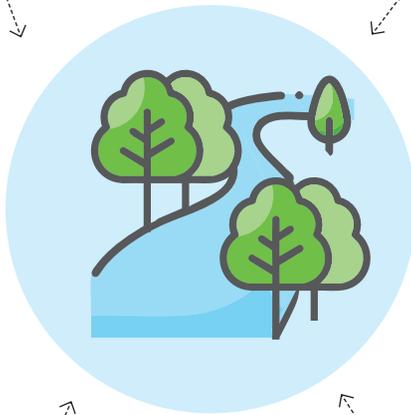
Flood Risk Management through improved drainage infrastructure

Recreational and economic enhancement through eco-tourism and improved public spaces

Climate Change Adaptation training sessions

Shoreline stabilisation and wetland development to enhance natural purification

Biodiversity park creation on the basin of the Kham River



26,000
saplings planted at Miyawaki forest



10
public street plays conducted on plastic pollution



11
schools participated in the Biodiversity Conservation Awareness Program



1,389
beneficiaries reached through Shake Out Drills



35,500
Direct stakeholders
1,20,000 Indirect stakeholders

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- Improved water quality in Kham river due to reduced sewage and plastic inflow
- Groundwater recharge through pond and borewell integration
- Increased community ownership and participation in river protection
- Strengthened upper catchment ecology and soil stability

Ongoing works in the Biodiversity Park





Navi Mumbai | Thane | Maharashtra

PROJECT: Jheel -Wetland Ecosystem & Biodiversity Conservation

PARTNER: Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan Fund for Environment (PSAKFE)

PROJECT JHEEL – REVIVING URBAN WETLANDS

Project Jheel is an environmental conservation initiative in Navi Mumbai that focuses on transforming degraded wetlands into resilient ecological zones. These wetlands are crucial for providing ecosystem services such as water purification, flood mitigation, and biodiversity support. However, due to rapid urban expansion, many of these areas have become fragmented and degraded. The project integrates climate change adaptation strategies, biodiversity conservation and disaster risk reduction training to create a resilient urban ecosystem. It advances ecological restoration through nature-based solutions like floating vegetative islands that improve water quality and create habitats for aquatic life.

Major progress has been made across four thematic areas: ecological assessment, slope stabilisation, stakeholder engagement, and youth capacity-building. At Parsik Hill, the three-tier plantation initiative has seen indigenous plants improving slope stability and increasing green cover. Key milestones are the Wetlands Vulnerability Assessment Study across Thane and Navi Mumbai and the event “Resilient Navi Mumbai-Focusing on Wetlands,” which was held in partnership with NMMC. It brought together over 100 stakeholders to promote wetland conservation in urban planning. By strengthening partnerships and building local capacity, the project ensures sustainability of restoration efforts.

Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) wetland



IMPACT



600+
Students trained in disaster preparedness



3
Wetlands Vulnerability Assessment Study



30,740
Plantation on Parsik Hill for slope stabilisation



200
Students participate in solid waste management awareness

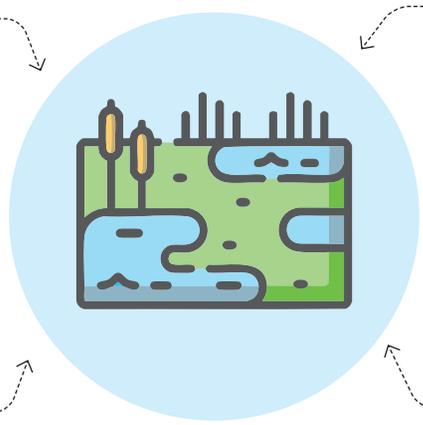


7,400
Direct stakeholders



100+
Stakeholders engaged in urban resilience consultations

IN FOCUS



Three-tier plantation on Parsik Hill for landslide mitigation

Wetland Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation (Vulnerability Report)

Training of government officials on environment and biodiversity conservation

Amplifying community engagement through multi-stakeholder event

Youth-led disaster resilience through emergency preparedness training for natural calamities such as floods, earthquakes, etc

Solid Waste Management Training to reduce burden on landfill sites

OUTCOME

- Reducing soil erosion & stabilising slope through three-tier slope plantation
- Wetlands Vulnerability Assessment Study for its rejuvenation in Navi Mumbai
- Developing First Responders by training NSS students on emergency preparedness
- Trained government officials on fire safety, first aid and disaster preparedness
- Policy dialogue for long-term wetland integration into city planning

Three-tier tree plantation in Parsik Hill, Navi Mumbai



“On behalf of the Garden Department, I extend our appreciation to Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) India for its exemplary work in executing a three-tier plantation project comprising 28,500 terrestrial plants at Parsik Hill. This significant initiative, carried out as part of slope stabilisation efforts, has proven to be a highly effective landslide mitigation measure in a region prone to natural hazards. The effort aligns with the Garden Department’s vision of integrating green infrastructure in disaster risk reduction strategies. The success of this intervention stands as a model of effective collaboration between civic authorities and dedicated organisations like AKAH.”

Shri Kisanrao Palande, Deputy Commissioner (Garden, Zone I), Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation



Well Refurbishment for groundwater recharge in Vasai



Vasai | Palghar | Maharashtra

PROJECT: Rural Health Improvement Program (RUHIP)
PARTNER: Quantum Advisors Private Limited

SUSTAINING RURAL HEALTH THROUGH COMMUNITY-CENTRIC INTERVENTIONS

The Rural Health Improvement Program (RUHIP) promotes healthier living conditions for the marginalised tribal communities in Vasai, Palghar district, Maharashtra by addressing significant deficiencies in public health infrastructure. The program focuses on creating a sustainable, community-driven system for managing water, sanitation, and hygiene with targeted water-related initiatives. This includes the development of new water sources, implementation of conservation measures and quality testing.

As part of an ongoing leadership training series, a session was conducted with the Divekarpada SHG focused on

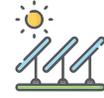
strengthening leadership to address sanitation and water issues. Key discussions included financial literacy for women, awareness of government schemes, and the role of SHGs in local problem-solving. A Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) session held at Poman Gram Panchayat aimed to empower the community to identify local issues and collaboratively plan improvements, especially in sanitation, water, and hygiene.

Another key initiative was a handover meeting with 40 community members, which highlighted the importance of maintaining sanitation units, solar lights, and rainwater harvesting systems.



Installation of Solar Streetlight in Divekarpada

IMPACT



6

Solar panels at Divekarpada Zilla Parishad School



2

PRA meetings 67 Beneficiaries



2

SHG leadership trainings 48 Beneficiaries



Strengthening SHGs as local problem-solvers

IN FOCUS

Organising Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) sessions to discuss & plan improvements in sanitation, water & hygiene.



Ensuring access to reliable, renewable clean energy solutions in rural schools



Leadership training on financial literacy, awareness of government schemes



OUTCOME

- Environmental Sustainability in rural schools through solar street lights
- Women Empowerment on topics of financial literacy & government schemes
- PRA sessions on health, sanitation & hygiene, and infrastructure issues
- Local ownership, maintenance of sanitation infrastructure for long term sustenance

“We often struggled with electricity disconnections due to pending bill payments. Solarisation has brought a huge relief. Now we can teach without worrying about power cuts.”

- Manisha Mukadam, Teacher, ZP School, Divekarpada



Khultabad | Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar | Maharashtra

PROJECT: Community-Led Climate Action and Water Resilience

PARTNER: Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO DROUGHTS THROUGH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Rural communities in Khultabad, Maharashtra, face significant challenges due to water scarcity exacerbated by growing population and increasing demands. The depletion of groundwater reserves has been particularly acute, worsened by a drought that has affected the entire region. This situation has forced residents to seek alternatives to external sources to meet their basic water needs. The urgent need for sustainable solutions is what the program focuses on. It addresses acute

water scarcity in eight villages through pond restoration, rainwater harvesting and check dam construction. The initiative integrates nature-based solutions to enhance groundwater recharge and improve water availability. It also aims to build capacity and resilience within these villages to manage and conserve their water resources effectively. This community-led approach is critical in fostering ownership and ensuring the sustainability of the solutions implemented.

Desiltation of Community Pond in Khultabad

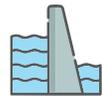


IMPACT



10

10 roof rainwater harvesting systems (8,183 stakeholders) installed in schools, including Niwasi Mukbadhir School which benefited 63 hearing-impaired students



5

Check dams (6,250 stakeholders)



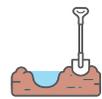
4

Awareness Campaign (741 stakeholders)



14

Individual ponds



4

Continuous Contour Trenches (1,903 stakeholders)



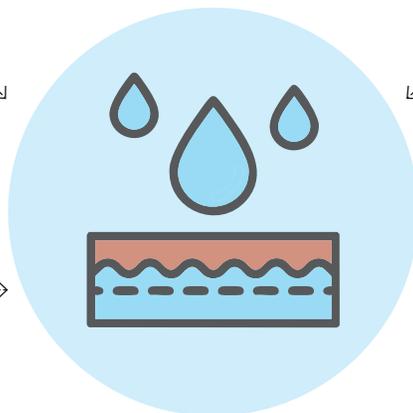
Well Refurbishment to strengthen region's water security

IN FOCUS

Raise surface, groundwater levels through sustainable water management practices

Reduce dependency on external water sources by enhancing availability, sustainability of local water resources

Conduct an assessment of existing water structures to identify repair of check dams



Empower local leadership, communities for effective water conservation strategies

Build resilience within communities to mitigate water scarcity challenges

Evaluate potential new sites for RRWH systems, farm ponds, and CCT interventions

Engage with local community leaders, stakeholders through participatory workshops

OUTCOME

- Community-driven maintenance protocols by local stakeholders
- The water user groups maintains gender equality in terms of representation
- Capacity-building sessions for community on sustainable water management practices
- Actively engaging district administration in project activities
- Trained government officials on fire safety, first aid and disaster preparedness



Desiltation of Community Pond in Vikarabad



Mandal Vikarabad | Vikarabad | Telangana

PROJECT: Community Led Water Conservation Program

PARTNER: Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited

EMPOWERING WATER STRESSED VILLAGES WITH SUSTAINABILITY

Vikarabad District in Telangana faces a critical challenge: persistent water scarcity compounded by the intensifying threat of heat waves. Due to the extreme weather conditions, water availability in the district is highly variable and unevenly distributed. In response to the pressing concerns, the program was launched to initiate a community-led conservation program across 11 villages. The primary objective is to tackle the depletion of surface and groundwater resources through the implementation of nature-based solutions. Some of the strategic interventions that have enhanced water security are revival of existing water bodies such as check dams and community ponds, and construction of

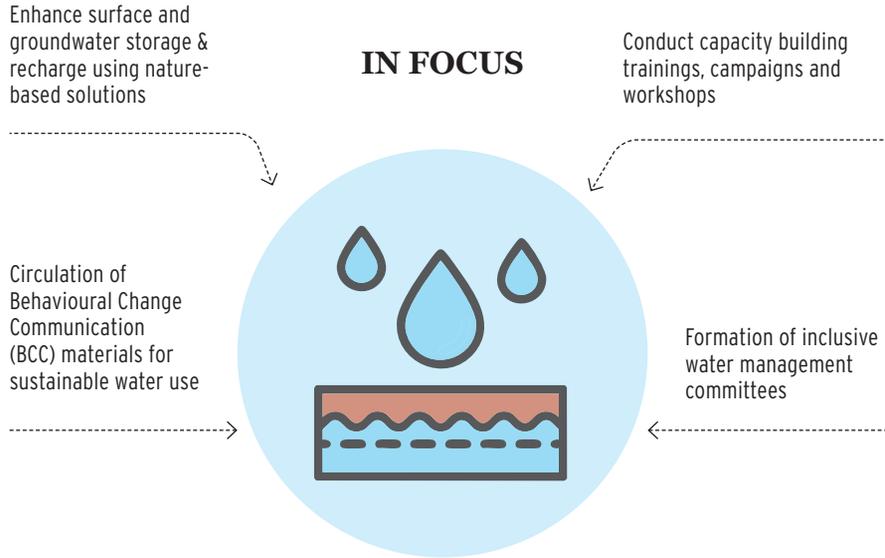
new check dams, ponds, and roof rainwater harvesting systems. Across these villages, over 19,600 cubic meters of rainwater can now be stored with the help of check dams, community ponds, rooftop rainwater harvesting systems and continuous contour trenches.

The program also strengthens community ownership by building the capacity of local leaders to plan, implement, and maintain sustainable water conservation practices. The hydrological assessments provided by the project are now guiding district-level policy discussions, turning dry land into thriving communities.

“At NAM India, we view sustainability as intrinsic to value creation — for investors, communities, and ecosystems alike. Our partnership with Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India on water conservation is a testament to this ethos. By co-creating solutions that restore water security and strengthen community resilience, we are translating our values into on-ground impact. Together, we are enabling water conservation solutions that go beyond infrastructure — by fostering resilience, enhancing livelihoods, and empowering local communities to steward their natural resources. Whether it’s through rainwater harvesting, revitalizing check dams, or promoting efficient water management, these interventions resonate with our broader purpose: to create long-term value that benefits both society and the environment. We remain committed to building on this partnership and scaling solutions that contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future.”

- ED & CEO's Desk, Nippon India

IMPACT



Construction of Check Dam in Vikarabad

- 
1
Hydrological Study
- 
3
Contour Trenches
- 
3
Community Ponds Desilting
- 
6
Check Dams (New & Repair)
- 
10
Percolation Ponds
- 
10
RRWH
- 
6
Water User Groups
- 
2
Trainings

OUTCOME

- Hydrogeological and watershed mapping of 70 locations
- Community stewardship on maintenance of the newly constructed infrastructure
- Reduced soil erosion and runoff through Contour Trenches in drought-prone areas
- Enabled year-round water security to schools through rainwater harvesting structures
- Reduce dependency on private tankers for farm and domestic use
- Create community shared water resources to mitigate water scarcity events



Success Story

N. Dalayya, Headmaster of the Mandal Primary School in Dyacharam village, leads 40 students and three teachers. The school's borewell serves students, an Anganwadi centre, a Village Nursery, and nine nearby households. Due to hard rock soil, it often dried up. As a village water user group member, Dalayya supported the AKAH India program, which recharged the borewell and installed roof rainwater harvesting. The project now benefits 52 direct and 208 indirect beneficiaries in Dyacharam.



Vasai | Palghar | Maharashtra

PROJECT: Revival of Water Bodies to ensure water security, safety and quality in Vasai

PARTNER: Wipro Foundation

REVIVING *BAVKHALS* (HERITAGE PONDS) TO ENSURE WATER SECURITY

Bavkhals are traditional water bodies that play a pivotal role in water conservation, groundwater recharge, and ecological balance in the Vasai region. Over the years, these critical water sources have been filled with waste, necessitating steps for their restoration and revival. The program adopts a collaborative approach that brings together environmental experts and stakeholders to revive *Bavkhals* for sustainable water management.

To drive action through community participation in restoration strategies, *Bavkhal* stewards, environmental experts and 78 community leaders convened under the

Conservation Stakeholder Consultation forum. The initiative introduced the “My *Bavkhal*, Healthy *Bavkhal*” competition, designed to encourage local residents and stakeholders to submit innovative ideas and strategies for enhancing the health of *Bavkhals*. The goal is to promote community-driven solutions that can be implemented to ensure the longevity and vitality of these natural resources. As a way forward, AKAH India will undertake restoration of six *Bavkhals* and present it as a model for the community to learn and replicate. The initiative also seeks to mobilise urban local bodies to undertake the responsibility of the maintenance and upkeep of these water bodies.

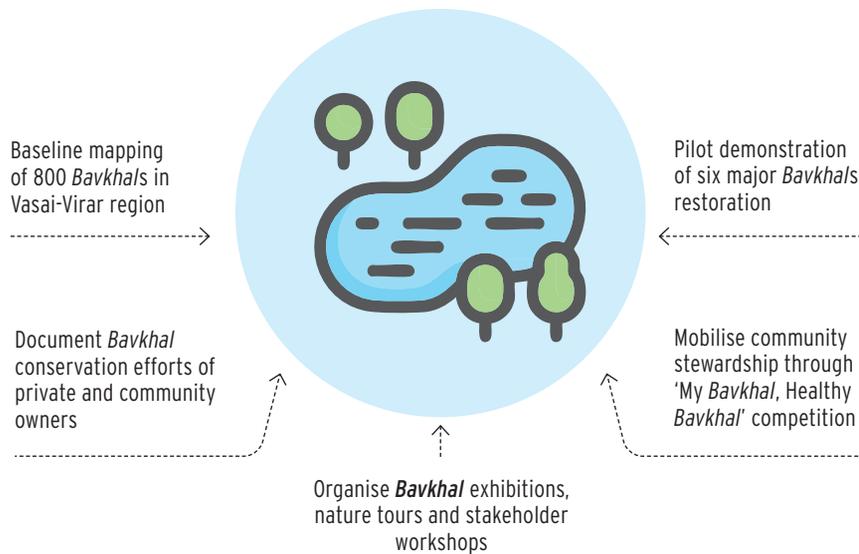
Mapping of *Bavkhals* in Vasai-Virar region





Bavkhal restoration strategies to improve region's water security

IN FOCUS



IMPACT



Community-driven, collaborative conservation initiative for local stewardship

35
Bavkhal owners

INTENDED OUTCOME

- Strengthening public understanding of the socio-ecological-cultural role of *Bavkhals*
- Improve the quality of groundwater used for drinking and irrigation purposes
- Encouraging *Bavkhal* owners to co-create innovations and invest in restoration
- Demonstrating scientific restoration of six water bodies, enhancing aesthetics, quality, and safety.
- Developing a repository of *Bavkhals* to inform policy-making processes



*“The AKAH–Wipro partnership in Vasai has brought renewed focus to the conservation of *Bavkhals*, vital to local water security and biodiversity. What began as a shared commitment to restore these neglected ecosystems has now evolved into a growing, community-led movement. The partnership has enabled local stewardship, blending traditional knowledge with scientific approaches to revive and sustain these critical water bodies. The hope is for the approach and frameworks employed by AKAH India in this project to be adopted in other regions with similar contexts.”*

- Nakul Mohan Heble, Program Manager, WIPRO Foundation



Melghat Region | Amravati | Maharashtra

PROJECT: Construction of Girls' sanitation units in Zilla Parishad Schools

PARTNER: HDFC Bank Private Limited

REDUCING GIRL DROP-OUTS THROUGH IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITIES

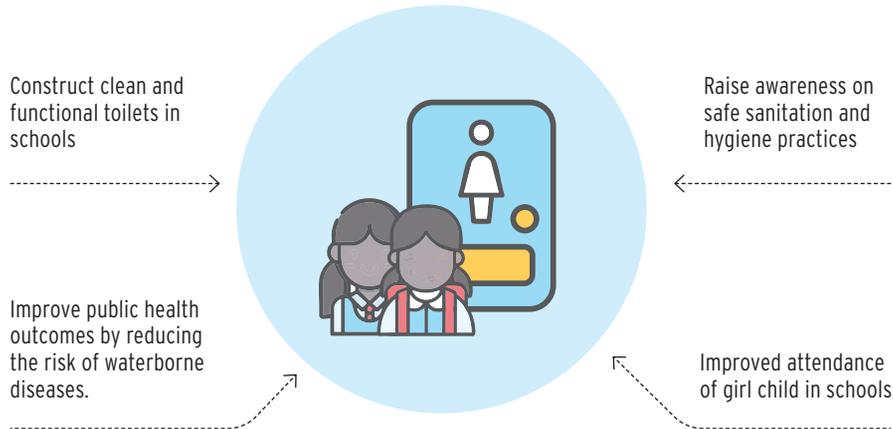
The school sanitation initiative addressed a key barrier to education of the girl child by constructing clean and functional girls' washrooms in 13 Zilla Parishad schools across the tribal areas in Melghat region of Amravati district, Maharashtra. Access to private and hygienic sanitation facilities contribute to the dignity and safety of adolescent girls, especially during menstruation. The objective of the project is to enhance sanitation infrastructure in schools, promote hygiene awareness, and improve the quality of education by boosting attendance among adolescent girls.

The intervention adopted a simple, durable design for the toilets requiring minimal maintenance. This ensures sustainability through local ownership and management of the facilities at the school-level. This initiative exemplifies how sanitation can significantly uplift educational participation and health standards for young girls in under-resourced, geographically challenging areas. The construction of toilets was done through the convergence of the Department of Education, District Collector's Office and Zilla Parishad Office

Construction of 13 Girl's washrooms in Zilla Parishad schools of Melghat



IN FOCUS



IMPACT



682
Beneficiaries



13
Sanitation units for girls were completed in schools across Dharani and Chikhaldara blocks, Melghat

OUTCOME

- Improved school attendance and retention of girls
- Enhanced dignity, safety and hygiene standards for girls
- School stewardship in infrastructural upkeep and maintenance
- Actively engaging district administration in project activities

Melghat, a tribal reserve in Amravati, Maharashtra



Barriers to Breakthroughs

Melghat is a Tiger Reserve known for its rugged terrain and rich biodiversity. Due to the project location within a national sanctuary, the implementation phase encountered significant hurdles, including difficult terrain, lack of road access, water and electricity shortages, and wildlife movement restrictions. What further complicated execution was the lack of community support and labour availability. However, strategic course corrections such as mobilising local skilled and unskilled labour enabled the team to meet the objectives on time and led to its success.



Creation of Community Pond in semi-arid region of Dharashiv



Dharashiv | Osmanabad | Maharashtra

PROJECT: Building Water Resilience: Sustainable Solutions

PARTNER: Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited

BUILDING COMMUNITY WATER RESILIENCE

Dharashiv district in Maharashtra experiences a semi-arid climate, erratic rainfall, depleting groundwater, and high dependence on agriculture, impacting over 225 villages. Further intensified by climate variability, these challenges have led to significant stress on water resources, affecting health and livelihoods. The proposed interventions seek to address chronic water scarcity through an integrated, community-based model for the region, which is designated an Aspirational District by the Government. The

initiative focuses on long-term sustainability through the convergence of ecological, technological, and governance-based solutions. The project focuses on 10 villages using customised water management plans. Key components include the construction of rainwater harvesting systems, check dams, farm ponds, promotion of water saving techniques, adoption of drought-resistant crops, groundwater recharge initiatives, reuse of wastewater, and public awareness campaigns.

PROPOSED OUTCOME

Increase the number of surface waterbodies and groundwater level through water conservation structures

Improved public awareness, education on water conservation and efficient water use

Improved quality of water and reduced pollution in water sources



The Way Forward

Aligned with national and state water conservation priorities, the initiative champions convergence with local government programs, making it both scalable and replicable. Through community involvement, training, and institutional support, the project ensures a smooth transition to self-managed water governance structures.

COASTAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE



Our Approach

Enhancing community resilience through nature-based and technology driven solutions that support biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation



Amreli | Porbandar | Gujarat

Mangrove Plantation in Miyani village of Gujarat

PROJECT: Biodiversity and Ecosystem-Based Climate Change Adaptation
PARTNER: Ericsson Global India Services

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE

For the vulnerable communities living in the coastal areas of Amreli and Porbandar, Gujarat, the AKAH India has implemented a project that focuses on using biodiversity conservation and ecosystem-based strategies to build resilience and sustainability. The project implements ecological restoration strategies, community engagement, and technology deployment of Internet of Things (IoT) and sensors across 20 villages in the two regions. Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment was conducted to understand the challenges faced by the community.

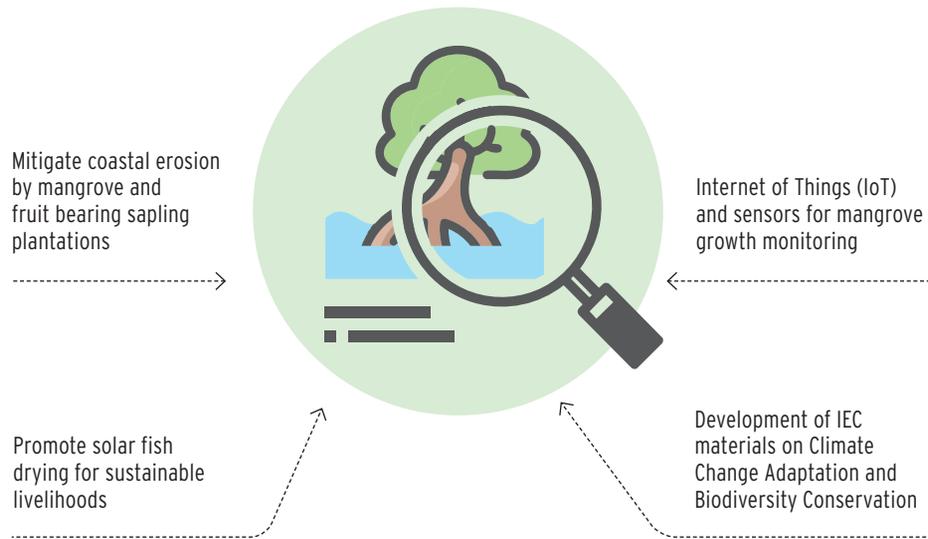
Strategic partnerships were built with the Climate Change Department, Government of Gujarat (GoG), and the

Forest Department, Porbandar, GoG for implementation of various activities at the ground level. Meetings were conducted with PRIs, stakeholders and community leaders for planned interventions along with training sessions utilising ICT tools to create awareness.

Another major step was mangrove plantations in identified villages to strengthen the natural buffers and to mitigate flooding and salinity intrusion. To integrate technology for sustainability, the initiative also introduced Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled plant monitoring systems and solar-powered fish dryers to support sustainable livelihoods.

IMPACT

IN FOCUS



10
Amreli villages

10
Porbandar villages



15
IoT poles

30
Sensor nodes



20,000
Mangrove saplings planted in Miyani village

20,000
Planted in Khera village



1,005
Solar fish dryer units distributed to SHGs



20,000
Fruit-bearing saplings distributed across
20
project villages

Local community maintaining mangrove sapling



OUTCOME

- Coastal ecosystems restoration with mangrove plantations
- Creation of Village Level Working group for monitoring and maintenance
- Aided cost-effective, less time consuming, renewable solar fish drying units to SHG
- Community resilience through DRR and Emergency preparedness trainings





Alibaug | Raigad District

PROJECT: Biodiversity and Ecosystem-Based Climate Change Adaptation

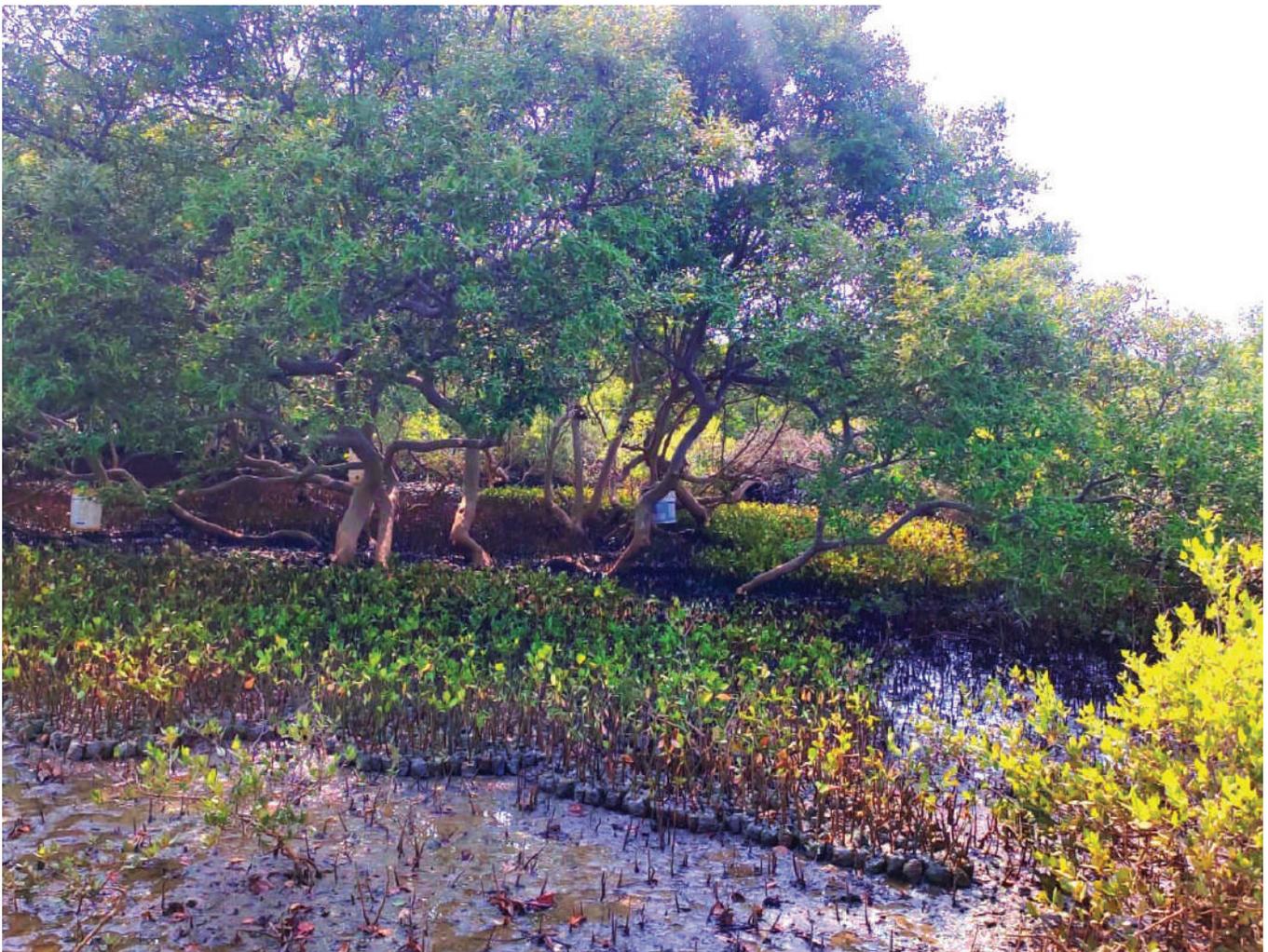
PARTNER: UBS Optimus

COASTAL RESILIENCE THROUGH MANGROVE, MIYAWAKI AFFORESTATION

Alibaug's fragile coastal ecosystems, once rich in mangroves and marshlands, are under increasing threats from rising sea level, tropical cyclones, depleting mangrove cover and rapid urbanisation. In recent years, the frequency and severity of natural disasters have intensified due to degraded ecosystems, compounding the vulnerability of the communities. The program implements interventions in targeted villages to minimise the disruptions caused by unusual weather patterns and enhance sustainable livelihood. The project linkages include ecological restoration, climate mitigation through carbon sinks, women-centric climate-resilient livelihood generation, and partnerships with the Forest Department for sustained impact.

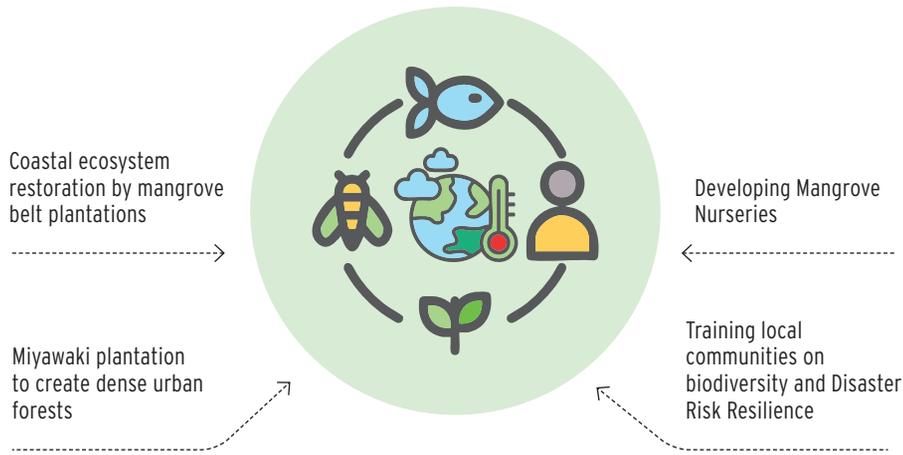
Key interventions include plantation of mangrove along with native species using the Miyawaki method to create dense, carbon-sequestering forest patches. Capacity building with training sessions conducted on biodiversity and disaster risk reduction along with engagements with different PRIs. A district-level workshop brought together officials and community leaders to advance climate resilience strategies. Community engagement was reinforced through wall murals, street plays, and PRA, fostering awareness and inclusive planning. Technological integration through IoT-based monitoring ensured real-time tracking of plantation health, setting a precedent in adaptive environmental management.

Mangrove plantation in Alibaug



IMPACT

IN FOCUS



800
Households surveyed



125
PRIs attended workshop



20
Disaster Risk Resilience trainings conducted



10
Biodiversity Conservation trainings held



3,00,000
Mangrove saplings raised in plantation nurseries



56,925
fruit trees and
23,085
Coastal plants distributed



13,920
Trees planted using the Miyawaki model

OUTCOME

- Reducing coastal erosion and impacts of sea surges through mangrove plantation
- Integration of IoT technology for mangrove growth monitoring
- Strengthened community resilience through Disaster Awareness trainings
- Enhancement of biodiversity conservation through Miyawaki plantation

Development of Mangrove Nursery to raise saplings





IEC material on Coastal Risk Reduction in Palghar



Palghar District | Maharashtra

PROJECT: Coastal Risk Reduction through the Mangrove Plantation Program

PARTNER: IndusInd Bank

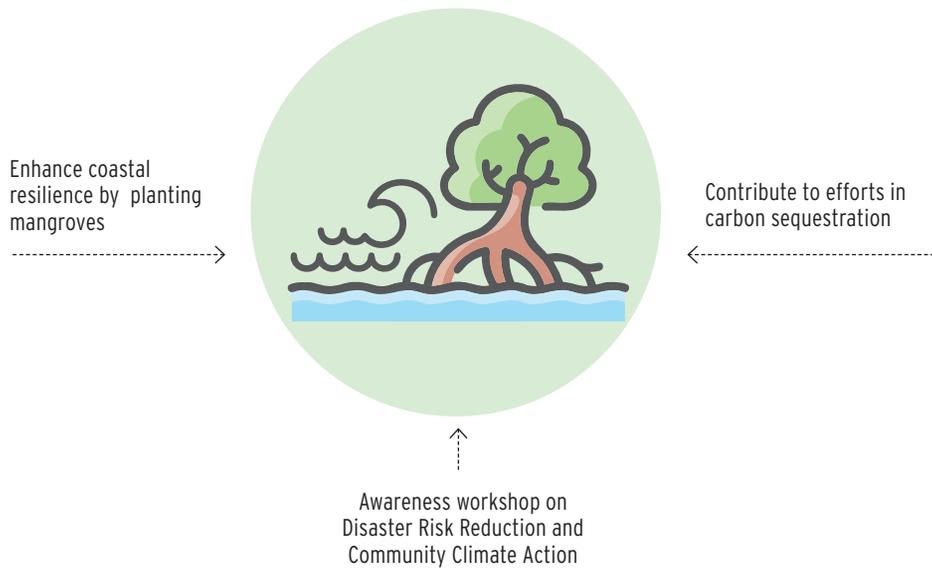
RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS, BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Palghar district faces vulnerabilities from a range of coastal hazards and the program aims to reduce these risks through capacity-building initiatives, environmental conservation, and community involvement. Key activities include disaster preparedness by training local first responders, promoting biodiversity conservation, and raising awareness on DRR.

A primary focus of the project is a large-scale mangrove plantation covering a total of 41.3 hectares spanning six sites in Palghar. The planting of 2,19,600 saplings is aimed at reducing coastal erosion, and protecting the coastal communities from natural calamities. The plantation

drive has mostly been managed through community participation in every stage of the project. This not only generated short-term employment but also strengthened the community's role as stewards of coastal resilience. Climate Change Adaptation & Biodiversity Conservation training were held to raise awareness about the ecological importance of mangroves. These also equipped the stakeholders with technical know-how on planting practices. Through an intervention to increase the green cover and promote sustainable means of livelihood, 49,650 fruit-bearing plants were distributed amongst Gram Panchayat & Schools in Palghar.

IN FOCUS



IMPACT



2,19,600

Mangrove saplings planted



56,925

Saplings planted using the miyawaki method



6

Plantation sites covering a total area of

41.3

hectares



100+

Community members involved in plantation activities



2,358

Stakeholders benefited from fruit-bearing tree plantation

DRR training to the local community in Palghar



OUTCOME

Inclusion of women in key events & community initiatives

Ensuring sustainable ecological livelihood opportunities for the local community

Conservation & enhancement of habitats crucial for marine and terrestrial species

Reducing coastal risks to communities and ecosystems through mangrove plantation





Mangrove Plantation in Jamnagar, Gujarat



Jamnagar | Gujarat

PROJECT: Enhancing Climate Resilience through Climate Adaptation

PARTNER: HDFC Bank Parivartan Private Limited

CREATING GREEN BARRIERS TO MITIGATE COASTAL RISKS

Situated along the Gulf of Kutch, Jamnagar's unique coastal geography exposes it to cyclones, floods, droughts and earthquakes. Compounding this vulnerability is the growing threat of coastal erosion. The loss of mangroves as natural buffers has further eroded the region's resilience. As part of its climate adaptation initiative, the project has supported a mangrove restoration program that focuses on nature-based solutions. 3,00,000 mangrove saplings have been planted across 10 coastal villages. This large-scale plantation benefits coastal communities. They are engaged in the planting and maintenance process.

Beyond restoration, the project incorporates training and capacity-building initiatives, awareness campaigns

and exposure visits to create awareness on climate change and promote community ownership. This mangrove initiative is part of a broader climate adaptation effort that includes solar lighting, Internet of Things (IoT)-based growth monitoring, and community sensitisation. A plantation drive using the Miyawaki method has been conducted at Sainik School Balachadi, Jamnagar, under the Ministry of Defence. This 70,000 sapling plantation aims to create a dense forest by planting native species, which will sequester significant amounts of CO₂, helping mitigate climate change. Together, these interventions demonstrate a scalable, inclusive model for building coastal resilience while empowering local stakeholders

IMPACT



3,00,000
Mangrove saplings planted
across
10
villages



1,00,000
Plantations carried out
using the Miyawaki method
for urban afforestation



152
Solar street lights installed



60
Direct stakeholders
2,500
Indirect beneficiaries

IN FOCUS

Coastal restoration
through mangrove
plantation

Community
participation in
conservation



Large-scale Miyawaki
plantation drive to increase
green cover

OUTCOME

Growth monitoring through IOT in 20 villages

Awareness on climate risk resilience through street plays

Training and Development through exposure visits for community stakeholders

Capacity building training and Block level meeting with community stakeholders

Installation of IOT poles for mangrove growth monitoring





Mangrove Plantation in Bhavnagar, Gujarat



Bhavnagar | Gujarat

PROJECT: Our Coast, Ecosystem and Responsibility

PARTNER: GHCL Foundation

GREENING THE COAST THROUGH MANGROVE RESTORATION

One of the most effective tools to mitigate the effects of climate change is expanding mangrove covers as they act as carbon sinks, storing five times more carbon than tropical forests. With this objective, the two-year project in Bhavnagar district, Gujarat, set out with a goal to plant 500,000 mangrove saplings to combat the rising sea-level and cyclone risks. Through efficient resource use and additional plantation planning, the initiative successfully exceeded its target by planting a total of 716,000 saplings. In the first year (2023–24), 250,000 saplings were planted across 61 hectares. In the second year (2024–25), the initial target of 250,000 saplings was expanded to 466,000. The mangrove saplings were planted employing

local people, particularly women, enhancing community alternative livelihood opportunities.

Focused Group Discussions and Participatory Rural Appraisal meetings were conducted with stakeholders to get insight on the environmental changes and their effects, as well as climate change-based disaster preparedness. The Carbon Sequestration Assessment was conducted to gauge the project's significant climate mitigation value. Simultaneously, site monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and land identification activities were conducted to sustain momentum and explore expansion opportunities.



Installation of IOT poles for mangrove growth monitoring

IMPACT



250,000

Mangrove saplings planted



10

Villages participated in plantation drives



2

Awareness campaigns conducted on road safety, disaster preparedness, and earthquakes



1,521

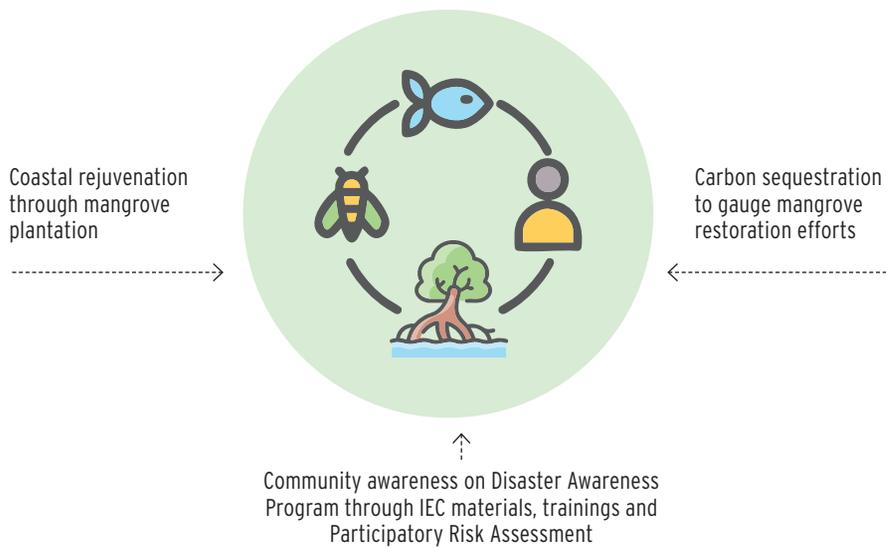
tCO2e of annual carbon sequestration potential



2

Mangrove nurseries established at Gadhula and Khandhera sites

IN FOCUS



OUTCOME

- Restored mangrove belts act as natural barriers to sea level rise and coastal erosion
- Biodiversity Committee for regular community engagement
- Monitoring of plantation sites through committee

Local community planting mangrove saplings in Gadhula, Bhavnagar





Stakeholder Consultation Meeting with local community in Morbi, Gujarat



Morbi (Gujarat) | North Goa

PROJECT: Biodiversity and Ecosystem-Based Climate Change Adaptation

PARTNER: Nippon India Private Limited

ENABLING COMMUNITY THROUGH ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION

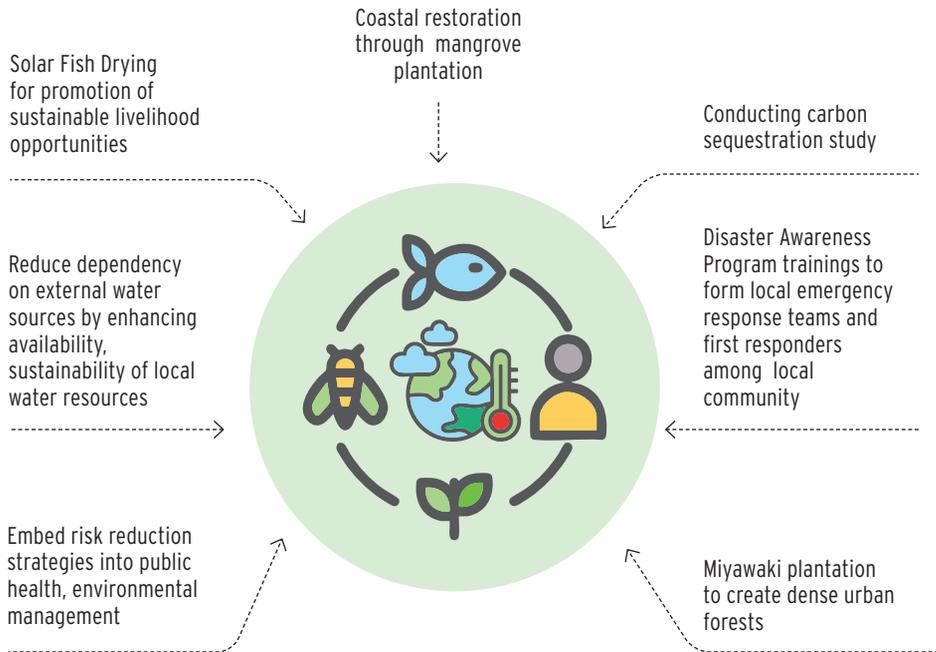
A Communities in Morbi (Western Gujarat) and coastal Goa are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Rising sea levels, erratic rainfall, and salinity intrusion threaten lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems. The lack of awareness leaves many communities ill-equipped to respond to these growing climate impacts. The project was implemented to address the vulnerability of the targeted areas by focusing on area-wise challenges.

The program established Biodiversity Management Committees, empowered women and stakeholders through training and workshops, and supported climate-resilient practices. The initiatives implemented helped build resilience among coastal community members with long-term, sustainable solutions. A key intervention was

the plantation of over 150,000 mangroves in select areas.

Despite challenges, the project succeeded in creating alternative and climate-resilient employment opportunities, strengthening local institutions, and enhancing environmental stewardship. Innovation highlights include the use of the Miyawaki afforestation technique, integrated disaster risk reduction, and women empowerment. As part of the climate change adaptation efforts, a comprehensive baseline assessment and PRA were conducted in coastal communities of Morbi and in select coastal villages of Goa. These assessments provided critical insights into the vulnerabilities faced by the communities. A robust sustainability plan, including community ownership and institutional partnerships, ensures the project's long-term impact.

IN FOCUS



IMPACT


150,819
Mangrove saplings planted


56,925
Saplings planted using the Miyawaki method


4
Biodiversity conservation training programs conducted


1,521
tCO2e of annual carbon sequestration potential


22
Awareness initiatives carried out through wall paintings

OUTCOME

- Restore mangrove belts act as natural barriers to sea level rise and coastal erosion
- Mangrove plantation contributing to carbon sequestration
- Strengthen community resilience through capacity building
- Community-based disaster risk reduction trainings
- Provision of cost-effective, renewable solar fish drying units to SHGs

Mangrove plantation and wall painting in Morbi





Government of Karnataka
susten
Save Energy Save Future
Solar Street Light
Government of Karnataka
Karnataka - Mission District - Apurva Street Light



Modasa, Aravali | Gujarat

PROJECT: Transforming the Future with Clean Energy under Gramvikas
PARTNER: Mahindra Susten

SOLAR STREET LIGHTS BRING SAFETY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY TO ARAVALI

A solar lighting project aimed at transforming rural infrastructure in Aravali, Gujarat, has been undertaken as a collaborative corporate and community effort. The initiative focuses on the installation of 38 solar street lights across rural settlements in the Modasa area. The primary goal of the project is to improve the quality of life in underserved communities through access to reliable, renewable, and sustainable lighting. Villages were

selected based on baseline assessments and stakeholder consultations involving Gram Panchayats and community members. Approximately 8,480 rural residents are expected to benefit from improved public safety, reduced dependence on the grid, and enhanced night-time visibility. This program highlights how targeted infrastructure interventions can support climate action while directly enhancing community well-being.

IN FOCUS

Minimise carbon emissions, contribute to renewable energy goals



Support local development by enabling economic and social activities at nightfall



Enhance community security after sunset

IMPACT



38

solar street lights installed



8,480

Stakeholders

OUTCOME

Increased safety, especially for women and children

Stakeholder engagement for local ownership, sustainability of infrastructure

Minimising carbon emissions through solar powered street lights

Installation of Solar Streetlight in Modasa, Gujarat



Asia's First EDGE-CERTIFIED Green Retrofit Residential Society

In Mira Bhayandar, residential buildings contribute to 40.5% of total emissions according to the city's Climate Action Plan (MBCAP). Of the many high-density residential societies in the area, Nav Yuwan faced rising energy demands, increasing heat stress, and limited awareness of sustainable practices. Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) implemented cost-effective, scalable green retrofit measures, to improve energy and resource efficiency.

Today it is Asia's first existing residential community to receive the EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies) Advanced green building certification. This is a milestone achievement in climate responsive urban living. The project addressed high energy use and rising emissions by implementing energy-efficient retrofitting upgrades and fostering community ownership through awareness and capacity-building programs. With 280 households, the initiative demonstrated how technical improvements, combined with resident engagement can reduce emissions, lower electricity bills, and enhance sustainable living.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN NAV YUWAN HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Key technical upgrades included a 44 kWp rooftop solar PV system, LED lighting in common areas, and the adoption of BLDC fans within houses. Water-saving fixtures and efficient plumbing reduced water

consumption, while eco-friendly construction materials improved material efficiency. To enable community-led action and ownership, AKAH India facilitated dialogue through capacity-building sessions to enhance residents' understanding of maintenance and repairs and focus on effective solutions.

TARGETING THE 40.5% RESIDENTIAL EMISSIONS FOOTPRINT IN MIRA BHAYANDAR

Nav Yuwan's transformation demonstrates the potential of retrofitting as a climate mitigation strategy. The model is built on community-centric engagement, data-driven planning and accessible green technologies that enable identification of interventions that offer maximum impact with minimal disruption. By embedding monitoring and third-party certification such as IFC World Bank EDGE Advanced green building certification, the model strengthens credibility and aligns with national and global sustainability benchmarks.

Felicitations of IFC EDGE certification to the Nav Yuwan Housing Society Members



“AKAH India explained everything about the project to us in detail. It’s not easy to build consensus in a large housing society, but AKAH India helped clarify all the residents’ doubts.”

- Aziz Fidai, Treasurer, Nav Yuwan Housing Committee

OUTCOME

- Lower electricity bills
- Reduced emissions
- Enhanced thermal comfort
- Stronger community cohesion

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT:

EDGE ADVANCED CERTIFICATION AFTER GREEN INTERVENTIONS



41%
Energy Savings



35%
Water Savings



59%
Material Efficiency



232.78
tCO₂/year Operational CO₂ Reduction



₹17,500
Per Household Retrofit Cost

COST-EFFECTIVE GREEN RETROFITTING SOLUTIONS



BLDC FANS

Payback period: 9 months

Impact: Lower electricity consumption, reduced electricity bills



INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS

Payback period: 3 years 9 months

Impact: Generates 11-15 million kWh, reducing grid dependency



MOTION SENSOR DIMMABLE LIGHTS

Payback period: 9 months

Impact: Uses electricity when in use

COVERAGE

Hindustan Times

Housing societies can be 'hubs for climate action'

With rapid urbanisation and the increasing spread of residential and institutional buildings, architects and urban planners must prioritise retrofitting over demolition of the buildings

Down To Earth

MBMC gives residential buildings green retrofittings in pilot project

For the pilot, AKAH implemented solutions in one residential building, three slums, and three civic schools without structural changes.

Solar Reflective Paint (SRI) on roofs



Alu foil installation



Case Study

Cooling Strategies, Climate Sakhis to Manage Heat Stress in Mira Bhayandar

The effects of climate change are evident in informal settlements, where rising temperatures disproportionately impact those with the least resources to adapt. The lack of cooling infrastructure, reliance on heat-trapping materials, and economic vulnerability turn extreme heat into a daily struggle for these residents. Extreme heat also affects their health and livelihood.

“It is hot almost all year round here. From 10 AM to 4 PM, the heat becomes unbearable. We are forced to stay outside during these hours. It does not help if we change to new fans. Some people say the heat is because of old fans, but the real problem is that the air here always feels hot” shares Meera*, a resident of Om Sai Sadan chawl in Mira Bhayandar.

Some residents resort to improvised insulation methods such as installing thermocol sheets. While these solutions provide temporary relief, they lack long-term sustainability and are not environmentally friendly solutions. Through the Urban Habitat Risk Resilience initiative, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) India has implemented sustainable cooling solutions such as solar reflective index paint applied on the rooftops that have reduced heat absorption, decreasing rooftop temperature by 20°C and indoor temperature by 3-5°C. This has resulted in relief to children, women and elderly who spend most time indoors. Additionally, ventilation cores in housing units, along with wood wool panels, and aluminum foil layers have helped to improve airflow and enhance thermal comfort for residents. AKAH has also engaged ASHA workers to lead the program on ground by sharing practical cooling solutions with the community in these settlements. These “climate sakhis” help residents manage heat stress while addressing related health concerns. They also help in building trust of the residents in the community.

KEY INITIATIVES

- Solar reflective index paint applied on the rooftops of 43 households
- Aluminum foil installed under the roofs of 80 housing units
- Wood wool installed in 8 units
- Ventilation cores in 40 housing units and wood wool panels

“We invited all members of the resident association because trust is a key factor. If external agencies approach directly, people hesitate to listen. But since we have worked in the community for years, they trust us. Many residents had questions about materials and the processes. By organising collective discussions, we helped build confidence in the heat relief interventions.”

ASHA worker Sunita*, designated to these chawl clusters, explains the importance of trust in the implementation process

*The names of the residents are changed to ensure confidentiality

Partnering for Resilience: Civil Defence Department, AKAH India's Joint Emergency Response

The collaboration between the Civil Defence Staff College (CDSC) and Aqa Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) India demonstrates an ideal model for government-NGO partnerships, enabling collaborative learning, faster coordination, and improved preparedness in high-stakes disaster scenarios.

AKAH led a highrise rescue and mass casualty management mock exercise as part of the 61st Anniversary Awareness Event of the Civil Defence Department in September 2024. AKAH India mobilised trained volunteers and arranged critical equipment and supplies for rapid deployment, demonstrating its swift responsiveness and commitment to building a culture of safety. The joint drill showcased the synergy between AKAH India's local-level disaster risk reduction expertise and the institutional capabilities of CDSC, creating a holistic approach to disaster management.

By showcasing operational readiness and partnership strength, the collaboration contributes meaningfully toward India's Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision and supports the Prime Minister's 10-point Disaster Risk Reduction plan. This partnership exemplifies how public-private collaboration in disaster management can enable NGOs to effectively support government efforts, build community resilience, and safeguard communities during emergencies.

IN FOCUS

- The collaboration contributes toward India's Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision
- Supports the PMO's 10-point Disaster Risk Reduction plan
- Build community resilience to disaster through public-private collaboration

AKAH-Civil Defence Partnership Mock Drill



AKAH's highrise rescue mock exercise as part of Civil Defence Department's 61st Anniversary Awareness Event

Sustainable Water Management Benefits Bothali Schools

Bothali (Heti), a village 23 km from Arvi Block in Wardha district, is predominantly occupied by the Gavli community. The village faces severe geographical and climatic challenges, which have depleted groundwater levels and diminished water resources.

With groundwater levels dropping, local schools faced increasing water scarcity, leading to disrupted classes, and poor hygiene conditions - directly affecting children's education and health. In collaboration with local leaders, including the headmaster of PM Shree Zila Parishad Primary School, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) implemented Roof Rainwater Harvesting System in a Cattle Health Center. This initiative enabled 23,731 liters of rainwater to percolate into the ground, recharging unconfined aquifers and stabilising local water sources.

The increased groundwater levels ensured reliable water supply for the school, supporting drinking water, hygiene, and gardening. Hand pumps and wells now provide consistent access to water, reducing the pressures on the community and enhancing overall water security.

OUTCOME

- Ensuring reliable access to water for drinking and hygiene in local schools through rooftop rainwater harvesting
- Enhancing overall water security to reduce pressure of migration on the Gavli community



Session on proper sanitation and hygiene to the school students



“Roof rainwater system has ensured a reliable water supply for our students. This initiative has given us hope at a time when water availability is so unpredictable in our village.”

- Bhanudas Ajhankar, Headmaster, PM Shree Zila Parishad Primary School



Case Study

Cleaning and deepening of Canal through community efforts

Restoring Canal through Community-Led Cleaning Initiative in Kutch, Gujarat

Bhadreshwar, a coastal village in the Mundra Block of Kutch District, Gujarat, is home to over 5,000 residents. Located near an industrial hub and just 2 meters above sea level, the village struggles with access to quality drinking water. While residents depend on dug wells and borewells for drinking purposes, high Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in groundwater have rendered them largely unfit for use.

This has led to a greater dependence on the rains for other activities. Despite having a functional dam with adequate water reserves, the delivery system is significantly affected. A 4.68 km canal, which is a vital source of water, has become clogged due to garbage and rampant growth of unwanted vegetation. These issues have contributed to water scarcity in the village.

Under the Community Led Water Stewardship Program, the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India (AKAHI), in collaboration with Prabhat (Hindustan Unilever Limited), launched a canal cleaning initiative in the village. The project adopted a participatory approach involving the Village Water Committee and local stakeholders to ensure transparency, ownership, and sustainability.

IN FOCUS:

Revitalising the Bhadreshwar canal network with simple, low-cost interventions, combined with strong community participation yielding lasting benefits in water conservation and rural livelihood support.

OUTCOME & IMPACT

- **Enhanced flow of water with significantly reduced losses**
- **Village Water Committee's participation ensured effective monitoring, resource mobilisation**
- **Creation of short-term employment for local labourers**



Climate Action Workshop January 2025

1st Runner-Up: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)



Workshops



CLIMATE ACTION WORKSHOP

Mumbai Chapter, Jan 29, 2025

Organised by: Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) & Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC)

Chief Guest: Shri Praveen Pardeshi (IAS), CEO, MITRA - spoke on nature-based urban planning

Attendees: CSR leaders, policymakers, development experts

Theme: Climate Solutions for Future-Ready Cities

Highlights:

- Panel on eco-city strategies and urban heat mitigation
- Roadmap for GHG reduction and resilience

Impact: Fostered cross-sector collaboration on urban climate solutions.



PEER REVIEW

Mumbai, 18 November 2024

Organised by: Urban Habitat Risk Resilience (UHRR) team, Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH)

Purpose:

- Gather technical feedback from experts at NIUA, WRI, C40 Cities, ICLEI, IFC, and others
- Review sector-specific recommendations for the Mira Bhayandar Climate Action Plan

Focus Areas:

- GHG emissions inventory
- Climate risk assessment
- Sectoral mitigation and adaptation strategies

Goal: Refine the methodology and develop tailored, actionable strategies to support Mira Bhayandar's journey to becoming a low-emission, climate-resilient city by 2047.



YOUTH CONCLAVE

Mumbai, 05 October 2024

Organised by: AKAH India in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)

Purpose:

- Invited 45 young changemakers from 13 leading institutes across India
- Reinforcing our commitment to inclusive and participatory urban resilience planning.

Focus Areas:

- Participants conducted on-ground assessments of three heat-stressed areas in Mira Bhayandar
- Sites were identified through a Micro-UHI assessment led by AKAH
- Students presented their policy and design-oriented solutions to combat urban heat after the site visits.

Goal: To develop innovative solutions to mitigate the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect at both neighborhood and city scales.

Awards & Recognitions 2024-2025



Best CSR Film - Emergency Management

BUILDING A CULTURE OF RESILIENCE

Awarded at the 3rd Socio CSR Film Festival by Socio Corpo India Pvt. Ltd. for showcasing our volunteer training initiatives in disaster preparedness.

This film showcases AKAH's Disaster Management Volunteer Training, where community members are trained in first aid, rescue, and evacuation. It highlights how local preparedness builds collective resilience, with trained volunteers serving as first responders in emergencies.



Best CSR Film - Sustainable Water Stewardship

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FOR WATER SECURITY

Also honoured at the 3rd Socio CSR Film Festival for highlighting our community-driven approaches to water conservation and access.

The film presents AKAH's work on water conservation through rainwater harvesting, borewell recharge, and participatory planning. It captures how communities are actively involved in securing sustainable water access and adapting to climate change.



Water Sustainability Awards 2024-25 - Runner-Up

In the "Water for All" category, AKAH India was recognised for its contribution to clean and safe water access.

Award presented by TERI, UNDP, and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.



India Water Foundation - Water Transversality Global Award 2024

AKAH India received the **Best NGO - Rainwater Harvesting and Water Management** award.

Presented by Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, during a multi-ministry conference co-hosted with ESCAP.



FICCI Smart Urban Innovation Award - Jury Mention

Our Ecosystem-based Climate Change Adaptation project in Porbandar, Gujarat, earned a Jury Mention at the prestigious FICCI Awards. Implemented with Ericsson Global India Services, the project uses IoT and sensor technologies to restore mangroves and protect coastal ecosystems through nature-based solutions and community participation.

Down To Earth

All eyes on Greater Mumbai's satellite city Mira Bhayandar as it adopts Climate Action Plan to achieve net-zero emissions by 2047

Mira Bhayandar is the 5th city in Maharashtra to prepare a climate action plan to cut GHG emissions and become a climate-resilient city but implementation is the key

Down To Earth

Housing societies can be 'hubs for climate action'

With rapid urbanisation and the increasing spread of residential and institutional buildings, architects and urban planners must prioritise retrofitting over demolition of the buildings



Climate action plans for India's emerging cities

As India urbanises rapidly and climate impacts intensify, it's crucial to ensure that new cities are built sustainably from the start. A climate action plan can be the first step in this direction.

Enhancing Sustainability in Educational Buildings through Retrofitting: Case Study of a School in Mira Bhayandar, Maharashtra

Under Subtheme: SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy



Enduring the Heat: Challenges and Solutions in Informal Settlements

In this insightful piece, Prerana Langa, CEO of Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, India, and Nayani Khurana, Lead of Research & Knowledge Management, examine how climate vulnerability and social inequality intersect in urban India.



MBMC gives residential buildings green retrofittings in pilot project

For the pilot, AKAH India implemented solutions in one residential building, three slums, and three civic schools without structural changes.

FINANCIALS

Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India (Company Limited by Guarantee)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March, 2025

Particulars	Note No.	As at 31 March, 2025	As at 31 March, 2024
		in ₹	in ₹
A Equity and Liabilities			
1 Shareholders' funds			
(a) Reserves and surplus	3	81,106,981	51,723,331
		81,106,981	51,723,331
2 Non-current liabilities			
(a) Long Term Liabilities			
Employee Benefits - Group Gratuity Fund	19.1	6,173,713	4,622,987
		6,173,713	4,622,987
3 Current liabilities			
(a) Trade payables due to:			
Micro and small enterprises	4	7,387,725	687,849
Other than Micro and small enterprises		66,176,285	35,958,941
(b) Other current liabilities	5	7,467,951	5,546,965
(c) Short-term provisions	6	19,780	27,722
		81,051,741	42,221,477
		168,332,435	98,567,795
B Assets			
1 Non-current assets			
(a) Property, Plant and Equipment			
(i) Tangible assets	7	8,669,883	9,439,792
(b) Non Current Investment	8	4,143,992	3,536,980
(c) Long-term loans and advances	9	1,386,326	846,030
		14,200,201	13,822,801
2 Current assets			
(a) Trade receivables	10	416,296	461,364
(b) Cash and cash equivalents	11	140,967,156	72,434,592
(c) Short-term loans and advances	12	5,425,678	4,749,885
(d) Other current assets	13	7,323,105	7,099,152
		154,132,235	84,744,993
		168,332,435	98,567,795
See accompanying notes forming part of the financial statements	1-20		

In terms of our report attached.

For A A N S and Associates

Chartered Accountants

FRN No: 143605W

CA Ashish B. Kanabar

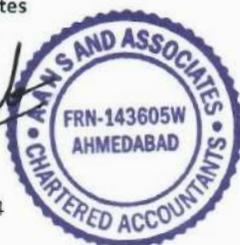
Partner

Membership No:154574

Place: Ahmedabad

Date: 07-08-2025

UDIN:25154574BMNAUZ1745



For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Amirali Maredia

Director

DIN:00020211

Place:Mumbai

Date: 06-08-2025

Munir Bharwani

Director

DIN:01529395

Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India (Company Limited by Guarantee)

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March, 2025

Particulars	Note No.	As at 31 March, 2025	As at 31 March, 2024
		in ₹	in ₹
A Continuing Operations			
1 Revenue from operations	14	305,333,297	265,921,414
2 Other income	15	5,690,179	4,176,220
3 Total revenue (1+2)		311,023,476	270,097,634
4 Expenses			
(a) Project/Programme Activity expense (PA)	16	184,733,326	152,337,573
(b) Employee benefits expense	17	97,890,157	71,063,479
(c) Depreciation and amortisation expense	7	3,749,446	2,527,532
(d) Other expenses	18	29,930,603	32,879,114
Total expenses		316,303,531	258,807,698
5 Surplus / (Deficit) before exceptional and extraordinary items (3 - 4)		(5,280,055)	11,289,936
6 Exceptional items		-	-
7 Surplus / (Deficit) before extraordinary items (5 - 6)		(5,280,055)	11,289,936
8 Extraordinary items		-	-
9 Surplus / (Deficit) from continuing operations (7 - 8)		(5,280,055)	11,289,936
B Discontinuing Operations			
10 Surplus / (Deficit) from discontinuing operations		-	-
C Total Operations			
11 Surplus / (Deficit) for the year (9 + 10)		(5,280,055)	11,289,936
See accompanying notes forming part of the financial statements	1-20		

In terms of our report attached.

For A A N S and Associates

Chartered Accountants

FRN No: 143605W

Ashish B. Kanabar



CA Ashish B. Kanabar

Partner

Membership No:154574

Place: Ahmedabad

Date: 07-08-2025

UDIN:25154574BMNAUZ1745



For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Amirali Maredia

Amirali Maredia

Director

DIN:00020211

Place:Mumbai

Date: 06-08-2025

Munir Bharwani

Munir Bharwani

Director

DIN:01529395



Aga Khan Agency for Habitat
India

**ANNUAL REPORT
2024-2025**

405A/407, Jolly Bhavan No - 1, 10,
New Marine Lines, Mumbai - 400 020, India
+91 22 2200 5677 / 2201 7175
corporate.akahi@akdn.org