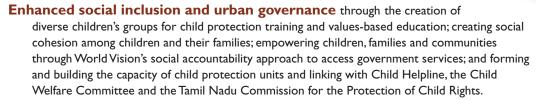# SAFER AND RESILIENT

Chennai, India

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED

Focused global contribution and policy change at neighbourhood, district and citywide levels through helping 1,312 of the most vulnerable families come out of poverty through alternative livelihoods (Sustainable Development Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG11)); personal safety and positive discipline training in 27 schools with 2,000 teachers (SDG 4); citywide End Violence Against Children Child Sexual Abuse Campaign – over 5,000 people gathered to discuss child protection (SDG 5); and promoting women's and children's safety through a policy level initiative by the police department partnered with World Vision (SDG 16).

Enhanced citywide partnerships for citywide impact through collaboration and partnerships that provided 15,645 households with appropriate assistance during the 2015 South India floods; and forming a taskforce and strengthening community disaster preparedness plans in 54 communities.

Enhanced social inclusion and urban governance through the creation of diverse children's groups for child protection training and values-based education; creating social cohesion among children and their families; empowering children, families and communities through World Vision's social accountability approach to access government services; and forming and building the capacity of child protection units and linking with Child Helpline, the Child Welfare Committee and the Tamil Nadu Commission for the Protection of Child Rights.

Promotion of living with dignity and thriving opportunities through an increased number of children participating in the Life School Transformational Development programme; employment generation, especially for women in the most vulnerable families; and career counselling and reading programmes (nearly 50,000 children had access to the Ford Mobile Library).

Chennai has the fourth highest population of slum dwellers among major cities in India, with about 26% of the city's population living in slum conditions. The urban poor live across the city in extreme poverty, exposed to violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and disasters like floods and fire.

KEY IMPACTS

50,000
children from 24 government schools had access to a mobile library through the Ford mobile library (Oct 2019-Mar 2020)

12,500
children in 625 children's groups trained in child protection and education enhancing social cohesion

8,845
children in 2018 to 12,168 in 2019 participated in the Life School Transformation Development programme

5,000
people involved in End Violence Against Children - Child Sexual Abuse Campaign

HOW IT HAPPENED

Chennai is the capital city of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and a major commercial, cultural, economic and educational centre in South India. In 2018, Chennai's urban agglomeration had over 10 million people. My City Initiative (MCI) is a programme initiated by World Vision India in 2013 to address urban poverty in seven cities across the country. The programme in Chennai incorporated three components of World Vision's Citywide Self-Sustaining Model.

Take 5 minutes to learn about the Citywide Self-Sustaining Model. ➔

URBAN PROGRAMME APPROACH

The programme began through a process of systematically assessing issues in the city and finding like-minded partners to engage and collaborate with. The programme goal was to create a city where the most vulnerable children and their families thrive and live with dignity, and intentionally adopted the citywide approach to promote a safer and more resilient Chennai. MCI Chennai focused on 54 neighbourhoods, recognising the uniqueness and complexity of urban contexts and effectively addressing urban issues through World Vision's social accountability approach.

The Strategic Pillars and Enablers of Change were integrated into the programme to ensure the inclusion of the most vulnerable children, proper partnerships and policy influence.

Safer Cities: Urban Governance – target communities were trained in World Vision's social accountability approach to address gaps in the provision of water and sanitation; Built Environment, Public Space and Basic Services – a public toilet was rehabilitated and Child-Friendly Spaces built; parks were built in resettlement colonies creating safe play places; Partnerships – collaborating with Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the Child Welfare Committee empowered urban residents and duty bearers to address child protection issues.

Resilient Cities: Social Cohesion – prepared communities to be resilient in the face of urban shocks, stressors and vulnerabilities, strengthening task force members in disaster and risk management to handle the relief programme during the 2015 Chennai Floods and the Vardha cyclone in 2016; Technology – adopted mobile applications to monitor children.

RESOURCING: BLENDED FUNDING

MCI Chennai adopted an innovative blended funding model that included child sponsorship, corporate and private donations, local resources and government. Child sponsorship funding was the main source of revenue used to sensitise stakeholders and influence policies from neighbourhood to city level. That was leveraged to build credibility with external stakeholders, drawing additional funds through corporations like FORD, Maersk, Coco Cola, ROCA, TERI, Hyundai Steels, Fujitsu, Lubrizol, and other stakeholders including Habitat for Humanity India (INGO).

OPERATIONS: SHARED SERVICES MODEL

MCI Chennai functioned as one unit – all programmes were united in one design, one team, in one city office, all sharing essential services. It also tapped into non-financial resources such as technical expertise, infrastructure, facilities, government and academia. World Vision played three roles within a multi-stakeholder partnership network for citywide impact:

Community Mobiliser and Incubator: through mobilising and empowering communities to advocate for themselves with government bodies to address issues impacting their lives such as sanitation, water and schools.

Multiplier: through scaling up the Child Sexual Abuse campaign across the city with relevant agencies and replicating World Vision's child protection modules and creating child safe environments.

Strategic Facilitator and Convenor: through reaching 5,000 people and bringing together 30 different government organisations including the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Education, Health Departments and Chennai Corporation, NGOs, duty bearers (doctors, lawyers, teachers, teachers, police) and other like-minded partners to discuss, create awareness on child rights and protection and enhance urban governance.