

FUNDACIÓN ASHA-KIRAN SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT - “Community Development 2015-2016”	
NAME OF THE PROJECT	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT “Building the Future in Hadapsar Borough”
LOCATION	COUNTRY: India STATE: Maharashtra CITY: Birajdar slum in Hadapsar, Pune.
CONTEXT	<p>According to the revised 2015 UN Report "World Population Outlook", India will be the most populated country in the world in 2022 with around 1,400 million people, finally surpassing China’s population. Although in recent years it has experienced impressive economic growth, such growth has not reached all social strata of the country yet, where there are still huge pockets of poverty, and the vast majority of the population still faces many barriers to access basic rights such as health care and education.</p> <p>In recent years, due to the rapid development of the country and the great exodus of people from rural to urban areas, there has been an increase in the population living in cities. Currently, 31% of the Indian population resides in urban areas, and is expected to increase to 70% by 2050. Migrants, generally rural and low-skilled workers who are attracted by work opportunities, settle in slums in the periphery of the cities.</p> <p>According to the 2001 census, 42.6 million people live in slums in India, and Pune is the ninth city with respect to the percentage of population living in slums (19.4%).</p> <p>Slums are illegal shanty towns that migrant families build in and around cities, where they live in unsanitary conditions. Normally, they settle on vacant lots that do not have any basic services such as running water, electricity, health services or garbage collection. In this context, children are one of the most vulnerable groups.</p> <p>In addition, in order to survive, many families rely on their young children to sell small items on the street, collect rags or scrap, or simply beg. The vast majority of parents are unaware of their children’s rights and pay no heed to their development. The absence of a protective environment makes them more likely to fall prey to addictions, commit unlawful acts or adopt other risky behaviors.</p>
BACKGROUND	<p>In 2006, Asha-Kiran started working for vulnerable children by launching two Day Care Centers in two separate locations in the city of Pune.</p>

	<p>Up until 2010, the Foundation worked with this type of Centers at two slums located in two areas of Pune -Koregaon Park and Hadapsar- with the main purpose of promoting the holistic development of the vulnerable children who lived in these shanty towns.</p> <p>Given the results and improvements observed in the children we worked with, the Foundation contemplated expanding the scope of the project to meet the demands of development of the communities at large, since, as has been shown by research, a child's welfare can never be complete if work is not done at the same time with their family and community.</p> <p>Therefore, in 2011, the Foundation launched the first stage of this transformation in Birajdar, a slum in Hadapsar, and implemented new activities focused on women, youngsters and adults without neglecting the care of children.</p> <p>In 2012, the project's results made the Foundation focus its efforts on the slum at Hadapsar, and we acquired a three-story building to carry out our activities, which now make up the reality of this project.</p> <p>The Community Development Center, along with the other projects of the Foundation, are integrated into a comprehensive program for the Holistic Development of Vulnerable Children in the city of Pune, which acts as a beacon for the work of the Foundation.</p>
<p>IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD</p>	<p>Annual</p> <p>One of the main objectives of the project addresses giving support to children in their educational process. That is why our activities are adapted to the school calendar, which begins on July 1.</p>
<p>SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE</p>	<p><i>To improve the quality of life of the 2,000 people who live in the slum in Hadapsar where Asha-Kiran works.</i></p>
<p>FORESEEN RESULTS</p>	<p>R.1. The participation of slum children in their educational process is increased.</p> <p>R.2. The empowerment of youth and adults in the community is promoted.</p> <p>R.3. The health status of the community is improved.</p> <p>R.4. The social development of the community is fostered.</p> <p>R.5 The attention to, and care of, children from birth to 3 years in the community is strengthened.</p>
<p>METHODOLOGY AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>With a multidisciplinary and participatory approach, and in favor of sustainable development, we work to promote a decent life for the residents and a brighter future for the children in the neighborhood, in the following four areas:</p>

Education

Through the activities we carry out, we aim to fill the gaps in access to education for the people in the community, while raising awareness of its importance. The implemented activities include the following:

- School enrolment of children: In collaboration with public schools in the area, families are helped in the process of enrolling their children, and their awareness is raised on the importance of their children attending class regularly.
- Support classes: Educational support after school seeks to round off the education of children and allow them to follow the curriculum easily.
- Meetings with parents: These sessions arise out of the need to involve parents in the educational process of their children, and ensure that work continues at home.
- Adult Education: Literacy is key for people to have a chance at future development.

Empowerment

- Self-help groups: Through information, advice and support, they seek to empower community residents to start their own business or join the labor market.
- Vocational workshops: Training in computer science or tailoring gives community dwellers the tools to get jobs and life opportunities.
- Community Kitchen: Established in the kitchen of the Community Center as one of the key factors in the sustainability of the project, community women make the food that is served daily to the children from our Day Care Centers at construction sites.

Health and hygiene

- Health camps: In collaboration with different hospitals and institutions, we conduct general, dental, eye, and blood check-ups in the community, which act as a source of health monitoring of the population.
- Sessions on teen health: In addition to topics such as pregnancy or AIDS, youngsters need to learn about other matters, including their emotions and their transition to adulthood.
- Training in food and nutrition: Mainly for mothers of children aged 0 to 6 years, these sessions seek to raise awareness among families on the importance of a balanced diet, and provide them with the skills to prepare healthy meals using the resources available.
- Awareness of good habits: It is essential to encourage good hygiene habits among children in order to prevent

	<p>many of their infections and illnesses.</p> <p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Information Center: A fundamental part of community development, the Center provides all kinds of information and legal support to families. • Social skills: Sessions for teens that cover aspects of development such as emotion management, psychological development, culture, and other topics of interest to youths. • Festivities and free time activities: We organize various excursions and recreational and leisure activities together with other organizations, to foster social bonds between community members. <p>In 2014, in response to a need that was pinpointed in the community, a small nursery was opened on the ground floor of the Community Center. Since then, community children between 0 and 3 years old are cared for and looked after while their parents are at work, thus avoiding the risk of child exploitation and ensuring proper education from an early age.</p>
BENEFICIARIES	<p>According to a study done in early 2012, the population of this slum in Hadapsar -which has access to the activities offered by the project- is made up of 2,000 people, including children under 16, teenagers, young adults between 20 and 25, and mothers and fathers with limited means.</p>
BUDGET	€13,255 (Request breakdown to the Foundation)