Rapidly Changing India

India’s rapid economic growth has been marked by large-scale economic, social and spatial inequalities. Today, 93 million people live in urban slum conditions and 90% of the country’s 400 million workforce works in the informal sector. Globally, India is home to almost one-third of the world’s poor and 20% of the world’s population living in slums. At the same time, traditional rural economies are also facing multiple dimensions of poverty that constrain development, including issues related to infrastructure, agriculture, education and workforce development.

Global Communities, Partners for Good

Since 2003, Global Communities has been partnering with India’s local governments, national ministries, corporations and hundreds of communities across the country to design and implement programs that reduce poverty and empower communities to sustain positive change. Global Communities’ programs help stakeholders create more-inclusive growth by not only improving infrastructure and access to basic services, but also livelihoods and overall empowerment. The outcomes of our programs include: new and improved housing, increased access to sanitation and water, better solid waste management, new vocational skills for livelihoods and employment, and improved access to financial services and social welfare programs.

Past Programs

Global Communities implemented slum upgrading programs in 103 slums with 28,200 households through a program in three cities in Gujarat, India: Ahmedabad, Surat and Vadodara.

*Slum Communities Achieving Livable Environments with Urban Partners (SCALE-UP) (2007-2011), The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*
This program increased income and asset generation opportunities for more than 200,000 slum residents and improved their living environment, while strengthening the capacity of local government and community organizations to work together.

*Slum and Village Improvement Program (2012-2015), John Deere Foundation*
This program improved the economic and social well-being of vulnerable families in slums of Pune and villages neighboring John Deere’s factory outside Pune city. This program impacted over 18,000 people.

*Samruddhi (“Holistic Development”) Program (2014-2015), John Deere Foundation*
This program was designed in partnership with John Deere India to serve 20 communities around Pune, Dewas and Sirhind to improve the economic and social well-being of vulnerable families. Global Communities has transferred the program to our local partner NGO to continue implementation.

Current Programs

This program builds the capacity of individuals and communities to improve agricultural productivity and find employment in the agricultural machinery sector. *Hunar* targets the Gulbarga region, Karnataka; Bhopal region, Madhya Pradesh; and Nagpur/Akola region, Maharashtra.

*Trash to Treasure Program (2008-present), Caterpillar Foundation*
Global Communities’ Trash to Treasure program in Bangalore established and continues to expand one of India’s first city-wide recycling programs helping advance Bangalore towards a more sustainable solid waste management system that is more inclusive of the informal sector.
New Horizons Program, (March 2014-Present), John Deere Foundation
This program organizes structured volunteer opportunities for John Deere employees to engage in community development projects near their factories and offices in India.

In the News
• Business Week, Bill Gates’ Fix for India’s Ills: Technology, July 27, 2009
• The Hindu, It's your maid's turn to look for a job online, August 9, 2011
• Times of India, 32.5% population of city lives in slums, recent study revealed, January 19, 2011
• Scientific American, Share the Wealth: New Urban Poverty Atlas Now Provide Data to Slum Dwellers, Aug 18, 2011
• The New York Times, Foundations Try to Legitimize India's 'Invisible Environmentalists' May 16, 2011
• The Hindu, They show how garbage can be managed locally, Aug 28, 2012
• CitiScope, From Waste Picker to Recycling Manager, April 14, 2014

Over a Decade in India
Since 2003, Global Communities has been working across 100s of communities in India with support from leading donors to help solve a range of critical issues facing India’s development.

Today, we are supported by the Caterpillar Foundation and the John Deere Foundation and leverage additional support from family foundations, local governments and Indian institutions like the Confederation of Indian Industries.

In 2009, Global Communities established an Indian not-for-profit (Section 25) company, CHF India Foundation, to enable us to partner with Indian supporters and help sustain our development programs in India. In 2013, through this entity we began implementing a city-wide sanitation program in Pune with support from the European Union. As the 2% CSR Companies Act has taken effect in 2015, we have also been helping many domestic and international corporations navigate and design CSR programs.

Global Communities
Global Communities is an international development and humanitarian organization. Our mission is to be a catalyst for long-lasting positive change in low and moderate-income communities around the world, helping them to improve their social, economic and environmental conditions. Founded in 1952 as the Cooperative Housing Foundation—now known as Global Communities—serves more than 20 million people each year, empowering them to improve their lives and livelihoods for a better future. Global Communities is a politically neutral, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization registered in the US. Global Communities’ 2013 Annual Report can be found on our website, www.globalcommunities.org.