



CARING FOR INDIA

ANNUAL
REPORT- LIVABLE
CITIES

2018/2019



WHERE WE ARE NOW

Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh, is one of the greenest cities in India. Ranked as the 17th largest city in the country and 131st in the world, Bhopal is gifted with 17 large and small lakes. The city is divided into 85 wards for administration including Old Bhopal, BHEL Area and New Bhopal.

Drawing on the UN Sustainable Agenda, the goal of our project is to assist the government at the city level to address SDG 11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Our major areas of focus for 2017-2019 included open public spaces and access to healthy food. This report provides the highlights of our work for these 2 years with the technical and financial support from HealthBridge Foundation of Canada.

We have four main strategies to achieve our outcomes including conducting research and policy analysis, engaging communities, preparing print and social media, and developing the capacity of government officials in areas of public spaces and access to food.



WHEN WE STARTED THE WORK

One of our key activities for the time period was to conduct a policy analysis that included reviewing the Master Plan. Through our analysis we found that the green spaces in the city are subdivided into three major divisions: regional and city level parks, planning unit level neighbourhood parks (zonal parks and playground), and sector level (housing parks). Because children are an important target group for our program, we chose to focus on the sector level parks under each housing society as these would be the most accessible to individual households.

We conducted park audits in 33 sector level parks across 5 wards in the city to better understand the quality of the parks in the city. The results showed that the majority of the parks were below average in attractiveness, utility, infrastructures, and safety. Of the parks studied, 30% had very poor sitting areas, a majority (93%) parks did not have toilet facilities, and 90% of the parks did not have any vendors in the area. In addition, 70% did not have drinking water facilities, 60% of the play area did not have any shade, and 78% of streets surrounding the parks do not have footpaths.

To begin to understand the changes that needed to be made in the parks, we chose to work with 2 Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) and identified two parks to be redesigned with community participation. Thus far, one of the parks has been reclaimed and redesigned with community participation (see picture below). The changes in this park have provided an important template for future spaces in the city.





WHEN WE STARTED THE WORK

Cities are quickly becoming the principal territories for intervention to eradicate hunger and poverty and improve livelihoods. This work requires innovative ways to stimulate local economic development in combination with enhancing food security and nutrition. Urban agriculture is one such strategy. We organized the 'Grow your food' campaign and piloted the program with 2 RWAs , 1 low income community, and the with families from CFI. More than 100 families were reached with the message and as a result of the campaign, approximately 40 families started growing food. In addition, we also modelled a roof- top and an urban site in the city.

TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR BENEFICIARY

I am impressed by the support from CFI in promoting the concept and the important thing is that it brought many of us together- Kamini Goyal, Sagar Lake View Homes

Roof-top gardening has come as a breath of fresh air for those of us who have been struggling with thoughts of having food with high level pesticides. This prototype garden at our office roof inspired us to take up vegetable gardening at our home. Although its just the beginning, I am more aware of new and organic gardening practices that will helps us grow our own food. Some of the benefits include, keeping family members engaged and happy while taking care of these plants! Thanks for your remarkable efforts!- Blessy Thomas, CFI Family





To build on our success from 2017-2019 we will continue to expand on our work for open public spaces and markets. In 2019-2020 we will be conducting research on mapping of local markets, we will continue to reclaim public parks and look for opportunities to add universal designs to parks, and we will continue to expand our Grow Your Own food campaign to additional low-income communities in the city.

