

ESAF Summary Report

Livable Cities 2021-2022



Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Bangalore

The Livable Cities Program in Bangalore struggled in 2021-2022 due to COVID-19 and staffing challenges. Despite that, our prior advocacy efforts and achievements are continuing to show results.



Transport 4 All - Digital Innovation Challenge

Like other cities in India, Bangalore is part of the Transport 4 All Task Force (TTF) by the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT). This initiative aims to address the existing issues in the public transport system and to improve the infrastructure for promoting sustainable modes of transportation (non-motorized transport, NMT). ESAF, as a member of the TTF, provided technical support to DULT Bangalore to complete a citizen survey, a bus staff survey, and a driver survey to find out the existing issues faced by people while using public transport modes in Bangalore city. We also helped to compile the data that was used to develop the Problem Statement of Bangalore that was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Govt. of India. In 2022, the "Transport 4 All - Digital Innovation Challenge" will begin in Bangalore.

Bicycle Stands to be Installed in Government Schools from Bangalore Urban

ESAF has been working on improving children's ability to go to school by walking and cycling for many years. ESAF's proposal to install bicycle stands in government schools was approved by DULT, Bangalore. DULT is responsible for all the transport initiatives in the urban planning areas across the state and they have begun implementing the initiative in 32 schools from Bangalore Urban, out of 75 schools proposed. The bicycle racks will be installed in 32 schools by the end of 2022.

Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Bangalore

Landscape Design and Street Design Detailing of Doddanekundi, Bangalore

In 2021, Young Leader for Active Citizenship (YLAC), Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, Doddanekundi Rising, Banaswadi Rising and Sensing Local organized a program called “The Urban REvamp Design Challenge” where they invited organizations to reimagine two typical neighbourhood scale public spaces. The call for proposals was conceptualized as part of a larger initiative to make urban development and planning within Bangalore more inclusive. ESAF submitted a proposal to this challenge titled “Landscape Design and Street Design Detailing of Doddanekundi (Ward 85 of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike)”. The expert committee of ESAF initiated community consultations at the Doddanekundi site, prior to starting the designing of the Ward. We incorporated all the suggestions received from the community in the design concept to construct the sidewalks that stretch 1000 km in length. The design recommendations submitted included accessible sidewalks, open public spaces, pedestrianizing local markets, and accessible public toilets.



Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Guwahati

ESAF's Livable Cities program focuses on issues such as the quality and conservation of open public places, the efficiency of urban mobility, and access to healthy food. For the past two years the pandemic has halted our original program plans. Despite this, in 2021-2022 we accomplished many achievements in our markets, open public spaces, and street programs in Guwahati.

Market Mapping

To begin planning for our markets program, we conducted a market research study where we mapped the location of markets in all the 31 Divisions of Guwahati Municipal Corporation. A total of 285 markets were mapped, which included 5 types of markets: 26 permanent everyday markets, 1 permanent weekly market, 1 temporary everyday market in the same location, 16 temporary weekly markets in the same location, 34 permanent vendors, and 207 mobile vendors. By mapping the entire distribution of markets, we hope to identify those areas of the city that do not have markets and identify the spaces that can be transformed into markets for these communities. Additionally, through preliminary observations of the existing markets, we noticed many permanent markets to be in a poor and unhygienic state. Therefore, another initiative we plan to undertake is improving the quality of these existing permanent markets by improving garbage disposal, conducting cleaning drives, and setting up parking centers to delineate vehicles and shops.



Recreating Inclusive Open Public Spaces

As we enter our third year of the pandemic, we have seen a progressive increase in the number of children participating in our park events/activities. In Guwahati, most parks require an entrance fee making it inaccessible for those children in low-income communities. To combat this and reduce inequities, we created lower cost park activities for children. There are approximately 45 children who use these spaces of which 37 are from low income families. Our goal is to have all the open public spaces in Guwahati free for everyone. By creating park activities at a much lower cost, we hope to engage government in discussions about alternative methods for funding parks to garner money in order to remove all entrance fees.

In addition, we worked to improve the accessibility of Green Park of Housing Colony, which was an unused park in the city. In the past, the community hosted park activities and many children enjoyed this space. However, it became more challenging in recent years to host events because the park is located along the side of a busy road. Through our discussions and conversations with the community advisor and president, we highlighted the importance of a functional park for the local community.

Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Guwahati

As a result of our advocacy, people in the neighbourhood partnered with us to make the park functional for children and older adults by painting the park, installing 4 chairs and 4 play equipment to improve functionality, and creating places for people to exercise. With these improvements, 10-15 children and 6-13 seniors from the 30 families living within walking distance to the park can now enjoy a safe place to play and exercise. Green Park of Housing Colony serves as a model to show communities the power of reclaiming their parks. Through social media engagement, our next step is to uplift and encourage other communities in Guwahati to do the same.

Lastly, we helped support a group of 15 people who organize clean up drives in their parks. Although the trash weight varies with every drive, we estimate that the drives collect approximately 20-30 kgs of trash. These clean up drives encourage people to use their parks.

Open-street event

This year in Guwahati, we introduced open-street events, which is a community initiative that promotes physical activities, such as cycling, and raises awareness for health living. With the support of Guwahati Municipal Corporation and in collaboration with local organizations, we hosted four open street events in Dighalipukhuri, Khanapara Cycle Track, Lachit Ghat, and Khanapara Walking Zone. The events occur on a monthly basis and over time, the number of participants have increased from 50 to 200 people participating in each event. Originally, mostly men participated in our events but through the promotion of cycling, zumba, and other activities by our partner organizations, the events have attracted more children and women.

Furthermore, in partnership with Assam Institute of Management, we held a Cycle Rally to promote cycling as a healthy mode of active transportation and raise awareness among the public. The event drew 160 attendees and due to our public advocacy for cycling, we have seen the number increased from 80 cyclists to over 200 people regularly cycling.



Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Kochi

ESAF’s Livable Cities program focuses on issues such as the quality and conservation of open public places, the efficiency of urban mobility, and access to healthy food. For the past two years the pandemic has created many challenges for our program. Despite this, in 2021-2022 we accomplished many achievements in our markets, open public spaces, and street programs in Kochi.



Markets

ESAF’s markets program in Kochi was focused on community engagement and influencing policy changes to promote organic farming in urban areas and developing local markets. We launched our organic farming initiative at educational institutions on one acre of land provided by St. Teresa’s college Campus Ernakulam, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture Ernakulam. We had 100 student volunteers participating and they diligently prepared the soil with manure and planted saplings in 80 grow bags. The students were later divided into sub-committees to monitor and nurture the plants. This programme was published and showcased by the media and an additional institutional agriculture site was introduced at Government High School Willingdon Island Kochi. With the two new agricultural sites in the urban areas we hope to increase participation for agricultural activities among children and youth.

In addition, our advocacy efforts with Kochi Corporation and the Department of Agriculture resulted in an increase in budget allocation for activities that promote growing and selling local organic farming produce including:

- The new ‘Kochi Rooftop Project’, under the Subiksham Campaign, highlighted the use of terraces for vegetable cultivation and solar power generation. Policies were then enacted in Kochi that promote rooftop farming by mandating terraces in each building and providing saplings for families with terraces.
- The Municipal Corporation adopted our urban organic farming project. In collaboration with the State Department of Agriculture, we will develop and implement a plan for organic farming cultivation in suitable vacant plots in the city. We are looking to use all available rooftops, terraces, and vacant land that are available to fulfill this initiative.
- Cochin Smart Mission Limited (CSML) has earmarked a budget of **5 million INR** (~\$80,000 CAD) to renovate Ernakulam Market and other major markets within the jurisdiction of Kochi Municipal Corporation. This will have a tremendous impact on market infrastructure development policies.

Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Kochi

- New local markets are now being developed under Kochi Municipal Corporation. A new public market was started in Thevara called "Nagara Upajeevana Kendram" for the local people, and the Kochi Municipal Corporation budgeted 3 million INR (~\$50,000 CAD) to construct two other markets in the corporation area. The Market in Thevara will serve around 14,993 residents living within walking distance from the market. The Corporation Council has yet to identify the land to set up the other two markets.
- Markets are now a place to buy local goods and a place where people can sell their own produce. This is a major shift away from the conventional market forms.



OPEN PUBLIC SPACES

As a result of ESAF's direct advocacy with the Kochi Mayor, CSML, Kochi Corporation introduced a new policy to protect public spaces. A priority on the Corporation's agenda is renovating public spaces and, under the new policy, steps will be taken to maintain the highest standard for all parks, which means, in part, renovating parks in a timely manner. These renovated park spaces will then be used to organize cultural events. The Medicinal Garden and the Butterfly Garden, in Subhash Park and Marine Drive, were set up under the Interact Bio project and will soon be open to the public. In addition to protecting public spaces, Kochi Corporation budgeted 50 million INR (~\$800,000 CAD) to make Marine Drive Walkway, Marine Drive Queens Way, Subhash Park and Children's Park more inclusive and safe.

"A Tree For My World" campaign was launched on World Environment Day. Nearly 130 people in Kochi City participated in this novel initiative and more than 58 saplings were planted. Other community engagement initiatives we conducted included beach cleaning and tree plantation drive at Fort Kochi beach, and at Vasco Da Gama Square with the support of Kochi Municipal Corporation in collaboration with the NSS Unit, Bhoomitrasena and Nature club of the Cochin College. Around 90 students participated in the activities.

Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Kochi

STREETS

To raise awareness and promote physical activities such as cycling and walking, we prepared educational material about non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In St. Teresa's college Ernakulam and Cochin College Fort Kochi, we conducted awareness classes in collaboration with the Exercise Department Ernakulam and Non Communicable Disease cell Ernakulam. There were 160 youths participating in these classes as we discussed topics including drug and alcohol addiction and its health implications, and the connection between mental health and physical well-being. Awareness on the importance of physical activity in preventing NCDs can help individuals understand why our Livable Cities initiatives (Open Public Spaces, Streets, and Markets) are important aspects in making a city healthier. Furthermore, individual awareness is the beginning of public advocacy efforts to ensure sustainable and long-term policy changes.

Through capacity building with local agencies and the Kochi Municipal Corporation, we are trying to make our city more healthy. Through meetings with organizations like Synergians, there is now an increased number of NGO's who are able to advocate for streets that support walking, cycling, informal vending, and placemaking. In addition, Kochi Corporation is planning to organize various initiatives to I make the city healthier and safer. For example, 20 million INR (~\$320,000 CAD) budgeted for next year for promoting sports, which includes the relaunch of the Kochi Marathon.

In order to promote walking, cycling, and usage of safe street as public spaces, the Corporation is introducing new projects and programs for the public with ESAF providing support and technical expertise. These initiatives include making new public spaces, making the city more cycle-friendly and disabled-friendly, promoting organic farming, and building new smart roads with accessible walkways and street furniture. All these policies are promoting and transforming Kochi into a safe and livable city.



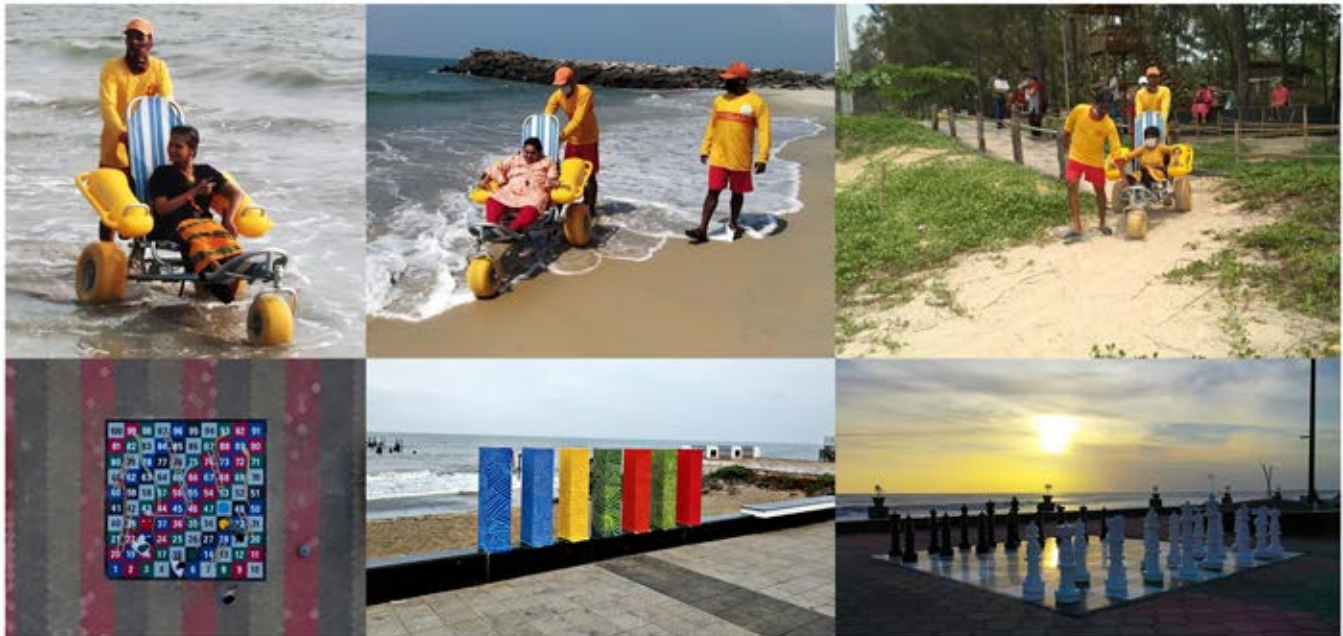
Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Kozhikode

ESAF's Livable Cities program focuses on issues such as the quality and conservation of open public places, the efficiency of urban mobility, and access to healthy food. For the past two years the pandemic has created many challenges for our program. Despite this, in 2021-2022 we accomplished many achievements in our markets, open public spaces, and street programs in Kozhikode.

Open Public Spaces

ESAF is one of the major organizations working in the Kozhikode district for developing inclusive public spaces and our efforts have become recognized by policymakers. In 2021-2022 we launched the *Enabling Kozhikode*¹ project which aims to coordinating projects/programs for people with disabilities. This project was in partnership with the Kozhikode Administration, the Department of Social Justice, Government of Kerala, and non-governmental agencies (people's representation).

In addition to the Enabling Kozhikode project, we made tremendous improvements towards making beaches in Kerala more inclusive. Through our collaboration with DTPC Kozhikode, Kappad beach was the first beach in Kerala that installed Amphibious Chairs, which allow people with reduced mobility to swim and enjoy the beach. According to Social Security Mission Kozhikode Office under the Social Justice Department, Government of Kerala, this project will benefit over 20,000 people with disabilities as they will come from all over the district to use these facilities. Furthermore, in Kozhikode beach we provided wheelchair-accessible ramps to allow for a disability-friendly environment serving over 2500 people. Similarly, we renovated Kozhikode and Bhatt Road beaches that now serve as functional public spaces for people to gather and engage in recreational activities. Altogether, these public space improvements serve over 3000 daily visitors and are walking distance from communities housing 5000 people.



Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Kozhikode

To improve the beauty and livability of our city, the Kozhikode Municipal Corporation has launched AZHAK (The Beauty) Project. AZHAK is an important zero waste initiative, which emphasizes an attitude change in waste management and beautifying public spaces. Through this project, the goal is to influence and raise the happiness index of Kozhikode City. AZHAK is a major project for next year with 40 million INR (\$650,000 CAD) has already been allocated for purchasing equipment (eg. street sweeping machines, robotic drainage cleaners, beach cleaners, septage suckers, and road equipment) and 35 million INR (\$570,000 CAD) is pledged to renovate the Taking a Break Center and to construct a new center. ESAF is supporting this project through organizing beach cleaning drives, public space cleaning drives, and tree plantation events. This year, a mass beach cleaning drive was organized at Kanhangad beach with the support of over 500 Community people. Altogether, AZHAK aims to uplift and improve the quality of life for the people of Kozhikode.



¹ The Enabling Kozhikode helps screen and detect disabilities, provide resources and access for treatment and rehabilitation, and ensures buildings within public spaces are more accessible and inclusive for those with disabilities.

Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Kozhikode

Streets

On Women's Day, we organized the Pink Riders campaign, which encourages and promotes cycling among women. The campaign gained recognition from the Deputy Mayor of Kozhikode Municipal Corporation, who has embraced the project and agreed to be responsible for funding for the initiative in the future. This year, Kozhikode Corporation introduced Project Pink Riders, which caters and promotes cycling as a healthy, inexpensive, safe, and environment-conscious means of transportation. The project is a first-of-its-kind initiative in the State and was designed by the National Urban Livelihood Mission wing of the Kozhikode Corporation. ESAF provides technical support to ensure smooth and effective project implementation. An important focus of the project was to set up rent-a-bicycle units under the Kudumbashree as a means of providing sustainable employment to urban poor women. In total, 27,656 neighbourhood help groups (each NHG consists of 1 to 20 women) in Kozhikode district directly benefited by the project.

Finally, through our work with the city, Kozhikode Corporation has agreed to introduce Cycle Parks with the support of ESAF. A pilot of the cycle parks will be initiated in 2022/2023 at three major tourist locations, Kozhikode beach, Sarovaram Biopark, and Mananchira. A budget of 2 Million INR (\$33,000 CAD) was projected.

Markets

Our markets program in Kozhikode focused on community farming in hopes of providing opportunities for low-income residents to make income and alleviate poverty while also creating access to healthy food. One acre of dedicated farm land at Perumthodipada was used by 20 families in our community farming project. From this plot of land, 1000kg of tapioca and 100kg of big yam were cultivated; this roughly translates to 12000 INR (\$200 CAD) worth of products that could then be sold to the community directly without a middleman and additional costs.

In addition, our community farming with network partner, Junior Chamber International (JCI), provided a new learning experience for the community and served as a drip irrigation model farming project. Drip irrigation is a type of micro-irrigation system that has the potential to save water and nutrients by allowing water to drip slowly to the roots of plants, either from above the soil surface or buried below the surface. The harvest from the project was great and we plan to organize informal markets in the next year to sell these products and support organic farming initiatives.



Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Malappuram

In 2021-2022, our Livable Cities Program for Malappuram was focused on building capacity with policy makers and conducting community engagement to understand the needs of residents.



Open public spaces

Our biggest open public spaces achievements this year included advocating for inclusive public spaces and influencing policy to ensure public spaces were accessible to people with disabilities and to the general public.

Transformation of spaces to be inclusive for people with disabilities

There were many hardships created by COVID-19. However, the silver lining of the pandemic has been that policy makers were able to empathize with what people with disabilities experience regarding not being able to go to parks and socialize with others. We held workshops with policy makers to explain what inclusive public spaces entail and what people with disabilities need for a space to be inclusive.

ESAF, Malappuram Municipality, HealthBridge, AstraZeneca, and the District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC) jointly organized a disability-friendly children's gathering, tree plantation drive, Beach for All signature campaign and an inclusive public space seminar. The purpose of these events is to encourage public spaces, such as parks and beaches, to be more disability-friendly. By advocating and working with policy makers directly, it created a better understanding of the need for inclusive public spaces and a total of INR 605 million (\$10 million CAD) was allocated for inclusive parks, cycle track, walkway for pedestrians and Valiyathod Development project. Furthermore, in Malappuram, we hope to leverage the Kerala Park and Playfield Policy, which preserves and regulates parks, play-fields, and open spaces in the State of Kerala, to fulfill the promise to build inclusive public spaces for people with disabilities.

We met with the District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC) of Malappuram to implement a project for the Accessible and Barrier-free Park Design Policy. Through this project, 9 parks were upgraded and are now disability friendly serving over 500 daily visitors. New facilities for people with disabilities included creating new handrails, placing braille sign boards, building ladies and disable-friendly toilets, adding disability-friendly play equipment, adding free wheelchair rental facilities, and developing disability-friendly footpaths.

Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Malappuram

In addition, we followed-up meeting Tirur Municipal Chairperson to discuss Tirur Municipality Park to become an inclusive public spaces for children with disabilities. This year we visited the park and took pictures and videos to document the conversion process and we plan to discuss with CoEarth to install inclusive play equipments in these parks to reach our sustainable development goals.

Open and free stadium for everyone

We organized a youth empowerment training at OLA Vidyalayam campus for Youth Representatives, with support from HealthBridge and AstraZeneca. In total 60 youth participated in the training that included discussions about youth and social work, public space development, and social audits (evaluating whether use of a government scheme has reach its beneficiaries upon completion).

Through these youth clubs, ESAF with Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Malappuram and Tirur Municipality organized a Mini Marathon promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles. There were over 120 youths and 15 policy makers attending the event at the stadium of MES Central School. The stadium is typically not open for the general public and people need to pay or have a membership in order to enter. However, after the marathon the stadium became open to the public. This is a big policy change towards making public spaces free and open to everyone.



Streets

In our advocacy work with Malappuram Municipality, the Municipality plans to pave a 8.47 km cycle track and walkway beside Valiyathod that would directly benefit the 2 family colony that lives adjacent to the site. ESAF will provide Malappuram Municipality with technical support (Master plan and 3D animated structure plan) on this project worth INR 605 million (\$10 million CAD). On the occasion of Children's Day, ESAF partnered with District Legal Service Authority (DLSA, Malappuram) and Childline and organized Cyclothon 2021 (Ride for Safe and Healthy Childhood) from Manjeri to Malappuram. We had 113 young adults, 5 government departments, and 15 policy makers attend the event. The promotion of active transportation is crucial to reduce carbon emission and also encourage physical activity and overall health.

Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Malappuram

Markets

This year, major advances were made with our urban gardening and organic farming programs. Organic cultivation was initiated by ESAF as a model to strengthen informal local markets so the community will have access to safe and healthy food, which will ultimately ensure zero hunger at the local level. The first fruits planted during the COVID lockdown by the student volunteers of Govt. College Malappuram were cultivated this year and sold at the Students Organic Vegetable Market on the Malappuram Collect Orate premises. Thanks to the commitment of the 30 student volunteers, this neighborhood in Malappuram can now access organic vegetables produced locally. To replicate this project in other local neighbourhoods in Malappuram, we started our student organic farmers training at the NSS Unit of Govt. College where 120 students attended.

Part of our organic farming program includes building capacity with household farmers. With the support of Karshaka Kootyama, Malappuram Municipality, and the Malappuram Agricultural Office, we hosted an organic farming orientation where 80 farmers attended. The result from the orientation was that more support will be given to grow and sell local organic vegetables. For example, Malappuram Municipality pledged to develop an Eco shop(Local Market) in Malappuram Municipality where local farmers can sell their organic products. In addition, with our Restart Kitchen Gardening Project we hope to promote urban farming in Chemmakadav Ward targeting 200 families with the support of the local community groups (Krishi Bhavan, and Karshaka Kootayma). ESAF will provide 5 grow bags and 5 vegetable plants to each family and will open an organic vegetable local market (Onam chandha) in the Panchayth District Office. Overall, organic farming can help supplement income for household farmers of low-income and can boost consumption of healthy local food for buyers.



Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Nagpur

The 2021-2022 year for the Livable Cities Program in Nagpur was filled with local recognition, government support and partnerships. Despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic, we have seen major achievements in our open public spaces and streets program.

Open Public Spaces

The goal of our open public spaces program is to improve health and physical well-being and reduce inequalities within Nagpur. To fulfill these project goals, this year we focused on making functional improvements in existing public spaces and designating spaces for parks in communities lacking it.

There are no parks in the Gorewada and Petesur communities. To provide these communities with safe places to play, ESAF reclaimed space from a local street and designed a permanent space on the road. With the help of the community members, we painted a space where approximately 60 children regularly play and enjoy in the evenings. In addition to attracting children, approximately 90 working women go to this space in the evenings to socialize, watch their children, and relax after the day.



Through advocacy efforts with the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) and local government officers, NMC installed 10 green gym equipment at Gorewada Triconi Park (ward No. 18). This gym equipment encourages physical activity in older adults, women, and children. Approximately 50 adult males, 80 women, 60 children and 30 older adults regularly use this park. In addition, our advocacy led to the redevelopment of 6 Atal Mission For Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) parks in Nagpur City to increase inclusivity and accessibility especially for people with disabilities. With approximately 8000 people living with disabilities in Nagpur, we are working, through AMRUT, towards a vision where there are parks and inclusive public spaces in all wards in Nagpur.

To reduce gender inequalities, we celebrated Women's Day at Darshan Colony Park through many activities, games, and competitions. Many women in Nagpur are housewives and do not often have a chance to go to parks and participate in games. In total, 80 women actively participated in this event and happily stated that the games reminded them of their childhood. With so much positive feedback, we hope to continue implementing these types of activities in the future.

Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Nagpur

Finally, in order to address climate action, access to healthy food, and to help create a more pleasant environment, we organized a tree planting program at Gorewada Park, local schools, and government offices. In total we planted 150 fruit bushes, 100 decorative plants and 250 trees in 5 areas of Nagpur.



Streets

ESAF entered into an official agreement with the Nagpur Smart and Sustainable City Development Corporation Limited (NSSCDCL) to make our city more livable. In collaboration with NSSCDCL we supported 4 initiatives organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs: India Cycles4Change Challenge, Nurturing Neighborhood's Challenge, Streets for People Challenge, and Transport 4 All Challenge.

As part of the Placemaking 2.0 Campaign for the Streets for People Challenge, we provided technical support to NSSCDCL to make the streets of Mahal Market more pedestrian-friendly. The Placemaking 2.0 Campaign aims to raise awareness and advocate for streets that support walking and cycling. We met with 250 customers and 180 shop owners of Mahal Market and Gorewada community. It is typical for merchants to be afraid of losing business when a street is closed to vehicles and it was therefore important to meet with the businesses that would be impacted to understand their concerns and develop solutions. As a result we received the support to initiate the pilot from the shop owners and Merchants Association.

Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Nagpur

Similarly, we surveyed over 4000 people at bus stops and informal drivers for the Transport 4 All Challenge. The surveys helped us understand the issues faced by pedestrians, area residents, bus staff, and informal public transport drivers while using or running public transport in Nagpur city. The Transport 4 All Task Force Members, in which ESAF is a member, discussed all the issues and the recommendations to resolve these issues were included in the Problem Statement prepared by Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC). This document will be submitted to MoHUA, Govt. of India for budget consideration to improve the public transport infrastructure to make it accessible and inclusive for all.



Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Thrissur

ESAF's Livable Cities program focuses on issues such as the quality and conservation of open public places, the efficiency of urban mobility, and access to healthy food. For the past two years the pandemic has created many challenges for our program. Despite this, in 2021-2022 we accomplished many achievements in our markets, open public spaces, and street programs in Thrissur.

Open Public Space Policy Changes

Like many other cities in the state of Kerala, our focus in Thrissur is building barrier-free and inclusive public spaces. Through ESAF's endless efforts, we have influenced many policy changes this year.

In previous years, ESAF had produced a handbook *Handbook for Constructing Accessible and Barrier-free Infrastructure in Public Spaces, Leisure Zones and Tourism Destinations*, which is now being used by government officials and institutions. The School of Architecture and Planning Department of Government Engineering College of Thrissur (GEC) has endorsed our handbook and is keeping it in their library as a reference document for designing barrier-free public spaces and sidewalks. In addition, the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) included the ESAF Handbook in their Training Manual to teach the elected representatives of Local Self Government Institutions' (LSGI) and ULB's how to create barrier-free public spaces. KILA has the mandate to facilitate and accelerate the socioeconomic development of Kerala State through strengthening the LSGIs.

Another major policy we influenced this year was the development of Children's Cultural Village, Ollukkara and Elanjikkulam. After discussion with the Mayor of Thrissur Municipal Corporation, we drafted and submitted a by-law outlining the development of these open public spaces. Accessible walkways, inclusive play equipment, amphitheater, children's library and open gymnasiums were some of the major elements included in the By-law. The walkways will be constructed alongside the water bodies exit in both these spaces for people to come and use it.



Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Thrissur

Transport 4 All - Digital Innovation Challenge

ESAF is named as the Member of Transport4All Task Force (TTF) by the Municipal Corporation Thrissur to start "Transport4All - Digital Innovation Challenge", initiated by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India. As part of the challenge, 4000 in-person surveys were conducted in the city which included citizens, bus staff (drivers and conductors), and informal public transport (IPT) drivers. The surveys helped to identify their sentiments surrounding the current transport facilities in the city and also helped in developing a Problem Statement to be submitted to MoHUA. Problems identified included traffic congestion, lack of updated information about public transport services and facilities, lack of dedicated vehicle parking zones, lack of disabled-friendly public and private buses, lack of accessible sidewalks or footpaths, inadequate traffic calming measures, harassment or theft, and rash driving. Therefore, through this initiative, we aim to address these existing issues and improve the infrastructure for promoting sustainable and active modes of transportation (non-motorized transport).



Construction of Pedestrian-friendly Walkways

After years of advocacy work, the construction of pedestrian-friendly walkways at Swaraj Round and inside Thekkinkadu Maidan is now on the verge of being implemented. This project will help at least 3000 people daily who use this part of the street or maidan to get to the other side of Swaraj Round. ESAF, along with the District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC), Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra (KESNIK), Municipal Corporation Thrissur, and Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) collaborated on this project. The Cochin Devaswom Board has agreed to the recommendations submitted by INTACH to construct accessible walkways, cycle tracks, inclusive parks and to install seating facilities at Thekkinkadu Maidan, Thrissur.

Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Thrissur

Construction of Cycle Tracks inside Azheekkode Munakkal Beach

The construction of cycle tracks at Azheekkode Munakkal Beach has begun. The cycle track will be around 2 kilometers in length and is being implemented through the 'Spice Route Muziris Heritage Project of Muziris Heritage Project Limited, Kodungallur. Approximately, 280 to 360 cyclists are projected to use these tracks in the first month after construction and the number will gradually increase as more people become aware of the track. ESAF played a major role in realizing this new concept of cycle tracks inside the beach and the project will be completed by the end of 2022. Importantly, the beach will be accessible for people with disabilities as inclusive play equipment, beach wheelchairs and floating beach wheelchairs were added to the project design.



Community Farming at Valapadu Gramapanchayath (LSGI)

ESAF partnered with Valapadu Local Self Government Institution (LSGI) and Department of Agriculture to organize the official launch of community farming in Ward 8 of Valapadu LSGI. The area dedicated to farming is 1.5 acres (6070.28 square metres) and will serve over 120 people in the immediate community. This project was a result of the collective effort of 40 families within the ward and ESAF took the lead in successfully implementing this farming model within the Valapadu LSGI limit.

After the first harvest from the community farmland, both the departments have extended their support to introduce informal local public markets in that area to sell the harvested produce. Through the sale of vegetables from the farm site, the community made 50000 INR (\$800 CAD) and the money helped to supplement their household income. The President (Valapadu LSGI), Agriculture Officer (Department of Agriculture, Nattika), Station House Officer (Valapadu Police Station), Member (Ward 8, Valapadu LSGI), among other political leaders attended the event. Originally, we planned to establish a market to sell this produce, but this initiative was a major hit and everything sold out in hours.

Livable Cities Summary Report 2021-2022 Trivandrum

In the Livable Cities project year 2021-2022, major progress was made in Trivandrum in our streets and markets program. As Trivandrum is the capital of the State of Kerala, we hope that the policy changes and community engagement activities conducted here can serve as a model for other cities in Kerala.

STREETS

Gender Equity in Public Transportation Report

Our biggest achievement this year regarding our Streets Program was that we finalized and distributed our Summary Report, Gender Equity in Public Transportation - Understanding the Safety Issues and Mobility Needs of Women in Trivandrum City, to the policy makers in Trivandrum. The main findings disseminated from this study suggest safety issues experienced by women on the streets of Trivandrum are a major concern. For example, women face a lot of harassment on the streets and thus need public spaces for them to stand safely. Through this report, we hope to influence local policies and provide technical support on initiatives the Mayor of Trivandrum is interested in pursuing. In addition, the dissemination of this report helped build a strong relationship with government authorities as the report was produced at the request of the mayor. With government support and peace being a top priority for Trivandrum, this report holds the potential to influence positive changes surrounding gender equality and empowerment of women.



Alcohol and Drug use NCD Awareness Program

We organized an awareness program on how alcohol and drug use contribute to non-communicable disease (NCD). The workshops were held in the NSS Unit of Mar Ivanios College with collaborative support from AstraZeneca's Young Health Programme, HealthBridge Foundation of Canada, and the Exercise Department, Govt. of Kerala. Initially, through creative and impactful presentations, such as a Mono Act and Skit depicting the consequences of drug abuse, the 130 participants were greatly satisfied and engaged with the training session. As a result of this training session, the NSS unit of Mar Ivanios College started to organize a campaign against drug abuse to create awareness among students. Pamphlets were distributed and campaigns were conducted throughout campus to help build a safe and drug-free environment. As a result of the program, there was an increase in student awareness surrounding drug abuse and approximately 30% of students started exercising regularly to combat NCDs.

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OPEN PUBLIC SPACES

Discussions were held with the Director, Department of Tourism, Govt. of Kerala and the Managing Director of Kerala Tourism Development Corporation for developing inclusive public spaces. To raise awareness of the importance of accessibility we distributed ESAF's Handbook on Inclusive Public Spaces for their technical reference, along with our recommendations. They appreciated ESAF's efforts in the field and extended their support. In addition, ESAF submitted a special recommendation to Trivandrum Corporation (2022 - 2023 Budget) for developing more inclusive public spaces and accessible parks.

MARKETS

Organic Farming in Schools

This year, our markets program in Trivandrum focused on increasing the number of urban agriculture sites. We introduced two new organic cultivation programs at Mar Ivanios College and St. John's Model Secondary School.

ESAF organized one day of training for National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers (Unit 2A and 2B) to start organic vegetable cultivation at Mar Ivanios College, Trivandrum with the support of HealthBridge Foundation of Canada and AstraZeneca UK. We had 130 NSS Unit volunteers participating in the program and it was a wonderful opportunity for students to be a part of the organic farming initiatives in Trivandrum. Through the workshop, students learned the basics of farming and in turn started their own small organic farms at home with the support from the local government and agriculture department.

Similarly, an organic farming initiative was launched at St. John's Model HS School, Trivandrum. We had 120 students participating in the seven-day program where they received hands-on training in organic cultivation. The goal of this initiative is to establish a school garden where the produce can be grown and used in school lunches. The remaining produce can then be sold in the local public markets with the support of Urban Local Bodies.



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Community Farming Initiative

On International Women's Day, ESAF partnered with Daya Kudumbashree (Women's self Help Group) to launch an organic farming initiative in PTP Nagar, Vattiyoorkavu, Trivandrum. This program was done with the support of HealthBridge Foundation of Canada and AstraZeneca's Young Health Programme. The main aim of this initiative is to convert unused lands to organic high-yielding farmland. We had 55 members of various organizations, such as self-help groups and residents associations, participate in this program. As a result of this program, various community clubs and organizations are prepared to start their own organic farming project on a large scale. Overall, through this initiative, we improved awareness among residents about the importance of eating healthy organic foods.

