

Empowering Marginalized Communities of Bhal region of Ahmedabad & Bhavnagar district by focusing on Social Justice, Micro Finance, Health, Youth Development and Natural Resource Management

Mahiti

Consolidated Report of Last 3 Years' Activities (2019 - 2021)



Mahiti
a rural development center

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Message from Managing Trustee



Having completed 25 years and half at Mahiti, we are grateful to people who contributed in the development of Mahiti. We have more smiles within the organization (as more projects have come in and there is increased focus in our interventions) and we have been able to bring in smiles for persons outside too (as the new projects are being implemented and old ones expanded). People's empowerment for Accessing Rights to Health and Water and

Agricultural Livelihood is the key programs for last 3 years. The stories that you read within these covers are glimpses of what we have been able to do. Mahiti acknowledges that all achievements that we have had in the last 3 years gone by are results of not only just our labour but also the collective works of the all the stakeholders and all the ground work that has been done in the areas we work. Be it the Youth Interventions, Livelihoods or the Health, Social Justice, Women Empowerment Programs and Organic Agriculture. Yes, Mahiti has been a catalyst. For example, there is the revitalization of the movement for the Social Justice. We are moving from a geographical focus to a theme focused operation such as from Ahmedabad to Surendranagar to Bhavnagar (Bhal Region & Saurashtra Region). In the coming year, we will be expanding on these lines. Mahiti places on record it's gratitude to all the donors' / funding agencies and the very many people with invisible hands, who by their small support (may be a cent) help Mahiti to reach out too many for whom the one cent is the only cent.

We would like to appreciate the "Credibility Alliance, Mumbai" for their accreditation for our Good Governance, Transparency and Accountability in Development Sector.

We acknowledge the CottonConnect South Asia Private Limited and Gujarat CSR Authority for their valuable major partnership with us in the Project "Organic Cotton Farmers Training Program and Linkages of Vulnerable Families with Various Government Schemes" respectively.

In solidarity,

Devuben Pandya
Managing Trustee
Mahiti Trust

1. Introduction



Mahiti – a rural development centre is a grass roots level development organization located at Dholera Village in Ahmadabad district of Gujarat. The meaning of “Mahiti” is “information” in Gujarati Language. And initially it was started as project activities of Ahmadabad based NGOs called Utthan to create awareness through dissemination of information on drinking water in year 1981. In the project implementation process Information (Mahiti Kendra) Centre was set up by Utthan to conduct research,

disseminate findings and recommendations while capacity building of the local leader for advocacy and effectively implementation of various project related to drinking water. Utthan has been realized after 13 years of work with local communities in this region that local people are able to lead the initiative with its own formal structure of organization. And Mahiti as an organization came in to existence in the year of **1994** and “**Mahiti**” got registered under Bombay Public Charitable Trust Act 1950 and Gujarat Societies Act 1860 in this very year and Mrs. Devuben Pandya was selected and elected in this process to lead the organizational process and “Utthan” handed over the work of development in this area to Mahiti and stepped out from this area.

Geographically, working area (region) of Mahiti is called “Bhal”. The meaning of Bhal is forehead. And there is reason to call it “Bhal”. Metaphor used like this there are different parts of body. And each of part of body has its own characteristic. Like “forehead” is at top of the body and there is scarcity of Harmon to grow hair at the forehead. Similarly, Bhal region is also described as area of hopeless area for development and restoration of natural resources. Because of, it has saline coastal land without underground fresh water and fertile land. And this region of Gujarat is extremely backward in context of development indicators such as education, health, social infrastructure etc. and lack of live natural resources like drinking water, fertile land, forest, etc. for survival of poor people.

Historically, economically and socially, Dholera was an erstwhile business town and port but today, it is mere a “Kasba” of few rich and money lenders but most of people in the region are from the marginalized communities such as Schedule Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Castes (OBCs) and Muslim minorities. There are few other communities but most of them are also poor and resources less.

Most of people the region has been facing problems related to water, food, education, health, and employment. Most of vulnerable are women, children and youth due to lack awareness about their constitutional rights and entitlement. Even government outreach is very poor and government has failed to deliver it duties in context of proving services / benefits available for them being citizen of Gujarat and India respectively.

Politically, people are unorganized on issues related to the region but they are divided on the basis of caste / religion / groups / parties. That is why; political class of the region is also marginalized in mainstream politics of Gujarat. Therefore, they are unable to put their demand before the Government of Gujarat effectively and efficiently.

Recent development in the region is that Government of Gujarat has declared this region as “Special Investment Region (SIR)”, Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Business Development Zone, after declaration to build world class city, the case of fraudulent and land grabbing of poor farmers have been on increased..... Therefore, there is fear of prevailed human rights violence.

Mahiti has been working with women, children and youth to ensure the rights, justice and entitlement and provide livelihood and other services to the needy community and individuals through its strategic planning, available resources and donors support.

Over a period of time the organization evolved from its ‘grassroots group’ orientation to a full-fledged institution. Its relentless efforts in finding solutions like rainwater harvesting plastic lined ponds to resolve drinking water crisis, addressing reproductive health issues by developing committed corps, securing rights of women and exploited and finding resource alternatives for poor has generated strong grassroots back up for Mahiti. People of Bhal relate with Mahiti as an organization created and nurtured by them.

Mahiti’s head office is located centrally at Dholera in Bhal region. Dholera used to be a busy trading place about 100 years ago. Now it is deserted but still controlled by few powerful landlords and moneylenders. Issues in this region are enormous and organization adopted long-term strategies to address these issues. Saline-alkaline lands, water scarcity, lack of resources, poor livelihood opportunities, exploitation and disasters besieged the communities. To be precise, villages are abandoned by the State. Socio-economic environment of Bhal has undergone serious changes in the last decade. Its polity, social and economic realities are changing rapidly giving way to new forms of exploitation and hegemony.

1.1 Vision

Mahiti is envisaging a just society without oppression, discrimination, injustice by abolishing discriminations created by unjust social structures & to improve the living standards of vulnerable sections while making them self-reliant

1.2 Mission

Mahiti’s mission is to empower the poor, discriminated & marginalized communities with focus on women to bring about concrete & sustainable changes in their lives & also to address issues of social injustice through strong organization of people & their leadership.

1.3 Objectives of the organization

- ❏ Empower women and youth, develop leadership and capacities to secure social justice
- ❏ Develop natural resources and promote better access and control over community resources for the marginalized communities
- ❏ Develop local resources to strengthen livelihood options for the marginalized communities
- ❏ Improve health and hygiene condition

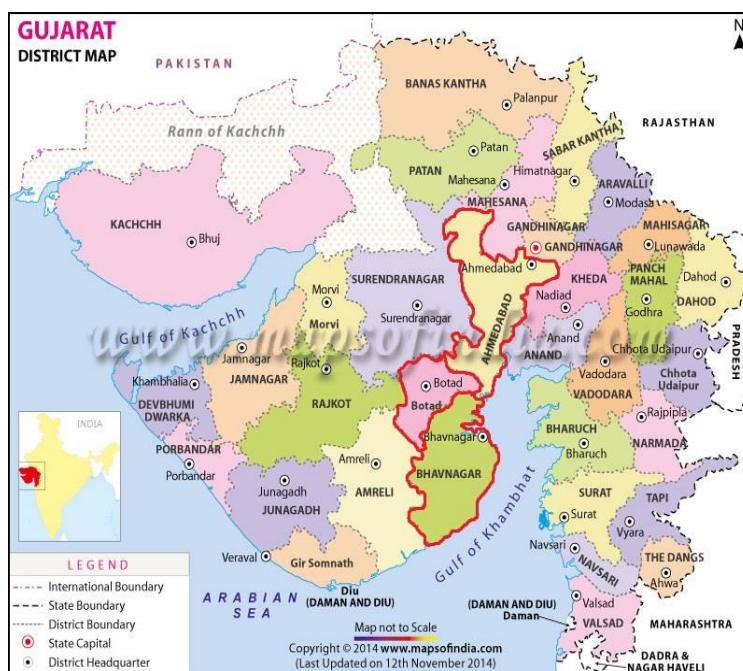
1.4 Major Focussed Areas of Interventions

Mahiti works mainly on five areas – micro finance, social justice, health, natural resource management, and disaster management. For each of these issues, various activities are taken up in the villages by setting up various village level institutions and by empowering them to work on the issues. The details of village level institutions set up and facilitated by Mahiti since its inception are given in the following table.

Village Level Institutions formed & facilitated by Mahiti

Districts	Blocks	Self-Help Groups	Women Members	Water (Pani) Committees	Watershed Committees	Farmer Producer Organizations
Ahmedabad	Dhandhuka	160	2000	50	7	2
	Dholera	120	2200	30	1	4
	Dholka	32	300	4	6	0
Total		312	4500	84	14	6
Botad	Barwala	22	1500	0	0	2
	Ranpur	30	0	0	0	5
Total		52	1500	0	0	7
Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar	84	4500	6	10	0
	Talaja	0	0	30	0	0
	Vallabhipur	12	0	0	0	0
Total		96	4500	36	10	0
Grand Total		460	10500	120	24	13

1.5 Area of Operation



Beginning and existence of Mahiti in Bhal region is the outcome of the complexities existing in this region. Presently, Mahiti is working in **175** villages Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar districts. It works in the Dhandhuka, Dholka, Dholera blocks of Ahmedabad district, Barwala and Ranpur blocks of Botad district, Bhavnagar and Shihor Blocks of Bhavnagar district.

DISTRICT	NO	BLOCK / TALUKA	NO. OF VI LLAGES
Ahmedabad	1	Dholera	32
	2	Dhandhuka	38
	3	Dholka	15
Botad	4	Barwala	30
	5	Ranpur	30
Bhavnagar	6	Bhavnagar	26
	7	Shihor	4
			175

1.6 Core Values

- **Equity:** Being sensitive and committed to reduce all forms of discrimination with focus on poor, dalits, OBCs and women.
- **Participatory Processes:** Having faith in People's capacities and their institutions
- Freedom of people's using **traditional wisdom**
- **Accountability:** Accountability with transparency
- **Collaboration:** Developing synergies through networking
- **Team work:** Striving for quality, innovation and diversity
- **Values we cherish:** Striving for success
- Work for poor and marginalized sections of society
- Special focus on women in each intervention.
- Creation of **strong local leadership** and help to become self-reliant

2. Programmatic Interventions

2.1 Health: - Primary Health, Reproductive and Child Health



Bhal area is backward area in the state. It is backward in infrastructural facilities also. Due to socio economic backwardness the health related problems are quite serious here. Government health care facilities is insufficient and exploitation by private doctors make the situation worse. Child health issues are serious due to lack of awareness, grip of superstitions, and deprivation of human rights has kept the health condition of people especially of young children and women weak.

Women's health care problems are mainly related to their reproductive system. Due to early marriage and pregnancy at young age, mother and child health become weak. Many women are victims of frequent deliveries, miscarriages, gynaecological diseases. The child births are usually attended by untrained dais which increases the risk of mother and child mortality. Some kind of alternative health care system is imperative. There is no transportation facility for serious patients in remote areas. Poverty is another culprit. Lack of nutritive food and addition to liquor and smoking increase cases of illness among adults hence whole family system gets disturbed.



Looking to this situation, Mahiti has taken up various health and sanitation activities since many years. Mahiti's objective is not just to provide infrastructural facility to rural population but to create health care awareness among them as well. Mahiti wants that every village in Bhal region has facilities for health care and be self-reliant in solving their health related problems. Mahiti has been constantly trying to become a link to create active coordination among government health care facilities, women health

workers in villages and village dais. Moreover, Mahiti wants that there should be trained women health workers and traditional birth attendants (dais) who can provide primary health services in villages and carry out child births safely and handle positive and optimistic health care scenario.

Primary Health Centres, Community health Centres and such government facilities are insufficient and inaccessible in remote villages. People living in remote villages can hardly get benefits of these. Moreover, government facilities are somewhat insufficient also. Government nurses are irregular in their visits to villages. Mahiti tries to create efficient links with PHC, CHC and women nurses to make their services more efficient and reliable.

Our organization could not give much emphasis on activities under its community health care program in last three years because the term of the program running under Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust was already completed. During these years all the activities taken up under this program were strengthened. These included training for women health workers, training for dais, medical camps, and awareness camps etc. The details are narrated in following paragraphs.

2.1.1 Capacity building for Women Health Workers (WHWs)



Various Trainings was organized in 2018 and 2019 to strengthen and revise the knowledge imparted through various training organized in the year 2015-16. This was attended by all women health workers and dai women. Mahiti had already taken action and made arrangements that the program continues for a long period. Mahiti staff as facilitator and purchase medicines at wholesale price. Women health workers (WHWs) from villages get the quantity they need at a reasonable price and women health workers supply the

medicines after adding their minimum share.

Thus till now, 130 women health workers and 110 Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) in 72 villages in the area. The women health workers are imparted refresher training on various topics time to time. The women health workers are confident and capable. They have developed skills to diagnose simple illness and administer routine treatment, moreover they meet villagers often and to convince them to put basic sanitation habits into practice. Like cutting nails regularly, using soap to wash hands etc.

Monthly review meetings for health workers were organized regularly. Review meetings of dais with PHCs also were organized regularly.

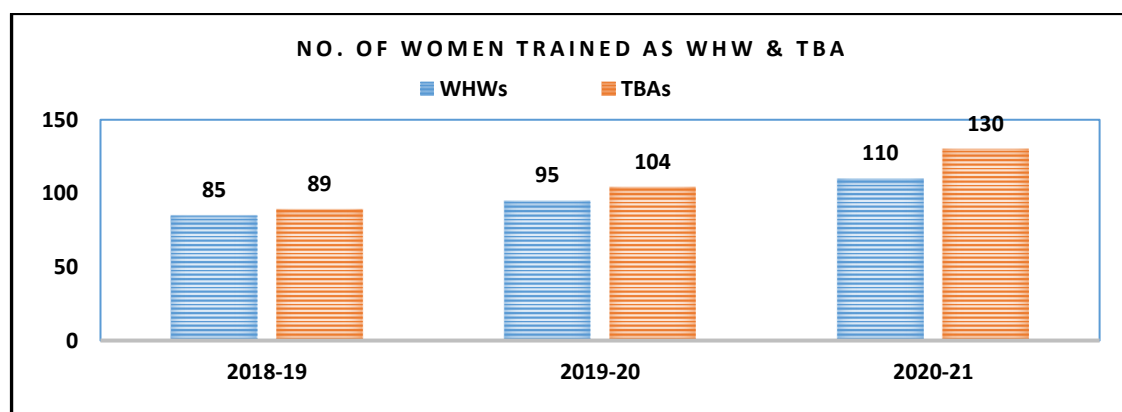
2.1.2 Capacity building of Traditional Birth Attendants (Dais)

Mahiti makes efforts to train dais to carry out child birth safely or recognize the serious cases on time and give advice to shift the patients to hospital. District Reproductive Child Health Society and Mahiti have joined hands to train dais in villages in modern techniques so that mother and child mortality rates can be reduced. Mahiti is working for this in coordination with dais and PHC nurses. Dais gives suggestions and advice to women in villages. They also take care of pregnant and lactating mother on Mamta day. They also call for 108 ambulance service if the delivery is risky. Thus the use of the service has increased. Since last three years, more than 12 such trainings were organized thus till now 110 dais have been trained in 49 villages. Besides this regular refresher trainings were organized for already trained dais. The lessons taught earlier were repeated in this training and it was attended by 85 dais. The details of deliveries attended to by dais at home and those referred to hospital are given in the table below:

No	Primary Health Centres	Household Level Deliveries by Dais	Institutional Level Deliveries	Total Deliveries
1	Dholera Primary Health Centre	124	24	148
2	Pipli Primary Health Centre	85	17	102
3	Barwla Primary Health Centre	90	25	115
4	Nari Primary Health Centre	33	11	44
	Total	332	77	409



As the table above shows ever now dais is called to attend to child birth in villages. Institutionalised child birth is still very few. Government makes efforts that all the child births to be handled at hospitals but geographical and other factors prevalent in this area make this rather difficult. People in rural areas still want the child births attended at home by local dais. That is why training in villages is an important matter and it should continue all the time. Following charts depicts year of no. of women trained as WHWs and TBAs



Performance of Women Health Workers and Traditional Birth Attendants in Last 3 Years

Activities carried out during the year	No. of Persons / Cases
TBAs & WHWs helped in No. of Chiranjivi Yojna benefits	524
TBAs & WHWs helped in No. of Janani Suraksha benefits	
TBAs & WHWs facilitated in No. Persons for Vaccination	242
TBAs & WHWs facilitated in No. of Family Planning Operations	200
TBAs & WHWs did No. of Safe Institutional Deliveries	469
TBAs & WHWs did No. of Safe Deliveries at Home	305
TBAs and WHWs did No. of Patients treated for TB	180
TBAs and WHWs did No. of Patients treated for Iron Tablets	4500

2.2 Women Empowerment through Micro Finance



Since its inception, Mahiti has been providing encouragement and impetus to women savings and credit activities by formation of women self-help groups at village level. This is one of its prime activities because the evil of exploitation by moneylenders is so widespread in this area that poor and deprived people's life becomes nothing but an endless struggle to repay the debts taken from moneylenders. In case of failure to repay the moneylenders snatch away their land from them. Mahiti has been encouraging saving and credit activities

for women for many years. Many women have been able to break the vicious circle of debt and come out of it. As years passed it was felt that there was a need for alternative banking system such a system which is easily available to women and owned by them. Women find it very difficult to get credit from nationalized banks; the process is difficult and unfamiliar for them. This is a disappointing reality for all. Mahiti felt that a structure should be formed where women are owners in the truest sense, where they get a share in the profit. It should be an alternative working on the basis of democratic values. Without much delay, Mahiti got two cooperative societies registered under the cooperative societies act. These cooperatives were made by forming two administrative clusters in Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad. The cooperatives were named "Bhal Women's Savings and Credit Cooperative Society Limited", Dholera for Ahmedabad district and "Bhal Women's Jagruti Savings and Credit Cooperative Society Limited", Kala Talav for Bhavnagar district. Efforts were made to link all the women's groups with these cooperatives are in the phase of increasing their outreach and financial accessibility so that they can be sustainable and emerge as sustainable micro finance institutions – a women's bank in the region.

After situational analysis of the region and prioritization of stakeholders, Mahiti has been giving women prominence place in all its endeavours and Mahiti believe that the mobilization of women collectively can reduce the problems of region in general and women, child and youth in particular. Therefore, organizing and mobilizing of women is a core strategy to implement programs and projects in the region.

2.2.1 Capacity Building of Women's Savings and Credit Cooperative Society Limited



The main objective of Mahiti is to make these cooperatives strong micro finance institutions in the region so that people and especially women get free from the exploitation by the moneylenders and their socio economic status rises. To fulfil this aim it is necessary to develop capacities of leaders of these cooperatives on various aspects of cooperative society management. With this view training in various aspects like scope of micro credit activity, laws related to cooperative society, policy related matters, accounts

and record keeping, management and monitoring of cooperative, role of executive committees of cooperatives and their responsibilities, leadership development, gender sensitization, giving impetus to financial activities etc. are being organized time to time. The women's cooperative of Ahmedabad district has already achieved its geographical scope and financial target fairly well. Moreover, the leaders of this cooperative have been imparted a good number of capacity building trainings. So, during this year, more efforts have been directed to build capacities of the leaders of Bhavnagar cooperative. The details of trainings organized for the leaders of Bhavnagar cooperative are given in the table below:

Details of Trainings for Strengthening MFI initiative

Date of Training	Name of the Training	Topics Covered
23-04-18 to 24-04-18	Training for the Leaders of New SHGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives of cooperatives How Cooperative works Roles & Responsibilities as SHG leaders
06-07-19 to 07-07-19	Training for the Leaders of New SHGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives of cooperatives How Cooperative works Roles & Responsibilities as SHG leaders
16-06-19 to 18-06-19	Training for the Executive Committee members of the Cooperative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding Cooperative Act Financial Management Administration Record Keeping Understanding Books of Accounts
22-01-20 to 24-01-20	Training for the Executive Committee members of the Cooperative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding Cooperative Act Financial Management Administration Record Keeping Understanding Books of Accounts
23-08-20 to 24-08-20	Training for the Office Bearers of the Cooperative (President, Vice President and Cooperative staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record Keeping Understanding Books of Accounts Cooperative Management Aspects
31-08-20 to 02-09-20	Training for the Office Bearers of the Cooperative (President, Vice President and Cooperative staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record Keeping Understanding Books of Accounts Cooperative Management Aspects

2.2.2 Observation of Women Rights Day



It mandatory for Mahiti to organize and mobilize women and men on women's day "8th March "each year to remember the date for world declaration on women rights and celebrates on this occasion about our year achievements in context of women empowerment. This occasion provide opportunity for women and girls to come out of home for her and have exposure of world through the day program as participants and organizer. It is great opportunity for

women's leader's / government officials to learn to speak, interact and share issue/problems related to her, her family and society in large. Women's Convention were organized every year for Ahmedabad district and Bhavnagar district where more than 1500 rural women and girls participated in this convention.

2.2.3 Formation and Strengthening of SHG:

This financial year, we have formed **more than 65** Self Help Groups in the last 3 years and till the end of 31st March 2021, there are a total of **460** self-help groups formed over the years in which out of 460, the total of more than 300 are active in context of inter loaning and dealing the issues of women and child in the villages and all the



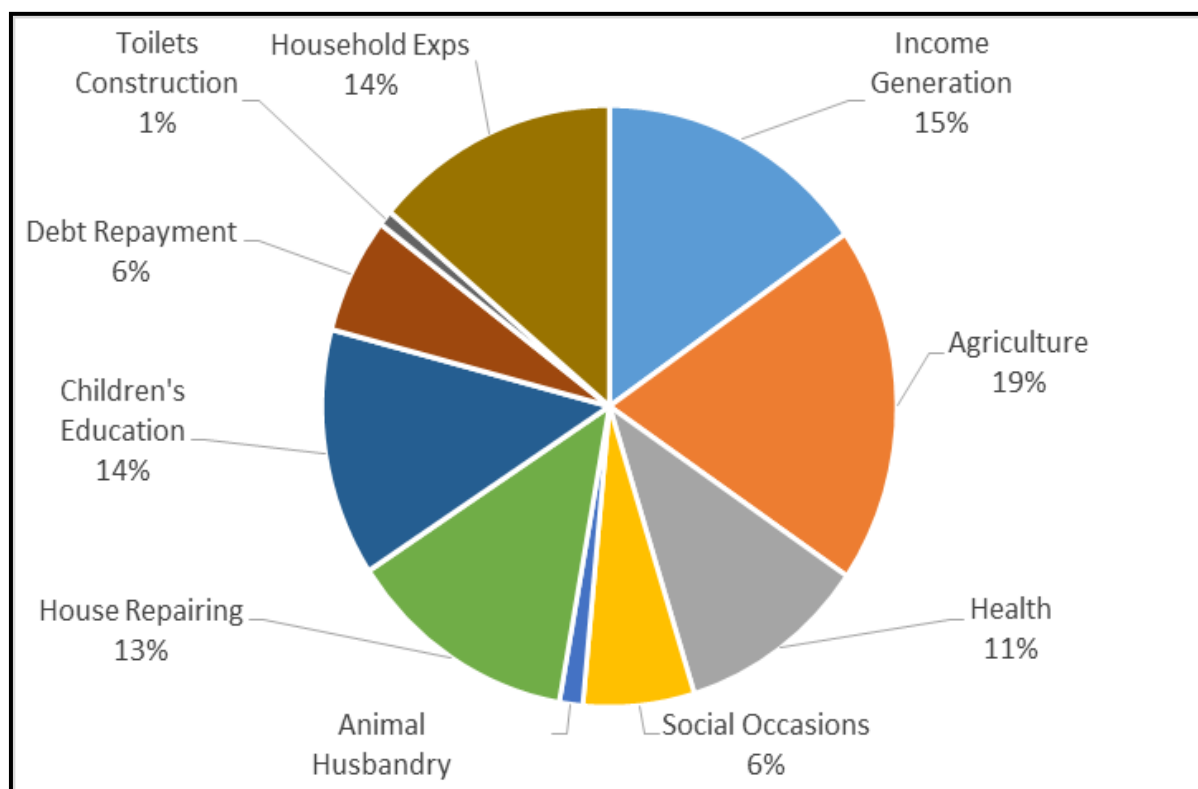
SHGs are linked to our Women's Savings and Credit Cooperatives and other nationalized banks, till the date, there are **11000** individuals accounts of women are opened, Mahiti have facilitated a total number of loans to **2400 women** in last 3 years' time for various entrepreneurship

Micro Finance for Starting Entrepreneurship: In the last 3 years, **255** women come forward to take initiative and risk for her entrepreneurs such as grocery, tiny shops, animal husbandry, flour mill, cloth trading, vegetable vending, tailoring machines, diamond polishing units, dairy, poultry and brick making etc.

Summary of Progress of Both Women's Savings and Credit Cooperatives

Particulars	Unit Types	Bhal Mahila Savings and Credit Cooperative Society Ltd Ahmedabad		Bhal Mahila Jagruti Savings and Credit Cooperative Society Ltd, Bhavnagar		Consolidated (31.03.2021)	
		Previous Year	Current Year	Previous Year	Current Year	Previous Year	Current Year
Villages	Numbers	68	72	32	32	100	104
Women's Groups	Numbers	297		193	193	490	193
Membership	Numbers	7524	7620	3624	3505	11148	11125
Savings	INR in Lakhs	100.83	104.42	90.87	91.56	191.7	195.98
Fixed Deposits	INR in Lakhs	6.5	6.76	7.95	4.85	14.45	11.61
Share Capital	INR in Lakhs	6.11	6.07	6.28	6.25	12.39	12.32
Credit	INR in Lakhs	104.67	103.53	77.81	78.77	182.48	182.3
Income	INR in Lakhs	5.25	7.67	7.68	7.58	12.93	15.25
Profit/Loss	INR in Lakhs	-4.97	0.31	-0.18	1.89	-5.15	2.2

Percentage of Consumption of Credit by women



2.3 Water Resource Management (WRM) for Drinking Water

2.3.1 Drinking Water Resource Management



Looking at severe water crisis in the region, Mahiti has been working to improve access to drinking water for human being and cattle with support from Government of Gujarat, Government of India and other donors. Till date, we have been able to construct 21 Rainwater Harvesting Plastic Lined Ponds and more than 6035 Roof-Top Rainwater Harvesting Structures (tanks), more than 50 water resource management structures etc. It has purchased in bulk in-village water supply system such laying of pipeline, water distribution system pump rooms, pumping machinery etc.



Water & Sanitation Management Organization (WASMO) is a facilitating organization working towards drinking water security and habitat improvement by empowering communities to manage their local water sources, drinking water supply and environmental sanitation.

Mahiti has implemented the project “Ensuring Drinking Water Security and Improved Sanitation Practices under Coastal Area Development Program in 30 villages of Talaja Block of Bhavnagar District”. Even, we have implemented the same activities from WASMO under its “Swajal Dhara Sector Reform Scheme in 45 villages of Barwala, Dholka & Dhandhuka Block”. 90 Water Committees (Paani Samitis) have been formed, installation of drinking water distribution pipeline has been laid down in 90 villages as per the requirement of the village, 30 Water Storage Sumps have been constructed, more than 30 pumping rooms and pumping machineries have been installed in the project villages as part of in-village water supply distribution system. After construction / installation of water distribution system more than **130000 families are having taped drinking water services** in their house and burden on fetching of water from distance has been reduced and even enrolment of girls in the schools have been increased due to availability of water at household level.



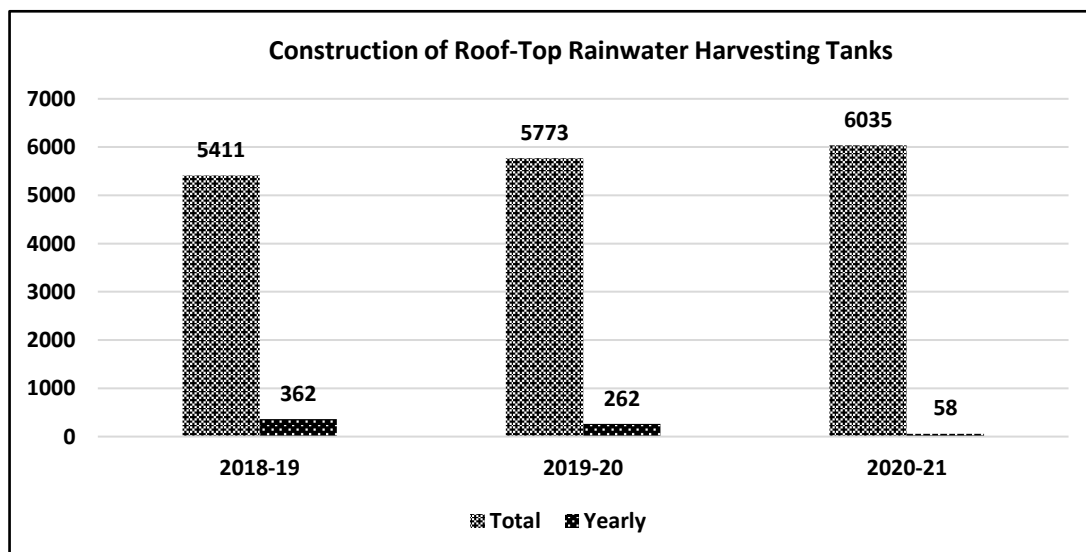
This structure has been built with support of WASMO to cater the water need of cattle in the villages. During the year Mahiti has been able to construct **64 Cattle Troughs** in 60 villages. Due to availability of water for cattle, income of families has been increased through daily work.

2.3.2 Roof Rainwater Harvesting Structures (Tanks)



As mentioned earlier Bhal region has saline soil and ground water also is saline here. In such circumstances the only fresh water resources available here is rain water flowing on the surface of the soil. Collection of this flowing rainwater is the only way which people can resort to get potable water. During the last 3 years,

more than **682 Roof Rainwater Harvesting Structures (Tanks)** have been constructed with the financial support of WASMO and GCSRA. Over the years, Mahiti has been successful in constructing **6035** Roof-Top Rainwater Harvesting structures in the area. The benefits experienced by people after construction of roof rain water harvesting tanks are as availability of clean drinking water; saving of time because no more need to fetch water and spend time for that very useful during water scarcity;



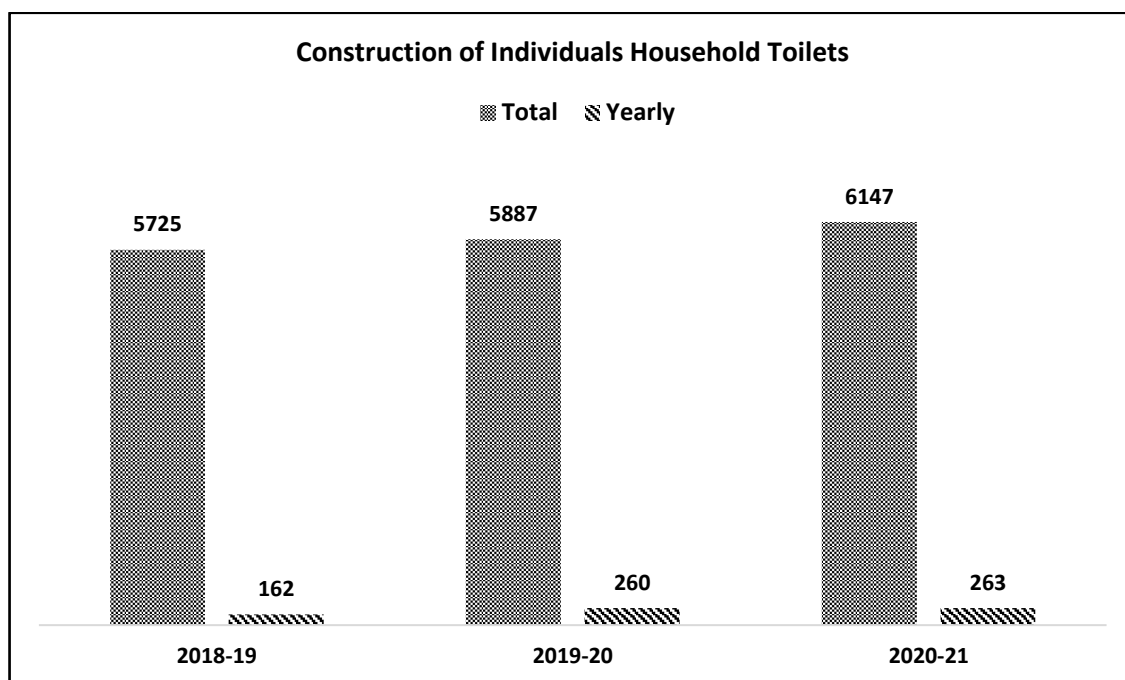
Women's work to fetch water has reduced and they can spend more time with their family and children; women's standard of living is improved

2.3.3 Construction of Household Level Individual Toilets (Sanitation Units)



During the last 3 years, Mahiti has constructed **685** individuals' level **household toilets** in 30 villages under Coastal Area Development Program Phase II with financial support of Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell, Water & Sanitation Management Organization (WASMO), and Swachchha Bharat Mission. Till date, Mahiti has been able to construct a total of **6147** individual household level toilets in the area

(sanitation units).



2.3.4 Water Conservation for Agriculture

Check Dams



During the last year **two check dams** for water conservation has been constructed in Talaja block of Bhavnagar district. These check dams have been benefited a total of 50 farmers in their agriculture productivity. Till the date, Mahiti has successfully constructed **16 check dams** for **3630** farmers which conserved the

water and recharged water table.

2.3.5 Farm Ponds

During the last 3 years, five farm ponds have been made which benefited the 38 farmers in Dholera block. Till the date, Mahiti has constructed **81 farm ponds** in Bhal region which benefited 280 marginal farmers (families). These farm ponds have been used into conserve water & recharge water table. It also used for irrigation purposes.



2.3.6 Waste Weir to stop sea water into agriculture land



This structure helps to stop sea water ingress to farm land. **Two of salinity protection waste weirs** have been constructed during the last 3 years. Till the date, **29 waste weirs** have constructed so far. Besides building various water resource management / water conservation structures in the project villages, Mahiti is also conducting PRA, RRA, formation of water committees, exposure visits, awareness programs, operation and maintenance trainings for these

constructed structures, village level school rally programs on hygiene and sanitation and development of village level action plan for village water resource management etc. as per the need of the villages in consultation with village communities.

2.4 Social, Gender Justice and Human Rights

2.4.1 Legal Aid and Guidance Centre



Mahiti has been working on the issue of social in-justice with the objective to reduce women's exploitation, violence against women, mental & physical harassment of women. Mahiti believes that to reduce these social injustices it is necessary to educate youth and sensitize them. During the capacity building phase, Mahiti realized that creating awareness among women to address these issues is not enough. So therefore, Mahiti has organized a series of workshops and trainings for the community leaders,

CBOs, youth on the issue of how effectively a social movement can be built. Carrying this idea forward, Mahiti has been tirelessly working for capacity building of Bhal Social Activists Group (B - SAG) in Bhal area in context of networking, campaign and advocacy on social justice. B-SAG has been actively organizing periodic meeting villages to address the issue related to violations of human rights through counselling and legal aid.

During the last 3 years' time Legal Aid and Guidance Centre has intervened in 737 cases. The details of Legal help and Legal Interventions and Counselling has been provided as mentioned below.

No	Type of cases	No of cases
01	Violence against women, domestic dispute like marital discard, divorce, beating, maintenance etc	220
02	Compromise in domestic dispute	320
03	Land ownership cases, like illegal possession of land and land disputes	150
04	Inheritance process in land entitlement (Varsai)	80
05	Snatching of Land Dalit Community by land lords	37
Total No. of Case where Mahiti & BSAG has helped / guided / counselled		737

2.4.2 Youth Development and Empowerment



Youth are future of the country, society and family and considered to be more powerful social change agents but unfortunately, the youth of Bhal region was unable to contribute to the family, society, region and the nation due to lack of opportunity in education and sports, even they do not have organizational support to counsel and guide them in context of recreation, sports, culture, employment, other social constructive work. Looking at the situation of youth (Girls & Boys) of the Bhal region,

Mahiti has taken initiative to provide them opportunity to engage them in positive constructive perspective building in the area of sports, life skills such as communication skills, bio-data

writing skills, presentation skills, personality development etc. Besides life skills training, we have also provided vocational training in following trades such as Garment Making (Tailoring), Electrical and Electronic Repair (Wireman), Bags Making, Computer Basics, Desk Top Publishing etc. Moreover, Mahiti also imparted Tailoring Training to Widow Women in Dholera Block with financial assistance of Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Gujarat. Under this program, **30 women** have been trained for garment making and linked with bank for purchasing sewing machines.

Youth (Boys & Girls) and women were trained / linked for Vacation Trainings in the last 3 years.

Type of Vocational Trainings	No. of Youth / Women Trained / Linked	No. of Youth Placed / Self employed
TV & DVD Repairing	03	03
Desk Top Publishing Course	07	05
Air Conditioner & Refrigerator Repairing	04	02
Tailoring / Garment Making Training	97	67
Embroidery / Hasta Kala Training	25	10
Garment Making / Cloth Making	30	18
Wireman / Electrician Training	09	09
Total No. of Youth trained / linked	174	114

2.5 Enhancing Agricultural Livelihoods

2.5.1 Promotion of Organic Agriculture

Cotton is the most important fibre crop of our country. The crop is the best crop to dry land and nature unpredictable situation and a bad monsoon, though it has evolved from dry soil. Its Hybrid (Shankar) and was improved crop production offers more promise. At the same time, the widespread use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has had a detrimental effect on the employment of many cotton growers and has also had adverse effects on the country's environment. Currently complexity of BT variety used in the changes, soil nutrients over nutrients in the soil twitching on the widespread effects and the result is the most serious effects on the environment. Considering the above, the cultivation of Bt cotton in Bhal area is also increasing and the soil is deteriorating. Keeping this issue at the centre, Mahiti is collaboration with CottonConnect South Asia Private Limited has implemented "Organic Cotton Farmers Training Program in 27 villages of Dholera, Dhandhuka and Barwala Block. CottonConnect is a social enterprise of C&A Foundation, Textile Exchange and Shell Foundation. The main objective of this program is to restore the soil fertility and improve livelihood of farmers by establishing, reducing production cost, promoting organic cotton, promoting use of bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides. Under this program, Mahiti has successfully registered 2000 farmers as organic farmers with APEDA. Right now every year's organic certification is being renewed with Certification Body like Control Union and TQ Cert. 2000 farmers have been trained on preparation of Jivamrut, Dashparni, Compost, Vermi Compost. Beside this, various capacity building training were organized on Organic Integrity, Organic Standards of NOP USDA and NPOP. Pre-harvest, mid-season and post-harvest trainings have been imparted among farmers such Integrated Diseases and Pest Management and Post-Harvest Management.

Activity details	Target group
Farmers Meeting	2000 farmers
Staff TOT (First)	Project staff
Internal inspection form	2000 farmers
GPS readings of farms	2000 farmers
Distribute and fill the farmer's field books	2000 farmers
Create a farm map, project map	2000 farmers
Control Union audit - Organic cotton farmers	2000 farmers
Street plays for organic farming awareness	27 Villages
School program for raising awareness against child labour	27 villages
Wall painting in the context of awareness for organic cotton cultivation	12 villages
Awareness program for health and safety measures	27 villages

Various demonstrations were held to sensitize the farmers for the cultivation of organic cotton, the details of which are given below.

Details of the demonstration	Number
Compost and Vermi Compost Demonstrations)	12 villages
Preparation of Bio-Fertilizers such as Jivamarut and Amrut Paani	03 villages
Preparation of Bio-Pesticides such as Dashparni	03 villages
CPP	03 villages



Demonstration of Preparation of Dashparni



Demonstration of Preparation of Amrut Paani



Demonstration of Cow Pet Pits (CPP)



Demonstration of Composting

2.5.2 Participatory Irrigation Management

India's knowledge and ability in the field of irrigation is admired all over the world. Our irrigation schemes and their water distribution system have been successful all over India because of their simplicity and suitability to the local people as well as affordability to the farmers. In Sardar Sarovar Narmada Yojana also participatory irrigation scheme has been implemented with the auspicious intention of providing easy and timely access to water to the farmers and using water efficiently and economically to get maximum yield with less water. The expeditious implementation of the participatory irrigation system program is well-appointed to the voluntary organizations with the objective of involving the beneficiary farmers of the command area of the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam and reaping maximum benefits. As a part of this program, a detailed report of the third phase of operations carried out in a total of 13 Village Service Areas (Minor) in a total area of **8000** hectares in 10 villages of Dhandhuka and Dholera Blocks. of Ahmedabad district is given to Mahiti, Dholera. The Project aims to give their social, economic, agricultural situation as well as irrigation facilities, rural, street, etc. Awareness Meeting, Gram Sabha and One to One Visits were carried out by Mahiti in the 10 project villages.

As part of the project, following Minor Wise Registration Process were done during last 3 years.

No	Name of Minor	Command Area (Ha)	Total No. of Farmers	Total No. of Shareholders	Total Share Capital
१	Kothadiya Minor 2	388.17	117.00	60.00	14,317.00
२	Kharad Minor 1	529.18	125.00	64.00	19,472.00
3	Kharad Minor 2	265.00	62.00	32.00	9,722.00
४	Kharad Minor 3	591.98	126.00	65.00	21,722.00
No	Name of Minor	Command Area (Ha)	Total No. of Farmers	Total No. of Shareholders	Total Share Capital
५	Gorasu Minor 1	333.68	87.00	45.00	12,226.00
६	Gorasu Minor 2	326.58	96.00	49.00	11,926.00
७	Gorasu Minor 3	280.77	129.00	66.00	10,326.00
८	DOL Minor	373.72	117.00	60.00	13,722.00
Total		3,089.08	859.00	441.00	1,13,433.00

2.5.3 Formation and Strengthening of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

Mahiti has been partner with NABARD since 2017 and has taken up the task of formation and empowerment of farmers' producer organizations. The following are excerpts from the work done under this.

1. Since last three years, representatives of Bhal Mahila Agri-Producer Co. Ltd have participated in Women of India National Organic Food Festival in New Delhi and Mumbai where sold more than 20000 KGs Bhaliya Wheat, Gram and Daliya with good price. There was good response during the Festival.
2. Banseedhar, Radheshaym, Navda and Pipal has sold GADC - 2 Non-GMO Seed as trial basis This year there is plan to expand the activities.
3. 4 Organic Input Production Centres have been established in area for inputs like Amrut Paani, Vermi-Compost, CPP, Dashparni etc through the FPOs.
4. Exposure visit was carried out at Sahiyadri FPC, Nasik in the year of 2018 with more than 34 board of directors and CEOs.

5. Mahiti has also formed 05 Farmers Producers Organization in Ranpur Block of Botad district under PODIF Fund of NABARD. 05 Farmers Producer Companies have been namely Sundariyana Farmer Producer Co. Ltd, Jalila Farmer Producer Co. Ltd, Alampur Farmer Producer Co. Ltd, Sangapur Farmer Producer Company Limited and Dharpipala Farmer Producer Co. Ltd.
6. Draft Plans for 08 FPOs have already been Business Plan prepared (in Bhal Mahila, Radheshyam, The Pipal, Navda and Bheemnath)

The last three years **13** farmer's producer organizations have been formed and strengthened and their various training capacity augmentation is performed. The all shareholders in the company is **2174**, the total amount of **10.76** Lakhs is collected as share capital collected. These FPCs are particularly deal with cotton, chickpeas and wheat.

No	Name of Farmer Producer Company	Taluka	District	No. of Shareholder	Products
1	Bhal Mahila Agri-Producer Co. Ltd	Dholera	Ahmedabad	234	Wheat, Chickpea
2	Banseedhar Krushi Evam Pashupalan Producer Co. Ltd	Dholera	Ahmedabad	341	Organic Cotton, Wheat & Chickpea
3	Radheshyam Krushi Evam Pashupalan Producer Co. Ltd	Dhandhuka	Ahmedabad	126	Organic Cotton
4	Navda Agri-Producer Company Limited	Barwala	Botad	159	Organic Cotton
5	Bheemnath Krushi Evam Pashupalan Producer Co. Ltd	Barwala	Botad	167	Organic Cotton
6	Shree Pipal Krushi Evam Pashupalan Producer Co. Ltd	Dhandhuka	Ahmedabad	163	Organic Cotton
7	Sundariyana Farmer Producer Co. Ltd	Ranpur	Botad	246	Cotton, Wheat & Chickpea
8	Dharpipala Farmer Producer Co. Ltd	Ranpur	Botad	198	Cotton, Wheat & Chickpea
9	Alampur Farmer Producer Co. Ltd	Ranpur	Botad	188	Cotton, Wheat & Chickpea
10	Jalila Farmer Producer Co. Ltd	Ranpur	Botad	130	Cotton, Wheat & Chickpea
11	Sangapur Farmer Producer Co. Ltd	Ranpur	Botad	222	Cotton, Wheat & Chickpea
12	Mota Khokhara Farmers Producer Co. Ltd	Ghogha	Bhavnagar	110	Bajari, Cotton
13	Umagargadh Farmer Producer Co. Ltd	Umargadh	Ahmedabad	42	Wheat and Chana
TOTAL				2174	

2.6 Relief Work in Covid 19 Pandemic Lockdown

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food systems and the world of work. The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating: tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty, while the number of undernourished people, currently estimated at nearly 690 million, could increase by up to 132 million by the end of the year.

Millions of enterprises face an existential threat. Nearly half of the world's 3.3 billion global workforce are at risk of losing their livelihoods. Informal economy workers are particularly vulnerable because the majority lack social protection and access to quality health care and have lost access to productive assets. Without the means to earn an income during lockdowns, many are unable to feed themselves and their families. For most, no income means no food, or, at best, less food and less nutritious food.

Millions of agricultural workers – waged and self-employed – while feeding the world, regularly face high levels of working poverty, malnutrition and poor health, and suffer from a lack of safety and labour protection as well as other types of abuse. With low and irregular incomes and a lack of social support, many of them are spurred to continue working, often in unsafe conditions, thus exposing themselves and their families to additional risks. Further, when experiencing income losses, they may resort to negative coping strategies, such as distress sale of assets, predatory loans or child labour. Migrant agricultural workers are particularly vulnerable, because they face risks in their transport, working and living conditions and struggle to access support measures put in place by governments. Guaranteeing the safety and health of all agri-food workers – from primary producers to those involved in food processing, transport and retail, including street food vendors – as well as better incomes and protection, will be critical to saving lives and protecting public health, people's livelihoods and food security.

Now is the time for global solidarity and support, especially with the most vulnerable in our societies, particularly in the emerging and developing world. Only together can we overcome the intertwined health and social and economic impacts of the pandemic and prevent its escalation into a protracted humanitarian and food security catastrophe, with the potential loss of already achieved development gains.

Looking the above pandemic situation and as Civil Society Organization, Mahiti has been partnered with WGWLO to provide food grain kits to most vulnerable families affected by pandemic.



As we all know that from 22nd March 2020, COVID 19 pandemic affected whole country and world. Due to lockdown thus we have closed the Help Desk Centres from 22nd March 2020

onwards. However, Mahiti team carried out the work of creating awareness on COVID 19 and spreading awareness among communities by sending various scientific videos / leaflets provided by Tata Trust and CottonConnect South Asia Private Limited. Approximately Mahiti team covered more than **25000 people** every day by sending messages / videos and IEC material through WhatsApp. Besides this, Mahiti Team has distributed more than **500 food grain kits** among needy people in view of COVID 19 lockdown with the support of Working Group for Women and Land Ownership.

2.7 Tree Plantation and Distribution of Medical Kits with respect to COVID 19

The Pandemic Covid 19 has given lessons for the importance of Oxygen. To fulfil the oxygen level in the atmosphere, Mahiti has planted more than 1500 Trees in 20 villages of Dholera Taluka with the help of Manav Sadhana Trust Ahmedabad. Moreover, more than 40 Medical Kits comprising of Oximeter, Temperature Gun, Masks, Face Shields and Medicines against Covid 19 to 40 volunteers such as Anganwadi



Workers, Aashara Workers and Women Group Leaders to ultimately give services if anyone found Covid 19 Positive. Besides this, 400 Food Grain Kits distributed among most vulnerable families in 10 villages of Dholera with help of Manav Sadhana Trust.



2.8 List of members of the managing committee of the Mahiti organization

No.	Name	Occupation	Office held in Trustee Board	Relationship with other organization	Address
1	Devuben Kuberdas Pandya	Social Work	Managing Trustee	---	Mahiti, At & Post: Dholera, Tal: Dhandhuka, Dist: Ahmedabad Pin 382455
2	Nafisaben Rajubhai Barot	Social Work	Trustee	Trustee, Utthan	45/2 Bima Nagar Society, Opp. Umiya Vijay Society, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad 380015 Mobile: 825326809
3	Diptiben Rajubhai Purohit	Social Work	Trustee	Director Jeevan Tirth	Jeevan Tirth, Juna Koba, Gandhinagar Pin: 382007 Mobile: 9558855236
4	Binoybhai Padmanabh Acharya	Social Work	Trustee	Director Unnati - Organization for Development	12, Ashokwadi Appartment, Panchavati Cross Road, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad 380006 Mobile: 9427109480
5	Rajivbhai Wishwanath Khandelwal	Development Professional	Trustee	Director, Aajeevika Bureau	New Ahinsapuri, Fatepura, Girwa, Udaipur Shastri Circle,, Udaipur-313001 Mobile: 9414165851
6	Suamanbhai Rathod	Social Work	Trustee	Project Officer Centre for Environment Education	At Jasdan Tal: Jasdan District Rajkot
7	Sachinbhai Ajaybhai Oza	Development Professional	Trustee	Director DSC Foundation	A-602, Sagun Caasa, Nr. Prerna Tirth Derasar, Satellite, Ahmedabad 380015 Mobile: 9601281121

2.9 About Our Partners

To accomplish and realize its vision of ensuring the rights and justice of women, enhance the household income and improvement in health status, Mahiti is honoured to have partnered many outstanding and committed institutions and people. We express our gratitude for their support and engagement to Mahiti

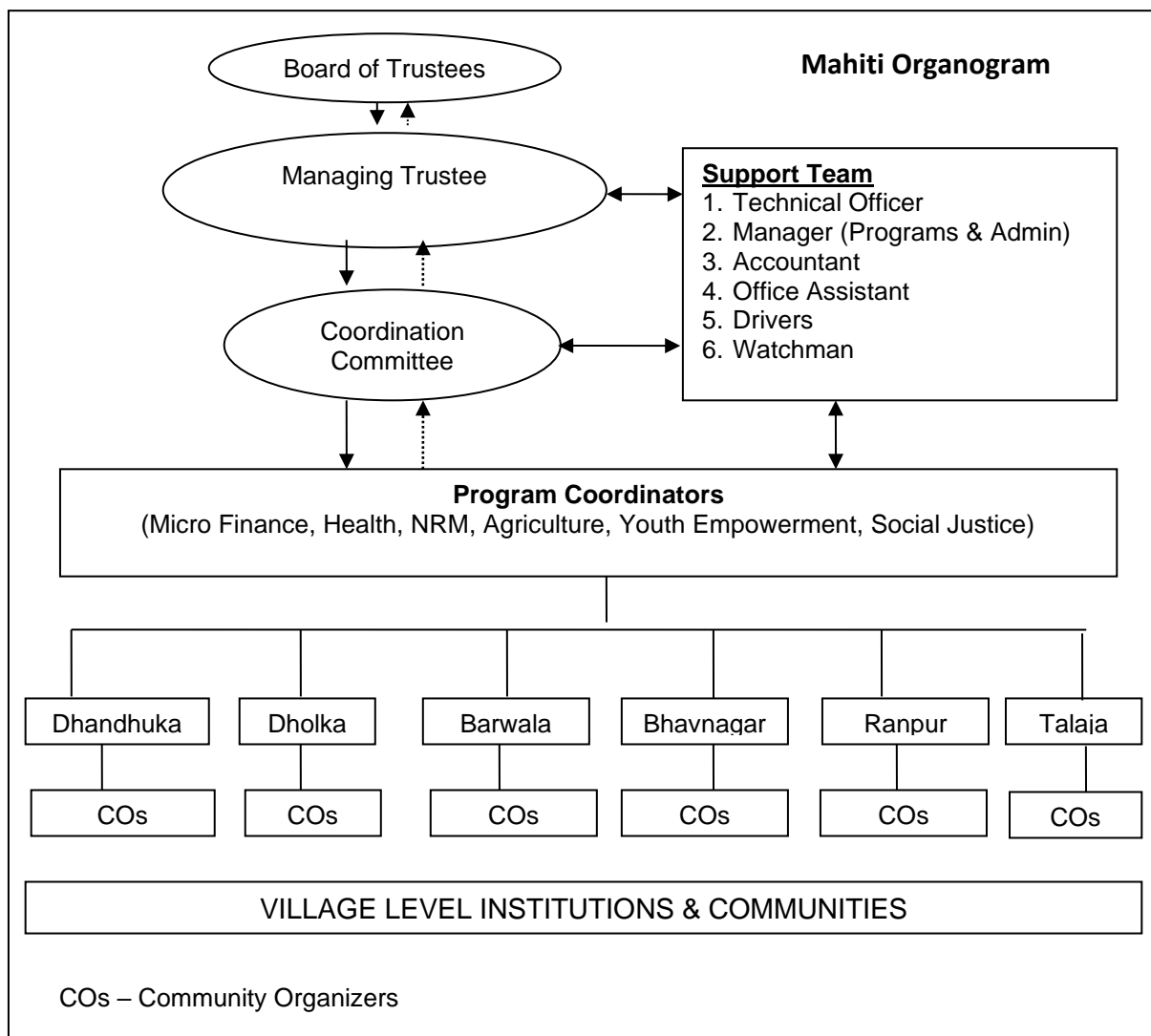
Our Partners

1. Department of Women and Child Development, GoG
2. Water & Sanitation Management Organization (WASMO), Gandhinagar
3. Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell (CSPC), Ahmedabad
4. CottonConnect South Asia Private Limited
5. Gujarat CSR Authority
6. Gujarat State Financial Services Ltd.
7. Bosch Rexroth India Pvt. Ltd
8. Krishna Biotech

2.10 Affiliations & Associations

Organizations / Institutions	Areas of Associations
Action Aid, India	General Assembly Member - Human Rights
PRAVAH - a state level network of VOs, individuals, and experts on drinking water issues	Trustee on the Governing Board Policy advocacy on drinking water issue
Voluntary Action Network of India (VANI), New Delhi	Member Policy advocacy and good governance
Credibility Alliance, New Delhi	Accountability, Transparency and Good Governance
Janpath (a state level network of voluntary organizations in Gujarat state)	Member of Executive Committee Policy advocacy
Sajjata Sangh (a state level network of non-governmental organizations working on natural resources development and management in Gujarat)	Member Issues & Policy Advocacy related to NRM
Working Group for Women's Land Ownership - WGWLO	Member, Campaign and policy advocacy related to women's land rights
Jan Swasththay Abhiyan - JSA, Gujarat	Member, Health issues
Development Support Centre (DSC), Ahmedabad	Capacity building on Natural Resource Management
Human Development and Research Centre	Strategic partner
Utthan	Issues related to Women, Water & Sanitation
Jan Vikas	Capacity building on Legal Aspects & Human Rights
Unnati - Organization for Development Education	Panchayati Raj Institutions and Capacity Building
Gujarat Voluntary Health Association	Reproductive and Child Health
Chetna	Women's & Children's Health
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	Rural Entrepreneurship Development Program

2.11 Organizational Structure



2.12 Team Mahiti

No	Name	Gender	Position	Education	Experience	Sector
1	Devuben Pandya	Female	Managing Trustee	Secondary	40	Social
2	Binduben Bhatt	Female	Program Coordinator	M.Lib	35	Social
3	Dinesh Pandya	Male	Manager	M.S.W.	30	Social
4	Bhanjibhai Khasiya	Male	Technical Officer	D.C.E.	35	Engineering
5	Jagdish Sindhav	Male	Field Officer	B.A.	30	Agriculture
6	Ishwar Parmar	Male	Accountant	B.Com	30	Accounts
7	Sandhya Vasava	Female	Office Executive	M.S.W.	4	Social
8	Sanket Dhandhaliya	Male	Field Executive	M.S.W.	2	Social
9	Tejpalsinh Chudasama	Male	Field Executive	M.S.W.	5	Social
10	Hardevsinh Parmar	Male	Field Executive	B.A.	2	Social
11	Ajay Dharani	Male	Field Executive	B.Com	4	Admin
12	Amrut Baraiya	Male	Field Executive	B.Com	10	Admin
13	Falji Zampadiya	Male	Field Executive	B.A.	5	Social
14	Indrajitsinh Chudasama	Male	Field Executive	B.Com	5	Agriculture
15	Khimji Mundhava	Male	Field Executive	B.Com	5	Agriculture
16	Kiran Ramanuj	Male	Field Executive	B.A.	8	Admin
17	Lalji Mithapara	Male	Field Executive	B.A.	4	Social
18	Yogesh Jatapara	Male	Field Executive	B.A.	4	Social
19	Haresh Makwana	Male	Field Executive	B.A.	5	Agriculture
20	Manisha Kambad	Female	Field Executive	B.A.	1	Social
21	Manisha Mer	Female	Field Executive	B.A.	1	Social
22	Jayaben Jadav	Female	Filed Excutive	Secondary	25	Social
23	Kalpesh Meniya	Male	Field Executive	H.S.C.	5	Social
24	Paresh Hapani	Male	Field Executive	H.S.C.	5	Agriculture
25	Parul Chudasama	Female	Field Executive	H.S.C.	1	Social
26	Payal Chudasama	Female	Field Executive	H.S.C.	1	Social
27	Shobhaben Chauhan	Female	Field Executive	H.S.C.	1	Social
28	Sonal Kanani	Female	Field Executive	H.S.C.	1	Social
29	Jivraj Waghdiya	Male	Watchman	Secondary	15	Admin