

# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF UPLIFTING THE UNDERPRIVILEGED



▶ Data



▶ Plus Codes



▶ Sanitation



▶ Housing



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE



We founded Shelter Associates in 1994 and this year as we celebrate 30 years of service, I am delighted to reflect on the remarkable achievements of our organisation. This FY 2023-24 has been a testament to our dedication, innovation, & the unwavering commitment of our team. I am proud to highlight some of the key milestones we have accomplished: We were honoured with Infosys Foundation's prestigious Aarohan Award, for our efforts to empower women through comprehensive sanitation. It was a moment of pride to receive the award at the hands of Mrs. Sudha Murthy. Our efforts were further acknowledged with the WINS Awards by Govt. of Maharashtra, underscoring our excellence in the sanitation sector in Pune & Navi Mumbai.

Our groundbreaking work in social housing was featured in the Biennale 2023, hosted by the Ministry of Culture in New Delhi, showcasing our contributions on a prominent platform. Additionally, the Ford Foundation included us in the UN Coffee Table Book titled "Hum," celebrating our initiatives and impact.

Shelter Associates was selected as City Champions in Sanitation by Josh Talks, highlighting our leadership and innovation in urban sanitation. We had the privilege of presenting our work at Tedx Pune, spreading awareness and inspiring action on critical issues.

We have begun to spread our wings in other states and successfully mapped and surveyed four settlements in Kotagiri, Tamilnadu, enhancing our understanding and approach to urban development. Our digital addressing efforts were noticed by the Housing Ministry, Government of Maharashtra, who supported its inclusion in the RAY Housing where Plus Codes were affixed to 15000 tenements.

We also initiated corporate engagements through our Menstrual Hygiene Workshops, both online and offline, expanding our reach and impact. Our Eco-Friendly Menstruation Programme has been well received and is in the process of being scaled up, promoting sustainable practices and women's health.

This year marks a significant transition for Shelter Associates as we evolve from being primarily an implementer to becoming a resource organisation. With these achievements under our belt, I look forward to an exciting year ahead, filled with new opportunities and continued progress.

Thank you for your unwavering support and belief in our mission. Together, we will continue to create a positive impact and drive meaningful change towards a more equitable, sustainable and conscious society.

**Pratima Joshi** (Executive Director)

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

"A deep understanding of ground realities is one of the main roadblocks to improving our cities and planning for climate change effects. Shelters' work on creating accurate and data-rich geospatial (GIS) maps, and then empowering both communities and municipalities with such information to tackle major issues like housing, waste management and sanitation, is not only path-breaking, but is essential to create world-class, inclusive and sustainable cities. Each and every town and city in India should be setting up such systems in the coming years."

**Manas Rath** (Board Member - SA)

2023-24

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# SHELTER ASSOCIATES - THEN & NOW



Shelter Associates is a Civil Society Organization (CSO) established in 1993 to improve the living conditions of the urban poor in India. We work in slums and informal settlements to Provide technical support for, and facilitate access to, improved housing, sanitation and other essential services.

The Core Purpose of the organisation is to 'Enhance the Quality of Life'.



**Vision**

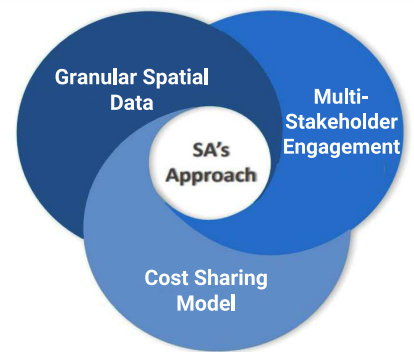
An India where every citizen has access to basic infrastructure and secure tenure, leading to equal distribution of rights.



**Mission**

To empower communities living in informal settlements to pursue their right to dignity and an elevated quality of life.

## SA's Approach



**Core Values**

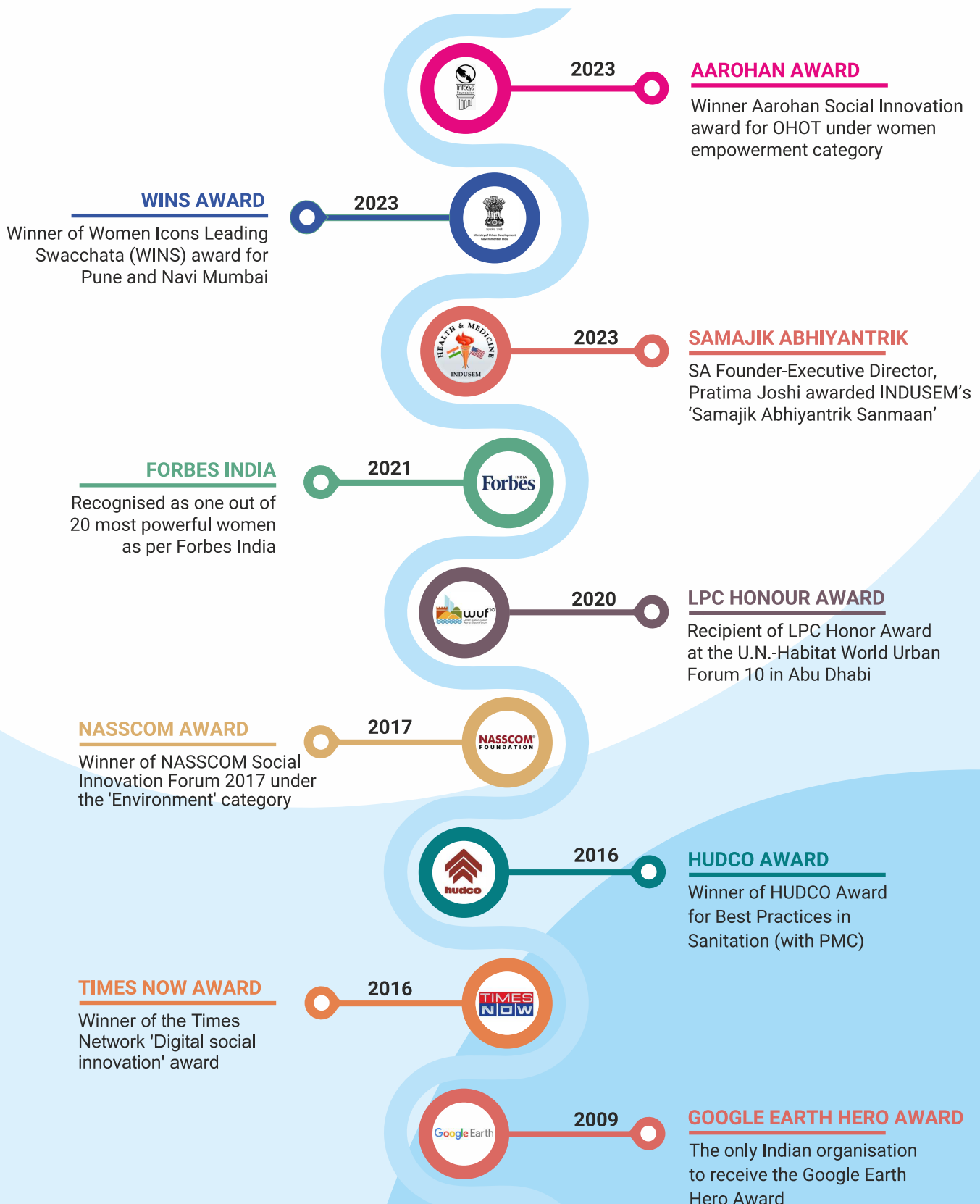
<p><b>Dignity:</b> We nurture respectful relationships</p>	<p><b>Honesty:</b> We seek, present &amp; abide by the truth</p>	<p><b>Teamwork &amp; Collaboration:</b> We believe in working together</p>
<p><b>Quality Work</b> We exceed expectations, ensure sustainable outcomes</p>	<p><b>Innovation:</b> We find new ways to serve better</p>	<p><b>Transparency:</b> We ensure trust is maintained at all level</p>

## Shelter Associates Team



# ACCOLADES AND RECOGNITIONS

This year holds a unique significance as we celebrate SA's 30th anniversary, reflecting on our journey of growth and impact. It's also marked by numerous awards and international recognition, highlighting our commitment to excellence and the milestones that define our success. Each milestone represents a step forward in our mission and vision.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR 2023-24



As we complete 30 years, we proudly reflect on our journey. In 2023-24, we took a leap and ventured out of Maharashtra to map Kotagiri in Tamil Nadu state. We presented our work at conferences & actively participated in urban development & sanitation forums. We are also consciously veering towards more holistic urban development projects. Recognized as a leader in spatial data for social impact, we also train other organizations including ULBs, in creating and leveraging spatial data. Our journey so far has also been featured in many publications this year.

## IMPACT FIGURES OF 2023 - 2024

**48,907**

**3,58,907**  
(1994-2024)

Rapid Infrastructure Mapping & Rapid Household Surveys in Slums

**1,138**

**27,515**  
(1994-2024)

HH toilets facilitated in Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Navi Mumbai & Thane,

**15,210**

**1,06,210**  
(1994-2024)

Plus Codes provided to Slum HH in 4 cities of Maharashtra

**1015**

**2440**  
(2020-2024)

Women switched to menstrual cup/ cloth pad

**1.3 Lakh+**

**18.71 Lakh+**  
(1994-2024)

Total lives impacted (Data, sanitation, housing and other projects)

SA honored with Aarohan Social Innovation Award 2023 by **INFOSYS FOUNDATION**



- SA Selected as City Champions in Sanitation by Josh Talks

- Recipient of WINS (Women Icons Leading Swacchta) awards for Pune and Navi Mumbai

- Pratima Joshi awarded INDUSEM's 'Samajik Abhiyantrik Sanmaan'

- Pratima Joshi's work featured in India Art Architecture Design Biennale 2023 conducted by Ministry of Culture
- Pratima Joshi featured on UN Women Coffee Table Book 'HUM'. The book spotlights her journey inspiring Women Leaders across India

SA Founder & Executive Director, Pratima Joshi featured on **TEDX PUNE**



- Pratima Joshi spoke on the power of spatial data & digital addresses in transforming & bringing about a more equitable society

- Pratima Joshi highlighted how SA has taken a data driven approach to improving services like sanitation, covid vaccination, access to essential services and housing in informal settlements across seven cities in Maharashtra

# GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS



**Arun Kadekodi**, President

An MTech in Computer Science and the co-founder and CEO of Soft Corner, a software product and services firm. He is an active member of the Computer Society of India.



**Pratima Joshi**, Secretary

Masters in Architecture and the Co-founder of Shelter Associates. She is an Aga Khan Scholar and recipient of the prestigious 'Google Earth Hero' honour.



**Supriya Vaidya**, Treasurer

A graduate in home science graduate and education, Supriya was in the teaching profession for several years. She is one of the founder directors of Noble Agro-Vet Ltd.



**Manas Rath**, Member

Founder of LEAP Cities, catering to solving urban problems. He is a senior advisor at BORDA and the Dutch Take-a-Stake Impact Investment Fund. Worked with Dasra & Avendus Capital.



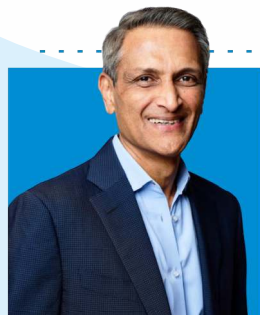
**Nirmala Pandit**, Member

She has a doctorate in human rights & taught Human Rights & International Law in the post-graduate department of law at the University of Pune.



**Ashwin Trimal**, Member

A B.Sc, MBA and Founder Director of real estate development company TruSpace. Also responsible for development of premium residential & commercial projects in Pune.



**Vishal Jain**, Member

A graduate in electrical engineering & post-graduate in management, he is the co-founder of DP Coalition & a trustee of PROOF. He is also involved in various urban issues for the poor.



**Vaishali Bhagwat**, Member

A Post Graduate from Cranfield University UK, she is a practicing lawyer with 22 years of experience in litigation and advisory practice in Pune and Mumbai.



Photo: GIS Analyst mapping slum households using spatial maps



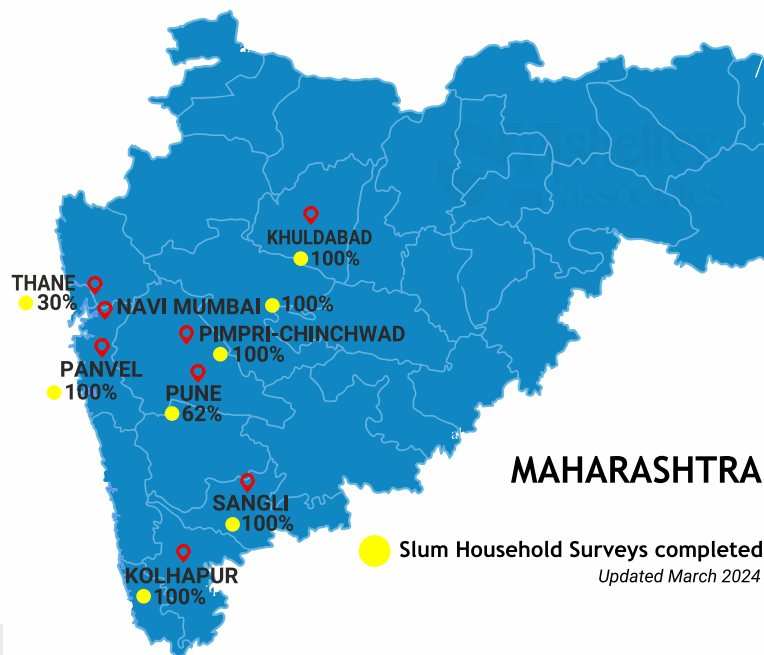
# DATA MAPPING AND GIS



SA pioneered the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology & Google Earth in the late 90's for spatially mapping poverty using an android application called AVNI and other open source GIS softwares. This data is regularly updated on a web-based platform to allow for real time monitoring of slums on a city-wide level. The information thus created is finally used to determine the gaps in delivery of sanitation, improving accessibility of slum dwellers to essential services and for developing slum rehabilitation solutions based on slum vulnerability and resource allocation for the same. It also helps ULBs make required budgetary provisions. 3,58,907 households have been mapped and surveyed till date in 668 informal settlements.

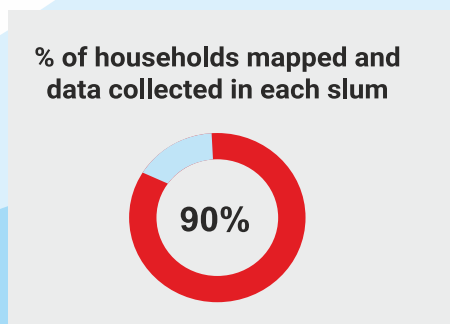
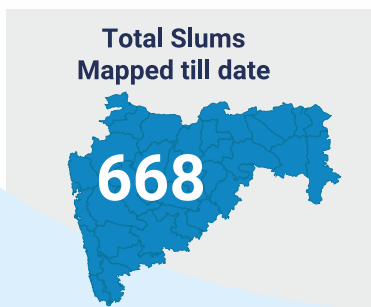
INTERVENTION CITY	HH MAPPED
Pune	1,347
Solapur	15,000
PCMC	3,873
Thane	1,487
Kottagiri	548
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,255</b>

Data for 2023 - 24



INTERVENTION CITY	HH SURVEYED
Pune	17,975
Kolhapur	12,685
Navi Mumbai	9,484
PCMC	4,528
Thane	4,235
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48,907</b>

Data for 2023 - 24



2023-24

TAMILNADU

## Mapping beyond Maharashtra

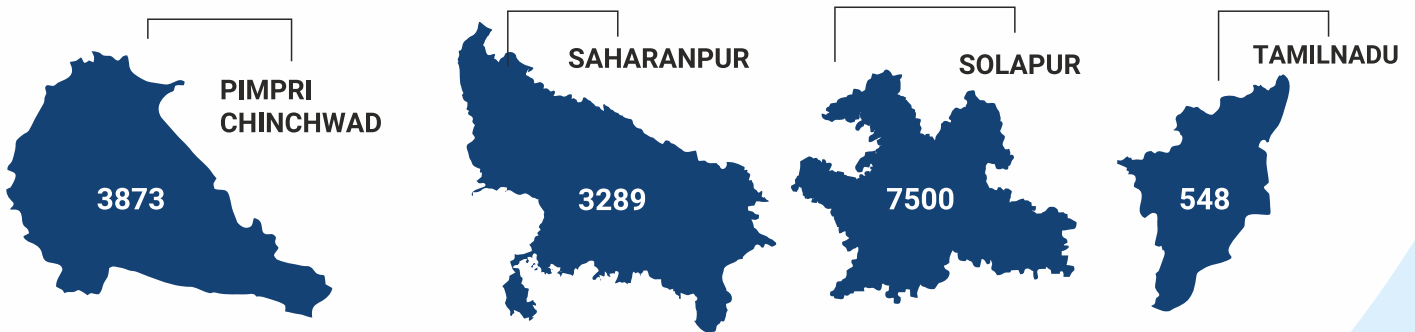
After Uttar Pradesh, this year we got an opportunity to map Kotagiri town in Tamil Nadu known for its forests & tea plantations. The tribal population here faced wildlife threat intensified due to lack of toilets & mismanaged solid waste. In partnership with Keystone Foundation NGO, we successfully mapped 4 settlements.

548 structures were mapped

# PLUS CODES - A DIGITAL ADDRESS



Plus Code (PC) is a unique digital locational address given to every location on earth. Shelter Associates generates and assigns these PC to slum households and critical infrastructure. Linked to our granular spatial data, PCs help improve accessibility to basic services. PC is navigable through Google Maps and allows slum residents to access services such as postal, emergency services, gas cylinders & other online services. In addition to that, the WASH infrastructure facilities with the slum such as Community Toilets, Manholes, Drainage Chambers, Water standposts, etc. can be located easily. City Municipal Corporations will be able to provide basic facilities like water, sanitation, waste management, electricity, etc. to every household accurately. 106210+ Plus Codes have been generated so far in the informal settlements of 7 cities of Maharashtra.



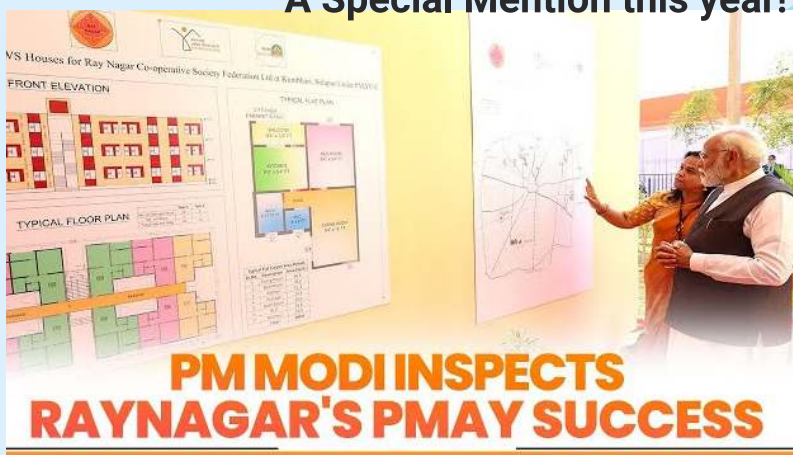
TOTAL **15,210+** PLUS CODES GENERATED in 2023-24



A Special Mention this year!

Plus Codes

2023-24

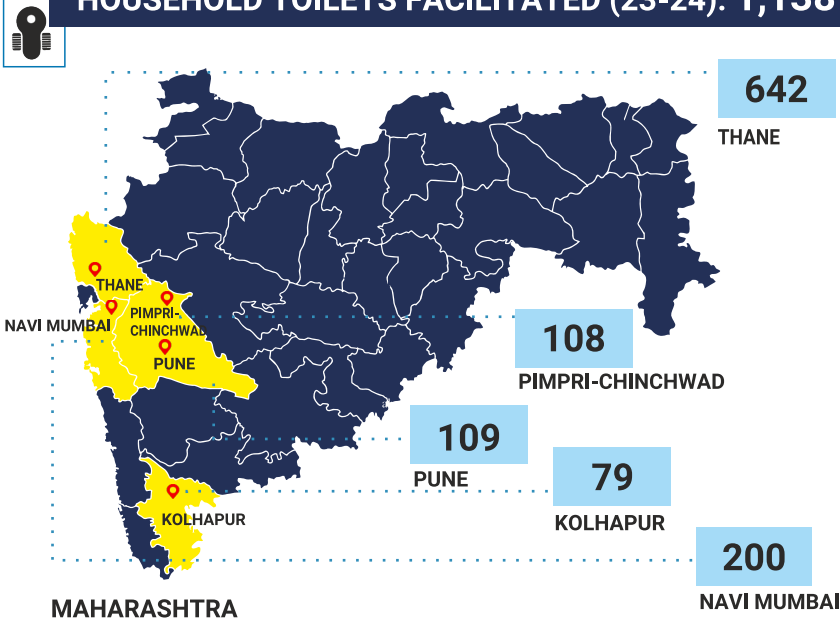


This year, we added another feather in our cap by starting to provide Plus Codes to all houses in the RAY Housing project, inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi in Solapur. Through the RAY Housing project the Govt. will provide pucca homes to 30,000 families of unorganized sector workers. Plus Codes will aid in the timely provision of essential services to these families.



Right to safe sanitation & hygiene are basic rights but the underprivileged living in overcrowded slums have to deal with insufficient & low-quality WASH services. We, at Shelter Associates have been at the forefront to deliver safe sanitation to urban slum dwellers through our robust data-driven 'One Home One Toilet' sanitation model that focuses on facilitating home toilets to slum families. This initiative has reduced Open defecation, improved overall health by giving a dignified choice to women, elderly & the disabled. We've also enhanced our efforts to provide sustainable sanitation initiatives, aiding in solid waste management & WASH awareness.

## HOUSEHOLD TOILETS FACILITATED (23-24): 1,138



## Increase in % of drainage laid by Municipal Corporations

CITY (Maharashtra)	DRAINAGE% RISE (In project slums)
Pimpri-Chinchwad	From 37% to 68%
Kolhapur	From 23% to 37%
Navi Mumbai	From 13% to 46%
Thane	From 17% to 33%
Panvel	From 16% to 47%



Persons impacted directly & indirectly through sanitation solutions (23-24): **50,000+**





Photo: Happy adolescents after receiving a home toilet

# MENSTRUAL HYGIENE



Modern-day disposal pads are toxic, non-biodegradable, that ultimately clog our landfills for decades while the Lack of affordable menstrual hygiene products adds to the financial woes of underprivileged women. To address twin problems of environmental degradation and period poverty, we educate women and adolescent girls regarding the importance of menstrual hygiene, the hazards of disposable pads on women's health, and the environment. We urge the use of eco-friendly sanitary products like menstrual cups and cloth pads. Women form groups and discuss their experiences during menstruation and encourage each other to adopt suggested eco-friendly sanitation products. This program is helping underprivileged slum women and girls to change the conservative attitudes around menstruation.



## MENSTRUAL HYGIENE STARTER KIT



In addition to personal counseling, we provide each participating woman with a menstrual hygiene starter kit, which includes nutritional snacks, a period tracker, an information booklet, handwash, and a menstrual cup or biodegradable pads. This initiative encourages women to prioritize their health and self-care.



### Impact created by switching from Sanitary pad to a menstrual cup



**1015\*** women from the community have switched to menstrual cup & cloth pads



**9,74,400\*** less sanitary pads are polluting the environment



**₹48,72,000\*** saved by switching from pad to a menstrual cup

*\*Data considering menstrual cup usage of 8 years*

## 1,900 women

attended the eco-friendly menstrual hygiene workshops across Pune, PCMC, Navi Mumbai, Kolhapur & Thane



Bondre Nagar Slum Redevelopment: One-of-a-kind project in Maharashtra, where an entire community of 77 households is being redeveloped under the Beneficiary-led construction vertical of PMAY, is in the final phase of completion within a year of commencement of its construction. With all the site infrastructure and finishing works progressing rapidly, the recipients are eager to move into their new homes as soon as possible.

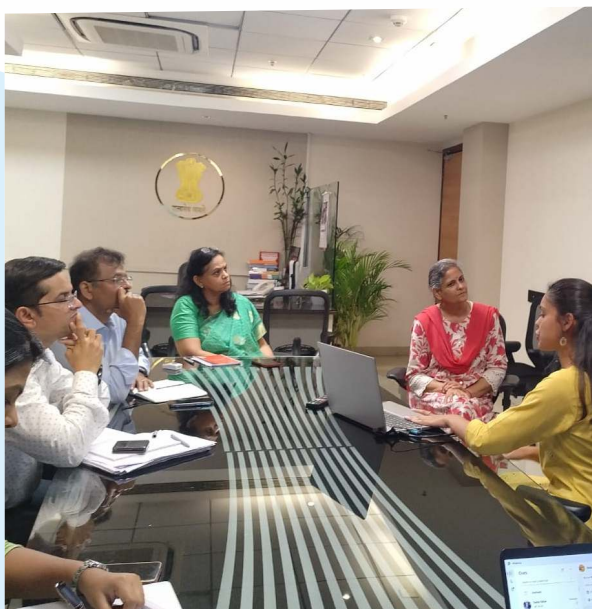


## TOWARDS A HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT



As the community builds new houses, with it also comes the responsibility of maintaining and sustaining them. The construction work is well on track, and therefore SA team is reaching out to the Bondre Nagar community by organizing sessions on various topics. These include solid waste management, menstrual hygiene, maintaining the housing society and its finances, and finding ways to create livelihood options for the women in the community. We believe that these efforts will contribute to the overall development and economic progress of the community members.

## Embarking on a New Era: Social Housing Redevelopment in Maharashtra

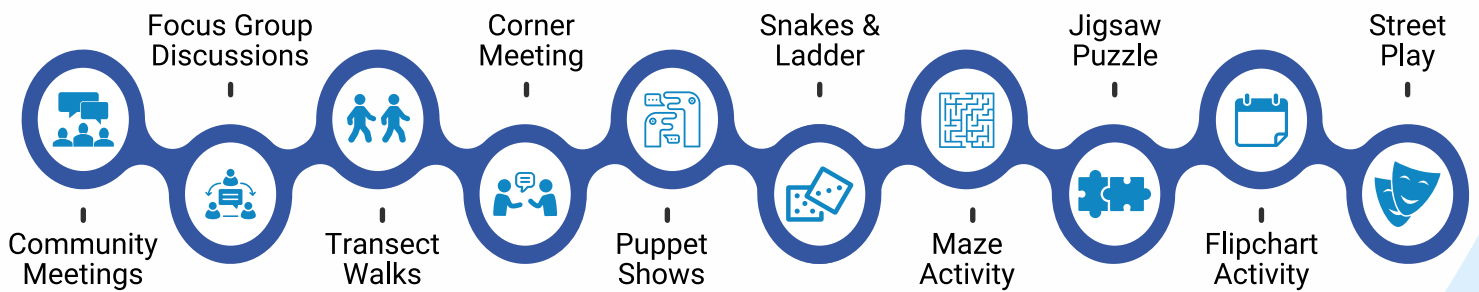


With Shelter Associates nearly completing its 4th social housing project in Maharashtra, we are now looking forward to sharing our learnings to influence social housing policy. Our goal is to strengthen the approach and increase the uptake of such schemes by their intended users.

To further this goal, we had the opportunity to meet with the Housing Secretary of Maharashtra, Hon. Mrs. Valsa Nair Singh, and we are currently working on preparing a document with policy suggestions to improve the implementation of social housing schemes in Maharashtra. We have presented our city wide housing study findings of Kolhapur city to the Housing secretary and updated the only beneficiary led housing project updates with them. Now this year we are preparing a housing policy document which is yet to be shared with them.

# COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

Slum dwellers are usually deprived of critical information which affects their ability to make decisions. To truly empower them, it is necessary to effectively educate our slum communities by engaging them through effective development communication. Our team of community volunteers engage community members on various issues related to sanitation, health, eco-friendly menstrual hygiene and environment. Through immersive discussions with the community, we transform their knowledge, attitudes and practices. Community engagement is a two-way process for sharing ideas and knowledge that empowers the communities to take action. It initiates a dialogue with the communities which makes our interventions meaningful and sustainable”.



2023-24

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This year we not only trained community volunteers but also developed new development communication tools like menstrual hygiene board game, jigsaw puzzle, menstrual cup: myths vs facts, posters, videos etc. to engage community members on various issues related to sanitation, health, eco-friendly menstrual hygiene and environment.







Photo: A lively chat with the communities on important social topics

## Shelter Associates

(Regn No.: F-9162 (Pune) under Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950)  
Arunodaya, 769/7, Deccan Gymkhana, Pune - 411004

### Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2024

FY 2022-23 Amount (Rs)	FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	Sch	Amount Rs.	Amount Rs.	FY 2022-23 Amount (Rs)	PROPERTY AND ASSETS	Sch	Amount Rs.	Amount Rs.
21,35,789.18	<b>Trust Funds or Corpus</b> Balance as per last balance-sheet Add: Corpus contributions (Directly Credited)	A	21,35,789.18	21,35,789.18		<b>Immovable properties</b> Leasehold Land Capital Work in Progress		-	-
	<b>Other earmarked funds</b> (Created under the provisions of the trust-deed or scheme or out of the income) - Depreciation Fund - Sinking Fund - Reserve Fund - Any other Fund			-	13,59,280.00	<b>Investments</b> <b>Movable Assets</b> <b>Furniture and fixtures</b> [As per Schedule 2]	E	12,08,782.00	
2,62,12,726.00	- [Foreign Contribution Project Fund] - [Sanitation, Toilet & Hygiene Project Fund] [As per Schedule 1]	B	22,02,726.00	2,78,82,313.00	2,48,955.00	<b>Others</b> [As per Schedule 2]	G	2,89,801.00	14,98,583.00
	<b>Loans (Secured or Unsecured)</b> From Trustee From others	B	2,56,79,587.00			<b>Loans (secured or unsecured)</b> - Good/doubtful Loan Scholarships Other loans			
36,10,998.38	<b>Liabilities</b> For expenses (Duties & Taxes) For advances For rent or other deposits For sundry credit balances	C		67,38,116.00	12,42,811.79	<b>Advances -</b> To Trustees To employees To contractor To lawyers To others [As per Schedule 3]	F	-	43,52,302.39
					5,90,42,238.46	<b>Cash and Bank Balances</b> Cash in Hand with Sr. Accounts Officer	H		49,148.00
2,99,33,771.69	<b>Income &amp; Expenditure Account:</b> Balance as per last Balance Sheet Less: Surplus as per Income & Expenditure Account	D	2,98,17,283.69	3,15,45,344.98		<b>Balances with IDBI Bank, SBI &amp; HDFC Bank</b> in Current & Savings Account in the name of Shelter Associates in Fixed Deposit Account in the name of Shelter Associates	H	81,38,044.47	6,24,01,529.77
			17,28,061.29				H	5,42,63,485.30	
6,18,93,285.25	<b>Total</b>			<b>6,83,01,563.16</b>	6,18,93,285.25	<b>Total</b>			<b>6,83,01,563.16</b>

Note: Income outstanding - NIL

The above Balance Sheet to the best of our belief contains a true account of the Funds and Liabilities and of the Property and Assets of the Trust.

Dated 30th August 2024 at Pune

For Shelter Associates

Sd/-

Trustees

Trustees

As per our report of even date

Sd/-  
For Achyut Ekhe Co.  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm Registration No.114973W

CA Sameer Ekhe  
(Partner)  
M. NO. 124933

## Shelter Associates

(Regn No.: F-9162 (Pune) under Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950)

Arunodaya, 769/7, Deccan Gymkhana, Pune - 411004

### Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 31st March 2024

FY 22-23 Amount (Rs)	EXPENDITURE	Sch	Amount Rs.	FY 22-23 Amount (Rs)	INCOME	Sch	Amount Rs.
	To Expenditure in respect of properties				By Rent		-
	- Rates, taxes, cesses		-		By Interest		
	- Repairs and Maintenance		-		- on securities		-
	- Salaries		-		- on Income Tax Refund		-
	- Insurance		-		- on bank account		
	- Depreciation		-		Savings Bank Accounts	J	3,50,804.00
	(by way or provision or adjustments)			33,29,956.83	Fixed Deposit Accounts	J	37,17,393.00
	- Other expenses		-		By Dividend		-
	To Establishment Expenses [As per Schedule 4]	4	-	17,95,488.02	By Donations in cash or kind	K	25,89,733.00
	To Remuneration to trustees		-	3,06,35,298.00	By Grants	L	3,48,81,627.00
	To Remuneration (in the case of a math) to the head of the math, including his household expenditure, if any		-	-	By Income from other sources		-
				1,500.00	- Professional Fees		12,47,720.00
				-	- Honorarium		6,000.00
				-	- Others		-
	To Legal expenses		-	80,20,635.87	By Transfer from Sanitation, Toilet & Hygiene Project Fund		-
75,000.00	To Audit fees		75,000.00				
	To contribution and fees		-				
18,238.00	To Amount written off (a) Bad debts		-				
	(b) Loan scholarships		-				
	(c) Irrecoverable rents		-				
	(d) Other items		-				
	To Miscellaneous Expenses		-				
2,67,740.00	To Depreciations	E	2,65,765.00				
1,10,000.00	To Amounts transferred to Reserve or specific funds		30,95,115.00				
	To Expenditure on objects of the Trust (a) Religious		-				
	(b) Educational		-				
	(c) Medical relief		-				
	(d) Relief of poverty		-				
3,93,73,279.66	(e) Other charitable objects [As per Schedule 5]	I	3,76,29,335.71				
39,38,531.06	By Surplus carried over to Balance Sheet [Excess of Income over Expenditure]		17,28,061.29				
4,37,82,788.72	<b>Total</b>		<b>4,27,93,277.00</b>	4,37,82,878.72	<b>Total</b>		<b>4,27,93,277.00</b>

Dated 30th August 2024

at Pune

As per our report of even date

For Shelter Associates

For Achyut Ekhe Co.  
Chartered Accountants

Sd/-

Firm Registration No.114973W

Trustees

Sd/-

CA Sameer Ekhe  
(Partner)  
M. NO. 124933

Shelter Associates has received positive media coverage for its wide range of social initiatives, including data mapping, sanitation and hygiene improvements, social housing, Plus Codes implementation efforts. Notably, our menstrual hygiene initiative has also been highlighted for making a significant impact on community health and well-being.

Newsband NAVI MUMBAI, THANE, URAN, PANVEL, F.

Shelter Associates observes Menstrual Hygiene Day

By Chandrabhakar Henve
In alignment with global observance, Shelter Associates observed Menstrual Hygiene Day, emphasizing menstrual health and hygiene in the Belapur sector of Navi Mumbai. Known for its commitment to sanitation and health, Shelter Associates has facilitated the construction of over 4,000 individual toilets in Navi Mumbai, significantly enhancing local sanitary conditions.

The event kicked off with Manjhi Vasundhara Phadnis, a commitment to environmental and social responsibility. Shelter Associates also highlighted their work on menstrual health awareness, promoting the use of cloth pads as a sustainable alternative to commercial sanitary pads. The organization collaborates with local women on effective waste management of these pads, contributing to both health and environmental sustainability.

Celebrated globally on May 28, Menstrual Hygiene Day includes week-long festivities known as Massika Mahotsav in 11 countries. Belapur women's Nagar, E. Nagar, E activities to discuss the dual

जागतिक शौचालय दिन तुभं येथे साजरा

शहरात (नांदेड) - नवी मुंबई महानगरपालिका आणि शेल्टर असोसिएट्स संस्थेच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने नवी मुंबईतील झोपडपट्टी भागात वैश्विक शौचालयदिनाच्या अन्तर्गत प्रत्येक वर्षी केले जाणारे कार्यक्रम.

सात हजार घरांमध्ये शौचालयांचा अभाव

शहरातील झोपडपट्ट्यांचे वास्तव; शेल्टर असोसिएट्सचे सर्वेक्षण

Table with 2 columns: Category and Value. Includes statistics on toilet availability in different areas.

जागतिक शौचालय दिनाच्या निमित्ताने, शेल्टर असोसिएट्सने शहरातील झोपडपट्टी भागात शौचालयांचा अभाव जाणववून देण्याचा प्रयत्न केला आहे. सर्वेक्षणाने सांगितले आहे की, शहरातील सात हजार घरांमध्ये शौचालयांचा अभाव आहे. याबाबतचे आंकडे खालीलप्रमाणे आहेत:

जागतिक शौचालय दिन साजरा

नवी मुंबई : नवी मुंबई महानगरपालिका व शेल्टर असोसिएट्स या संस्थेमार्फत झोपडपट्टी भागात घोषवारी शौचालय उल्लेख करून दिली जात आहे. शेल्टर असोसिएट्स संस्थेच्या माध्यमातून ठाणे, नवी मुंबई, पानवेल, पिंपरी चिंचवड, पुणे, कोल्हापूर, सांगली या

या योजना राबवली जात आहे. नवी मुंबईत शौचालय बेलापूर, दिवा येथील वस्त्यांमध्ये उल्लेखित शौचालय दिनाचे औचित्य साधत येणार्या तर्फे स्टोअर या

तुभ्यात जागतिक शौचालय दिन साजरा
शहरातील झोपडपट्टी भागात शौचालयांचा अभाव जाणववून देण्याचा प्रयत्न केला आहे.

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सात हजार घरांमध्ये शौचालयांचा अभाव

शहरातील झोपडपट्ट्यांचे वास्तव; शेल्टर असोसिएट्सचे सर्वेक्षण

Table with 2 columns: Category and Value. Includes statistics on toilet availability in different areas.

जागतिक शौचालय दिन साजरा
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2023-24

लोकमान्य परिसरात जागतिक शौचालय दिन साजरा

दिनांक प्रतिनिधी

ठाणे। अस्वच्छतेमुळे निर्माण होणाऱ्या समस्यांची जाणीव करून देऊन आणि स्वच्छतेसाठी प्रसज्जता असणाऱ्या उद्देशाने ठाणे महानगरपालिका आणि शेल्टर असोसिएट्स यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने जागतिक शौचालय दिन २०२३ लोकमान्य नगर विभागात साजरा करण्यात आला.

जागतिक शौचालय दिनाच्या निमित्ताने, शेल्टर असोसिएट्सने शहरातील झोपडपट्टी भागात शौचालयांचा अभाव जाणववून देण्याचा प्रयत्न केला आहे. सर्वेक्षणाने सांगितले आहे की, शहरातील सात हजार घरांमध्ये शौचालयांचा अभाव आहे. याबाबतचे आंकडे खालीलप्रमाणे आहेत:

ठाण्यात जागतिक शौचालय दिन

ठाणे, (वा.) नगरपालिका स्वच्छतेचे महत्त्व ठेवून आणि स्वच्छतेचा प्रयत्न करत असताना, शेल्टर असोसिएट्स यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने जागतिक शौचालय दिन २०२३ लोकमान्य नगर विभागात साजरा करण्यात आला.

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तुभं येथे जागतिक शौचालय दिन साजरा

'एक घर एक शौचालय' वा प्रकल्पाने शेल्टर असोसिएट्स संस्थाचे काम

शहरातील झोपडपट्टी भागात शौचालयांचा अभाव जाणववून देण्याचा प्रयत्न केला आहे.

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## From Struggle to Triumph: A Woman's Determination For Dignity



**Rupali Gadiwadar**  
Crusher Chowk, Kolhapur  
House No: 46

In Krusher Chowk, nestled amidst the bustling city of Kolhapur, resides family of four. Originally from Karnataka, they moved in search of a better life. Yet, one essential amenity eluded them: a toilet within their home.

The absence of a personal toilet meant enduring the unhygienic conditions of the public toilet, fraught with dangers and discomforts. Despite the challenges, women of Gadiwadar family remained undeterred. When they learned of an initiative offering materials for home toilet construction, they saw an opportunity to transform their family's living conditions. Navigating drainage line construction hurdles and initial reluctance from her husband, they overcame financial constraints and technical obstacles to build a toilet within their home.

This toilet represents more than just a physical structure; it symbolizes empowerment, dignity, and the transformative power of a woman's resolve.

## Embracing Change: Shruti's Journey to Zero Waste Menstruation



**Shruti Arjun Sonkamble**  
H.no. 817, VidhyaNagar, PCMC

A daughter's pride, a daughter's wealth! When a girl reaches puberty and begins menstruating, it is a joyous and significant celebration in her life.

In the past, girls were often instructed to keep their menstruation a secret, leading to a lack of open conversations about menstrual health. Shruti's mother used to guide her, emphasizing on hygiene during periods. Shruti followed her mother's advice diligently, changing her pads 2-3 times a day.

Shruti Arjun Sonkamble, 16, attended a Zero Waste Menstruation workshop in Vidyanagar, PCMC. There, she gained valuable knowledge about menstruation, the uterus, and the numerous benefits of using a menstrual cup. Shruti, a dedicated class 10 student, initially used pads but found them cumbersome due to the frequent changes required, especially during school.

After discovering the convenience of menstrual cups at the workshop, Shruti decided to make the switch. She was planning a trip to Raigad district on January 22 and usually disliked traveling during summer because of the hassle of changing pads. However, using the menstrual cup made her trip much more comfortable, as she no longer felt the inconvenience of changing pads. Shruti expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the organization for providing a free cup and educating her about menstrual hygiene, stating she would continue using the cup regularly from now on.

# VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCES

Shelter Associates is grateful to the volunteers/students who have been a part of the organization and have gone back with a great amount of learning. This year too we had architectural interns and community volunteers who brought in their expertise and contributed towards the ongoing development of Shelter Associates.



**Sai Deshpande**  
Volunteer

“ Volunteering as an intern at the slum near Mundhwa with Shelter Associates was an eye-opening experience. I enjoyed playing games with the children and seeing their excitement. The community was very welcoming and kind, and it showed me how important it is to connect and help others. ”



**Urja Patankar**  
Volunteer

“ Shelter Associates is a revolutionary organization that I am so proud to be associated with. Being on the ground, I have experienced the hard work the team puts in, and the immense impact they make. I had a great learning experience with SA ”



**Abhishek Joshi**  
Architect Intern

“ Working at Shelter Associates was an exceptional experience for me. The exposure I got working on the field and all the skills I learned have helped me a lot. The supportive and collaborative environment that shelter fosters has made me grow in many ways and also made coming to work every day enjoyable. I will always cherish the memories I have made in Shelter. ”

## A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY



We are happy to invite students/volunteers for Data Management, Architecture, Urban planning, Social Work, Advertising and PR, Research, Documentation, etc. We ensure a good exposure and a deep understanding of ground realities for the intern/volunteer joining us.

Mail your interest to [info@shelter-associates.org](mailto:info@shelter-associates.org)

# THANKING OUR PARTNERS



Shelter Associates is extremely grateful to all our Partners, Urban Local Body Members and Funding Organisations for the invaluable support through which we have been able to accomplish our goals and can continue working towards the betterment of the urban poor. Together we are making a difference!

## PARTNERS



ठाणे महानगरपालिका



Collective Good Foundation



## FUNDERS



IKEA India



TRW Sun Steering Wheels Pvt. Ltd.

Sun Vacuum Formers

## WORDS OF APPRECIATION

We are incredibly impressed with Shelter Associates' dedication ensuring they help to provide essential items and resources. Their commitment to improving the lives of marginalized communities through effective communication and fundraising strategies is truly inspiring!

-Pooja Gavane (Service Delivery Manager - Operations, Cert CII - Gallagher)



GIVE A LITTLE, HELP A LOT  
**DONATE TOWARDS OUR CAUSE**



We request support from organizations and individuals.  
Your donation is welcomed in the form of financial support, services, or IT equipment  
Scan the above code or contact [info@shelter-associates.org](mailto:info@shelter-associates.org)



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