

SBM-NULM convergence: Formalising informal workers through Livelihood Centres, Nahan, Himachal Pradesh

Summary:

In the guidelines for the convergence of SBM(U) and DAY-NULM, MoHUA has specified the need to strengthen the community engagement platforms for better and equitable sanitation and solid waste management outcomes. Under DAY-NULM, in the small town of Nahan in Himachal Pradesh; the informal workers have been identified as capable of providing basic street cleaning services on behalf of the Municipal Council Nahan (MCN) to RWAs and their own communities (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, 2018).

Objectives:

- To manage street sweeping in the entire town and achieve SBM-U and DAY-NULM objectives.
- To mobilize and motivate street sweepers and seek registration with the CLC.
- To provide employment benefits to the street sweepers in Nahan.
- To engage and empower the workers and citizens in the town of Nahan.

Key Stakeholders:

- Municipal Council Nahan (MCN)
- City Livelihoods Centre, Nahan (CLC)
- Residential Welfare Associations in Nahan
- Street sweepers and workers in low income settlements of Nahan

Implementation Strategy:

- In 2015, the Municipal Council of Nahan under DAY-NULM established a City Mission Management Unit (CMMU) comprising of an executive officer, a city manager, two community organizers and two volunteers.
- The CMMU setup the City Livelihood Centre (CLC) as an independent body registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 to address livelihood concerns. CLC's role was to facilitate access to institutional credit, social security and to enable the urban poor to access emerging market opportunities through skilling programs (Urban Management Centre, 2019).
- MCN supported the establishment of City Livelihoods Centre (CLC) by deploying managers, computer operators and supporting staff. As part of the SMID component under DAY-NULM, the MCN identified workers living in the low-income settlements of the city to engage them in street-sweeping activities for the MCN.
- A proposal to manage street sweeping in the entire town and achieve SBM-U and DAY-NULM objectives was developed by CMMU and submitted to the Municipal Council of Nahan. The proposal was approved and CLC, Nahan was awarded the official street sweeping contract.
- The registered street sweepers with CLC get trainings on financial literacy, behaviour change communication, health and sanitation (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, 2018).

Resource Utilisation:

- The CLC charges MCN a monthly fee of Rs 50,000 to support the local body in the SWM cell in street-sweeping. Over time, these activities have made the CLC financially stable and have ensured sustained and transparent wages for the workers with social security benefits like Provident Fund (PF). CLC also facilitates opening their accounts under the Jan Dhan Yojana (Urban Management Centre, 2019).
- Payments to the street sweepers have been regularized with each sweeper now earning Rs. 7,560 per month (Rs. 5,940 as salary and Rs. 1,620 as provident fund) compared to Rs. 4,000 they were earning while hired by the contractor. The sweepers are linked with the Pradhan Mantri Bima Suraksha Yojana – the national life insurance scheme. The Below Poverty Line (BPL) families among the sweepers have also been linked with the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) scheme for health insurance. Beyond economic empowerment, health and social security has improved for the workers (Urban Management Centre, 2019).

Impact/Outcomes:

- Nahan city is visibly cleaner since the initiative was implemented, as the workers are accountable, with the citizens involved in monitoring process.
- CLC Nahan is further preparing the database for the workers to explore other services which can be contracted from different government departments.
- Following the successful initiative in Nahan, the neighbouring towns have requested CLC Nahan to initiate similar work in their areas.

Challenges/Lessons Learnt:

- The convergence of SBM(U) and DAY-NULM can strengthen the community engagement platforms for better and equitable sanitation and solid waste management outcomes.
- Establishing linkages and convergence with existing government schemes facilitates easy expansion of the social security net to the informal workers.

Replicability & Sustainability:

- The initial establishment of the Nahan CLC was supported by a grant of Rs. 10 lakhs from DAY-NULM, but it has now become a financially self-sustaining institution. The overall revenue of the Nahan CLC has reached Rs 1.25 Cr., of which the street sweeping contract generated nearly Rs 11 lakhs annually as of 2017.
- The business model of the CLC is based on charging a 10% commission for all services provided, including collective contracts and individual call-based services. The CLC also provides placement assistance to candidates who have completed skill training programs, and charges 10% of the placed candidate's first months' salary as a one-time fee.
- The model is going to be upscaled in all the tehsils of Sirmaur district. The initiative has already been replicated successfully in the neighbouring town of Poanta Sahib through the establishment of a branch office of the Nahan CLC. A pilot to engage 100 persons for door-to-door waste collection has been initiated in the city of Solan as well (Urban Management Centre, 2019).





Source: (Urban Management Centre, 2019)

Fact Sheet:

Thematic area	Unlocking synergies with other programmes
First-year of the program	2017
Responsible institution	Municipal Council Nahan (MCN) and City Livelihoods Centre, Nahan (CLC)
Target audience	Street sweepers
Coverage	Nahan, Himachal Pradesh