



Saving Children's Lives by
Cleaning Up Pollution

Project Completion Report

Project Name: Gujarat Multi-stakeholders Committee

Location: Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Start Date: February 2006

End Date: April 2008

Cost – Blacksmith: Approx. \$ 10,000 (in 2 years)
Others: Not Known

Implementation Partner: Society for Environment Protection

Other Partners:

- **Project Summary:**

Background & the Scope of the Problem:

Stakeholder groups in India were encouraged to be organised in selected sites/states as an initiative with the prime objective of providing a platform to generate collaborative efforts by the government and public towards cleaning up toxic industrial sites, through the identification of issues, problems, challenges and information gaps at different bureaucratic levels.

In Gujarat, Society for Environment Protection assisted BI in nominating and assessing a number of toxic hotspots, hence were partnered to bring together such a group/committee

Solution Implemented:

The group has taken responsibility for identifying key polluted areas in the state and designing feasible strategies to deal with the issues in order of importance. The group meets quarterly at various identified sites in Gujarat and includes members from research institutions, the Gujarat Pollution Control Board, industrial associations, local NGOs, experts from engineering colleges, research institutions and concerned citizens.

Surveys have been conducted jointly by the members at Kharicut canal in Ahmedabad, River Mini at Nandesari, Amlakhadi at Ankleshwar, and Muthia & Walad villages in Ahmedabad.

Various recommendations were put forward by the members such as demarcating industrial properties, conducting soil and water tests, and strict monitoring of industries especially at night when industries release poisonous gases. Stakeholders at Ankleshwar have also decided to investigate and develop a joint remediation project at one legacy site in the Industrial Area. Another sites being discussed with the SHG are Hema Chemicals at Vadodara and the Vapi Industrial Area.

- **Project Metrics and Results:**

The SHG here has evolved into relatively formal bodies, with regular meetings and structured agendas and minutes. The strategy in the second year was slightly modified focussing more on one-to—one interaction with stakeholders of the select site.

In a collaborative effort, the stakeholder group has played a pivotal role as a forum in bringing various representatives together to find an effective solution.

The costs of lifting the waste from the remediation pilot at Muthia to the disposal facility were borne by local industry can be sited as a contribution to a successful remediation efforts.