



This flyer explains Shelter Associates ethos, approach and methodology to slum rehabilitation and has been organized under the following headings: Data; Spatial Organization of Data; City-Wide Approach; Participation; Monitoring; and, Hardware & Software).

Shelter Associates is a Civil Society which is registered as a society and trust in 1994. The NGO is based in the Indian state of Maharashtra and is made up of architects, social workers and community workers whose focus is to enhance the quality of life of the urban poor living in slums.

Shelter Associates work with slum communities and urban local bodies to improve the conditions in the slums using a variety of approaches: new housing (with security of tenure); connection to essential service (including sanitation); health & education initiatives; and, livelihood projects.

Shelter Associates is headed by Mrs. Pratima Joshi who is an Aga Khan scholar; was conferred the 'Ashoka fellowship in 2007 and featured as an urban crusader in 'Amazing Indians: India on the rise' a series by 'Times Now' a very prestigious English news channel in November 2011.

Screen shot from the Times Now documentary.



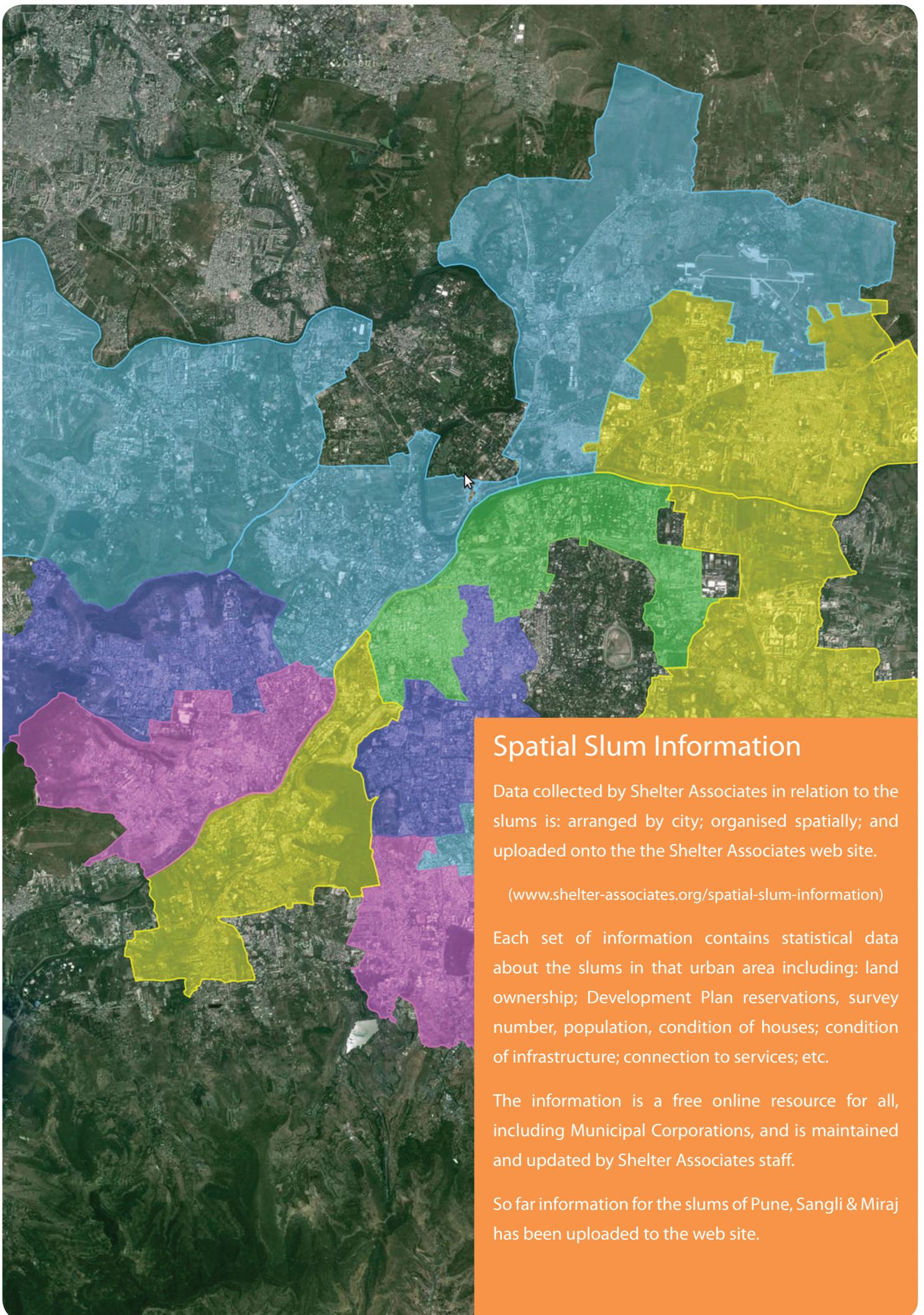
DATA

Spatial data provides the foundation for all of Shelter Associates projects. Slums are mapped accurately and slum level and household level data is methodically collected and integrated with the maps on a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) platform. This process turns all of the raw data into outputs that can be analyzed to establish gaps in service delivery and draw up short and long term plans to upgrade slums across the city. The spatial organization of data is a prerequisite for composing sensitive, and appropriate rehabilitation strategies.

Screen shot from the Google Earth documentary



"Shelter Associates pioneered the use of GIS for mapping poverty and has been a strong advocate for its use as a planning tool.



Spatial Slum Information

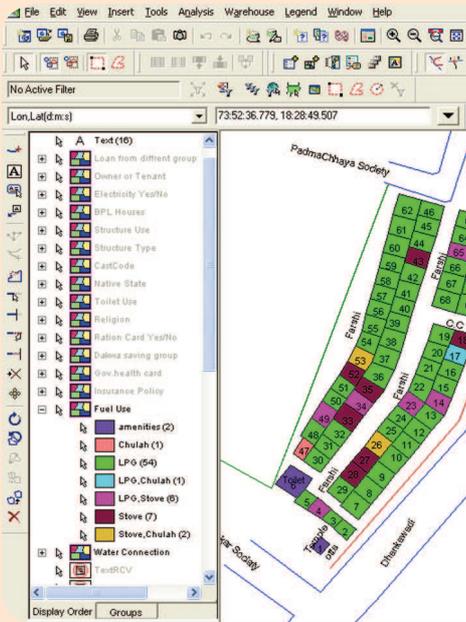
Data collected by Shelter Associates in relation to the slums is: arranged by city; organised spatially; and uploaded onto the the Shelter Associates web site.

(www.shelter-associates.org/spatial-slum-information)

Each set of information contains statistical data about the slums in that urban area including: land ownership; Development Plan reservations, survey number, population, condition of houses; condition of infrastructure; connection to services; etc.

The information is a free online resource for all, including Municipal Corporations, and is maintained and updated by Shelter Associates staff.

So far information for the slums of Pune, Sangli & Miraj has been uploaded to the web site.



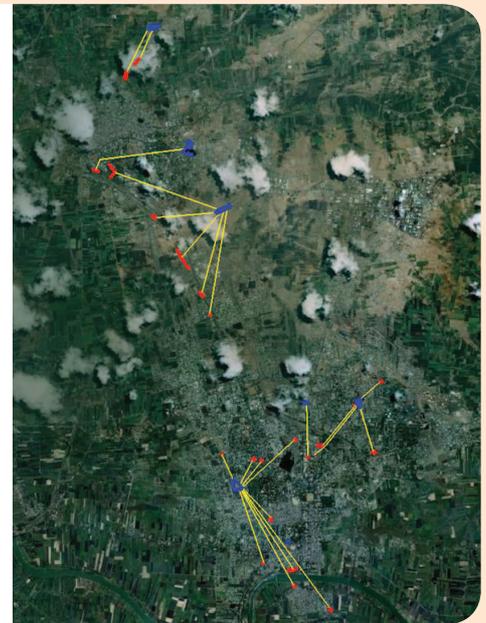
SPATIAL ORGANIZATION OF DATA

Google Earth has been used as a 'base map' to co-ordinate all of the GIS data, which is collected in relation to poverty, giving a city-wide perspective that informs the planning process.

Google Earth was selected as it is the most commonly used, and most accessible, remote sensing technology that is available without any cost. Google understood that Shelter Associates were using its Google Earth software in an innovative fashion and, in 2009, awarded Shelter Associates the title of 'Google Earth Hero'.

CITY-WIDE APPROACH

When the city is considered as a whole it is possible to compose holistic rehabilitation strategies that are sensitive to the situation of all slum dwellers in an area. When rehabilitation is carried out on a slum-by-slum basis, land is not utilized to its full potential and the opportunity to develop available sites optimally is lost. This means that slum dwellers residing on land with Development Plan reservations, or on land that is prone to flooding or non buildable zones, cannot be in-situ rehabilitated and eventually get evicted and moved to the edge of the city which is damaging to their way of life and drives them deeper into poverty.



PARTICIPATION

The goal of all of Shelter Associates projects is not to implement a project but to realize tangible positive change in the quality of the lives of urban poor.

For this to be possible participation is necessary as community support, and community input, is essential to ensure that projects are sensitive to nuances of their particular culture, appropriate for their requirements, suitable to their aspirations, and feasible.

HARDWARE & SOFTWARE

Shelter Associates do not only invest time and energy into 'hardware' such as housing and essential services but also 'software' such as livelihood and education initiatives. The 'software' and 'hardware' should happen together and often, in Shelter Associates projects, support each other.

When data collected for a housing project in Sangli & Miraj was analysed it became apparent that many women within the slums did not work. To address this Shelter Associates built a livelihood project on existing skills present within the slums: sewing. Shelter Associates teach the women how to make bags out of cloth and established sales outlets. The bags are sponsored nationally and internationally with all money going back to the women providing them with a safe revenue stream, reducing their dependency on others, and giving them a larger say in the functioning of their family and community.



Shelter Associates train women to fabricate cloth bags.



MONITORING

Monitoring is essential for the effective implementation of slum rehabilitation programs to ensure that projects progress and all commitments are honored.

“Monitoring is essential for effective implementation of slum rehabilitation programs”

The 'Road Map' (a document that outlines the implementation strategy) for a housing project in Sangli & Miraj expresses that the Municipal Corporation in conjunction with Shelter team is required to commit to weekly progress meetings.

Meetings involving all stakeholders are required for effective implementation as they provide a forum for progress to be discussed and issues to be raised and resolved.

Conclusion

In order to realize tangible, long lasting, positive change in the quality of lives of the urban poor the following are required:

- Collection of data
- Spatial organisation of collected data (RAY Guideline 6.2.1.2)
- Analysis of spatial data
- Adoption of a city-wide approach (RAY Guideline 5.2.2)
- Community Participation at all levels (RAY Guideline 5.2.5)
- Hardware and software solutions
- Monitoring

The majority of principles which Shelter Associates believe are necessary for sensitive slum rehabilitation have been included with the Government of India's new slum rehabilitation policy, Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY); however, monitoring still is yet to be institutionalized.



Progress meeting at Sangli, Miraj & Kupwad Municipal Corporation

