



World's Largest Slum Titling Initiative Wins the UN-Habitat Award with Help from Cadasta

Like many states in India, Odisha State has experienced a 27 percent growth in population in its cities due to rural-to-urban migration. In search of better livelihood opportunities, most of these migrants settle in informal settlements. Local governments struggle to provide land for housing as well as basic infrastructure and services such as electricity, sanitation, water, and roads. Without having formal rights to the home and land they occupy, these informal residents are often barred from getting loans for home improvement, starting businesses, accessing basic services, enrolling their children in schools or finding a formal job.

In an effort to document the growing informal settlements and transform the slums into liveable communities, the Indian philanthropic group, Tata Trusts, partnered with Cadasta Foundation to support the Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission "Jaga"—an innovative project designed to improve the living conditions of informal settlements. Through the project, more than 700 community data collectors were trained, and with the use of Cadasta's Esri-powered technology and services, were able to efficiently document and map 1,725 slum communities and 173,162 households (to date) to create an official data set of slum dwellings in Odisha. Once documented, the state government issued nearly 58,000 Land Rights Certificates and 105,000 Land Entitlement Certificates, benefiting an estimated 1 million people to date.

In 2019, the Jaga Mission was recognized by World Habitat and UN-Habitat as one of the world's most "innovative, outstanding and revolutionary ideas, projects, and programmes" and won the Bronze World Habitat Award. In addition to the award, Jaga Mission is already being publicized by the media as the "world's largest slum titling initiative." The mission has also inspired other Indian states to develop similar programs.

Using Land Data to Empower Communities

Not only has the data been used to issue formal land rights certificates, but the data has empowered the local communities, Slum Dwellers Associations, and the Odisha State Government to make critical urban development and planning decisions, bringing new community infrastructure—such as fish processing facilities—to the settlements and making the settlements more safe, resilient, and sustainable. Local authorities are utilizing the data collected on Cadasta's tools to make decisions around the installation of essential civic urban infrastructure such as housing, road type and location, drainage, individual household toilets, public toilets, street lights, constant piped water supply up to the households, common work sheds, parks and playgrounds, among other amenities. Communities are also using the data to make their own decisions regarding the placement of public toilets, water piping to homes, LED street lighting, and emergency corridors.

Key Project Stats:

700
Community Data
Collectors

109
Cities

30
Districts

1,725
Slum Communities
Documented,
Surveyed, and Mapped

1,725
Slum Dwelling
Associations formed

173,162
Households
Documented

57,855
Land Rights
Certificates Issued

105,000
Land Entitlement
Certificates Issued

+1 MILLION People Received Land
Rights Certificates



Project Beneficiary:

Piki Satyabathi

Odisha, India

Piki Satyabathi, a widow, has received her land rights certificate through the Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission. She has lived for 25 years on the outskirts of Puri, a small city in the state of Odisha known for tourism, historic temples, and beautiful beaches. Her husband died in a fishing boat accident eight years ago, and she has had to raise her son and make ends meet working in the fishing sector—without having ownership rights to the home they live in, or the land underneath.

Piki was fortunate enough to live in Odisha, where legislation enacted in 2017 allows the government to collect geospatial and demographic data and use it to generate a land rights certificate, an

address, and a small grant to construct a “pucca” house—a permanent structure, made of bricks instead of wood and reeds.

Piki proudly displays the certificate to her permanent land right and house for all to see, understanding its direct connection to her prosperity. With a certificate in hand, she and her son no longer fear eviction. They will now have running water, a safer structure, and an upgraded community. Her title is the foundation for her and her son’s prosperity today and into the future.



Quotes From Our Jaga Mission Partners:

“Cadasta’s tools have helped the Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission by making it easier to collect a huge amount of data accurately. Cadasta’s tools also bring transparency to the process, remove discrepancies, reduce the dependency on human interventions and bring in speed in execution.”

Shikha Srivastava
Urban Habitat Head of Tata Trusts

“The Cadasta team has worked closely with the Tata Trusts field team in addressing day-to-day challenges of data collection and technological improvement. Consistent support from Cadasta team has encouraged the field team to improve the process on a regular interval, as per the requirement. It was a great help when the team visited the field and collaborated to address critical issues faced by the data collection team.”

Shishir Ranjan Dash
Urban Habitat Lead of Tata Trusts