# COMMITMENT NAME: POVERTY MONITORING TOOL FOR INDIAN URBAN SETTLEMENTS

1. In third person, write a short summary of your commitment using the template here. You will be able to further elaborate on these points in the remainder of the application.

* In 1 or 2 sentences, specifically describe the actions you and/or group will take to implement change.
* In 1 sentence, describe how the actions you and/or group take will impact a specific global/local challenge.
* Include strategic external partners you and/or group will work with.
* Explain the outcomes you and/or your group expect to see as a result of your commitment.

1. The Indian government has introduced programs that aim at boosting the lives of slum residents. Priyanka is committed to monitoring the impact of poverty alleviation programs using effective Data Collection tools. She aims to use this data to identify Key Performing Indicators and data elements to be prioritized. She also intends on providing open data access to the public to analyze the performance of their city government by building a mobile application meant for data collection via survey and interactive dashboard development by teaming with other talented developers in the Bangalore, a technological hub of the country. Priyanka expects to provide the municipal governments with the achievements, future prospects, the rate of change and pain areas.
2. In this section, we want to know what issue you are trying to solve through your commitment.

* What is the problem you and/or your group are working to address?
* Who is your target population?
* What challenges do you and/or your group anticipate encountering?

1. There are severe data collection and quality issues in poverty and inequality data in India. This handicaps the government from making effective policies. Inadequacy of staff and workers to carry out data collection calls for urgent need of involvement of citizen volunteers. Poverty is a conceptual issue and there is paucity of data that looks at inequality of opportunities. This commitment aims at resolving this issue in the city of Bengaluru. The target population are people from the lower economic strata, migrants from rural areas working in the informal sector. Such people are residents of slums in bigger cities and lead a low quality of life. The greatest challenge would be timely collection of data, mobilizing volunteers.
2. In this section, we want to understand how the commitment is specific and attainable.

* Describe the goals of your Commitment to Action
* Describe the activities you and/or group will undertake to carry out your commitment to action
* If appropriate, list any external partners
* Include a timeline for the proposed activities.

1. Data collection to assess the performance of poverty alleviation programs such as AMRUT[[1]](#footnote-1) is the primary focus of this commitment. AMRUT has a few major thrust Areas such as water supply, sewerage facilities, storm water drains, green spaces and parks. Monitoring the implementation of poverty reduction strategies requires measurement of indicators at different levels. Inspired by the Tanzanian poverty[[2]](#footnote-2) monitoring system, this initiative aims at having 4 major indicators: Impact, Outcome, Proxy, Performance and output indicators. Developing a mobile application like the Collect[[3]](#footnote-3) application developed by SocialCops to collect quality data about the indicators every 2 weeks and designing a robust incentive program for the volunteers involved in these activities is the priority of this initiative. Partnering with NGOs that work in such urban settlements and involving the already existing volunteers to carry out the survey is the short-term goal (10-12 months). Also, partnering with mobile application developers from organizations such as SocialCops is a short-term goal. Long-term goal (20-24 months) involves building an interactive dashboard and making this publicly accessible on the internet.
2. In this section, we want to understand how your effort is new and different from other initiatives that attempt to tackle a similar situation. You are being asked here to acknowledge other projects worldwide doing similar work.

* How is your commitment new/different?
* How do you plan to collaborate with, develop partnerships with, or learn from those with comparable projects?

1. National Sample Survey Organization conducts large consumer expenditure surveys every five-six years which are used by the Planning Commission to calculate poverty statistics. The data based on this procedure has been a subject of debate since 1983 due to conflicts between the national accounts and sample surveys. This initiative is different because it aims at only recording the various indicators without determining any poverty line. This is also carried out once in every 2 weeks to track changes more closely. This sort of data collection will also bring clarity about qualitative factors that bring changes which has been a challenge to track till now. It is inspired by the Tanzanian poverty monitoring system and only hits a single-point agenda of helping the government realize if they have reached a goal or not. This initiative considers collaboration with IT teams and NGO for volunteers.
2. In this section, we want to know how your commitment is measurable.

* What benchmarks will you put in place to measure progress towards your expected outcomes?
* Define your goals – long term & short-term?
* Identify specific data and results you will analyze, interpret and report on as you make progress towards achieving your goals

1. Short term goals involve building a suitable team for mobile application development for data collection. This mobile application will also provide the volunteers with incentives to keep them motivated for the job. Partnership with NGOs which actively involve themselves on field such as Child Rights and You, Make a difference to mobilize volunteers is also on the Short term goal agenda. This is expected to be completed within 12 months. Long term goals involve building a data center which is available for open access and development of interactive dashboard. This is expected to be completed within 24 month to accumulate consistent, homogenous data in a single repository. With the help of these indicators the city and the state government along with various think-tanks are expected to analyze the performance of a certain poverty-alleviation initiative and the changes that need to be made to make it more impactful.

1. Atal Mission Rejuvenation Urban Transformation [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.tzonline.org/pdf/povertymonitoringmasterplan.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://socialcops.com/collect/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)