**Concept note gLOCAL Evaluation Week 2020**

**Introduction:**

This proposal presents CORO’s plan to facilitate and organise an event during the Glocal Evaluation Week 2020. CORO plans to organise an event to disseminate a strategy adopted by CORO in all the programs where ‘ownership of the M&E is taken over by the people in the communities’. In this dissemination, we will share our experience of the Right to Pee campaign wherein the ‘community has taken ownership of the M&E process’, which in turn has resulted in a much deeper and sustainable impact on ensuring that the people across genders in the marginalised communities have access to free, clean, safe public/ community toilets in Mumbai.

More specifically, in the gLOCAL event, the dissemination will be undertaken by all the stakeholders of this program – namely people from the communities, municipal authorities, architects & urban planners and organisations which work on the ground around the issues of gender and sanitation.

**About CORO and Right to Pee**

**CORO, established in 1989, is a grassroots non-profit that empowers the most marginalized communities to uphold their rights and fight for justice in pursuit of CORO’s Vision of an ‘Equal’ society.**Over the last two decades CORO has focused on facilitating leadership from within communities, especially women and youth by enabling self-reflection and steering rights-based, collective actions for social change.

**The Right to Pee (RTP) campaign, initiated and incubated by CORO in 2011, is a united front for providing free, clean, safe public urinals for all genders in Mumbai.** Drawing on CORO’s two decades of experience working in the area of health and urban sanitation in Mumbai, RTP is working towards transforming the city of Mumbai by increasing the availability and improving the ease of access to clean, safe, hygienic urinals and toilet facilities for all genders. Access to safe and clean toilet with water is a basic human need. However, many people, especially women, children, and adolescent girls, often cannot access the facility when and where they need or want. In particular, there is a total absence of public urinals and clean toilets for women in urban and rural areas in Maharashtra. More alarming is the lack of political will on the part of policy makers and implementers to provide these facilities. We believe that clean, safe, free urinals for women are an integral part of ‘safe cities’. Over time, the campaign hopes to bring greater gender sensitivity in planning and development of infrastructure and improving access to the basic facilities for women.

**Immediate Context**

The RTP campaign has evolved since its inception. In 2018-19, CORO in collaboration with The Urban Project and UNICEF implemented a multi-pronged, capacity building and participatory action research under RTP in one of Mumbai’s most underprivileged wards to improve its sanitation conditions. In collaboration with UNICEF, Municipal ward of MCGM and The Urban Project conducted a mapping of 501 toilets in the M-East ward of Mumbai, with a population of 900,000 with 90% living in slums. This included creating a comprehensive database of toilets in the area, engaging the community in developing a joint action plan, and implementing data driven advocacy with a blueprint for MCGM to scale it to other wards.

As part of this program the people in the communities were mobilised and organised, so that they could be a part of the Program from the beginning. CORO acted as a facilitator to the process of the people in the community taking more ownership in ensuring they are able to access better facilities and infrastructure in the communities. CORO also acted as a bridge to ensure that the voices of the people in the grassroots communities are heard by the institutions in power responsible for providing the sanitation facilities (mainly the municipal corporation). The municipal corporations also saw benefit in people from the communities taking more ownership. Thus, the people from the communities were involved in undertaking the Monitoring & Evaluation of ensuring improvement in sanitation facilities through vigilance committees.

We believe that involving the people in the communities to take ownership and building their capacities ensures sustainability of the Program while also ensuring that the ‘real’ issues concerning the communities are solved.

**Gender and Sanitation**

**SDG 6 focuses on ending open defecation and providing adequate sanitation facilities to all and SDG 5 focuses on ‘Women and girls, everywhere, must have equal rights and opportunity, and be able to live free of violence and discrimination’**.

Solving the problem isn’t as simple as building toilets. They must be culturally appropriate , environmentally sound and accessible at all times and attentive to gender needs and to achieve this local community members , including girls and women must be part of this process in the decision making of location and design of the toilet .

As low – and middle income countries rapidly urbanize, the need for privacy and safety toileting becomes ever more urgent .

If we were to assure that all girls and women (and boys and men) had access to toilets that were safe, accessible and comfortable, we expect that the world would see improvements in health, in educational outcomes and productivity. Not to mention we would achieve every human’s basic human right to sanitation.

**The gLOCAL event proposed:**

In RTP, a process involving multiple stakeholders – CORO (as a facilitator), the people from the communities, municipal corporation, urban planners and architects, CBOs working for monitoring and operation and maintenance of toilet on the ground, people involve in local governance, etc. CORO has ensured that the program adopts a multi stakeholder approach placing an emphasis on dialogues.

As discussed earlier, the strategy of CORO has always been to ensure that the people from the communities take ownership of solving their issues which entails the people in the communities evolving their own M&E mechanisms consultatively.

As part of the event, members all these stakeholders will share their experiences of this approach towards M&E from the RTP campaign (we believe that understanding the perspectives of all the stakeholders directly from them is important). Some of the key questions that would be addressed include:

* How is this form of M&E different from a conventional M&E process (wherein the NGOs take ownership of M&E)?
* What is gender sensitive M & E? What is its significance in mainstreaming gender in the context of the issue?
* What are the benefits and disadvantages of this M&E process?
* What worked/ what did not and what were the learnings from their perspective?
* What have been the challenges in getting the people of communities to undertake M&E?
* What are the secrets to the success of this approach?

**The audience**:

The audience for this dissemination event will be NGOs interested in this approach, NGOs working on gender issues, people from the research communities, smaller CBOs which are entrenched and work in the communities, people interested in urban planning, city sanitation spaces, people from the government responsible for providing services to people at large.

CORO will identify and invite the likely participants.

**The time involved**:

The event is expected to be a half day event.

**The venue**:

To be decided [We will try to see if one of the Municipal offices can host this event].