

# Community upgrading in Karachi, Pakistan

## OPP

Pakistan's innovative Orangi Pilot Project : Helping millions of poor households in 8 cities to build their own low-cost sanitation and water supply systems in the settlements they have already built and invested in . . .

Orangi is Karachi's largest informal settlement, home to over a million people. Since it was established in 1980, the Orangi Pilot Project's *Low Cost Sanitation Program* has helped 100,000 households to build toilets and lay underground sewers and water supply in 7,000 of the Orangi settlement's 7,256 lanes. People have invested Rs 80,644 million (US\$ 1.5 million) in this effort.

OPP doesn't fund development, but by providing social and technical guidance, encourages the mobilization of local resources and the practice of cooperative action.

By carrying out technical research, modifying engineering standards and making work procedures compatible with community-managed construction and self-finance, OPP has brought the cost of these services down to Rs 900 (US\$ 16.50) per household.

The OPP's model for delivering sanitation to poor communities has a clear division of responsibilities :

- External infrastructure (trunk sewers, treatment plants, water source) is done by the government.
- Internal infrastructure (toilets, underground sewers and water supply in lanes, neighborhood collector sewers) is developed and paid for by communities.

OPP's sanitation model is now being replicated in 46 informal settlements in Karachi, in seven other Pakistani cities and in rural areas all over Pakistan. Principals of the project are also being applied to projects in Nepal, Central Asia, South Africa and Sri Lanka.



### ▲ BEFORE :

Here is a typical lane in one of Karachi's informal settlements, before the community has built their sanitation and drainage system, with help from OPP.



### ▲ AFTER :

And here is what a typical lane in Orangi looks like after the low-cost sewers have been installed, and the road paved and some of the houses improved.



"We began this work with the assumption that common people are not foolish but great masters of the art of survival, and that they are trying very hard to improve their lives. They are not getting much help or support. On the contrary, they are at times harassed. There is a need for social guidance, technical guidance, and economic support . . ."

(Akhtar Hameed Khan, founder of OPP)



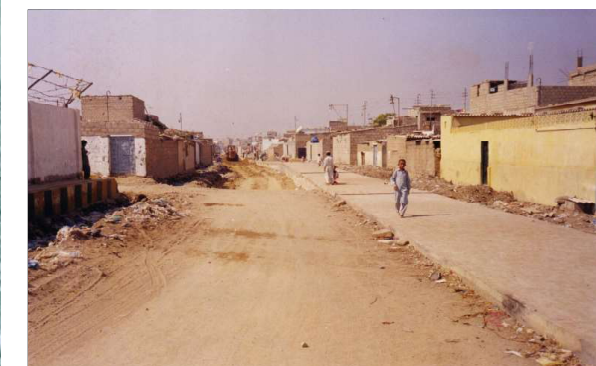
### Improving housing quality also :

The OPP has also helped to upgrade dozens of builders yards, or "thallas", the entrepreneurs in these large settlements who supply building materials, skilled masons, advice and sometimes credit to families ready to build or repair their houses. The OPP has helped several Thallas to manufacture higher-quality wall blocks, pre-fabricated roofing and wall panels, and pre-fab concrete beams.



### ▲ BEFORE :

Here is the old drainage canal in Manzoor Colony, Orangi Township, before improvement by the Orangi Pilot Project. The drainage canal is used as a garbage dump and created a health hazard for families living nearby.



### ▲ AFTER :

Here a box culvert has been built around the Manzoor Colony canal. Now the area is clean and gives much-needed open space for kids to play cricket.