

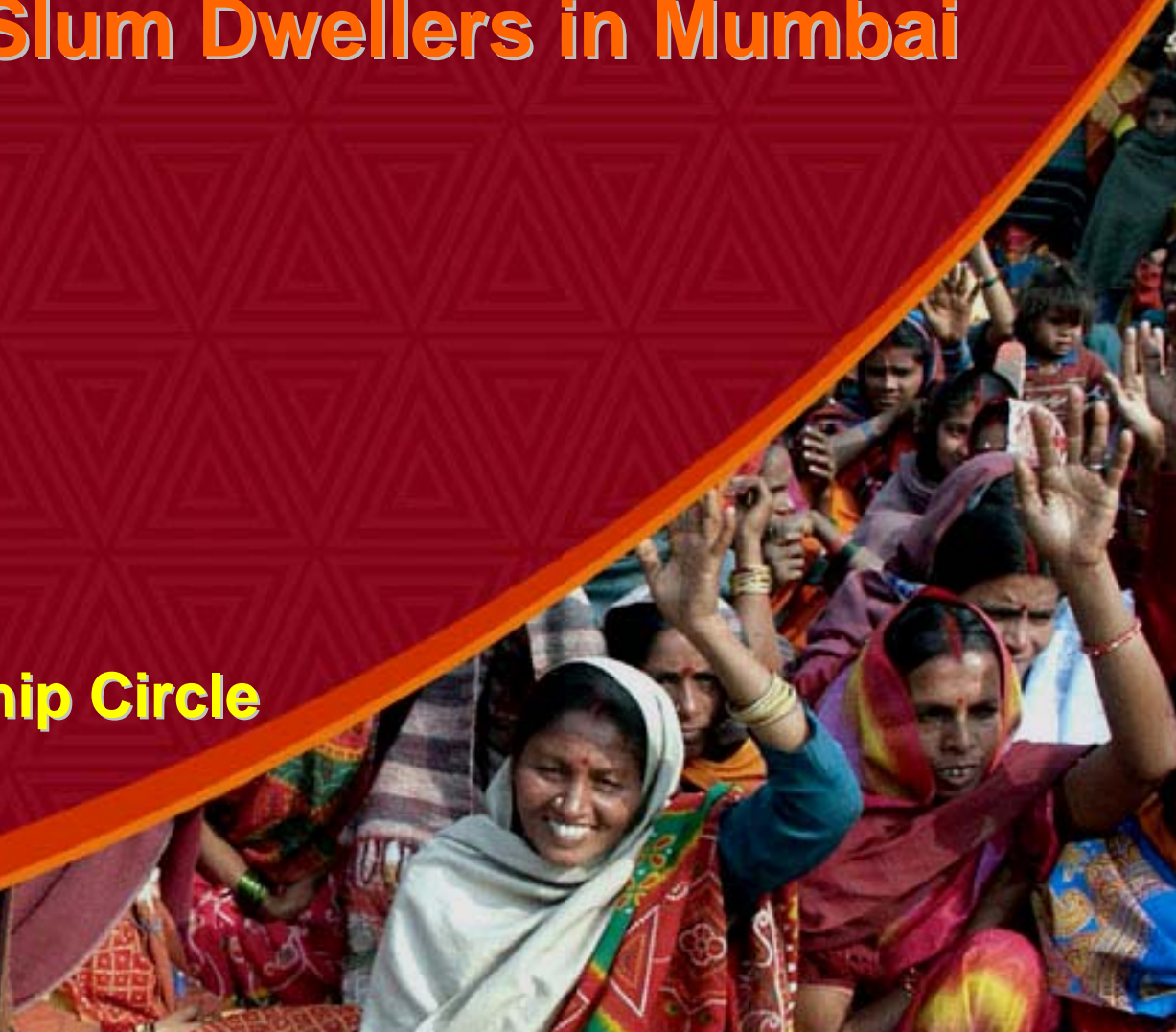


**INDIA CANADA FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**

*...forging close ties among Canadians with an interest in India*

# **When The Poor Have A Voice: Resettling Slum Dwellers in Mumbai**

**Eric Dickson  
India-Canada Friendship Circle  
Ottawa, Canada  
November 4, 2007**

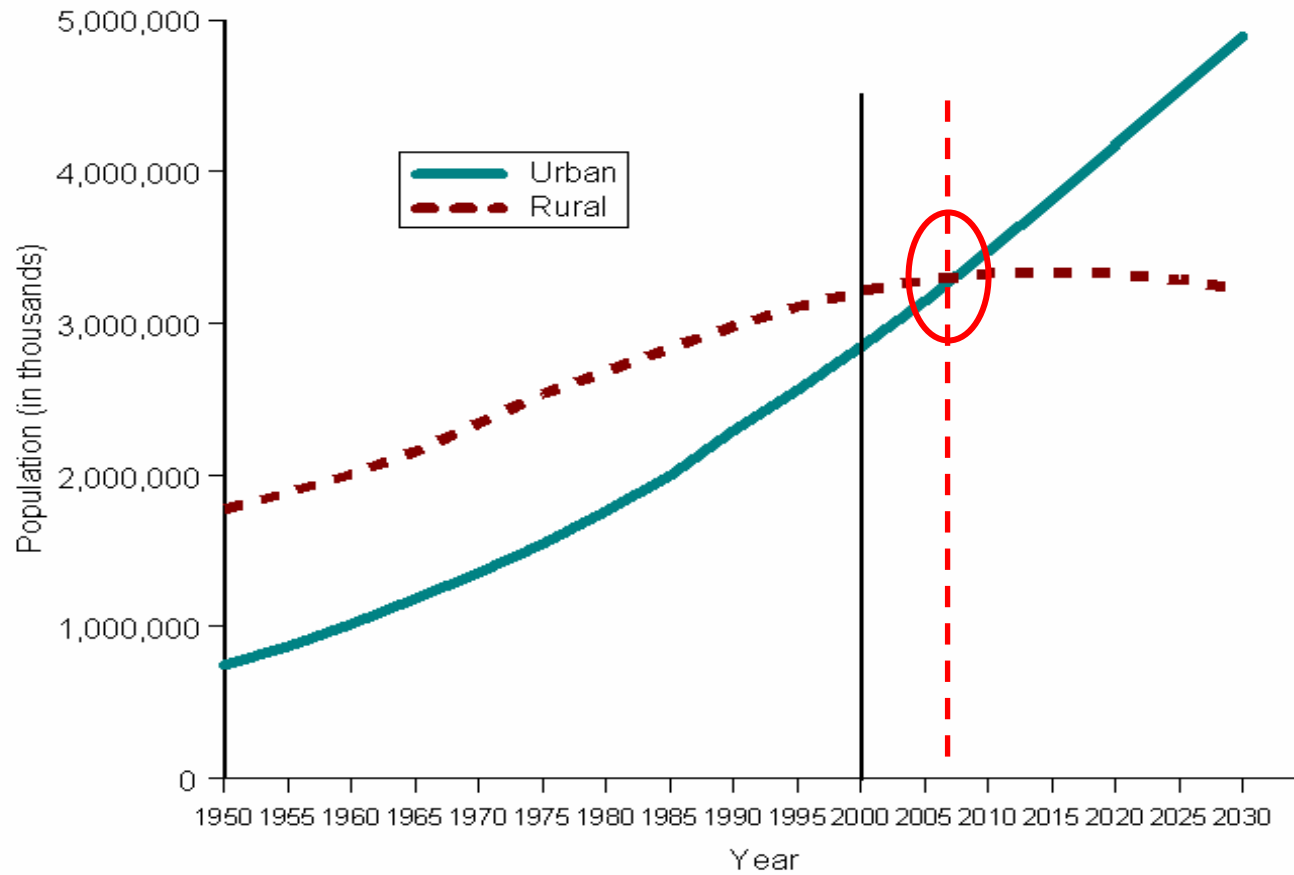


# The Slum Issue



BY 2020, 1.4 BILLION PEOPLE  
WILL LIVE IN SLUMS

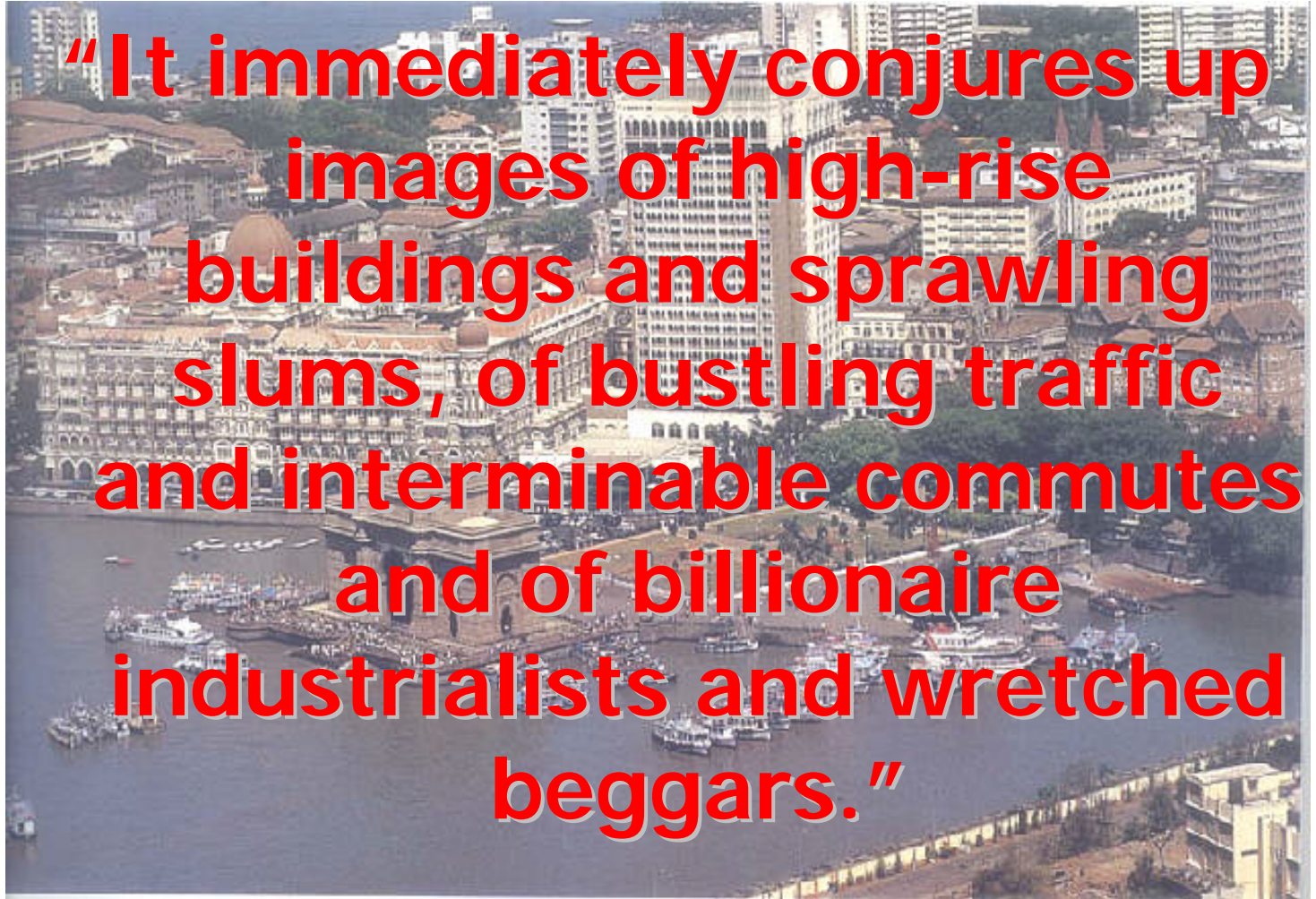
# The Urban Issue





# Mumbai

**"It immediately conjures up images of high-rise buildings and sprawling slums, of bustling traffic and interminable commutes and of billionaire industrialists and wretched beggars."**



# Urbanization in Mumbai

- Around half the population - of 14m, at a modest estimate - live in slums.





# Urbanization in Mumbai



Did you know?

- Was one of the most expensive cities in the world?
- 3 railway lines
- Government is the largest urban landowner
- 7.4 million passenger trips daily



# The Railway Issue

- By 1999 some 20,000 households had been erected within meters of the tracks



## Implications:

- 15km/h vs. 40 km/h
- Commuting slowed
- Deaths
- Drivers traumatized
- Creation of Safety Zone
- Mumbai Urban Transport Project
- Expanding station platforms, laying new tracks, more rail cars

# The Big Picture

- National Housing Policy
  - Avoid forcible relocation
- Slum Redevelopment Scheme
  - Proof of residence
- 60,000 slum dwellers participated in their own resettlement
  - Setting an international precedent



# Forced Evictions



# Forced Evictions

Between the 1950s and 1990s approximately 20 million people were displaced and involuntarily resettled as a result of development projects in India.

Evidence that only 25% of resettled populations were 'rehabilitated' indicates that the majority of people faced severe socio-economic hardships and are likely to have faced subsequent impoverishment.

# Women & Evictions

- A triple role within society
  - Reproductive
  - Productive
  - Social Organization
- Rapid flight due to evictions
  - Difficult & Dangerous
- Involvement in remedial activities





# The Missing Link

- A Participatory Approach



# Foundations of Participation



- Mid 1980s eviction notice resulted in a critical Baseline Survey
  - Importance of Mahila Milan; women's savings and credit groups

SAVING CHART										
SR. NO.	NAME OF THE SOCIETY	BOB UP TO 2002	U.T.I.	BALANCE BOB UP TO 2002	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUN
1	BHAGYODAYA	12,16841	83,500	8,73,141	2,700	8,500	11,700			
2	KALPATARU	4,51,450	1,79,500	2,71,950	14,800	15,300	2,000			
3	TAKSHASHEELA	3,86,731	14,55,000	2,41,231	3,200	28,200	1,500			
4	PANCHASHEELA	3,11,788	2,25,500	1,89,288	20,300	38,000	11,400			
5	PRIYADARSHINI	4,03,013	1,04,500	2,98,513	-	-	2,000			
6	SAI - KRUPA	4,62,858	8,300	3,79,858	52,000	3,300	-			
7	OMKAR	3,07,915	63,500	2,44,415	-	-	-			
8	JAI BHARAT	3,78,560	53,500	3,25,060	3,600	-	10,400			
9	AHEMAD NAGAR	1,90,310	2,70,000	1,63,310	-	5,500	21,000			
10	AMRAPALI	5,42,481	14,30,000	3,99,481	3,000	-	-			
11	SAI SHAKTI	5,44,732	4,15,000	4,03,232	700	700	-			
12	NAAZ	2,25,650	-	2,25,650	28,900	12,200	9800			
13	SHRAMSAFALYA	4,06,950	-	4,06,950	9,900	2,600	2,600			
14	SAI SHRADHA	2,82,778	-	2,82,778	-	3,500	11,000			
15	SHIV CHATRAPATI	3,98,750	-	3,98,750	1,500	-	13,400			
16	NAVANATH	2,06,920	-	2,06,920	3,300	900	-			
17	SURYODAYA	2,52,200	-	2,52,200	1,600	11,100	17,300			
18	NUTAN	8600	-	8600	-	-	-			
19	JAI BHAVANI	1,46,500	-	1,46,500	-	-	-			
20	EMTA	57,300	-	57,300	-	-	-			

## The role of Mahila Milan

1. Instills a habit of saving in women of low-income communities
2. Runs and operates credit societies or savings groups
3. Provides loans to members in times of need
4. Plays an active role in the empowerment of women

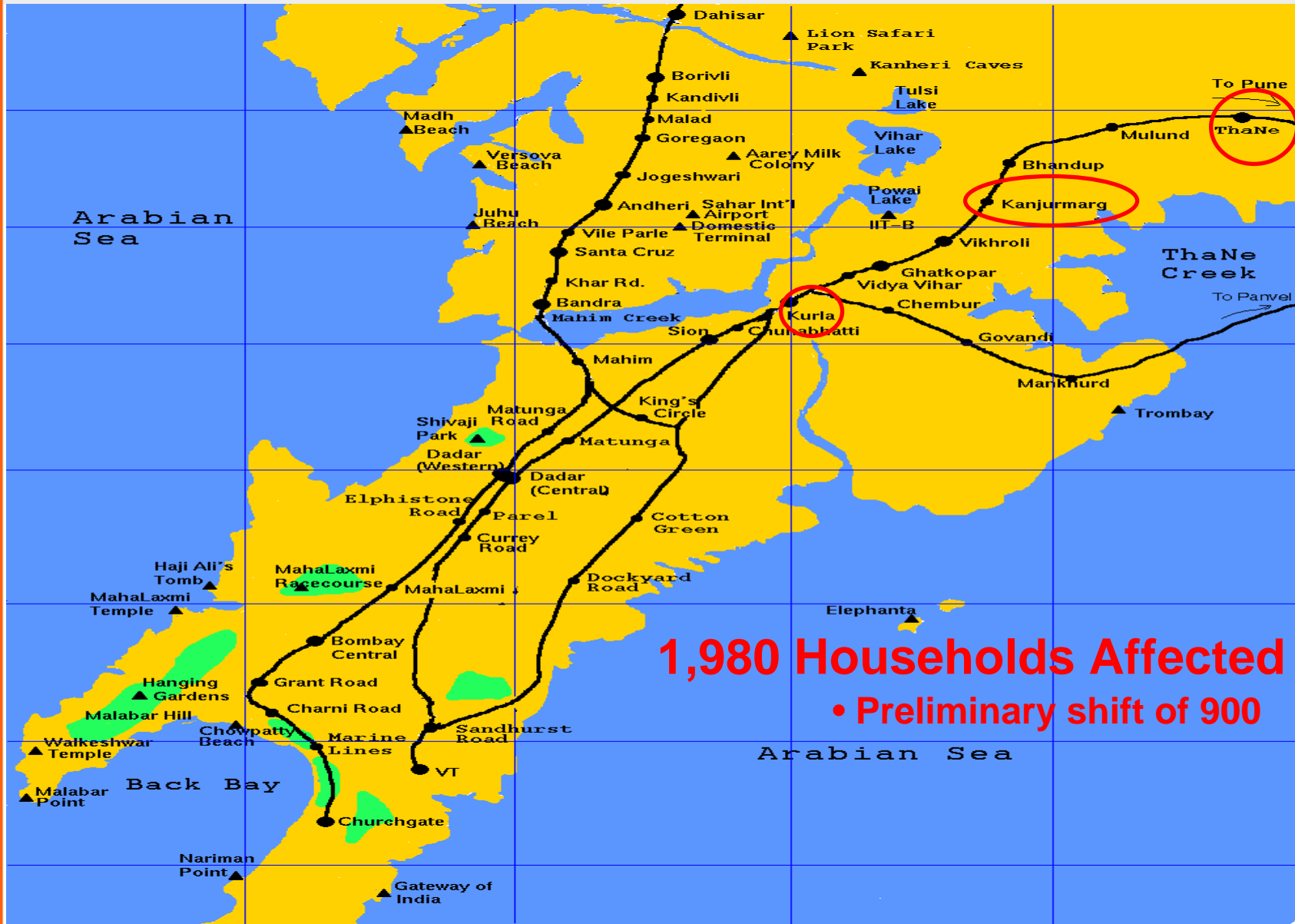
# Resettlement

- Establishment of the Railway Slum Dwellers Federation - 1987
  - Housing exhibition
- Government negotiations with MM and RSDF
  - Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy



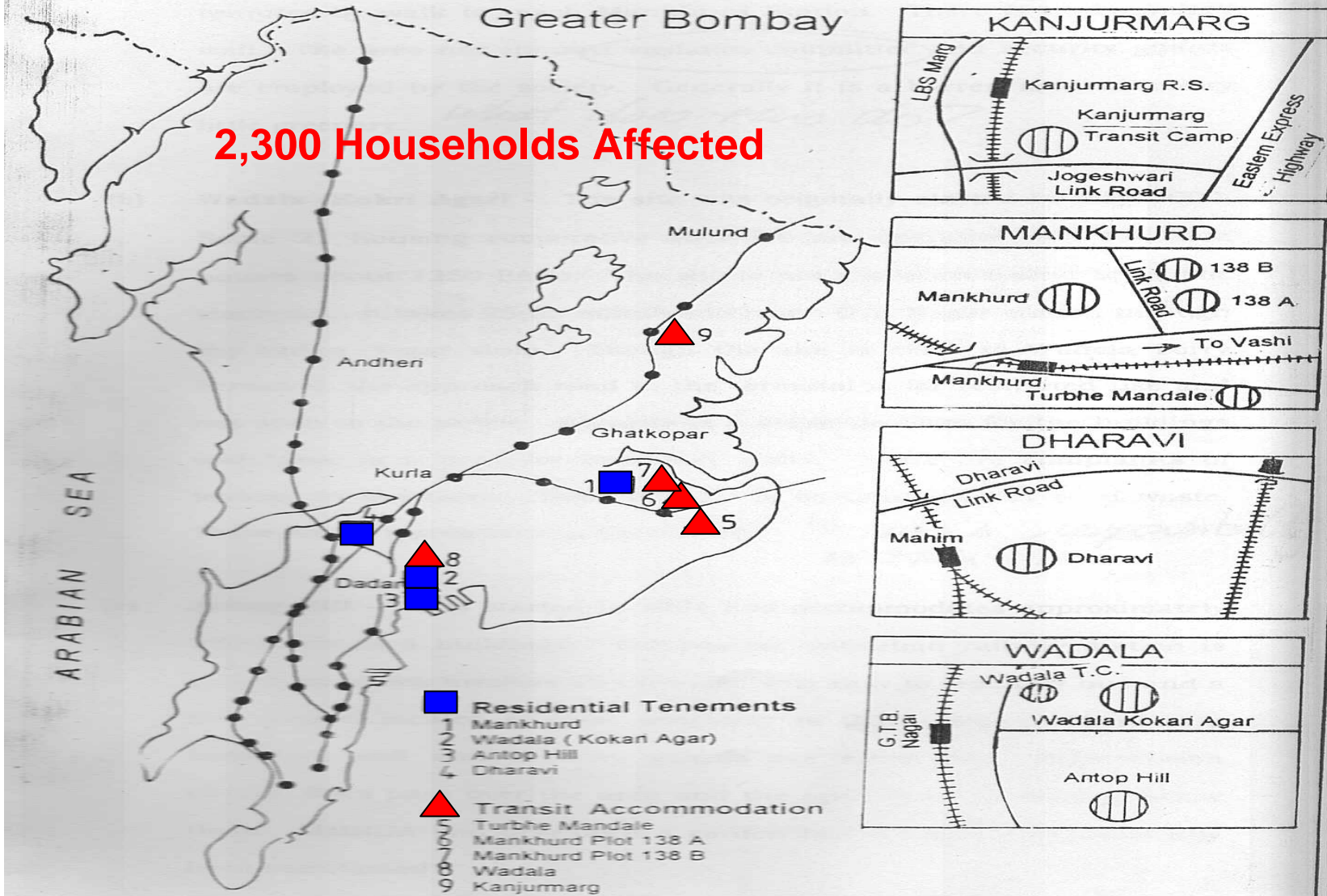


# Demolitions in Squatter Settlements



# Demolitions and Resettlement Sites

## LOCATION OF THE RESETTLEMENT SITES



# Dynamics of Resettlement





# Lessons Learned

- The Mumbai resettlement is *not* a panacea
- Concerns noted
  - Reduced employment opportunities; loss of livelihood; distant location of schools; smaller living space, lengthy commuting
  - Merging the informality of previous lives with the formality required under resettlement

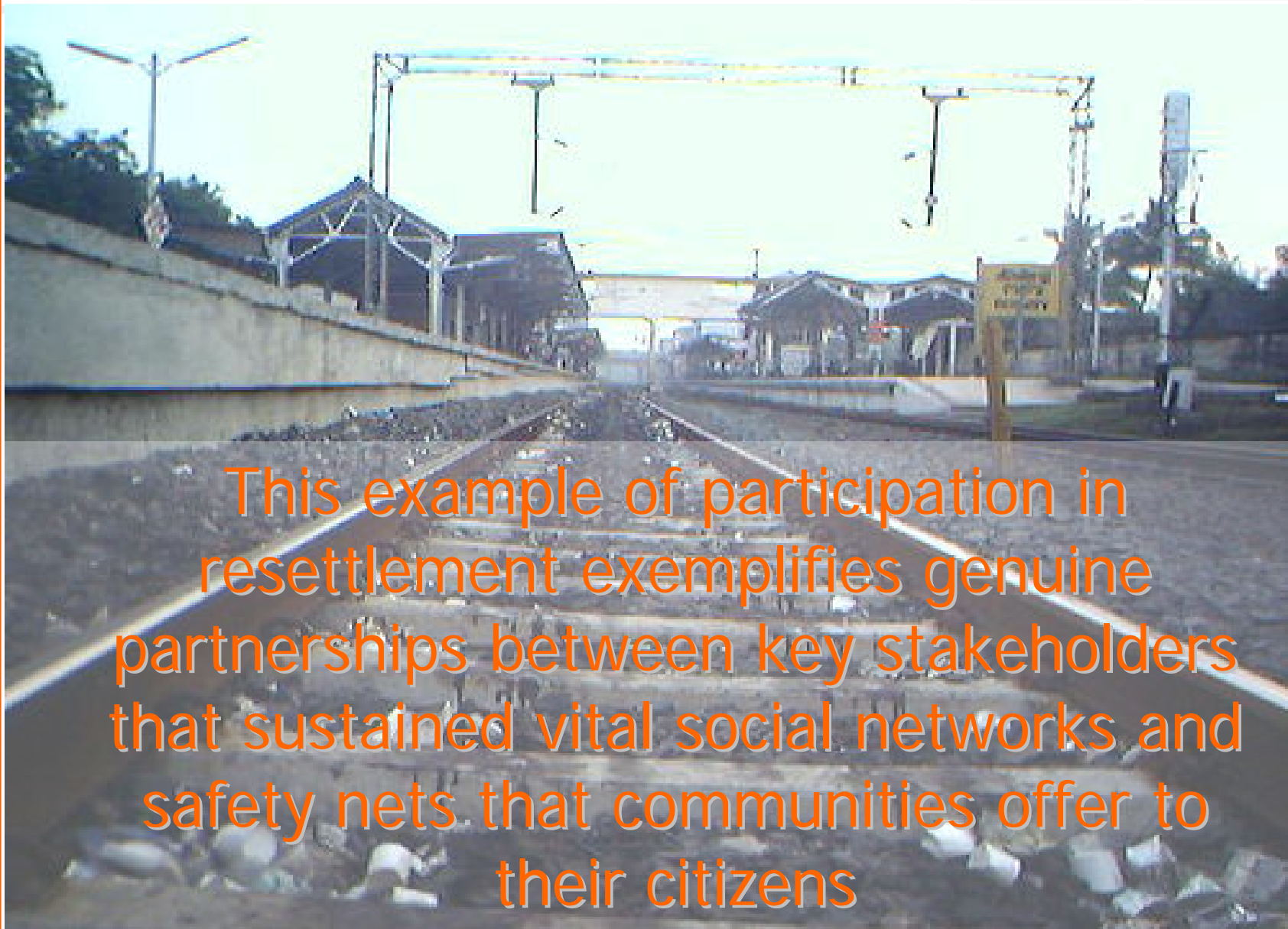


# So What Does It All Mean?

- Urban development is linked to the reorganization of city spaces
  - Evictions are often the norm
- Mumbai's precedent setting accomplishment
  - The importance of 'training wheels'



# The Bottom Line



This example of participation in resettlement exemplifies genuine partnerships between key stakeholders that sustained vital social networks and safety nets that communities offer to their citizens





THANK YOU