



## SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT - SMART CITIES

### SITUATION

Rapidly urbanising India is estimated to reach an urban population of 600 million from what was around 377 million in the year 2011. This implies that almost 40 per cent of India's population would be living in urban areas by 2030. This rapid increase would add to the complex challenges that the Indian cities are facing such as providing their citizens with adequate living space and basic services like drinking water, sanitation, drainage, and solid waste management.

At present the country is grappling with an urban housing shortage of nearly 18.78 million units, mainly pertaining to economically weaker section and lower income groups. In addition, there are 27.5 per cent of urban households living in rented dwellings facing issues like poor access to basic services and violation of basic minimum standards required for human habitation. Further, sanitation remains a critical issue in growing cities wherein only a third of the urban households are connected to a sewage system, while the

rest are dependent on onsite sanitation options like septic tanks, twin pits etc. Solid waste management has also emerged as a serious concern for the cities across India.

Since 2014, the Indian Government has increasingly responded to these urban challenges by establishing various national urban missions and programmes like the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY). While the initial funding strategies were mostly sectoral, the Smart Cities Programme for the first time offers integrated approaches and strengthens the implementation role of the states and cities.

India has also reiterated its commitment towards the Habitat III Process (2016), the New Urban Agenda (NUA) that accords focus to housing in addition to the Sustainable Development Goal 11 that encourages countries to take action towards providing access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services in cities by 2030.

To effectively implement these missions, the institutional technical capacities along with experience on aspects related to sustainable urban development and integrated planning must be developed, especially with regards to urban basic services and housing.

To meet these growing challenges the national, state and city levels must look beyond their silos and follow a more cross-sectoral and integrated approach.

## Objective

Responsible national, state and municipal institutions have applied concepts for sustainable urban development for the provision of urban basic services and housing in selected smart cities.

## APPROACH

The direct target group of the project are the inhabitants of the three Smart Cities namely, Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) and Kochi (Kerala) with population of 0.84, 1.05 and 6.06 million respectively. This also includes a substantial slum population. The project with its holistic approach to sustainable urban development for housing and basic services, aims to benefit the entire urban population of the cities. To achieve this, SUD-SC project would target strengthening of integrated and intersectoral planning approaches thereby increasing synergies and funding efficiency. It would work towards providing a framework for improved coordination of sector planning and national urban missions and programmes.

At the national level, the project partners with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India to achieve dissemination and upscaling of the experiences of the three partner cities across other cities through innovative formats of peer learning and knowledge exchange.

## ACHIEVEMENTS/EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- The project aims to support the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on the strategic steering of its national urban missions/programmes, the optimisation of the national enabling framework and the dissemination of practice-proven approaches for provision of urban basic services.
- The project will focus on supporting MoHUA in the policy formulation on the gender-sensitive provision of housing as well as in the monitoring of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The project will provide advisory support to the three states on the optimisation and complementation of their state level strategies and enabling frameworks, the development of practice-oriented training programmes as well as the establishment of horizontal exchange platforms between cities.
- The project aims at strengthening intersectoral coordination and participation by introducing integrated planning approaches for the three Smart Cities.
- Finally, the project will support in developing local urban basic services and adequate housing in poor/disadvantaged settlements within cities.



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