

Safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene are **crucial to human health and well-being**. Untreated human waste contaminates ground and surface water. Around **40% of urban Indians use this polluted ground water without treatment – for drinking, cooking and bathing**. This is a **major threat to public health and environmental safety**, particularly affecting vulnerable populations. Diarrheal disease is the cause of **20% of deaths in children under 5 years**.



Improving WASH services can dramatically improve health by reducing diarrhoeal disease deaths. Safe WASH is not only a prerequisite to health but also contributes to livelihoods, school attendance and dignity and helps to create **resilient communities living in healthy environments**.

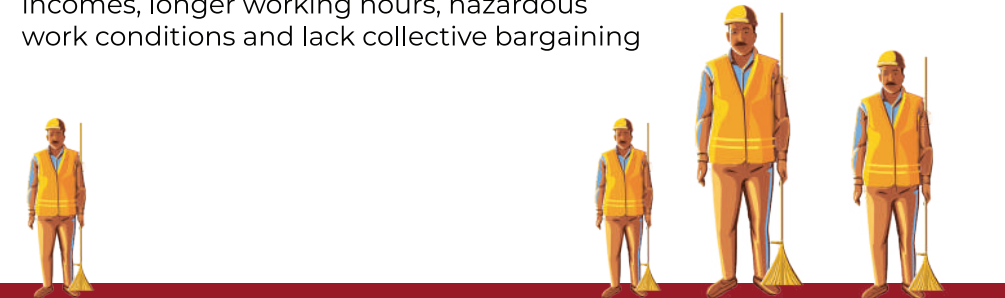


8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



SAFE AND DIGNIFIED LIVELIHOOD FOR SANITATION WORKERS

Sanitation workers play the crucial role of bridging the gap between sanitation infrastructure and sanitation services. The lack of recognition of their work, which **exposes them to occupational and environmental hazards**, existing social taboos and the challenges they face push them to the brink of **exploitation** and deprives them of their **right to decent work**. India has approximately **5 million sanitation workers**, most of whom are employed as **informal workers**. Marginalized communities continue to be a part of the sector and suffer from lower incomes, longer working hours, hazardous work conditions and lack collective bargaining



rights. Irrespective of the efforts and guidelines in place, many sanitation workers don't have access to any form of socio-economic benefits or to schemes that can ensure a dignified livelihood for them. Despite providing the most essential public service, their identity, dignity and safety is tremendously compromised. Poor sanitation cost India **5.2% of its GDP in 2015**, and **water pollution in itself causes health costs around \$6.7-8.7 billion per year**. Investing in sanitation infrastructure and curbing large-scale water pollution is a



key step to offset these costs. According to the World Bank, every dollar spent on sanitation can bring a five-fold return.

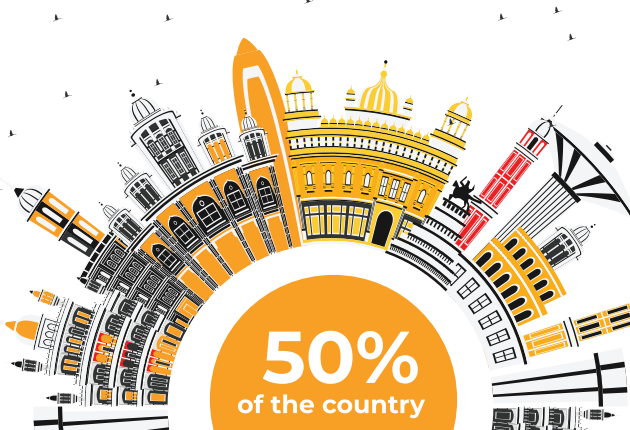


11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



BUILDING CITY RESILIENCE IS KEY TO TACKLING RAPID PACE OF URBANIZATION

India is urbanizing at a rapid pace and **50% of the country** is estimated to live in urban cities **by 2030**. City-preparedness becomes important to ensure that people don't fall out of safety nets – the population influx will call for increased provision of public services, of which sanitation is critical. **The faecal sludge generated in urban India will further**



increase; half of which is already dumped in open drains today. Increased pollution of the water bodies will make clean resources, such as water, land and air inaccessible especially for the urban poor and vulnerable, and will also lead to the disruption of our city systems and make them incapable of supporting life. Our cities need to be made more

DISPARITY IN CITIES



resilient through better waste treatment systems and processes. Indian cities are under the strain of unplanned urbanization, the brunt of which is faced by **marginalized communities**. There are **spatial and non-spatial disparities within cities** when it comes to the provision of **basic services such as sanitation**, electricity, water supply, education, etc. Poor urban planning disproportionately impacts marginalized communities, who move to cities in search of a better living, thus it is imperative to re-organize urban planning through the lens of inclusivity.



INCLUSIVE SANITATION A CATALYZING PIECE OF THE



PUZZLE



FOLD 1

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 are interconnected through complex systemic interactions and can only be solved through a **collaborative and inter-sectoral approach**. Safe and inclusive sanitation efforts lie at the very heart of the SDGs, carrying immense potential to **synergize** with other social and environmental causes and create an enabling environment for holistic impact **leaving no one behind**.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



SANITATION: A CRITICAL PATHWAY TO GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

FOLD 2

Gender Equality is one of the most interconnected SDGs – with links to health, education, climate change, livelihood, etc. However, sanitation – which shares key links with gender - often ends up taking a backseat despite having **a pertinent role to play in safeguarding women's health and safety and ensuring access to education, mobility, economic opportunities, etc.** In India over **355 million women** and girls lack access to a toilet; an immense **source of distress and incapacitation**.

Sanitation-related insecurity
30% of marginalized women are violently assaulted every year while fulfilling their sanitation needs. The lack of safe sanitation facilities exposes women to illness, **gender-based violence** hampering their ability to earn and be mobile. Research in rural India found that unmarried women and women without a functioning latrine

FOLD 3

had a higher sanitation insecurity score, which in turn was associated with **distress and poorer mental health**.

Impact on Education of Adolescent Girls

As per a 2014 report, nearly **23 million girls** drop out of school **every year** due to lack of menstrual hygiene management facilities. Lack of inclusive sanitation facilities at home and school can negatively impact girls' education- opportunities for learning are lost when children have to spend time collecting water or finding a safe place to defecate or urinate in the open.

Health and care burdens
Improving access to WASH, and providing expectant mothers with basic services and accurate hygiene information, is vital to reduce **maternal**

FOLD 4

mortality rates and meet global goals for ending preventable child deaths. Where household members fall sick due to sanitation-related illnesses, the burden of care falls disproportionately on women and girls.

There is a critical need for **gender-responsive** water and sanitation systems to reduce gender-based violence and reduce the burden of unpaid work on women and girls, and facilitate participation in education, employment, leisure activities and decision-making.



FOLD 5

13 CLIMATE ACTION



ADAPTIVE AND CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS SANITATION IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR

FOLD 6

Water Scarcity

Urban India alone **produces 120,000 tonnes of faecal sludge** on a daily basis. The untreated waste is dumped into open drains, rivers, canals and landfills, **contaminating water bodies and soil**.

The disposal of untreated waste into water bodies is the single biggest source of water resource pollution in India. India is the **13th most water stressed country** in the world, with rapidly depleting groundwater levels and close to 70% of surface water being contaminated. This is further worsening the problem of water scarcity and lack of access to safe water for all living beings.

Disaster Risk Reduction

India is one of the world's most disaster-prone countries; third worst-affected due to climate-induced natural disasters. Climate change

FOLD 7

is projected to have a major impact on water supply and sanitation. Floods may damage sewerage systems and water shortages may affect conventional sewer systems with high water reliance. There is a need to prioritize **climate change-resilient public infrastructure**. These incidents, which are becoming more frequent as climate change worsens, cause public health emergencies and degrade the environment, the impact of which is felt disproportionately by vulnerable groups. Providing safely managed WASH services can reduce spatial inequality in cities and improve social cohesion, thus helping prevent future public emergencies.

Greenhouse Emissions

Human excreta is a **significant source of greenhouse emissions** contributing to the rise of global temperatures. **A 5m³ truck of faecal**

FOLD 8

sludge dumped into the open contains the equivalent of 5000 people defecating into the open. The pollution of soil affects its capacity for carbon absorption, contributing to climate change. These contaminated natural resources also become unfit for human use and **uninhabitable for land and aquatic life**, affecting the environmental ecosystem of the planet There is a need for collaborative action towards safe, sustainable and inclusive sanitation.



FOLD 9

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



INCLUSIVE SANITATION IS THE SPINE OF HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

FOLD 10



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FOLD 11

