

# This is the urban century

# Making cities inclusive, climate resilient and sustainable

#### **Meera Mehta**

**Center for Water and Sanitation, CRDF, CEPT University** 

**Keynote address at the International Conference on** 'Future is Urban', at Nirma University

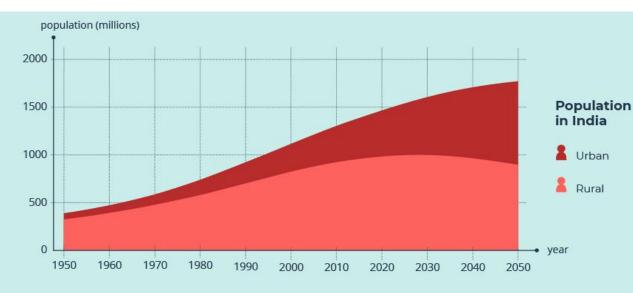
**Dec 2021** 

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#### India is becoming more and more urban

#### More people will live in cities by 2050 than in rural areas



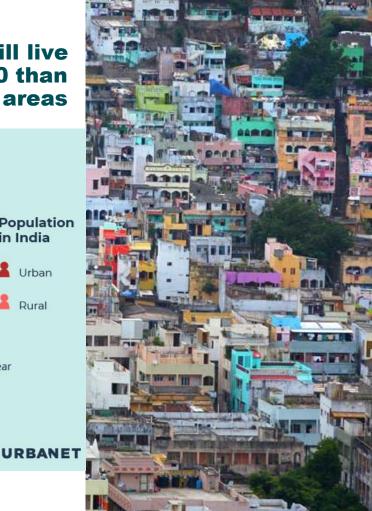
Source: UN DESA, Urban and Rural Population India (2018) World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision, custom data acquired via website

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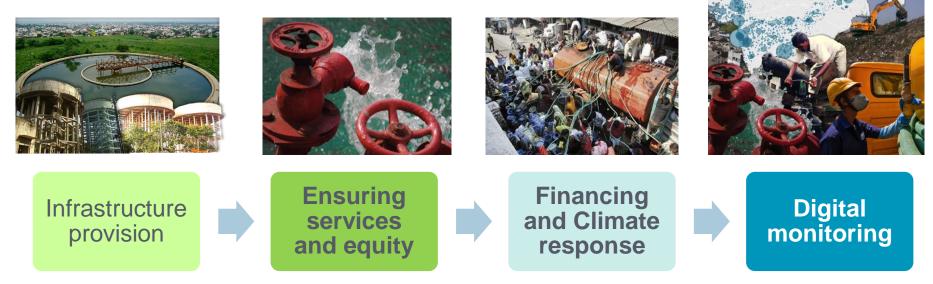


### **New role for urban planners?**

Conventionally, planners in India have made **urban development plans**, and helped in the implementation of **large programs such as JNUURM, AMRUT and SBM** 

Move from Infrastructure...

to services, climate response and resilience...



Conventional urban development discourse has focused on urban development plans, large government led programs on infrastructure, housing, public spaces and slum development...

I plan to focus on a few other emerging critical areas...





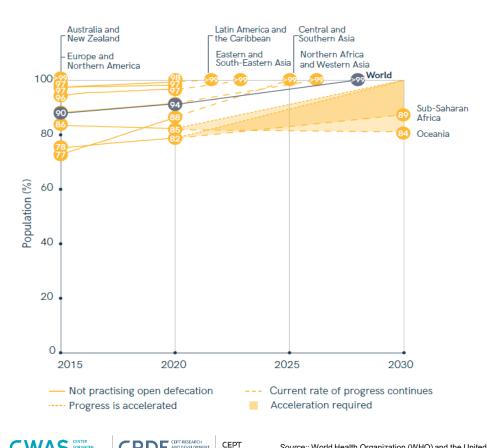


SDGs Sustainable Development Goals in India

Only 9 years are now left to achieve SDGs!



### SDG 6.2 - Progress on eliminating open defecation



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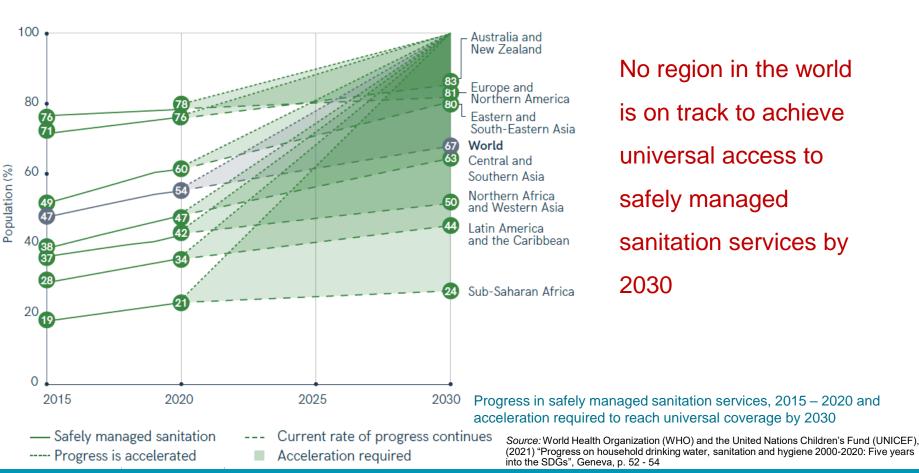
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Significant progress in eliminating open defecation suggests that overall, the world is now on track to eliminate open defecation by 2030

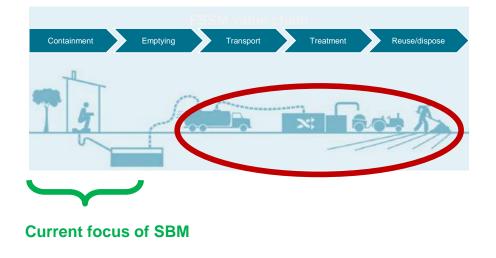
India through its Swachh Bharat Mission has contributed to this agenda

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### **Progress in safely managed sanitation – world**



### **Onsite sanitation and FSSM as affordable options**



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A proven approach to tackle the sanitation challenge is through onsite sanitation systems and faecal sludge and septage management

A service-chain based approach, from safe containment, conveyance, treatment, and disposal/reuse of treated faecal waste

#### Sanitation as a public service, but PPPs are possible and relevant



Sanitation, when provided in a safely managed manner generates widespread public **benefits**, and thus it is justifiable to treat it as a public service. However, it can be provided by

public agencies or through

Public-Private Partnerships and

funded by public resources

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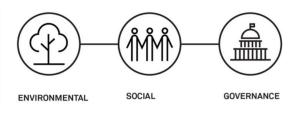
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# **Climate resilient urban development**

Drought and stress on water supply	Floods and threat to life, infrastructure and economy	Sea level rise and threat to coastal cities	Heatwaves and carbon emissions	Inequality and resultant vulnerability
		Karachi Karachi Kolkata Yangon Bangkok Colombo Population Small (100–500 thousand) Intermediate (500 thousand–1 million) Big (More than 1 million) Big (More than 1 million) Percent of national urban population i low elevation coastal zones (LECZ) in Non LECZ 15.1–20.0 10.1–1 0.0–5.0 20.1–25.0 5.1–10.0 >25.0	TAN CALL C	

## Increasingly relevant ESG assessment – city applications?



Measuring sustainability and societal impact to better determine the future performance

#### **Urban Local Bodies – logical ESG candidates**



**Primary mandate for public good:** ESG topics already mandate of local governments



**Building credentials for potential investors:** Push from MoHUA for cities to raise their own funds. ESG assessments can help in attracting and credibility with CSR investors and philanthropists



**Good ESG rating =** judicious use of funds & low payment risk = Easier borrowing from banks, capital market, bi/multi lateral funds

# ESG in the corporate world – paradigm shift



**Traditionally** for investments and project development, corporates look at financial projections – profits and revenue flows

**Paradigm shift** to responsible Business, Ethical Considerations, Alignment with values

#### Benefits with ESG assessments for

Investment stability, Lowered regulatory and legal risks, Social returns, Credibility with stakeholders, Cost reductions

## **Global interest in ESG – Making cities ESG compliant**

#### Global organizations preferring investments with ESG outcomes

**UNPRI** - United Nations-supported international network of investors - We will seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by the entities in which we invest.

**European Commission (EC)** action plan for financing sustainable growth - Strengthening financial stability by incorporating ESG factors into investment decision-making

World Bank Group (WBG) collaborates with investors to provide financial markets with improved sovereign ESG data and analytics for countries

Morgan and Stanley Capital International (MSCI) – prefer investments that deal with their framework of 10 themes / 37 key issues

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#### ESG in US Municipal marketplace - ISS ESG Muni QualityScore (ACRe Data)

Risk assessment data for Municipal Bond Issuers

ESG Scores and Rankings for all States, Cities, Counties, & School Districts - 29,500 Cities and Towns across America

72 data inputs





ure, while a 10 indicates little or no disclosure.

#### Toronto's Debt Issuance Program for strategic ESG outcomes

Since 2018, Toronto has issued \$500 million worth of Green Bonds

Objective - align with the City's strategic priorities and enhance ESG outcomes



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As ESG report to disclose outcomes

#### **FSTPs Powered by Solar Energy ...**

#### Wai, India

- Consumption of electricity: 1396 Units/month
- Estimated generation of electricity: 3208 Units/month
- CO2 emissions mitigated: 16.06 Metric ton/annum

Potentially 16 carbon credits can be generated

#### Solar Power generation capacity: 30 KW



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#### Sinnar, India

- Consumption of electricity: 1184 Units/month
- Estimated generation of electricity: 1258 Units/month
- CO2 emissions mitigated: 6.3 Metric ton/annum

#### Potentially 6 carbon credits can be generated

#### Solar Power generation capacity: 7.5 KW



Source: Mansuri, A (2021), " Eco sensitive FSSM: The case of Wai and Siinar in Maharashra, India", SANCOP, October

#### Sinnar FSTP and Urban Forest. . . Like Oasis in a Desert. . .





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- In Sinnar, 8000 square metres of urban forest and landscaped area is growing in the midst of an otherwise barren and rocky land. Managed by women SHG groups
- The forest compliments the city's Faecal Sludge treatment plant by using treated water and dried sludge from the FSTP.
- More than 1400 trees were planted and since then they have been growing at a healthy pace.
- The urban forest has already started attracting various species of birds and is helping to sustain healthy biodiversity.

### Scaling up with active city participation – Maazi Vasundhara



Government of Maharashtra is working with all the 380 urban local governments to create awareness and increase green cover with plans to create new planning templates and curricula

Source:https://majhivasundhara.in/en/majhi-vasundhara-notice-board, accessed on Ddec 16, 2021



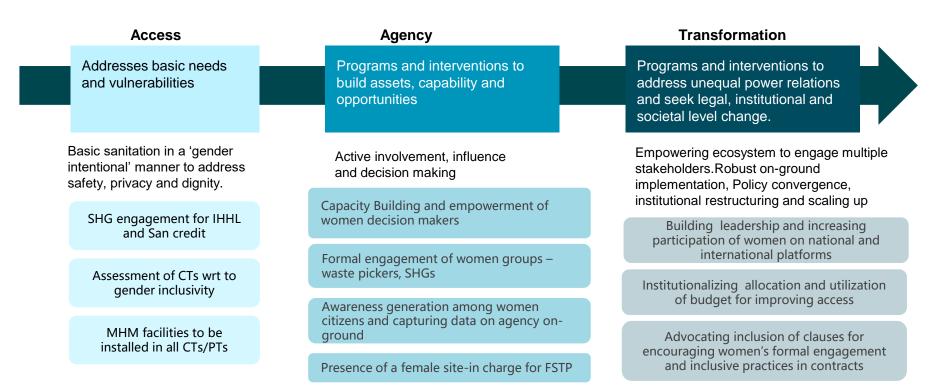
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# **Inclusion and Gender Transformation**



# While overall incomes have risen, there are issues of equity – and of gender roles

## Moving from access to agency and gender transformation for women and marginalized groups



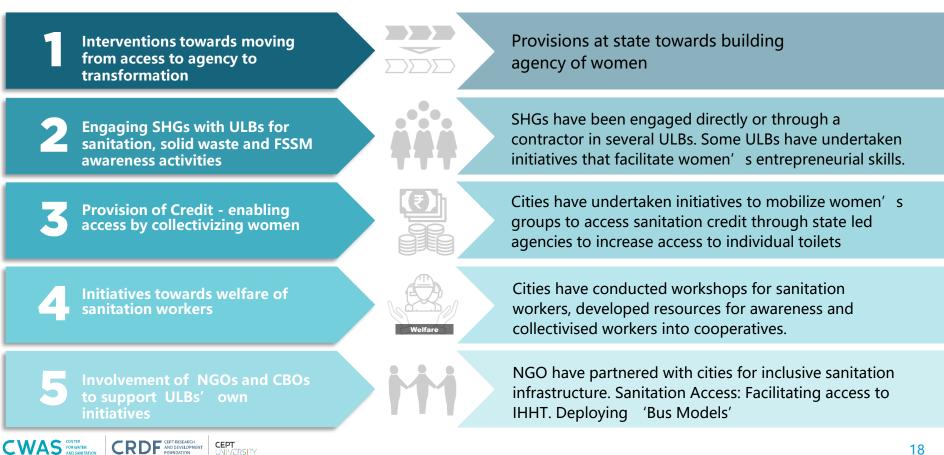
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## Initiatives for inclusivity and building women's agency in Maharashtra



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### **Rise of SHGs as a force in urban India – examples from Maharashtra**

#### Increased assess to credit by leveraging Self Help Groups

- SHGs mobilised in Jalna district for access to credit for construction of individual household toilets
- The city of Pathri mobilised credit through cooperative because of their knowledge of local on ground situations, access and understanding of the community behavior patterns.
- Wai Urban Cooperative Bank has disbursed loans to 30 women by forming SHGs under NULM.
- Credit mobilization was implemented with the help of NULM in Sinnar

Formal engagement of Self Help **Groups with Municipal Contracts** 

- SHGs in Vasai Virar maintenance of septic tanks •
- Community awareness and composting + CT/PT Maintenace by SHGs in Hingoli
- SHGs contracted for Door to Door waste collection at Bhadravati
- Waste Segregation by Women SHG in Tuljapur, Panchgani
- Urban Forest and Garden O&M + maintenance of hand washing facilities in by SHG in Sinnar
- SHG trained as entrepreneurs for production of sanitary napkins.

#### Self Help Groups and programme awareness

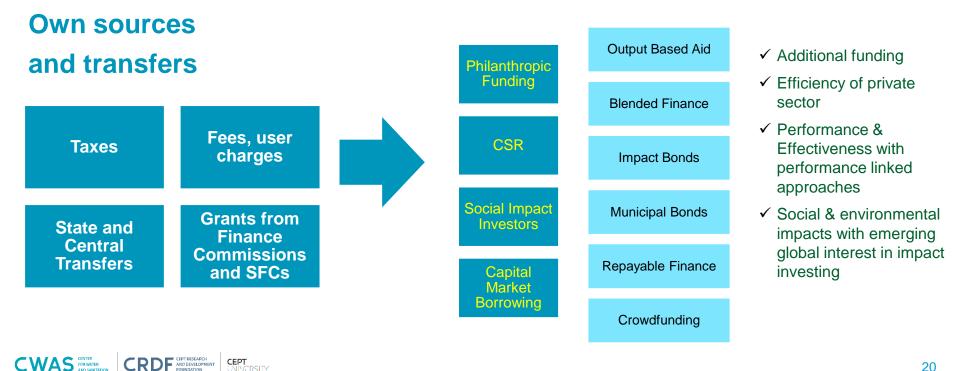
- Workshops were conducted with SHG members on toilet construction, components of individual toilets and cost of construction
- SHG Awareness programs for subsidies available under Swachh Bharat in Wai and Sinnar
- Inviting SHGs for inauguration of **ESTP** in Sinnar





## New forms of financing and ensuring sustainability

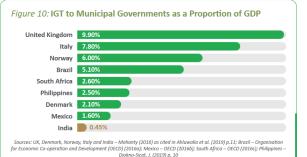
Urban infrastructure has been generally financed through public funds but innovative options are emerging



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## Raising the importance of municipal in wider public finance

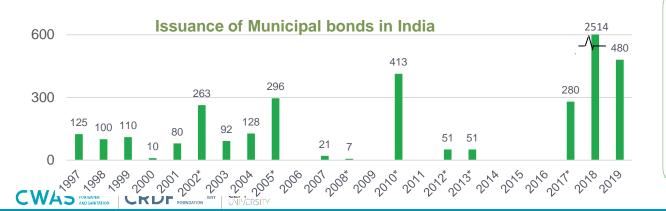
# Need to focus on greater transfers (IGTs)to ULBs...

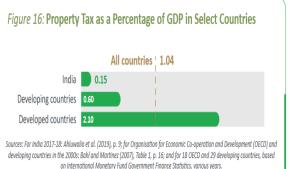


#### Share of ULBs in GST?

- Indian cities contribute 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of GDP but are fiscally poor
- "...sharing of the revenues from GST among all three levels of government."

Also need municipal strengthening for improved property tax collections...





## **Options to leverage private resources and impact investments**



Funder makes payments only if preagreed outcomes are achieved

**Outcome based funding** 

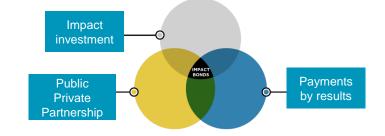




The combination of return seeking and philanthropic capital to achieve development outcomes

#### **Development Impact Bonds**

Confluence of outcome based funding and blended financing and leveraging PPP.





Source: Social India Finance presentation, 2020; Convergence and the Brookings Institution (2017) "Impact Bonds in Developing

#### **Recent Development Impact Bonds in India – Education and Health**

Success of DIBs in education and healthcare in India





- DIB of USD 267,000 Three-year intervention focusing on improved learning outcomes and enrolment numbers for out-of-school girls.
- It targeted 18,260 school-going children in the Bhilwara district of Rajasthan.

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#### Quality Education India Development Impact Bond:

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A case study produced as part of the independent evaluation of the Department for Internationa Development's Development Impact Bond Pilot Programme

Impact Bond Details	Educate Girls DIB	Utkrisht DIB	Quality Education India DIB	۲	The Generatives of Rejection Perticipates in oversight in a non-executive role and logs the generation generatives autoone funding in a second
Target Sector	Primary Education	Maternal and Newborn Healthcare	Primary Education		the grades of generative addition belong in a second phase of the impact band.
Objective	<ul> <li>Improve enrollment of girls in Grade 2-8</li> <li>Improve Learning for ~18K boys and girls in Grade 3-5</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Support up to 444 private healthcare facilities to achieve and sustain a standard of quality that will result in decreased maternal and newborn mortality</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Improvement in numeracy and literacy learning of ~3,20,000 students</li> </ul>		
Partners	Service Provider(s): Educate Girls     Impact Investor: UBS Optimus     Foundation     Outcome Funder: Children's     Investment Fund Foundation     Outcomes Evaluator: IDinsight	Service Provider(s): HLFPPT, PSI     Impact Investor: UBS Optimus Foundation     Outcome Funder: Merck for Mothers, USAID     Outcomes Evaluator: Mathematica	<ul> <li>Service Provider(s): Gyanshala, KEF, PIF &amp; EL, SARD</li> <li>Impact Investor: UBS Optimus Foundation</li> <li>Outcome Funder: British Asian Trust, MSDF, Comic Relief, BT, The Mittal Foundation, The Ellison Foundation</li> <li>Outcome Evaluator: Gray Matters</li> </ul>		
Period of Performance	H2 2015 – H2 2018	H1 2018 - H1 2021	H1 2018 – H2 2022		
Bond Size	~0.4M USD	~9M USD	~11M USD		
Results / Expected Results	<ul> <li>Achieved 160% of total learning target</li> <li>Achieved 116% of total enrollment target</li> </ul>	Up to 600,000 pregnant women positively impacted; up to 10,000 lives saved over a five-year period	<ul> <li>~0.2-0.4 SD per annum depending on intervention type</li> </ul>		



Source: http://instiglio.org/educategirlsdib/wp-CEPT\_content/uploads/2018/07/Educate-Girls-DIB\_results\_brochure\_final-2.pdf;

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# **Regular and effective digital monitoring is critical**



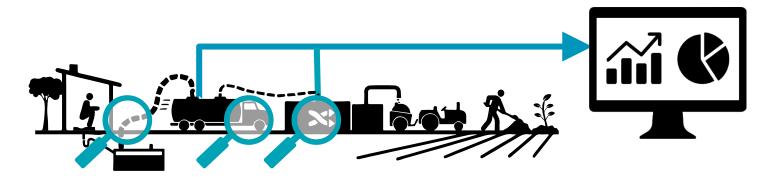
History teaches us that it is critical to evolve and adopt new approaches – but it is important to ensure that these sustain over time.

Sustained monitoring of universal access to safe sanitation in essential through country owned systems at city, state and national levels

Strong and regular monitoring systems will make it possible to ensure that any issues related to sustainability are identified early and addressed.

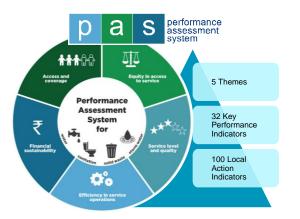
## **Digital monitoring for effective service delivery City level monitoring systems in Maharashtra, India**

Use of monitoring systems across sanitation service chain – digital systems with dashboards





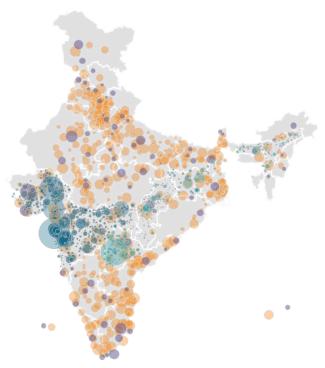
# Monitoring city level water and sanitation services at scale



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- Nationally owned  $\checkmark$
- Digital platform for self reporting  $\checkmark$
- Supported by capacity building  $\checkmark$
- Sustained implementation at scale  $\checkmark$
- Currently being used I 1000+ cities  $\checkmark$ across India





## **In summary**

Achieve SDGs for Goals 3, 5, 6, 11



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From access to agency and **gender transformation** – Leveraging Self Help groups



Adapt new and innovative forms of financing ensuring sustainability



Use **digital tech for monitoring** and citizen engagement for sustainability

