

Partnerships in Urban Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

OVERVIEW

Rapid urbanization is placing immense strain on the ability of the Indian government to provide clean water and sanitation services to the over 300 million people residing in urban areas. The health consequences of rapid urbanization are exhibited by the high rates of stunting, malnutrition, and death from water-borne disease evident across India.

USAID'S RESPONSE

In partnership with the Government of India's (GOI) Ministry of Urban Development, USAID is bringing in public and private sector leadership, talents, and resources to generate solutions to the global water, sanitation, and hygiene challenges.

Under a new partnership, which is leveraging the expertise of key partners such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID will provide technical expertise and share global best practices with the Ministry of Urban Development, with the goal of scaling these practices across India. This partnership contributes to India's vision of extending clean water and sanitation services to all through the *Swachh Bharat* Clean India Campaign and other urban development initiatives which engage the GOI and key WASH stakeholders at the national, state, and city levels. These efforts will help extend water and sanitation services to India's low-income urban populations.

Through the Urban WASH Alliance, USAID partners with India's public and private sectors to demonstrate and scale innovative water and sanitation initiatives in India's largest urban centers. USAID also supports an alliance of companies and other key institutions committed to improving health outcomes by catalyzing behavior changes such as hand washing, providing appropriate treatment for children with diarrhea, and/or reducing open defecation.

Currently, the Urban WASH Alliance supports five public-private partnerships that are improving water and sanitation services in Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, and Hyderabad. They are:

- **Community Water Systems, Bangalore:** USAID and WaterHealth India are partnering to provide access to safe drinking water to underserved communities

FAST FACTS

- *62% of the population of South Asia lacks access to adequate sanitation. Every year, this costs India \$54 billion, or 6.4% of the country's GDP.*
- *Lack of access to clean water and sanitation services in urban areas is a direct contributor to an estimated 200,000 deaths annually in India, more than AIDS, malaria, and measles combined.*
- *In India, 48% of children under five are stunted, with a quarter of this population affected by repeated diarrhea or intestinal worm infections from poor water and sanitation.*
- *In India, around 600 million people practice open defecation.*

in Bangalore. WaterHealth is India's award-winning water purification and disinfection technology organization. Combined with creative business approaches, WaterHealth enables the delivery of affordable clean water to more than 32,000 households in Bangalore's informal settlements.

- **Strengthening Water and Sanitation in Urban Settings:** In partnership with Coca-Cola and TERI University, USAID is supporting a WASH risk analysis in Kolkata and in Chennai's informal settlements. The risk analysis will help develop participatory intervention strategies in urban areas, and build the capacity of university faculty and students through a model sanitation curriculum. The program interventions aim to reach 20 municipal schools and 2,500 students through school WASH programs, 50,000 beneficiaries in low-income settlements, and over 300 professionals through WASH governance strengthening activities.
- **Ahmedabad Sanitation Action Lab (ASAL):** USAID and Ahmedabad's Urban Management Centre are working together to develop inclusive solutions to urban sanitation problems in slums and poor settlements throughout Ahmedabad. The program will provide hands-on technical assistance, community engagement, and improved management processes to strengthen water and sanitation services. The program will work in partnership with the Government of Gujarat, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Sintex Industries Ltd., the Mahila Housing Trust, the City Managers Association of Gujarat, the Mudra Institute of Communications in Ahmedabad, and the Theatre Media Centre.
- **Small Urban Water Enterprises:** USAID is working with the Safe Water Network - India to demonstrate an innovative model for small water enterprises in cities. The program will first assess the existing operational, financial, technical, and regulatory environment of small water enterprises in four cities. The initiative will support the design and development of digital tools that will then support small water enterprises and serve as a strategic resource for city managers under the Government of India's new programs to improve urban development, water, and sanitation.
- **Level-Up Taps and Toilets in Slum Homes in Delhi:** USAID is supporting the Center for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE), which will work in poor settlements in Delhi to connect the city's unserved areas to water and sanitation infrastructure, and expand partnerships to other cities. Through this program, CURE will reach out to over 40,000 households in approximately 60 slums, facilitate the setup of 4,000 individual toilets, and provide safe drinking water to 10,000 households.

Through these various efforts, both the U.S. and India hope to further contribute to a healthy India and to the shared goal of eliminating preventable child and maternal deaths.