



# UN-HABITAT **INDIA** 2023-27

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UN-Habitat India 2023

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**INDIA COUNTRY REPORT 2023-27**

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# 01



## Urban Context and Challenges

### Key Issues

In India, like in many nations, the fight against poverty and inequality remains an unfinished business in the development agenda. Current estimates suggest that over 532 million multidimensionally poor live in Southern Asia. As such slums and informal settlements have become the most enduring faces of poverty and social, economic and spatial inequalities in the Indian urban landscape. Research on Indian urban slums revealed that women in poor settings are disproportionately affected by a lack of Internet access, not owning an access device (mobile phones, computer). Therefore, the urgency of new approaches for transformative change in cities cannot be overemphasized; the time for short-lived, piecemeal solutions should be a thing of the past.

India's intermediary cities are where the growth bulge is occurring and they were responsible for 40% of India's GDP in 2015<sup>1</sup>. These cities also present an opportunity to bring about sustainable urbanisation and climate resilience, instead of adopting the 'grow now, clean later' path, which leads to greater economic, environmental and social losses later<sup>2</sup>. For an inclusive future, sectorally integrated and planned urban growth can reduce spatial inequalities through developing compact, connected, resilient, mixed-use, and socially diverse cities.

Today, India ranks amongst the **top 5** best performing countries on the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI 2023). The CCPI assessed 59 countries and the European Union on climate change policies and actions<sup>34</sup>.

At the other end of the spectrum, India has ranked **eighth** in the list of countries with the worst air quality index and 12 of the 15 most polluted cities in Central and South Asia are in India, according to the Annual World Air Quality Report<sup>5</sup>.

The Government of India has placed high priority on sustainability, environment, and inclusion for transforming cities and city regions with implementation of national missions namely, Clean India, Housing for All, Smart Cities, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Digital India, amongst others to achieve SDG 11.

A 'whole-of-society' approach is needed with formalized partnerships between various government departments, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, think tanks and media for mutually reinforcing actions. These partnerships need to be institutionalized as regular course of action and not project and need-driven for continuous engagement and collective ownership. UN-Habitat has demonstrated a workable model for joint engagement with Municipal Corporations and Development Authorities in cities to build consensus in planning and financing.

### India and SDG 11

India's rank in the global Sustainable Development Report, 2022 has slipped for the third consecutive year at 121 out of the 163 countries assessed. SDG 11, which focuses on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, has declining scores on three out of the four indicators mapped .

- (i) Social Inclusion and Ending Poverty
- (ii) Access to Adequate Housing
- (iii) The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)
- (iv) Swachh Bharat Mission

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.outlookindia.com/business-spotlight/breaking-the-mold-the-vital-role-of-tier-2-and-3-towns-in-india-s-flourishing-economy-news-267790>

<sup>2</sup> [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/11/intermediary\\_cities\\_and\\_climate\\_change\\_an\\_opportunity\\_for\\_sustainable\\_development\\_2022\\_1.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/11/intermediary_cities_and_climate_change_an_opportunity_for_sustainable_development_2022_1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://ccpi.org/country/ind/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1878023>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-ranks-eighth-among-countries-with-the-worst-air-quality-index-world-air-quality-report/article66618661.ece>



# UN-Habitat in India

The work programme and India country office projects of UN-Habitat is implemented through **four domains of change** that are complemented by cross-cutting issues.

- Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot
- Pathways for Sustainable Development – Jajpur, Odisha
- Young Gamechangers Initiative
- Mainstreaming Leave No One Behind in Urban Policies & Programmes

- Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot
- Pathways for Sustainable Development – Jajpur, Odisha
- Young Gamechangers Initiative

**Domain of Change 1**  
Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum



**Domain of Change 2**  
Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions



**Domain of Change 3**  
Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment



**Domain of Change 4**  
Effective urban crisis prevention and response

- Young Gamechangers Initiative
- Frontier Technologies for Inclusive Circularity of Low Value Plastics (LVP)

- Young Gamechangers Initiative

## India country office programme alignment with **India UNSDCF**

**Reduced** inequalities and **empowered** communities

**Empowered** youth and adolescents  
**Effective and Inclusive** governance systems

**Lower** poverty levels  
**Sustainable** and **green growth**

PEOPLE: A **society that empowers** its marginalised populations **provides sustained** access to services (Health, well-being, nutrition, food security and quality education)

PROSPERITY: An **economy** that is equipped with **skills, technology, and an enabling environment** for realizing the demographic dividend

PLANET: An **environment that is cleaner** and benefits from **green development, climate action, biodiversity and ecosystems, WASH and resilience**

PARTICIPATION: **Inclusive communities** and **institutions** that nurtures the diversity and represents all, **leaving no one behind**

# 02

## Factsheet

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### Urban Facts



India's population has **tripled** since 1950 to **1.35 billion**. The urban population to **double** from **429 million** in 2015 to **876 million** by 2050.



India has **53 metropolitan agglomerations** that account for **140 million** urban residents. Steady **increase** in the number of **Census towns**, totalling to **7,935**.



Urban areas contribute more than **60 percent** of India's GDP. An estimated **180 million** rural people live next to India's **70 largest** urban centers, this number that will increase to about **210 million** by 2030.



**62.5%** of India's working age population is aged between **15 and 59 years**, ensuring India's demographic advantage all the way to **2055**.



India's transportation sector contributes about **10% of total national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** and road transportation contributes about **87% of the total emissions** in the sector.



**Increase** in forest and tree cover **80.9 million hectare** which is **24.62%** of the geographical area of the country. States with increase in green cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km), and Odisha (537 sq km).

NO  
VENDING ZONE





# Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot in India: Sustainable Urban Planning and Management

## Project Objective -

To integrate sustainability strategies into urban planning and management to create a favourable environment for environmentally and financially sound investments in low carbon infrastructure and service delivery, thus building the resilience of pilot cities.

## Donors -

Global Environment Facility (GEF-6)/ United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

The Sustainable Cities project was developed within the context of GEF Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot (SC-IAP). GEF SC-IAP is an integrated program consisting of two tracks: (a) City-level projects in 27 cities across 11 countries, with around US\$140 million in GEF grant funding. Each country is supported by one or several implementing agencies to manage the various projects in the participating cities; (b) The Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC), led by the World Bank with US\$10 million in GEF grant funding.

In India, it is being implemented by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UN-Habitat with funding assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and in close cooperation with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Municipal Corporations of Jaipur (Rajasthan), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Mysuru (Karnataka), Vijayawada and Guntur (Andhra Pradesh).

UN-Habitat is spearheading the project objective on Sustainable Urban Planning and Management with the overall intent of making cities sustainable, resilient, and inclusive by,

1. Designing an assessment framework with a spatial lens
2. Undertaking the urban sustainability assessment, city profiling and diagnostics,
3. Developing sustainable city strategies informed by climate-resilient and nature-based solutions with a detailed list of Actions and Interventions.

Domain of Change 2



**Enhanced shared prosperity  
of cities and regions**

\*\*\* Effective and Inclusive governance systems

The project will enable periodic, **intra-city spatial review, sectoral assessment and diagnostics of the cities, development of sustainable city strategies** and their **integration of into master plans**; development of a review process to monitor the impact of the master plans through **regular assessments, capital investment plans**, and other projects on **improving sustainability and resilience**; an analysis of existing and proposed regulatory and planning instruments for attributes of sustainability and climate resilience; and the incorporation of sound principles of prudent **evidence-based decision making** in sustainable city strategies.





**Mr KVS Choudary,**  
Municipal Commissioner,  
Bhopal Municipal Corporation

## Stories from the Field

“We at BMC are appreciative of UN-Habitat’s work in Bhopal in conducting evidence-based diagnostics and recommending specific solutions for the city to improve the service-delivery and increase Bhopal’s climate resilience potential. We have also prepared India’s first city-level Voluntary Local Review (VLR) from Bhopal jointly with UN-Habitat and it gives us immense pride to be a pioneer towards the localization of SDGs.”





# Mainstreaming “Leaving No One Behind” in National Urban Policies and Programmes (SDGs 11 & 6) in South Asia

## Project Objective -

To strengthen national governments and local urban institutions to center LNOB (inclusion, disability, and safety) in urban policies and programmes, and facilitate evidence-based localization of national policies and SDGs 11 & 6 in urban areas.

## Donors -

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

**G**lobally, the issue of inclusive and safe cities that mainstream the needs of persons with disabilities is a growing policy issue. Persons with disabilities experience multiple and intersecting forms of social, economic, and political exclusion, which at its most basic level leads to deprivation in access to education, clean water and sanitation, shelter, and wasted human and productive potential. The strains of institutional (affordable housing, services, land rights), structural (gender, age, ethnicity), and spatial (regional imbalance, mobility, congestion, recreation) marginalized, and impoverished into intergenerational cycles of exclusion. Consequently, South Asian governments are seeking to incorporate disability in urban policy and planning to achieve Sustainable Cities (SDG 11), which provide equitable access to Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), following the Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Towards addressing this, the overall project approach is thus to,

1. Strengthen the regional network of governments and local urban institutions to promote and mainstream LNOB in urban development agenda, specifically SDGs 11 & 6,
2. Improve the enabling environment within countries to align national policies and instruments to meet LNOB goals with focus on safety, inclusiveness, and access for persons with disabilities in SDGs 11 & 6, and
3. Support self-sustainable local government capacity for stronger vertical integration and reiterative feedback loop to national policies/frameworks through evidence-based monitoring of impact at local level.

Domain of Change 1



**Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum**

\*\*\* Reduced inequalities and empowered communities

This project will provide **crucial support** to national and local governments of 5 South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka) to **establish** a regional knowledge partnership forum for developing **innovative policy toolkits**, **exchanging best-practice approaches**, **collecting urban data**, and **conducting city analyses**; to enable **greater access to vulnerable communities**, especially persons with disabilities; and to incorporate **normative concepts of safety, inclusiveness**, and **access** into urban policies and planning frameworks to ensure that **no one is left behind**.





**Prof. Haimanti Banerji,**  
Professor, Architecture & Regional  
Planning, IIT Kharagpur

## Stories from the Field

“ The participants were introduced to several concepts at the trainings, such as barriers experienced in different zones of a school and how to conduct accessibility audits for physical, social, and digital inclusion. We also informed about many universal design practices and guidelines for making the school buildings, campuses, and infrastructure barrier-free and accessible for all. ”





# Waste Wise Cities: Tackling Plastic Waste in the Environment

## Project Objective -

To enable data driven decision making in solid waste management in pilot cities by the application of the Waste Wise Cities Tool to support evidence-based planning and implementation to reduce GHG emissions, support circular economy and create sustainable, carbon-neutral, inclusive cities and towns.

## Donors -

Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW)

Under the Waste Wise Cities (WWC) programme, UN-Habitat has developed the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT), based on SDG indicator 11.6.1 parameters, to support cities and countries in undertaking a comprehensive diagnostic of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to aid scientific and evidence-based development of projects and investments. As part of the Waste Wise Cities, UN-Habitat is supporting cities in establishing better waste and resource management strategies, creating business and livelihood opportunities, and transiting towards a circular economy. This project is funded by the Alliance to End Plastic Waste INC, a non-for-profit entity and is being implemented by UN-Habitat in Ethiopia, India and Kenya. The project is targeting 6 cities across these 3 countries to support in assessing waste management status and develop city specific project proposals.

In India, the project is being implemented by UN-Habitat India Country Office in two cities i.e. Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru. The project aims to help implementing solutions towards a circular economy, creating businesses and livelihood opportunities while enhancing resource recovery.

UN-Habitat is jointly working with the city municipal authorities' and other relevant stakeholders to review and understand the challenges related to plastic waste management in the two project cities. In order to map and assess waste flows, UN-Habitat team will conduct trainings and build capacity of local NGOs/volunteers on plastic waste assessment utilizing the WaCT to further mentor the households and neighbouring communities in at least 9 districts/ wards each in two cities.

UN-Habitat will also bring in its **global and regional best practices** to strengthen and devise effective action plans for plastic waste management for the two target cities. The project will:

- **Strengthen** engagement with various municipal and other key stakeholders for **capacity building** of cities **to assess MSW status and define sustainable interventions**;
- **Map** waste flows and plastic leakages to prepare the waste flow diagrams by **training of on-ground volunteers/ municipal staff/ others to conduct the survey**;
- **Conduct** stakeholder meetings to discuss the **existing challenges and recommendations** for strengthening plastic waste management;
- **Prepare** an action plan for effective plastic waste value chain management in order to **ensure decrease in plastic leakages** and subsequently prepare proposals for **funds mobilization**.

Domain of Change 3



**Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment**

\*\*\* Sustainable and green growth



**Mr. Akshy Sridhar,**  
Commissioner,  
Mangaluru City Corporation

## Stories from the Field

“ The detailed MSW data inventorisation by the application of Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT) done by UN-Habitat India has given us a clear idea of Mangaluru’s solid waste management problem and in preparing a clear roadmap for its betterment. A detailed action plan has been prepared by the UN-Habitat team (starting from methods of segregation to collection intervals of segregated waste to transportation of waste involving vehicles and manpower to processing techniques to creating a circular economy) to help Mangaluru tackle the problem of Municipal Solid Waste in the years to come. ”



# 04 Project Proposals

## 1st Proposal

### Climate-Smart & Resilient Cities

#### Context

India has sent a strong message for low carbon, climate resilient future by committing to reduce emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030, from 2005 level. Achieving this ambition requires a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation. India has a unique opportunity to promote clean energy, better adapt the vulnerable regions and sector, build capacities, and undertake environmentally sustainable, low carbon initiatives that are underpinning all key sectors of the Indian economy for an inclusive, equitable and sustainable future.

The Secretary-General of the UN Antonio Guterres, during his visit to India in October 2022, pointed out that with one-sixth of world's population and the largest proportion of young people, India can "make or break" the 2030 Agenda. In India, the need for urban infrastructure is estimated at US \$827 billion over the next 20 years.

As our cities expand, we are also faced with the challenge of making them resilient to the increasing impacts of climate change. To meet these challenges, it is essential that we invest in sustainable infrastructure projects that align with long-term goals for the betterment of both people and the environment. However, there is a huge gap when it comes to the current, on-ground reality.

While there is a heavy emphasis on conventional hardscape in infrastructure investments, i.e., roads, railways, aviation, etc., there is a strong need to shift focus to nature-based solutions to decarbonize urban development and create a sustainable future. It is also crucial that we push forth the concept of circularity in infrastructure by reusing materials and resources to eliminate waste and reduce pollution. However, despite the significant benefits of these strategies, they have not been adopted by cities on a large scale



#### PARTNERS

National and Sub-National Government;  
Adaptation Fund;  
GCF



#### ESTIMATED BUDGET

USD 2,500,000



#### TIME FRAME

36 Months



#### LOCATION

India (up to 5 cities)



#### TARGET BENEFICIARY GROUP

- Governmental Entities Comprising of Urban Local Bodies,
- State and Central Entities with Direct Mandate for Urban Development and Management,
- Urban practitioners,
- Mayors and Elected Representatives of Target Cities,
- Research Institutions,
- Think-Tanks, and Private Sector Entities.
- Urban Residents and Communities in the Implementing Cities.



#### SDG ALIGNMENT





## Purpose

To mitigate the impacts of climate change and adapt for an equitable, sustainable future, there is a need to adopt a whole-system approach to urban development coupled with climate financing to implement the solutions. Through this project, the cities shall be equipped with a robust methodology to identify its most critical areas of intervention backed by urban metrics that are aligned with the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and other climate goals.

## Description

Climate financing that supports urban planning interventions to mitigate climate-change effects is critical to change the status quo. However, less than 10% of the annual climate financing needs are being met globally; in 2017-18, climate financing in cities reached an estimated USD 384 billion, when the requirement was that of USD 4.5 to 5.4 trillion annually. Moreover, only 21% of existing climate finance goes towards adaptation and resilience, and only a meagre 10% of these investments reach the local level.

Budget deficits in municipal corporations, poor creditworthiness of cities, lack of political willingness, and sometimes, even a lack of knowledge amongst decision-makers are some reasons that can make it difficult to finance climate-resilient infrastructure projects.

The project aims to build a pipeline of climate-smart and resilient projects for urban areas, which are rooted in the principles of data-driven urban planning. These projects would be at a pre-feasibility stage with all essential parameters such as beneficiary profile, block cost estimates, greenhouse gas (GHG) savings potential, implementing partners and SDG alignments defined.

## Approach

The project employs UN-Habitat's Urban Sustainability Assessment Framework (USAF), which adopts an integrated and whole system approach for achieving urban sustainability. The USAF targets systemic barriers to advance sustainability solutions which include institutional, political, and financial strategies. USAF encourages convergence of central and state government policies & its resources, being a spatial evidence-based approach, it promotes equitable distribution of resources and access. It also enhances capacity and technical knowledge at municipal level, facilitates collaborations through extensive stakeholder consultations, creates a scope

for innovative funding mechanisms & motivates decision makers to shift from business-as-usual path towards sustainable urban transformation based on context specific, nature-based solutions. The implementation of USAF is a four-step process, each of the step is briefly described in the subsequent section

### Evaluation through USAF:

Rooted in the principles of evidence-based planning and management of urban areas, USAF is intended to identify strengths and weaknesses in multiple thematic areas or sectors of sustainable urban planning for each city wherever the framework is being applied. By gathering spatial evidence, USAF has the potential to orient city's priorities and directing its resources to meet the desired vision and goals of the city's master plan. USAF collects data across 131 indicators with around 235 data points out including spatial indicators. Each indicator is scored on a seven-point scoring gradient which encourages cities to undertake continuous self-evaluation and improve their scoring against the indicators.

### City Profile & Diagnostics:

With the wealth of information gathered through the USI report, a comprehensive, evidence based, sectoral profile of any city can be developed. It captures insights from all relevant documents, policies and programs governing city's planning and undertakes critical assessment of these documents. Based on the outcomes of USAF, the process yields critical analysis of the least and best performing sectors of the city and has the potential to direct the city planners and managers to determine the city's development trajectory. As a next step- a key diagnostic issues faced by a city can be identified along with the interlinkages in the implementing departments and other stakeholders. Overall, the steps in the process yield a multisectoral roadmap of the issues faced by the cities which pave way for a spatial strategic plan to reduce the GHG inventory of the city.

### Spatial City Strategies:

This step recognizes and addresses specific opportunities and constraints while supporting institutions in evidence-based policy and decisions, including fostering institutional partnerships. This step facilitates cities to devise an action oriented, plan of action to encourage equity amongst distribution of resources as well as reduce the GHG inventory of the cities through strategic interventions. Along with devising the spatial strategies, the step encourages cities to undertake financial planning based on innovative mechanisms such as climate investment pipeline (CIP).

### Actions & Interventions:

As a result of the spatial city strategies identified in the previous step, this step equips the cities to identify the core planning principles and design strategic interventions based on the planning principles. Based on the GHG emissions reduction potential, the interventions are ranked for prioritization in implementation. For example, if principles like transit-oriented development are identified as an outcome of the analysis of the previous three steps, then actionable interventions like developing street sections, developing well designated transit system, developing multimodal hubs could be a few interventions to respond to the needs of the city.



## Expected Accomplishments

The expected outputs of the proposed project are as follows:

- Increased spatial understanding of the urban service delivery through a periodic review of intra-city sectoral performance for spatial equity.
- National, sub-national, and local mission, programmes and project convergence for cumulative benefits.
- Improved investment climate through climate-smart and resilient project pipeline to encourage international and private sector financing
- Robust system to quantify, monitor and evaluate improvements of sustainability indicators and GHG emissions of local plans and interventions.
- Increased adoption of “nature-based solutions” over conventional “grey infrastructure” (hardscape).

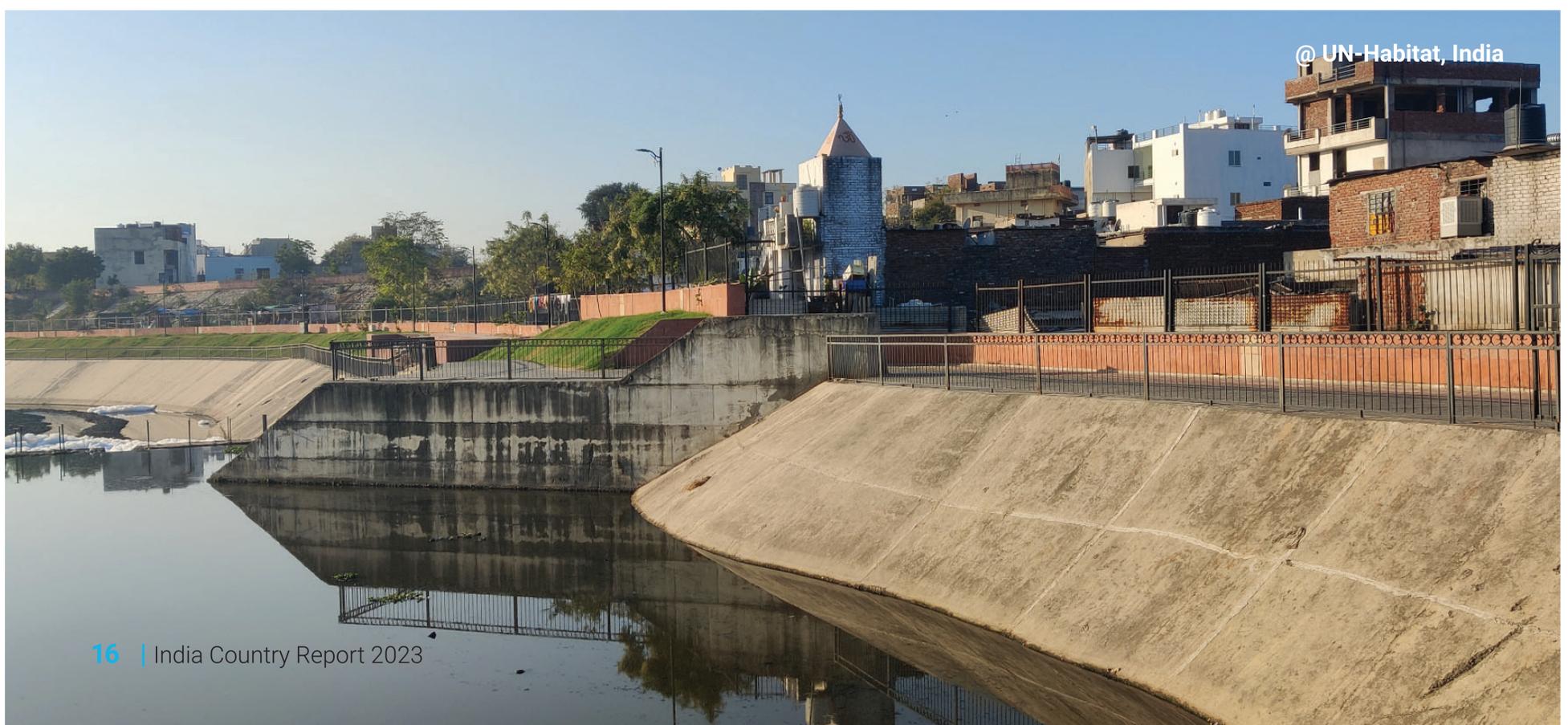


**A collaborative approach to design climate smart and nature-positive cities through data-driven planning and people-centric focus**



## Assumptions, Risks and Mitigation

Risks	Likelihood of risks	Mitigating Actions
Capacity building activities do not effectively increase capacity of stakeholders	Low	-The project will ensure that participants are selected based on their buy-in and capacity needs in addition to consulting them prior to capacity-building activities
National and city stakeholders do not sufficiently buy-in to the project or maintain commitment	Low	-Project implementing partners will maintain a dialogue with strategic government actors at ministerial and municipal levels. -Rigorous city selection will ensure prior buy-in. -The project will build on existing stakeholders’ engagement platforms to create a collaborative environment. -Tailor-made communications will contribute to sharing progress, keeping the momentum, and maintaining commitments.
Political instability and leadership changes	Low	-The project will work with key actors to ensure the work becomes institutional over time and not just based on individual leaders’ support and priorities. -The project focal points in the country will include technical staff who will likely remain in case of government leadership change.
Resistance to proposed interventions	Low	-The project interventions will be outlined and developed in close consultation and participatory discussions with implementing partners and target groups.



# 2nd Proposal

## Plastic Smart Coastal Cities

### Context



#### PARTNERS

Urban Local Bodies



#### ESTIMATED BUDGET

USD 8,500,000



#### TIME FRAME

36 Months



#### LOCATION

6 Coastal Cities (in Kerala and Karnataka)



#### TARGET BENEFICIARY GROUP

- Local Communities,
- Workers in Waste Management Sector,
- Technology Providers,
- Other Stakeholders in the Plastic Waste Value Chain



#### SDG ALIGNMENT



India generates around 25,940 tonnes of plastic waste every day of which only 60% is collected. Plastic consumption is rising at a rate of 8.3% per year. Cities are struggling to implement the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 with provisions including Extended Producer Responsibility due to weak segregation and dearth of essential infrastructure such as Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) that would ensure effective plastic channelization, recycling and reuse. Urgent action is required to translate rules and regulations into on the ground implementation by modernizing MRFs and making them self-sustaining units using circular approaches that also create jobs by involving the informal sector.

The project will demonstrate effective plastic waste management strategies and expand implementation of existing rules in two (2) pilot cities.

Following outcomes are proposed:

1. Pilot projects which integrate circular economy methods for dual advantage of creating local jobs and income for the urban poor will be implemented in the pilot cities.
2. Advocacy for replication of plastic waste management models implemented in pilot cities within respective states. A state level engagement to replicate will ensure that pilot cities demonstrate effective application within purview of state-level regulations that vary from state to state.
3. Catalyze cross-learnings from the pilot interventions by convening key stakeholders and cities in a cadre of 20 coastal cities to collectively push for effective solutions for plastic waste management and linking cities with UN-Habitat's Waste Wise Cities programme.





## Purpose

The proposed project will ensure a reduction in plastic leakages to about 80 per cent, leading to recovery of both low value and high value plastic items. The intervention will further ensure reduction in dependency on dumpsites (landfills) in pilot cities by about 90 per cent, hence reducing litter from land-based resources.

## Description

Under the proposed project, UN-Habitat India Country office along with its implementing partners proposes to work in 2 coastal cities to implement the following effective resource management strategies for mitigating plastic pollution:

1. Resource recovery interventions which integrate circular economy methods and social business approaches that allow the creation of stable local jobs/income opportunities for the urban poor
2. Capacitate municipal corporations in efficient collection and segregation of plastics waste to meet SDG indicator 11.6.1 (WaCT application)
3. Reduce SWM leakages and prevent their discharge into the marine environment by setting up barrier technologies
4. Advocacy for social and behaviour change + reinforcement of state level engagement, demonstrating municipality's effective application of local and state-level regulations
5. Strengthen Public Private Partnership (PPP) models for sustainable capital investments and operations of frontier and emerging technologies
6. Strengthen the inclusion of stakeholders from the informal sector in waste collection and recovery to improve their livelihoods

## Approach

The project would be implemented in three phases highlighted below:

### Phase 1 (year 1): Pre-implementation stage

- Application of Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT): WaCT based on the SDG indicator 11.6.1, developed by UN-Habitat and other partners will be applied in pilot municipality, results assessed, and data presented.
- Stakeholder workshop (2) to present the results of the assessment and discuss how to address the most critical areas highlighted by the WaCT application, such as infrastructure and policy gaps.
- Strategic Waste Management Master Plan (WMMP): Forming small working groups with experts to create options and scenarios which are presented for validation and decision making in further stakeholder workshops; drafting of the WMMP along with setting up a participatory monitoring structure for the plan.
- Conduct workshops (2) to discuss and finalize the developed action plan
- Signing of MoU with local municipality, local partner to ensure support

### Phase 2 (year 2): Implementation stage

- Sensitization and advocacy programme: Sensitization programmes will be conducted by involving local stakeholders such as beach clean ups, plogging and plantation drives, awareness raising events, etc.
- Strengthening end to end collection by ensuring C&T of segregated waste to the processing site till end disposal. For this, capacity building programmes (2) will be conducted, and infrastructure will be enhanced to support the same.
- Development of processing and RRF sites: RRFs will be established after attaining a high degree of segregation at source and implementing separate collection of wet and dry wastes. Each RRF site will cater to about 20 TPD of segregated dry waste including biodegradable waste.
- Setting up of Plastic Recycling Facility: Plastics which are possible to recycle at this facility will be processed here and in parallel options to convert low value plastics into useful products or can be diverted to co-processing units will be explored.

### Phase 3 (year 3): Replication and monitoring

- Monitor and improve operations of RRF, Plastic Recycling Facility and barrier technologies
- Scaling up of demonstrated activities in other municipalities in the vicinity of the pilot cities
- Work with state urban department/cells to formulate guidelines/strategy to curb marine litter and advocate for its implementation across all coastal cities in Tamil Nadu





## Expected Accomplishments

The expected outputs of the proposed project are as follows:

- It is estimated to divert about 40 TPD of plastics from reaching landfills/dump-sites, and to generate resources that will avoid manufacturing of virgin plastic.
- The project will allow to increase daily plastic recovery of 20 tonnes.
- Over 0.6 million beneficiaries or 20 per cent of the total population of the pilot municipality (for both cities) will be positively impacted by reduced waste related problems, both on land and marine environment.
- Employment and livelihood opportunities will be created for more than 100 informal workers for a period of 3 years, who will be trained and recruited to run the resource recovery and plastic recycling facilities.
- Livelihood generation for persons working in the informal sector will be created for waste collection and sorting mechanisms. These will include vulnerable and marginalised sections of the society such as women.



**Adopting circular and inclusive approaches to mitigate plastic pollution in India's coastal cities, generating sustainable livelihoods and regenerating natural ecology.**



## Assumptions, Risks and Mitigation

Risks	Likelihood of risks	Mitigating Actions
Local/political assent	Probability – Medium Impact – High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mediation with the help of higher authorities (Thiruvananthapuram City Corporation)</li> <li>• Involving prominent stakeholders of the city</li> <li>• Inclusion of local stakeholders both formal and informal in project planning</li> </ul>
Resistance to proposed solution	Probability – Low Impact – High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful demonstration of solution</li> <li>• Detailed Project Report shall be prepared by Implementing Partners. Technical Specification and choice of technologies shall be approved by Technical Committee.</li> <li>• Open Tenders shall be invited as per the LSGD rules</li> <li>• Inclusive approach and strategizing to build-up on existing system</li> <li>• Sharing of documents pertaining to real time results</li> </ul>
Change in administration of the ULB	Probability – Medium Impact – Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure resilience to the project through Corporation Council Approval.</li> <li>• Build confidence by demonstrating the ongoing work</li> <li>• Build capacity of the stakeholders involved</li> <li>• Ensuring state level policy and Local Byelaws are notified to strengthen the implementation work</li> </ul>
Sustenance after Completion of the project	Probability – Low Impact – High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that ULB takes ownership of the project from beginning by handholding on technical grounds</li> <li>• SOP's shall be established and training for capacity building of the stakeholders.</li> <li>• Effective monitoring</li> </ul>
Corruption during procurements for infrastructure Development and operation	Probability – Low Impact – Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Tender &amp; procurements as per State Government norms only.</li> <li>• Technical Committee to approve specifications &amp; changes if any.</li> <li>• Setting up digital based reporting for waste flow will bring transparency</li> </ul>



@ UN-Habitat, India

# 3rd Proposal

## Inclusive and Accessible Schools for All

### Context

Every child in India has the fundamental right to elementary education, including children with disabilities. The current mandate of free and compulsory education for all children aged 6-14 years in India is based on the principle of inclusive education. Behind this constructive move is the recognition of education as a fundamental right under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE) and the 'zero rejection policy' of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan by Ministry of Education, Government of India. This has opened the doors of mainstream schools to enroll children with disabilities, commonly referred to as children with special needs (CWSN), irrespective of the type and degree of disability and facilitates inclusion of all children. Making schools accessible by eliminating barriers that children face is a critical factor in demonstrating strong commitment towards ensuring that children with disabilities have meaningful participation in schools.

Yet, inclusion remains a distant reality for most children with disabilities. Various types of barriers continue to impede their participation in education. Inaccessible transportation to school, as well as inaccessible facilities in schools such as drinking water units, mid-day meal areas, and toilets, inappropriate classroom furniture, slippery flooring, and inadequate illumination and ventilation can pose barriers to the education of children with disabilities. Furthermore, teaching and learning practices and materials that do not cater to the needs of children with disabilities, and the prevalence of misinformed attitudes among parents, communities, and teachers, adds to the challenge not just of access, but also of retention and learning of children with disabilities.

Physical barriers are found both externally and in the internal environments. Children with disabilities and their parents/caregivers can face challenges in getting from home to school and commute within the school. It is critical to address barriers in the external environment - such as accessible transportation, safe and accessible roads, crossings, footpaths from home to school - and there is a need to focus on the internal environment of schools. The focus of this project is therefore on all schools under the jurisdiction of the city governments to make sure that all school facilities are accessible to children with disabilities and to ensure their participation in education. This requires the cooperation, involvement, and participation of various stakeholders, including government bodies, school management and staff, caregivers, and families of children.



#### PARTNERS

UN-Habitat and UNICEF



#### ESTIMATED BUDGET

USD 1,000,000



#### TIME FRAME

36 Months



#### LOCATION

150 Schools Across India



#### TARGET BENEFICIARY GROUP

- Children with Disabilities,
- Parents & Caregivers,
- Teachers,
- Special Educators,
- School Management Authorities,
- Urban practitioners



#### SDG ALIGNMENT





## Purpose

The proposed project aims to capacitate an ecosystem of stakeholders for strengthening inclusive and accessible infrastructure in all schools that fall under the jurisdiction of the city government. The focus is on training and sensitization of proposed target groups engaged in implementation of inclusive and accessible infrastructure in schools.

## Description

The primary target group for the proposed Activity I: Training-of-Trainer Programmes are special educators, school faculty and staff, and the school maintenance and management authorities. Regarding the proposed Activity II: Sensitization Programmes in Schools, the primary target group are students (with and without disabilities), parents, and caregivers. The proposed target group for Activity III: Accessibility Audits of Schools include those who are in decision-making positions and involved in management of school operations, such as relevant city government departments, officials from the Public Works Department and planning departments, and other technical experts who are actively involved in project implementation and are responsible for making provisions of accessible and inclusive infrastructure in schools.

It is expected that the trainings conducted under the project will be disseminated from the selected schools and identified trainers to other schools through the involvement of a network of active stakeholders, social media outreach, and knowledge exchange between the local government departments and communities.

## Approach

The proposed project will include the following activities:

### Design and Delivery of 1-Day programmes for Training-of-Trainers

The 1-Day training programmes for Training-of-Trainers would be conducted in each quarter across the project duration in batches of approximately 30-40 special educators/teaching staff to be invited per training. These proposed programmes can be conducted virtually or in-person, as applicable. The programme will be designed to include theoretical content, interactive exercises, and practical applications through mock accessibility audits.

The training content will include e-learning modules and training materials and an Accessibility Audit toolkit and guide for schools will be disseminated.

### Design and Delivery of 1-Day Sensitization Programmes in Schools

The 1-Day sensitization programmes will be conducted in-person at auditoriums/multi-purpose halls within government schools in different geographical areas of the identified city across the project duration. Approximately 200 students will be invited per school and simulation exercises will be conducted in pre-identified routes in the schools through reconnaissance visits.

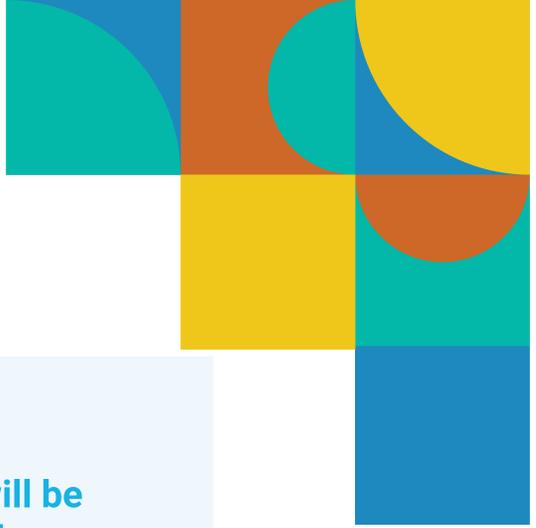
### Conduct Accessibility Audits in Schools

In addition, Accessibility Audits of multiple school premises are proposed across the project duration to be conducted by teams comprising of a combination of 4-5 experts/professionals - including a person with disability (for instance, wheelchair user, visually or speech and hearing impaired), accessibility audit expert, architect, urban planner, civil engineer, among others.

### Development and Implementation of a Communications Strategy for Disability Inclusion & Accessibility Awareness & Sensitization

UN-Habitat will develop a communications strategy to promote the training programmes to be conducted in the identified government schools. The goal of the communications strategy is to encourage city governments and school administrations to incorporate disability awareness and sensitization themes within the school curriculum.





# Expected Accomplishments

The expected outputs of the proposed project are as follows:

- Information Education Communication (IEC) materials, training toolkits, and related knowledge products prepared.
- 1-Day training programmes conducted in several government schools for students with and without disabilities and parents/caregivers.
- 1-Day training-of-trainer programmes conducted for special educators, school faculty and staff, and school management authorities, either in-person or virtual.
- A student-parent-teacher-school management network created to disseminate knowledge on disability inclusion and accessibility awareness.
- Accessibility audits conducted and recommendations provided for enhancing infrastructure in schools.



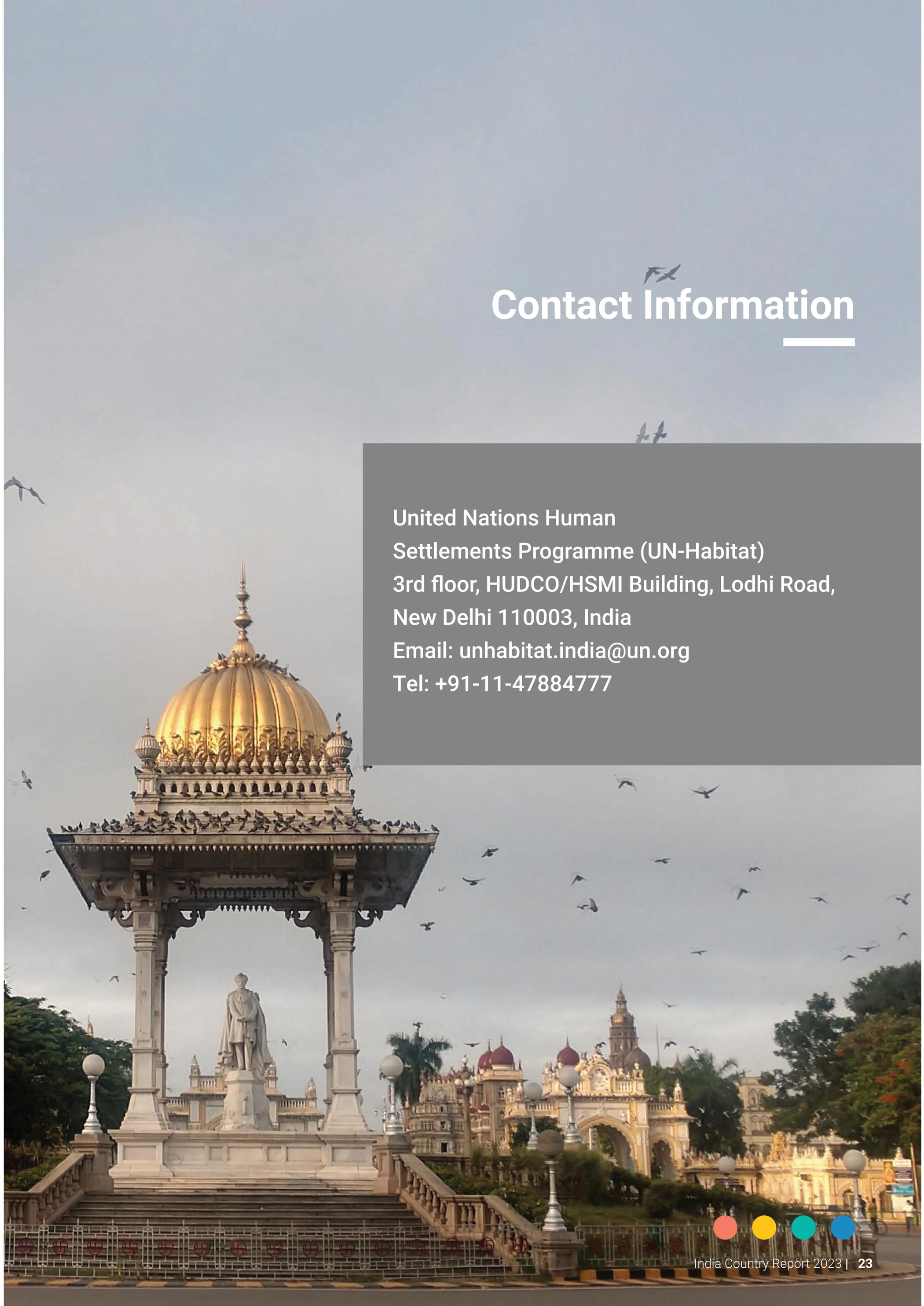
The programme will be designed to include theoretical content, interactive exercises, and practical applications through mock accessibility audits. The training content will include e-learning modules and training materials, including an Accessibility Audit toolkit and guide, will be disseminated.

# Assumptions, Risks and Mitigation



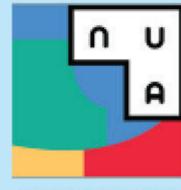
Risks	Likelihood of risks	Mitigating Actions
Capacity building activities do not effectively increase capacity of stakeholders	Low	-The project will ensure that participants are selected based on their buy-in and capacity needs in addition to consulting them prior to capacity-building activities
National and city stakeholders do not sufficiently buy-in to the project or maintain commitment	Low	-Project implementing partners will maintain a dialogue with strategic government actors at ministerial and municipal levels. -Rigorous city selection will ensure prior buy-in. -The project will build on existing stakeholders' engagement platforms to create a collaborative environment. -Tailor-made communications will contribute to sharing progress, keeping the momentum, and maintaining commitments.
Political instability and leadership changes	Low	-The project will work with key actors to ensure the work becomes institutional over time and not just based on individual leaders' support and priorities. -The project focal points in the country will include technical staff who will likely remain in case of government leadership change.
Resistance to proposed interventions	Low	-The project interventions will be outlined and developed in close consultation and participatory discussions with implementing partners and target groups.





# Contact Information

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IMPLEMENTING  
THE NEW  
URBAN AGENDA



**UN-HABITAT**

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