



5th South Asian Cities Summit
10 Years to SDGs
Enabling linkages between SDGs and city development to build better urban future
March 5-6, 2020 | Cidade de Goa, India



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National Institute of Urban Affairs

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7 Stories of Women Champions from
#WomenInSanitation #IWD2020 #Each

5th South Asian Cities Summit

5 - 6 March 2020



Outcomes

The outcomes from the session anchored by SCBP are briefly summarised below:

Need to Expand FSSM in India

- ◆ The National Policy on FSSM released in 2017 was a major step forward in bringing the focus on decentralised sanitation systems. Since 2017, major successes have been witnessed across states and cities who have implemented FSSM. With these successes, there is sufficient evidence to expand FSSM initiatives to more cities and states in India.
- ◆ In order to ensure successful implementation of FSSM, there is a need to build capacity at the local and state level, as well as for private sector players in the sanitation value chain. Therefore, increase in number of training workshops for stakeholders and innovative methods of delivery of training content is the NFSSM Alliance's priority in the near future.

State-level Strategies Maximise Impact

- ◆ As seen with Tamil Nadu and Odisha, state-

level policies for FSSM maximise impact and also prove cost effective for ULBs. Therefore, modelling the successes of these states, more states must adopt FSSM policies and ensure capacity building in their states for effective implementation of these policies.

- ◆ Utilising the resources under national missions such as AMRUT must also become a part of state FSSM strategies.

Elected Representatives' Vital Role in FSSM Advocacy

- ◆ Through the cases of Wai and Dungarpur presented at the session, and through other documented successes such as Sinner and Warangal, the buy-in from elected representatives is vital in pushing for FSSM systems at the city-level.
- ◆ Elected representatives also hold the key in overcoming any potential political as well as bureaucratic hurdles in adopting FSSM practices, and must use the public sentiment on prioritising sanitation to their advantage in adopting FSSM in their cities.

Background

Sanitation Capacity Building Platform (SCBP) is an initiative of the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) for addressing urban sanitation challenges in India, and is supported by a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) grant. It is aimed at promoting non-sewered sanitation solutions for septage and wastewater management in India. SCBP works in close collaboration with the National Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (NFSSM) Alliance.

SCBP anchored a session on 'Urban Sanitation: Role of Elected Representatives' at the 5th South Asian Cities Summit organised by All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG). The attendees and participants at the Summit included municipal level bureaucrats and elected representatives from across India, as well as other countries from Asia. Our session was attended by more than 150 participants.

An overview of Non Networked Sanitation Systems and the journey in India undertaken by the NFSSM Alliance was presented. Following this, a detailed presentation on specific initiatives in Tamil Nadu, and a panel discussion with the elected representatives from the towns of Wai, Maharashtra and Dungarpur, Rajasthan provided a space for presenting state specific experiences and challenges and discussion thereafter. The central theme of the event, that is, the role elected representatives can play to push for citywide inclusive sanitation by adopting decentralised sanitation systems, was maintained throughout all presentations.

Objectives

The primary purpose of the session was to advocate for non sewered sanitation systems at the highest levels. SCBP provided a platform for the NFSSM

Alliance members to present a joint face to the urgency and opportunity for undertaking septage management across India, and to use the South Asia platform to advocate this in other neighbouring countries of the subcontinent.

A call to action in the form of a declaration was signed by more than 100 participants and elected representatives. It made a call to highest policy makers for scaling up citywide inclusive sanitation efforts for Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM).

Participants

The SAC Summit witnessed the participation of elected representatives, including mayors and councillors, as well as various organisations and institutes working on issues related to governance of cities, such as mobility, water and sanitation, and urban innovation. Specifically, the session anchored by SCBP and the NFSSM Alliance on urban sanitation witnessed the participation of representatives of cities across the country, consultants and experts.

Presentations

Depinder Kapur, Team Lead, SCBP, commenced the session and presented the urban sanitation scenario in India, including challenges faced despite inroads made by national missions such as Swachh Bharat Mission. In this context, he introduced the NFSSM Alliance's vision to achieve sustainable septage management in India by 2024, and briefly spoke about some of its achievements since its inception in 2016. Kavita Wankhade, Senior Lead, Practice, Indian Institute of Human Settlements presented her work with the Tamil Nadu Urban Sanitation Support Programme as a case study of state-level strategy on FSSM, and highlighted the progress made by the state in scaling up FSSM initiatives.





Pratibha Shinde, President, Wai Municipal Council, Maharashtra, and KK Gupta, Chairman, Dungarpur Municipal Council briefly spoke about their experiences in implementing FSSM in their respective towns, and how elected representatives at the city-level can play a key role in pushing for FSSM initiatives.

The session concluded with a panel discussion chaired by Depinder Kapur, wherein the audience also put forth their questions to the presenters.

Topic	Presenter	Organisation
India FSSM Journey towards SDG 6	Depinder Kapur	National Institute of Urban Affairs
State Scale-up Strategy on FSSM – Experience of Tamil Nadu	Kavita Wankhade	Indian Institute of Human Settlements
Implementing FSSM in Wai, Maharashtra	Pratibha Shinde	Wai Municipal Council
Implementing FSSM in Dungarpur, Rajasthan	KK Gupta	Dungarpur Municipal Council

India FSSM Journey towards SDG 6

Depinder Kapur, Team Lead, SCBP presented the current state of urban sanitation in India. Through the progress made under Swachh Bharat Mission, the issue of access to sanitation facilities and toilets has largely been addressed, and the focus now has progressed to include safe treatment of the collected

waste from these facilities. The need for FSSM was felt since more than one-third of the Indian population is dependent on septic tanks according to the 2011 Census and most of the 60 lakh toilets built under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban are likely to depend on septic tanks for collection of waste, mainly due to non-availability of centralised and/or sewered systems in Indian towns and cities. Further, more than 80% of faecal waste in India remains untreated and is often discharged in the domestic environment, in agricultural fields or in water bodies, thus creating a public health concern. Therefore, FSSM is critical in expanding safe treatment facilities in Indian towns and cities, as it addresses every aspect of the sanitation value chain, including containment, conveyance, treatment, and disposal/reuse of faecal waste.

Convening the NFSSM Alliance

Recognising the need for focussed FSSM efforts, the NFSSM Alliance was convened in January 2016 to build consensus of various organisations and individuals in the sanitation sector around faecal sludge and septage management. The Alliance is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), and has also worked with the ministry to frame the National Policy on FSSM which was released in 2017. Since then, there has been significant progress made in advancing FSSM across the country, with 32 Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs) operational currently, with commitments from states to operationalise 400 FSTPs in the next

three years, including co-treatment with existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). FSSM has also been supported by national programmes such as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) with 176 projects across 25 states/UTs worth Rs. 7,800 crore currently being implemented under AMRUT.

Strides in NFSSM Expansion

Six states across the country – Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana – have initiated FSSM, and some of the lessons from these states’ efforts are briefly listed below:

- ◆ Institutional arrangements, norms and regulations for FSSM at the state level help prioritise efforts to scale-up FSSM initiatives
- ◆ Integration of FSTP operations with local livelihoods, including involving SHGs in routine operation and management must be done to ensure operational sustainability
- ◆ Apart from infrastructure, capacity building efforts, awareness generation and recognising government champions play a vital role to achieve political buy-in for FSSM

The NFSSM Alliance has the following goal

Ensuring universal and equitable access to safe sanitation and hygiene facilities at all times along with safe management of all domestic wastewater and faecal sludge contributing to the liveability and health of urban India. To achieve this mission, the Alliance has recognised priorities in its efforts, of which, engaging the multitude of stakeholders and

strengthening service delivery or sanitation are the primary priorities. Specifically, elected representatives play a key role in advocating for FSSM at the local government level, through awareness generation and campaigning, policy interventions at the local level, advocating for higher budgetary allocations for FSSM in city budgets among others. There are many successful cases of elected representatives pushing for FSSM and ensuring CWIS in their respective cities, and in the coming years, the Alliance aims to expand the number of cities opting for FSSM.

State Scale-up Strategy on FSSM – Experience of Tamil Nadu

Kavita Wankhade, Senior Lead, Practice, Indian Institute of Human Settlements, presented the experience of Tamil Nadu in scaling up of FSSM initiatives, thereby advocating for state-level adoption of FSSM policies to maximise impact. The state identified many gaps in its sanitation system, varying from inadequate access to toilets or improperly constructed toilets to lack of safety gear, treatment facilities and poor operation and maintenance practices.

Prioritising Sanitation at State Level

The Government of Tamil Nadu demonstrated a strong commitment to urban sanitation at the state level, and had launched ODF programmes pre-dating Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban. It also had many community toilets in place across the state to address the issue of access to sanitation facilities. Moreover, it was the first state to issue operative guidelines on septage management in 2014, with significant efforts in the following years to work closely with





ULBs to improve urban sanitation. Further, a state-level governance mechanism was instituted under the Principal Secretary who chaired the Advisory Committee, with State Working Group and various City Working Groups working below the Advisory Committee. This led to state-wide expansion of FSSM, beginning with a state investment plan aimed at achieving sustainable sanitation and maximising cost effectiveness. A cluster approach was also adopted for smaller urban areas, wherein cluster ULBs shared treatment facilities.

Strengthening the Ecosystem

In order to ensure sustainability of these efforts, roles and responsibilities were mapped within the existing institutional framework at the state, regional and ULB levels. Gaps were identified and processes were put in place to assign responsibilities to existing staff to fill in these gaps.

Since the state has a strong private sector presence, training was provided to implementing contractors and an enabling environment was created in the form of incentives to ensure sustained efforts from private players in the state's FSSM initiatives. Recognising that behaviour change is at the centre of changing sanitation practices of users, specific set of communication efforts were launched in the form of social media campaigns, folk art performances, short film releases and radio advertisements.

Robust capacity building efforts for all stakeholders concerned, both public and private, along with continuous monitoring and evaluation of all initiatives ensured that impact was maximised and sustained over time. Specific initiatives to deepen inclusivity for sanitation workers and women, and involvement of slum communities were also part of the initiative.

Video Presentations

Apart from the presentations, two short videos were played as part of the narrative on FSSM, and these are briefly described below:

- ◆ Kakkaman

Kavita Wankhade from IIHS spoke about the importance of awareness campaigns in Tamil Nadu, and as part of this campaign, a short video highlighting the importance of beginning the conversation about sanitation and its relation to public health was shown to the audience. The video demonstrated the need to ensure safe and sustainable sanitation solutions across the entire value chain, and that building toilets was only the first step.

- ◆ Call to Action to Scale-up FSSM

Going ahead from the initial presentation made on FSSM by Depinder Kapur, this video highlighted sanitation as a key priority for the Government of India and the steps taken in this regard, highlighting achievements made through various policies and national missions. It also briefly presented the experience of various cities (Wai, Sinnar, Warangal) and the case of Odisha in scaling up FSSM state-wide. In this context, the video concluded by asking mayors and elected representatives to declare their commitment to scaling up FSSM in their respective cities.

Implementing FSSM in Wai, Maharashtra

Wai faces a challenge similar to many other cities in India, wherein a substantial number of households are connected to septic tanks. In Wai, this number is 80% of all households. To address this problem, Wai adopted FSSM and has demonstrated that sustained efforts can establish inclusive and sustainable models in sanitation. Acknowledging the support from the NFSSM Alliance and, in particular, CEPT, Pratibha Shinde also said that adopting FSSM involved a city-wide awareness campaign through various means, and this campaign yielded results when Wai became the first city in Maharashtra to be declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) by the state government in 2016 and by the central government in 2017. The city also received a grant to work towards achieving ODF+ status in the following years.



In all of this, the role of elected representatives should be highlighted. In case of Wai, the advocacy rested upon the power of resolutions passed in the council to overcome hurdles in the implementation of FSSM. This proved to be a powerful tool which brought the council together and thereby paved the way to ensuring CWIS. While this worked in Wai's favour, an audience member from Yavatmal, Maharashtra also raised the issue of insufficient powers of Mayors and councillors, and the how differences between the executive and legislative arms of the ULBs become hurdles in project implementation.

Implementing FSSM in Dungarpur, Rajasthan

Directly addressing the issue of political hurdles, KK Gupta began by saying that the issue of sanitation crosses political party lines and political differences can be managed to avoid them becoming hurdles. Dungarpur has demonstrated this effectively by

ensuring that all parties work towards ensuring CWIS, including the state government which is ruled by the opposition party.

Manual scavenging and open defecation was rampant across the state of Rajasthan, and due to sustained efforts and working across party lines, Dungarpur was the first town to be declared ODF in the tribal belt of Rajasthan.

Call to Action - Scale-up of Non-sewered Sanitation

As part of anchoring the session, SCBP and the NFSSM Alliance partners made a call to action to the highest level of policymakers to scale-up CWIS through faecal sludge and septage management. It was signed by more than 100 participants of the Summit, representing metro cities as well as small towns across India.

AGENDA

📅 6th March 2020 ⌚ 11:45 am to 1:00 pm

'Urban Sanitation: Role of Elected Representatives' 5th South Asian Cities Summit, Goa

📍 Cidade de Goa, Goa, India

Welcome Address

Depinder Singh Kapur, NIUA

Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) for Indian cities

India FSSM journey towards SDG 6

Depinder Singh Kapur, NIUA

State Scale-up Strategy on Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM)

Kavita Wankhade, IIHS

Role of Elected Representatives in Ensuring City Wide Inclusive Sanitation

Video Presentation

Presentations by Elected Representatives from five cities (Indore, Kochi, Wai, Dungarpur & Trivandrum) on approach adopted by them in planning and implementation of City Wide Inclusive Sanitation solutions

- Need for FSSM
- Strategy adopted and challenges
- Impacts and benefits of the initiative

Panel Discussion: Aspects of implementing and scaling up of City Wide Inclusive Sanitation solutions

Session Chair: Depinder Singh Kapur, NIUA

- Need for Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM): Low-cost, high impact
- Reaching the poor & vulnerable & gender mainstreaming
- Devolution of power from state to ULB
- User charges and citizen engagement on FSSM
- Capacity building of elected representatives
- Working with SHGs and women sanitation workers

Call for Action - 'Mayors' Declaration'

For information contact: _____

Mr. Mohit Kapoor (Sr. Programme Officer)

Email: mkapoor@niua.org

Mobile: +91 9879867747

Website: scbp.niua.org

Urban Sanitation - Role of Elected Representatives

DECLARATION

Call to Action for Scale-up of Non-sewered Sanitation

Urban India provides an opportunity for growth and development of India. However, our cities are faced with multiple challenges including pressure on water resources, increasing demand for drinking water, discharge of untreated waste water, indiscriminate disposal of solid waste, and discharge of untreated septage and sewage in our water bodies, rivers and on land. Managing our water demand and reducing waste water footprint is critical to making our cities resilient to climate shocks, droughts and floods.

We, the participants of the 5th South Asian Cities Summit, held in Goa, India on 5th - 6th March 2020 do hereby -

- Agree to **prioritize sustainable sanitation solutions** in our cities, and acknowledge that safe management of faecal sludge is a major challenge in ensuring city-wide sanitation
- Endorse that sustainable sanitation solutions **must include decentralised/non-sewered solutions**, that is, safe handling and disposal of faecal sludge, septage and other liquid waste
- Affirm our commitment to **end manual scavenging** in our cities, and aim to include poor and vulnerable groups of society in all further plans of improving and upgrading existing sanitation facilities
- Recognise that women can be champions of change in this sector, and therefore commit to **enhance women participation** in the decision making and implementing process
- Recognise the **impact potential of national level programmes**, as demonstrated by missions such as Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) in India, in expanding access to safe sanitation facilities
- Understand that the end objectives and corresponding benefits of SBM, beginning with our cities being declared ODF, will only be achieved by **sustained efforts to ensure city-wide inclusive sanitation** in the long-term
- Recognise that the **time for decentralised/non-sewered sanitation is now** and that strong political will, local leadership and community ownership, demonstrated throughout the country as an outcome of SBM must be capitalised upon to achieve comprehensive Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) nationwide.

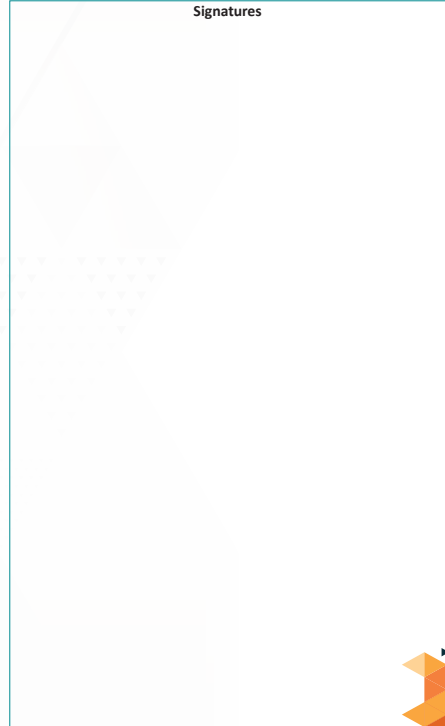
In line with the above, we commit to **advocate for accelerated provision and improvement of sanitation facilities in our cities, including implementing decentralised sanitation systems along with existing sanitation facilities**. In order to achieve this, we agree to the following -

- Develop a roadmap, including a needs assessment for Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) systems, and thereby declare goals to be adopted and implemented at city-level
- Develop policies, guidelines and regulatory frameworks to achieve these goals in a timely fashion, and achieve ODF++ status for our cities
- Champion the allocation of funding for decentralised/non-sewered sanitation solutions
- Participate and encourage our fellow elected representatives to participate in training and capacity building activities such as workshops, study tours, etc.

We understand that success in meeting this challenge requires targeted awareness generation activities, innovative solutions for inclusive sanitation, adequate resource allocation, benchmarking indicators and performance, enabling infrastructure, skill development and monitoring, among others.



Signatures





National Institute of Urban Affairs

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1st Floor, Core 4B, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110003. INDIA Tel: (91-11) 24643284 011- 24617517
niua.org scbp.niua.org