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INDIA: TAKING ON THE WORLD'S LARGEST SANITATION PROBLEM

Clean India Campaign

Duration: 2015–2020

Challenge

Currently more than 377 million people live in India's urban areas, a number that continues to increase rapidly. India's urbanization puts tremendous stress on already struggling drinking water and sanitation services. For example, more than 148 million people in India's cities lack access to basic sanitation, which increases the instances of waterborne diseases. To address these daunting challenges, the Government of India made improving water and sanitation a national priority in 2014 with the launch of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Campaign).

Opportunity

In 2016, USAID helped India drive changes in water and sanitation that make cities cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous for millions of people by harnessing expertise and innovation. For example, through a partnership with India's Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID supports building the government's water and sanitation WASH capacity at the national, state, and city levels to achieve India's ambitious sanitation targets for the Swachh Bharat Mission.

USAID and the Gates Foundation launched a project

In India as well as in other Asian countries such as Indonesia and Nepal, USAID is supporting efforts to provide community WASH solutions such as these public latrines, when household sanitation is not always feasible or sufficient. In FY 2016, USAID provided 273 basic sanitation facilities in institutional settings. Photo credit: USAID/India

management unit (PMU) within the ministry to provide technical services. The PMU works with the ministry to find ways to more effectively reach India's sanitation targets and to objectively rate cities on their progress. It launched an online training course for city officials, convenes technical experts, and leverages significant financial and human resources. The PMU also helps identify innovative pilot projects that could be scaled up nationally, including technology with the potential to turn human waste into energy.

As a result of these activities, 141 cities have been certified as open defecation free (ODF), helping to make living conditions more sanitary and healthy for more than 150 million people. In FY 2016, USAID's \$4 million investment in this project guided \$100 million in Indian Government resources.

The next step is to make more than 4,000 cities nationwide ODF and to support city managers in their efforts to sustain these sanitation improvements. USAID/India and the PMU will also partner with Google to monitor the usage and maintenance of public sanitation facilities.