CAPACITY BUILDING OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES ON WATER AND WASTE IN GANGLA BASIN CITIES

PROJECT TITLE: "Capacitating urban local bodies and other stakeholders in the Ganga basin on small scale, on-site wastewater and septage management systems".

DURATION OF PROJECT: Designed as a two-year kick-start phase for an overall 5-year process.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS
- Develop and refine the necessary tools as well as quality checks and contextual research.
- Initiate city level engagement with Urban Local Bodies and city stakeholders to both, plan for city-wide sanitation including non-sewered areas, and identification of demonstration projects for effective wastewater treatment and FSM.
- Designed to find sustainable and affordable wastewater and septage management solutions and to put together evidence-based results for rapid uptake and mainstreaming, with an emphasis on cities in a river basin.
- Improve the sanitation situation of poor urban dwellers as well as improve the public health and environmental status of the city.
- For this, CSE will work in close coordination with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation capacity building hub at National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), Swacch Bharat Mission and National Mission for Clean Ganga for wider outreach in the Ganga basin.
Phase I (October 2015-September 2017) will help seed a nodal centre for research, innovation and practice on sustainable, decentralized, and affordable wastewater management, city wide sanitation and faecal sludge/septage management in India at the upcoming School of Water and Waste at the Anil Agarwal Environment Training Institute at Nimli, Alwar (Rajasthan) – a capacity building and education initiative of the Centre for Science for Science and Environment, New Delhi.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Centre for Science and Environment’s (CSE) initiative will capacitate key state and non-state actors; provide laboratory-based technical and documentation support to pilot/model projects that offer on-site & off-site demonstration of various technologies, and develop technology options, testing protocols, monitoring and data validation procedures for wastewater treatment and septage/faecal sludge management.

The proposed measures ride on the policy intervention and implementation opportunities provided by the government’s push for pollution abatement in the cities of the Ganga River basin as part of the rejuvenated national efforts to clean this major river in the sub-continent, clean towns/cities under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and the Atal Mission on Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

**THE APPROACH**

Key work packages in Phase 1 include the following:

- Capacitating public functionaries and institutions: training and handholding support to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and other key stakeholders from 10 small / medium-sized cities in the Ganga basin in preparing City Sanitation Plan (CSP) with decentralized wastewater treatment and septage management.

- Research-based solutions on technology options, and demonstration projects: research and documentation on decentralized wastewater and septage management technologies, method validation and testing protocols, and supporting the implementation of demonstration projects as learning tools.

- Establishing an independent laboratory: existing lab facilities will be upgraded to establish a resource and referral, environmental monitoring laboratory with the capability to test for a range of biological and chemical contaminants in water and waste. The lab will regularly monitor key pollution parameters from targeted sites in the Ganga basin. It will help build capacities of a wide range of stakeholders – ULBs, Jal Nigam, PHED engineers, select regulatory agencies and city development authorities, among others. Three key elements of the project in the phase I are as follows:

Phase I will lay the foundation for the intervention, in that it will develop and refine the necessary tools as well as quality checks and contextual research, and initiate city level engagement with ULBs and city stakeholders to both, plan for city-wide sanitation including non-sewered areas, and identification of demonstration projects for effective wastewater treatment and FSM.
addition, the Environmental Monitoring Lab will conduct targeted trainings for ULBs, Jal Nigam, water & waste utilities, PHED, relevant regulatory agencies and city development authorities, and also help capacitate technical staff of other labs, working in the sector in interpreting results for wastewater and faecal sludge. This will help seed a nodal centre for research, innovation and practice on sustainable, decentralized and affordable wastewater management, city wide sanitation and faecal sludge/septage management in India.

The project will focus on
- Working with the State Programme Management Units under Swacch Bharat Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation as well as State Level Programme Management Groups (SPMG), created under National Mission for Clean Ganga help the convergence of state sanitation strategy and city sanitation planning.
- Also, it includes capacitating of secondary cities (small and medium) and towns between 50,000-100,000 population in river Ganga basin that mainly depend on on-site sanitation, which will otherwise remain outside the AMRUT mission.
- The programme will explore how to use tools developed by others, including BMGF partners, to help capacitate ULB officials and strengthen the process of CSP preparation.
- In addition, the first of its kind faecal waste referral laboratory to be set up at the School of Water and Waste at CSE Environment Training Institute, Nimli (Alwar, Rajasthan) will conduct targeted trainings for the urban local bodies, Jal Nigam, water and waste utilities, PHED, relevant regulatory agencies and city development authorities, and also help capacitate technical staff of other labs, working in the sector in interpreting results for wastewater and faecal sludge.

THE INITIATIVE IS SUPPORTED BY: BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

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