

WATER & SANITATION

AVAILABILITY & SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT



SCALE UP ACCESS TO SAFE WATER AND EQUITABLE SANITATION FOR ALL

THE CHALLENGE



Around 6% of Indians, more than 75 million people, **lack access to safe water**



Around 564 million people, nearly half the population of India, **defecate in the open**



India accounts for 90% of people in South Asia and 59% of the people in the world who practice open defecation



69.3% of rural and 18.6% of urban households **do not have a toilet**



75% of Scheduled Tribes and 63% of Scheduled Castes have **no access to household sanitation**



Every year **diarrhoea kills 188,000 children under the age of five** in India. Children weakened by frequent diarrhoea episodes are more vulnerable to malnutrition and stunting



Over 180,000 households in rural areas identified themselves as **manual scavengers**

THE OPPORTUNITY



Improved access to sanitation facilities may lead to increases in women's labour force participation (by reducing home and care burdens, and increasing safety), leading to a **positive impact on India's real output**. This may also include savings in health system costs, and reduction in illness-related days of work lost.



The Ministry of Corporate Affairs amended the Companies Act to specify that contributions to the 'Swachh Bharat Kosh' would be an **eligible CSR spend**



Reusing and recycling water enhances water supply security by saving large quantities of freshwater, while **lowering costs**, reducing environmental pollution and improving carbon footprints



With the WBCSD Pledge for Access to Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene at the Workplace, companies can contribute concretely and ensure access for employees, supply chains and the communities in which they operate

Government Initiatives

- A National Rural Drinking Water Programme
- (NRDWP) sub-mission proposes to provide safe drinking water to over 28,000
- arsenic and fluoride affected habitations in the next four years (Budget 2017-18)
- Swachh Bharat Mission is the largest ever cleanliness drive. This involves solid and liquid waste management activities, and making India open defecation free, clean and sanitised by 2019.

POTENTIAL AREAS OF FOCUS

- **Extending services and devising pro-poor initiatives** such as developing and promoting water and sanitation loan products for poor households, developing special tariffs and pricing systems like progressive pricing, social pricing, and eco-solidarity pricing with public bodies
- **Strengthening public-private partnerships** for the mobilisation of small-scale service providers for faecal sludge management for the urban poor
- **Leveraging supply chains and community engagement**, through collaborative research on overcoming barriers to access. This could include: (i) user-friendly easy to operate water treatment systems, especially in areas affected by arsenic and fluorides contamination; (ii) pit emptying and usage of mineralised sludge as manure
- **India can change the business mindset** by leading by example, so that water treatment, water efficiency, and recycling and reuse projects are cost-effective options and become common practice worldwide

WATER ATMs

Piramal Sarvajal has developed connected ATM-style systems that can distribute low cost, clean water to customers using an ATM card. The ATMs are owned and managed by local franchisee entrepreneurs, and the devices have 25 sensors that manage and monitor water pressure and filtration, and make maintenance and repair of the systems low cost and easy.

The Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Urban Slums (WASH-US) project in Kolkata, administered by the South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE) and funded by the HSBC Water Programme, is also making 'Water ATMs' in urban slums. Harvesting systems capture more than 13,000 gallons of rainwater every year. A solar-powered biogas treatment plant makes the water safe to drink, and clean water is delivered to the water ATMs, which can be accessed 24 hours a day.

USING BIG DATA

IBM worked closely with Bangalore Water Supply and Sewage Board, and used big data and predictive analytics technology to create an operational dashboard for monitoring and managing their water distribution systems.

WATER & SANITATION MICRO-LOANS

The WaterCredit Initiative by water.org partners with carefully selected microfinance institutions to provide small loans to people in need of water connections or toilets.

It has facilitated over 545,000 loans in India, demonstrating that there is a large demand for water and sanitation loans. The market is likely to grow as rural incomes rise. Even though 80% of the borrowers earn less than US\$2 per day, the repayment rate has been over 99%. The borrowers are almost exclusively women.

SDG Goals

