

GGGI India: Fact Sheet

Indian Urban Water

Challenges

Recent trends and analysis indicate that India will become the world's fastest growing economy over the next two years. However, due to fast paced growth coupled with a population of 1.2 billion, India's natural resources are under increasing strain. Further, though 70% of India's population still resides in rural areas, India's cities are growing dramatically, creating particular strain on the urban water resources. For India's cities to contribute to the nation's growth in a sustainable manner they will need to address water-related challenges that include:

- Ground water contamination
- Access to potable drinking water
- Sustainable water systems planning

Activities

Addressing these challenges will be critical if Indian cities are at the core of the economic transformation, as envisaged by the Government of India (GoI). GGGI has supported the GoI's ongoing effort to achieve this goal through the Indian Urban Water project, which:

- Assessed water resource management systems in the cities of Indore and Nagpur
- Studied ground water and surface water challenges in the context of urbanization and the changing demand-supply dynamics
- Explored water-centric systems planning in urban India in order to develop a replicable framework to evaluate the true cost of water
- Utilized a cost-benefits based approach that assists stakeholders to increase the value of their investments
- Fostered multilateral partnerships in support of sustainable water investment opportunities

Overall Objectives

- Support and enhance the critical role of water to further inclusive and sustainable growth in Indian cities.
- Develop a replicable framework to determine the true cost of water by comparing system level investments with co-benefits of improved water supply and access

Implementing Partners

- Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)

Results

- Organized a high-level national consultation on 'Urban Water- Green Growth Nexus' in New Delhi, which was presided by the Indian Minister for Surface Transport where the findings were shared with representatives from several cities and officials from the Government of India
- Technical paper: Urban Water Systems in India: A Way Forward