BASIC
Building Accessible, Safe, Inclusive Indian Cities
Countries around the world, for the first time in human history, will have more than half of their population residing in urban areas. The rapid pace of urbanization is and has been for the longest time a global secular trend in urban centres. Such a trend presents itself with a bouquet of opportunities as well as challenges that urban local bodies need to be wary of. While we prioritize an equitable distribution of benefits that a city life promises, it should be our endeavour to make a special effort for the differently abled and enable them to benefit from their unique abilities.

The global average of people with some form of disability is around 15%. As per National Census 2011, India has around 3 crore persons ‘disabled’ which amounts to 2.21% of the total population. With an estimate of around 25% of India’s population needing universal accessibility in order to live independently and with dignity. There is a clear need to emphasize on ‘accessible and inclusive component’ as the right path for achieving sustainable development.

Although Indian Government has made positive efforts in the realm of advocacy, rights, and social inclusion. With little information available regarding access to basic services for persons with disabilities or their general disability-specific everyday needs within an urban environment. The policy commitments of government in a number of areas remain largely unfulfilled. To some extent, this is inevitable, given the existing institutional capacity and deep-rooted societal attitudes towards disabled people in India. Through the BASIIC programme the aim is to open a discourse and exchange of ideas to develop ingenious ways to shape truly accessible, inclusive and safe cities.

It is estimated that nearly one billion people, or 15% of the global population, experience some form of disability, and its prevalence is higher for developing countries.

Overview

- Estimated that around **25%** of India’s population need universal accessibility in order to live independently and with dignity.
- **3 Crore** persons are ‘disabled’ comprising **2.21%** of India’s population. RPWD ACT mandates disabilities into 21 categories.
There is a need to emphasise on ‘accessibility and inclusivity’ as the right path for achieving sustainable development.

National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in collaboration with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and support from the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK Government is implementing the project “Building Accessible, Safe & Inclusive Indian Cities (BASIIC)” through a Technical Assistance Support Unit (TASU) established at NIUA. It endeavors to promulgate the tenets of accessibility, inclusivity and safety in the ethos of urban planning and design. This will be achieved through focused policy level interventions, pilot demonstration of innovative solutions, capacity building and sustaining the above through application of robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

Technical Assistance Support Unit

Technical Assistance Support Unit at NIUA aims to focus on following four key areas under the BASIIC programme. The programme intends to actively work with key stakeholders working on various disabilities on a common platform and demonstrate innovative solutions – technologies, programmes and service delivery models in the realm of universal accessibility, safety and inclusive development.

- **Policy Framework and Guidelines**
  - Policy Briefs
  - Preparation of Toolkits
  - Develop Unified Guidelines

- **Knowledge Management & Capacity Building**
  - Status of Persons with Disabilities in Urban India
  - Compendium of Best Practices & innovative solutions
  - Development of modules of tenants of BASIIC

- **City Selection and Pilot Intervention**
  - City Level Insights Report
  - City Level Pilot Interventions
  - City Audit Report

- **Monitoring Evaluation and Learning**
  - Support partner
  - Smart Cities to create Robust Monitoring Systems
Established in 1976, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) was tasked to bridge the gap between research and practice on issues related to urbanization, and suggest ways and mechanisms to address these urban challenges of the country. For more than 40 years now, NIUA has been the vanguard for contributing to, and at times, building the urban narrative for a fast-evolving urban India. The Institution has been actively working towards bringing forth key areas of concern for urban India in order to build the urban discourse at various scales.

It has utilized its competencies in research, knowledge management, policy advocacy and capacity building to address the urban challenges, and continuously strive to develop sustainable, inclusive, and productive urban ecosystems in India. It has emerged as a thought leader and knowledge hub for urban development in India, and is sought out by both Indian and International organizations for collaborations and partnerships for India’s urban transforming journey. NIUA is committed towards aligning its efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through all its initiatives and programs.

The Programme aims at creation of a Knowledge Network of the experts, organisations institutions, civil societies and NGOs working on the various facets of the subject matter to cross learning opportunities and interaction among the peer groups, potential collaborators, stakeholders and expertise. This will not only initiate creation of a readily available expert linkage to connect for end to end assistance but could be enriched further and continue to grow as an enabling platform for interactions and possible collaborations in future.

By 2030, India will become the most populous nation and third by GDP size (=>USD 5 billion). India’s development trajectory in the next decade presents significant opportunities and challenges for global development.

India-UK development partnership is focussed on inclusive economic development through building markets using development capital investment and technical assistance.