

## Access to Water and Sanitation for All

*For me, knowing what life is like without easy access to water is not something I just read about – it was my reality for a time in my life.. As a child, living through the Nigerian Biafran war in the late sixties, I was forced to walk for five miles to fetch and carry water for my family. It was an arduous trip – across a mountain – carrying the water in a bucket on my head. Water is an essential of life. But the sad reality today is that many children in the world still have no choice but to walk miles every day to fetch water for their families.*

*If we reached the millennium development goals of 2015 for both water and sanitation – the job would still not be over. Even if we were to meet those goals, 11% of people on the planet would not have access to adequate water. 23% would not have access to sanitation.*

*The impacts of water supply and sanitation do not stop at the tap. They impact across the board – on health, women's security, education – a latrine for girls at schools helps ensure their attendance in classroom...and water nearby frees up women & children for the daily toil of trekking to obtain water.*

*So much remains to be done. But if we try, results can be attained even in the most challenging situations. All of us in the world involved in this area, need to work together proactively.*

**- Robert Bruce Zoellick  
President, World Bank**

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## Government of India to Strengthen Collaboration with UN-HABITAT

Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT held talks with Kumari Selja, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Culture, Govt. of India during his official Mission to India in the last week of September 2011. Both agreed to further strengthen the collaboration between India and UN-HABITAT. Govt. of India also agreed in principle to enhance its annual contribution to UN-HABITAT.

"The world's population is getting ready to pass the 7 billion mark by the end of this October, and already 50 per cent of people are living in cities. India's urban population too will double in the next 30 years. Urban planning and design thus are key to a sustainable urban future in the medium and longer term," Dr. Clos said in a statement at the end of his one week long visit to India that concluded on 29 September 2011. As part of this new priority partnership, UN-HABITAT, he said, would strengthen its presence in India through physical presence in New Delhi for enhanced collaboration with the Government of India.

"India is a strategic partner of UN-HABITAT to manage this growth of urban areas and to focus on urban planning and design as a solution for improving Indian cities," he added.

At a meeting of professionals in Mumbai organized by Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and

Culture, and the State Government of Maharashtra, Kumari Selja said: "UN-HABITAT can cooperate with India with its expertise and technical know-how in urban planning and design to plan inclusive cities." The Minister added "UN-HABITAT and Govt. of India can jointly work out the best models of urban planning required in the context of India."

Other ways to strengthen collaboration between UN-HABITAT and the Government of India were explored further in talks Dr. Clos held with Mr. Kamal Nath, Union Minister of Urban Development. In coming months, various knowledge exchange initiatives will be proposed. It was also agreed to enhance the participation of Indian urban planners in key UN-HABITAT projects.

During his visit, Dr. Clos visited New Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai and Gurgaon. He also met Mr. Arun Maira, Member, Planning Commission of India, to propose closer sharing of UN-HABITAT experiences with the evolving urban policy of the Govt. of India for the period 2012-2017.

UN-HABITAT has been actively involved in a number of projects in India at the national, state, district and local levels. Over the years, several UN-HABITAT activities have been organized in close collaboration with Government of India, mainly in water and sanitation.



(L-R) UN-HABITAT Spokesperson Ana Moreno; UN-HABITAT Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos and UNIC Director Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman

## Future Dialogue 2011 – Conference on Challenges and Opportunities of Rapid Urbanization

On 24 September 2011, the third Future Dialogue Conference took place in New Delhi, India. The Dialogue was designed to address important global issues and was organized by the German Max Planck Society and Siemens. This year's conference looked at sustainable cities and how to master the challenges and opportunities of rapid urbanization.

After short introductory remarks by Peter Gruss, President, Max Planck Society, and Peter Löscher, President and CEO of Siemens AG, Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN HABITAT, addressed the audience with his keynote on the challenges and opportunities for tomorrow's cities. In his keynote address, Dr. Clos highlighted that during the last 50 years, the world population has grown from 3 billion to 7 billion and was expected to reach 9 billion by 2048. As the population growth was mainly in developing countries, the urban challenges were particularly larger in the less developed countries. He also highlighted the regional character of urbanisation wherein Latin America and the Caribbean region was urbanising very fast followed by Asia and then Africa.

As urbanisation was intensifying, cities were gaining more importance. He said that during 2007-25, there will be significant contribution to global GDP by cities – the total pool of 2000+ metropolitan areas was expected to contribute 75% of global growth during this period. Explaining the concurrent trends and different urban impacts, he highlighted the differential impact of climate change, growing and ageing and of urbanisation on economies. Cities of the developed nations are sources of high level emission of CO<sub>2</sub>. These cities are also facing a demographic Shift. They are facing the challenge of an aging population, growing cost of old age services and also growing inequality. There was growing youth unemployment and the cities were also undergoing financial crisis of the welfare services. On the contrary, cities in the developing world are having a different kind of challenge due to the climate change. There is the highest impact due to climate change in most vulnerable and poor cities facing floods, droughts, famines and other kinds of disasters.

The impact of demographic shift is reflected in a growing youth population who are a potential economic asset but challenging unemployment of urban youth. High rates of urbanization with low level industrialization are resulting into endemic urban poverty, manifested as slum formation & resort to informal low value economy. He also highlighted the problem of slums in urban areas. More than one billion people were living in slums. 62% of the total urban population of Sub-Saharan Africa, 43% urban population of South Asia, 37% of East Asia & 27% of Latin America & Caribbean was currently living in slums.

### New Urban Agenda - Sustainable Urban Planning & Design

Sharing his long experience as a Mayor of the City of Barcelona for sustainable Urban Planning & Design, Dr. Clos underscored the need for (a) Better Planning & Design with optimal density & diversity (b) Planning in advance to scale of expected growth of the city (c) to start planning with basic streets, water, sanitation networks, energy supply, urban mobility and other services; (d) avoiding risky developments on steep slopes, waterbeds & quake prone zones.

### Mobility and energy efficiency

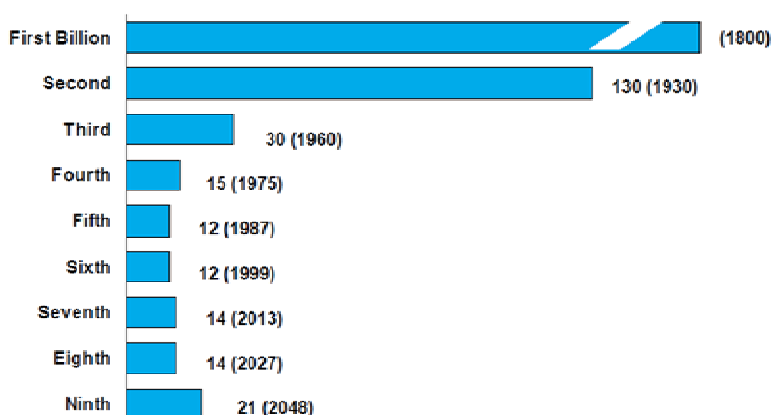
He also highlighted the need for (i) public transport and improved urban mobility (ii) Increased energy efficiency. He felt that decreasing the demand for mobility through better urban planning was the key. Improved telecommunications and connectivity that provides for increased urban efficiency and improved environment should be part of the new urban agenda.

### Promote Urban Economy

Dr. Clos also focused on (1) Economies of Urbanization: Economical value generated by location and proximity to urban services and common goods and (2) Economies of Agglomeration: Economical value generated by the proximity and diversity of production's factors, diminishing transactions costs, favouring specialization and massive increase of productivity.

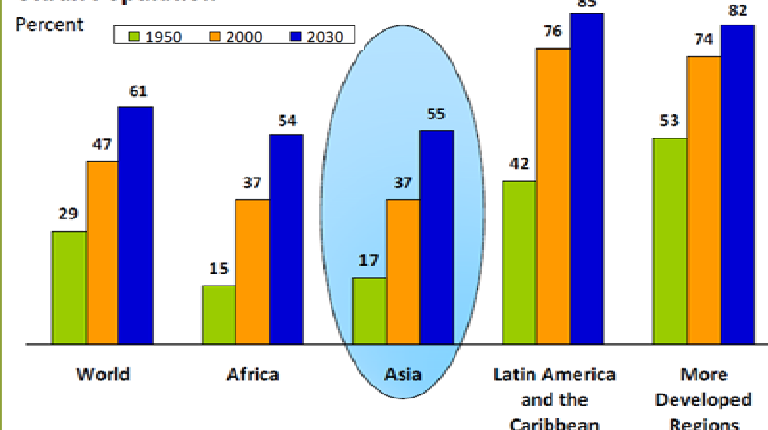
### World Population Growth (in billion)

Number of years to add each billion (year)

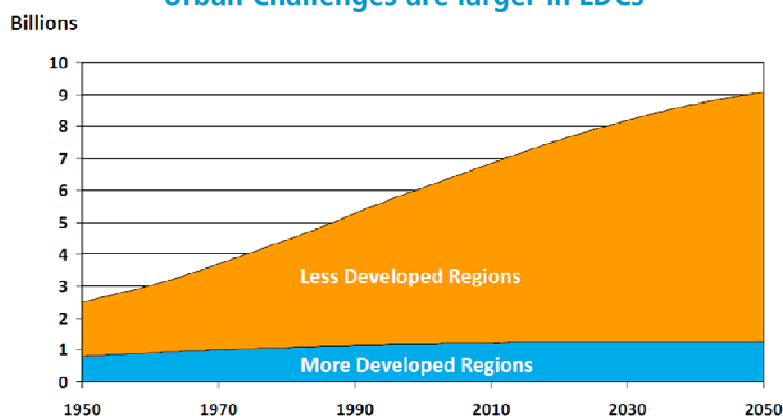


### Urbanisation has regional character

Urban Population

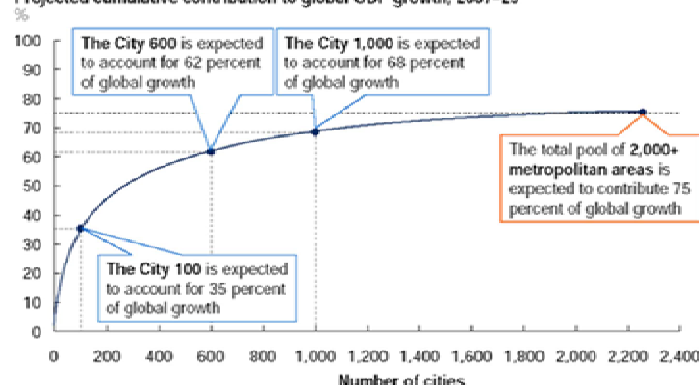


### Urban Challenges are larger in LDCs



### Cities more important as Urbanisation intensifies

Projected cumulative contribution to global GDP growth, 2007-25



## Partnerships are Critical to Building Sustainability – Session on “Towards Sustainable Habitat - A Collaborative Approach”

FICCI Environment Committee, UN-HABITAT and Coca-Cola India hosted a special event in New Delhi on 26th September 2011, addressed by Dr Joan Clos, Under Secretary General of United Nations and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, on “Towards Sustainable Habitat- A Collaborative Approach.”

The address was followed by a high level panel discussion with Dr Joan Clos, Mr. Atul Singh, President and CEO, Coca-Cola India & Chairman, FICCI Environment Committee, Dr Pradipto Ghosh, Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment, and Chairman of FICCI Climate change task force and Mr. Mahesh Babu, Managing Director, IL&FS Environment, and Co-Chairman of FICCI Climate change task force discussing corporate sustainability and the development of a collaborative approach towards finding solutions for a more sustainable habitat. The speakers also discussed what it means to imprint sustainability within the core decision making of an organization.

Addressing a diverse audience of opinion makers, NGOs, members of civil society and corporate, Dr. Joan Clos said, “UN-HABITAT has been addressing the problems of water and sanitation for more than two decades. The Water for Asian Cities Programme as a collaborative initiative of the UN-HABITAT, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Governments of Asian countries was launched in 2003.

UN-HABITAT stands committed to develop a framework for long-term partnership to pursue common development objectives and implement partnership projects to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation in Asia, Africa and Latin American and the Caribbean. I am happy to note that the collaboration with Coca-Cola has brought in more partners and has also helped in leveraging more resources. It is important that we continue to work towards building these partnerships and strengthen them.”

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. Atul Singh, President and CEO, Coca-Cola India and Chairman FICCI Environment Committee said, “Sustainability is important from a long term vision of both the organization and the planet that we live in. It remains within the core of our actions as each step we take has the ability to affect the communities we operate in. The hallmark of our collaborative ap-

proach is the partnership that we have forged with UN-HABITAT and what we are now expanding to cover other parts of the world. It is based on the same vision and commitment to sustainability and we hope to positively impact the people, the communities and all the other stakeholders.”

Dr Pradipto Ghosh, Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Chairman of FICCI Climate change task force said, “It is important for like-minded organizations to operate in a shared environment to take forward the agenda of sustainability. Each organization needs to look towards developing partnerships to maximize impact through collaboration and sharing.”

Mr. Mahesh Babu, MD of IL&FS and Co-Chairman of FICCI Climate change task force expressed that, “most successful sustainability initiatives around the world have their roots in collaboration with partners who have a strong alignment in their vision and mission. The collaborative approaches will then need to shape business and societal responses to the world’s most urgent sustainability issues”.

At the event, a compendium titled ‘Ripple to a Wave’ was also released by the Dr Joan Clos, Atul Singh, Mahesh Babu and Dr. Pradipto Ghose. This comprehensive compendium stories the journey of multi-lateral, multi-location partnership between Coca-Cola and UN-HABITAT as it evolved from one region in India to include many countries around the world.

Apart from detailing the concurrently important themes of water and sanitation, it lists initiatives jointly taken along with other partners, and their impact on the beneficiaries. The compendium also captures the challenges of putting together a diverse set of partners into a collaborative framework and the learning derived from it.

During the discussion sanitation conditions in rural schools was also discussed and how it impacts the education as a whole in the country. The recent initiative “Support My School” jointly launched by UN-HABITAT and Coca-Cola along with other partners such as Pearson Foundation, Sulabh International was talked about for the impact that it has been making since the launch.

UN-HABITAT Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos and Mr. Atul Singh, President and CEO, Coca-Cola India at the Session



## UN-HABITAT participates in the World Cities Summit Mayors' Forum in Singapore

The World Cities Summit Mayors' Forum was held on 4th July 2011 in Singapore. During the Forum, UN-HABITAT represented by Mr. Andre Dzikus was invited to comment and share UN-HABITAT's views in the first session of the Forum. The first session of the Mayors' Forum raised two important questions: 1. How important is long-term planning for city's successful management to foster livability in the city; and 2. Conditions for effective long-term planning.

Mr. Andre Dzikus in his response referred to the present thrust of UN-HABITAT on New Urban Planning Approach with a focus on Green Economy, planning in advance, urban legislation etc. thus explaining the need for long-term planning in the towns and cities of the developing world where urbanization is taking place at a very fast rate.

There were interventions by several participating Mayors and City Governors explaining their challenges and how they were meeting them. The Mayor from

the City of Mecca highlighted that transport was a big challenge together with the lack of long-term financing. The session was concluded highlighting the need for long-term planning with a political will to implement it.

The session also underscored the need for Good Governance and Role of Laws. It was also felt that Master Plans should not be limited to only land use plan but also infrastructure plans as part of the City Development Plans. The Session also underscored the need for integrated planning. The spatial planning should be merged with the economic plans.

Among the number of challenges also included the political challenge as well as the challenge for building capacity. In the implementation of the City plans, it was felt that there was a role of national and local governments, private sector as well as the civil society. Political commitment and good governance can enable cities to develop infrastructure for promoting economic growth.



## Session on Water Partnerships: the Ripple Effect Organised by UN-HABITAT during Singapore International Water Week

With Corporate Social responsibility being increasingly integrated into business models of companies, UN-HABITAT has been looking at areas of synergy with the private sector. UN-HABITAT partnership with corporates and multinationals in water and sanitation inter alia include The Coca-Cola Company, BASF of Germany, OZ Mines of Australia and others.

During the Singapore International Water week 2011, UN-HABITAT organised a Special Event in partnership with Coca-Cola India on 6th July 2011. The session was titled Water Partnerships: the Ripple Effect. Mr. Andre Dzikus made a presentation giving a background of the partnership which started in India and Nepal and is now expanded to the whole of South Asia and the Mekong Region in Asia. He said that UN-HABITAT Partnership with Coca-Cola India started in April, 2007. The partnership aimed at improving community access to water and sanitation in India and Nepal. Today the partnership has further expanded to Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnam and Cambodia. The partnership which has generated trust and confidence between the two organisations has resulted in (a) Improved water supply and sanitation for over 120,000 children across 200 schools; (b) Improved hygiene awareness of over 1 million people in the first phase;

UN-HABITAT and Coca-Cola stand committed to develop framework for long-term partnership to pursue common development objectives and finance and implement partnership projects to improve access to safe drinking water & sanitation in Asia, Africa and LAC Regions. The objectives of the event were to present (a) how partnership models work financially as well as through work distribution (b) how to build successful partnership and make them sustainable; and (c) the picture of UN-HABITAT - Coca-Cola Partnership and how it was proposed to be expanded and taking it to the next level.

This was followed by a panel discussion in which Mr. D.V. Singh, the Secretary Government of India, Mr. Suresh Prabhu, former Minister of the Government of India and several other distinguished international water leaders that included Mr. Ravi Narayanan, Prof. Asit Biswas, Mrs. Abha Bahadur and Dr. D.V. Darshane, Director Policy, The Coca-Cola Company, Atlanta, participated and discussed ways and means to strengthen and sustain water partnerships. The panel also discussed the way forward for UN-HABITAT and Coca Cola Collaboration to move from Ripple to a Wave and presented highly innovative initiative "Support My School" currently being implemented in India in close partnership with NDTV and CAF. The session was anchored by NDTV of India.

The programme concluded with a water song by Rolf Stahlhofen of Germany.



## UN-HABITAT signs new Safer Settlements Agreement with Myanmar

On 12th September 2011, UN-HABITAT and the Union Government of Myanmar, represented by the Department of Human Settlements and Housing Development (DHSHD), Ministry of Construction, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the "Myanmar Programme for Safer Settlements and Urban Issues" designed to provide disaster resilient and safer settlements for the people of Myanmar.

Dr Toshiyasu Noda, Director of the UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and Director General U Aung Win of the DHSHD of Ministry of Construction signed the MoU on Monday, 12th of September in the offices of Min-

istry of Construction, Nay Pyi Daw with His Excellency U Khin Maung Myint, the Union Minister for Construction, as chief witness for the ceremony.

In his opening speech, His Excellency U Khin Maung Myint, expressed his hope that this cooperation with UN-HABITAT will assist the Government's endeavors of building a new modern and developed nation.

Following formalization of the MOU Director General U Aung Win stated in his address, that the five major components of this partnership will be implemented successfully, both in scope and time. These components are: Capacity Building for Human Settlements Planning and development, Safer Human Settlements planning, National Building Codes and regulations development, Low-cost Housing Solutions via Habitech Technology Transfer, and Rural Low-cost Housing Programme.

Srinivasa Popuri, Country Manager of UN-HABITAT Myanmar stated that the agency is cooperating with the relevant Ministries in the sectors that are pertaining to Habitat Agenda; Providing basic infrastructure and access improvements in water and sanitation to urban and rural settlements, technical assistance on Disaster Risk Reduction at township, state/divisions and national level, Urban Environment and Climate Change issues.

Director Dr Noda reiterated dedication to promoting socially and environmentally sustainable development of Human Settlements thereby fulfilling the agenda of UN-HABITAT. Dr Noda expressed his view that the MoU will open broad vistas of cooperation between the Myanmar Government and UN-HABITAT to the benefit of the people of Myanmar.



## UN-HABITAT supported APHF-3 "Sustainable Shelter in Age of Climate Change & Disasters"

UN-HABITAT, as one of the key partners, participated in the 3rd Asia Pacific Housing Forum and Exhibition (APHF-3) in Bangkok from 7-9 September 2011. More than 700 delegates, from 220 organizations and 35 countries attended APHF-3 co-organized by Habitat for Humanity and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The Forum gathered participants from governments, international and local NGOs, private sector, academia, civil society organizations, and local communities.

Throughout the APHF-3, with the theme "Sustainable Shelter in Age of Climate Change and Disasters", UN-HABITAT was involved in the plenary and various breakout sessions focused on Housing Policy in an Era of Climate Change; Financing Adaptation; Disaster Mitigation, Response and Sustainable Development; Building More Resilient Homes; Community Participation; Water and Sanitation; and Values, Ethics and Faith-based Development Initiatives. Mr. Bernhard Barth, Training and Capacity Building Branch, UN-HABITAT, Nairobi, Kenya was the panellist for the first plenary session "Thought Leaders Panel" that aimed to exchange ideas and experiences on challenges, strategies and successful practices.

Mr. Lalith Lankatilleke, Senior Human Settlements Officer, UN-HABITAT ROAP, Fukuoka, Japan was involved in several breakout sessions presenting "People's Process of Recovery", "Post Disaster Shelter Reconstruction: Learning from the experiences of UN-HABITAT" and "Building Urban Resilience: Its Implications on Addressing the Problem of Poverty Housing and Homelessness in Asia Pacific". Experiences from various countries in the region and organizations were shared among the participants.

During the 3-days forum, UN-HABITAT displayed various projects, at the Exhibition site complimenting the Forum, that are undertaken in the region. The exhibition attracted a considerable number of visits & interest from participants willing to learn on "Post-disaster Projects in Asia" & other activities of UN-HABITAT in the region, especially from Myanmar as their countries face similar problems and impacts from climate change.





## Recharge Kathmandu Campaign Launched

Recharge Kathmandu Campaign has been launched jointly by UN-HABITAT and Centre for Integrated Urban Development (CIUD) to expand groundwater recharge zones in Kathmandu Valley and encourage rainwater harvesting. The campaign was inaugurated by Mr. Andre Dzikus, chief of UN-HABITAT Water and Sanitation Division, amid a function in Sundhara, Lalitpur on 21 July 2011.

"UN-HABITAT is always ready to provide necessary support at individual and institutional levels for rainwater harvesting and establishing recharge zones," said Mr. Dzikus during the inaugural occasion. "Rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge into shallow and deep aquifers offers a promising approach for reversing the trend of water resource exploitation and groundwater depletion."

Mr. Prakash Amatya, Executive Director of CIUD, said "Most people in Lalitpur rely on shallow groundwater and it is depleting at an alarming rate due to over extraction and reduced recharge," he added that now the communities actively involved in successfully managing rainwater harvesting in the area have started constructing overhead tanks to collect the water and later distribute to households in their areas.

Mr. Dzikus has also observed the groundwater recharge systems, rainwater collection chambers and water distribution systems in Imukhel, Gachhen, Kobahal, Purnachandi. UN-Habitat in association with Center for Integrated Urban Development (CIUD), Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City (LSMC), Kathmandu Valley

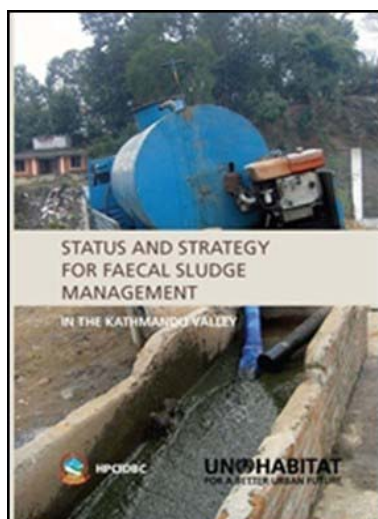
Water Supply Management Board (KVWSMB), The Bottlers Nepal Limited and Bentley University has launched the rainwater harvesting programme to replenish the underground aquifer to support 20 different committees in Lalitpur.

The programme has constructed 16 recharge wells and 21 rainwater collection chambers to recharge the community aquifer during rainfall to supplement the ground water. It served the community to overcome from the water crisis with providing sufficient water to extract and also fulfilled the demand of the neighboring community as well. The community people shared that they have now eight hours water supply in a day. With the support of the Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City (LSMC) the programme has initiated for the renovation of the traditional ponds in Lalitpur, Nhu Pukhu Saptapatal Pukhu and Purnachandi Pukhu which contributes for recharging the nearby aquifer serving numerous stone spouts and traditional wells in Lalitpur. LSMC has allocated required funds for the improvement of these ponds.

The rainwater promotion programme aims to establish rainwater harvesting system in traditional ponds, community level recharge wells and pits to augment the ground water table and make aware public on groundwater recharge mechanism. It encouraged recharging ground water with collection of the surface water including available roof water as well during the rainy season. It initiated to aware the community people collect water to the extent possible at household/community level based on their affordability and rest of the quantities should be recharged in the ground.



## Status and Strategy for Faecal Sludge Management in Kathmandu



In the Kathmandu Valley, around 70% of the households dispose their excreta directly into the sewer line while remaining 30% of the households still depend on onsite systems such as pit latrines and septic tanks. Onsite sanitation systems are prevalent mostly in the peri-urban areas of the Kathmandu Valley. The study shows that 30% of households in urban areas of Lalitpur, 8% in Bhaktapur and 18% in Kathmandu Districts still use septic tanks for disposal of excreta while in the peri-urban areas more than 50% of the households use such onsite systems. Even though there are service providers for faecal sludge collection, due to absence of a proper faecal sludge management (FSM) system almost all the collected sludge is discharged into rivers. Thus, there is an urgent need for a proper FSM system in the Kathmandu Valley. Such system could be operated through a public private partnership approach under a responsible institution/authority. By establishing the FSM system in Kathmandu it will be a good demonstration for other urban or peri-urban areas and emerging towns in the country facing similar sanitation problems.

This is a joint publication of UN-HABITAT and High Powered Committee for Integrated Development of Bagmati Civilisation which highlights issues on FSM system in the Kathmandu Valley with recommendation and strategies for its improvement.

Download Report — [http://unic.un.org/imucms/userfiles/kathmandu/file/2010-UN-Habitat/FSM\\_booklet.pdf](http://unic.un.org/imucms/userfiles/kathmandu/file/2010-UN-Habitat/FSM_booklet.pdf)

## Sachin Tendulkar helps raise funds for over 140 schools under the Coca-Cola, NDTV, UN-HABITAT "Support My School" Campaign in India

The Coca-Cola, NDTV 'Support My School' campaign received overwhelming support for its unique 12-hour Telethon with Sachin Tendulkar on 18 September 2011, that helped raise funds that will positively impact the lives of over 70,000 children across 140 schools in India.

The Support My School campaign, an initiative of Coca-Cola with UNHABITAT, launched in January this year amidst great fanfare with awareness initiatives across the country reached its crescendo with the day-long Telethon event that raised nearly INR 70 million, which will help build sustainable water, sanitation and other facilities at over 140 schools across the country.

Speaking about the project, Atul Singh, President and CEO, Coca-Cola India and South West Asia said, "It is immensely satisfying for all of us at Coca-Cola India that we are on course in our goal to help positively impact the lives of thousands of school children through this campaign. We invite more corporate and individuals to come forward and join hands with us to support this movement to address grassroots issues of infrastructural facilities towards building healthy, active and happy schools in rural and semi-urban towns."

The Support My School Telethon began with Sachin Tendulkar and Atul Singh in Mumbai, and witnessed many celebrities and corporates joining in throughout the day to lend their voice or monetary support to the campaign as the Telethon progressed.

Sachin Tendulkar and a host of other well known personalities including Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal, Akshay Kumar, Govinda, Neha Dhupia, Boman Irani, Gulshan Grover, Darsheel Safary, Nita Ambani, Harbhajan Singh, Yuvraj Singh and Sreesanth took centre-stage to reach out to millions of viewers to spread awareness for the campaign and the Water and Sanitation issues.

Sachin Tendulkar, Akshay Kumar, Arjun Rampal, Ajay Devgun and Sanjay Dutt contributed INR 1 million each to the cause. The telethon also featured stories from rural India, innovative formats, and a special edition of Coke Studio with Shankar Mahadevan, KK and Leslie Lewis to help the cause.

Campaign Ambassador Sachin Tendulkar added, "I feel honoured to be a part of the Support My School campaign. This campaign is very close to my heart and I am glad to have been able to contribute in some small way to this initiative that helps children receive new facilities to aid their learning. I am sure this campaign will go a long way in making a difference to the lives of more than 70,000 children across India."

Dr. Kulwant Singh, Advisor to UN-HABITAT: "We are delighted at the success of the Support My School Telethon. We believe that a child requires holistic nature of education. Hence, to help set up such schools with enhanced facilities for holistic education, our primary focus of this campaign has been capacity building, promoting water conservation, sanitation and hygiene education."

The Telethon saw several students, youth, professionals, NGOs and other stakeholders coming together to raise awareness for the campaign. The Support My School campaign has already delivered tremendous visibility to the cause of water and sanitation and how these issues affect the education of children, especially the girl child.

As part of the Telethon, Coca-Cola India along with its partners dedicated empowered schools in Thane, Ahmadabad and Bhopal where children also interacted with the master blaster Sachin Tendulkar. The Telethon also witnessed an hour long Walkathon by over 200 school children in Kochi in support of the cause. Sachin Tendulkar also hosted 'Sachin ki Paathshaala' cricketing sessions where he interacted with young cricketers across the country via satellite. Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd, McDonalds, MSD in India, Pearson Foundation, Reliance Foundation, Rotary International and several others made significant contributions for the cause. Several other Corporate Houses & Foundations, including an anonymous donor, made significant contributions to the campaign further strengthening the impact of the initiative.

Khozem Merchant, President, Pearson India said, "Pearson Foundation values its partnership with NDTV and Coca-Cola in the 'Support my School' campaign and is delighted at the outcome of the telethon to highlight the issue. We will continue to support the initiative through our contribution of libraries and teacher training, confident in the belief that this will improve the quality of teaching for children, and their lives."

Speaking on the occasion, German Singer & Messenger of Truth, UNHABITAT, Rolf Eugen Stahlhofen, said "Education is the foundation for a nation to grow and develop and sustain the progress in the long run. The Support My School initiative will empower the underprivileged sections of the society through education by providing the necessary infra-structural aid to the children of the school."

Pearson Foundation as the learning partner, Sulabh International as water and sanitation partner, Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) as execution partner have contributed throughout the Support My School initiative.





## UN-HABITAT dedicates first School in Haryana under the “Support My School” Campaign, a movement for Healthy, Active and Happy schools

Coca-Cola India, NDTV and UN-HABITAT in association with their NGO partners, Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) and Sulabh International, dedicated the first school in Haryana under the unique initiative - ‘Support My School’ on 18 July 2011. The campaign aims to develop healthy, active and happy schools in rural and semi-urban towns. One of the key concerns related to success of education in rural India is the lack of basic amenities in schools, which not only results in increased absenteeism but also in high dropout rate, especially among girls. This six month campaign will not only generate awareness about such issues but will also look to create 100 model schools in villages and towns with the help of all partners associated with this campaign.

Some of the activities undertaken as a part of this campaign include provision of improved access to water, appropriate sanitation facility for girls and boys, improvement in the overall infrastructure and environment, provision for sports and recreation facilities such as cricket, badminton & basket ball courts, swings etc and recharging groundwater through rainwater harvesting. Government Primary School in Khevra village in Sonapat District is the second school in Haryana that benefited under the “Support My School” initiative.

The project supported the school by aiding infrastructural work such as building hygienic sanitation facilities especially for girls, setting up a rain water harvesting unit, providing improved access to water, renovating the sports grounds to promote healthy and active living and improving the environment. As a part of the inaugural contribution towards this fund raising initiative, Coca-Cola & UNHABITAT have pledged Rs. 1 Crore to the Support My School campaign in January 2011 itself.

Explaining the project Mr. Andre Dzikus, Chief of Water and Sanitation, UNHABITAT said, “Education is the cornerstone of nation’s development. A child not only needs academic inputs but also needs holistic nature of education. Our primary focus of this campaign will be capacity building, promoting water conservation, sanitation and hygiene education thus enabling students to get holistic education. Success of Government Primary School in Khevra under the Support My Campaign is a sterling example of community participation and the efforts of the partners behind the campaign to make the difference for children of this school.”

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Deepak Jolly, Vice - President, Coca-Cola India and South West Asia said, “The dedication of this school is an achievement for all the people who worked on the project and contributed to it. The positive changes in the school at Khevra are a testimony of what has been achieved by local community working in tandem with the team behind the Support My School campaign.

At Coca-Cola, we believe that the role of business in the 21st century is not just about creating shareholder value but also promoting the sustainability of the environment and local communities. In addition to our focus on environment and water, we have also been focused on education because we believe that education is the basis of social change. We are looking forward to corporate, NGOs and citizen to come forward and contribute to this campaign in their own way and we will be glad to facilitate their contribution.”

Ms Abha Bahadur, Senior Vice President, Sulabh International highlighted the need for such a campaign and said, “Access to basic amenities including water and sanitation is a basic necessity for a child to engage in learning at school and to properly absorb the teachings. This initiative will go a long way in focusing the child’s attention back in the school, which in turn will help the child realize his or her potential to the fullest. Such schools also act as catalyst for the communities to coming together and embark on raising the standards of facilities available in the villages”

According to Mrs Amita Puri, Head of CAF India, “Education is the foundation for a nation to grow and develop and sustain the progress in the long run. This project is our endeavour to empower the underprivileged sections of the society through education by providing the necessary infra-structural aid to the children of the school.

Speaking at the occasion, Ajeet Singh, District Education Officer, Sonapat district said “It is heartening to see such path breaking initiatives being undertaken by Coca-Cola India, UN-HABITAT and partners in the realm of revitalizing rural schools. We need to engage and encourage more Corporates, people and NGOs to take up such projects so that more of such successful examples of public private partnerships can emerge. I congratulate Coca-Cola India, UN-HABITAT, NDS and partners for the wonderful initiative that will ensure that the children get better access to basic facilities.





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## UN-HABITAT contributes to Flood Damage Assessment in Lao PDR

Typhoon Haima hit Laos at the end of June 2011. Responding to a request from the Government, various UN agencies, including UN-HABITAT, participated in a Joint Damage, Losses and Needs Assessment (JDLNA) mission, that took place over two weeks in July and August 2011. UN-HABITAT led the assessment for two key sectors: Housing and Urban Water and Sanitation. Covering all four affected provinces of Xieng Khuang, Sayabouly, Vientiane and Bolikhamsay, the mission visited damaged villages and spoke to members of the community, whose crops, houses and livelihoods had been swept away in the floods and landslides that resulted from the storms and heavy rains brought by the Typhoon. With the help from the provincial government departments, the mission was able to gather large quantities of data in order to form a clear picture of the extent of the damage and the medium- to long terms recovery needs in the affected areas.

Led by the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) and the NDMO within the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW), and in addition to the UN, the mission was also supported by other development partners including the World Bank, ADPC and some NGOs. It was the first time that the different organisations came together in such initiative in Lao PDR, and represents a major move towards unity and better coordination in times of a national disaster.

The scope of the assessment covered the damage and losses in key sectors - including agriculture, housing, transport, education, health as well as industry, commerce, tourism, trade and environment. The total monetary value of the

damage and losses caused by Typhoon Haima were estimated to be 353,030 million kip (USD 44,128,726) and 177,446 million kip (USD 22,180,798) respectively. Overall value of the medium- and long-term needs add up to 567 billion kip (USD 70,000,000).



A damaged gravity-fed water supply system in Xiengkhuang province