



CENTER FOR WATER AND SANITATION

CWAS CENTER FOR WATER AND SANITATION

CRDF CEPT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

CEPT UNIVERSITY

“To be a leader in transforming governance and monitoring systems for safe and equitable water and sanitation services at scale.”

India’s urban population will be 600 million by 2031. A report by the Niti Aayog says that 20 large cities will face water crisis soon. It is also estimated that 70% of urban India’s sewage remains untreated; becoming the biggest source of water pollution in India. To address such issues, Urban Local Bodies in India have limited capacities to create and implement WASH strategies or plans.

The Center for Water and Sanitation undertakes research, implementation support and capacity building initiatives in the field of urban water and sanitation. Acting as a thought catalyst and facilitator, CWAS works closely at city, state and national levels to support governments in policy, monitoring and delivering water and sanitation services in an efficient, effective and equitable manner.

The Center was established in 2009 with a pioneering project of performance assessment system (PAS) of water and sanitation service delivery in Indian cities. It now covers over 1000 cities across India, enabling informed policy decisions and improvement plans. Recent work of CWAS includes support to the Government of Maharashtra in implementing sanitation and Faecal Sludge and Septage Management. It also supports city governments to plan for water security and the entire WASH service chain including safe management of waste-water.



Geographies: Urban India, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Assam



Outreach: 1000+ cities across 6 states, 160 Million urban population



HQ
Ahmedabad, Gujarat



Leadership
Prof. Meera Mehta
Prof. Dinesh Mehta



Staff
40+

CORE VALUES



Public Goods Mindset



Action-oriented Research and Innovation



Learning Culture Academic Roots



Working at scale

CWAS TIMELINE

2008-11

- Performance Assessment System (PAS) Project initiated
- Online platform set up

2011-13

- Research on supporting cities with ODF
- Imitated work with cities of Wai and Sinnar, Maharashtra

2013-15

- Support to Swachh Maharashtra Mission to make urban Maharashtra ODF
- PAS in 900 cities 5 states

2015-19

- CWAS formally established and housed under CRDF
- CWAS joins the steering committee of NFSSM Alliance
- Partnership with Smart Cities Mission

2020-21

- Support to Jal Jeevan Mission
- Set up WASH Governance Hub with SIWI, Sweden, NIUA
- Partnership with City Finance Portal for SLBs

THEMES AND AREAS OF WORK



Service Level Benchmarking (PAS):
Online platform and tools for improving information quality in cities at scale



Supporting Sanitation Action and Research:
Implementation support for ODF, ODF+, ODF++ plans



Urban Governance and Financing:
Strengthening municipal finance and governance, Innovative finance options



Water Security
Documentation and support for water management practices and developing toolkits



Equity in services
Ensuring sustainable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation services at scale

IMPACT AND RECOGNITION

- PAS Platform used in 1000+ cities and integrated in MoHUA's AMPLIFI portal
- Supported 70+ cities in Gujarat and Maharashtra for improvement plans
- Wai and Sinnar cities certified ODF++ with over 8 years of engagement
- Support to Government of Maharashtra to be in the top 3 cleanest states under Swachh Sarvekshan 2018-21, 150 cities in Maharashtra certified ODF++, 100 more ODF+. All 384 cities became ODF in 2017
- 150+ FSTPs developed across Maharashtra, 70+ cities co-treating septage
- President of India felicitated CWAS team for its contribution to Swachh Maharashtra Mission (Oct 2017)
- Recognition from ISC-FICCI for "Best Non-Profit Engagement" for City and State level sanitation work (Apr 2018)

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