

# Imperatives of Building Inclusive Cities

*Tuesday, September 28, 2021 | 11:30 AM (IST)*

The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a call to countries globally to undertake measures and policies to inch closer to achieving the SDGs. With just ten years to go, the work left to realise is massive. However, thanks to widespread IEC activities, countries have finally understood that climate change and global warming cannot be reversed without local action to achieve the SDGs. It is also crucial that cities do not leave anyone behind while working towards achieving these goals. For this, cities will have to become inclusive.

The COVID-19 Pandemic is being considered by many as a lesson for policymakers and world leaders. The transmissibility of the disease has made it immensely clear that without ensuring universal access to basic civic services for all, no one can be considered safe. These primarily include water, sanitation and health services.

Many cities in India and South Asia worked towards making the delivery of basic services inclusive. For example, in India, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) did notable work in Asia's largest slum, Dharavi that recorded one of the highest COVID-19 caseloads. According to epidemiologists working at the Indian Council of Medical Research, the swift response of the urban local body in Dharavi helped avoid the situation from deteriorating beyond control. There are several such case studies from cities where the inclusive approach of local governments helped contain the spread during the Pandemic.

On the larger spectrum, urban development at large also cannot be successful without factoring in inclusivity. For example, suppose a city continues to grow without caring for the economically weaker sections of society. In that case, the resultant development will be short-lived and hollow and promote further economic and social divisions in society. The same can be said for the work done concerning the SDGs, keeping in mind that the people with the least contribution to climate change and global warming are the most vulnerable to their effects and that everyone is at risk from the global issues. Not just that, cities will have to keep in mind the interests of every section of the urban community, including children, differently-abled, senior citizens, women and the poor.

To discuss how cities can come together to build inclusive cities to achieve the SDGs, prevent future pandemics, and battle climate change and global warming, **All India Institute of Local Self-Government**, in collaboration with **CityNet**, organised the **fourth** webinar in a series of monthly webinars on 'Localising SDGs' on the topic '**Imperatives of Building Inclusive Cities**' on **Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 11:30 AM (IST)**. Foundation EMDA Southasia, Renewable Energy Mart, and 3R Waste Foundation are the supporting partners.