



CONCEPT NOTE

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
reimagining
INCLUSIVE CITIES
IN THE COVID-19 ERA

Dates
20, 22, 24 September, 2021

Time
16:30 (IST)

Online via zoom
<https://bit.ly/2WDLgXP>

Background and Context

In 2018, 55% of the world's population resided in urban areas and was projected to increase to 68% by 2050. Today, the most urbanised regions include Northern America (with 82 per cent of its population living in urban areas in 2018), Latin America and the Caribbean (81%), Europe (74%) and Oceania (68%). Although the level of urbanisation in Asia and Africa is relatively low, 50% and 43%, respectively, these regions are expected to contribute substantially to the urban population of the world and shall account for 86% of growth in the world's urban population over the next four decades. (World Urbanization prospects, 2018). Further, this projected increase in the urban population of Asia and Africa is also estimated to be accompanied by a sustained increase in the working-age population. This creates a window of opportunity that can translate into higher growth and yield a demographic dividend if appropriately harnessed and emphasises the importance of ensuring inclusive development, providing equal social and economic opportunities to all.

India's urban population increased from 285 million in 2001 to 377 million in 2011, creating a massive demand for developed land, housing supply, social and physical infrastructural services. Given unresponsive city governments, there has been a formation and continuous expansion of informal settlements.¹ Including slums and squatter settlements that limit their inhabitants from attaining a better quality of life in the cities. As per Census 2011, there were 108,000 slums in India, with about 13.75 million households (17% of total urban households) that occupy less than 5% of the total spatial area. Further, India accounted for 63% of the total slum population in the Central and Southern Asia region as of 2020 (UN-Habitat, 2020). Increased mobility and migration characterise the Indian economy, and as per Government of India statistics, the unorganised sector contributes almost 50% of the total GDP. However, these informal workers often start by residing in poorly serviced informal settlements with no security of tenure and have a precarious livelihood.

¹ As per UN-HABITAT, informal settlements are defined as Areas where groups of housing units have been constructed on land that the occupants have no legal claim to or occupy illegally; unplanned settlements and areas are where housing is not in compliance with current planning and building regulations (unauthorised housing).

In the current scenario, dilapidated buildings, overcrowding, lack of ventilation, light, water and sanitation facilities are key factors in unhealthy and unsafe living in slums and informal settlements that have also intensified the risk of COVID-19 in these neighbourhoods. A study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) revealed that the risk of COVID-19 spread in urban slums in India was 1.89 times higher in comparison to rural areas (ICMR, 2020)². Also, it is evident that residents of informal settlements emerge as productive agents in the urban economy, in contrast to the general notion that this section of the population is a "burden on the city". Hence, while the phenomenon of informal settlements has been concomitant to increasing urbanisation, the COVID-19 pandemic has further underscored the need for a more robust and immediate solution to address the challenges keeping the urban poor at the centre.

Besides introducing numerous schemes to benefit the urban poor, India is also committed to achieving international benchmarks as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and has launched various policies and programmes to improve the quality of life in urban areas, such as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart Cities Mission (SCM); Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), among others. Another key urban mission, namely, the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U), was launched in 2015 for the urban poor to enable access to safe and affordable housing equipped with basic civic facilities. The most recent, the Affordable

Past Collaborative Efforts in Partnership with CPR and GIZ

In 2018, CPR and GIZ organised a 2-day International Symposium titled "Reimagining Inclusive Cities". The Symposium provided a platform that converged global knowledge and experiences to facilitate the ongoing dialogue to strengthen the existing policies related to land and housing, and to promote knowledge sharing across cities and states. This international symposium brought together a wider set of interested partners with the intention that this event would lead to further regular discussions on inclusive urbanisation in India. Also, in 2020, a Policy Lab series on "Addressing the Housing Vulnerabilities for Migrants" was organised in partnership with Cities Alliance, GIZ India, World Bank, Habitat for Humanity and Human Settlement Management Institute, HUDCO. Keeping the COVID-19 crisis and the mass exodus of informal workers, it discussed the present state of rental housing in India, the potential of the newly launched ARHC scheme, and the framework that would be required to sustain this initiative in the long run. Researchers and practitioners from across the world convened for the policy lab series to address the following topics:

1. *Policy & Legal Framework for Enabling Rental Housing²*
2. *Government-Led Rental Housing Model: Options and Challenges³*
3. *Private Sector-Led Greenfield Investments in Rental Housing⁴.*
4. *Redefining "Private" to Include Affordable Rental Housing Providers for the Poor: International and National Lessons⁵.*

¹ https://urban-industrial.in/hrdpmp/igep-uid/content/e8800/e9044/e10743/e10744/e10764/2018_InternationalSymposium_Re-imaginingInclusiveCities_Proceedings.pdf

² <https://www.cprindia.org/events/9189>

³ <https://www.cprindia.org/events/9277>

⁴ <https://www.cprindia.org/events/9338>

⁵ <https://www.cprindia.org/events/9380>

Rental Housing Complex (ARHC) Scheme for migrant workers and urban poor, was launched by

² <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1630922>

the Govt. of India in July 2020 as part of the PMAY to address out-migration of the workforce induced by the COVID19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdowns.

While various policies and urban planning regulations have acknowledged the importance of adequate housing and basic services for the urban poor as an important agenda towards the achievement of SDG 11 and the NUA, this remains a distant dream for a large section of the urban poor population who currently reside in precarious conditions. In addition to this, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has emphasised that the absence of long-term mitigatory measures which foster inclusive and sustainable cities will further marginalise a large section of the urban population throughout the country.

Despite the multiple challenges caused by the ongoing pandemic, it presents a unique opportunity for the urban leaders to learn from this crisis to build long-term societal, economic and environmental resilience against recurring natural and manmade disasters. As urban areas emerged at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has also reinvigorated the need for “Reimagining Inclusive Cities in the COVID-19 Era”. Furthermore, the mass exodus of migrant workers from the cities, the colossal rampage caused by the second wave of the pandemic in April-May 2021 and the grave economic losses borne by the country indicate the need to safeguard the cities, especially for marginalised communities.

There is an imminent need to develop disaster-resilient city planning and management framework to tackle similar situations by adopting practices that overhaul unsustainable urban development, mitigate hazards, and adequately resolve social inequalities. Accordingly, the response, recovery, resilience and mitigation strategies should prioritise equitable access to adequate housing, basic civic services, sustainable livelihood opportunities and health infrastructure by integrating the poor urban settlements into the city value chain. Against this background, it is important to discuss the national and international practices that have provided affordable housing and basic services for ensuring resilience and sustainability at scale for slums/informal settlements as part of the agenda of building inclusive cities.

Objectives of the International Symposium

With the aim of “**Reimagining Inclusive Cities in Post Covid Era**” in the wake of a global pandemic, a group of organisations having a shared vision including **Cities Alliance (CA)**, **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH India**, **Habitat for Humanity (HfH)**, **World Bank (WB)**, **Human Settlement Management Institute (HSMI) of Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO)**, **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** and **Scaling City Institutions for India (SCI-FI) at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR)** is organising a 3-day online International Symposium to facilitate discourse on the present state of informal settlements in India vis-à-vis the regulatory, legal, financial and planning interventions required in the long-run to achieve resilient and inclusive cities. The symposium will focus on learning from the global experiences and influence the ongoing housing

and land policies towards achieving NUA and SDGs, keeping the urban poor at the centre. The objectives of the symposium are:

- To discuss the challenges and vulnerabilities of the informal settlements, especially in the context of the pandemic;
- To mainstream centrality of building city resilience, including sustainable livelihoods in urban development, especially to mitigate future disasters like the COVID-19.
- To learn lessons from select projects and interventions in the past that have enabled the cities to manage the ongoing COVID-19 crisis effectively. Such learnings³ from across the world can inform current efforts towards inclusive cities.
- To build capacities through a community of research and practice on building inclusive cities, including engagement of NGOs and CBOs.

3-Day Structure of the International Symposium

The 3-day International Symposium will be organised at alternate days over a period of one week, with each day entailing deliberations on specific themes for inclusive settlements. Each day will include presentations of national and international case studies, followed by a panel discussion between experts and practitioners. The themes for the sessions are as follows:

Day 1: Responsive urban planning framework towards building equitable and inclusive cities in the wake of Covid-19

Day 2: Upgrading informal settlements to foster resilient cities against future pandemics

Day 3: Ensuring integration of informal economy in to city value chain to combat economic adversities in the event of pandemic

Expected Participants

The primary audience of the symposium are thought leaders and policymakers from the central, state and local governments of India tasked with housing and urban land-related programmes. The symposium will also benefit from participating in research institutions, civil society organisations, the private sector (developers, promoters, construction firms, investors, property managers, etc.) and academia. Targeted participants for each session of the symposium are detailed below:

Theme	Targeted Participants
1. Responsive urban planning framework towards building equitable and inclusive cities in the wake of Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Government: MoHUA, (Smart City Division: upcoming framework for estimating city GDP – 8 pilot cities involved will be invited), TCPO, housing division • State Governments: Punjab, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Chhattisgarh

³ <https://scifi.cprindia.org/resources/re-form-lessons-urban-governance-futures-pandemic>

Theme	Targeted Participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development partners: FCDO, ON, etc • Think Tank Institutions/academicians • Planning schools- SPA, Delhi • Civil Society Organizations
<p>2. <i>Upgrading informal settlements/ Slums to foster resilient cities against future pandemics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Government: MoHUA (PMAY Division), NDMA • State Governments: Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra • Parastatals • Development partners: Tata Trusts, FCDO, etc • Think Tank Institutions/academicians • Civil Society Organizations
<p>3. <i>Ensuring integration of informal economy in to city value chain to combat economic adversities in the event of pandemic</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Government: National Housing Bank, MoHUA (PMAY Division) Niti Aayog, national skilling mission • Housing Finance Institutions: SEWA, HDFC, MHFC, etc • Development Partners • Civil Society Organizations • Private sector including start-ups

Agenda

Responsive Urban Planning Framework towards Building Equitable and Inclusive Cities in the wake of Covid-19

Date 20 September, 2021	Time 16:30 (IST)	Online via zoom https://bit.ly/2WDLgxP
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Time	Thematic Area	Speaker
Session I & II Moderated by: Yan F. Zhang, Senior Urban Economist, World Bank		
I. Inaugural session		
16:30 – 16:40	Opening remarks & setting the context	Shubhagato Dasgupta Senior Fellow, CPR
16:40 – 17:00	Address	David Satterwaite Senior Fellow, IIED
II. National and International Experience		
<i>This session will lay out various relevant country experiences in building equitable and inclusive cities through innovative urban planning tools including data management and legal frameworks. It will discuss the adaption of various countries to the changing urban paradigm in the wake of COVID-19 and their subsequent creation of inclusive cities with special focus on the informal settlements.</i>		
17:00 – 17:15	City statute 2001, São Paulo The 2002 and 2014 Strategic Master Plans for the City of São Paulo and the Land Use Law 13,885 of 2004, both based on the federal Urban Development Act approved in 2001 also known as the city statute, introduced a strong participatory governance, a robust mechanism of Urban Land Value Capture and set up the Special Zones of Social Interest (ZEIS). These tools, utilized together, enabled the municipality to improve land management efficiency, promote socially desirable outcomes and increased revenues.	Fernando Mello Franco Former Joint Secretary of Urban Planning, City of São Paulo
17:15 – 17:30	Case of Johannesburg The Spatial Development Framework 2040 (SDF) for Johannesburg is a metro-wide spatial policy document that seeks to address issues of Increasing pressure on the natural environment,	TBC

Time	Thematic Area	Speaker
	spatial inequalities and the job-housing mismatch, exclusion and disconnection and inefficient residential densities and land use diversity.	
17:30 – 17:50	<p>Slum Rehabilitation Scheme, Mumbai, India</p> <p>Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA), Mumbai serves as Planning Authority for all Slum areas in the jurisdiction of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. The Government of Maharashtra launched a comprehensive slum rehabilitation scheme by introducing an innovative concept of using land as a resource and allowing incentive floor space index (FSI) in the form of tenements for sale in the open market, for cross-subsidization of the slum rehabilitation tenements which are to be provided free to the slum-dwellers.</p>	<p>Vidyadhar Phatak Former head of the Planning Division, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)</p>
17:50 – 17:55	Moderated Q & A	
17:55 – 18:55	<p>III. Panel Discussion</p> <p>Moderated by: Aparna Das, Senior Advisor, GIZ</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Rabley, Venture Partner, Global Property Rights Portfolio, The Omidyar Network (<i>tbc</i>) Georg Jahnsen, Project Manager, SUD-SC, GIZ Hong Soo Lee, Senior Urban Specialist (Smart Cities), Urban Sector Group, SDCC, ADB Jane Weru, Executive Director, Akiba Mashinani Trust (AMT), Nairobi Tereza Herling, Urban and Housing Specialist, Academic at Mackenzie University's Architecture and Urbanism School 	
	Moderated Q&A	
18:55 – 19:00	Summary of the session & Closing Remarks	<p>Rebecca Ochong Senior Manager, Habitat for Humanity International</p>

Agenda

Upgrading Informal Settlements to Foster Resilient Cities against Future Pandemics

Dates
22 September, 2021

Time
16:30 (IST)

Online via zoom
<https://bit.ly/2WDLgXP>

Time	Thematic Area	Speaker
16:30-16:35	Opening remarks	Ana Claudia Marinheiro Centeno Rossbach, Regional Manager LAC, Cities Alliance
<p>I. National and International Experience</p> <p>Moderated by: Ana Claudia Marinheiro Centeno Rossbach, Regional Manager LAC, Cities Alliance</p> <p><i>This session will lay out various relevant country experiences in fostering resilient cities, through upgradation of informal settlement. It will discuss the adaption of various countries to the changing urban paradigm and their process of rolling out upgradation programmes, to reduce vulnerability from any future health crisis.</i></p>		
16:35 – 16:55	<p>Participatory Slum Upgradation and Delisting, JAGA Mission, Odisha, India</p> <p>With the launch of Odisha Land Rights to Slum Dwellers Act and Jaga Mission during 2017-18, the government recognised the collective responsibility of improving the quality of life of the slum dwellers by ensuring integrated and planned growth of the cities with adequate infrastructure and services. It prioritised in situ ‘Slum Upgradation and Delisting’ through creation of necessary basic civic infrastructure and bringing the tenable slums at par with the rest of the city.</p>	G. Mathi Vathanan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD), Govt of Odisha
16:55 – 17:10	<p>Chief Minister’s Slum Development Programme ‘BASERA’, Punjab, India</p> <p>This programme envisages a “slum-free Punjab” with inclusive and equitable cities, in which every citizen has access to basic civic services, social amenities and land rights.</p>	Ajoy Sharma, IAS, CEO, Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Company (PMIDC), Govt. of Punjab
17:10 – 17:20	Moderated Q & A	

Time	Thematic Area	Speaker
17:20 – 17:35	<p>National Slum Upgrading Project, Indonesia</p> <p>The development objective of the National Slum Upgrading Project for Indonesia is to improve access to urban infrastructure and services and to reconstruct and strengthen public facilities and settlements in selected disaster-affected areas. The project components include institutional and policy development, integrated planning support and capacity building for Local Governments and Communities, urban infrastructure and services investment support.</p>	<p>Tri Dewi Virgiyanti, Director Housing and Settlement at Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Agency of Republic, Indonesia</p>
17:35 – 17:50	<p>Informal Settlement Upgrading in Durban</p> <p>eThekwini adopted a city-wide, more cost-effective upgrading programme with a focus on providing basic infrastructure like water, sanitation, and electricity rather than investing all of the departmental budget in housing units. A social component was also established guaranteeing partnerships with CBOs for capturing information, planning and implementation of the programme.</p>	<p>Faizal Seedat Senior Manager Planning, Human Settlements Unit, eThekwini Municipality, Durban</p>
17:50 – 18:55	<p>II. Panel Discussion</p> <p>Moderated by: Ajay Suri, Senior Adviser - Inclusive Development, NIUA, India</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Faizal Seedat, Senior Manager Planning, Human Settlements Unit, eThekwini Municipality, Durban Tri Dewi Virgiyanti, Director Housing and Settlement at Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Agency of Republic, Indonesia Renu Khosla, Director, CURE Frank Samol, Senior Project Manager, GIZ Marion Rono, Director of Housing- Nairobi Metropolitan Services, Nairobi City County Shubhagato Dasgupta, Senior Fellow, CPR <p>Moderated Q&A</p>	
18:55 – 19:00	<p>Summary & Closing Remarks</p>	<p>Na Won Kim, Senior Urban Development Specialist, ADB (<i>tbc</i>)</p>

Agenda

Ensuring Integration of Informal Economy in to City Value Chain to Combat Economic Adversities in the Event of Pandemic

Dates
24 September, 2021

Time
16:30 (IST)

Online via zoom
<https://bit.ly/2WDLgXP>

Time	Thematic Area	Speaker
16:30 -16:35	Opening Remarks	Anindita Mukherjee , Senior Researcher, CPR
I. National and International Experience		
Moderated by: Anindita Mukherjee , Senior Researcher, CPR		
<i>This session will lay out various relevant country experiences in enabling financial inclusion, by recognising the informal workers and integration of informal economy into the city value chain. It will discuss the experiences and importance of various interventions in the aspect of livelihood, access to finance and income generation to achieve economic resilience, as is highlighted during this ongoing pandemic.</i>		
16:35 – 16:50	Integrated Slum Upgrading Program of Medellin, Colombia The program intended to generate a culture of partnership in which the community took charge of the future and continued the work on its own and through ensuing partnerships with government and others. The project was financed with a soft loan from the Bank of Development and Reconstruction of Germany (KfW) and a mix of national and local funds.	Jorge Pérez-Jaramillo Senior Consultant, World Bank
16:50 – 17:05	Community Mortgage Programme (CMP), the Philippines The Community Mortgage Programme (CMP) is a housing finance programme in the Philippines that allows poor families and households living on public and private lands without security of tenure to have access to affordable housing.	Maria Ana R. Oliveros Former President, Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC)
17:05 – 17:20	Socio-Urban Integration Fund (FISU), Argentina The Socio-Urban Integration Fund is a national financial scheme set up to provide the assets needed for the comprehensive upgrading of informal settlements across the nation in	Fernanda Garcia Monticelli Subsecretary of Land Management and Neighbourhood Services, Socio-Urban Integration Secretariat, Argentina

Time	Thematic Area	Speaker
	Argentina. As an instrument of blended finance, it provides a sustainable mechanism for funding comprehensive upgrading projects, with a clear focus on human rights and accessibility to social services and infrastructure (sewage, drainage, street, electric connections).	
17:20 – 17:30	Moderated Q&A	
17:30 – 18:50	II. Panel Discussion Moderated by: Lara Shankar Chandra , Director - Strategy, Advocacy & Partnerships, Habitat for Humanity India	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kulasekhara Chakravarthy, General Manager, National Housing Bank (<i>tbc</i>) 2. Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity, India 3. P Jayapal, Former Senior Executive Director, HUDCO 4. Amita Bhide, Professor, School of Habitat Studies, Centre for Environmental Health, TISS 5. P Satish, Executive Director, Sa-Dhan 	
	Moderated Q&A	
18:50-19:00	Closing remarks and Summary of conference, suggestions and way forward	Akshaya Sen Joint General Manager, HUDCO
