



## SMART CITIES PRINCIPLES

India is witnessing rapid urbanisation adding to the complex environmental and social challenges that cities are facing already. By 2030, India's urban population will reach 600 million people from what was around 377 million in 2011. This means that almost 40 per cent of population will be living in urban areas by then. Rapid urbanisation adds to existing challenges such as providing adequate living space and basic services like drinking water, sanitation, drainage, and waste management; building sustainable transportation and mobility systems and reducing the negative environmental and climate impact of cities.

### SUID Cluster Vision and Objective

GIZ India's Sustainable Urban and Industrial Development (SUID) Cluster has the vision to create a liveable, inclusive, and sustainable urban India. Through our projects, we capacitate people and organizations to promote cleaner, inclusive, climate-friendly and resilient urban and industrial areas and integrated river basin management. The SUID cluster responds directly to the environmental and social challenges facing India today:

- Environmental degradation and increased greenhouse gas emissions due to population growth and urbanisation and industrialisation

- Poverty and social exclusion, which remain despite the country's rapid economic growth

SUID's overall aim is hence to help making cities cleaner, more liveable and inclusive, and to enable India's growing industrial sector to thrive while minimising adverse environmental impact. Through more than 14 projects, the cluster supports the German and Indian Government in their agenda towards strengthening „Smart Cities“ in India to achieve its national programmes and missions. One of them is the Smart Cities Mission (2015) with the vision to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling local area development and harnessing technology, especially technology that leads to Smart outcomes.

### THE NEED FOR SMART CITIES PRINCIPLES

While the 'Smart Cities' concept draws attention by governments, corporates, innovators, and civil society stakeholders globally, there is currently no single definition of 'Smart Cities'. There is hence a need for a common language and a set of principles that guide our work around "Smart Cities" in India and reduce ambiguity, improves clarity, create transparency and alignment and support decision making.

## THE SMART CITIES PRINCIPLES

The Smart Cities Principles act like a compass and provide a set of considerations we at GIZ India consider when designing, planning, and implementing projects in the area of ‘Smart Cities’. They have been created in a participatory process through involvement of different teams in our cluster. The starting point for our work is the New Urban Agenda (NUA) as well as the definition by the Government of India: According to the latter, a “Smart City it is a city, which is liveable, sustainable and has a thriving economy offering multiple opportunities to its people to pursue their diverse interests”. While we work on a range of projects with different objectives to support the “Smart Cities Agenda”, there is a set of principles that we follow:

- 1. We see the citizen in the center:** We aim to enhance citizen participation in decision-making and strengthen participatory co-creation processes to develop smart cities solutions.
- 2. We promote access and inclusivity:** We promote equal and fair access to services and infrastructure that leaves no one behind. Our aim is to make sure ‘smart’ urban development does not exclude or have negative impacts on the poorest of society. This also implies working to bridge the ‘digital divide’ among all citizens.
- 3. We view technology as an enabler:** We recognise the potential of technology for solving complex challenges at city level., especially to foster participation and local democratic processes and improve service delivery to citizens. We help upgrading cities through more resource efficient., clean, and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes. Complementing technology interventions, we see the need to develop social systems and business models around technologies as a precondition to lasting change and impact at scale
- 4. We develop local solutions:** We do not believe in “one-size-fits all” answers but work with partners to develop local and contextualized solutions. While developing those, we aim to apply participatory human- and citizen-centered approaches. We are mindful that ‘smart’ urban development does not eliminate or harm well-functioning and accepted local models or systems.
- 5. We strengthen capacities to drive change:** We support institution building and work with public and private organizations in cities to drive

and integrate change processes and become owners of the transformation towards smart and sustainable cities. This includes strengthening good governance of institutions at the different levels.

- 6. We follow a systemic approach:** We follow an integrated and holistic approach to sustainable cities. Our work aims to strengthen the cooperation system involved in the creation of sustainable cities, which includes citizens (micro level), organizations (meso level), and the broader framework conditions and ecosystem (macro level). Through our work, we aim to improve the cooperation between the different parts of the system, for example between individual municipalities and its citizens or different government departments. Our approach also includes transfer knowledge at national, state, municipal and community level
- 7. We are guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** All our work aims to make measurable progress towards achieving the SDGs, especially SDG 11 ‘Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable’. In addition, many of our projects contribute to the following highlighted goals:



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