



**Project Sammaan**  
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## PROJECT OVERVIEW

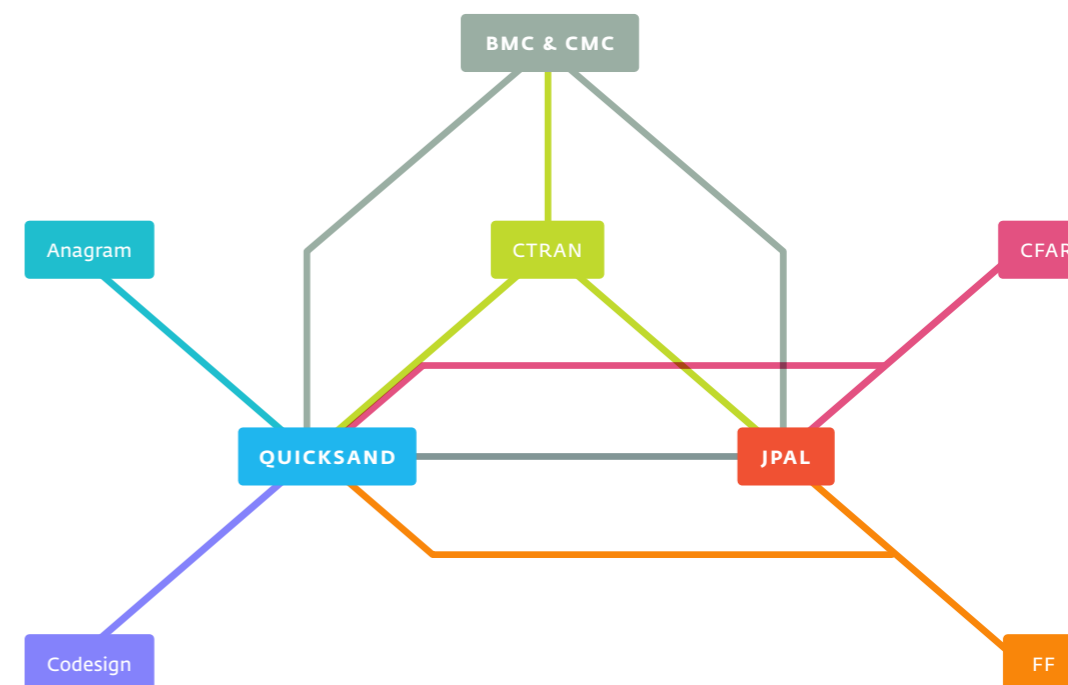
Project Sammaan is an urban sanitation initiative dedicated to redesigning and improving facilities for slum communities across India. The initiative is being piloted in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack with the aim to replicate it in other cities, if successful.

The objective is to rethink the current models of sanitation facilities and design a new programmatic infrastructure and physical structure that instills a sense of dignity while addressing issues affecting sanitation practices in India and encouraging community members to stop defecating in the open.

Over 100 of the re imagined facilities will be built and a dedicated research team will analyze the qualitative and quantitative impact they have on the communities in which they're built. The results of this intensive research will be shared in an open-sourced toolkit that will allow for replication in cities across India and beyond.

Project Sammaan was born out of the research conducted for the Potty Project, an in-depth design research study focused on all aspects of the current sanitation models employed in urban slum communities throughout India.

## PARTNERS





The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) is a network of 70 affiliated professors around the world who are united by their use of Randomized Evaluations (REs) to answer questions critical to poverty alleviation. J-PAL's mission is to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is based on scientific evidence.

J-PAL is the primary grantee and the project's principal investigators and are designing and conducting the monitoring and evaluation for the facilities:

- » Business model development
- » Operations and Maintenance modelling
- » Project evaluation



A multi-disciplinary innovation consultancy that places user-centered design principles at the core of every innovation effort. The studio has successfully delivered on several new services, products, brands and developmental strategies, creating both measurable social and business impact.

Quicksand is responsible for project management as well as anchoring the hardware design process for the project:

- » User-experience research and corresponding hardware design
- » Design, branding and communication project management
- » Project toolkit and website development



CTRAN Consulting Manages large, complex development projects, providing the right mix of program management and technical assistance.

They are the one-point contact for interfacing with various government agencies:

- » Establish a Project Management Office within the two municipal corporations to ensure continued, and future, use and grievance redressal of the facilities
- » Facilitate meetings with government representatives
- » Assist in land approval process
- » Set up and operate the help line that ensures proper functioning of the facilities



The community engagement entity of Feedback Infrastructure Services Private Limited, which assesses, administers and advocates for community engagement in development projects. FF works closely with the four key proponents of development projects: Government, Corporates, Multilateral Agencies, and International NGOs.

They are the main project managers for on-field activities:

- » Land surveying and approvals
- » Demand generation
- » Tendering
- » Facility construction management



The municipal corporations of the pilot cities Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. These entities are tasked with providing services in sectors such as Health & Sanitation, Slum Development, Urban Planning, and Waste Management to improve the quality of life of their respective citizenries.

The local municipal corporations are key partners in the project and aid in the facilitation of its various components:

- » Provide funding for construction and infrastructure
- » Site selection assistance
- » Identify contractors for construction
- » Ensure regular water, electricity, and sewerage facilities for the toilets
- » Manage sewerage and waste treatment systems
- » Oversee functioning of facilities through a PMO until capacity-building with the BMC is complete
- » Provision of temporary sanitation facilities
- » Ensuring long-term sustainability of the project



The Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) is an Indian organization committed to working and partnering with marginal communities. It has expertise in conducting research, process documentation, capacity building and strengthening advocacy by leveraging media and networking to shape and impact policy issues related to urban poor.

CFAR is actively involved in facilitating community interactions in the field:

- » Social mapping of each slum
- » Community engagement and dialogue during design and construction phases
- » Facility management training for community members

## CODESIGN

A brand and communication design studio whose expertise lies in bridging the gap between product and service offerings and what end-users really care about, with communication that is meaningful and relevant.

Codesign is the communication and brand consultant for Project Sammaan.

- » Ensure facility related branding and communication is contextually relevant and encourages behaviour change and adoption
- » Develop the facility identity and corresponding collateral that promotes larger goals of sanitation and health for better life
- » Creating facility signage that is functional and facilitates access and experience

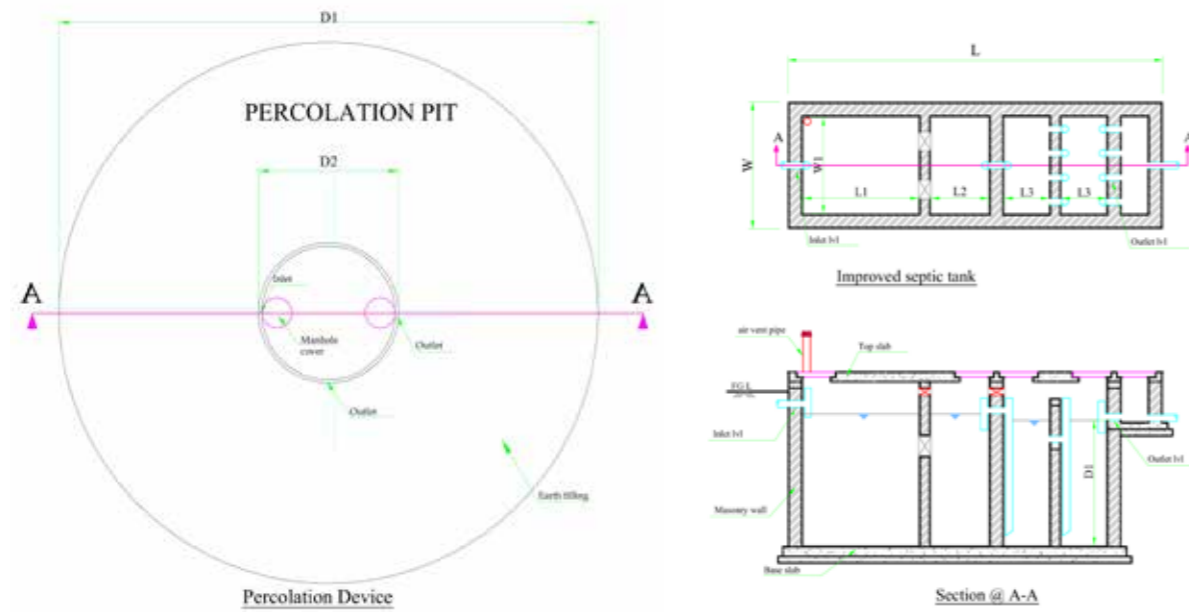


An award-winning consultancy internationally recognized as amongst the top emerging practices in the world with a commitment towards delivering innovative, context specific designs that encourage sustainable lifestyles. Anagram Architects is a full spectrum spatial design consultancy firm that offers expertise in urbanism, architecture, interior design, and research.

They are leading the architectural design of the 119 facilities:

- » Provide site-specific architectural designs
- » Consult on waste management issues
- » Oversee facility construction

## FEATURES: challenges



### 1. Sewerage

Sewage management systems are a necessary part of the sanitation puzzle and potentially a big failure point from a public health perspective. From a government perspective, scale of solution is an imperative. Existing statutes and cost constraints make it extremely difficult to experiment with new, untested technologies.

As such, waste management is a key component to Project Sammaan as shortcomings in this have frequently been the cause of failures in other facilities and improper storage and disposal of waste could lead to worsening present conditions and not improving them. Experts in this field are working with the project partners to identify the most effective technologies available, and to create an overall sewerage strategy to ensure long-term sustainability of the facilities.

The Project Sammaan municipalities present unique challenges given they either have limited (Bhubaneswar) or nonexistent (Cuttack) sewage networks. This means that there needs to be proper waste management systems at the facility level that provide both storage and treatment. These systems will also need to be flexible enough to allow for the facilities to be tied into a centralized sewage network upon its construction and completion.



### 2. Complex multi-stakeholder engagement

For a large infrastructure project of this nature, multiple stakeholders are a given. Within this dynamic there is an overall project objective, but also individual organizational goals that also need to be taken into consideration and addressed. At times, these individual mandates can conflict with the project's overall goals with one team's workstream impacted by the needs of another's.

An example of this can be found in the innovation and design mandates. Imperative for some of the partners, these directives require considerable and conscientious ideation. This alone can be seen by stakeholders with limited understanding of the complexities and intricacies of design innovation as a delay. Add in the fact that creating something new and different means there is no true baseline for comparison, and processes like tendering become that much more complicated and can lead some to question the need for such layers of innovation.

Additionally, public accountability is of paramount concern to the city government anchoring this project. The innovation mandate is therefore severely bounded and has to be located on the side of caution or "reasonable risk".

These competing interests puts the onus on effective and clear communication amongst partners to ensure that all partners understand the importance of each activity and how each ties into the overall project.

## FEATURES: challenges



### 3. Financial constraints

To work within government frameworks implies that each toilet has to adhere to stringent benchmarks in place for standard public and community toilets. Most existing facilities built under these benchmarks are known to be a failure. Therefore the Project Sammaan facilities must not only adhere to this costing model, but to build a facility that will also be a successful, long-term solution while doing so.



### 4. Prototyping at scale

Project Sammaan's long-term goal is to create a replicable, successful sanitation model that can be adapted by cities throughout South Asia and beyond.

In order to quantify the impact of this initiative, rigorous evaluation needs to occur. However, the methodology of this assessment requires a considerable sample size, meaning that the interventions, irrespective of their success rates, will be rolled out on a massive scale. It's not merely one or two facilities, but well over 100 in dozens of communities; a considerable footprint to be certain.

This scaling-up competes with government accountability of providing basic sanitation to all its citizens. The active participation of partners at the BMC and CMC reaffirms their commitment to not just provide more toilets, but better ones.

# VOX POPULI



On a recent trip to Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, members of the Project Sammaan team from Quicksand and CFAR visited slums with the intention of recording a series of interviews with community members. These conversations are part of an initiative to build off of the user-experience theme that governed Potty Project in the past and guides Project Sammaan both today and going forward.

Whereas previous visits to these communities and interactions with those living within them were focused around gaining insights that will help drive specific aspects of Project Sammaan, these visits were intentionally devoid of such parameters. These conversations were intended to afford people a platform in which they could share thoughts and opinions on their daily lives, their communities, and their aspirations for the future.

The interview guide for these visits reflects this, with only a handful of basic questions being asked:

- What is your name?
- How long have you lived in this community?
- Are you originally from Bhubaneswar / Cuttack? If not, where did you migrate from?
- How many people live in this community?
- How many people in your family?
- What is it like living here?
- What sort of jobs do people in this community do?
- What are some of the challenges faced by this community?
- What is the sanitation situation like in this community?
- What are your aspirational goals/hopes for the future?
- What does the term "better health and living" mean to you?
- What do you most like / dislike about your slum?
- Please share anything else you would like to about life in this community.

The interviews are being transcribed into Oriya, and a short video is currently in production, to share these "voice of the people" segments. However, in the meantime, we felt it valuable to share some highlights from these conversations ►



## Sarojini Majhi

Her family cannot afford to live outside the slum, which would mean paying rent in the Rs. 3,000 - 5,000 per month range; living in the slum allows them to be free from the pressure of paying rent to a landlord. However, that is really the only advantage. The slum is not planned, so it is haphazardly organized, there is no drainage system creating unhygienic conditions, and it is very difficult to construct a personal toilet due to spatial and financial constraints.

This last point is especially poignant as the community toilet is frequently in disrepair or in poor condition in terms of cleanliness. Additionally, due to the growth of the community and neighboring properties, the fields that were once used for open-defecation either no longer exist or are no longer an option to use.

**ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ** ତୁମେ ଏହି ବସ୍ତିରେ ରହିବାରେ ତୁମ ଜୀବନର ସବୁଠାରୁ ଭଲ ଓ ଖରାପ ଅନୁଭୂତିଗୁଡ଼ିକ କଣ ?  
**ଉତ୍ତର** ମୋ ଜୀବନର ଭଲ ଅନୁଭୂତି ହେଲା ମତେ ଖୁସି ଲାଗୁଛି ଯେ ମୋର ବଡ଼ପୁଅ DANCER ଓ ସାନପୁଅ ART ଶିଖୁଛି । ମୁଁ ଏଥିପାଇଁ ଗର୍ବିତ । ଅସୁବିଧା ହେଲା ପରିବାର ଭିତରେ ଚଳିଲେ ସବୁକଥା ସହିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ୁଛି ଯଥା- ସ୍ୱାମୀ, ପରିବାର ଲୋକଙ୍କ କଥା ସହିତ ଘରର ହାନି ଲାଭ ଭଲମନ୍ଦ କତ୍ୟାଦି ସବୁ ବୁଝିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ୁଛି । ତେଣୁ ପରିବାର ଭିତରେ ରହିଲେ ଏହିସବୁ ସୁବିଧା ଅସୁବିଧା ଦେଖିବାକୁ ପଡ଼େ ।  
 ଆମେ ବସ୍ତିରେ ଚାଳ କୁଟିଆ କରି ରହୁଛୁ । ଆମକୁ ପଇସାପତ୍ର ଦେବାକୁ ପଡ଼ୁନି । ବାହାରେ ଭଡା ନେଲେ ୩/୪ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ଦେବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିପାରେ । ଆମର ତ ରୋଜଗାର କମ୍ । ତେଣୁ ଏଠାରେ ରହିଲେ ଆମର ବହୁତ ସୁବିଧା ହେଉଛି । ପଇସା ନଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଆମେ ସେମିତି ରହିପାରୁଛୁ । କାମ ନମିଳିଲେ ବି ଆମକୁ ଭଡା ନେଇ ବାହାରେ ରହିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ୁନାହିଁ ।  
 ଅସୁବିଧା ବହୁତ ଅଛି ଯଥା- ପାଇଖାନା ନାହିଁ ଝାଡ଼ା ଯିବା ପାଇଁ ବହୁତ ସୁବିଧା । କିନ୍ତୁ ଘରେ ତ ସମସ୍ତେ ଚାହିଁବୁ ଭଲରେ ରହିବା ପାଇଁ ।  
**ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ** ପାଇଖାନାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କିପରି ଅଛି ?  
**ଉତ୍ତର** ଆମ ଘରେ ପାଇଖାନା ନାହିଁ, ସରକାରୀ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ପାଇଖାନା ଆମ ବସ୍ତିରେ ଅଛି ।

**ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ** ସରକାରୀ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ପାଇଖାନା ପୂର୍ବରୁ କେଉଁଠିକୁ ଝାଡ଼ା ଯାଉଥିଲେ ?  
**ଉତ୍ତର** - ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଆମ ସାହିର ଲୋକମାନେ ସାଙ୍ଗରେ ପାଣି ଭାଲ ନେଇ ଝାଡ଼ା ଦସିବାକୁ ବାହାରକୁ ଯାଉଥିଲେ ।  
**ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ** ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ କେଉଁଠିକୁ ଝାଡ଼ା ଯାଉଅଛ ?  
**ଉତ୍ତର** - ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଆମ ବସ୍ତିର ଲୋକମାନେ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ପାଇଖାନାକୁ ଝାଡ଼ା ଯାଉଛନ୍ତି । ସେଥିପାଇଁ ବହୁତ ସମସ୍ୟା ହେଉଛି । ଯଥା- ପାଇଖାନାରେ ଧାଡ଼ିକରି ବହୁତ ସମୟ ଅପେକ୍ଷା କରିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ୁଛି ଏବଂ ସପ୍ଲାକ ପାଣିର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ସବୁବେଳେ ପାଣି ଆସୁନି ।

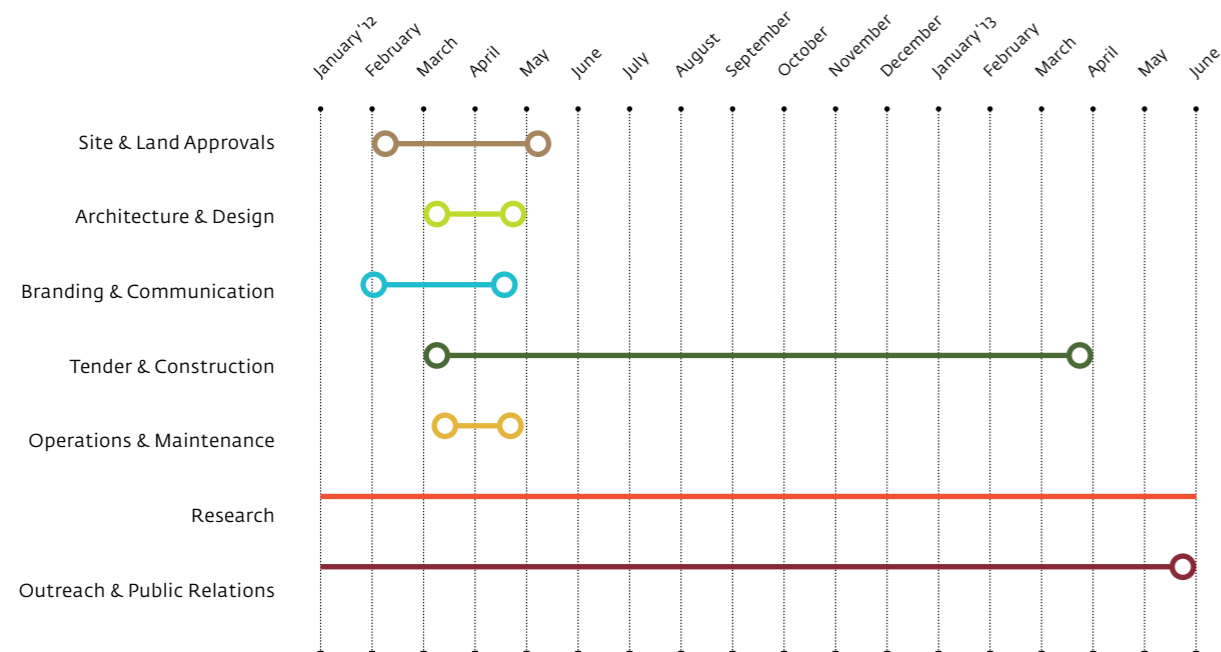


## Rajini Das

She is happy to be staying in the slum she lives in, where she has spent the past 25 years, because it has allowed her the resources to educate her two sons: one a dancer, the other a painter. However, as she is not originally from Bhubaneswar, living there keeps her away from her extended family, which can be challenging.

**ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ** ପାଇଖାନାକୁ ନିଜଳି ପରିଷ୍କାର ପରଜ୍ଞନ ଗୁଣ୍ଡ ଓ ଏହା କାହାର ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ?  
**ଉତ୍ତର** ପାଇଖାନା ଯେତେବେଳେ (Choke) ଟୋକ ହୋଇଯାଉଛି ସେତେବେଳେ ଲୋକ ଡକାଇ ସଫା କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ଦରକାର ସମୟରେ ଆମ ମହିଳା ସଂଘର ବୈଠକ ଡାକି ସଫା କରିବା ପାଇଁ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ନେଉଛୁ । ବିଶେଷ କରି ଅଧିକାଂଶ ସମୟରେ ଆମେ ମହିଳା ମାନେ ସଂଘାକରୁ, ଦରକାର ସମୟରେ ପାଇଖାନା ଓ ନାଳ ଆମେ ସଫାକରୁ । ପାଇଖାନା ବାହାରେ ଅଳିଆ ଜମି ଅପରିଷ୍କାର ହୋଇଥିଲେ B.M.C (Sweeper) ଝାଡ଼ୁଦାର ଡାକି ସଫାକରୁ ।  
**ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ** ପାଇଖାନା ପରିଷ୍କାର ପାଇଁ କେତେ ଟଙ୍କା ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ହୁଏ ?  
**ଉତ୍ତର** ଆମ ସାହିରେ ପାଇଖାନା ପରିଷ୍କାର ପାଇଁ ଅଧିକ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ହୁଏ ନାହିଁ । ଯେତେବେଳେ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ହୁଏ, ଆମେ ଅଦାୟ କରି ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ କରୁ । ମହିଳା ସଂଘ ସଭାରେ ଏହି ଟଙ୍କା ବାବଦରେ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ହୋଇ ଆଦାୟ ହୁଏ । ଆବଶ୍ୟକତାକୁ ନଜର କରି ୫/୧୦ ଟଙ୍କା ପରିାବର ପ୍ରତି ଆଦାୟ ହୁଏ ।  
**ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ** ଦୈନିକ ଓ ସାପ୍ତାହିକ ଆଦାୟ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ଅଛି କି ?  
**ଉତ୍ତର** ନା, ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଦୈନିକ ଓ ସାପ୍ତାହିକ ଆଦାୟ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ହୁଏ ନାହିଁ ।  
**ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ** ଆଦାୟ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ପାଇଁ କେବେ ଚେଷ୍ଟା କରିଥିଲକି ?  
**ଉତ୍ତର** ହଁ ଆମେ ଚେଷ୍ଟା କରିଥିଲୁ । କିନ୍ତୁ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ମନରେ ସମେହ ହେଲା ଯେହେତୁ ସମସ୍ତେ ବାହାରୁ ଆସି ରହୁଛନ୍ତି, କାଲେ କିଏ ଟଙ୍କା ରଖି ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ କରିଦେବ ଓ ଅପବ୍ୟବହାର କରିବ ସେଥିପାଇଁ ନିର୍ଭୀକ ଆଦାୟ ହେଉନାହିଁ । ଯଦିଓ ସାହିରେ ସେଭଳି ଲୋକ ନାହାନ୍ତି, ତଥାପି ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କର ସମେହ ଦୂର କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଦରକାର ସମୟରେ କେବଳ ଟଙ୍କା ଆଦାୟ ହେଉଛି ଆଉ ମଧ୍ୟ ଏହି କାମ ପାଇଁ କମ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ହେଉଛି ।

## TIME LINE



## MILESTONE OVERVIEW

### Upcoming

- Hardware contract for the Bhubaneswar public toilets will be awarded after vendor evaluation and negotiation with the BMC and Feedback Foundation
- J-PAL will finalize the design of the O&M management framework and pricing model
- Quicksand will finalize the sewage strategy for community toilets in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.
- Remaining Batch 4 sites to be identified and surveyed by Project Sammaan team members.

### May calendar of events

- The tender for construction of 27 public toilets will be released by mid of May through an e-tendering process
- The O&M guidelines for 27 public toilets will be finalized along with the BMC. The details of the O&M tender format and a timeline for release of O&M tender will be decided along with the BMC
- The designs for Base and Enhanced layers will be finalized and will be presented to the BMC and CMC for their approval
- Submit the preliminary project report to CMC and get the council approval for the construction of 32 sites in Cuttack
- Finalize the brand name of the toilets and complete the necessary visual identify
- The O&M guidelines document for community toilets will be finalized Packages for construction will be prepared and a schedule for preparation of tender documents will be shared with BMC & CMC
- Complete the identification of 5 pending sites and Survey the same Submit the remaining 30 sites formally to BMC for their approval.
- Complete census and capacity matrix calculation at 30 sites in Bhubaneswar
- Complete the site specific typologies for improved septic tank and soak pits for community toilets in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack Conduct a study visit to BMC & CMC officials to Nagpur to study the DEWATs system

## WORKSTREAMS

### A. Site & Land Approvals

In April, the Project Sammaan team reviewed all the sites for Batch 4 with the Land Officer; who gave a go ahead for 25 sites from this batch. The survey teams from Feedback Foundation & SM Engineering completed surveys in all these sites. In Bhubaneswar, approval was granted for 123 sites from the BMC, leaving only 5 additional sites to complete the land identification and survey process.

In Cuttack, we got NoCs for 2 pending sites from water resources department. CMC granted approval for 27 out of the 32 sites required for construction. We are awaiting for confirmation on the remaining 5 sites.

#### Activities in May include:

- Obtain No Objection Certificates and approval for 5 replacement Batch 2 sites in Cuttack
- Secure approval letter from the GA department for Batch 3 sites
- Identify remaining Batch 4 sites and secure all requisite information (e.g., land records)

### B. Liaisoning & Capacity Building



#### Project Sammaan team in a discussion with the commissioner of the CMC

April was a busy month at CTRAN, beginning with meetings arranged for The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) conference on the 4th and 5th. CTRAN, as part of the Project Sammaan mandate, helped to coordinate these discussions with representatives of the BMGF and officials from the CMC and BMC.

CTRAN also oversaw the organisation of regular meetings with the commissioners of the BMC and CMC throughout the month to facilitate key decisions

and feedback sessions on other aspects of Project Sammaan, including Branding & Communication and Operations & Maintenance (two of the four critical verticals of innovation that are part of the project). This latter meeting was vital, as officials from the municipal corporation provided key inputs toward framing the O&M manual.

#### Activities in May include:

- Continued coordination of interactions between project partners
- Engaging in capacity building activities with representatives of the BMC and CMC as part of the PMO development

### C. Branding & Communication

As work continues on finalizing the visual language that will become part of the Project Sammaan toilet facilities, May will be an important month for the branding & communication team. There are important meetings scheduled with the Commissioner of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation that will help us reach a final consensus on the naming direction for the project.

#### Activities in May include:

- Initial visual presentation for the facility branding

### D. Tender & Construction

A major milestone in the project came with the approval of the technical and council approvals sanctions for the three packages of public toilets in April. CTRAN and Feedback Foundation were instrumental in working with BMC and CMC officials to gain these approvals. Together they were able to accomplish this for the technical sanction in one day, a testament to the power of collaboration and the efficiency it leads to.



#### Land surveys taken as a part of the pre-tender process



## WORKSTREAMS

As soon as the technical sanction was secured, the documents were shared with the Standing Committee on Public Health. The standing Committee has approved of the proposal and currently a resolution is being drafted which will be forwarded to the State government for the final approval.

*Activities in May include:*

- Release of the hardware tendering document
- E-tendering process to commence
- Administrative sanctioning by the Housing and Urban Development department

### E. Operations & Maintenance

The J-PAL team is working on developing a framework for the Operations & Maintenance of the public toilets in Bhubaneswar under Project Sammaan. This framework will be based on secondary research from similar models implemented in other parts of the country/world, focused interactions with organisations that have experience in managing sanitation facilities, discussions with the government representatives, and dialogue with the communities themselves.



### Payment models are one component that the project hopes to improve

Preliminary discussions with the Bhubaneswar Commissioner happened in mid-April to take his suggestions on how to proceed with the O&M tender. Accordingly a document was drafted which outlined the pricing models for each facility. The document was submitted to city engineer and the decision was made that the O&M tender will be taken up once the hardware tender is finalized.

*Activities in May include:*

- Finalizing the O&M guidelines for Public Toilets with the BMC

### F. Research

As part of Project Sammaan, J-PAL is studying how improved community sanitation models impact open defecation rates in urban slums in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. J-PAL is currently conducting large scale surveys in the communities Project Sammaan works in. As a first step, J-PAL defines the communities using maps. Based on these maps the J-PAL's survey team conducts a door to door census survey. This census survey provides the basis for a more in-depth baseline study.

Since May 2012, J-PAL has completed data collection activity in 32 communities that fall under Project Sammaan in Cuttack, as well as for 63 communities in Bhubaneswar; more than 20,000 households have been surveyed. Since April 2013, the J-PAL survey team is working in 25 additional communities in Bhubaneswar.

The preliminary findings from the J-PAL door to door survey indicate that close to 40% people living in urban slums in Bhubaneswar do not have access to a personal or shared toilet facility. The survey also points towards high incidents of open defecation in Bhubaneswar slums - close to 30% of all households practice open defecation. Moreover, greater than 90% of personal/shared toilet facilities are pour toilets. Most of these toilets do not have access to running tap water. The J-PAL Baseline survey will bring forth more details about health and sanitation practices in urban slums of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

*Activities in May include:*

- Continuing data collection activities in the additional Bhubaneswar communities



### Project Sammaan team in a research-synthesis discussion

### G. Outreach & Public Relations

The mandate to document and share Project Sammaan developments and learnings manifests itself in many ways, and April's activities are a prime example of this, with a video being produced, a media kit developed, blog posts being added to the website, and, most significantly, formal project reports for the municipal corporations drafted.



### Discussion with residents of a slum in Bhubaneswar

Members of the Quicksand and CFAR teams visited slums in Bhubaneswar at the beginning of the month to interview community members for the "voice of the people" video referenced earlier in this newsletter. Additionally, CFAR transcribed the video clips into the Odiya font, allowing their comments to be conveyed exactly as they were said.

Quicksand prepared a media kit that was disseminated to project partners. This contains a press release highlighting project progress thus far, an gallery of community and sanitation-related images, and several videos that detail various aspects of Project Sammaan. Partners are encouraged to distribute this to any media outlets that contact them regarding the project. Media enquiries can also be forwarded along to Kevin Shane (kevin@quicksand.co.in), the communications manager on Project Sammaan.

A preliminary project report (PPR) for the Cuttack Municipal Corporation was drafted and shared with members of the Engineering Department for their review. This work-in-progress document provides a road map for all aspects of the project as it pertains to Cuttack, including costing. This will be formally submitted to the CMC once all the necessary feedback has been collated and requisite adjustments to the document made.

Additionally, building off of the PPR, a Technical & Design Guidelines report is well on its way to completion. This robust document serves not only as a complete manual for all activities that comprise Project Sammaan, but also as the framework for the project toolkit, which will add the additional layer of insights gleaned along the way for each workstream. This is the key deliverable for the project's grant and involves the active participation, and knowledge-sharing, of all partners.

*Activities in May include:*

- Formal submission of the Preliminary Project Report to the CMC
- Vox Populi video released

## CONCLUSION



May is another critical month in the Project Sammaan timeline, as final presentations and submissions will be made across various workstreams.

Most significantly, the tender submissions for facility hardware as well as Operations & Maintenance for the Bhubaneswar public toilets will be made. Once these are approved, construction can commence and the first of the Project Sammaan facilities will shift from being drawing board abstractions to tangible utilities servicing these communities. This marks the culmination of over a year's worth of preparations and effort and, as such, is an exciting time for the project, its partners, and, most importantly, the people whose lives will benefit the most from these facilities.

