

NEWS LINE

Integrated Urban Water Management Planning and Implementation in Ajmer, Rajasthan

Background

Today cities across India are competing for water resources that are being exploited for various activities like agriculture, economic and domestic purposes, where as urbanization and industrialization are exerting more pressure on the available water sources. Municipalities are struggling with issues related to water abstraction from distant sources, Non-Revenue Water (NRW) losses, low infrastructure coverage, inadequate waste water treatment capacity, water pollution, water scarcity and urban flooding. Inefficient and decade old infrastructure has been daunting the present water system. Besides that the variation in intensity and frequency of rainfall due to climate change and degrading water quality due to lack of management of solid waste and diminishing traditional local water sources, negatively impact the availability and quality of water.

Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) is a sustainable approach that promotes integration, coordination, participation and innovation. IUWM approach advocates closing the urban water loop by considering water supply, waste water and storm water as part of the same loop.

Initiatives of India Water Partnership in implementation of IUWM

With the above background, India Water Partnership (IWP) with support of its network partner; ICLEI-South Asia undertook a project on IUWM pilot basis in Kishangarh town, Ajmer District, Rajasthan in 2017. The major outcome of this project was conservation of ponds in the city through measures for pollution abatement (for liquid and solid waste). As part of this initiative, 500 houses in 2 wards of Kishangarh (ward 13 and 18) have been sensitized on waste segregation to reduce pollution in the natural drain and catchment of the Hamir Sagarpond. More than 30 Municipal officials and sanitary workers were trained on segregated waste collection and vermi-composting. The project has been able to achieve more than 50% segregation.

Based on success of this pilot project in Kishangarh town in 2017, IWP along with ICLEI-South Asia scaled-up this project in Ajmer City, Rajasthan in 2018.

The major activities under the project included implementation of ICLEI's Rapid IUWM toolkit for the city in ward 60, located in the catchment area of the Ana Sagar Lake to demonstrate adoption of IUWM approaches. The adoption of the Rapid IUWM toolkit in Ajmer will help the city to work towards Sustainable Development Goals: good health and wellbeing (Goal 3), for clean water and sanitation (Goal 6) and for sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11). The project demonstrated how efficient waste management can support the revival of natural drainage system and improve natural resource management. The project also helped build capacity and raise the awareness levels of municipal officials on Integrated Water Resources Management, the inter-linkages of different sectors and their impacts on water resources of the city, and importance of catchment level initiatives to deal with water quality and quantity issues. Trainings were imparted to municipal staff on IUWM, water management, solid waste management, waste segregation and composting. More than 30 municipal officials were trained on solid waste management and IUWM toolkit whereas more than 50 municipal sanitary staffs were trained on segregated waste collection and composting. The project has also ensured the involvement of the community in water management, by involving them in training programmes, workshops and meetings, particularly through the pilot intervention.



Quiz Competition on cleanliness and Urban Water in School



Student rally in Ajmer city

For the pilot project in ward 60, 100 households (HHs) were targeted, trained on at source waste segregation and segregated collection. More than 400 local residents including women were trained on decentralized management of kitchen waste. Almost 150 school children were covered under various IEC activities conducted in the ward. The pilot project has achieved more than 60% segregation of waste at source and a total of 150 kg/month of wet waste is being collected and composted. A decentralized compost plant has also been constructed to manage the collected kitchen waste.



IUWM Training Program at Ajmer



Compost beds

OUTPUTS

- **2 High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) compost beds set up for ward 60**
- **100 households practising at source segregation of waste, and segregated waste collected and disposed.**
- **Provided more than 100 HH with dustbins for segregation of waste.**
- **Training workshops and community awareness programmes conducted – capacity building of more than 400 local residents including women and IEC activities with more than 150 students in the city.**

OUTCOMES

- **Trained more than 30 municipal staff and 25 stakeholders on solid waste management and IUWM toolkit.**
- **Hands on training for 10 sanitary staff and local residents on composting**
- **100 HH in the ward trained on composting**
- **Provided municipal team working on door to door solid waste collection with dustbins for collection of waste along with modified collection vehicle**
- **A monitoring and evaluation framework established to make the system sustainable**
- **A framework to implement rapid IUWM for Indian cities developed**

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