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INDIAN INSTITUTE FOR
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS



THE TNUSSP QUARTERLY

April - June 2024



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INTRODUCTION



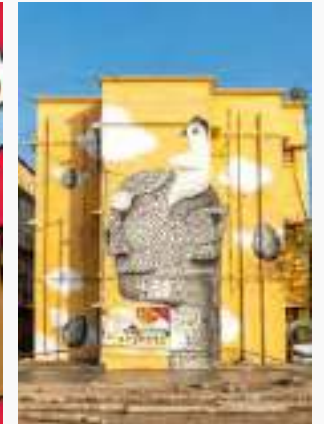
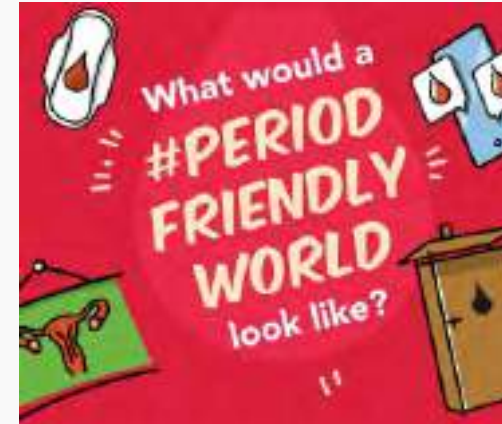
Introduction

The IIHS-led Tamil Nadu Urban Sanitation Support Programme (TNUSSP) has been working with the Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN), as a Technical Support Unit (TSU), since 2015 to ensure universal access to safe sanitation by scaling up Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) in the state.

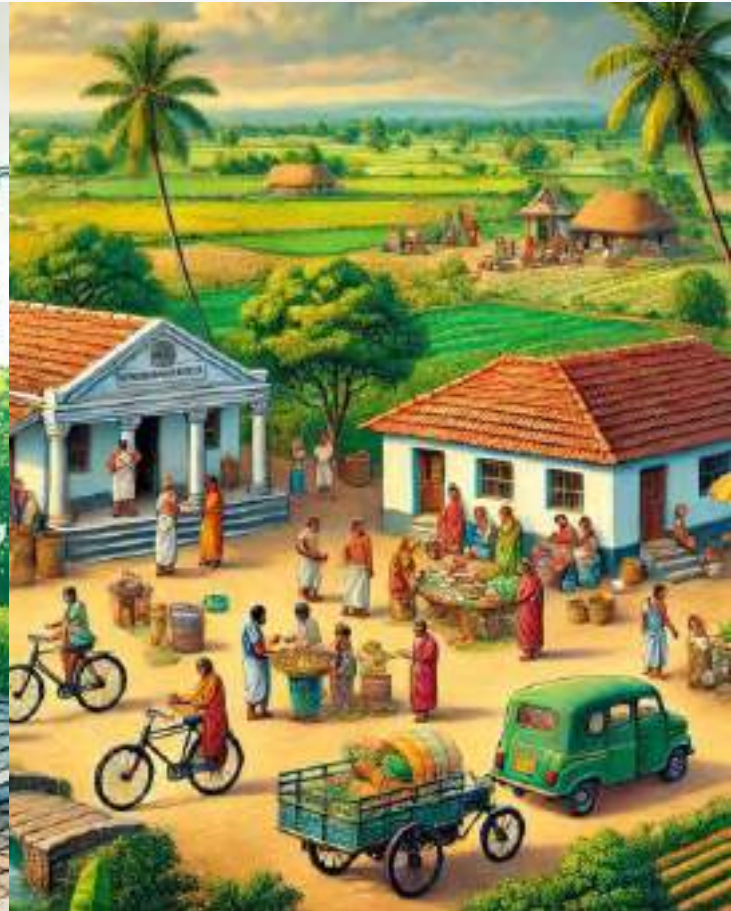
After successfully demonstrating the viability of FSM as a sustainable solution for urban sanitation, TNUSSP entered its next phase of operation in mid-2023. This phase focuses on strengthening the sanitation ecosystem by integrating inclusive sanitation across government systems and establishing knowledge repositories to create a self-learning environment for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and other sanitation stakeholders.

In this edition of The TNUSSP Quarterly, we present highlights of our work from April to June 2024, including initiatives, campaigns and events. We hope you find it informative and engaging.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our work.



TNUSSP PROGRAMME UPDATES



Update on FSM Scaling in Tamil Nadu

The GoTN is set to provide FSM services to a population of 18.8 million.



FSTPs

Stage	Number	Population (millions)	ULBs (including clusters)
Operational	37	2.3	66
Nearing completion	14	1.1	39
Total	51	3.4	105



Co-treatment

Stage	Number	Population (millions)	ULBs (including clusters)
STPs practising co-treatment	48	8.76	103
Planned in next six months	11	1.87	13
Total	59	10.63	116
Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) is practising co-treatment in five STP locations, covering a population of 4.77 million.			

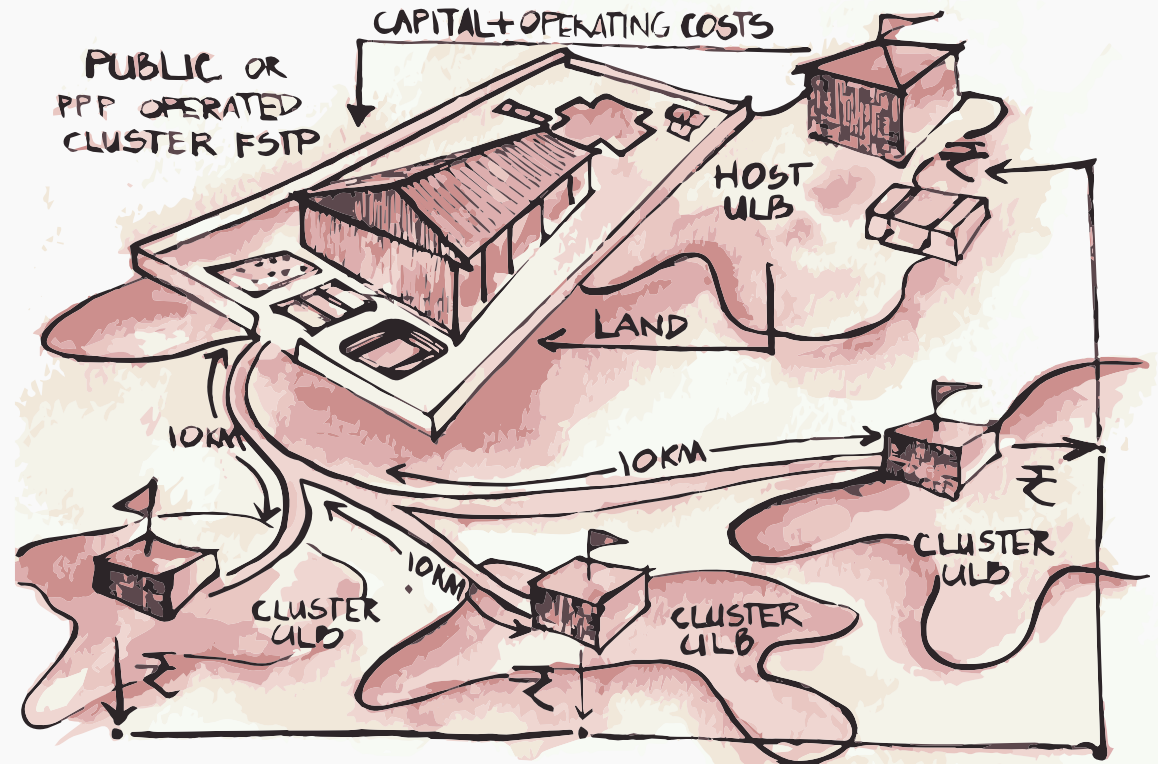
TNUSSP has supported the Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MAWS) Department with the State Investment Plan (SIP) to improve treatment infrastructure and access by clustering ULBs to share treatment facility usage.

TNUSSP does this through Quality Assurance for FSTP and STP-cum-FSTP construction, reviewed Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for STP-cum-FSTPs, and decanting stations to initiate co-treatment of sewage and septage at STPs.

Going Beyond the Urban: Update on Urban-Rural Convergence

TNUSSP introduced the cluster approach to improve access to treatment facilities, expanding the reach of safe sanitation services and optimising resource requirements. This approach allows ULBs to link with other ULBs or Village Panchayats (VPs) through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share the usage of treatment facilities and operation and maintenance (O&M) costs for FSTPs.

From 2016 to 2022, an investment of INR 240 crore was secured for the construction of ~100 new facilities to treat an additional 5,700-kilo litre per day (KLD) of fecal sludge. At the GoTN's suggestion, the State Investment Plan is under revision to extend the cluster radius to 15 km, reducing the number of additional treatment facilities required from 315 to 140.



Going Beyond the Urban: Update on Urban-Rural Convergence

Under the urban-rural convergence, the GoTN plans to cluster 9,344 of the 12,525 VPs in the state with nearby treatment facilities. This expansion will provide access to treatment for ~74 per cent of the rural population.

Under Phase I of the urban-rural convergence, 1,817 VPs were planned to be covered, of which 858 VPs have been covered as of December 2023. This approach is designed to accelerate access to treatment facilities in urban and rural areas of Tamil Nadu.



Honouring Chennai's Unsung Heroes: CT/ PTs Sanitation Service Providers

On 11 May 2024, IIHS-TNUSSP hosted a felicitation programme to celebrate the contributions of sanitation service providers who played a key role in TNUSSP's Community and Public Toilets (CT/ PTs) demonstration project. In response to the deteriorating conditions of many CT/ PTs in Chennai, the GoTN and Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), with the support of TNUSSP, initiated a demonstration project in Zones 13 and 14 in 2022. The project concluded in March 2024, culminating in the handover of the CT/ PTs to GCC. Consequently, the SHGs are now being paid for their services directly by GCC.



Honouring Chennai's Unsung Heroes: CT/ PTs Sanitation Service Providers

P.V. Srinivasan, Zonal Officer of Zone 14, GCC, inaugurated the programme and delivered the keynote address. During the welcome address, it was highlighted that during the two-year project, which involved private enterprises, women self-help groups, and individual entrepreneurs, the CT/ PTs served over 3.25 million users, with digital feedback indicating a 94 per cent satisfaction rate. Daily users increased from 2,687 to 6,788, and the number of women users doubled.

The dedication of the sanitation workers, who maintained high standards despite challenging conditions, was key to this success. Their efforts fostered community trust and hygiene education. The success of SHG-maintained toilets has led to continued support from GCC and plans for city-wide scaling.



Honouring Chennai's Unsung Heroes: CT/ PTs Sanitation Service Providers

The event was attended by over 80 participants, including 26 sanitation workers, 21 Area Level Federation (ALF) and SHG members, their families, officers from GCC Zones 13 and 14, National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) staff, IIHS-TNUSSP team members, and media representatives. The special guest, television personality Mr. Sabarinathan, felicitated the service providers by presenting mementos and gifts. The programme included games and entertainment, ensuring a memorable time for all attendees.

The event received coverage from both print and television media. Participants shared their experiences over the past two years, expressing pride in contributing to public health by maintaining clean and safe toilets and improving their livelihoods. The programme concluded with a fellowship lunch.



CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS



World Water Day 2024: #WaterForPeace

The IIHS-led TNUSSP observed World Water Day 2024 with a two-part digital campaign. On the social media platform X, TNUSSP posted a promotional ad featuring a comic strip, *'Meena's Story of Change'*, to raise awareness about the effects of improper sanitation on public health.

The comic strip documents a previous World Water Day intervention conducted by TNUSSP in a town panchayat where residents were invited to test the drinking water and see first-hand the fecal-oral contamination prevalent in the community. The residents were educated on various household water treatment methods to eliminate contamination and ensure clean drinking water. This ad campaign received over 234.2K views.



TNUSSP also hosted a quiz on X and Instagram based on the year's WWD theme, #WaterForPeace. The quiz included questions on transboundary waters, cooperation agreements, the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development' and more. The quiz can be found on TNUSSP's Instagram story highlights titled 'WWD'.

Celebrating Menstrual Hygiene Day: #PeriodFriendlyWorld

In observing Menstrual Hygiene Day 2024, the IIHS-TNUSSP team undertook several initiatives to promote awareness and dialogue around menstrual health.

Social Media Engagement

We asked our network, 'What would a Period Friendly World look like?' sparking conversations around this year's Menstrual Hygiene Day theme, #PeriodFriendlyWorld. The responses highlighted the need for a society that supports menstruating individuals with dignity, access to hygiene products, and education, reinforcing the call for inclusive policies and practices.



Celebrating Menstrual Hygiene Day: #PeriodFriendlyWorld

Blog Feature

Abhilaasha N., with the IIHS Practice programme, wrote a blog on [*'Periods and Perceptions: A Journey through Kannagi Nagar.'*](#) The article explores the perceptions and practices of menstruation among residents of Kannagi Nagar, a resettlement site in Chennai, sharing personal stories that reveal the unique challenges and conversations of managing menstruation in this community.

Educational Session

At the IIHS Chennai office, a session on 'Menstrual and General Nutrition' was held by Dr. Ezhil Vani, a nutritionist and dietician. The session provided valuable insights into maintaining a healthy diet to manage menstrual health, emphasising balanced nutrition's role in enhancing overall wellbeing.



Sanitation 101: Simplifying Sanitation Concepts

TNUSSP's #Sanitation101 campaign simplifies sanitation concepts and provides insights into the full cycle of sanitation (FCS). Through this campaign, TNUSSP aims to educate its digital audience, and raise awareness on the fundamentals of sanitation.

The messages are disseminated across TNUSSP's social media platforms through short, bite-sized content. In the last quarter, content about STPs, FSTPs, and decanting stations has been shared. Follow us on [Instagram](#) | [X](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | to stay updated with our work and campaigns.



EVENT SPOTLIGHTS



Regional-level Orientation on FSTP O&M Sustenance in Tirunelveli

FSTPs play a critical role in ensuring sanitation safety and environmental protection. In Tamil Nadu, there are currently 51 planned FSTPs, of which 37 are operational. Once these facilities are commissioned, their efficient operation relies heavily on adherence to Operation and Maintenance (O&M) protocols by plant operators and maintenance staff.

On 12 June 2024, IIHS-led TNUSSP conducted a regional-level training on sustaining O&M for FSTPs at the treatment facility in Tenkasi Municipality (Tirunelveli). The training highlighted several significant challenges in the O&M of treatment facilities in Tamil Nadu.

Key issues included staff shortage and a lack of necessary skills among available personnel, leading to inefficiencies in testing and screening incoming loads, delays in sludge removal, and infrastructure maintenance problems. Additionally, delays in contractor payments and a general lack of knowledge about occupational health and safety affect the performance of treatment facilities.



Regional-level Orientation on FSTP O&M Sustenance in Tirunelveli

The training successfully provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of FSTP O&M and a solid grasp of safety protocols and regulatory compliance standards. The hands-on training and practical demonstrations in troubleshooting and performing maintenance tasks helped enhance participants' skills.

This half-day event was attended by 50+ participants, including the Commissioner, Sanitary Officer, and Sanitary Inspector from Tenkasi Municipality, along with the Regional SBM Project Implementation Unit (PIU) team and representatives from 10 municipalities with operational FSTPs, including Sanitary Supervisors, Animator Supervisors, Animators, and FSTP Operators.

During the orientation, TNUSSP TSU released the FSTP Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Dossier, which was received by the chairpersons of this event: the Commissioner and Sanitary Officer of Tenkasi Municipality.



From Ideas to Action: TNUSSP's Productive Yercaud Getaway

The IIHS-TNUSSP team spent three days in Yercaud hill station from 15-17 May 2024, as part of a team learning session. The days were filled with insightful discussions, team bonding experiences, and team-building exercises.

The team gathered from Chennai, Trichy and other locations on the 15th morning, reaching Salem (the foothill city of Yercaud). After lunch at the 19th-century club and driving through 22 hairpin bends, the team reached its destination; after taking in the views, everyone settled into the conference hall for the first session on 'Context Setting, and Idea Generation and Mapping'. After a quick presentation on the session's objectives, the team was divided into four groups to discuss thematic areas of sanitation, water, sanitation workers, and solid waste management. Presentations and group discussions followed this to derive more ideas, solutions and next steps in each area.



From Ideas to Action: TNUSSP's Productive Yercaud Getaway

On day two, detailed sessions on the status and way forward on 'Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) Outputs' and 'Scaling Inclusion' were discussed. These sessions delved deep into TNUSSP's activities in the recent past and the steps needed to sustain the programme's initiatives. The outcomes discussed provided more clarity and encouraged cross-learning and collaboration among all team members.

The team bonded further on day three over fun team-building activities and collaborative games. The bonding exercises, an afternoon trip to a coffee estate, and the team-learning sessions made the three-day event both eventful and insightful.



About Us

The Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) is a national education, research, practice and capacity development institution committed to the equitable, sustainable and efficient transformation of Indian cities and settlements.

A proposed Institution of Eminence (IOE), IIHS aims to transform the current nature of urban education as one of the most important drivers for India's national development and sustainable global futures. Its interdisciplinary approach to research and practice helps build new global knowledge and train urban professionals.

Since 2016, the Tamil Nadu Urban Sanitation Support Programme, a consortium led by the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, has been proactively supporting the Government of Tamil Nadu in making improvements along the entire urban sanitation chain in cities. We work towards strengthening septage management as an economical and sustainable complement to network-based sewerage systems and aim to scale Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) across 649 towns in the state, covering a total urban population of 30 million.

Visit our [website](#) to know more about our work.

