BASIIC
Building Accessible, Safe & Inclusive Indian Cities
About US

The Building Accessible, Safe and Inclusive Indian Cities (BASIIC) is a programme spearheaded by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). The programme aims to provide cities with technical assistance services to promulgate the ethos of inclusion and universal access into urban planning and design. Since its inception in 2019, the programme has been actively supporting the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to streamline the global and national commitments to disability inclusion. BASIIC has been pivotal in formalising an ecosystem of partners, stakeholders, and actors working on inclusion at large in the cities and community levels. The programme has significantly contributed to strengthening the urban discourse to promote universal access and inclusion and localising global good practices.

Our MISSION

Encapsulating the principles of NIUA which is to ‘understand urban issues holistically and take into account the cross-cutting impact that our work, as well as other interventions, can have’. BASIIC programme is committed to improving and ensuring the dignified living of persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

The programme seeks to act as an urban laboratory of action research and scalable solutions, policy advocacy, capacity development, and grounded interventions that are centred on the needs of marginalised communities, especially persons with disabilities.

Our VALUES

We are committed to fulfilling the 3 ‘i’s to perpetuate and strengthen the adoption of universal approaches to planning and practice;

- INCLUSION of the marginalized communities, especially persons with disabilities and their diverse needs within the urban development agenda.

- INTEGRATE diverse set of stakeholders from all levels and hierarchies to collaborate towards achieving the goal of inclusion.

- INNOVATE systems and approaches to identify and promote state-of-the-art solutions to address accessibility issues in the cities.

To celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in its truest sense, we must ensure that our future Indian Cities are barrier and stigma-free for everyone, irrespective of their abilities, age and gender. Let us commit to creating a better and inclusive India. I congratulate MoHUA and NIUA for coming up with the harmonised guidelines to mainstream inclusion in the day-to-day operation of cities.

- Shri Hardeep Singh Puri
  Hon'ble Minister,
  Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Accessibility remains the bedrock of inclusion and LNOB. An inclusive environment provides equal access and economic opportunities for all leading to economic growth.

- Mr Shombi Sharp,
  UN Resident Coordinator in India
Our APPROACH

The programme strives for a balanced perspective that draws on the best of top-down and bottom-up approaches by contextualising international and national commitments at regional, state, city and communities level. Simultaneously the programme draws on the learnings and experiences from the ground to inform national programmes and policies.

Technical Assistance and Support Unit (TASU) has been established under the BASIIC programme to drive the efforts of disability inclusive urban development. TASU works with key stakeholders to strengthen global commitments, globalise local practices, and bring inclusive, contextual and collaborative development.

Our OFFERING

Technical Assistance and Support Unit (TASU)

- TRAINING AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT of cities and key stakeholders
- POLICY ADVISORY to national and sub-national governments
- ADVOCACY and sensitisation of stakeholders
- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE to select cities
- RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE generation
- What WE DO

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Our **KEY FOCUS AREAS**

Assuring a dignified quality of life for persons with disabilities means equal access to resources, leading to equitable opportunities, and meaningful participation in all aspects of city life. BASIIC focuses on participatory methods and inclusive approach to identify key sectors that can unlock socio-economic development of marginalised communities especially, persons with disabilities. The following are BASIIC’s key verticals but are not limited to:

1. Built environment and Inclusive Urban Infrastructure
2. Mobility and Transportation
3. Sanitation
4. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate resilience
5. Innovations and Technology
6. Participatory Governance
Our **ACHIEVEMENTS**

BASIIC has co-created a reservoir of knowledge products, guidelines, and IEC materials in collaboration with its vast global knowledge network across the globe. This includes stakeholders from government, civil society, research and academic institutions, and start-ups focused on the inclusion of the marginalised groups. These knowledge products encapsulate the learning from our on-ground interventions, advocacy initiatives and engagements with user groups. Some noteworthy achievements of the project include;

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<tr>
<th>Partners</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Development of the revised Harmonised Guidelines and Standards for Universal Accessibility in India 2021</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Formulation of an Inclusive Cities Framework</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Integration of inclusive development principles in planning Guidelines and standards</strong></td>
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<td><strong>City Audit and Assessment Study in Varanasi</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Preparation of a City Audit toolkit</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Support Varanasi Smart City Limited in creating inclusive and universally accessible city infrastructure investment worth over 200 cr</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Developed a training programme for city officials on Fundamentals of Disability Inclusion</strong></td>
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<td><strong>30 cities and 300 city officials trained on gender and disability inclusion</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Launch of the ‘Smart Solutions Challenge and Inclusive City Awards 2022</strong></td>
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Our **GOALS**

**Built environment and Urban Infrastructure**
- Support states and cities in development of built-infrastructure that comply with Universal Accessibility Standards
- Support in designing of 100 accessible place-making endeavours in all smart cities
- Accessible and affordable housing for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups
- Initiate reforms in Procurement Policies to aid development of universally accessible and inclusive cities
- Identify, integrate and strengthen synergies with respect to inclusion between urban schemes

**Mobility and Transportation**
- Mainstreaming accessibility in street design guidelines for improved walkability and safety
- Design and demonstrate interventions on inclusive public transport system

**Sanitation**
- Handhold states and cities to make the entire sanitation value chain inclusive
- Uplift existing public sanitation facilities to meet universal design standards
- Creation of an inclusive sanitation value system

**Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate resilience**
- Handhold select states to develop inclusive disaster risk reduction measures
- National and sub-national reforms in DRR strategies to make them more sensitive and responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups

**Data, Innovations and Technology**
- Creation of an Assistive Technology Pipeline for urban specific accessibility issues
- Support innovators to develop localised solutions specific to their city/region
- Organise annual Smart Solution Challenge and Inclusion Awards to foster the innovation ecosystem in India
- Develop Data Dashboards on universal accessibility infrastructure in 25 cities

**Participatory Governance**
- Develop a Data-Driven Decision Support System (DSS) for select Indian cities
- Develop frameworks for cities to utilise data and evidence in creation of policies and schemes
Inclusive Cities NETWORK

30 Cities
15 States
318 Officials
Established in 1976, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) was tasked to bridge the gap between research and practice on issues related to urbanization, and suggest ways and mechanisms to address these urban challenges of the country. For more than 40 years now, NIUA has been the vanguard for contributing to, and at times, building the urban narrative for a fast-evolving urban India. The Institution has been actively working towards bringing forth key areas of concern for urban India in order to build the urban discourse at various scales.

It has utilized its competencies in research, knowledge management, policy advocacy and capacity building to address the urban challenges, and continuously strive to develop sustainable, inclusive, and productive urban ecosystems in India. It has emerged as a thought leader and knowledge hub for urban development in India, and is sought out by both Indian and International organizations for collaborations and partnerships for India’s urban transforming journey. NIUA is committed towards aligning its efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through all its initiatives and programs.

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