



PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Assessment & Advisory for Thane Smart City Limited



June to November 2019

Submitted To : Thane Smart City Limited (TSCL)

Submitted By : Global Compact Network India (GCNI)

Background:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an ambitious commitment by world leaders which set out a universal and an unprecedented agenda which embraces economic, environmental and social aspects of the wellbeing of societies. The progress of the world to meet the SDGs, largely depends on India's progress. India played a prominent role in the formulation of SDGs and much of the country's National Development Agenda is mirrored in the SDGs. Each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are mapped with a set of 169 targets to be achieved by 2030.

The needs of cities are growing, and the citizens are forcing governments to undertake new "smarter" path to effective and efficient utilization of the resources. In order to provide a guidance to implement successful smart city projects, there is a need for a structured evaluation model for smart city initiatives.

Nowadays, many initiatives aimed at analysing the conception process, deployment methods or outcomes of the -referred as- Smart City projects are being developed in multiple fields. Since its conception, the Smart City notion has evolved from the execution of specific projects to the implementation of global strategies (SDGs) to tackle wider city challenges.

In the process of satisfying the greed of human "progress" , the resources of the earth are fast deteriorating. The city -centric model of development, particularly in rapidly growing economies like India , have caused unmanageable migration of people from rural to urban areas. At the same time it cannot be denied that cities have become a confined means to provide a better standard of life and means of livelihood. The responsibility rests on approach of government, which instead of merging the responsibility between rural and urban areas in terms of standard of life has tended to focus more on the growth of cities.

The rapid process of urbanization and growth of cities in a country such as India has resulted in problems of sustainability as most of the expanding city spaces have sought to gobble up huge chunk of land as well as try to grapple with varied problems of environment , health , inequality, urban chaos and persistent poverty, notwithstanding recent efforts to imbibe ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targeted focus to turn select metropolitan areas to "Smart Cities".

Smart City assessment must be done to give response to the real challenges that cities are facing. It provides a comprehensive overview of the available possibilities and relates them to the specific city challenges. Smart City projects are expected to efficiently respond to complex and diverse urban challenges without compromising their sustainable development and while improving the quality of life of their citizens.

The SDG indicators provide the possibility of a more balanced and integrated approach to urban sustainability monitoring. At the same time, it is needed to understand how to adapt the SDGs, targets and indicators to specific urban contexts.

Even though the SDGs offer a new opportunity to assess cities' sustainability performance at all levels, it is not clear what benefits or barriers exist with regard to implementing SDGs in cities, the extent to which the SDGs will improve the assessment of the sustainability of a city, or how cities actively contribute and get involved in the global challenge of reaching sustainability. SDGs assessment is necessary for a city to contribute to addressing these issues and to become a sustainable city.

Thane Smart City Limited (TSCL) and Global Compact Network (GCNI), India got into a partnership and signed an MoU on 31st May 2019. As per the agreed terms, GCNI to provide TSCL with its assessment on SDG parameters and SDG advisory to develop TSCL as a world class Sustainable City in India, in a transparent and accountable manner.

The aim of this SDG assessment is to review the sustainable urban development in order to understand how the indicators suggested by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) fit to cities projects/initiatives and the challenges they may face in using them.

Rationale for SDGs assessment of Thane Smart City

With growing urbanization, the sustainability of cities has become increasingly important. Although cities have been using indicators for a long time it is only in the last decades that attempts have been made to collate indicators into sets that reflect the many different aspects required to assess the sustainability of a city.

Cities have a key role to play in accelerating sustainable development. Rapid urbanization puts a huge strain on urban systems. It has become increasingly important to monitor cities' performance in reaching sustainability.

Earlier, Thane was a rural piece of Mumbai, however, now it is the quickest developing private goal on the edges of Mumbai and has risen as an independent city. Step by step developing populace has enacted the rising interest of rural areas where residency is accessible at sensible rates with the normal environment.

Since Thane has come into the smart cities' category, has been doing lots of projects to make the city livable and sustainable for the citizens and striving to achieving the goals of Smart Cities Mission. Aligning the achievements and innovations that are really transforming the life of the people is imperative for each city and therefore Thane Smart City also needs to align its achievements and innovations with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so that, like other cities, Thane Smart City could also contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Under the partnership with TSCL, Global Compact Network India, will support TSCL to become a sustainable city through SDGs assessment and will provide services as follows ...

1. Provide an overview of SDG parameters defined in the 17 goals, 169 targets and 306 national indicators.

2. Orient City stakeholders and leaders on SDGs and build their capacity on SDGs assessment for the city.
3. Provide advisory service for any of the chosen individual SDG/ SDGs that shall be prioritized.
4. Evaluate the city's progress in meeting the SDGs at the city level.
5. Develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) or priority indicators for city projects.
6. Enable city to measure its progress over time and through analysis and sharing allow for the dissemination of best practices and set standards for progress in meeting the SDGs at the city level. Each indicator will form part of a holistic view of a city's performance in four dimensions: Governance, Economy, Environment and Society & Culture.
7. Develop a Sustainability Framework for the city based on the customized KPIs and an amalgamation of international and local know-how and best practices. The Sustainability Framework shall serve as a policy tool to support TSCL in collecting and integrating data, and using those data sets to define a vision, set targets, monitor progress, and forecast trends—all while being able to compare themselves with peer cities. The Sustainability Framework will serve as a proof of concept, which shall be piloted in TSCL.
8. The activities and urban projects undertaken by the TSCL shall be placed against the National level Priority Indicators defined by Niti Aayog and the framework shall help to measure urban sustainability so that TSCL can diagnose and benchmark its current performance, monitor the impacts of its policy and plan interventions, and share data and knowledge with other cities.

Activities carried out -So far

Moving ahead toward the implementation of the project, under the 1st milestone of the project, GCNI has completed the following major activities.

1. Developed the Detailed Scope of Work of the project.

S.No.	Objective	Activity	Delivering Party	Timeline											
				Quarter-I			Quarter-II			Quarter-III					
				Jun 2019	Jul 2019	Aug 2019	Sept	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec	Jan-2020	Feb 2020			
1	Project Operations (Preliminary)														
	Developing a scope of work and work plan	Finalizing the Project plan, scope of work and deliverables	GCNI + TSCL												
2	Project Operations (Intermediate)														
	Setting up the SDGs Working Group	Nodal person to be appointed for the functioning of SDG Working Group	TSCL												
	Stakeholder Identification	Identifying and notifying the stakeholders	GCNI + TSCL												

representatives from TSCL and GCNI, was formed and the terms of reference (TOR) was prepared so that this working group could functions properly.

The TOR of Working Group is as follows...

Objectives

- To advance the development agenda within the framework of the SDGs.
- To identify challenges to businesses in Thane implementing the SDGs and advise on practical ways of overcoming them.
- To provide guidance to the TSCL on aligning their strategies and interventions with SDGs.
- To avoid duplication of work with respect to already existing initiatives, and support alignment of the different initiatives and cooperation of all actors in the implementation of standards and programs.

Specific objectives of the Working Group could be:

General advice:

- To advise on ways to improve implementation of the SDGs by participants.
- To help identify opportunities and advise on priorities for SDGs, especially those that fall within the TSCL's comparative advantage.

Tools and Guidance Materials:

- To provide guidance on the existence of tools and guidance documents (Sustainability Framework) that TSCL should promote.
- To help identify the need for new tools and other guidance documents as well as the ways to effectively implement them both at the national and local level.
- To help collect examples and other materials for tools and other guidance documents on specific SDGs.

Collective Action:

- To provide guidance on various types of collective action initiatives that both GCNI and TSCL should initiate or promote both at the local and national level.
- To help identify various elements that would help advance the collective action aspect of SDGs.

Meetings:

- To help identify items to be discussed through Meetings/ Orientation trainings/ Design Workshops that the GCNI shall organize along with TSCL and Knowledge Partners, to advance the implementation of the SDGs in local governance.

Membership Composition of the SDG Assessment Working Group:

- Working Group shall be a multi-stakeholder group which shall comprise of Government officials, City leaders, Academics, CSOs, Citizen representatives and Business-participants from MNCs, PSUs and SMEs.
- TSCL shall recommend 7-8 members (MiN) and GCNI shall recommend 3-4 members respectively.
- CEO, TSCL will appoint 1 nodal person to be constantly engaged with this initiative who can guide and assist in implementation of the SDG Assessment work. He/ She shall also chair all meeting of the Working Group.
- Officials from TSCL may be invited to meetings/ workshops/ trainings as observers.
- Once the SDG/SDGs is/ are prioritized, officials from the concerned department may be invited to meetings/ workshops/ trainings to enhance synergies.
- CEO, TSCL and Director, GCNI shall be ex-officio members.
- Membership and advisory contribution to the Working Group is an honorary position.

Structure of the SDG Assessment Working Group:

- The appointed Nodal person and the ex-officio members (or their representatives) shall provide strategic direction to the Working Group. They will be responsible for updating other members about the progress made at the Working Group meetings/ workshops/ trainings.
- A Special Advisor/ Consultant on any specific SDG may be appointed to provide strategic advice on the design and implementation of the Working Group meetings/ workshops/ trainings, when necessary.
- One or more co-chair(s) will be appointed to facilitate Working Group meetings/ workshops/ trainings on a rotating basis. The co-chair will hold the meeting in absence of the Chair.
- The meeting can be attended in-person or virtually.
- The quorum for the meeting shall be 5 members (all in-person).
- The offices of the either of the two ex-officio members shall regularly update its members (through bulletins, minutes of meetings/ workshops/ trainings and/or regular emails), organize regular meetings/ workshops/ trainings, and implement the guidance provided by its members.
- A member is advised to attend at least one in-person Working Group meeting a quarter. In case a member is unable to attend a meeting, such member is encouraged to nominate a representative from his/her organization to attend the meeting/ workshop on his/her behalf.

Entry to and Exit from the SDG Assessment Working Group:

- Membership to the Working Group shall only be through invitation (a letter or email with formal signature of either of the ex-officio members) and acceptance of membership by the recipient
- To withdraw one's membership with the Working Group, one is asked to write a letter (or email with formal signature) to any of the ex-officio members Upon receiving the correspondence, the ex-officio member will acknowledge the receipt, and remove the name of the particular organization from the list of Working Group members.
- A failure to attend at least one in- person meeting a quarter or nominate a representative to attend such meeting may result in the loss of one's membership in the Working Group.
- If a former member who was de-listed from the Working Group wants to re-join, his/her organization's contact point must write a letter (or email with formal signature, etc.) to the GCNI/ TSCL Office, indicating the organization's interest in engaging in the Working Group.

Changes to the Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference may be amended by a resolution approved by not less than 50 percent of the Working Group participants either by letter ballot or by a vote taken by those present at a regular Working Group meeting.

3. Conducted a SDGs orientation for TSCL's Stakeholders and Working Group

Global Compact Network India (GCNI) conducted an SDG orientation workshop for project's working group members and stakeholders of Thane Smart City on 24th September 2019 at TSCL.

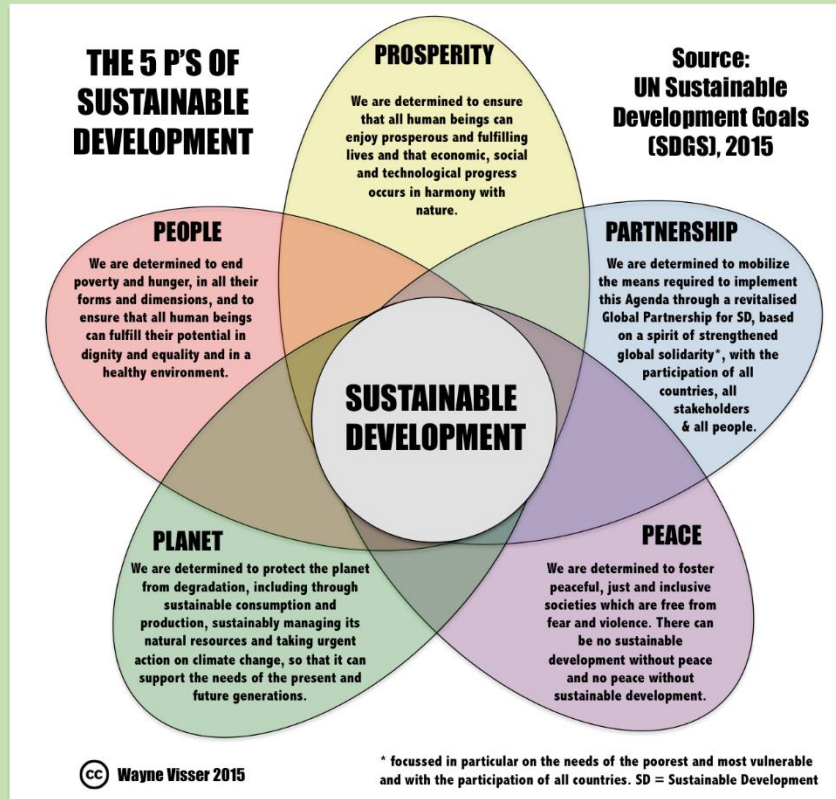
Mr. Somnath Singh, Programme Manager, GCNI and SDGs expert Prof. Dr. Rukaiya Joshi from S. P. Jain Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai facilitated the orientation on SDGs and assisted TSCL's stakeholders to deep dive into SDGs approaches, especially how city's projects need to be aligned with SDGs.

The participants were explained how SDG assessment will help in identifying the real challenges that Thane Smart City is facing, as well as provide a comprehensive overview of the available possibilities of intervention.

21 city participants/stakeholders including Mr. Sameer Unhale, CEO, TSCL attended the orientation programme and committed to improving the city performance by aligning city's projects with SDGs.

Discussions held at the orientation programme ..

🌍 Objectives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



🌍 Focus of Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development Goals	
<p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SDG 1 - No Poverty ➤ SDG 2 - Zero Hunger ➤ SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being ➤ SDG 4 - Quality Education ➤ SDG 5 - Gender Equality ➤ SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation 	<p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SDG 12 - Sustainable Consumption and Production ➤ SDG 13 - Climate Action ➤ SDG 14 - Life Below Water ➤ SDG 15 - Life on Land
<p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy ➤ SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth ➤ SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure ➤ SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities ➤ SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities 	<p>Fostering Peace and Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions ➤ SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals

17 Sustainable Development Goals and performance of States and Union Territories (UTs) on SDG indicators.

- SDG 1: **No Poverty** (Globally 647 Million people live in extreme poverty and 27.5% of them in India is multidimensionally poor and one in every four persons is poor).
- SDG 2: **No Hunger** (Globally 821 Million people are suffering from No Hunger and one in Nine are undernourished. 3 in 10 children are stunted in India).
- SDG 3 : **Good Health and Well Being** (Globally 5.4. Million Children die before their 5th birthday each year. In India the children death rate has declined by 10% but it has increased in other disease like Tuberculosis etc.)
- SDG 4 : **Quality Education** (The Global Literacy Rate is 86..2% but 63.67 Million children remain out of school. Literacy rate among adult has increased but it still needs to improve).
- SDG 5 : **Gender Equality** (Globally 1 in 3 women have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. In India 65.46% of the women are literate, as compared to 82.14% of men and child sex ration is 919 girls for 1000 boys and violence cases with women has increased).
- SDG 6 : **Clean Water and Sanitation** (Globally 2.6 Billion people have gained access to improved drinking water sources . 18% of world population lives in India 4% of average global runoff in rivers ; Also, 500 million people are affected by drought every year and children death due to severe diarrhea is increasing; over 20% of the population lives in the states which are not yet declared open defecation free).
- SDG 7 : **Affordable and Clean Energy** (Globally 12.6% houses still lack access to modern electricity while in India nearly 31 million houses still lack access to electricity. India still needs to focus on renewable energy).
- SDG 8: **Decent Work and Economic Growth** (Globally 172 million people are unemployed of which 71 million are young women and men. In India the total labor force is 510 million and out of which more than 10 million children are employed in some form of labor).
- SDG 9 : **Industry Innovation and Infrastructure** (Globally 14.2% of the world's workforce employed in manufacturing , 1.1. manufacturing creates jobs and 2.2 jobs in other sectors. In India 111 million people employed in micro, small and medium enterprises produce 33% of the manufacturing output etc.).
- SDG 10: **Reduced Inequalities** (Globally in 1990-2010 Income inequality (11%) has increased in developing countries. In India 27.5% people are multidimensionally poor).
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (Globally more than half of humanity lives in cities today and by 2030, 6 out of 10 people will live in cities. By 2030, India will have 7 megacities with populations over 10 million).
- SDG 12: **Responsible Consumption and Production** (Globally, if population reaches to 9.6 billion, by 2030, an equivalent of 3 planet will be required to sustain current lifestyle).

Due to huge population , India is the 3rd largest green house gas emitter responsible for 6.9% of global emissions. India needs to make extraordinary efforts on SDG 12).

- SDG 13 : **Climate Action** (Globally , it is expected that without action, the world's average surface temperature is likely to surpass 3 degree Celsius this century ; India including entire world needs to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact).
- SDG 14: **Life Below Water** (Globally, coastal and marine resources contribute 3-4 trillion USD to the global economic every year. India around 13.36% population live in coastal districts and the sea level rises by 1.33 mm/ year. Conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources is necessary for sustainable development.
- SDG 15 : **Life on Land** (Globally, 2.6 Billion people are depended directly on agriculture but 52% of agricultural land is affected by soil degradation. In India, 44% of the total workforce is employed in agriculture and 52% of total land under agriculture is unirrigated and rain fed).
- SDG 16 : **Peace and Justice Strong Institutions** (Globally 590000 lost their lives violently in 2016 which means that on an average , interpersonal or collective violence killed at least 1 person every minute of every day of the year. In India, 30.84 million cases are pending in High courts , over 338000 crimes against women are reported every year and cases of human trafficking are increasing every year).
- SDG 17 : **Partnerships for the Goals** (Entire world including India is needed to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).

This SDGs orientation provided a platform to the stakeholders and TSCL's official to develop their knowledge on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so they can help in conducting SDGs assessment for the city and to align its activities / projects and innovations with SDGs.

4. Organized Design Workshop on SDGs assessment

On 13th November 2019, Global Compact Network India organized a design workshop for the working group and TSCL's potential stakeholders and team members. Mr. Sameer Unhale , CEO, TSCL, gave an overview of SDGs assessment project which TSCL is doing in partnership with Global Compact Network, India.

Mr. Somnath Singh , Programme Manager , GCNI and Mr. Shankar Jadhav, Director, The Institute of Cultural Affairs , India along with two SDGs assessment experts (Ms. Archana and Ms. Renuka) have facilitated the workshop.

The workshop helped TSCL and the working group to prioritize SDGs for the city and develop strategies to successfully align city's projects/activities with SDGs and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Learning from the workshops

- SDGs assessment is a great initiative/tool which will help a city to be a smart and sustainable.
- Each SDG has worth and it has to be aligned with the activities/innovations/projects of smart city/TSCL.
- Every city is trying to reinvent the things, and no one is looking at the best-case examples of cities that are already doing good. The approach of learning from other cities and replicating best projects will help in strengthening smart city/TSCL.
- There is a need to find synergy across diverse departments and stakeholders and bring them to a common platform to initiate collective action for the city development.
- Resources need to be tapped, tackled irrespective of missions, because SPV is good to work with municipalities, corporates and other potential stakeholders.
- Thane Smart City (TSCL) has the potential and resources to make the city a role model for other cities. Immediate strategy and action are required at city level.
- Thane Smart City (TSCL) should focus on expanding employment opportunities, basic infrastructure, Clean environment, affordable housing for all, Quality education and Gender Equality. Activities and projects should be developed as per the city's needs.
- Thane Smart City (TSCL) is taking lots of initiative to make the city citizen friendly and sustainable, therefore city is required to align its innovations with SDGs and project the achievements to the world.
- Indian city may submerge in water if appropriate action is not taken right away –Needs a collective action for cities development.

Striking features of the programme

- The participants realized that the city has a lot of resources to be used for the development of the city.
- Feedback was collected from the participant which provided way forward to execute project's further course of action/activities.
- The participants shared their knowledge and ideas how they put project's impact on city.
- The participants shared their capabilities so that a clear roadmap was developed to assess the needs of the city and then align them with SDGs.
- The facilitators as well as participants shared their ideas and knowledge to successfully conduct SDGs assessment for Thane Smart City.
- Involvement of Private sector like Siemens helped in creating platform for businesses and smart cities to collaborate for strengthening smart cities mission in Thane.

Suggestions & Recommendations

- There should be an accountability between smart city and other potential stakeholders to initiate collective action for building Thane as a smart and sustainable city.
- Urban planning should be as per the need and sustainability of the city.
- Thane Smart City must have citizen awareness program for their active involvement in urban planning and city development.

- SDGs assessment must be mandated for all the smart cities.
- Municipal Corporation must be serious and accountable for the proper implementation, Management, Monitoring and the successful achievement of projects of smart city/TSCL.
- City leadership needs to be strengthened to achieve desired goals of Smart City Mission and Sustainable Development Goals.
- TSCL must have revenue generation schemes /programmes for the city development.
- City needs to decide which approach will work for City Development and implement accordingly.
- City must have positive and transparent approaches while it coordinates with businesses and other stakeholders.

Way Forward

- To improve city performance by enhancing capacity, capability and knowledge of diverse stakeholders on SDGs and .
- To help city develop sustainable collaboration with other potential stakeholders that can support TSCL for successfully implementation of its projects and achievement of its goals/targets.
- To help city stakeholders identify gaps in various projects of the city/TSCL.
- To guide TSCL to align city's activities and initiatives with Sustainable Development Goals.
- To develop strategic SDGs assessment framework for TSCL.
- To improve overall performance and functioning of Thane Smart Cities.

Outcomes & Impact

- The activities carried out under SDGs assessment project so far have helped in creating a platform for TSCL and other stakeholders including GCNI to work together for city development.
- SDGs orientation and design workshop provided an opportunity to understand objectives, targets and complexities of Sustainable Development Goals and the needs of Thane Smart City.
- It has provided a roadmap to develop a robust and sustainable collective action for city development.

ABOUT THE PARTNER

Global Compaction Network India (GCNI)

The Global Compact Network (GCN) India was formed in 2000 and registered as non-profit society in November 2003 to function as the Indian Local Network of the UN Global Compact (UNGC), New York. The Global Compact Network India works towards mainstreaming the ten universally acceptable principles in business activities around the world, catalyzing action in support of broader UN goals. At present, the India network ranks among the top 3, out of the 102 local networks in the world, and has emerged as the largest corporate citizenship and social responsibility organization in the country with a pan Indian membership. With 400 renowned organizations as GCNI pivotal members / signatories, the local India network in the last 14 years of its functioning has created a strong niche for itself.

Centre of Excellence for Governance, Ethics and Transparency (CEGET)

GCNI established the ***Centre of Excellence for Governance, Ethics and Transparency (CEGET)*** in 2015, with the overall objective of developing a premier knowledge repository that conducts innovative action research and training, provides a platform for dialogue and communication and facilitates systematic policy initiatives for strengthening transparency and ethics in business. The goal of CEGET is to bring in diverse stakeholders on a common platform to exchange best practices, deliberate upon challenges and make policy recommendations to promote responsible business standards and transparency and ethics in general.