29 November – 3 December 2021
EXCO, Daegu, Republic of Korea
The region of New Delhi, the capital of India, called NCR (National Capital Region) hosts among the largest slum populations in the country and in the world.
In India, almost two thirds of slums are considered ‘non notified’: they are not legally recognised by the Government. The residents living in those slums, in other words, "illegal settlements", do not have access to legal protection and civic services. It also means there is no policy to supply water and sanitation to those populations.
People living in non-notified settlements suffer from poorer access to piped water, latrines, electricity and public transportation when compared to notified slums. Households have to purchase water through informal distribution systems run by private vendors.

Residents pay on a monthly basis to access water from these hoses, most of the time for only two hours a day. Residents have to line up in the lanes at specific times to access a hose. The lack of access to clean water not only has a negative impact on household economy, but also on health, employment, education, quality of life, social relationships, community cohesion, and people’s sense of political inclusion.
In addition to this situation, the slums of NCR suffer from regular flooding during the monsoon season: canals get flooded because of waste and plastic obstructing, and the water gets contaminated with coliform bacteria. Floods are revealing the lack of access to sanitation, and the inadequate collection of solid waste.
Problems we are dealing with:

- Rainwater canals are getting converted to sewerage drains
- Poor solid waste management is leading to waste in canals
- No affordable drinking water due to no fresh water source and government relying on ground water
- Flooding of houses in Rainy season
- Policy issues in property rights and ownership of land
That’s the water paradox you can find in NCR’s slums: people lack access to clean water, but they get flooded every year. That’s how you can have no water and too much water at the same time!
Thank you! Let’s solve issues together and make this world a more habitable space.