# GLOBAL DIPLOMACY LAB

# IMPACT OF URBAN DESIGN ON INCLUSIVE CITIES: INTERSECTIONS & CROSSROADS

## HOST
ELSAMARIE D'SILVA,
FOUNDER, RED DOT FOUNDATION

**SEPTEMBER 14-17, 2022**

# CONCEPT OF THE LAB

The city of Mumbai is often called the 'city of dreams' in popular culture. It is after all, India's commercial hub and trading center by the Arabian Sea and home to Bollywood, one of the world's richest municipalities,

Mumbai is also home to the world's largest slum areas, where communities experience gender violence, lack of access to sanitation, poor housing, among other problems. Climate change is also exacerbating these inequalities.

Hosted by the Red Dot Foundation, the Mumbai Lab *"Impact of Urban Design on Inclusive Cities: Intersections and Crossroads"* aimed to investigate the nature of the interconnected inequalities from a climate adaptation and gender lens. From there participants worked together t to develop recommendations to city officials for an inclusive and safer city, for all its citizens, especially those who are marginalized and socio-economically vulnerable.

# LAB OVERVIEW

**Aim -** Focusing on SDGs 5 (Gender), 11 (Sustainable Cities) and 17 (Partnerships), the aim of the Lab is for the members to help develop a list of recommendations and good practices for city officials on an inclusive and safer city from a gender and climate adaptation perspective.

**Participants -** We had 10 GDL members, 4 Responsible Leaders, 4 Youth and 5 organising team members representing 8 countries.

# INCUBATION LAB SUMMARY

In the Incubation lab hosted virtually in 2020-21, participants delved deep into how different groups of people, especially women, experience a city and its impact from an environmental perspective with regards to air, water, transport and green cover. The participants developed a set of indicators that can be used to identify inclusion and ideas for citizen campaigns. You can read the report here.

In the Impact lab, the participants - diplomats and non-traditional diplomats from GDL and the BMW Foundation Responsible Leaders network met different residents of the city, witnessed their innovations as well as challenges and brainstormed a list of recommendations from their perspectives and intersectional work on climate adaptation, urban design and gender. The aim was to understand what works at the community level, an appreciation of local change makers and recommending to institutional stakeholders examples for support to scale.

These recommendations will be presented to NIUA, MCGM and other institutional stakeholders who can implement some of the insights. The Lab results will also be presented at the next UN Habitat World Urban Forum as well as showcased on social media, in various online publications and other fora during the next couple of years.

## GLOBAL REALITIES

By 2050, 70% of the world's population is expected to live in cities leading to further strain on infrastructure and resulting in social inequalities.

Cities like Mumbai, have populations of over 20 million are already under strain, impacting safety and security of residents especially, vulnerable populations like women, senior citizens, indigenous populations and differently abled people.

# CHALLENGE HOLDER
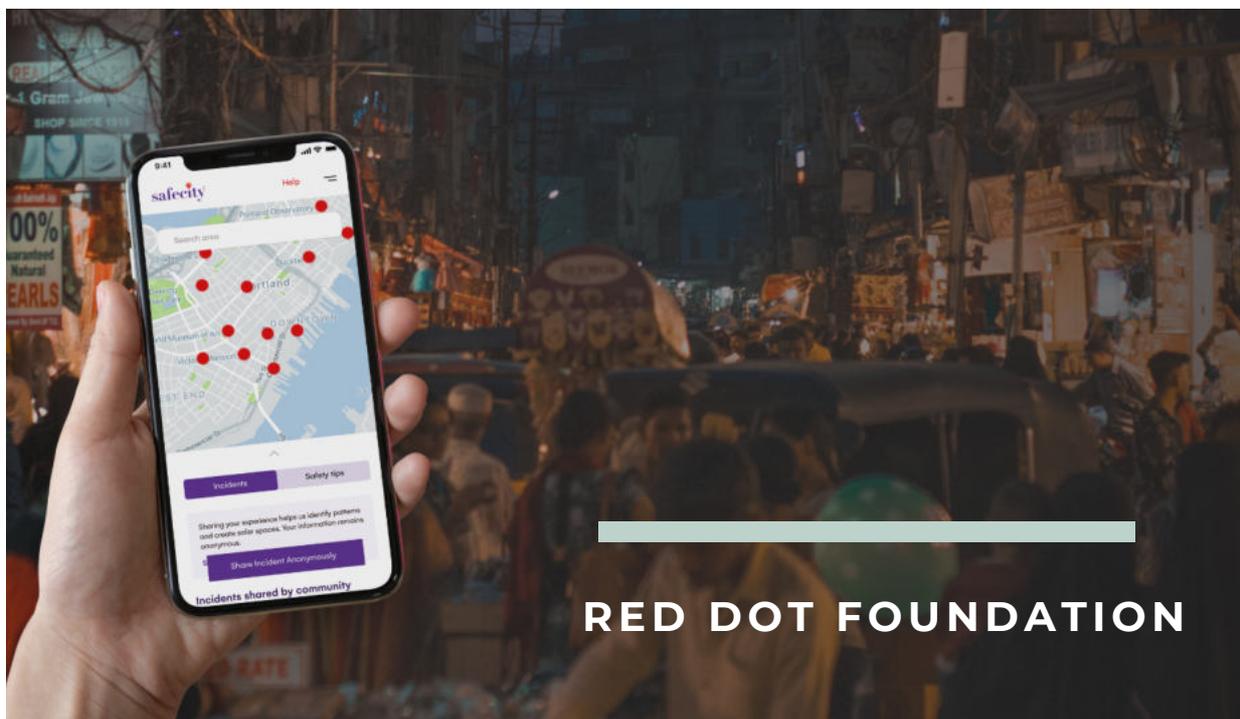


**RED DOT FOUNDATION**

Red Dot Foundation, a Section 8 Non-Profit company based in India, founded by Global Diplomacy Lab member and Lab Host ElsaMarie DSilva.

Red Dot Foundation works at the intersection of gender, data and tech, urban design and community engagement. Its mission is to make cities safer by encouraging equal access to public and private spaces for everyone, especially women and girls, through the use of crowdsourced data, community engagement and institutional accountability.

Its flagship program is Safecity, a platform that crowdsources anonymous personal stories of sexual harassment and abuse in public and private spaces. This data, which is completely anonymous, gets aggregated as hot spots on a map indicating trends at a local level. The idea is to make this data useful for individuals, local communities and local administration to identify factors that cause behaviour that leads to violence and work on strategies for solutions. Since the launch in 2012, it has collected 45,000 stories globally and directly reached over 1 million people.

# THE HOST

## ELSAMARIE D'SILVA



ElsaMarie D'Silva is the Founder of Red Dot Foundation (India) and President of Red Dot Foundation Global (USA). Its platform Safecity, crowdsources personal experiences of sexual violence and abuse in public spaces. She is also the Co-Founder of the Brave Movement and is one of the 15 survivors globally, using their collective voice to speak out when there is silence and advocating for transformational change, thus guiding the vision and strategy of the Brave Movement.

ElsaMarie is a 2020 Gratitude Network Fellow, 2019 IWF Fellow and a Reagan Fascell Fellow, a 2018 Yale World Fellow and an alumna of the Stanford Draper Hills Summer School, the US State Department's Fortune Mentoring Program, Oxford Chevening Gurukul and the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Leadership Program. She is also a fellow with Rotary Peace, Aspen New Voices, Vital Voices and a BMW Foundation Responsible Leader. She co-founded the Gender Alliance which is a cross-network initiative bringing together feminists from various German networks, including the German FFO's GDL.

She is listed as one of BBC Hindi's 100 Women and has won several awards including Government of India Niti Aayog's #WomenTransformingIndia award. In 2017, she was awarded the Global Leadership Award by Vital Voices in the presence of Secretary Hillary Clinton.

Her work has been recognised by the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations through the Intercultural Innovation Award, SDG Action Festival and the UN Foundation at the Solutions Summit 2016.

# AGENDA

## Wednesday, 14 September 2022 – ARRIVAL & IMMERSION

| | |
|---|---|
| BY 2.00 PM | **Meet in the Hotel Lobby & Walk to Goethe Institute** Location: **Abode Bombay**, First Floor Lansdowne House |
| 2.30 PM | **Arrival and Individual Check-in** Including Covid-19 testing Location: **Goethe Institute Mumbai** |
| 3.00 – 3.30 PM | **Welcome & Icebreaker Activity** Introduction by **ElsaMarie DSilva**, grounding exercise by **Supreet K Singh** (Responsible Leader) and Icebreaker by **Rudrani Dasgupta** (GDL Member) |
| 3.30 – 4.00 PM | **Impulse Talk by Robert Stephens "Bombay, The World's Most Inclusive City that wasn't"** Presentation on macro view of the city and inclusion as well as a Q&A |
| 4.00 – 4.15 PM | **Walk to the Asiatic Library**, Assembly Point of the Heritage Walk Location: **Asiatic Library**, Town Hall |
| 4.15 – 5.15 PM | **Heritage Walk**; Conducted by **Prathima Manohar**, The Urban Vision |
| 5.30 – 6.15 PM | **Reflections on Heritage Walk** Facilitated by **ElsaMarie DSilva** and **Prathima Manohar** (Responsible Leader) Location: **Goethe Institute Mumbai** |
| 6.15– 6.45 PM | **Group Activity on Memory and our personal interaction with the city** Facilitated by **Banu Pekol** (GDL Member) Location: **Goethe Institute Mumbai** |
| 7.00 PM | **Opening Dinner hosted by the Deputy Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany** Location: **Residence of Deputy Consul General** |

# AGENDA

## Thursday, 15 September 2022 – MEET THE LOCALS

| | |
|---|---|
| 9.30 AM | **Meet in the Hotel Lobby and Transfer to St Xavier's College, Marine Lines**<br><br>Location: **St Xavier's College,** |
| 10.00 AM – 12.00 PM | **Meet the Students**<br><br>Icebreaker, Q&A with students and group activity led by the Youth participants of the Lab and **Rudrani Dasgupta**, GDL Member |
| 12.00 – 12.30 PM | **Tour of the Historical Building** |
| 12.30 PM | **Leave for Lunch at Chetna, Kalaghoda**<br><br>Location: **Chetna, Kalaghoda,** 34, K Dubash Marg, Kala Ghoda, Fort, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400023 |
| 2.00 – 4.30 PM | **Free Time** |
| 4.30 PM | **Leave for Ministry of New**<br><br>Location: **Ministry of New** |
| 5.00 – 5.30 PM | **Tour of the Historical Building and the Shared Workspace at Ministry of New** |
| 5.30 – 7.30 PM | **Charette in Groups with Inputs from Local NGO Leaders**<br>Crowdsource ideas for inclusion, receive feedback from development sector leaders, prioritise ideas based on impact and effort and identify one or two ideas for prototyping. |
| 7.30 – 10.00 PM | **Dinner and Bollywood Dance Party**<br>Location: **Ministry of New** |

# AGENDA

## Friday, 16 September 2022 – DEVELOP STRATEGIES

| | |
|---|---|
| 7.30 AM | **Meet in the Hotel Lobby and Transfer to Individual Site Visits** |
| 9.00 AM – 3.00 PM | **Group 1**<br><br>Stop 1: Aarey Tribal Visit facilitated by Nazareth Foundation<br>Stop 2: Architecture College in Juhu by Prof Alan Abraham<br>Stop 3: Community Food Forest in Bandra by the Dream Grove team<br>Stop 4: Placemaking Bandra by Anca Abraham Stop 5: Inclusive street and Public space at Lower Parel<br><br>**Group 2**<br><br>Stop 1: UNDP Collaboration with the Ragpicker's collective on upcycling waste<br>Stop 2: Matunga Station<br>Stop 3: Mahim Art by StArt<br>Stop 4: Visit to NGO at Dharavi, Mumbai's largest slumStop 5: Inclusive street and Public space at Lower Parel |
| 3.00 PM | **Head back to Hotel and Rest** |
| 7.00 PM | **Dinner & Speed dating at Royal Bombay Yacht Club with BMW Responsible Leaders**<br><br>Introductions by **ElsaMarie DSilva**, GDL Member, and Welcome **by Barbara Müller**, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt<br><br>**Location: Royal Bombay Yacht Club** |

# AGENDA

## Saturday, 17 September 2022 – FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| 9.00 AM | **Check Out and leave for Ministry of New, CST**<br><br>Location: **Ministry of New** |
| 9.30 – 11.30 AM | **World Cafe: Final Innovations and Interventions**<br><br>Refine final solutions with practical and implementable action points |
| 11.30 AM – 12.45 PM | **Town Hall**<br><br>What works? Recommendations from the lab participants<br><br>Attending Authorities: **Consulate General of Germany in Mumbai, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, Swachh Bharat Mission, National Institute of Urban Affairs, All India Institute for Local Self Government, Goethe Institute and Representatives from Media**<br><br>Location: **Ministry of New** |
| 12.45 – 13.00 P.M. | **Group Picture and Farewell Address** |
| 0100 – 02.00 P.M. | **Lunch** |

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSIONS



## Day 1 - Arrival and Immersions

A grounding exercise is important to orient participants to a city like Mumbai. Architect Robert Stephens set the tone for the lab by hosting a session, "Mumbai the most inclusive city, that wasn't". His talk was based on his research of Mumbai and two hundred years of urban planning and design. Through a fun and interactive session he explained how every single idea for inclusion whether it was mass public transport, shared public spaces, sewage and sanitation, housing, gardens and urban commons, pet cemeteries had already been thought of and designed, but never implemented. It brought home the fact that often one does not need to reinvent the wheel but carefully implement smart ideas.

This was followed by a heritage walk in the city with an urban expert Prathima Manohar explaining principles of urban design for inclusion in public spaces. From eyes on the street, mixed used infrastructure, 24x7 activity, urban commons that can be used by all, it really helped put theory into practice. Both these talks set the tone for the rest of the Lab.

The memory and personal interaction with the city exercise facilitated by Banu Pekol, helped the group ground their personal experiences with cities and noninclusion with the intention of the lab. It brought the local to the global and back to the local agenda. This exercise also helped break the ice and was a great way to quickly acquaint the various participant groups - GDL Members, Responsible Leaders, Youth and Red Dot Foundation team members - with each other.







The dinner at the Deputy Consul General's house also validated the importance of the Lab, emphasized the partnership between the Consulate General of Germany in Mumbai and Red Dot Foundation and accorded a special welcome to the participants.

The first day was important in contextualizing Mumbai and its position as a historical space for experimenting with urban design. It was a playground for ambitious but unrealized visions of what the city could be. The lab participants walked around and experienced Mumbai as it is, mentally comparing it to what could have been.

GDL Mumbai Lab group at the Asiatic library steps.

## Day 2 - Meet the Locals

This was the highlight of the Lab according to many participants. They were able to experience a densely populated city like Mumbai through the eyes of the various residents - indigenous populations, slum dwellers, artists, environmentalists, urban planners and designers and middle-class residents.

The site visits gave the participants a glimpse into the lives of the many different residents, understand the challenges living in a metropolis like Mumbai and get a first-hand testimony of their experiences.

The participants were also able to experience the many innovations that individuals and organizations have developed to foster and enable inclusion in their communities. They understood the roles of various stakeholders including the local governmental bodies, civil society organizations and activist groups in fostering community development at both micro and macro levels.

There was opportunity to share personal and professional experiences and once again bring the local to the global and vice versa. These interactions at a people-to-people level further spark curiosity, idea generation and partnerships

## Group 1 Site Visits

**Tribal Tadka, Aarey:** Nazareth Foundation organised an interactive trip to the lives of tribal women of Aarey forest. The group visited one of the 40 blocks in the locality, which had 60-75 families. The women of the village spoke about their routine, including some who were working women. Their livelihood ranges from stitching clothes, running a flour mill to assisting the organisation by making eco-friendly products for sale.



**Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture and Environmental Studies, Juhu:** Alan Abraham and his colleague explained the importance of having elements of safety and inclusivity involved while building spaces. He also took the group around the neighborhood and explained the problem of safety on empty playgrounds.



**DreamGrove - Food Forest, Bandra:** Marie Paul organised a field trip to the food forest created on a plot in Bandra by the women staying in the neighbourhood. The forest is built and maintained as the structure of a natural forest with edible plants, trees and shrubs. The forest is open to anyone from the neighbouring community and has become an inter-generational hangout spot for everyone.



**Placemaking Bandra at Bandra Steps:** Anca Abraham from Placemaking Bandra shared her initiative of creating a safe and inclusive common space for everyone. The group visited Bandra steps, an area filled with colourful artwork that people from all walks of lives use. On the onset of the Bandra fair, the group witnessed women selling flowers and children playing around on the steps. The architecture of the steps is such that it allows differently abled people and small vendors to push their wheeled chairs/carts through the stairs easily.



**Inclusive street & Public space in Lower Parel Mansi Sahu from Studio Pod:** Both groups then gathered under the Elphinston Bridge to meet Mansi Sahu, who demonstrated to the participants how the urban design firm StudioPOD developed inclusive streets and public spaces.
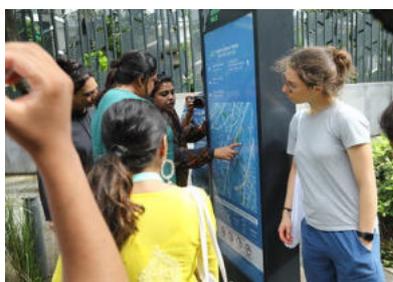
## Group 2 Site Visits

**UNDP Upcycling Centre:** UNDP facilitated an interaction with rag pickers at the Ragpicker's Collective on up-cycling waste and this was in collaboration with the UNDP. Participants were shown the process of segregation and up-cycling of dry waste and told the story of how this organization was started by an 11-year-old boy Haider Ali Sayyed, years ago who himself was originally a ragpicker.



**Matunga Railway Station Western Railway:** This is a local train station that is completely run by women - women police officers, women station-masters, etc. Given that there are large number of incidents of sexual harassment, it was interesting to see how an all women management team can change social norms and increase confidence amongst women commuters. Also it was interesting to see women in leadership in a transport company which is unusual and in itself



**StART at Mahim West:** The group then moved to a site visit that not only showed the inclusivity of Mumbai, but also the creativity of this city - a Street Art Walk. Participants were led by Mihir Thakkar into the Mahim Art District. An area filled with buildings that were covered in street art. The aim of this art walk was to engage the public and introduce them to a new format of experiencing contemporary art. The walk provided an insight into the historical and contextual aspects of the locations, stories behind the murals, and how they work alongside but also enhance the cityscape while creating public spaces.



**NGO Reality Gives, Dharavi:** Moving toward the idea of inclusivity, this walk led to the participants entering Dharavi - the largest slum in Asia. Here, the participants were taken to an NGO run for mainly kids and young adults (however, there are older people being taught as well) to teach them English - specifically spoken English so that they weren't left behind in their career just because of a language barrier.



**Inclusive street & Public Space in Lower Parel - Mansi Sahu from Studio Pod:** Both groups then gathered under the Elphinston Bridge to meet Mansi Sahu.

## Day 3 - Develop Strategies



The first part of the day was spent with youth at St Xavier's college where the participants were able to understand how the youth perceive the current situation in their city, the challenges they face and what they aspire for. The session was conducted by college students who used methods of inquiry to get participants to question and critique their surroundings from an inclusion lens. The discussion was focused on the urban issues that students and the youth of the city face.

The themes that emerged were **urban safety for women**, **accessible public transportation**, and **conserving the urban climate**. The students brought up points about the lack of safe pavements for pedestrians, unsafe and, at times, inaccessible public transportation for women, and the last-mile connectivity that needs to be improved in the city. The GDL members brought up points about youth participation in the city's governance and policy-making for youth issues to be addressed. Students put forth the perspective that although there is not a lack of intention from the youth, access to decision-making spaces is the issue. In other words, several roadblocks to youth participation in urban governance exist.

The next activity put students and Lab members in different groups to ideate on solutions for a problem the group identified with. The groups developed suggestions to resolve the issues of youth participation, public transportation and women's safety.

The second part of the day was dedicated to crowdsourcing ideas for inclusion in the city based on the experiences from the lab but also individual experiences from their professional and personal lives. These ideas were then prioritized based on impact and effort with the help including economists, activists and other experts from the development sector. Finally, each group was encouraged to prioritize one or two ideas to recommend for practical implementation.





Having development experts was important to further give local context and explain current formal systems and structures which could be barriers or enablers to implementing these ideas.

# Day 4 - Final Recommendations

The four groups developed their ideas into working action plans. These ideas were presented to city officials and other leaders who gave feedback to strengthen the action plans and insights on how to further take them forward with implementing bodies.



The four ideas presented were:

1. **Green Urban Commons**
   a. Identify and map out unused areas in the city.
   b. Work with government, private sector, non-profits and artists to develop them into green urban commons.
   c. Market and brand these spaces so there is upkeep, maintenance and ownership by the local community.

2. **Youth civic fellowship with city institutional bodies**
   a. There is a lack of proper quality civic education for youth to participate in the socio-political system.
   b. Create a fellowship which has an education component, mentorship, internship and civic project for the youth to 'learn by doing' and be active citizens.
   c. Work with a government body to institute this fellowship, ideally with the municipal corporation.

3. **Public owned, public spaces - An application to crowdsource information ward wise which can be used by citizens**
   a. Crowdsource information on helplines, municipal corporations, budgets available and other civic resources ward wise.
   b. Make it available, accessible and known to all citizens.
   c. Create an accountability mechanism as well as an interactive platform between citizens and their municipality.

4. **Mumbai for all | All for Mumbai**
   a. Have more youth involved in policy and politics through education, awareness and political participation.
   b. Support community level interventions through public-private partnership

The main sentiment behind all the lively discussions was the overarching desire to create a 'Mumbai for all'. How does one create and maintain spaces that are not just FOR the community, but by the community themselves?

# METHODOLOGY

Effective methodology is central to every Global Diplomacy Lab and it determines its success. The premise of the GDL lies in its emergent and process-based methodology. No lab is based on a rigid set of outcomes; rather participants are invited to engage with and trust the process of discovery and learning during the duration of the lab. The Mumbai Lab was no different.

- **Youth Engagement**
  - Red Dot Foundation partnered with a local institution St Xavier's College to identify students to join the GDL Lab.
  - Four youth from St Xavier's college were invited to join the Lab in its entirety. This helped bring in the youth perspective which was extremely valuable. They were able to give the local context to help the participants quickly immerse themselves in the lab.
  - For the students, they were exposed to international delegates and different perspectives. They were also able to experience their own city from a different perspective.
  - This Lab methodology was new to them and helped accelerate their learning.



- **Experiential Immersion**
  - Being out in the city, meeting diverse people, experiencing their local habitats and understanding their challenges through their perspectives was extremely helpful.
  - Despite knowing about the macro problems, the site visits and various expert inputs were able to place the local context into perspective.

- **Design Thinking**
  - Design thinking exercises at various points in the lab were useful in crowdsourcing ideas and helping to prioritize based on effort and impact.
  - At the architecture college in Juhu, the 3D model of the suburb was helpful in contextualizing some of the urban design principles for inclusion but also visually showcased how cities grow and expand to exclude and include different communities.
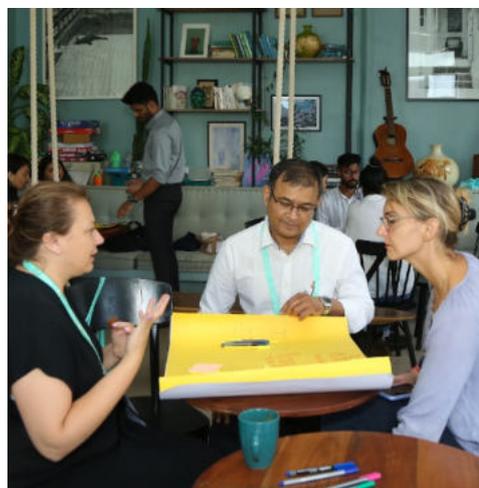
- **Social Media**
  - Every day, one of our participants took over the Twitter handle to communicate the experiences from the Lab so that others might be interested and inspired.

# OUTCOMES

- Deeper understanding and appreciation of inclusion in cities at a personal and professional level.
- Deeper appreciation of having diverse voices at the table. Eg. youth, under-represented communities.
- Deeper understanding and appreciation of community based local interventions and its impact on local communities and their well-being.
- Deeper understanding of the different stakeholders and their role in inclusion: local government, business, academia, citizens, architects, activists, and other citizens.
- Stronger relationships between GDL Members and between GDL Members and Responsible leaders in India.
- Deeper appreciation of personal privilege.
- Introspection into the advantages and barriers that influence one's life.

# PRIVILEGE

## a poem by Cristina Gallegos

If you don't have to carry uphill every drop of water you use

If you don't have to weekly plaster your house with mud to keep its walls strong

If your kids go to school

If you are fed every day

If you can earn a living

If you have soap

If you know a dentist

or a nurse

If someone richer than you

or lighter than you

could love you and marry you

If you have indoor plumbing

and a safe door

If you don't have reduced lung capacity because of the smog you live in

If you can show your face

and drive

If you have shoes than don't bite your feet

If you can afford to throw away things

and your garbage regularly disappears from your life

If you have a safe green space for children to play

If the government is not coming for your land

If you have hope


Well, then,

you know.


And,

because India exists,

you should not complain

ever again,

about anything.

Because India exists,
I should not complain
ever again,
about anything.

how I feel about anything anymore,
other than not taking it for granted,
is uncertain.
I don't know what to believe.
Some things are always right and true,
but it is good to feel
upended
by a country.

A good start.

Because many do not.

And,
because India exists,
we should not complain
ever again,
about anything.

# FORWARD GUIDANCE



- Red Dot Foundation will be presenting the Lab outcomes to various implementing bodies like All India Institute of Local Self Governance, Swaach Bharat, NIUA and MCGM, amongst others.
- Red Dot Foundation will incorporate some of the recommendations into its work on inclusion in cities.
- Red Dot Foundation will present some of the lab results at various UN Habitat events like the Urban Thinkers Campus and the World Urban Forum.

# PARTICIPANTS

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# EXPERT IMPULSE GIVERS

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Aasra Trust

**BANU**
Reality Gives

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# GRATITUDE

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7. Our participants who gave their time and invested their resources in the lab.
8. Our many partners and experts who gave their valuable time to make the lab a success.

*Thank you!*

## SUPPORTED BY
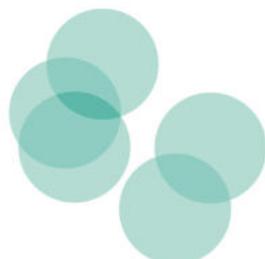
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