Climate responsive WASH initiatives in small and medium towns in India

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Vulnerability of WASH services in India has increased due to climate change . . .



Delhi Floods, 2023 – Water Treatment plants are dysfunctional; sewage mixing with flood water

Uttarakhand, 2023 - Cloud burst destroys

city infrastructure and services





Latur, 2016 - Water delivered through trains during drought







Kerala floods, 2018 – Access to sanitation facilities



- Climate change impacts seen more on developing countries 90 % human losses reported from developing countries
- India is 7th most vulnerable country to the climate hazard
- 27 out of 36 states are highly vulnerable to climate change impact



Source: IPCC, 2023: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. A Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 36 pages. (in press) https://www.jpcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/PCC AR6 SYR SPM.pdf; Mohanty, Abinash, and Shreya Wadhawan. 2021. Mapping India's Climate Vulnerability – A District Level Assessment. New Delhi: Council on Energy, Environment and Water.

Chennai floods, 2021 and drought, 2019

Emissions, mitigation and India's NDCs ...



Reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP to 45% below 2005 levels by 2030.

2

Sector specific targets for all action

Achieve about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

Create an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3.0 billion tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

India is 3rd largest GHG emitter among all the countries.

4

Propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for 'LiFE'- 'Lifestyle for Environment' as a key to combating climate change.

Focusing on Carbon capture usage and storage technologies

Source: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1876119



Focus on research and innovation towards clean fuel technologies Focus on international cooperations and financial credit flows

Small and Medium towns of Maharashtra acting as "Urban laboratories" for building climate responsive WASH services...

- 7 Small and Medium towns ranging from 40,000 to 4 lakh population setting up examples of building climate responsive WASH services.
- Towns are located in different climate conditions facing drought as well as flood situations
- All towns have different WASH services context in terms of services provision both onsite and offsite water and sanitation services.
- Initiatives taken up in towns provide cross sectoral impacts.



Emissions and mitigation potential across WASH chain demonstrated in these cities ...





Scheduled desludging leading to multidimension positive impact...

- A total of 10272 septic tanks are desludged in these cities. With Wai completing 1st cycle of scheduled desludging.
- Leading to reducing 60 % organic load in drains and improving river water quality.
- Safely collecting 65 + million liters of faecal sludge and transporting it to treatment facility.

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Reduction in Nitrogen, Total Suspended solids and Organic loads in septic tanks effluent after desludging them

- Reduced concentration from septic tank effluent helped in reducing the discharge of nitrogen and TSS into the open drains

- 50-60% decrease in the value of TSS in desludged areas
- 50-60% decrease in BOD load in drains in desludged areas

 Regular desludging services will eventually improve the quality of river water and ground water as the quality of drain water and supernatants will improve

Eco-sensitive Treatment plants setup in these cities...







*FS treated from 2018 to 2023





**FS treated from 2019 to 2023



Closing the loop through Resource Recovery in these cities...

- **22,000 square** meters of urban forest and landscaped area in midst of barren land
- 8356 trees of 25+ species planted
- Treated water is used for watering the plants through a drip irrigation system
- Sludge used as fertilizers at the urban forest or taken away by farmers.
- The quality of the treated products are regularly monitored through testing the samples.
- **SHGs engaged** for maintenance of garden and urban forest through a contract and paid on a monthly basis.
- Attracting bird species and butterfliers previously not seen

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75 million+ litres water reused

13,537 tons over 25 years sequestered





Mitigation – Move towards clean energy plays a big role . . .

Sectoral contribution





Source : GHG Platform India **2,455** Mt CO₂e emission from the energy sector

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40% to 60% of the electricity bill of municipal corporations goes towards water / sewage pumping

Municipal services and assets electricity consumption



Source: 1. https://southasia.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/6.-Thane-City_GHG-Emission-Inventory-2017-18-Report_v-2.0.pdf; 2. https://southasia.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2.-Climate-Resilient-City-Action-Plan-Nagpur-Report-Low-Res_compressed.pdf; 3. Karad municipal council, 2023

Renewable energy - important for achieving mitigation targets

Exploring options in a cities of Maharashtra / Interlocking renewable energy with WASH sector yields benefits in terms of emissions and cost saving over long terms







Learnings from laboratory cities are scaled up in India and across the globe . . .



- 'Swachha Bharat Mission 2.0' mandates provision of scheduled desludging service as a part of ODF++ protocol in India
- 1000+ FSTPs in planning or implementation phase in India, 300+ FSTPs alone coming up in Maharashtra.
- Resource recovery and use of clean energy adopted in these cities
- Cities contributing towards achieving SDG 5, 6, 13, 11, 17.
- SBM-NULM-Majhi Vasundhara convergence initiative at statelevel is also being implemented in Maharashtra.

Partnerships and Collaboration to attain Scale ...

BILL& MELINDA GATES foundation







Department for International Development















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THANK YOU

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About us

The Center for Water and Sanitation (CWAS) is a part of CEPT Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) at CEPT University. CWAS undertakes action-research, implementation support, capacity building and advocacy in the field of urban water and sanitation. Acting as a thought catalyst and facilitator, CWAS works closely with all levels of governments - national, state and local to support them in delivering water and sanitation services in an efficient, effective and equitable manner.

