

Learning and Unlearning on Climate Action in Small Towns

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THE SMALLTOWN CONTEXT

93% of cities in India are small/medium

76% of census towns lack master plans



Several national initiatives, such as the **Net-Zero Climate Resilient City Action Plan**, the **CapaCITIES Project**, **AMRUT**, **Smart Cities Mission** etc, focus on **enhancing climate resilience** and **low-carbon strategies** for cities.



Only **50** out of **4,800** cities are preparing or have **climate action plans**; barely **10** have **started implementation** – where are small towns in this discourse?



Small towns **lack awareness** on **interlinkages of WASH and Climate Change** and are **not a priority** for **Municipal officials/ at ULB level**

WASH AS THE ENTRY POINT TO CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Key stakeholders at local level:

	Planning	Implementation	Operations/ Monitoring
Mobility	DULT	KUIDFC	RTO, KSRTC
Energy		BESCOM, KREL	
Urban Planning & Biodiversity	TPA	TPA, CMC, KFD	TPA, CMC
Housing	TPA, CMC	CMC, KHB, KSDB	CMC
Water & Sanitation	CMC, KUWDSDB	CMC, KUWDSDB	CMC
Solid Waste	CMC	CMC	CMC

LEARNINGS AND UNLEARNINGS FROM WASH CAP

Stakeholders and Decision-Making Autonomy



Many actors, small town

Even small towns engage 30+ key stakeholders across sectors and levels.



Limited town-level autonomy

Most decision-making authority rests at the district level.



Political Economy & Institutional Buy-in Over Climate Cells

Political interest and a visionary local leader enable grounding and continuity of actions.

Data for action, not precision



Macro data

Rainfall, Temperature, Climate Trend Analysis



Micro Data

Vulnerability Assessments, WASH systems



Ground-Truthing Data



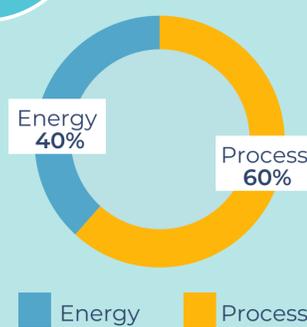
Preparedness over Prediction

Strategic, Accessible and Collaborative Financing

- ✓ Anchored in the convergence of existing public finance.
- ✓ Leverages urban-rural linkages while collaborative models—district fund pooling, accelerator programmes, and NGO partnerships unlock CSR and development finance.
- ✓ In Chintamani this has enabled a credible INR 200+ crore investment pipeline

National & State Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMRUT 2.0 NGT Funds SBM 2.0 UD Funds
Urban-Rural Convergence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSDB MI RDPR
District Funds Emergency/ Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DDMA WRD GWD
Other Fundings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Twin SAM CSR/ BMZ

Targeting PROCESS emissions than GRID emissions



Process Emission	v/s	Grid Emission
Legacy Waste - 39%		Ground Water Extraction - 18%
Fresh Solid Waste - 19%		Ground Water Extraction - 18%
Transport Fuel - 1%		Waste Water Pumping - 5%
Waste Water - 1%		

A DIFFERENTIAL APPROACH FOR SMALL TOWNS



Municipal Capacity

- ▶ Assess current capacity of ULB Staff
- ▶ Identify areas for capacity building
- ▶ Financial healthy of the municipality



Alignment with Existing Programs

- ▶ Leverage state & centrally schemes
- ▶ Part existing roadmaps & city plans
- ▶ Aligns with municipal financial goals



Addressing system functionality

- ▶ Prioritizing accessibility & inclusivity
- ▶ Vulnerable populations are served first
- ▶ Long term efficiency & sustainability



Decentralised & NBS

- ▶ Emphasise low-cost NBS
- ▶ Low CAPEX & Low OPEX
- ▶ Climate resilient - Easy fix solutions