

# CONFERENCE ON SMALL TOWN URBAN AGENDA //

Enhancing Basic Services through  
Sustainable, Resilient and Circular WASH

Conference Proceedings  
December 2023



# CONFERENCE ON **SMALL TOWN URBAN AGENDA**

Enhancing Basic Services through  
Sustainable, Resilient and Circular WASH

## Conference Proceedings

December 2023

BMZ



**BORDA**   
SOUTH ASIA



# CONTENTS

Foreword 04

Acknowledgement 05

Snapshot 06

Context Setting 07

Keynote 09

Session Proceedings 11

Conclusion 17

Gallery 18

Agenda 20

Speakers 22

Our Journey in Small Towns 24





# Foreword

Being a specialist organization, active in the fields of sanitation, poverty alleviation, sustainable protection of natural resources and the strengthening of social structures, BORDA has concentrated on development-oriented cooperation projects and services since 1977. These efforts, operating within the context of social-structure reform, are geared towards the development and dissemination of sustainable, decentralised service models, with the intent of improving the supply of Basic Needs Services in Water and Sanitation sector. Due to the particular focus on decentralised sanitation, including wastewater treatment and solid waste management, BORDA emphasises its efforts with its Mission: **“Improved Sanitation for All”**.

Since last 10 years, BORDA is supporting small and medium sized towns to tackle the challenges arising due to unplanned urbanization in water and sanitation sector. Working with these small and medium sized towns gave a stark realisation that smaller cities are emerging and growing rapidly—but weak municipal capabilities, poor planning, and unplanned urbanization is creating environmental havoc and lowering quality of life. Between 2020-2030, **India’s urban population will grow from 410Mn to 650Mn: a 27% increase**. Climate change will only make this urbanization journey more difficult. Cleaner environment, and better Governance is critical for improving health, livelihoods, quality of life, and to address climate change.

BORDA and its partners, TIDE & LEDeG (India), ENPHO (Nepal) and Waste Concern (Bangladesh) have been working towards a regional cooperation network for small & medium towns’ development in South Asia. This initiative aims to build awareness & understanding of relevant actors while strengthening the cooperation capacities from a range of sectors and disciplines, related to urban development and integrated urban water, sanitation, and waste management.

It is critical to **improve national, regional, and global dialogue & exchanges of expertise** on the **Small-Town Urban Agenda** with a focus on integrated urban water, sanitation, and waste management service. With this central aim, the idea of conducting a Conference on *Small Town Urban Agenda – Enhancing Basic Services through Sustainable, Resilient and Circular WASH* was inceptioned in 2022.

This conference presented an opportunity to think creatively and share efforts undertaken for improving the WASH scenario in Small Towns, so the benefits of safe water, safe sanitation and improved hygiene are shared in an equitable way. **More than 90 key WASH stakeholders** contributed to interesting exchanges around the ever-evolving WASH challenges in small towns and gained detailed insights on the learning priorities of the other stakeholders to foster the creation of peer networks. These discussions provided new perspectives on building the ecosystem and exploring innovative and tested solutions that may enable stakeholders to hand hold small towns efficiently in the South Asia region.

This report aims to provide a succinct overview of the key messages arising from the conference.

# Acknowledgement

The conference on 'Small Town Urban Agenda – Enhancing Basic Services through Sustainable, Resilient and Circular WASH' is the result of extensive consultation process within BORDA, its partner organisations & partner cities, think tanks and experts. We express our gratitude to the esteemed dignitaries and partners who played a critical role in making this a successful event.

Our special thanks to all the speakers and panellists who shared their experiences and laid path for meaningful exchanges on the ever-evolving WASH challenges in small towns.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere regards to our partner municipalities; Leh & Kargil (UT of Ladakh), Chikkaballapur & Chintamani (Karnataka) in India, Godawari & Kirtipur in Nepal, and Savar & Kushtia in Bangladesh. They gave us a platform to learn the on-ground realities in small and medium towns. They are the real champions!

We are grateful to all the WASH and Urban experts who attended this event and actively participated in discussions around these themes.

At last, a big shout out to all the vendors, especially Ramada by Wyndham, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, who silently supported in the background for making this a smooth event for all.



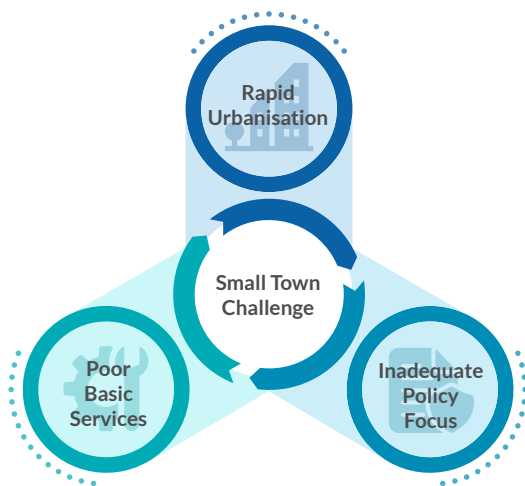




# Context Setting

Urban challenges in small towns are different from those of larger cities. Small towns face significant challenges, including limited technical capabilities, insufficient funding, and deficiencies in planning and governance systems. These constraints leave municipalities ill-equipped to provide quality basic services.

## Small Town Challenges!



- **RAPID URBANISATION** – India has a total of 4,259 urban centers, with approximately **95% of them being small towns governed as Municipal councils and Nagar Panchayats**. The remaining 5% consists of 209 City corporations.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, there are census towns that exhibit urban characteristics but are currently governed as rural areas. The count of census towns rose from **1,362 to 3,892 between 2001 and 2011**<sup>2</sup>. It is anticipated that these census towns will undergo conversion to statutory towns in the near future, effectively doubling the number of small and medium towns in India.
- **POOR BASIC SERVICES** – In South Asia, the number of **small towns with piped water coverage is three times lower-9%**,



Jeevan Roy  
Senior Urban  
Planner, BORDA  
South Asia

than the number of big cities with piped water coverage. In India, the waste water treatment **capacity of small and medium towns is only 11%** of the waste generated which **three times lower** compared to million plus cities and **is five times lower** than the capacity present in metropolitan cities.<sup>3</sup> Similarly, **nearly half of the nation's legacy waste** which is around 1,071 lakh MT of waste, **is accumulated in small and medium towns**. Only 1/3rd of this waste is remediated whereas around half of the waste accumulated in larger cities is already remediated.<sup>4</sup>

- **INADEQUATE POLICY FOCUS** – The per capita revenue of small towns compared with city corporations is **three times lower for municipal councils** at INR 840.3 per capita and **six times lower for Nagar Panchayat** at INR 484.4 per capita.<sup>5</sup> The mandate for sectoral planning is relatively lower for smaller towns and around **3/4th of the urban centres in India have no master plan**.<sup>6</sup> In the past, the central infrastructure development schemes, like JnNURM, around 70% focused on big cities accounting for 42% of the population whereas **only 30% focused on small & medium towns** that housed 58% of the population.<sup>7</sup> The trend continued



“ In 2016, MoHUA requested 28 states to convert 3748 census towns into statutory urban local bodies to foster planned urban development. If this initiative is implemented, the count of small towns in India would double. ”

will following national scheme such as AMRUT 1.0 and Smart city mission which focused on 500 and 100 large cities respectively.

The accelerating urbanization, coupled with deficient basic services and insufficient policy attention, underscores the escalating challenges in small town development. Addressing these issues is imperative to ensure sustainable urban growth. It is essential to initiate more conversations about small town concerns and integrate them into the broader discourse to prioritize and address the unique challenges faced by smaller towns.

## Shifting Focus

Small and medium towns are slowly gaining focus in the policy discourse of urbanisation in India, where considerable allocation of funds is seen. The recent trend shows that **MoHUA has increased the outlays for urban development by 488%.**<sup>8</sup> In 2009-10 around INR 8,000 crore was allocated and in 2021-22 this increased to INR 47,000 crore. Recent urban missions like AMRUT 2.0 and SBM 2.0 recognises infrastructure development in small towns particularly on water, waste water and solid waste management. This positive trend can bring new hopes for development in small towns.

<sup>1,5</sup> State of Municipal finance of India, ICRIER 2019; <sup>2</sup> Census 2011; <sup>3</sup> Urban Wastewater Scenario in India, NITI Ayog, 2022; <sup>4</sup> SMB 2.0 Urban dashboard, 2023;

<sup>6</sup> Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India, NITI Ayog, 2021; <sup>7</sup> Subaltern Urbanisation in India, 2018; <sup>8</sup> ASICS, Janaagraha, 2023



# Keynote - Story of Urbanisation in Small Towns

*This session focused on gaining a broader understanding of the global and national aspects of the small-town urban agenda, converging with the SDGs, New Urban Agenda and Climate Change goals. Topics covered included the history, economic importance, opportunities and challenges for development in small towns.*

**Unplanned development, a missed opportunity.** The trend suggests that the number of small towns may increase by 40% in the near future and it is alarming that around three-fourths of the small towns do not have a spatial master plan. The development is not planned and missing this opportunity may require larger resources to tackle the issues arising in the future.

**Overcoming the Urban Bias.** Highlighting the bias towards the bigger cities in development agenda, the disparity in access to knowledge, technology and financial sources is a major hurdle. Small towns have to be brought in focus in dialogue, policy discussions, and knowledge exchange.

**Devolution of functions and strengthening the small towns.** There are limitations in transfer of functions to urban local bodies, as per the 74th constitutional amendment that poses challenges in governance with overlapping stakeholders and functions. Re-imagining the governance structures is need of the hour that can empower small towns to achieve development goals and build resilience to battle climate crisis.



**Creating an economic identity of the small towns will guide the development through improving access to resources and capacity.**



**Tikender Panwar**  
Ex Deputy Mayor, Shimla



**Joseph Ravikumar**  
Independent Consultant

**Dichotomy in economic character.** Small towns display a dichotomy in economic character, oscillating between urban, peri-urban and rural behaviours. It is imperative that creating an economic identity of the small towns will guide the development through improving access to resources and capacity. Creating models of development that can adapt to the local needs of the small towns is crucial.

**Deficit in infrastructure, the story of every city.** In South Asia, as per estimates, only 9% of the small towns have access to piped water which is three time lower than the big cities with access to piped water. In India, only 11%



**Snehal R**  
Deputy  
Commissioner,  
East Zone, BBMP

of small towns have access to waste water treatment facilities which is three times lower than the number of million plus cities with safe sanitation facilities. The current gaps in infrastructure require considerable planning, capacity and finances, and the future requirements pose a nightmare.

**New avenues of financing need to be explored which can be fostered through a strong stakeholder network.**

**Property tax, a far cry for small towns.** The collection efficiency of property tax, one of the major sources of own revenue for small towns, is low compared to bigger cities, reducing the independence in spending funds. For instance, Yadgir a small town in Karnataka with a projected population of 90,000 collects only 35 to 40% of the total tax demand of INR 3.8 crore. To exacerbate the situation, the release of state and central grants has not been timely, creating major hurdles in providing basic services. The town needs massive IEC campaigns that can educate people and bring in a cultural shift.

**Declining own revenue, a reality check.** The trends in municipal finance indicate the declining of own revenues and increasing dependence on central or state resources for development. While the state and central grants cover the capital expenses, the operation and maintenance expenditure the cities need to service the utilities are a major bottleneck in development. As per the estimates, at 2009-10 prices, small towns may require INR 14,941 crore for O&M expenditure annually.

The per capita revenue of own resources generated in small towns are much less compared with million plus cities constraining development efforts, and new avenues of financing needs to be explored which can be fostered through a strong stakeholder network.

# Enablers and Barriers for Good Small-Town Governance

## Function, Funds, and Functionaries

*This session has a thematic focus on governance, policy frameworks and stakeholders involved. The discussion centred on the need for policy attention in small-town development, inclusion in national schemes, and empowering and capacitating small towns for better governance.*

### Working carefully within the decentralisation process is paramount.

Adapting to decentralisation which involves transfer of responsibilities for service provision to local government. Significant challenges have been seen as a result, due to low capacity, delays in fiscal transfers, lack of common investment plans, unclear transfer of assets and the lack of monitoring and oversight methods and with this, public accountability. Each town is different and WASH service provision must be seen within the larger context of broader public sector reform that have been designed in the form of central government missions like AMRUT,

SBM and Jal Jeevan Mission. Ensuring the satisfaction of beneficiaries is crucial as the dialogue between government and beneficiaries needs to be strengthened for better service delivery.



Small towns need to build on the changing roles and weave a stakeholder network that support in overall implementation of WASH services.





### Mind sets, behaviour change and ownership.

Small towns exhibit a sense of ownership of space and environment that enables easier implementation of WASH services. This sense of ownership may trigger faster behaviour change and adapt to new technologies by incurring an additional price for better services.

“  
Strong data and research can enable the change in the focus on narratives on small towns.  
”

### Changing roles, building on stakeholder network.

The roles of government as enabler, provider and implementer are changing and private sector or citizen groups are quickly taking over these roles and leaving the government as a facilitator. Small towns need to build on the changing roles and weave

a stakeholder network that can support in overall implementation of WASH services.

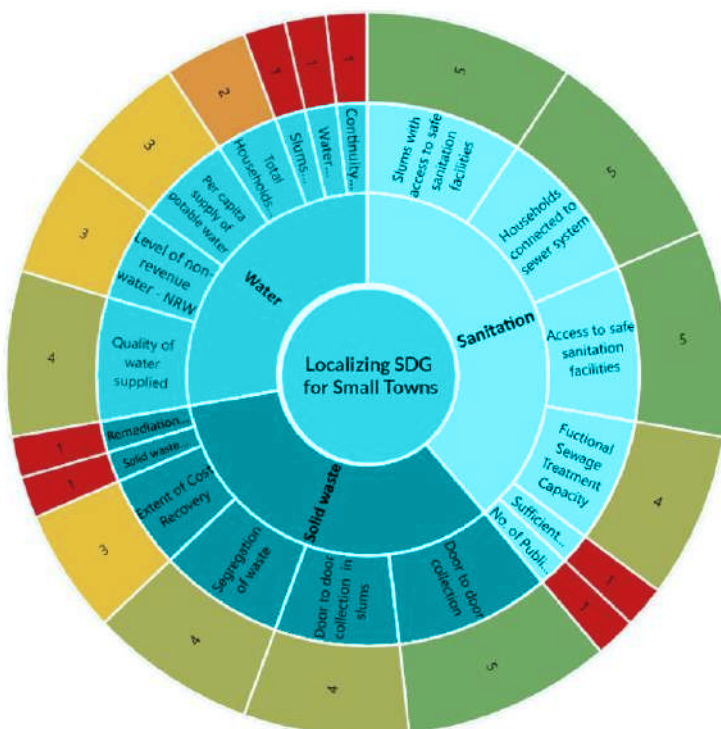
### Local dialogues and rethinking WASH programs.

Development ecosystem in the country is driven by the political will and popular opinion on what a best solution can be, rather than the best fit solution for individual cases. There needs to be rethinking in the WASH programs that can include local dialogues and engineer solutions to resolve local issues. Further research is required to assess the impact of WASH programs that were implemented until now on the GDP and other economic, social and governance indicators.

### Capturing Data and changing the narratives and reforms.

Data will be a crucial resource and the availability of data at the local level will decide the need and narrative of any development agenda for towns. Even metropolitan cities face challenges with respect to data and small towns are not an exception, worsening the situation. Strong data and research can enable the change in the focus on narratives on small towns and the insights will further support in designing a local solution or inform the national reforms and policy discourse.

“  
Shift from one-size-fits all governance reform. Each town is different and must be seen within the larger context of broader public sector reforms.  
”



Localizing SDG: Monitoring SDG 6&11 for Small towns  
Chikkaballapur, Karnataka



# Planning Inclusive and Resilient WASH in Small Towns

## Navigating Equity, Climate Change and Technology

*The session focussed on challenges in providing Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in small towns. The discussion revolved around operationalizing WASH in small towns, addressing specific aspects such as planning approaches, technology suitability, and operation/service models for small towns. Additionally, an overarching discussion on the integration of climate, social, and gender inclusiveness were highlighted.*

Commitment and capacity are needed to put existing tools for social inclusion into practice. Addressing gender equality and social inclusion in WASH in small towns is critical, do-able and many tools and approaches already exist, the challenges are to (i) generate commitment in the current scenario of policy discourse; (ii) break the vicious cycle of lack of capacity and participation; and (iii) address the larger issues with climate change and rapid urbanization. If social inclusion is to be

“Nature-based solutions are inherently sustainable with low life cycle costs.”

taken seriously in WASH initiatives, then relevant staff and institutions need to look at addressing the needs of marginalised groups challenging existing norms, and empower socially excluded groups.





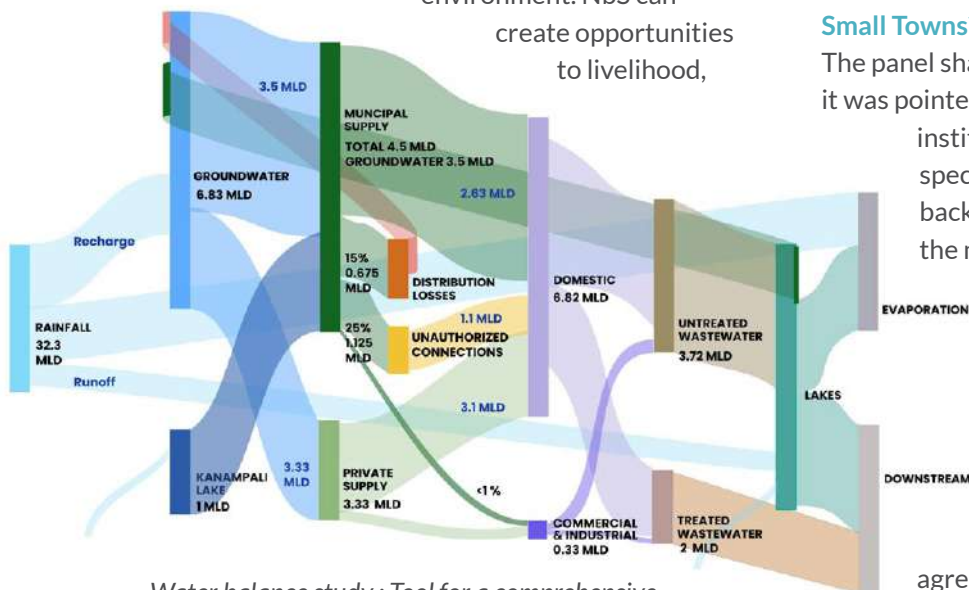
**Small towns have an advantage to learn from maladaptation practices and explore pathways to build resilience.**



**Sector plans informing the climate action plans and master plans.** It is known that many of the small towns do not have any spatial development plans, while the recent efforts have triggered formulation of sector level plans and climate action plans but the sector and broader plans are seldom in agreement. It is important to complete the loop of information and efforts in planning process where the individual plans can inform and dictate solutions and projects within each other.

**Exploring sustainable pathways, nature-based solutions are the future.** Nature-based solutions (NbS) are inherently sustainable with low life cycle costs and support micro ecosystems that can improve the overall environment. NbS can

create opportunities to livelihood,



*Water balance study: Tool for a comprehensive planning approach for City's water management Chintamani, Karnataka*

tourism and uplift the quality of life. Many cities like Coimbatore are adapting to such NbS hybrid solutions to rejuvenate lakes and contribute to the overall Integrated Urban Water Management.

**Cross-sector approach, building on resilience.** Through effective leadership and collaboration, this cross-sector approach can enhance the capacity of small towns to build resilience, adapt to climate change, and foster long-term sustainability to improve public health outcomes. Small towns have an advantage to learn from maladaptation practices unlike big cities and explore different pathways to build resilience.



**Citizen engagement is vital in the policy discourse of small towns.**



**Is there a need of creating specialized new institutions to deal with the development in Small Towns?**

The panel shared a mixed response where it was pointed out that there is need of new institutions, with a layered approach, specialised in sector linkages and are backed by policy discourses. While the majority opinion pointed that there are enough institutions available for small towns but may require reconfiguration.

**Is there a requirement of a greater citizen engagement for the cause?**

The panellists unanimously agreed that there is a greater need of citizen engagement in the policy discourse of small towns.

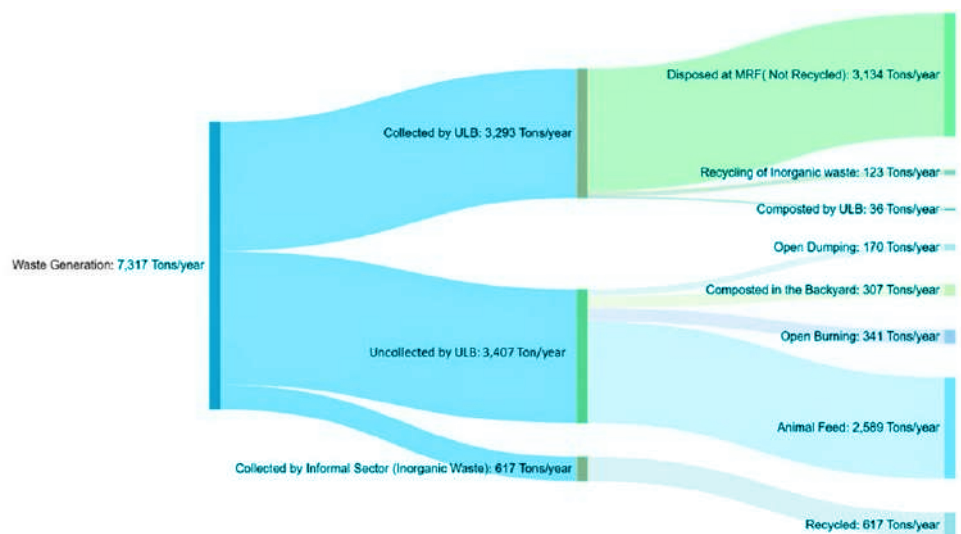


# Small Town Perspective

## WASH Experience and Insights

*This session was aimed at sharing ground and first-hand experience on WASH initiatives implemented in partner towns across South Asia through the lens of BORDA's perspective. Interaction with partners/municipal officials from the partner towns provided insights on overcoming challenges in providing sustainable WASH services to all.*

**Insights from Leh and Kargil, India.** The town is a growing tourism hub with huge floating populations and faces a plethora of issues that persist in WASH. The town is dependent on groundwater for its water requirement and only 5% of the households get a 24X7 water supply during summer months and during the winter the water supply is carried out through water tankers and is deemed to be an expensive affair. The variation in the altitude and temperature within the town is also a major hurdle in providing basic services.



Waste flow diagram: Planning tool to map & visualize municipal solid waste management system material flows  
Leh, Ladakh







#### Insights from Kirtipur and Godavri, Nepal.

The towns in Nepal exhibit both urban and rural characteristics on a hilly terrain. The water supply infrastructure is managed by urban utilities in larger towns and in smaller towns the community manages the water supply at a small scale. The availability of water resources is a challenge which is the main reason for the unequal distribution of water supply and the poor parts of the towns are usually deprived of water.

#### Insights from Chikballapura and Chintamani, India.

Though the town does not have a 24X7 water supply, an adequate amount of water is provided to all the households. A similar situation persists in Chintamani town where the water is sourced from Kanampalli Lake and bore wells to supply 100 LPCD of water to the households with no 24X7 water supply facilities. However, Chintamani faces acute water shortages during summers due to depleted ground water.

#### Insights from Savar and Kushtia, Bangladesh.

Savar town is dependent completely

on groundwater and does not have the infrastructure to provide a piped water supply. As the town receives high rainfall, the groundwater is abundant and every household has individual wells and bore wells. There is no treatment facility for wastewater and it is directly discharged into the water bodies. The town does not have a dumping site for solid waste exacerbating the hygiene issues in the town.

In Kushtia, around 50 to 60% of households have a piped water supply but the low-income areas do not receive adequate water and depend on community water sources. The wastewater infrastructure is nascent without any treatment facility and is discharged in to the water bodies. The waste treatment facility in Kushtia has only 10% of the capacity and the rest is dumped in the dumping site or in the open.

Solid waste management is gaining focus in Bangladesh whereas wastewater management is side-lined in the overall development agenda of the country.



# Conclusion

## *Drawing the threads together – sustainable development agenda for small towns*

A common refrain of the day's deliberation was the forceful assertion that **"Small-Towns are Not Small!"**. The facts are illustrative of this – India doubled the number of its Small Towns in the last 20 years, which currently house more than a third of the urban population. The word 'Small' carries reductionist connotations and belies the collective significance and magnitude of these Small Towns – **"Emerging Cities"** might be a more suitable taxonomy.

Small Towns, though urban in character, **exhibit distinct traits** from large cities and metropolises. They also exhibit a **substantial difference of opportunities and challenges**. Three specific Small Town Governance challenges that were highlighted through the day's talks were – a) low adaptive and planning capacity of urban local bodies (ULBs) b) limited devolution of functions and functionaries from state authorities to ULBs c) Lack of opportunities and capacity to raise own resources. Also, it was pointed out that ULBs are markedly unprepared for issues arising due to climate change and global warming – **their resilience and adaptive capacities are minimal**.

Our Small Towns suffer from similar quality of life and service delivery issues as our big cities and metropolises. However, the reasons behind this situation are often distinct and different. Despite these differences, policies and plans to tackle urban issues are **substantively structured around the contexts and requirements of metropolises**. Successfully addressing urban issues through governance reforms first requires acknowledging that they play out differently

in cities of different sizes. Infact, BORDA asserts that "Small Towns" are substantial and distinct enough to be classified as a **distinct category in the national and international development agenda**.

**The New Urban Agenda represents a shared vision where all people have equal rights and access to the benefits and opportunities that cities can offer.** Achieving this and the SDG goals requires a specific focus on geographies and patterns of vulnerabilities that emerge from the current urbanisation trends. Fortunately, our Small Towns, though distressed, **are ready for course correction and a more equitable and sustainable development pathway**. Their issues haven't yet become the seemingly unsolvable 'wicked problems' of our metropolises.

Bringing this **"Small Town Development Agenda"** to the forefront of important forums would require repeated, focussed, and mindful deliberations amongst key stakeholders – federal and state governments, ULBs, sector experts, international development organisations. BORDA is committed to taking this deliberation ahead and to collaborating with authorities and technical experts. In addition, to deepen our understanding of Small Town Dynamics and to exhibit potential solutions 'on-ground' we will continue to actively and intensely engage with municipalities and ULBs on a day-to-day basis. We invite you all to join us in this journey and give us a reach-out if there is something we could contribute to.

# GALLERY







# AGENDA

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Venue:** Ramada by Wyndham, Yelahanka, Bengaluru

09:30 – 10:00

Registration

10:00 – 10:30

Session 1

## Opening Session and Vision

*Welcome address*

**Aseem Acharya**

Director Programme, BORDA South Asia

*Context setting*

**Jeevan Roy**

Senior Urban Planner, BORDA South Asia

10:30 – 11:30

Session 2

## Keynote Session - Story of Urbanisation in Small Towns

**Tikender Panwar**

Ex - Deputy Mayor, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

**Joseph Ravikumar**

Independent Consultant

**Snehal R, IAS**

Deputy Commissioner, East Zone, BBMP

11:30 – 12:00

Tea break

12:00 -01:00

Session 3

## Enablers and Barriers for Good Small Town Governance - Function, Funds, and Functionaries

*Context setting*

**Anju Varghese**

Engineer – Water Resource, Urban Planner, BORDA South Asia

Moderator

**Harsh Vardhan**

CEO, CDD India

**Sheetal Singh**

Director-ISA, Jal Jeevan Mission, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Karnataka

**Arun Muruges**

VP Sales, Saahas Zero Waste

**S. Vishwanath**

Founder & Director, BIOME Environmental Solutions

**Dr. Malini Reddy**

Director - Governance & Service Delivery, Athena Infonomics

**Prarthana Ramesh**

Head- Environment City- Systems, Janaagraha

01:00 – 02:00

Lunch break



02:00 – 03:00

Session 4

## Planning Inclusive and Resilient WASH in Small Towns – Navigating Equity, Climate Change and Technology

*Context setting*

**Ashwin Kumar B**

Project Manager-IWM, TIDE

Moderator

**Manas Rath**

Senior Advisor, BORDA South Asia

**Krishna Swaroop Konidena**

Senior Project Manager, CDD India

**Sahana Goswami**

Senior Program Manager- Water Resilience, WRI India

**Arwa Bharmal**

Program Lead, CWAS

**Sujaya Rathi**

Urban Specialist, Independent consultant

**Praveen Nagaraj**

Project Director, WASH I

03:00 – 03:30

*Tea break*

03:30 – 04:30

Session 5

## Small Town Perspective - WASH Experience and Insights

Moderator

**Stanzin Tsephel**

Regional Director, BORDA South Asia

**Umashankar P**

Assistant Executive Engineer, CMC Chikkaballapur, Karnataka

**Dr Ishey Namgyal**

President, Municipal Council Leh

**Ranver Ahmed**

Urban Planner, Kushtia Municipality, Bangladesh

**Keshab Shrestha**

Project Manager, IUWM ENPHO, Nepal

04:30 – 05:00

Session 6

## Conclusion and Closing

*Key take away*

**Snehit Prakash**

Director Operations, BORDA South Asia

*Closing remarks*

**Gautam Lahiri**

Executive Director, TIDE

07:00 Onward

*Network dinner*

# SPEAKERS

## Session 1: Opening Session and Vision



**Aseem Acharya**  
Director Programme,  
BORDA South Asia



**Jeevan Roy**  
Senior Urban Planner, BORDA  
South Asia

## Session 2: Keynote Session - Story of Urbanisation in Small Towns



**Tikender Panwar**  
Ex Deputy Mayor, Shimla



**Joseph Ravikumar**  
Independent Consultant



**Snehal R**  
Deputy Commissioner,  
East Zone, BBMP

## Session 3: Enablers and Barriers for Good Small Town Governance - Function, Funds, and Functionaries



**Anju Varghese**  
Urban Planner



**Harsh Vardhan**  
CEO, CDD India



**Sheetal Singh**  
Director-ISA, Jal Jeevan Mission, Rural  
Drinking Water and Sanitation  
Department, Karnataka



**Arun Muruges**  
VP Sales, Saahas Zero Waste



**S Vishwanath**  
Founder & Director, BIOME  
Environmental Solutions



**Dr. Malini Reddy**  
Director - Governance & Service  
Delivery, Athena Infonomics



**Prarthana Ramesh**  
Head- Environment  
City- Systems, Janaagraha

## Session 4: Planning Inclusive and Resilient WASH in Small Towns – Navigating Equity, Climate Change and Technology



**Ashwin Kumar B**  
Project Manager- IWM, TIDE



**Manas Rath**  
Senior Advisor, BORDA  
South Asia



**Krishna Swaroop Konidena**  
Senior Project Manager, CDD



**Sahana Goswami**  
Senior Program Manager- Water  
Resilience, WRI India



**Arwa Bharmal**  
Program Lead, CWAS



**Sujaya Rathi**  
Independent consultant



**Praveen Nagaraj**  
Project Director, WASH I

## Session 5: Small Town Perspective - WASH Experience and Insights



**Stanzin Tsephel**  
Regional Director, BORDA  
South Asia



**Umashankar P**  
Assistant Executive Engineer, CMC  
Chikkaballapur, Karnataka



**Dr. Ishey Namgyal**  
President, Municipal  
Council Leh



**Ranver Ahmed**  
Urban Planner, Kushtia  
Municipality, Bangladesh



**Keshab Shrestha**  
Project Manager, IUWM  
ENPHO, Nepal

## Session 6: Conclusion and Closing



**Snehit Prakash**  
Director Operations,  
BORDA South Asia



**Gautam Lahiri**  
Executive Director, TIDE

# FROM OUR LENS TO YOURS

## OUR JOURNEY IN SMALL TOWNS

Key Highlights of WASH Initiatives demonstrated in eight Small Towns in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal



Kargil

Leh

Kirtipur

Godawari



NEPAL

BANGLADESH

Kushtia

Savar



INDIA



SOUTH ASIA

Bengaluru  
(BORDA Liaison Office)

Chikkaballapur

Chintamani



BMZ



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



TOWN-WISE  
FACT SHEET



BORDA SA VIDEO/  
PUBLICATIONS





### Reclaiming Legacy Waste

Leh's Transformation through Bioremediation



### FSM in Leh

Planning and Construction of FSTP at World's Highest Altitude



### 24/7 Water Supply, Leh

Demonstrating Supply of Continuous Water @ Sub-zero Temperatures



### Rejuvenating Traditional Waterspouts

Local Water Resource Management



### WASH Facility

Addressing WASH Requirements of Sanitation Workers



### Shared Toilets

Community Lead Safe Sanitation



### WASH Facility

Enhancing Professional Dignity for Sanitation Workers



### Water Balance Study

A Comprehensive Planning Approach for City's Water Management



### Decentralisation and Inclusive WASH

A Community Driven Approach



Our small towns can become  
drivers of urbanization and  
remain critical to achieving  
Sustainable Development Goals  
in the urban growth story.

The background of the page features a stylized illustration. At the top, there are two large, overlapping triangular shapes in light beige and teal. Below these, a teal band with a white network pattern of dots and lines stretches across the page. The bottom half of the image shows a stylized town with various buildings, trees, and a winding path, all in shades of teal and green. The network pattern continues over the town.

BORDA Liaison Office, India  
Tarana Good Earth Malhar  
#7, 1st Floor, Kambipura  
Kengeri, Bangalore 560060  
Web: [borda-sa.org](http://borda-sa.org)