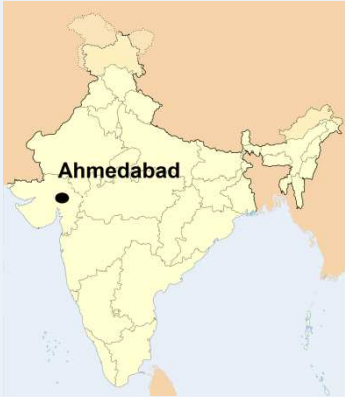


Increasing Water Governance Capacity in Urban India

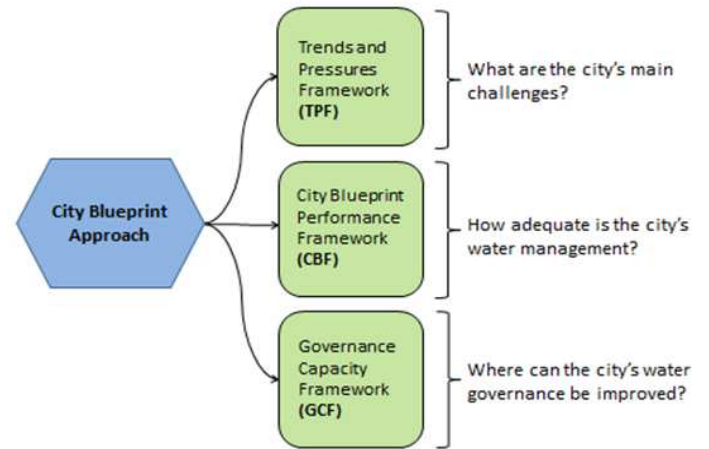
Identifying key conditions to improve water services in Ahmedabad

Improving water governance in Ahmedabad

Good water governance is essential to tackle water-related challenges that are amplified by population growth and increasing water consumption in Indian cities. At present, there is a lack of focus on capacity building of local stakeholders within the Indian water sector. With this study, we aimed to provide integrated and empirical-based insights to find the opportunities to address challenges of water, waste and climate change in Indian cities. This is done by applying the City Blueprint Approach on the city of Ahmedabad.



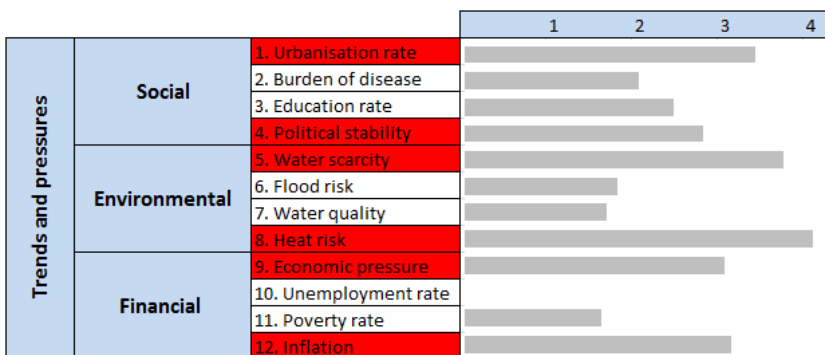
The City Blueprint Approach



Ahmedabad's Water Management

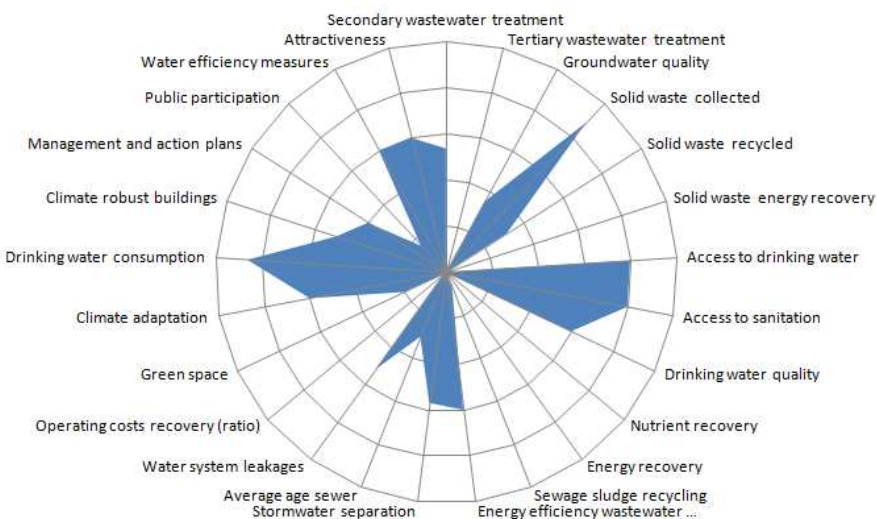
City Blueprint - Trends and Pressures analysis

The Trends and Pressures Framework provides an overview of the main social, environmental and financial challenges facing Ahmedabad. The greatest concerns are heat risk, water scarcity and urbanisation. The mean of all 12 indicators gives a score of 2.43. This puts Ahmedabad next to cities like Ho Chi Minh City and Istanbul, which are faced with similar high levels of pressures that affect local water management



City Blueprint - performances

The City Blueprint Framework assesses the performance of the Integrated Water Resource Management in Ahmedabad. The city obtained a Blue Cities Index score of 3.01, which is calculated by taking the geometric mean of the 25 indicators. In particular with respect to wastewater treatment, solid waste treatment and climate adaptation, there is room for improvement.



Ahmedabad's Water Governance

City Blueprint - Governance Capacity

The Governance Capacity Framework shows where the most effective improvements can be made. For Ahmedabad, the results indicate that continuous learning, stakeholder engagement and implementing capacity are the main limiting conditions in the governance of five water challenges. To improve water governance, it will be key to strengthen the capacity on stakeholder engagement, implementing capacity and continuous learning. Ahmedabad's efforts on tackling urban heat islands show that it is possible to overcome these limitations by inclusive governance that integrates scientific knowledge and policy and different sectors. The results provide important clues for other cities in India, to improve their water management.

	Water scarcity	Flood risk	Wastewater treatment	Solid waste treatment	Urban heat islands
1.1 Community knowledge	+	+	0	0	+
1.2 Local sense of urgency	-	+	-	-	+
1.3 Behavioural internalization	-	0	0	0	+
2.1 Information availability	0	0	0	-	+
2.2 Information transparency	-	0	-	+	0
2.3 Knowledge cohesion	-	0	0	0	0
3.1 Smart monitoring	-	-	0	-	+
3.2 Evaluation	-	-	-	-	+
3.3 Cross-stakeholder learning	0	0	-	0	0
4.1 Stakeholder inclusiveness	-	0	-	0	+
4.2 Protection of core values	0	0	-	0	+
4.3 Progress and variety of options	0	-	-	0	0
5.1 Ambitious and realistic goals	0	+	+	+	+
5.2 Discourse embedding	-	-	0	-	++
5.3 Policy cohesion	0	0	0	0	0
6.1 Entrepreneurial agents	-	-	-	0	+
6.2 Collaborative agents	0	0	0	-	+
6.3 Visionary agents	0	-	+	0	+
7.1 Room to manoeuvre	0	0	-	0	0
7.2 Clear division of responsibilities	0	0	0	0	+
7.3 Authority	0	0	+	0	+
8.1 Affordability	0	0	+	0	+
8.2 Consumer willingness to pay	+	+	0	0	+
8.3 Financial continuation	+	+	+	+	+
9.1 Policy instruments	-	-	-	0	0
9.2 Statutory compliance	-	-	-	-	+
9.3 Preparedness	-	+	-	-	++

Recommendations

- The decline of groundwater level and quality is a problem urgently in need of a solution since a large share of the population obtains its drinking water from private bore-wells
- Too many environmental violations go unpunished. Working towards decent monitoring and policy evaluation is the first step to proper enforcement of standards, which is currently underperforming or absent
- Organisations work in 'silos'. There is currently little participation of stakeholders that limits common understanding and vision on the water challenges that Ahmedabad faces today