

# **Small Grants Program Update Status Reports and Updates | February 2026**

## **1. Physical and Institutional Mapping**

### **1.1 Unified Data Registries**

#### *Stormwater Drains*

A registry of Bengaluru's stormwater drains was developed using STUP data, with attributes identifying each drain as primary or secondary and assigning unique Drain IDs. Since much of the existing geographic data does not reflect on-ground conditions, drain alignments are being corrected using satellite imagery as reference — producing a closer-to-reality spatial registry.

#### *Tanks*

A comprehensive registry of Bengaluru's tanks was developed in alignment with the Karnataka Water Resilience World Bank Program.

Cross-referencing BBMP lakes dashboard data with crowdsourced data from Well Labs confirmed 203 active lakes. These were verified against the comprehensive list of 201 lakes released in 2024 by KTCDA.

Lost tanks were traced by georeferencing historical maps spanning three surveys: the 1791 Robert Homes Survey of Pete and Kote, the 1870 Revenue Survey Map of the Chief Commissioner of Bangalore, and the 1969 Survey of India map. Traced waterbodies were verified against Revenue Maps of Bangalore (SSLR) and Open City Cadastral data. All waterbodies have been digitised with names recorded in the attribute data.

### **1.2 Drain Typology Classification**

Stormwater drains in Bengaluru run through a diverse range of urban conditions — cutting across built-up areas, roads, private plots, parkland, and open spaces. These adjacencies influence the flow, function, and vulnerability of each segment of the network. A library of 12 drain typologies was defined by identifying repeated patterns across the city.

## **2. Digital Dashboard Development**

The Campaign website – [www.buildingaresilientbengaluru.com](http://www.buildingaresilientbengaluru.com).

The website hosts the digital tools, audit material, guidebooks and research that reveal how our stormwater systems shape the city:

### **2.1 Interactive Map**

An interactive map compiling the developed data registries - stormwater drains, tanks, and other stormwater-related datasets - was developed and launched publicly. Built as an awareness and learning tool, it visualises step-by-step how geographical and hydrological conditions have shaped the way water moves through the city. Alongside the data registries, the map features interactive timelines, filter functions, and drain typology classifications.

## **2.2 Story maps**

Immersive story maps on Bengaluru's water history are being developed. These combine historical maps, archival photographs, and records to trace how Bengaluru's relationship with water shifted over time - shaped by changing lifestyles and political landscapes.

A chapter exploring the city's evolving relationship with water infrastructure in the 1800s has been launched on the website.

## **2.3 Audit Tool**

A citizen audit tool for users to submit geo-tagged photos and observations has been launched. The audit tool was developed using kobotoolbox and ODK Collect – open source applications. The tool records attributes of stormwater drains that study infrastructure conditions, water quality and community awareness.

## **2.4 Audit Dashboard**

An audit dashboard to visualise the data collected using the citizen audit tool is under development. The dashboard will be launched in June.

# **3. Outreach, Awareness and Community Engagement**

## **3.1 Typology Workshop**

In October, a workshop on mapping drain typologies and correcting drain alignments was conducted at the BLR Design Centre. The workshop brought together students from 5 architecture colleges

1. RV College of Architecture
2. BMS School of Architecture
3. School of Architecture - Ramaiah Institute of Technology
4. PES School of Architecture
5. Dayananda Sagar College of Architecture

The students were mentored by urban designers, researchers and citizen activists. Together, they traced 5 stretches of primary stormwater drains and recorded their adjacencies.

The workshop is recorded [on this link](#).

### **3.2 Immersive Event Tanks to Taps**

Tanks to Taps is an immersive, interactive research-based session that explores the city's unique and evolving relationship with water. From its natural topography and historic manmade tank systems to the arrival of piped water and rapid urban expansion, this experience unpacks how the city's lifeline has shifted over time.

Two sessions were conducted at the BLR Design Centre – in October and February.

### **3.3 Masterclass on Stormwater Drains and Citizen Audits**

On the 9th of January, 2026, we kickstarted our public engagements for the year with a masterclass on stormwater drains, held along with the Oorvani Foundation. The masterclass addressed two urban trajectories that define the present-day condition of our drains: a legacy of infrastructural stress and neglect, and a growing urgency to rethink how urban water systems function and are governed. This masterclass was open to residents, students, professionals, practitioners, and anyone curious about how the city works.

Access to the masterclass presentation and recorded video is provided [here](#).

#### **3.3 Citizen Audits**

##### *Guided Audits*

Four guided citizen audits of stormwater drains were organised in January and February. During these audits, participants were trained to use the citizen audit tool to document physical conditions of stormwater drains.

52 participants engaged across four audits – covering 4.2 km of stormwater drains across three valleys.

1. Halasuru – C100 Primary Drain – January 10<sup>th</sup>
2. HSR Layout – K200 Primary Drain – January 31<sup>st</sup>
3. Nagarbhavi – Vrishabhavati River – February 7<sup>th</sup>
4. Hennur – H300 Primary drain – February 21<sup>st</sup>

##### *Citizen – Held Audits*

Following the guided audits, participants reached out to organise audits in their neighborhoods. Few students reached out to conduct audits with fellow university students and clubs.

1. 9 APU ESS Club students conducted a citizen-led audit near Varthur Lake.

2. RNSIT MUN students conducted a citizen-led audit near their university, auditing the Vrishabhavati River.
3. Multiple citizen-led audits are underway in the Mahadevapura Zone
4. Additionally, collaborations with universities are being organised. Students from Mount Carmel College audited a stretch of the C100 drain in Shivajinagar.

#### *Detective Files:*

Participants are also recording their observations from the field – and how these audits are encouraging them to rethink and observe stormwater systems around them. Five [Detective Files](#) have been published on the website.

## **4. Reports, Records and Guides**

### **4.1 Guide to identifying and marking drain typologies**

[A guide](#) to trace stormwater drains and contribute to identifying and recording typologies was published.

### **4.2 Guide to conduct a Citizen Audit using the developed tool**

[A comprehensive guide](#) on the citizen audit tool – its configuration and a step-by-step on how to audit a drain – was published.

### **4.3 Behind the Campaign**

The team at Mod Foundation is recording the thinking, design choices, challenges, and intentions that shaped the campaign — from guided audits and tools to events and resources. Three blogs have been published on the [website](#).