

# Inclusive City Climate Action Planning: Framework for Indian Cities, and Beyond

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### Our Team

We are a multidisciplinary, multi-institutional team of students from the University of Toronto and Ashoka University researching how urban planning processes in India and across the Global South can be more inclusive of urban poor communities.

With the advice of our community partner, Youth Unity for Voluntary Action (YUVA), we are developing a guidebook to document our findings. YUVA is a Mumbai-based Civil Society Organization (CSO) working to empower marginalized groups and help them access their rights.



YUVA's Website

### Problem Statement

After reviewing current urban planning processes for City Climate Action Plans (City CAPs), we identified three primary gaps:

Climate impacts to informal settlements are rarely integrated in City CAPs

Key international climate frameworks are rarely translated into city-level actions

CSOs have limited access to relevant advocacy tools and materials

### Our Framework

Through synthesizing our preliminary findings, we found that Inclusive City Climate Action Planning requires the deliberate engagement of three key stakeholders: City Governments, Urban Poor Communities, and Civil Society Organizations. Inclusive City Climate Action Planning also considers international frameworks on Adaptation, Just Transition, and Loss and Damage at the local scale.

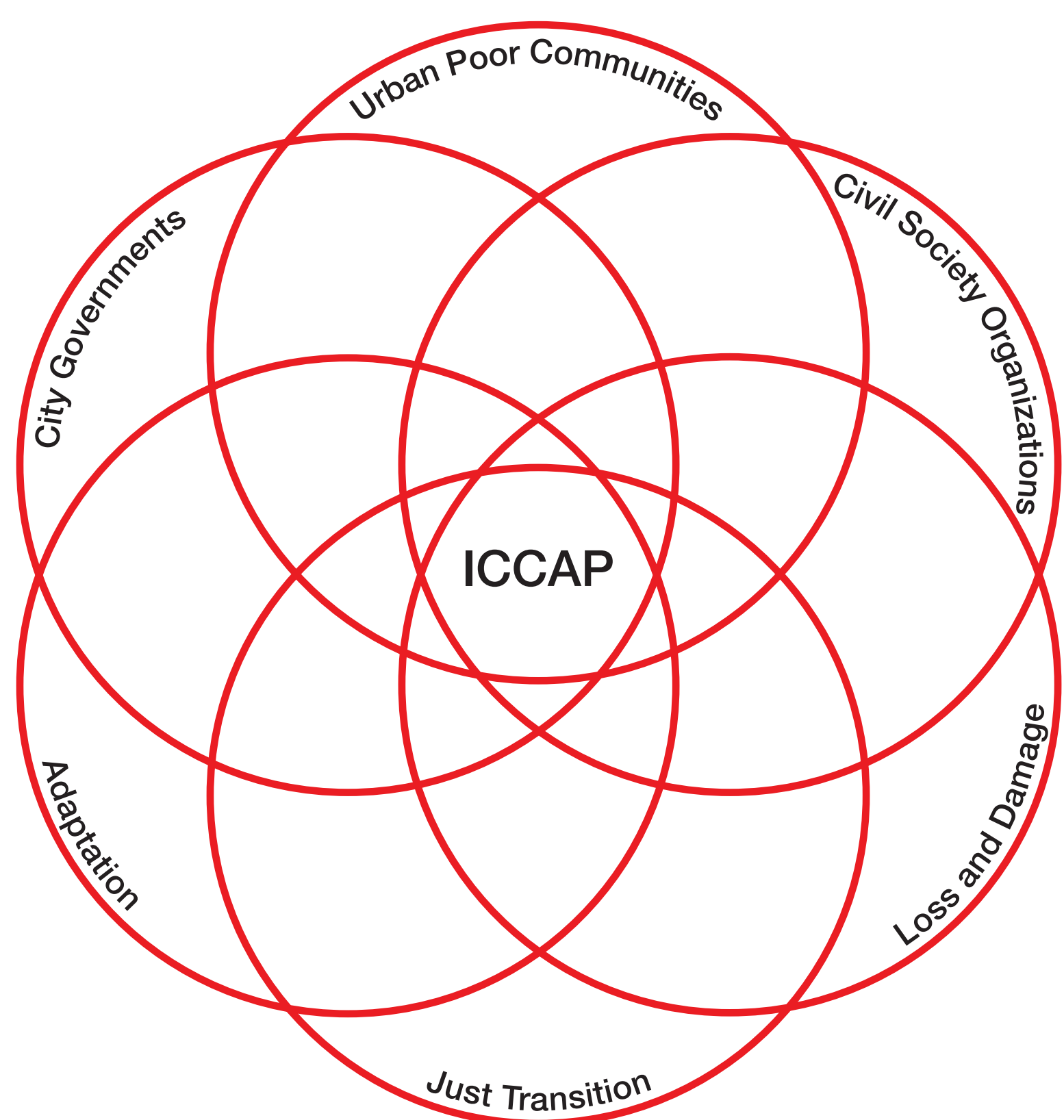


Fig 1. Inclusive City Climate Action Planning Framework

## 2 RESEARCH DESIGN

### Methodology Outline

To ensure a robust final deliverable, we designed a four-pronged approach to first develop a comprehensive understanding of climate action planning, before developing specific insights of the three key stakeholders we've identified.

Literature Review and Secondary Research

Fieldwork and Participatory Observation in Mumbai

Qualitative and Quantitative Review of Existing City Climate Action Plans

Case Study Development of CSOs That Address Climate Issues

## 3 FINAL DESIGN

### Selecting the Guidebook

Our selected final deliverable, a guidebook, was chosen through careful consideration of two other alternatives: a social media campaign and a podcast. This decision was made through a weighted Pugh Matrix, which evaluated alternative designs for clarity, reach, depth, team skillset alignment, and scalability.

### Guidebook Outline

After reviewing three exemplary climate action guidebooks, we drafted a four-chapter outline: one summarizing our analysis of nine City CAPs and three providing insights for city governments and CSOs to implement and advocate climate actions for urban poor communities in regard to three international frameworks.

City CAP Analysis: Sectoral climate action analysis of nine City CAPs

Adaptation: Actions that reduce vulnerability to climate change

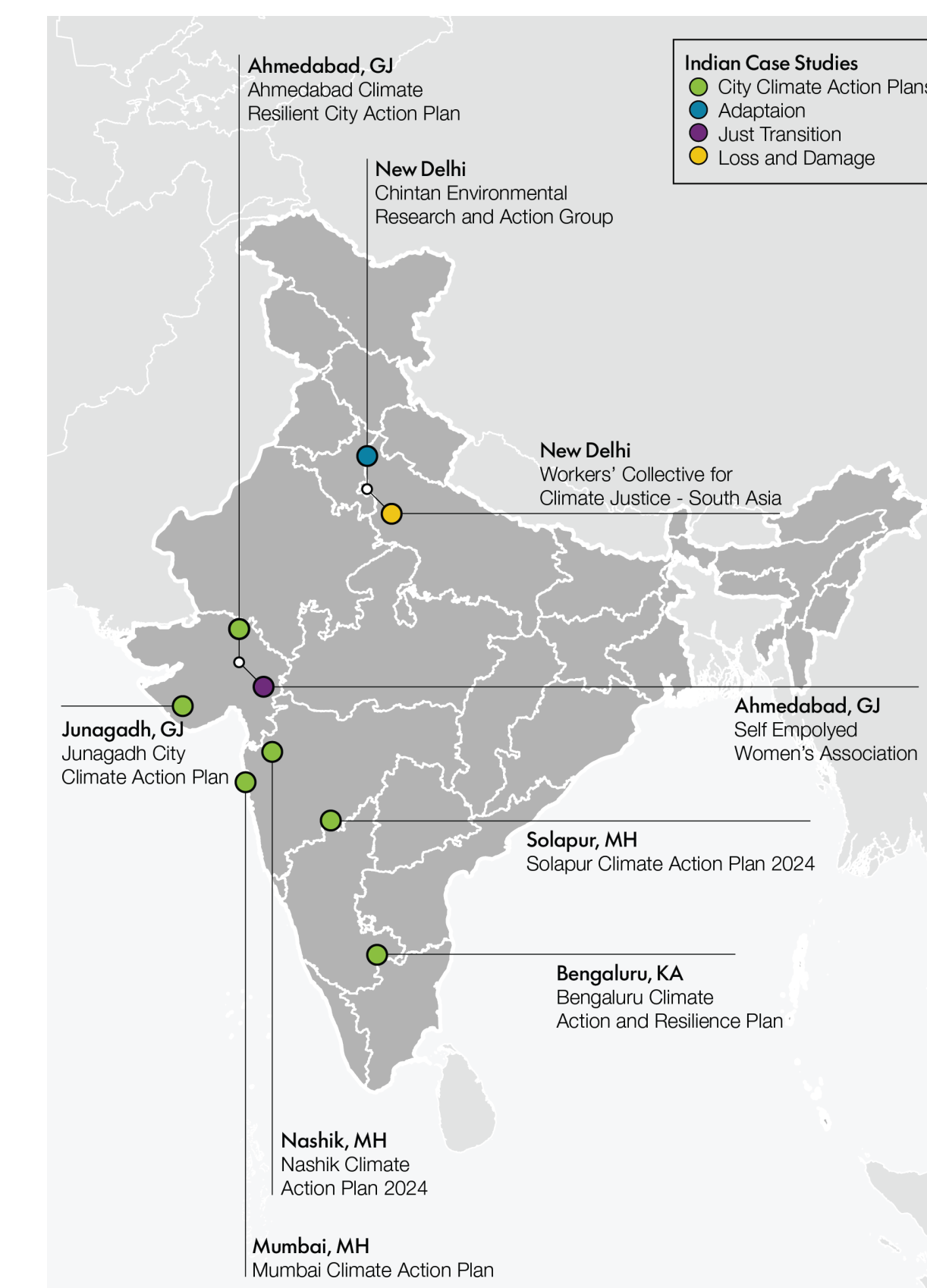
Just Transition: Ensuring that climate action is fair and inclusive

Loss & Damage: Planning responses to unavoidable climate impacts

## 4 GUIDEBOOK CONTENT

### Indian Cities

Our primary audience is city governments and CSOs advocating for more inclusive CAPs. We analyze six Indian city CAPs and three CSO case studies to identify gaps and propose more inclusive approaches.



### Cities Across the Global South

Our secondary audience is similar stakeholders across the Global South. We analyze three city CAPs and three CSO case studies to illustrate best practices that supplement our analysis of Indian Cities.



Fig 2. (Left) A Map Showing Locations of Indian Case Studies || Fig 3. (Right) A Map Showing Locations of Global South Case Studies

### Indian City Climate Action Plan Analysis

Our Guidebook codes Actions from six Indian city CAPs into four UNFCCC themes. Each Action is also coded as having direct, indirect, or no inclusion of urban poor communities, based on whether any sub-action includes such provisions.

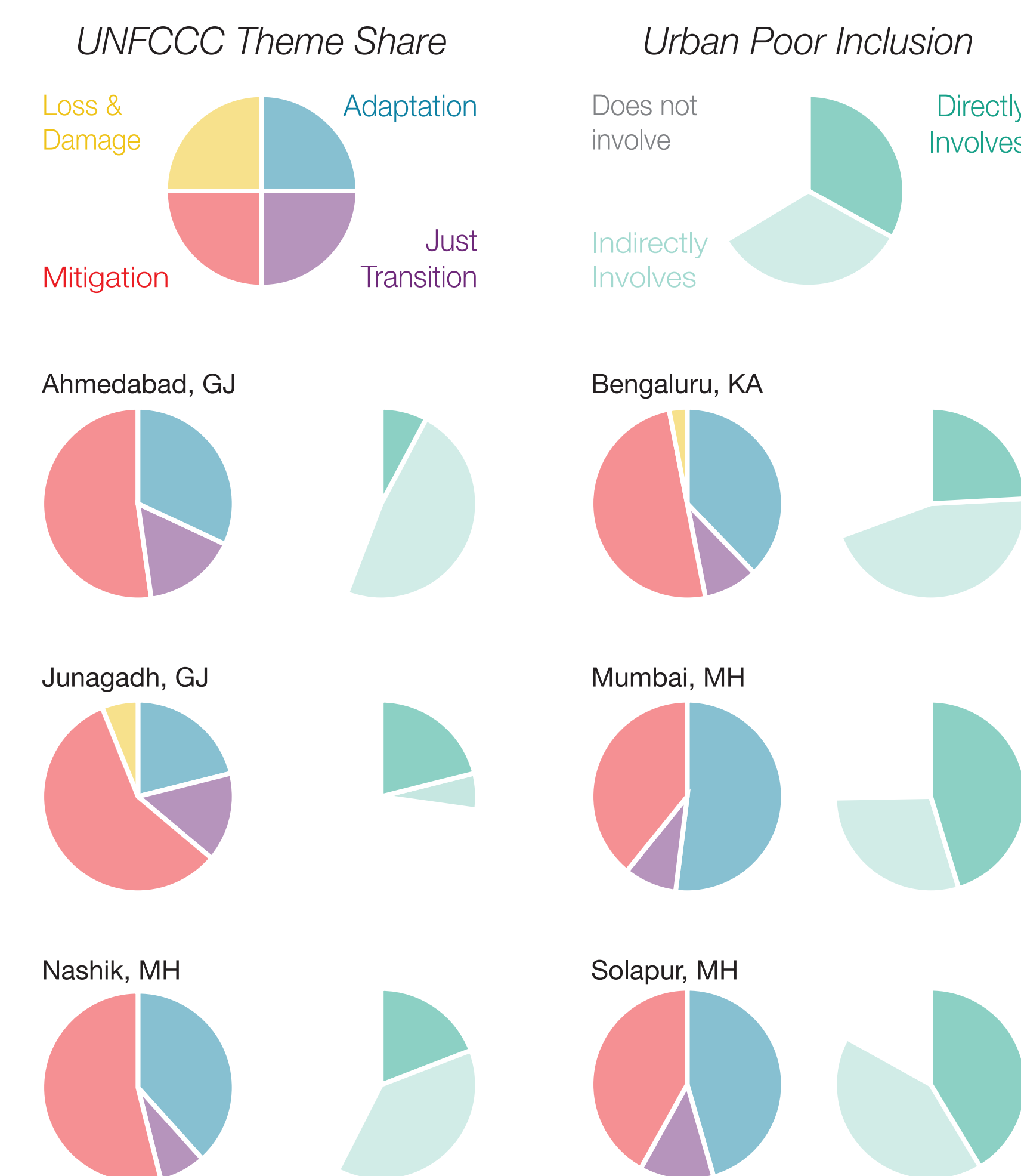


Fig 4. City CAP Actions by UNFCCC Theme and Urban Poor Inclusion

### Civil Society Organizations Case Studies

#### Adaptation:

India: Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group  
Kenya: Kounkuey Design Initiative

#### Just Transition:

India: Self Employed Women's Association  
Brazil: Gerardo Falcões

#### Loss and Damage:

India: Workers' Collective for Climate Justice - South Asia  
South Africa: The Durban Coalition

## 5 CONCLUSION

Our guidebook offers a framework for collaboration between city governments, civil society organizations, and urban poor communities to translate global climate priorities into local action. Through inclusive planning, cities in India and the wider Global South can develop more equitable Climate Action Plans grounded in lived experience and responsive to vulnerable populations.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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