

NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL BUSINESS CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROGRAMME (NSBCRP)

BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE FOR STREET VENDORS AND SMALL BUSINESSES IN WARD 173 & 176





RCC is a global nonprofit that drives lasting change in cities and communities. Their work focuses on building resilience in the context of climate change and deepening structural inequalities.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The NSBCRP seeks to strengthen the climate resilience of small businesses and vendors by co-designing solutions with stakeholders in alignment with existing policies, prototyping and implementing pilot projects to demonstrate quick wins, and laying the groundwork for long-term engagement.

THE PARTNERSHIP MODEL



Small Business Community
Experts on local challenges, business priorities, and engagement strategies, serving as the connection between the project team and the broader community.

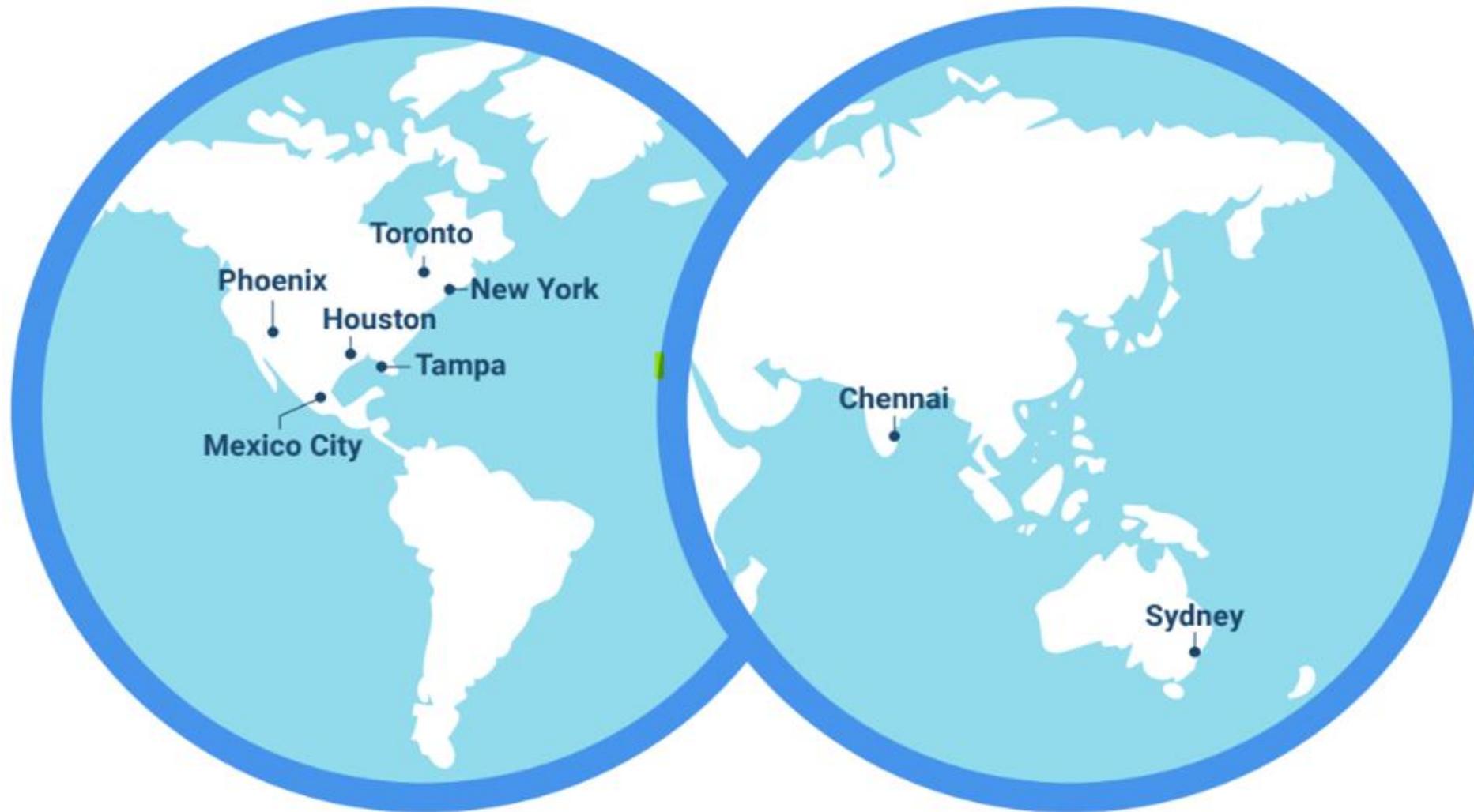


Chennai Resilience Centre, Okapi Research & Advisory, and RCC Program co-leads providing direct support to neighborhood / business leaders and local government partners, leveraging global experience.



Local Government
Project advisors advancing implementation in line with local government agenda and priorities.

INTERNATIONAL COHORT: CHENNAI JOINS A NETWORK OF 7 GLOBAL CITIES



THE PLAN AHEAD

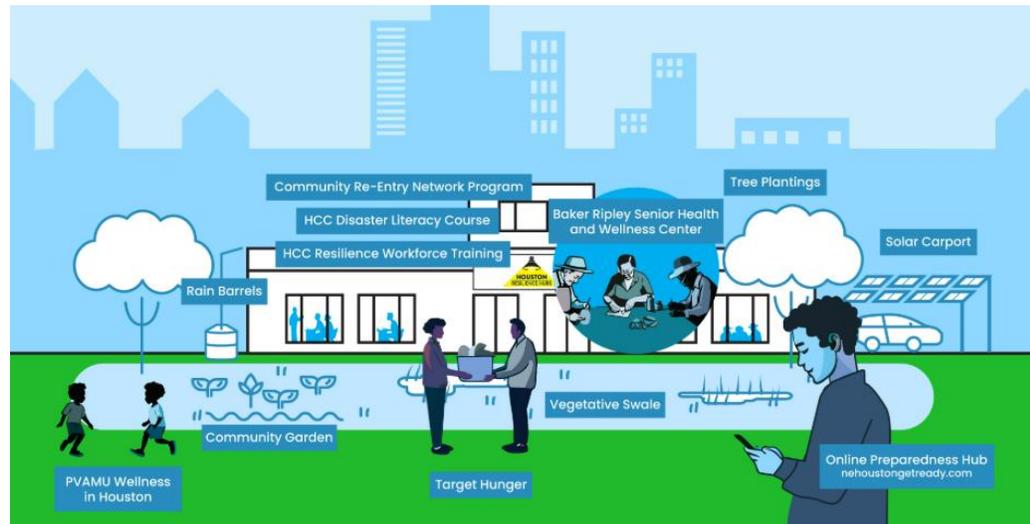


- Two Year Program
- Phase I: Co-designing Solutions in partnership with the beneficiaries, in cooperation with GCC and local RWAs.
- Activities will include field observation, surveys with street vendors and small businesses, interviews with GCC officials, TVC members, other relevant agencies/experts and conducting co-design workshops with smaller groups of vendors/RWAs; piloting a quick win
- Phase II: Implementation of a well-thought out program with infrastructural, governance, capacity building interventions
- Potential of additional support through the Mayor's Migration Council's Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees (GCF). The 2025 GCF cohort focuses on **economic inclusion**—supporting city-led projects that advance access to decent, sustainable, and meaningful livelihood opportunities for migrants, refugees, and IDPs.

CASE STUDIES FROM OTHER RCC PROGRAMMES

THE KASHMERE GARDENS RESILIENCE HUB

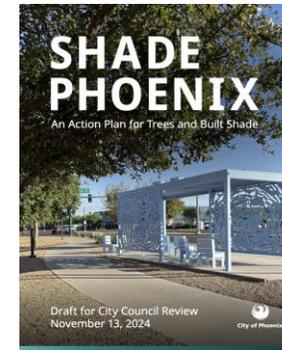
Houston, Texas



A one-stop resilience hub that serves the African American and Hispanic community living below the poverty line. A Climate ready building/site offering services for building climate preparedness.

SHADE STRUCTURE PROTOTYPE

Estrella, Phoenix



160+ community members co-designed sidewalk shade structures in low income neighbourhoods. Cool Corridors are connected to community assets like parks and schools.

POTENTIAL INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Making Street Based Small Businesses Climate Ready

To redesign shops and pushcarts with climate-proof and adaptive solutions— rooftop solar cells, energy-efficient appliances, solar battery generators for shops and pushcarts; umbrellas, vehicle motors, and water kiosks.

Leveraging Small Businesses for mitigating climate change

Capacity building around waste management, waste reduction and recycling- source segregation, alternatives to plastic usage and composting interventions

Empowering small businesses to adapt to climate change while also contributing to mitigate the same e.g., through waste/emission reduction

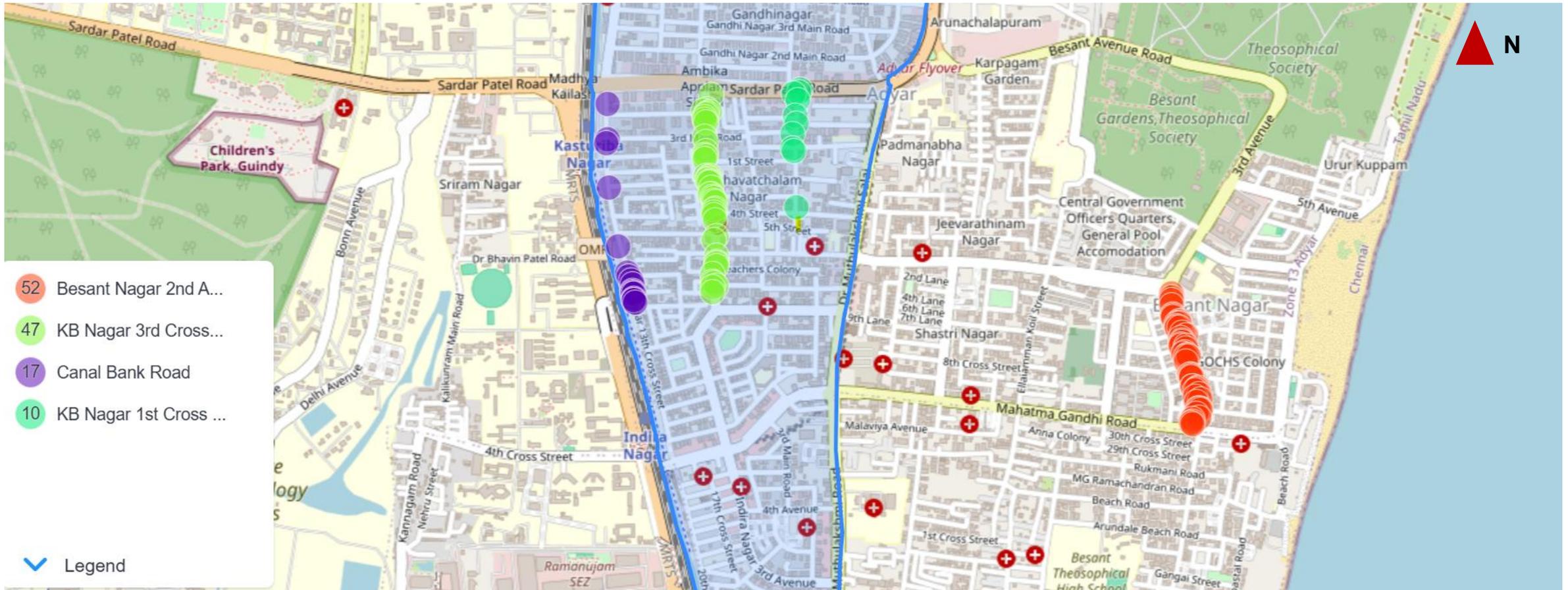


WHY KASTURBA NAGAR & BESANT NAGAR?

Kasturba Nagar	Besant Nagar
<i>Has Notified Vending Streets</i>	<i>Has Notified Vending Streets</i>
Working in an area where GCC has already deemed vendors legal, would aid the success of the programme as well as ensure sustainability of the intervention.	
<i>Residential Space</i>	<i>Attracts Beach Going Population</i>
There is substantial street vending activity in both locations, with many vendors being women who lack protection from extreme climatic events such as flooding during the rainy season and extreme heat during peak summer months.	
<i>Strong Relations With ROKA</i>	
<p>CRC and Okapi have strong relations with the 'Residents of Kasturba Nagar Association' (ROKA). Engagement with stakeholders such as community members is important for co-designing impactful interventions.</p> <p>CRC and Okapi have implemented several programs here (We Segregate, CUFI terrace gardens and model school gardens) for which local authorities and ROKA have been actively involved.</p> <p>These relationships with local officials like the councilor and zonal officer would aid the NSBCRP.</p>	

THE WORK SO FAR

INITIAL OBSERVATION OF STREET VENDORS AND SMALL BUSINESSES IN WARD 173 & 176



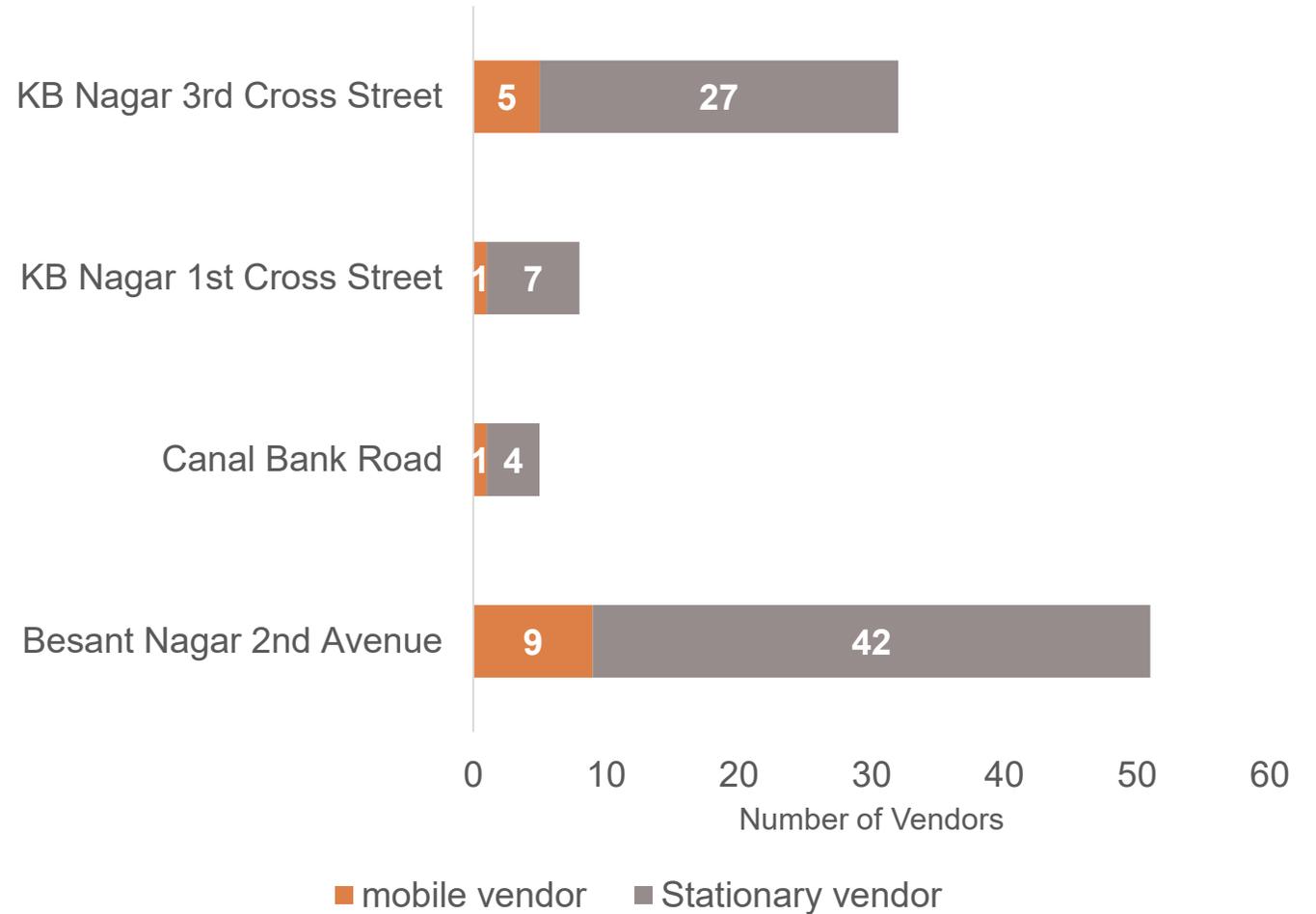
STUDY AREA AND SCHEDULE

- 16th January (Day 1): Visited Kasturba Nagar 1st Cross and 3rd Cross Street, and Besant Nagar 2nd Avenue at 10AM.
- 24th January (Day 2): Visited Kasturba Nagar 3rd Cross Street at 6PM.
- 27th January (Day 3): Visited Canal Bank Road at 2PM.

TYPES OF STREET VENDORS BASED ON MOBILITY

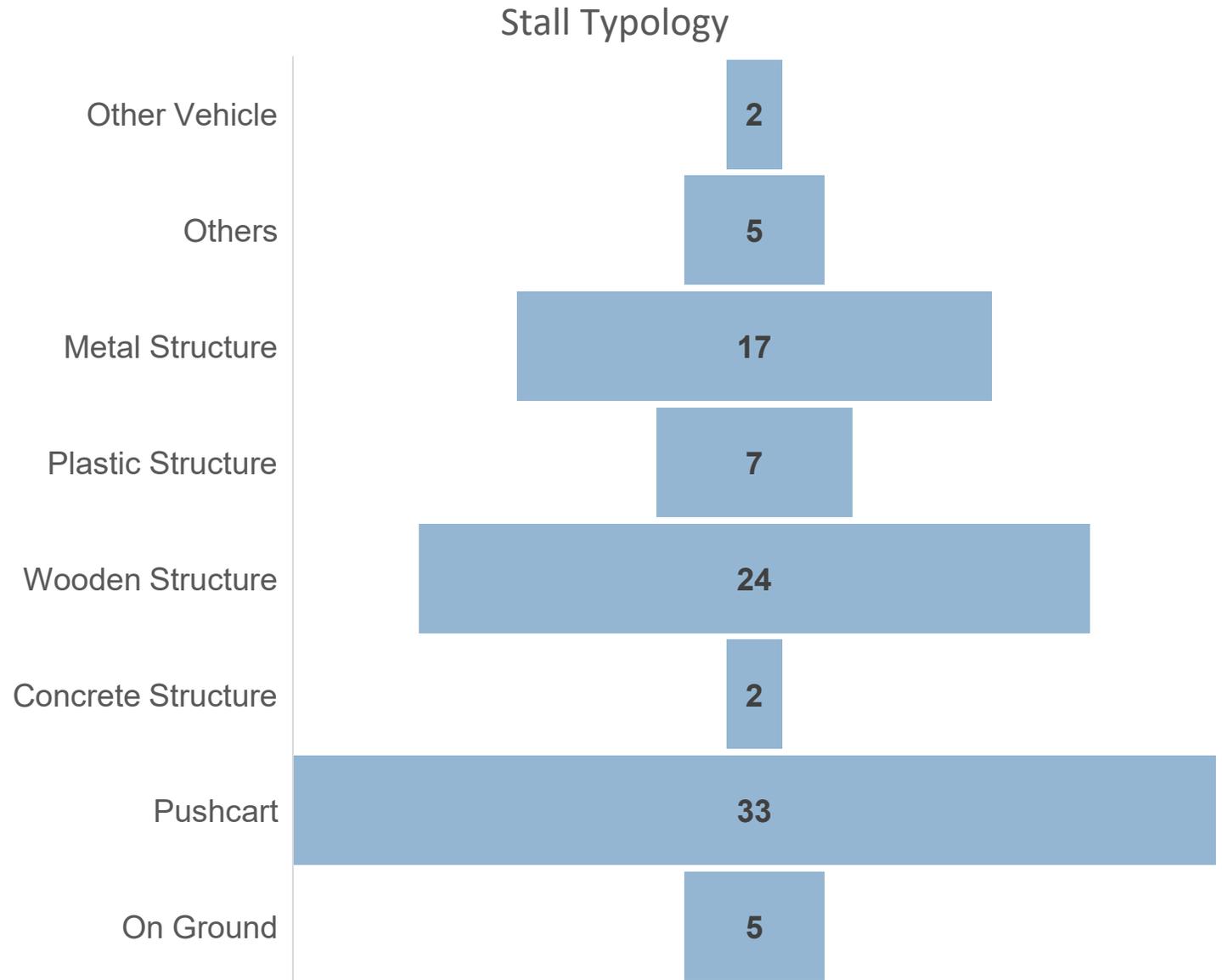
- Stationary vendors were predominantly observed.
- Canal Bank Road is characterized by small businesses that work out of brick and mortar shops usually attached to a house.
- Note: Stationary vendors have been categorized as those who use semi-permanent/make shift structures, as well as those with immobile carts.

Types of Vendors Based on Mobility



STALL TYPOLOGY

- Pushcarts, Bi-cycles and tri-cycle carts were most frequently observed.
- Stalls were often also made of wooden and metal structures.
- Note: stalls use multiple types of materials for their set up.
- Concrete shops account for small vendors/businesses who have some element of built structure to their units.



GCC 'Smart carts' in Besant nagar lie unused



Stall that uses a wheeled cart but is never mobile



Fruit vendors uses plastic crates to build steps for display



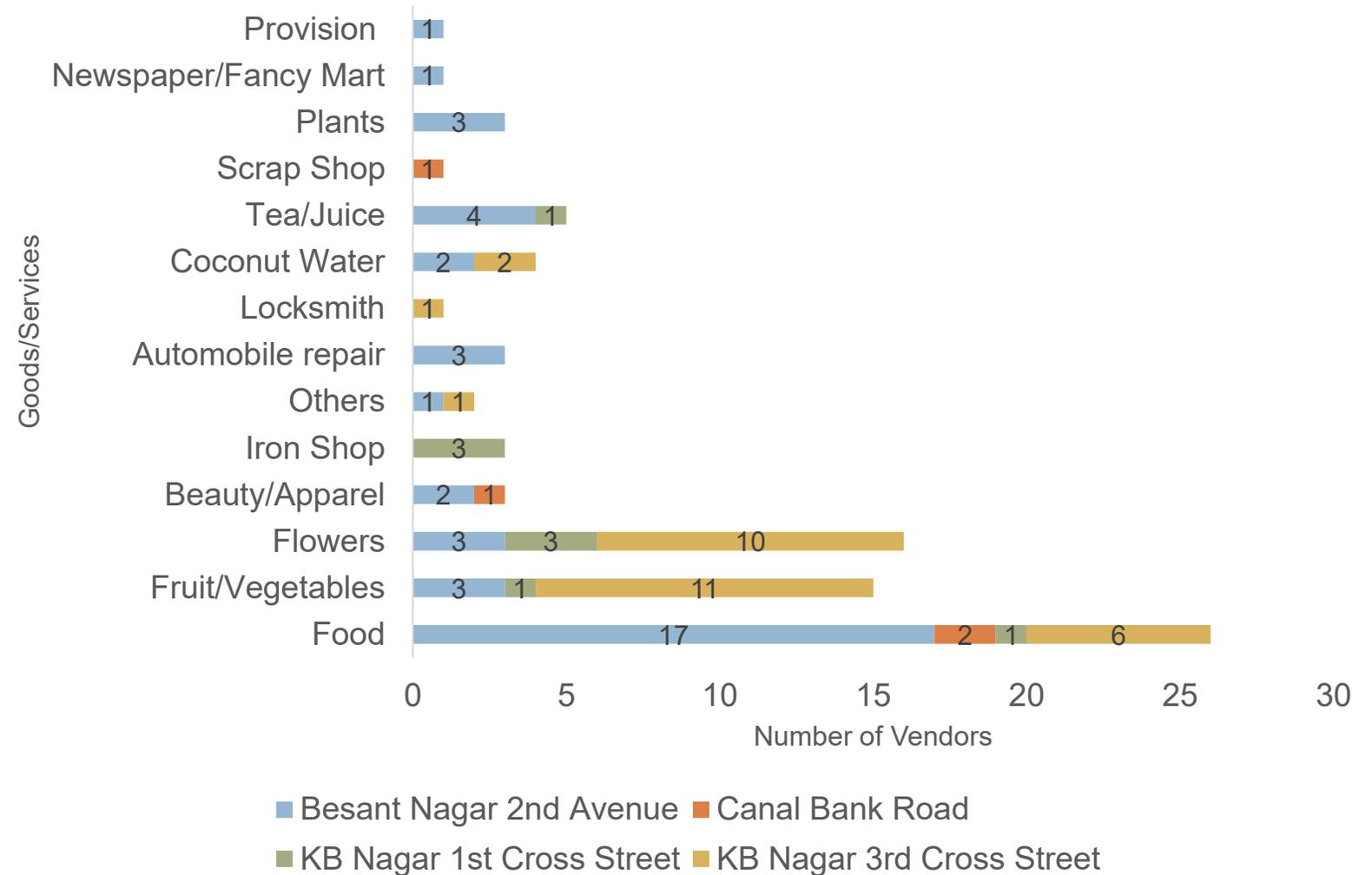
Glass Displays usually seen indoors is used on pavements



GOODS & SERVICES OFFERED BY VENDORS

- Highest number of stalls were of food vendors, fruit/vegetable vendors, flower sellers, and tea stalls.
- 'Others': Vendor/Businesses engaged in economic activity seen less frequently (e.g., Sim card seller, cobbler)

Goods/Services Vendors Offered



STATE OF THE PAVEMENT



- (L) Kasturba Nagar pavements were 1-2m, had many obstructions (construction sand, wires, broken pavers, storm water drains, trees) and were wider only outside bigger shops.
- (R) Pavements were wider in Besant Nagar, had parking space and less obstructions.

Shop workers keep bubble top cans for drinking water needs



Vendor points to where a drinking water pump used to be

ACCESS TO AMENITIES



A Public toilet observed in Besant nagar, however Kasturba nagar 1st and 3rd cross street did not have one

Shelter Arrangements



Vendors fill sacks and bubble-top cans with sand. They then prop up a stick into this, over which tarpaulin sheets are hung. Umbrellas and billboards were also seen to be used for shade.

INSIGHTS ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE FROM INTERVIEWS WITH STREET VENDORS

- Extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change is not recognized readily as a major challenge; rather vendors speak about their fear of eviction more readily
- To the extent that weather events are recognized as a problem, it is not because how these events affect them physically/health-wise but because of the negative impact on business.
- “Rain is also an issue because customers don't want to get out of their cars or stop in the rain to buy fruits. For us rain is not a problem. We have an umbrella. Peak summer is also an issue because its too hot for customers”
- “If it rains heavily, I do not open my shop. However, if the rain is light, I continue working, covering my shop with tarpaulin sheets. If it rains continuously and the roads flood, I close the shop and go home. In summer heatwaves, I keep the shop open as business is higher for coconuts. My only source of shade is an umbrella”

