



WASTE WARRIORS
REDUCE RE-USE RECYCLE

SOLVING THE WASTE CRISIS IN THE INDIAN HIMALAYA

Q3 Report FY 2023-24



Hindu-Kush Himalaya are home to 19 rivers and 12,000 km² of freshwater reserves, with over 2 billion lives dependent on it.



8.4 MMT/A
waste generated in the
Indian Himalayan Region



60%
waste is either
dumped or burnt



Habitat destruction

Water pollution

Climate change



1.3C vs 0.88C
IHR warming faster
than global average



20%
global methane
emissions from
unmanaged wet waste



250 gms
of plastic consumed
per person every year



Eco-Warrior, a Himalayan Griffon Vulture, is made with 8kg woven multi-layered plastic, 10kg PET plastic, metal and fishnet in Bir by artist Manveer.



Table of Contents

- This Quarter's Reflection 1
- Impact Metrics 2
- Our Theory of Change 6
- Moving The Needle 43
- Waste Warriors Turns 11 45
- A Culture of Inclusivity 46
- Pushing Through Adversity 47

Angad with Raksha and Janaki Di gear up for a household waste collection onboarding campaign in Sankri, Uttarkashi.



Dear Warriors,

Inclusivity is at the core of what we do. From the initial design phase of our interventions to the transfer of knowledge, we consistently prioritise the active involvement of local communities in co-creating climate solutions. This process lays the foundation for genuinely building communities in which people feel a profound connection to their local environment, ensuring that everyone is included in meaningful work and the impact.

This quarter has been no different. Each of our initiatives has been crafted, taking into consideration the socio-cultural nuances of each community. Whether by enlisting shopkeepers as frontline advocates in a tourist awareness campaign, inspiring youth to champion climate action in their city, creating region-specific art reflecting the essence of local elements, or ensuring equitable participation in our milestone 11-year Foundation Day celebrations and the landmark 10-year Corbett event, we have strived to provide opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to actively engage and celebrate our shared mission.

As we approach the conclusion of this financial year, we eagerly anticipate sharing the impact of our work through the compelling stories of those driving change at the grassroots. Their narratives will serve as a testament to the transformative power of inclusivity in achieving our collective vision.

Angad Khanna

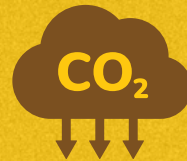
Communications Lead, Waste Warriors Society

Every moment of each day...

Through Waste Warriors' work – every moment of every day – a forest is becoming cleaner, an animal is being saved, a child is taking action for their future, and our community is growing stronger to fight the war against waste.



573.2 MT
Waste sent
for processing
in Quarter 3



40+ MT
carbon
emissions
reduced



15+ MT
methane
emissions
reduced



1460+
trees
saved*



14.8
hectares of
landfill saved*

21,932

people engaged to adopt good waste management practices



293

**waste workers
benefitted**



497

**women trained on
menstrual hygiene
management**



300

**volunteers
participated**



522

**active
citizens**



92

**clean up
drives**



23

**public space
transformations**

Rs 4.2 lakh

**user fees collected
from communities for
enabling operations**

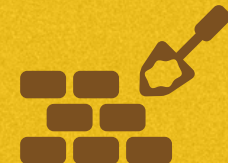


7.5 lakh
in government
funds unlocked



6

**MRFs
operational**



5

**MRFs under
construction**



16

**waste banks
operational**



9877

**households
with access to
segregated
collection**

The last Super Saturday of 2023 was spent giving company to our Paryavaran Sakhis during the otherwise mundane task of segregating dry waste at our Sahastradhara Material Recovery Facility.



A pilot project on matka composting was initiated by Block Development Officer (BDO) & District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) to promote home composting in rural Dharamshala.



STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

Waste Warriors takes a proactive role in strengthening governance by emphasizing capacity building and fostering collaborative relationships with government stakeholders. Our approach involves imparting expertise in waste management strategies, equipping officials with the tools to formulate and implement impactful regulations.

The government, recognizing the urgency of effective waste management, is prioritizing this issue through our partnership. Together, we facilitate transparent decision-making processes that align with environmental objectives.

43 GRAM
PANCHAYATS
IN SCOPE

Transforming Tradition at a Century-Old Fair

The 100-year old Renuka Ji International Fair 2023 in Himachal Pradesh attracts not only 5 lakh pilgrims over a span of 15 days, but also the waste that is generated as a result. This year, officials from local government bodies, the forest department, Renuka Ji Vikas Board, etc., vowed to make the experience unique. And it truly was a sustainable affair.

For the first time in history, there was an attempt to provide an effective solid waste management solution for this fair.

“Until now, waste seemed like an untameable problem. But working with Waste Warriors, we have realised that with the right systems, motivations and team effort, it is possible. We have learnt now how to manage our waste and look forward to next year.”

said a proud Rajnesh Kumar, Sub-Divisional Magistrate.



By engaging more than 800 vendors through 210 segregation trainings and 19 stakeholder workshops before the event and providing awareness materials targetting the pilgrims, the local stakeholders were empowered with the right tools to prepare for a green fair.

This impact was strongly felt by the community who embraced behavioural changes by not littering and opting for steel or biodegradable plates and segregating waste that were provided as alternatives to plastic disposables at food stalls for the first time in the history of the fair.



Vendors provide waste to the on-ground collection teams for proper disposal, instead of dumping and burning, which was the norm in the preceding years.

Shiv Pratap Shukla, Governor of Himachal Pradesh and Vinay Kumar, MLA Renuka Ji were impressed by the end-to-end waste management solutions provided by Waste Warriors.



Ms. Priya Rani, the CEO of Cantt Board Kasauli with Warrior Deepak (right) at a significant stakeholders event, deepens her understanding of the waste problem.



The talented young students of Government Intercollege, Sankri, stole the spotlight with their performance at the grand inauguration of the Uttarkashi Project, attended by all local stakeholders.



Additional Deputy Commissioner Mr. Saurabh Jassal (centre, with pink file) and the architects from Studio Mitti, along with the Bir team are excited to get started on the construction after approval of the MRF layout plan.



Highlights

- Significant stakeholders like the CEO of Cantt Board Kasauli, Block Development Officer (BDO) of Dharampur, and panchayat officials attended our awareness sessions to understand challenges & solutions in waste management.
- Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed with Kasauli Garkhal, Garkhal Sanawar, and Gulhari for implementing a waste management system in these panchayats.
- We held a stakeholder meeting at Palchan Gram Sabha, Manali with officials including the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) and Asst. Conservator of Forests (ACF) to enhance trust and local cooperation.
- In rural Dharamshala, a pilot project on at-home *matka* composting was initiated by Block Development Officer & District Rural Development Agency which will be replicated across Himachal Pradesh.
- In Sahastradhara, we conducted trainings for 70+ stakeholders like BDO, ADO, and officials of Zila Panchayat on Solid Waste Management.
- For the first time in three years in Uttarkashi, we saw stakeholder convergence at its best when trekkers, tour operators, local government and forest officials, and the community, came together to formally inaugurate a waste management system in place.

The Waste Bank in Sawalده East, Ramnagar is now a Knowledge Center, voluntarily beautified by the community, students, and NCC cadets!



ENHANCING INFRASTRUCTURE

Waste Warriors recognises that successful behavior change campaigns hinge upon ensuring reliable services, necessitating robust infrastructure. This entails establishing essential components like Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), waste banks, efficient transportation systems, widespread public dustbins for collection, and effective waste processing mechanisms.

This integrated approach ensures that behavior change is reinforced by tangible improvements, resulting in a synergistic relationship between awareness and infrastructure.

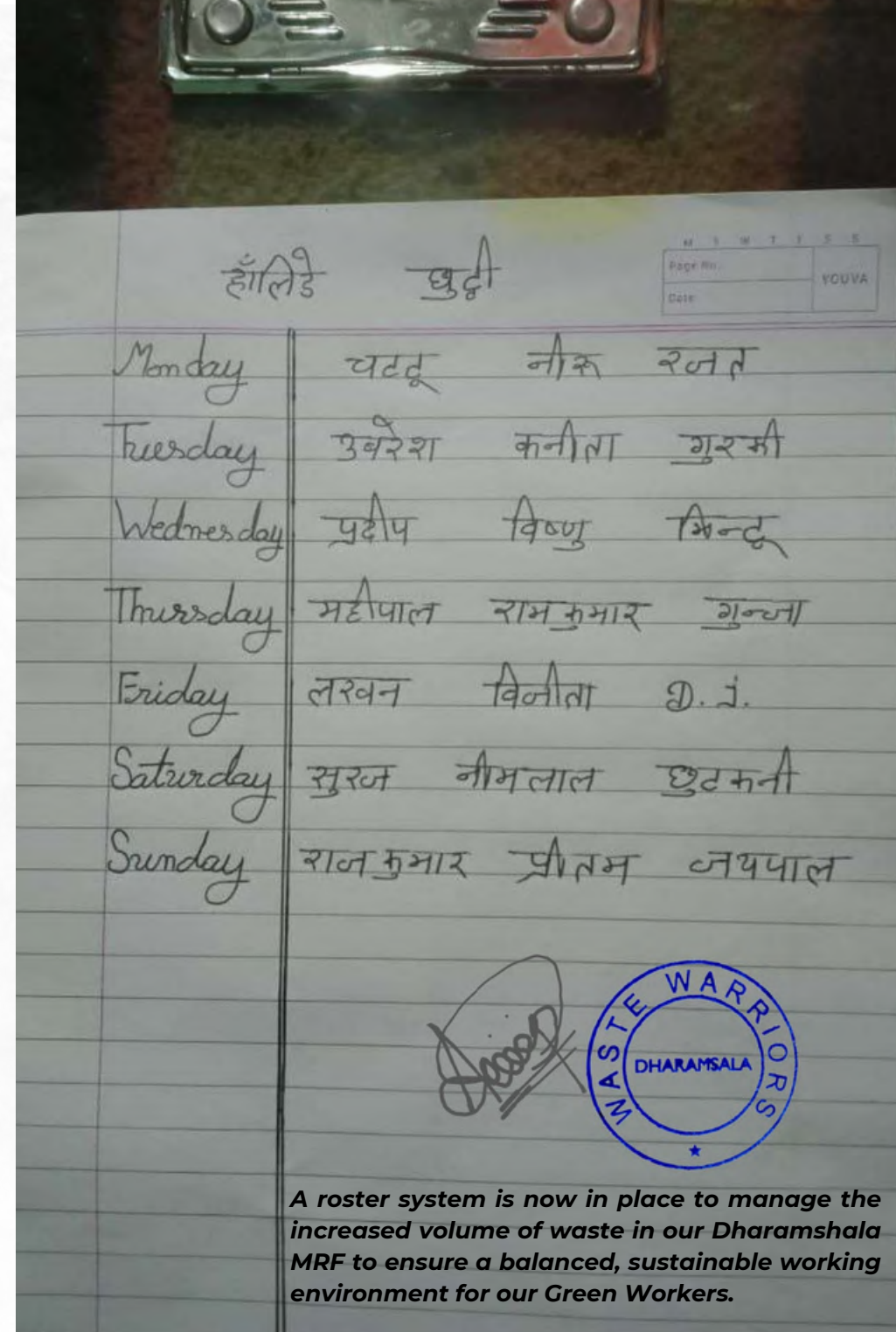
16 OPERATIONAL
WASTE BANKS IN
RURAL AREAS

Operationalising Efficiency, Seven Days a Week!

Through measures like imposing fines, rejecting mixed waste, and eliminating underground bins in 13 wards of Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, there has been a significant increase of inward waste quantum at our Material Recovery Facility.

“To facilitate a seamless processing of upto 2MT dry waste per day, we have started operating throughout the week. In another major development, we have successfully unlocked Rs 20 lakhs in government funds for both the shed and the shredder.

The shredder, a key component in our waste processing system, has been delivered to the MRF and is awaiting installation,” says Shashank Prabhu, a Warrior who oversees the MRF.



A roster system is now in place to manage the increased volume of waste in our Dharamshala MRF to ensure a balanced, sustainable working environment for our Green Workers.

This investment will further enhance the MRF's waste processing productivity and contribute to our ongoing efforts towards more efficient waste

management in the region.

In this quarter, we recycled 85,800 kgs of waste—thanks to an infrastructure that enabled it.



Raj Kumar, an MRF ecopreneur in becoming, is glad the new changes in the facility are not only increasing efficiency in operations but also providing a balanced work schedule for his workers.

Our Dharamshala MRF stands testament to the need and possibility of sustainable waste management infrastructure for the growing issue of waste in the difficult Himalayan terrains.



Local stakeholders flag off 3MT waste transportation, a first from Saur and Sankri to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Harrawala.



A make-shift waste bank at the Renuka Ji International Fair was a great demonstration of how some 'jugaads' could act as innovative solutions to local waste problems.



Highlights

- We executed shutter repair work for a waste bank in Garkhal Kasauli Panchayat for a seamless, sustainable waste management system.
- Panchayats Sokani Da Kot and Narwana Khas have issued No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for two new lands for constructing Material Recovery Facilities.
- After the levelling work for our Bir MRF, the layout has received approval, and partial funds for its construction have been sanctioned by the District Commissioner (DC).
- In Dharamshala, efforts yielded a collection of 1,713 kilograms of used-beverage cartons (UBCs) from aggregators, *safai saathis*, and the formal collection system.
- In Model Ward-97, Dehradun, we prevented 3,270 kgs of used cloth waste from ending up in landfills, achieved improved segregation rates in households (85%) and processed 27,223 kgs of wet waste, which was a 143% increase from the previous quarter.
- 63,684 kgs of dry waste was collected in Harrawala, Dehradun.

We have welcomed Arti Jagwadi to become the sixth Paryavaran Sakhi (Female friend of the environment) in Sahastradhara.

PROMOTING LOCAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Waste Warriors actively cultivates local entrepreneurship to ensure that the value stemming from systemic solutions remains rooted within the community. This approach emphasizes that local entrepreneurs are not only responsible for their ventures but also accountable to the community they serve.

Through training programs, we empower individuals to establish businesses in waste management - creating a dynamic network of environmentally-conscious entrepreneurs who contribute to waste reduction while fostering community prosperity.

27 WOMENPRENEURS EMPOWERED

A Decade in Corbett, More to Come!

A decade ago, when Khimuli Devi, a Paryavaran Sakhi from Jim Corbett, received her first wage, it gave her a taste of financial empowerment. Sitting outside the waste bank in Ringora, she recalled her first purchase—a dozen colourful bangles that she had always desired but couldn't ask her husband for.

“I have been able to do anything that pleases me with my own money and nobody can question me about it. That is the power your own money gives you,” Khimuli said while sipping on tea.

Khimuli is just one of the 21 financially independent *sakhis* who provide waste management solutions to the community in Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve.

The Paryavaran Sakhi Model has promoted local entrepreneurship through women's self-help groups ensuring constant flow of income.



Khimuli Devi, one of our oldest sakhis is all smile at the Ringora waste bank in Corbett.

Another *sakhi*, Vimla, shares “Who can take care of someone forever? This work keeps my pride intact.” She wanted continued financial independence after her husband passed away and didn’t want to rely on her children alone.

Waste Warriors’ Corbett chapter completed 10 years of setting systemic and sustainable waste management solutions, breaking gender barriers and generating dignified livelihood on October 2, 2023.

For women in rural India, driving a vehicle still remains a taboo. Karishma, a sakhi, drives an e-loader for collecting dry waste, capturing the curious gaze of passerbys.





At the 10 year celebration, Paryavaran Sakhis felicitating Shri Diwan Singh Bisht, MLA, Ramnagar, with a trophy they made from waste.

'Paryavaran Pathways' is a detailed case study filled with more such stories of hope, friendship, financial independence and challenges that 21 women waste entrepreneurs from rural areas in and around Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve live through everyday.



READ NOW





Wajid bhai (centre) is a local businessman in Muni Ki Reti who helped us upcycle almost 500 kgs textile waste into beautiful carpets.



Highlights

- In Barwala Panchayat, Dharamshala, a local entrepreneur has initiated fortnightly door-to-door waste collection. This has helped reduce the panchayat's operations cost and increased operations efficiencies.
- Project Untrash Himalayas, where women of a self-help group in Dharamshala upcycled textile waste to divert it from the landfill and give it a new life, has concluded after six months. Out of the total 2,449 kg of clothes collected, 1,800 kg textile waste was processed to make 1,661 sustainable clothing products. We have successfully installed three drop-off points at high footfall areas for regular inflow of waste clothes.
- Paryavaran Sakhis in Sahastradhara managed to collect a whopping 1,035 Kg of Dry waste from households, a significant increase of 200% from the last quarter.
- Corbett's Paryavaran Sakhis showcased their upcycled products like medals, trophies, pen stands, coasters at a Diwali Mela organised by IAEC in Delhi.



OVERCOMING SOCIAL STIGMA

Waste Warriors takes a pivotal role in addressing social stigma by nurturing a sense of identity and empowerment among marginalised communities. We enable individuals to reclaim agency and overcome societal biases associated with waste by providing dignified livelihoods.

By igniting a sense of pride and purpose, we facilitate open dialogues that challenge stereotypes, encouraging active participation and collaboration. These efforts transform mindsets, promoting responsible waste management and holistic well-being, leading to more inclusive societies.

54 DIGNIFIED
LIVELIHOODS
CREATED

Young menstruators in Bir hold dolls that are used as storytelling tools to encourage open dialogue around sustainable menstruation.

“We’ll go on, come what may!”

One of the 40 schools participating in Green Gurukul, an interschool competition in Dehradun, was Schuller’s Heim, where kids from a nearby slum in Dalanwala study.

During a clean-up activity, passers-by from the same area started shaming the kids saying, “Is this why your parents are sending you to a school?” and “Look at them— doing what their parents do!”

When their principal suggested we move to another location for the clean up, Amaan was adamant.

“We’ll stay here and complete the clean-up. We’re not doing it for them, but for the environment.”

His classmates also joined him in this resilient display of climate action. By the end of the clean-up, not only had they collected 5 kgs of dry waste from the area but also sent a message to the community that caring for the society and the environment is everyone’s responsibility.



Amaanulla (front) stands proud along with his fellow young army of Warriors.

Students from Bajaj Institute Of Learning For Deaf Children moved everyone with their act on water conservation during the closing ceremony of Green Gurukul.



Another school, Bajaj Institute Of Learning For Deaf Children also showcased immense determination despite their disabilities by participating in all activities of the competition. They have inspired not only us, but students from different schools to take waste and climate action.

As part of our Dehradun youth activation project—Youth United for Waste & Climate Action (YUWA), we have engaged 55 schools and colleges, and 912 students through 366 activities to leave more than 20,000 waste and climate action footprints.

Students from Bajaj Institute Of Learning For Deaf Children enjoy a game of carom during their action-packed Green Gurukul competition.



Two curious minds are fascinated by reading the story of Pihu, a fictional character who is motivating her community to adopt sustainable menstrual practices.



DOWNLOAD NOW



Highlights

- Through multiple workshops on sustainable menstruation, we have been able to sensitise 497 menstruators across Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, while simultaneously breaking the taboos attached to periods. We have also launched an engaging toolkit on the same to spread awareness among young girls and women on the benefits of sustainable alternatives.

After a month-long Kapda Daan Mahotsav, in which 326 residents of Harrawala, Dehradun participated and 3,270 kgs of clothes was collected, we set up a take-what-you-like store for the marginalised communities in the same ward.



ACTIVATING COMMUNITIES

Waste Warriors deeply values the active involvement of local communities in the entire lifecycle of designing, implementing, and monitoring sustainable solutions. Through creative mediums like art, music, dance, puppetry, and more, Waste Warriors draws in local citizens and tourists alike, blending education and entertainment.

This creative approach transforms waste management into an interactive, culturally resonant experience, uniting a diverse set of perspectives towards an eco-conscious mindset and community ownership.

22K PEOPLE ENGAGED

A young visitor reads a shopkeeper's story along the way to the Bhagsu waterfall.

Shopkeepers 🤝 Cleanliness

Nestled in the famed Bhagsu Waterfall Trail of Dharamshala, a formidable alliance unfolded as 19 cafes and Waste Warriors teamed up, thrusting the shopkeepers into the forefront of a compelling tourist awareness campaign against littering.

“We don't need your help in finding a name for us but rather in protecting our nature.”

passionately proclaimed the owner of No Name Cafe.

This initiative unfolded by spotlighting the captivating stories of 13 iconic cafes on boards made from Used Beverage Cartons (UBC), leaving an enduring impact on the minds of thousands of incoming tourists.

Within the framework of this campaign, the shopkeepers became active advocates, fervently encouraging customers to dispose of their waste responsibly with each purchase.



In tourist destinations like this, fostering a sense of ownership among the locals is indispensable for involving all stakeholders and securing their support. As a result, every item left along the trail has a watchful eye from the shopkeepers.

This unique campaign not only strengthened our bond with those engaging directly with tourists but also served as an educational force, transforming the shopkeepers of Bhagsu trail into Waste Warriors.



Swami, a shopkeeper on the Bhagsu trail, spends half an hour every day picking up the waste left behind by tourists.

सफल होगा जब केवल कचरे को लिये और केमटी की
से कम कड़ा उत्पन्न किया जाये।
इये, सफल होगा जब केवल कचरे को लिये और केमटी की

Ashok Nautiyal, President, Kempty Fall Market Association rings the “swachhta ki ghanti” with our iconic kachra-man made out of waste generated in Kempty itself.





Local residents are amused to find their village marked on a freshly made wall mural at the Forest Check Post between Sankri and Saur villages in Govind Wildlife Sanctuary.



Spot this magnificent piece of waste-to-art on your next trip to Maldevta, Dehradun.

Highlights

- In Bir, three new art pieces named High Hopes Swing, Flying Carpet Bench and Eco-Warrior Griffon, made completely out of waste material were installed. The process took place in collaboration with Special Area Development Authority (SADA) and Gram Panchayat where raw materials and monetary support was provided and approved by them.
- In Sahastradhara, we have installed an I <3 Maldevta Art Installation (in Maldevta), and one in Drona Temple and Asthal Bus Stop Public Space Transformation each to spread more awareness around waste.
- In Dharamshala, we achieved the successful installation of nine awareness signboards, and two wall murals for enhancing community awareness and communication.
- In Dharamshala's Karamshala project, 500+ anti-littering pledges were signed, 600kgs of waste was collected via clean-ups and 60 taxi, auto and tour operators were engaged.
- Two signboards were collaboratively installed in coordination with Gram Panchayat Keori, Himachal Pradesh. The Panchayat has also taken responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of these signboards.

In Doni, Uttarakhand, children participate in a role-playing session as a creative way to incorporate behaviour change principles into their public awareness efforts within the Young Warriors Club.



Highlights

- Three Young Warrior Clubs were formed with 46 students from marginalised communities in Model Ward Harrawala, Dehradun.
- Two wall paintings in popular and busy locations were undertaken in collaboration with local panchayats of Bir and Chaugan. The space selected by Waste Warriors was provided by the panchayat and local residents swiftly.
- In Uttarkashi, signboards, wall murals, and an art installation were put up to encourage trekkers to “Explore Responsibly”, the project slogan.
- We collected a record-breaking Rs 1.4 lakh/month of user fee from Harrawala which now equals its operation cost.
- We organised a health camp dedicated to Safai Sathis (sanitation workers) from Dharamshala Municipal Corporation, benefiting 110 individuals.
- Under ‘Kachra-Mukt Kempty’ initiative (near Mussoorie), multiple signboards, including bollywood-themed slogans, were installed to make waste management more relatable for residents and tourists.

As ecology partners for the Khushwant Singh Literary Festival in Kasauli, we were delighted to meet people who were equally passionate about the environment.

SCALING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Waste Warriors drives partnership scaling by strategically engaging diverse stakeholders, fostering collaborative ecosystems, and leveraging expertise. Through targeted capacity building, knowledge sharing, and resource alignment, Waste Warriors cultivates an empowered network capable of expanding waste management solutions.

This strategy ensures that our efforts foster sustainable change beyond our organisation, creating a lasting positive impact on waste management practices.

500+ STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED

Waste, Clean Bowled in Dharamshala

Eager to witness the highly anticipated India vs New Zealand World Cup match, Rishabh, a cricket enthusiast from Mohali, Punjab, hurriedly arrived at the stadium.

When, in the midst of his rush to grab a quick bite before the match, he couldn't help but observe some people holding placards, and others who diligently picked up waste— all adorned in green reflective jackets.

The Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) Stadium in Dharamshala, renowned as one of the world's most beautiful cricket stadiums, was remarkably clean. This was true for all five matches, where a staggering 36,062 kgs of waste awaited proper disposal.

In collaboration with government officials, the process had begun much in advance.



Warriors getting ready to champion for cleanliness in the HPCA Stadium before the World Cup kicks off.

In partnership with the organisers, we reduced single-use items and strategically placed enough dustbins throughout the picturesque venue. 28 Warriors stood prepared amidst the hustle of almost 23,000 cricket enthusiasts when India won

against New Zealand, and Warriors, against waste.

Such partnerships help us garner more mainstream, public support for sustainable waste management systems.



Warriors living a dream at the 2023 Cricket World Cup matches in Dharamshala.

At the HDFC Bank Parivartan Partner's Meet-North Zone held in Noida, Waste Warriors got the opportunity to present their dry waste management model of Dharamshala and Baijnath Block.





Jatan Sansthan, a non-profit from Rajasthan taking a swachhta shapath (pledge for cleanliness) at the ghats of Ganga in Muni Ki Reti.

Highlights

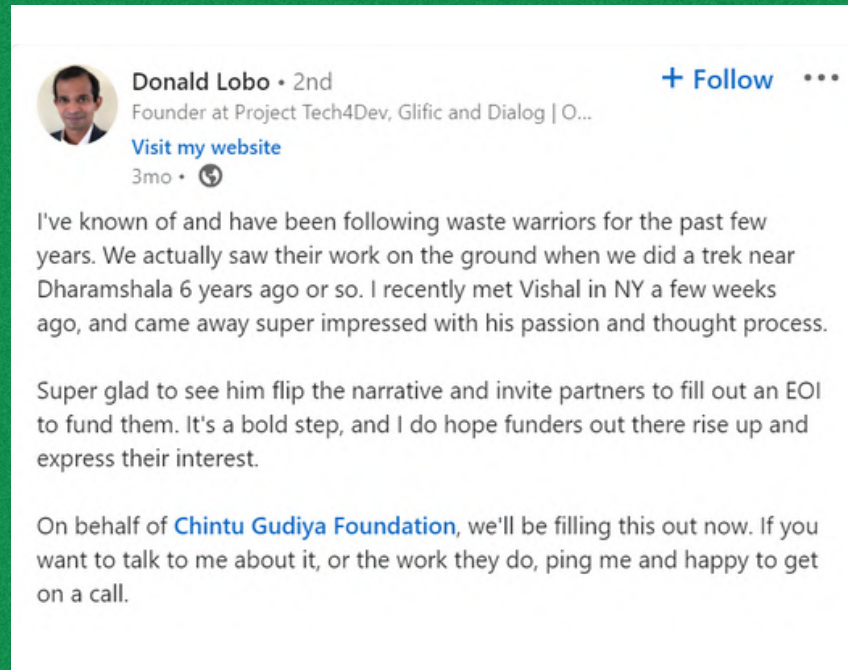
- Centre for Social and Behaviour Change (Ashoka University) is helping us with evidence-based behavioural interventions to increase source segregation of waste in Windlass River Valley (residential unit) in Harrawala, Dehradun.
- In Kempty, 15 restaurants have been enrolled in the Clean Business Program, in which segregation has reached 97%.
- In Manali, we collaborated with an artists' collective from Kerala to complete a striking wall mural which engaged the local community too.
- A research project, in collaboration with IIM Kashipur is studying the effect of different types of information circulated at three levels (micro, meso and macro) on citizens' attitude and behaviour towards source segregation of waste in Dehradun.
- Hulladek is helping us set up e-waste collection bins in communities all across Dehradun, along with recycling of the collected e-waste.
- We exchanged our sectoral learnings with Jatan Sansthan (NGO working on children and women's issues) & they helped strengthened our knowledge of sustainable menstrual hygiene.

MOVING THE NEEDLE



Warrior Vishal Kumar had the opportunity to deliver a couple of talks in Dubai during [COP28](#). One of them was at the Climate+ Summit by Devex on 'Why reimagining waste management is critical for climate and health'. Watch it [here](#).

He was also part of a fireside chat on "Community Perspectives on Climate Impacts" as a part of the Indiaspora Climate Action Forum.



In a first of its kind move, we announced an Expression of Interest (EOI) inviting partners to fund impactful climate-centric Waste Management Projects in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

It is unusual for non-profits to initiate this call for funders but we were unexpectedly rewarded when Donald Lobo acknowledged this initiative and signed a multi-year grant for organisational resilience. View this [EOI here](#).

We are in the media....



[Life-sized Plastic Tigers in Corbett](#)



[Changemakers Unite: Naveen Sadana's interview](#)



[Podcast: Navigating Trash Talks by Vishal Kumar](#)



[Blog: Waste Pioneers](#)



[Waste Warriors in Dharamshala: Urban Interventions to Setup Replicable Waste Management Systems](#)

WASTE WARRIORS TURNS 11

On November 16-18, all Warriors gathered for a zero-waste celebration of the work that we do. Everyone, from our Green Workers to the CXOs, from across ten project locations in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, came together to revive our camaraderie and shared dedication as Warriors.

Vishal, our CEO, and Solomon, our COO kickstarted the event by sharing the strides we have made in the year past and realigned us all for what lies ahead.

While we meditated, got our health check-ups done, danced, sang, and did some team-building exercises, the warmest two hours were when we shared stories from the grassroots. Some Warriors shared their most vulnerable stories, while others, their happiest.

We also bestowed the prestigious Late Shanti Varma Memorial Awards to Warriors Avinash Pratap Singh (former CEO at Waste Warriors) and Minakshi Pandey (initiator of Waste Warriors' Corbett Chapter) for continuing Varma's legacy of dedication and compassion towards serving the environment and society.



Darshini *didi* (on mic) shared how the local community in Uttarkashi underwent a behavioural change in segregating waste.



The Corbett team enthrall the audience with a highly energetic dance as part of the cultural activities.



200+ Warriors. One Mission. That was the goal of the 11 year Foundation Day celebrations.

A CULTURE OF INCLUSIVITY

Waste Warriors had the privilege of working with Pinky, a special needs student from the Aasra Trust in Dehradun. Pinky worked with HR department and supported the team with miscellaneous admin-related tasks. But her enthusiasm was highly visible when she was found painting planters during our Super Saturdays, an employee-engagement activity where Warriors volunteer to participate in community giving, cleaning up the office space, sports, dance, and anything fun to take a break from their daily work.

She completed her internship with us, marking a significant milestone in our journey towards inclusivity. Pinky's enthusiasm has left a lasting impact, and we are grateful for the positive energy she brought to the office.

Looking ahead, we continue to strive to foster a culture that embraces diversity and inclusivity. We aim to create an environment where we can welcome more special needs Warriors like Pinky, providing them with opportunities to thrive and succeed.

“I love coming to the office every day! It's so exciting to meet and talk to everyone and have lunch together.”



PUSHING THROUGH ADVERSITY

"This year, Manali has seen minimal snow, despite expectations of a snow-covered landscape by now. This scarcity led people to seek snow beyond the Atal Tunnel. I was there in December last week to oversee the wall murals' work. And went beyond the tunnel to witness the beauty.

However, as a Warrior, I tend to be affected by waste carelessly thrown in these beautiful parts of our country. The quantity of waste I encountered just a few kilometres past the tunnel was alarming, demanding immediate attention and triggered a mix of emotions—sadness, anger, and hopelessness. It was impossible to ignore, yet most passersby seemed indifferent. This is a common sight in every project location, where raising tourist awareness is challenging. I wish people could take responsibility for their own waste so we can truly enjoy the magic of the mountains."

~ Archana Masih, Waste Warrior

We are grateful to all our donors and individual funders for supporting our mission and envisioning a cleaner Himalaya together.





Waste Warriors believes waste is a global problem requiring local action. Since our founding over 10 years ago, we've accelerated our mission from one location to 9 project locations across the Indian Himalayan Region. In the states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, we are building inclusive, participatory and sustainable approaches to solving the waste crisis. We are fully committed to serving our community tirelessly, both in their daily lives and during moments of crisis. Through these efforts, we are reshaping perspectives and shaping a collective future - a future of meaningful change.

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