



# ANNUAL

# REPORT

2018-2019



**KASHTAKARI PANCHAYAT**

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### **Introduction:**

Kashtakari Panchayat trust was established in 2010 to support waste pickers and their families, and collectives. The support takes the form of direct financial assistance towards education or health needs. Training; facilitation for better access to entitlements, livelihoods, resources and services; and research is the other kind of support that is provided. Kashtakari Panchayat is platform for linking different stakeholders and financial and non-financial resources for effective action for improving the lives of everyone in society.

### **Key Focus Areas:**

In 2018-19, KP sought to address the challenges of enabling waste pickers to access government schemes and services. Education of children of waste pickers and enabling the transition of children from elementary to secondary school and college was a key focus area. Helping waste pickers to explore newer and more creative livelihood opportunities around the collection, repair and reuse of furniture, books, toys and equipment, was another. Reaching out to city residents to encourage their engagement with waste pickers in order to improve mutual understanding was an important area of work. These efforts not only supported alternatives for informal workers, they also contributed to the development of robust, inclusive and decentralized solid waste management systems.

### **Education and Child Rights-**

Over the years waste pickers in Pune have campaigned for inclusion of their children in mainstream education so that they have a fighting chance to choose their occupations and to live their dreams. KP is deeply committed to support endeavours that increase waste pickers' children's access to education. There is constant search for ways in which children and young people can enhance their skills and knowledge so that they are not left behind.

Children are enabled to access government education assistance schemes. Some of them are PMC's LokshahirAnnabhauSathe and MaulanaAbulKalam Azad scholarships, Pre-matriculation scholarship for children of those engaged in Cleaning occupations and Scholarship for Sanitation workers (GhanbhattaShishyavrutti) of the Pune Municipal Corporation. While the first two are merit based, the other two are occupation specific.

Besides increasing and ensuring access to existing governmental entitlements, KP has been actively involved in increasing the share of direct benefits for waste pickers' children. To this end KP developed a master database of children of waste pickers that makes it easier to identify

eligible children. Rapid digitization of government (and most other) schemes makes it imperative for children to possess bank accounts, aadhar cards and have a variety of documents to access them. It has therefore become necessary to store and maintain these documents. The existence of such data is a powerful tool for enhancing the bargaining capacity of wastepickers.

Another important aspect that KP takes into account is that of defining vulnerabilities. Government eligibility criteria are usually based upon caste, religion, occupation or income and often exclude those most in need. Although the Socio-economic Caste Census (SECC) carried out in 2011 was meant to identify beneficiaries using expanded criteria, there are many gaps in the way that the SECC was carried out. In order to reach the most needy for its financial assistance programmes, KP developed a set of criteria in consultation with waste pickers. The criteria took into account multiple vulnerabilities such as abandonment by parent, disability, illness or death of either parent or being orphaned. KP uses these to identify children in need of assistance and to refer children to other organisations for support. The actual process of identification is led by waste picker leaders and community mobilisers (sanghatikas) who verify the facts. The process is democratic and community led.

As a general educational incentive, KP provided notebooks to 1900 school and college going children of waste pickers in Pune and PimpriChinchwad in 2019. Additional financial assistance is provided to 319 children so that they can continue with their education. One organisation prioritises merit over need while the other prioritises need and the children are selected accordingly.

### **Right to Education Act**

Section 12(1)(c) of the Right to Education Act, 2009 (RTE) provides for reservation of 25% of the admissions at entry level to students from the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and the economically backward classes, into unaided private schools. KP assists waste pickers and their relatives to fill the online application forms. Selection of students is done by the government through a lottery method. The school is expected to provide free tuition, education materials and all such facilities that are provided to other children in private schools.

Law students interning with KP in 2018, studied the current concerns of children of waste pickers who were admitted to private unaided schools under section 12(1)(c) of the Right to Education Act. The study revealed that 90% of the beneficiaries of the reservation belonged to the historically oppressed castes (Mahar, Matang and Neo-Buddhist). Only 15 (7%) of the children enrolled through RTE out of the 219 students surveyed, had dropped out. The attrition

rate was remarkably low, given that the lives of children of waste pickers are so removed from the relative affluence of the other children.

The primary reason for dropout was found to be the unlawful demand of fees and other charges from parents by the school. Parents were also perturbed by the delay in the distribution of books. That said, many parents felt their children were doing very well academically, and that despite all the gaps in the implementation of RTE, the act itself has changed their lives. They felt optimistic about their children's future.

Children living in slums and low income housing have little opportunity for engaging in sports and extra-curricular activities. KP encourages children of waste pickers who wish to participate. Jyotsna Londhe, the child of a single mother, trained in Karate and got an opportunity to compete at the 37th World Hakuakai Karate Championship held in August 2018 in Tokyo, Japan. Children of waste pickers have been attending coaching for football over the weekends during the year. The coaching is conducted by AIYFA (All India Youth Football Association), a club started by Mr VivekNaghul who has been on the coaching team for teams in the ISL.



### **Happy faces after a participating in a game of football**

The focus on sports came out of the discussions with children about what different methods could be used to keep them engaged and in school, away from activities which youth from communities get caught up in. 25 children from two communities have been part of the training program.

### Engagement with the young and the restless:



#### **Career guidance for after Class X and XII**

KP focuses on increasing participation and engagement of youth indifferent issues through capacity building measures so that they become better informed and responsible citizens who also participate in campaigns undertaken for and with waste pickers.

Various activities have been undertaken with youth with a view towards preparing them as leaders in their communities, taking forward issues and mobilizing other youth around these issues. A youth convention was organised with waste pickers and children of waste pickers attending the event. The event focused on career guidance and vocational counselling of youth and many organizations that specialise in these areas participated in the endeavour. Furthermore, throughout the year KP undertook vocational and career guidance sessions in partnership with Pune's Lighthouse project and career guidance counsellor Mr. Vivek Velankar.

In turn youth leaders have taken on activities to create awareness on social issues among community waste pickers and to mobilize other youth from their communities. A youth leader who has been active in theatre researched and wrote a small play on the issue of child marriage. Using language and themes that are predominant in slums and in their own homes, the 11 youth who participated in this play performed it to over 1600 waste-pickers spanning over 9 sessions. One such occasion was Savitribai Phule Jayanti, youth leaders from the community put up a play against early marriage of girls and depicted the conditions of girls when they are married at a young age. At the end of the performance, many waste pickers were seen shedding tears thinking of their own lack of access to education, and early marriages. The gathering vowed to end the practice of child marriage that still takes place in the community. Girls who had chosen higher education over marriage were felicitated.

## Youth and Early marriage -

A series of trainings were organised on the issue of early marriage. When compared to historical practices in the community, child marriages have reduced significantly. However, the practice has not completely disappeared from society and repeated dialogue with the community must continue to put an end to this practice. The training broadly covered aligned issues such as:

- Percentage of marriages that are child marriages. Why they happen, where, etc.
- The detrimental impact of child marriage on health and education of children
- The social and financial impact of child marriages
- Legal aspects of child marriage. The history of legislation around child marriages

The trainings were conducted at 13 different zones around the city in partnership with resource persons from the organization MASUM.

## Training to Waste Pickers:

Government Entitlements- A series of trainings were organised for waste pickers on different government schemes that are available to them and how they can access these. The table below gives a snapshot of the programmes and schemes that were covered as part of these training sessions.

Health	Education	Social Protection	Safety	Financial Inclusion
Jan ArogyaBima Policy INR 5,000 insurance coverage for hospitalization	Assistance for children of parents in cleaning work Annual INR 5,000 for children in Std 8-10	Life and disability insurance INR 200,000 insurance	Compensation to rape and acid attack survivors INR 1 million	No-frills bank accounts No required balance, nominal charges
Charitable Hospital Scheme Required services and reserved beds	Assistance for children of parents in cleaning work Annual INR	Social assistance pensions INR 600 monthly	One stop crisis center	Contributory life and disability insurance

	3,000 for children in Std 1-10			
Urban Poor Health Scheme INR 150,000 insurance coverage for hospitalization	Merit scholarship for children in Std 10 Rs. 15000 and 12 Rs. 25000	Atal Contributory Pension scheme INR 3,000 annual contribution	Women police cell	Contributory old age pension
Mahatma Phule Jan ArogyaYojana INR 150,000 coverage for hospitalization	25% reservation under the Right to Education Act	National Family Benefit Scheme INR 10,000	Provisions of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005	

Trainings on Health and Education: thematic orientation sessions on health and education schemes and services were conducted with waste pickers. The health session had 1,362 participants and covered six schemes. The orientation revealed that very few waste pickers were aware of the schemes and even fewer had utilised them. Eighty one participants reported that they themselves or their family waste pickers had been hospitalized during the preceding year and only about 15 had utilised a scheme. Less than five per cent had heard about the widely advertised state government run, Emergency Medical Services ambulance service and the Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya scheme or Yojana (earlier the Rajeev Gandhi JeevandayiYojana). The responses were similar in the case of the State Aided Charitable Hospital Scheme (CHS) or the Jan Arogya Insurance Scheme that has been in operation for about 10 years. The orientation session on health was followed up with a more detailed orientation for about 126 waste picker leaders to train them to serve as volunteer peer educators.

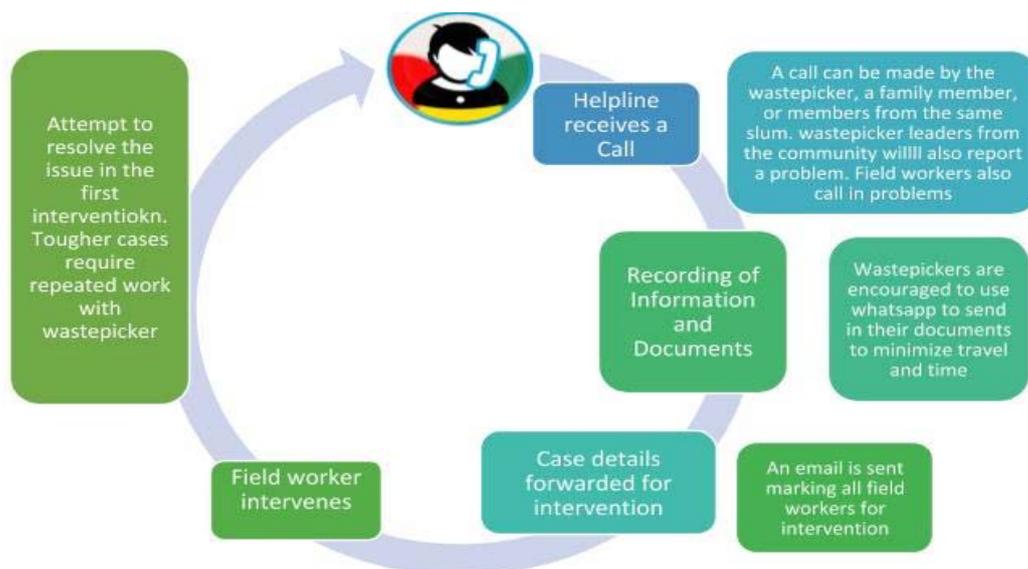
The education session had 1,320 participants. It covered schemes for school- and college- going children of waste pickers, as well as how to negotiate the admission process. The few whose children or grandchildren had previously received benefits were aware of one or two schemes. Almost all of them were unaware of the college admission process or their children's subjects.

They were unaware that government financial assistance was available to children who did not have caste certificates although they belonged to the scheduled castes. All aspired to a college education for their children but were not aware of the complexities that they would have to negotiate in facilitating the process and choosing colleges for their children.

## Helpdesk

The Helpdesk pilot commenced in August 2018 and was limited to addressing waste pickers' issues as they were reported. Waste pickers, their representatives and fieldworkers associated with KP were encouraged to call in to a helpline number to report their problems or difficulties. Assistance was provided over the telephone or in person depending upon the nature of the problem. Information flyers with the nature of services offered by the Helpdesk were circulated in the communities.

The procedure followed by the Helpdesk while resolving cases is pictorially represented below:



The kinds of cases that are reported to the Helpdesk are broadly classified as follows:

1. Death (for the PMJJBY LIC insurance)- in case of death of a waste picker, the date of death along with the cause of death gets recorded
2. Education- Cases concerning access to education of waste picker's children and grandchildren along with issues regarding accessing scholarships, or entitlements like the reservation of 25% seats under the Right to Education Act or need for support for vocational education or training.

3. Finance-Waste pickers frequently require loans for consumption or business. Each request for a loan is treated as a case and documented at the helpline. The idea is to create one phone number as the contact point for waste pickers, so that they do not need to remember more numbers or get confused about whom to call for what. The helpdesk phone number at present also serves as the information centre for member's savings, their pending loans or any such enquiries that the waste pickers might have.
4. Health- The maximum number of cases (31.5%) which come to the helpdesk come around the question of health; asking help to access mostly tertiary and some secondary health care treatments for free or minimum rates. A few cases also come around access to medicines, especially in cases where the cost to medicines is a recurring one.

At the helpdesk, influenced by the feminist understanding of the question of health, the following issues were added under health-

- a. Occupational safety/accidents & injuries at work/sexual harassment at workplace
- b. Accidents apart from those at work (Motor vehicle/other accidents)
- c. Violence (Domestic/sexual/suicide/homicide)
- d. Chronic cancer/HIV/cardiac/kidney/liver/brain
- e. OB/Gyn
- f. Other

5. Housing- another theme the helpdesk handles is that of access to budget housing in the slums. There was some work around eviction and getting member's access to houses under the scheme for the redevelopment of slums that is implemented by the Slum Rehabilitation Authority through private builders. A lot of the cases which have been registered under housing were requests to provide for a plan and a budget to redo the houses. Apart from this, 2018 saw two disasters in Pune-the canal breach at DandekarPul and the fire in Patil estate-both slums where waste pickers reside in large numbers. During such disasters, housing as a theme receives a large volume of work in terms of rehabilitation.
6. Legal- Access to free and decent legal services including legal counselling is a major issue for the urban poor. The helpdesk provides legal counsel and referrals to waste pickers as and when they face legal hassles. As of now, the trends in kinds of legal cases that get reported at the helpdesk include domestic violence-faced either by waste pickers or their family waste pickers,, child sexual abuse faced by waste

picker's child or grandchild, harassment by the police, divorce cases, accident claims, etc.

At present, KP has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Legal Aid Centre at ILS Law College, Pune which provides legal counselling and support for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Free legal services are provided for litigation where ADR fails. KP also has a Memorandum of Understanding with Muskaan, an NGO working on issues of Child Sexual Abuse.

7. Pension- Ensuring elderly waste pickers' access to government schemes forms a large part of the work of the helpdesk. The Government of Maharashtra has two targeted social security pension schemes for widows and other single women and the elderly who fall below the state determined poverty line. A nominal Rs.600 per month is provided to the household. There has been an effort at enrolling eligible waste pickers into these schemes. All such cases have been registered under this category.
8. Other- All miscellaneous complaints and grievances which do not fit in any of the above categories get recorded in the 'other' section. Most of the cases that have been registered here are around requirement for assistance regarding documentation-duplicate ration card, addition or deletion of names in a ration card, getting a caste certificate made, etc.
9. Work and integration into solid waste management systems are also cases that waste pickers call in with. Some of those who work in the existing system of door to door waste collection report complaints of harassment by municipal workers, citizens or the lack of safety equipment that is distributed to them.

The number of cases recorded under different themes 2018-19:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>No of Cases under the SUBJECT</b>
DEATH	38
DOCUMENTATION	25
EDUCATION	222
FINANCE	178
HEALTH	488
HOUSING	11
LEGAL	163
OTHER	146
PENSION	119

WORK	136
Grand Total	1501

### **Disaster Mitigation and Relief and Rehabilitation:**

Two major disasters occurred in the years 2018 and 2019, which deeply affected the lives of waste pickers. The devastating fire that broke out in Patil Estate in November 2018 and the Canal breach in the DandekarPul area. Both these occurrences caused widespread damage to the property and lives of waste pickers. KP has been actively involved in providing relief to those affected has extended itself towards helping rebuild their lives from scratch. This has been done through mobilising funds from citizens who receive services from waste pickers, raising funds from CSR initiatives.

### **Patil Estate Fire:**



### **Distribution of Ration kits to Patil estate survivors**

A devastating fire lay over 200 houses to waste in November 2018 in the dense Patil Estate slum on the banks of the Mulariver in Shivajinagar. The slum is home to large numbers of waste pickers who had incrementally built their homes through years of cleaning this city. People lost everything that they owned in the blaze including their documents. As they scrounged for what they could retrieve of their lives, Kashtakari Panchayat decided to work closely with them on a number of different fronts to ensure they could bring their lives to normal within the shortest possible spell. Immediate relief efforts were galvanized. This included their transit to nearby municipal schools, where 3 meals a day were provided to their families and a shelter from the biting winter. Clothes, rations, health and hygiene accessories and basics, warm clothes and bedding were collected on immediate priority and distributed to the affected.

For the longer term rehabilitation Kashtakari Panchayat dipped into the housing stock material collected over the past year from citizens, builders and wholesale depots and ensured fair, equitable access to bamboo, tiles, stone, metal sheets from the stocks that had been collected towards the housing and redevelopment programme.

In addition to the immediate relief efforts, KP, in partnership with waste picker KagadKach Patra NagariSahakari Pat Sanstha (KKPNSP) raised funds for soft loans to be disbursed to waste pickers for rebuilding their homes. Loans to the tune of 1.3 crores were disbursed to waste pickers so that they could rebuild their houses and lives.

The following table gives a snapshot of the extent of relief intervention:

<b>Type of Support</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>People</b>
Immediate lodging	Ensuring immediate relief services, including shelter over their heads and three meals a day	1200
Housing material	Bamboo, tin sheets, tiles, furniture distributed	275
Construction material	Liaising with political elected representative and city Trust to provide cement blocks, bricks, tin sheets, door frames to each	275
Credit coop welfare fund	Welfare benefit to all waste pickers associated of the credit cooperative affected by fire-	148
Citizen support	Providing customised support to ensure all waste pickers engaged in door to door collection of household waste procured material and cash support from citizens they serviced	108
Support to secure government compensation	Ensuring all affected get PMC relief amount of 11000 each	275
Relief fund	Immediate cash support for procurement of essentials	211
Low interest loans	Subsidised interest loans to all eligible waste pickers of the credit cooperative affected by fire - This includes housing+other loans such as (education, gold, simple)	160

### DandekarPul Canal Breach:



On 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 the canal carrying water from the Khadakwasla Dam into the Mutha River burst open due to improper, poor quality construction and some poorly executed pipe-laying work. The canal could not withstand the pressure of the water released from the Khadakwasla dam and was breached at a point behind 132, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar at Dandekar Bridge. While most of the slums in the area were inundated, the maximum damage to property was in the areas of Vijay Garage and AmbilOdha. The low lying areas along the canal were most affected.

As the incident occurred in the morning when most children were at school, and most adults at work, the impact to human life was restricted to a minimum. While there was no loss of human life, the lives that people had built for themselves were severely affected. Material resources collected painstakingly were lost or destroyed. These included clothes, important documents that are the only means of accessing government schemes, household equipment such as gas stoves etc. In the aftermath of the incident, the neighbouring Sane Guruji English Medium High School run by a foundation opened it up for people to sleep at night. The students were given leave for about 4 days.

KP undertook a rapid survey in the community to ascertain worst affected families. The data collected, revealed the following:

Situation	Count of WP families
House washed away	11
Waterlogging with damage	21
All possessions washed away	3

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>35</b>
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Amongst the worst affected are the waste pickers who happened to occupy and stay in houses farthest away from the road and closest to the water. Many, who survive on daily wages, lost everything that they had built up over the years.

For immediate relief to the affected families, a sum of Rs. 5000 was given to each family who had lost their homes. An amount of Rs. 2000 was provided to families who had lost possessions in their home- many used this money to buy rations and other essentials to tide through the month. Subsequently, KP raised funds from other sources to provide the affected families with bedding, gas stoves, basic utensils, pressure cookers, school bags for children and rations. The affected families were also participants in meetings along with government officials to ensure that their names were included in the official surveys that would entitle them to alternative housing in slum rehabilitation programs.

### **Making space for waste pickers in the city**

Material Recovery Faciliti-

Every worker needs workspace. The same holds true for waste pickers. They need material recovery facilities in which to sort their collection of recyclable materials in order to make them marketable. Storage and bulk sale reduces transport costs and increases their bargaining capacity with aggregators.



Pune’s decentralized solid waste management model is run with stakeholders like the PMC and waste picker organizations such as SWaCH. Material recovery facilities (MRF) are a critical part of this decentralized system. There are currently 100 tin and brick sorting sheds that vary in size from 80 to 300 square feet, available to waste pickers and in use across the city. Most of them have been built over the last decade. Many of them are in a state of poor upkeep. Only a

handful have toilets, drinking water or washing facilities. Almost none have electricity connections. Waste pickers articulate the need for more workspaces. Since 2018 KP has undertaken an initiative to repair existing and build new material recovery centres. The designs vary, sometimes accommodating one or two in a single kiosk to a small group in portable steel cabins to large brick sheds



A snapshot of the numbers of sorting sheds that are in various stages of repair/construction/fabrication is presented below:

No: of sheds repaired	41
No: of portable sheds deployed	78
No: of sheds under construction	8

Apart from the provision of physical space as described in the preceding paragraphs, there is also the issue of ensuring decent work and protection of waste pickers' livelihoods. Waste pickers handle waste but what they do facilitates and promotes recycling. The Waste Matters project is a zero waste model that is framed within sustainable goals number 8 (Decent work and economic growth), number 5 (gender equality), number 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and number 13 (climate action). Waste pickers are an integral part of this model.

## The Waste matters project

The Waste Matters project is aimed at creating a **live demonstration zero-waste model** in Pune and its replication across different parts of Pune as well as other urban centres across the country. The project campaigns and advocates for 100% segregation at source and 100% in-situ composting, within the Aundh-Baner-Balewadi ward to ensure recycling of plastics, reduce landfilling and to avoid greenhouse gas emissions. As part of this project, KP along with its affiliate entities namely, SWACH and SWACH plus have been able to garner policy and financial support of governmental agencies towards the project. As part of this project there has been close engagement the Pune Smart City Development Corporation Limited (PSCDCL). The following outputs, specific to the implementation of the Waste Matters Project have been obtained as a result of this engagement:

1. The PSCDCL has formally adopted the outline and goals of the Waste-matters project as a Smart City Initiative. As a part of this process, the PSCDCL has created a platform for the involvement of the Pune Municipal Corporation, thereby laying groundwork for potential replication across Pune.
2. The PSCDCL has deployed additional resources (USD 400,000 over 3 years) to support activities that directly impact the Waste Matters project. These activities include the deployment of 33 fulltime outreach animators (field staff) and the implementation of a GIS based monitoring mechanism.
3. The Working Group, constituted by the PSCDCL, which includes representatives from Kashtakari Panchayat, Centre for Environment Education (CEE) and SWaCH, has commenced the process for determining a government supported subsidy mechanism for in-situ composting.
4. It has adopted the vendor empanelment process (proposed under the project) for ensuring wet waste processing at source.

The following activities were also undertaken as part of the project:

1. Waste Audit: the audit has been completed and additional parameters have been captured.  
Waste Governance Tool:base tool parameters have been developed

Advisory Council and Vendor Empanelment: the council has been adopted by the PSCDCL and a list of council waste pickers has been suggested. Vendor empanelment process has been formally issued by the PSCDCL.

Systems setting and Monitoring: The fine tuning of systems is underway as is the vendor empanelment process, the GIS mapping of 100,000 properties that come under the project has been completed and manual has been compiled,

Recycling and Reuse: Recycling activities have been completed, spaces for sorting and E- waste collection have been identified, E- waste and old clothes collection/recycling centre has been established in the project area, new material recovery facilities have been identified.

### **Research on Informal Plastic Waste Value Chain with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**

The research was aimed at bringing waste pickers' inputs for the development of knowledge products for capacity development. The project aimed at strengthening the capacity of policy makers in Pune to improve urban waste management systems in an inclusive manner and reduce pollution. In doing so, the project mapped the value chain of plastics in Pune and went on to using the information to hold a stakeholder consultation to provide inputs to a robust city case study that would then address challenges and policy opportunities to address plastic leakages within this value chain.

This initiative was implemented in partnership with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), Kashtakari Panchayat and SWaCH Pune SevaSahakariSanstha in Pune, India, the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Asia Centre, and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO). Kashtakari Panchayat Trust and SWaCH Pune SevaSahakariSansthaMaryadit undertook the data collection and case study aspects of the Pune branch of the study.

As part of the study different stakeholders from Pune's informal waste management system (including waste pickers from the SWACH coop) and Pune Municipal Corporation, were interviewed on the different points related to the plastic waste chain. The data from this study was compiled in a report that after feedback from the SEI was instructive in formulating the regional guidance document. A stakeholder workshop was organized comprising representatives of the informal sector, Pune Municipal Corporation, Citizens, NGOs and SWaCH Cooperative. The interim findings of the study were presented to the participants leading to discussions which resulted in a set of recommendations for changes in policy and practice

which would most directly impact the informal recycling sector and reduce leakages of plastic waste into the environment from the point of waste generation to disposal.

**List of Institutional Funders:**

<b>Name of Funder</b>	<b>Project</b>
American Jewish Society (AJWS)	Accessing Entitlements for Waste pickers and Families
Adar Poonawala Clean City Initiative	Material Recovery Facilities Project
Shrimati Vimlabai (Jiji) Neelkanth Jatar Charitable Trust	Scholarship support for children of waste pickers
OAK Foundation	Waste-matters, Pune
Orient Black Swan	Support to Waste pickers
Plastic Solutions Fund (PSF)	Waste-matters, Pune
Reliance Foundation	Education Support for the Children of Waste Pickers
Terre des Hommes (TdH)	Engaging Youth into advocacy for waste pickers
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP)	Closing the Loop: Unlocking an inclusive circular economy approach
Yardi Software Private Limited	Education Support for the Children of Waste Pickers



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