



N I D I S I

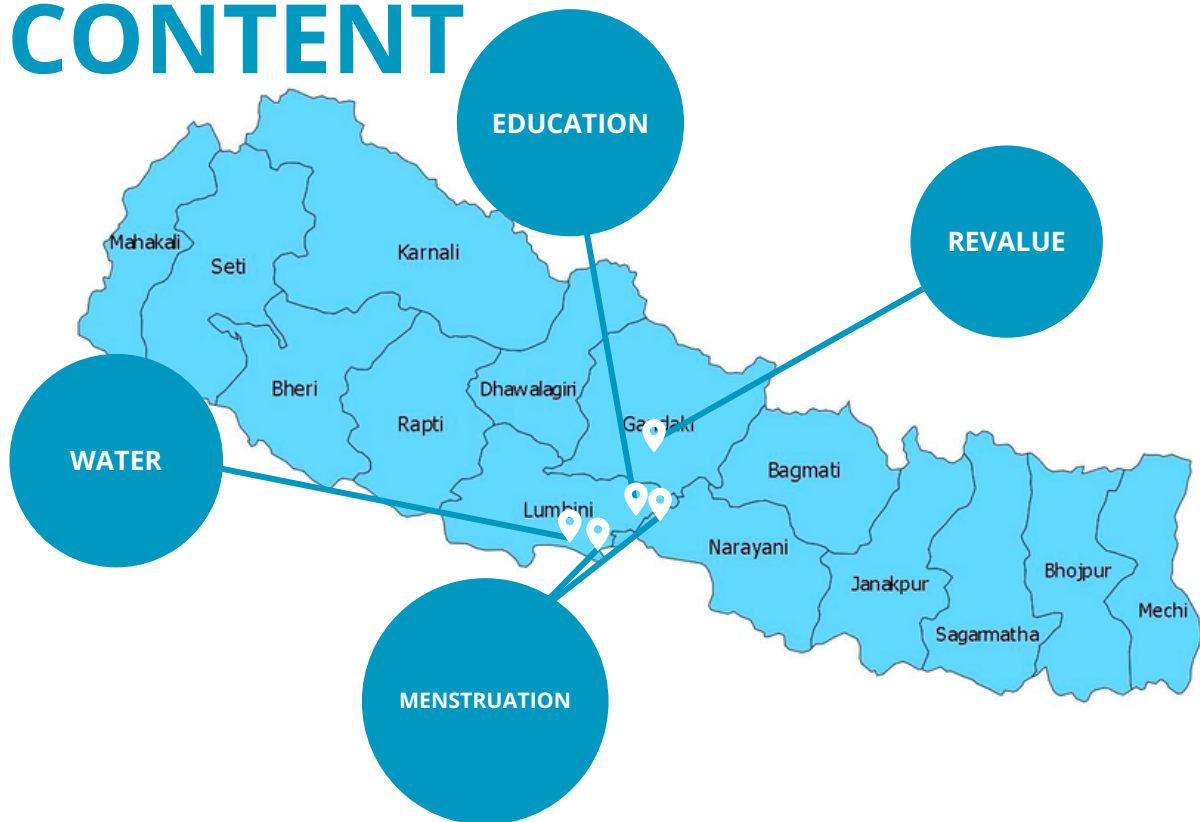
Humanity can do better

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEOS

NIDISI has grown out of its infancy this year. How does that show? Targeted project management now dominates our approach. We use Objective Key Results (OKRs) to set quarterly targets for each team in order to achieve our project goals in a coordinated and efficient manner. As a permanent part of our DNA, we regularly scrutinise ourselves and our approach. As part of this, we have also sharpened our vision this year and decided that we want to focus entirely on Nepal and involve local communities more closely in our social businesses in the future. We want to share our social business approaches and know-how, make it available for any interested actor and thus pave the way for replication in other areas of the Global South.

However, we didn't get away without any scars. In the summer, we had to learn what it means when external and internal circumstances require us to actively let NIDISIs go. Secondly, we had to witness how a team completely overworked itself and took weeks, even months, to recover. We have learnt from this. We are now taking active steps to implement sustainable working structures and protect our NIDISIs.

The initial group of friends has now grown into a competent team. The team in Nepal, in particular, is becoming increasingly self-confident and independent, which is greeted with joy and respect from the European side.

Our motivation remains unchanged; it is still about showing that "humanity can do better", it is about doing "entrepreneurial NGO work", and about supporting people in leading a self-determined life. We can and must remind ourselves again and again that NIDISI only exists because so many volunteers, organisations, companies and government authorities believe in us, and you entrust us with your money so that we can initiate change processes in Nepal. We would like to say a big thank you from the management team! We exist because you believe in us.

In Gratitude,
Ashok, Fabien & Sarah



ABOUT US

NIDISI comes from the word "SINIDISI" (ΣΥΝΕΙΔΗΣΗ) which means conscience in greek, a person's moral sense of right and wrong. And like people's conscience, us NIDISIs want to be humanity's inspiration to do better when it comes to our global challenges.

NIDISI is a non-profit, steward-owned organisation developing innovative and scalable solutions to address social and environmental issues in Nepal. We are actively involved in the areas of women's empowerment, plastic recycling infrastructure, clean drinking water supply, and youth education.

We have been working in Nepal since 2015, learning from our experiences, achievements and mistakes. We believe that Social Business is a successful and modern tool for development cooperation, moving beyond North-South dependencies towards genuine empowerment. By implementing projects based on the principles of social entrepreneurship and involving local communities in a co-creative manner, we create sustainable value for society, the environment, and the economy. We believe that humanity can do better!

BUILDING A DIVERSE, EQUITABLE & HEALTHY WORKPLACE

GENDER PARITY

We want to create an environment that values and supports diversity in all its forms. One critical aspect of this commitment is our focus on gender equity, ensuring equal opportunities and representation for individuals of all genders within our organisation

Our commitment to equal pay

We are steadfast in our commitment to ensuring equal pay for equal work. On the European side of the organisation, all employees are paid the same, while in Nepal, employees are compensated above national average, and the salary varies based on experience of the person and responsibility level of the position.

Gender balance

Our ongoing efforts to enhance gender equity have resulted in a more balanced and representative workforce. In the past year, we are proud to report a significant improvement in our male-female ratio across various levels and departments. By fostering an inclusive culture and implementing targeted recruitment strategies, we have made substantial strides towards achieving greater gender diversity. In line with our strategic goals, we have undertaken proactive steps to recruit a second female CEO. The selected candidate, Pramila Bajgain, will officially join our leadership team in January.



The current gender balance within NIDISI



Management



Projects



Back Office





OUR COMMITMENT TO MENTAL HEALTH

We want to create a workplace where mental health is just as important as physical health. We have taken some important first steps this year, even if we still have a long way to go.

Time tracking and overworking

We introduced mandatory time tracking last year. We try to ensure that our employees maintain a healthy work-life balance by actively managing their time effectively. This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to discourage overworking. Employees are not only encouraged but actively and repeatedly reminded to take their overtime off. We want to create a culture where individuals feel empowered to prioritise self-care and recognise the value of personal time for rejuvenation and relaxation.

Remote work initiatives

We have put in place a range of initiatives to foster a strong bond among our teams, even though they're spread out.

Coffee breaks with colleagues:

Everyone is encouraged to take time for virtual coffee breaks, especially with colleagues who may not be part of your regular work interactions. These informal sessions provide a platform for socialising, relationship-building, and the cultivation of a supportive community.

Team Events:

Regular in-person team events remain a cornerstone of our efforts to strengthen team bonds, foster collaboration, and create an enjoyable work culture.

On a path of learning

Last year, Sarah, one of our European CEOs, took part in Accelerate Health's EU-funded "Build & Thrive for Impact" program alongside around 20 other social entrepreneurs.

Unfortunately, working in sustainable organisations and the passion that goes with it often leads to an unsustainable way of working, in which people often go beyond their own limits for a good cause and end up in burnout. Sarah was not only able to learn a lot about a healthy way of working for herself in this program, but also took away many tools that are designed to make the work culture at NIDISI more sustainable for all employees.

"Coming from a management consultancy background, it's not easy to let go of conventional working habits and structures. In most industries, overtime is glorified. Only those who work too much get things done and are important to the company. We want to change this way of thinking at NIDISI. As a very pragmatic first step, we have established a time tracking system in which we really want to implement a 35-hour week in which overtime is not only counted but also compensated with time off. We do not fully reach it by now, but we are getting better at it. We also use tools from the program to reflect on and consciously manage our working methods. Last but not least, as Co-Managing Director, I want to lead by example, take care of my mental health, set boundaries and represent them with pride."

- Sarah's learnings from the accelerate health programme



DEI

What is DEI?

DEI stands for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Diversity involves recognizing and appreciating differences in individuals, encompassing factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, physical abilities, religious beliefs, and more.

Equity focuses on ensuring fairness and impartiality, addressing unique needs and barriers that individuals or groups may face.

Inclusion creates an environment where all individuals feel valued, respected, and empowered to fully participate and contribute.

Diverse teams achieve better results. In our work, not only gender and race play an important role, but we also have to actively work against other global inequalities like passport privilege, time zone difference and cultural communication preferences. We have to remind ourselves of our biases. Therefore, we commit to the following actions:

- For every strategic meeting, at least one Nepali employee has to be present and encouraged to voice their opinion.
- For every strategic decision, 30% of decision-makers have to be from Nepal.
- For every new project draft, input from the Nepali side is requested.
- Important meetings have to be scheduled at a time accessible for both the Nepali and European teams.

We have regular discussions on culture and openly speak about differences in our team-specific needs and personal holidays.

Status update on our DEI goals for 2023

1.

Parity between Nepali and non-Nepali team members:



with 57% Nepali employees, this goal was surpassed in 2023.

Management



2.

Parity within management positions:

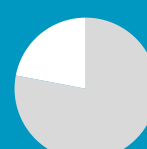


We are proud to announce that Pramila Bajgain will start as a new Co-CEO in Nepal in January 2024.

Back office



Projects



■ Nepal
■ EU

STRENGTHENING THE NEPALI PART OF NIDISI

2023 was a big year for all of us. Especially the Nepali team has grown professionally. We aim to move more and more towards equal strategic decision-making.

"NIDISI Nepal overcame some integral challenges in 2023, including board gender inequality, inactive members, team communication issues, and HR concerns. In 2024, we look forward to appointing two female board members, aiming for active engagement and effective communication. Plans include creating HR guidelines for fair hiring and salary distribution. With the new co-CEO's support, we aim to strengthen partnerships and networks and engage in fundraising for our mission in Nepal."

- Ashok Poudel, CEO NIDISI Nepal

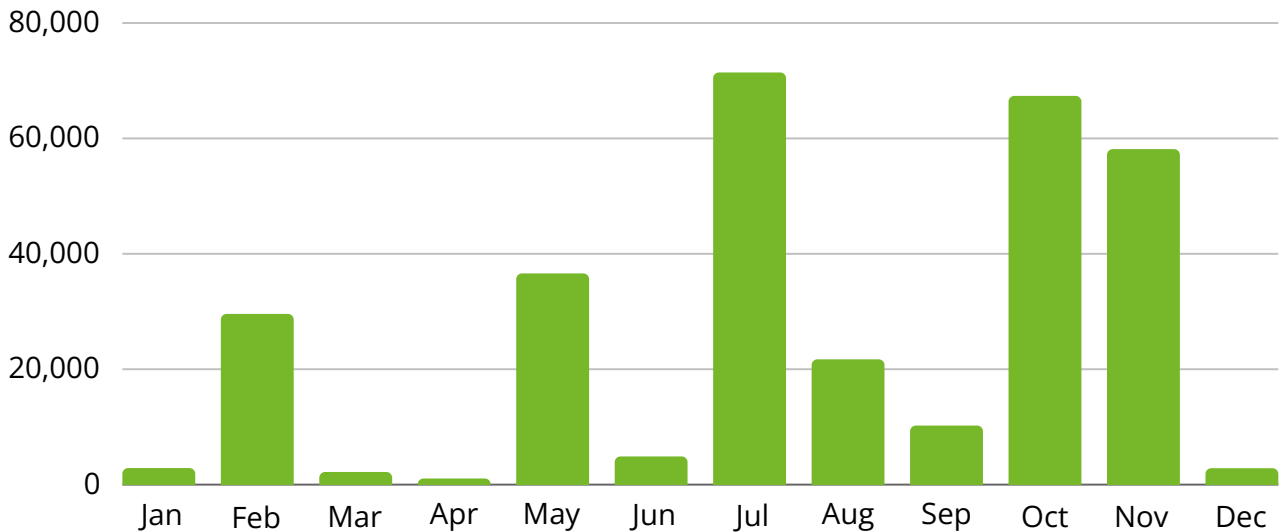


TAKE OFF
WITH NIDISI

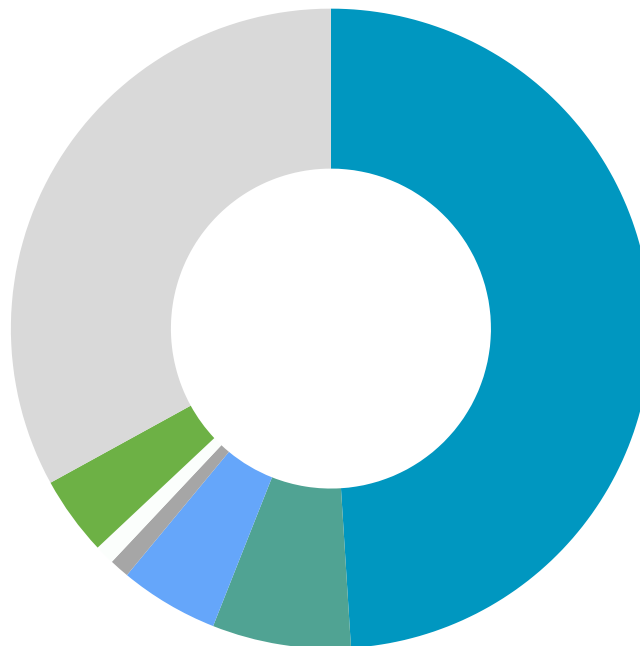


A SHORT FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Income by month 2023



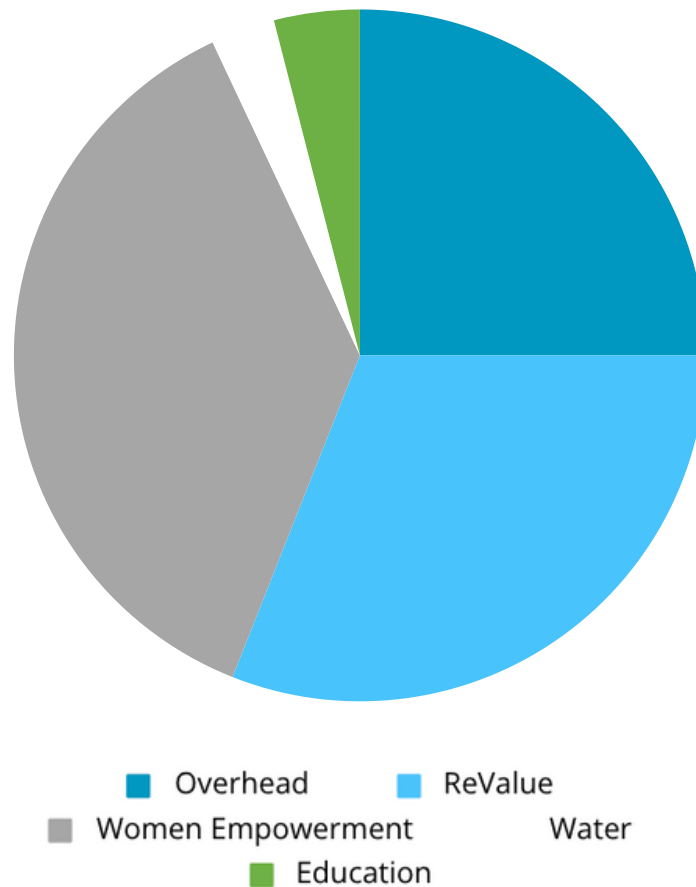
Income Sources 2023



- Foundations
- Private donations
- Clubs
- State funding
- Companies
- Prizes
- Other



NIDISI expenditures 2023



OUR EXPENDITURES

We know that at first sight, our overhead costs may appear to be quite high. However, it is important to stress the strategic nature of our initiatives. As an organisation committed to building sustainable social businesses, our projects are inherently long-term. This necessitates significant investments in infrastructure, capacity-building, partnerships, and risk management. These overhead costs are vital to the success and longevity of our endeavors, ensuring that we can address complex social challenges effectively and create lasting positive change in the communities we serve.



EDUCATION

The Challenge

Limited access to quality education in Nepal perpetuates a cycle of inequality, hindering underserved children. Barriers like financial constraints, lack of resources, and limited mentorship stunt academic and professional growth, trapping many in poverty.

Despite progress, challenges persist, including a shortage of qualified teachers, memorization emphasis, and inadequate technology access. With 40% of the population under 18, investing in education is crucial for national development, aiming to address long-term inequalities. Our mission is grounded in the belief that every child can succeed, empowering them to shape their futures and strive towards ambitious goals.

Our Solution

We empower students from underprivileged backgrounds with a comprehensive 5-year support system. Through scholarships covering school fees, we ensure financial barriers don't restrict their education in reputable private schools. We provide personalized resources like school supplies and mentorship sessions to boost self-confidence and foster personal growth. Currently, 18 students are taking part in our education project. Our vision is a brighter future where every child can access the quality education they deserve.



29%

of Nepali children that enrol in school drop out before the 8th grade.

13%

of Nepali school children in the 3rd grade can read and understand Nepali.

67%

of the Nepali population can read and write.





EDUCATION

MILESTONES & CHALLENGES

Welcome on board, Saru!

This year, we had the pleasure of welcoming Saru Dhakal as the new coordinator of the education project. She brings fresh perspectives and expertise to lead the initiative.

Living in Bharatpur, she is not far away from the children's homes, where she is also in contact with the parents and the students to gather insights on their progress and struggles, offering support.



8 WORKSHOPS HELD

Under Saru's guidance, we conducted 8 workshops throughout the year, with a consistent schedule of one workshop every 6 weeks. These sessions were focused on the development of self-image, building self-esteem and fostering creativity.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

17 of the 18 children have achieved the grades necessary to transition to the next academic year.

We are proud to support them on their journey!

OUR MAIN CHALLENGE

Student's decision to leave college

Regrettably, despite numerous discussions and efforts, one student has made the difficult decision to discontinue their college journey. Despite our heartfelt conversations and sincere attempts to understand their concerns, it is with sadness that we acknowledge and respect his choice.



HEAR FROM A BENEFICIARY:



Balika Poudel,
mother of one of our
students

"Since the support from the project, my expectations for my daughter's future have changed significantly. The way she is studying without any financial tension gives us hope and confidence in her ability. Now I feel like my daughter will be a nurse as her grades are also great and impressive. [...] Thanks to the project we don't have to worry about one of our kids anymore. The workshop this project organized has also brought positive changes to her life, and now she gets all the materials she needs for her studies."

Our partners:

STELP
SUPPORTER ON SITE

ALPLA



HAPPY WATER

The Challenge

In Nepal, contaminated drinking water has posed a long-standing health crisis, with numerous communities struggling with the consequences of limited access to clean and affordable water.

Drinking polluted groundwater poses severe health consequences as it can lead to the spread of waterborne diseases. Lack of access to clean water also specifically burdens women and girls, who are typically responsible for water collection.

The struggle for clean drinking water can exacerbate poverty and limit economic opportunities.

We empower local communities with sustainable, community-led water filtration solutions. Access to clean water is not just a necessity. It's a fundamental human right.

Our Solution

Together with the local community of Devgaun village, we created the Happy Water NGO, a community-led water filtration centre. The centre is independent, laying in the hands of the people it serves, and set off to deliver long-lasting impact.

Happy Water purifies groundwater using innovative technology developed by our partner, Autarcon. This Social Business sells 20-litre water jars for less than half the market price. It is distributed either at the centre or delivered by truck directly to the families living in nearby villages inhabited by more than 7,500 people.

The generated income is sufficient to cover the salaries of 2 employees and the centre's maintenance expenses. Water is also supplied free of charge to more than 400 schoolchildren daily.





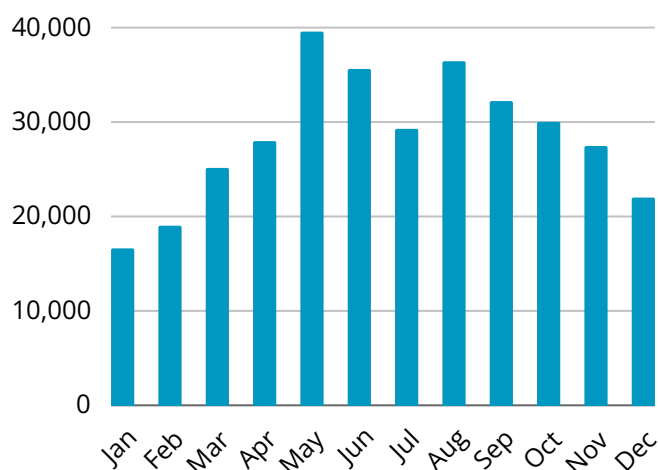
WATER

MILESTONES & CHALLENGES

Yearly sales 2023

The sales of Happy Water Centre are higher than the year before, again! In 2023, the filtration center sold an astonishing 15,750 jars of water. That is 315,000 litres of safe, drinkable water distributed among the families living in Devgaun and nearby villages. After investing in a water delivery vehicle, we currently serve the area inhabited by +7,500 people. While doing this, we kept providing water free of charge to over 450 students and staff at Janata Madhyamik Bidhyalaya school.

Monthly sales in litres



RENOVATION OF THE WATER CENTRE

As the centre turned five years old, like any infrastructure, it needed some restoration. What's remarkable is how the Devgaun community came together to make it happen.

While NIDISI provided some financial support, most of the funds for the restoration came from the savings generated through the sales of water jars. The true beauty of this story lies in the community's involvement. It's a testament to the fact that when local communities lead the way, transformation happens.

Happy Water, a growing collective

In 2023, we focused on strengthening the team and community that stands behind the initiative. Within the Devgaun population, there is a core team that is involved in the development of this project. As part of these measures, we organised a bounding event in Lumbini to inspire the collective spirit. Our dedicated NGO members came together for a remarkable experience cooking together, fostering solid bonds and collaboration as the team responsible for the project's future. We express our deepest gratitude for their passion and dedication.

Our annual meeting

The Happy Water Centre gathering in December brought together almost 60 villagers, each expressing a sincere interest in shaping the future of their community. It's not just a meeting - it's a collective effort to make a positive impact. We organised workshops on the hazards of raw water use, complemented by a captivating drama that brought attention to the importance of clean water consumption. Creative storytelling proved to be a powerful tool in conveying the consequences of consuming untreated water. The Happy Water's board of directors shared financial updates and future plans during the event, fostering transparency. The positive response from the community highlighted the significance of keeping them informed and engaged in the development journey.



OUR MAIN CHALLENGES

Recruitment of new driver for water delivery

In Nepal, drivers are not hired part-time. As our project just needed someone with driving skills for a few hours, it was very difficult for us to get a driver among the community.

Malfunction of filtration equipment

Secondly, we faced some problems with the machines and equipment due to which, during certain periods, we couldn't deliver water, interrupting the financial fluency of the centre. of course, we are continuously working on this.

What will happen in 2024?

As we move forward, we remain committed to expanding our reach and increasing the positive impact on people's health in the region. Clean water is a fundamental human right, and we will continue to work towards ensuring its availability for all.

In 2024, we will continue to support the Devgaun community whenever they need us. We see potential for improvements in bookkeeping and role clearance among the board of directors. We are committed to assisting Happy Water in these areas.

While doing that, we will research potential locations for another water filtration centre. We aim to prepare ourselves for further replication of this Social Business model in other regions of Nepal. We will choose the following project locations based on factors such as population needs and willingness for self-organisation, water quality or government long-term water infrastructure planning. Not every location is suitable!





HEAR FROM SAMJANA :

Before the initiation of the Happy Water Project, our community faced severe water quality issues. The water contained high levels of arsenic, iron, and ammonia, and the smell wasn't good. Skin irritation and stomach issues were very common. During summers, water scarcity was a significant problem. The Happy Water Project has granted the community the right to clean water, eliminating health issues. Everyone now has easy access to filtered water right at their doorstep. People visit hospitals less, resulting in significant cost savings. Managing this centre for the past five years demonstrates to our community that women can work outside their homes. It was a big deal here. It sets an example that women can pursue meaningful roles beyond traditional boundaries.

- Samjana Choudhary
Centre Manager

Our partners:





MENSTRUATION

The Challenge

Menstruating women in Nepal are considered impure and polluting during their periods.

There is limited education about menstruation and reproductive health in schools. Poor menstrual practices directly result in irritations, urinary and reproductive tract infections, or other health problems.

Additionally, many have limited access to menstrual products. This lack of access is one of the main reasons for school and work absenteeism, further reinforcing female exclusion and negatively impacting their chances in the job market.

Also, the environmental impact is significant, as available menstrual products are up to 90% plastic-based, and disposal methods are often ecologically harmful.

Our Solution

To combat the stigma surrounding menstruation and provide access to eco-friendly menstrual products, we established Sparśa. Sparśa is a women-led Social Business producing and selling innovative, compostable menstrual pads made from banana fibres, a natural waste product.

By employing women living in poverty, we offer financial independence to those who have been long deprived of it. The profits generated by the factory will finance the Sparśa Ambassador Program, which will deliver menstrual awareness campaigns to school children and the adult population.



A photograph of a banana plantation with large green leaves and bunches of green bananas hanging from the trees. The image is split vertically: the left half has a blue overlay with white text, and the right half shows the natural colors of the plants.

89%

of Nepali women report suffering from menstrual discrimination and restrictions.

22%

of Nepali girls miss school due to their menstruation.

90%

of all pads used in Nepal end up in the environment.



MENSTRUATION

MILESTONES & CHALLENGES

Registration of the Sparsa Social Business

We started 2023 by accomplishing one of the major milestones – the successful registration of Sparśa, our newly born Social Business.

Although it might seem uninteresting, the bureaucratic challenges took a great share of our work. Convincing local authorities and state institutions to the concept of purpose-driven enterprise was full of challenges and unexpected twists. Once we collected the necessary permissions and licenses, we could finally start the implementation phase of our project.



The board of Sparsa



Construction of fibre extraction facility

Together with the banana cultivators' community of Triveni Dham, we built the centre for the extraction of banana fibres. Here, banana stems are processed into fibre paper after harvesting. This is how we create the absorbent core layer of our menstrual pads. The centre has been fully operational since August. Since then, we have been focusing on optimizing the processes and efficiency of our machines and examining potential adjustments. The banana paper is being stored for further use in pad production.

Waste? Why waste?

Compost!

But this is not all. We are committed to sustainability and maximising positive impact on the lives of the local community. Banana tree trunks must be cut annually to secure efficient fruit harvest the following year. That is when the trunks become agricultural waste. What is our agreement with local farmers?

We take trunks and extract fibres to produce the absorbent layer of our pads. The parts of trunks we can't use in the manufacturing process are then cut into pieces and designated to create compost using biochar technology. The bio-compost returns to the same soil where the banana trees grew in the first place!

By repurposing banana trunks, our main raw material is essentially free, making our pads more affordable for everyone! Farmers rely less on expensive chemical fertilisers, enhancing economic viability and resilience against global market shocks. Instead of facing pollution from chemicals, the advantages stem from organic compost, naturally delivering vital nutrients.

We are running multiple examinations on bio-compost production with local institutions and under the supervision of the University of Stuttgart. The acquired knowledge will be transferred to local farmer collectives, raising community skills and economic resilience.

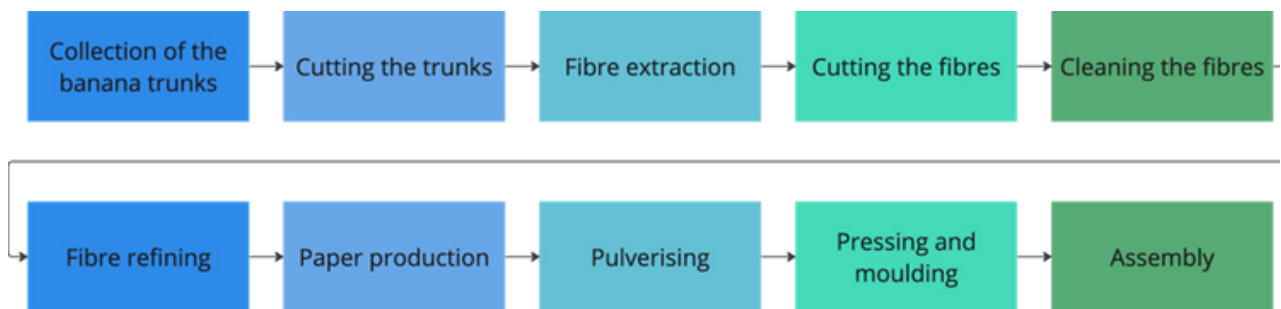


Step 2: The pad factory

But what will happen to the fibre paper stored in our facility in Triveni Dham? In December 2023, we started the construction of our first pad factory in Bharatpur. This is where banana fibres will be processed and, after being sealed with non-woven cotton and bio-plastic, Sparsa pads will be manufactured. Over the course of 2024, we will run multiple prototyping phases to adjust the product and machinery.



The Sparsa pad making process





Awareness

In the long run, the sales of pads will financially sustain awareness workshops for school kids and adults that we have delivered since 2020.

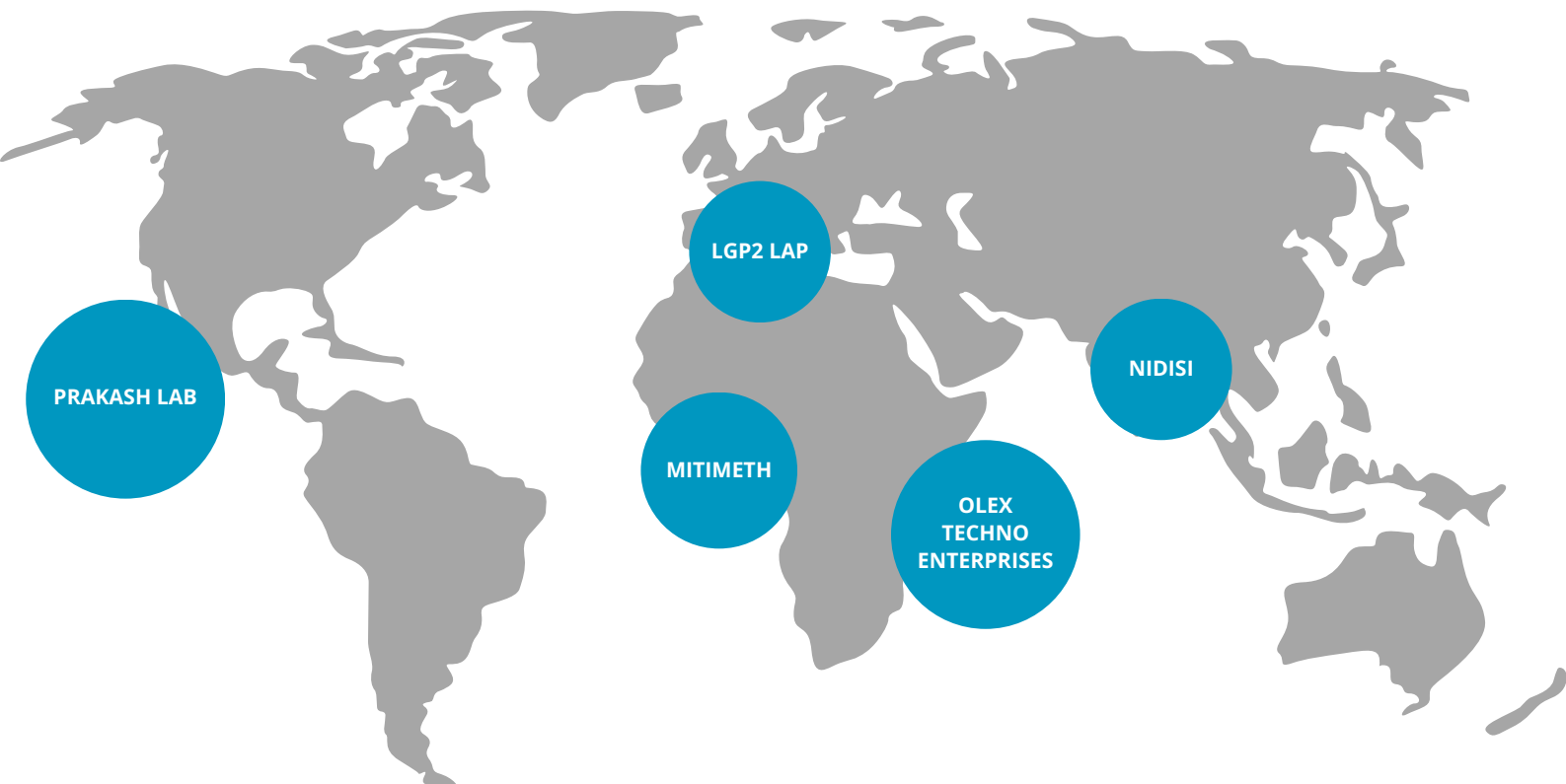
In schools

Although we have decided not to focus on the educational aspect this year, in 2023, we still managed to reach more than 400 schoolchildren with our menstrual education workshops in the Nawalparasi and Kathmandu districts. In collaboration with ward representatives and school principals, we aimed to promote healthy practices, educate about reproductive health, and foster gender equality. Through a mix of engaging methods like short lectures, group activities, games, and interactive sessions, we ensured an informative and enjoyable learning experience.

For adults

While educating school children is vital, fostering open dialogues with adults is equally crucial. We're addressing the harmful impact of menstrual restrictions and the absence of proper education on the lives of menstruators. In late August, We collaborated with women from the Mothers Group (Aama Samuha) in Triveni. We came together to share stories, insights, and challenges. Through interactive activities and heartfelt conversations, we addressed the impact of menstrual discrimination. This experience reinforces our belief that change starts with conversations.





Plant Pad Consortium

An open-source approach to sharing our expertise

In 2023, we also entered multistakeholder cooperation called PlantPad Consortium (see for more: <https://www.plantpad.org/>). This partnership is led by The Prakash Lab of Stanford University (the USA), and its core members consist of NIDISI (Germany/Nepal), the LGP2 Laboratory of The Grenoble Institute of Technology (France), Olex Techno Enterprises (Kenya) and Mitmeth (Nigeria).

Together with our partners, we are committed to knowledge-sharing for further optimisation of our manufacturing processes and machinery designs. We will adapt the processes to various fibre plants such as sisal, water hyacinth or bamboo. The knowledge, expertise, and guidelines will then be openly shared online. This will enable the replication of the Sparśa model in diverse climates, potentially benefiting millions of women in LMICs.



MENSTRUATION

MILESTONES & CHALLENGES

MH Day 2023

Each year we are celebrating International Menstrual Hygiene Day as we are a part of the global advocacy movement on menstrual health and equity. This year on 28th May we celebrated Menstrual Hygiene Day with a grand national event in Kathmandu. Around 300 people participated in the event. Amongst those were people from local organizations and development agencies, activists, researchers and students. There we could showcase all the work we have been doing through Sparśa. This year's Menstrual Hygiene Day slogan perfectly captured our spirit: "Period Pride: We are Committed."



OUR AWARDS

Our concept of the Sparśa Social Business continued to gain global attention over 2023. We were awarded 3rd place in the Gilead x Social Shifters Global Healthcare Equity Challenge. The competition focused on ideas and innovations that promote prevention, strengthen health systems, and improve access to treatment for people in low- and middle-income countries.

A few months later, the sustainability aspect of Project Sparsa was also awarded the "STEM Prize" of The Iris Project. This category addresses existing projects advocating for nature-related change that are established on a small scale. The prize is meant to spotlight the exceptional work of youth-led initiatives worldwide, leading the charge against climate change. They write: "The 2023 Iris Prize winners and runners-up serve as proof that the moment to invest in young people contributing meaningfully to climate solutions is now."





OUR MAIN CHALLENGES

Delays, delays, delays....

As a Social Business manufacturing goods for sale, Sparsa had to obtain multiple permissions and licenses from several state departments. Each time we thought we were set to start implementing the project, new bureaucratic requirements came in, which seriously delayed the construction of both fibre and pad factories.

Changes within the team

Throughout the year, we spent a lot of time and resources linked to the team composition and ensuring knowledge transfer. One of the team members focused on her educational path; one had to focus on recovery after being victim to a very serious road accident, and some had very little time to fully grow in their position. It is a learning for us to always prepare for unexpected.



THE WAY FORWARD

We will soon start producing Sparśa pads! We will build and set up our pad factory in Bharatpur, recruit staff, run necessary examinations on our machinery and run multiple tests on the product. Our aim is to gradually, month by month, increase the production volume of our pads and implement needed adjustments on each step. We will verify Sparśa's business model and create a blueprint – a set of guidelines verifying our assumptions and good practices handbook for further replication. Moreover, we will launch our first big awareness campaign called the Sparśa Ambassador Program, through which young activists will deliver menstrual-related knowledge to schoolchildren and adults.

Stay in the loop!



HEAR FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES:

We recently got to know more about menstruation health and how important it is in our lives through the awareness workshops organized in Triveni. We also didn't know that the sanitary pads we have been using are causing so much harm to the environment. We are very happy that we will now be able to have affordable, hygienic sanitary pads that will be produced from our local banana trees. This kind of project plays a vital role in minimising the stigma that we have in Nepal.



Ramba Shah
Awareness workshop participant



Din Kurmi
Banana plantator

Most of our community depends on banana farming for their living. But we never knew that the banana trunk could be used for various purposes. We were having a hard time managing the useless post-harvest banana trunks. The community is now becoming optimistic about banana farming. Young people are also more interested in farming. Some are getting employment at the fibre factory too. They are seeing scope in it. This is something we really need to help the community's livelihood. We get to learn more about banana trees. We are very happy that banana fibre can be used for such a valuable product as a sanitary pad, and we are a big part of it.

Our partners:





REVALUE

The Challenge

In Nepal, inadequate recycling and disposal options, especially for low-value plastic (LVP) like food wrappers and sachets, contribute to significant ecological challenges. The economic disparity in collecting and processing LVPs, combined with ineffective regulations, leads to open burning and improper disposal in landfills, posing risks to the environment and human health. The local waste industry lacks infrastructure, regulations, and safety standards. Our vision is a plastic-free environment, and we're dedicated to reintegrating LVP into the value chain, investing in recycling infrastructure, and raising standards in the local waste management industry.

Our Solution

We're transforming low-value plastic (LVP) into a resource by integrating it back into the value chain. Through our Social Business model and Plastic Credits, we distribute credits generated from recycling LVP in Nepal. This supports road construction developed in collaboration with the Fraunhofer Institute, enhancing quality while reducing costs. We collaborate with local stakeholders, inspire entrepreneurship, and advocate for safe working conditions, ensuring used plastic is seen as a valuable resource, not waste.





>600

tons of plastic waste are produced every day in Nepal.

6

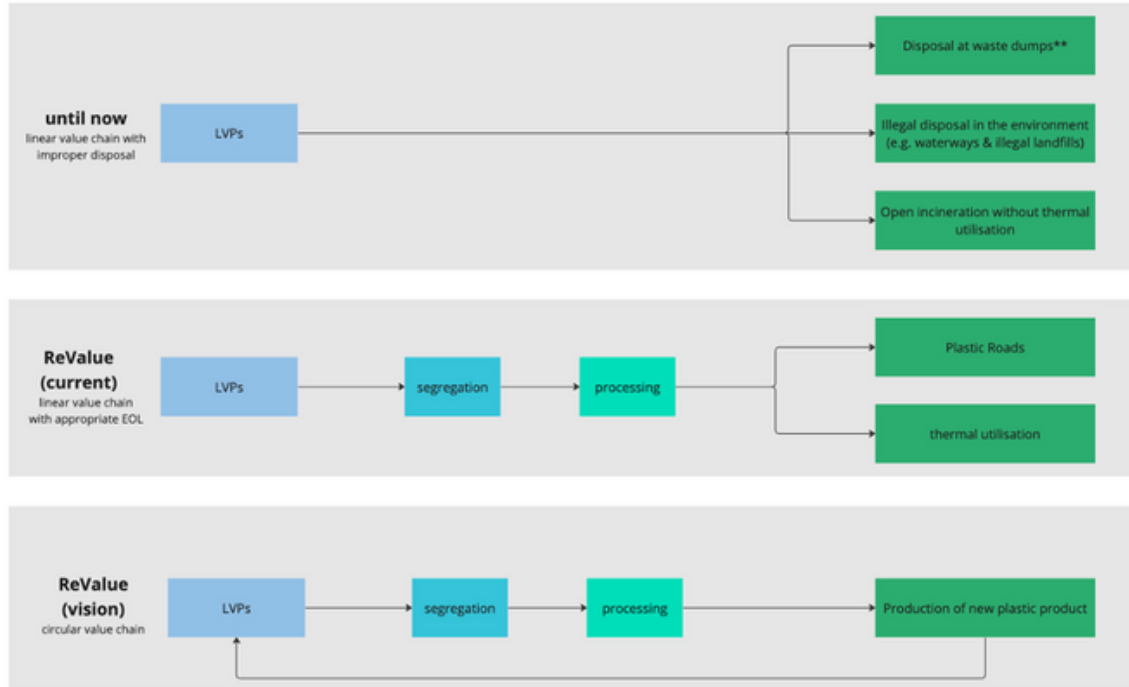
of the 293 urban local bodies have constructed landfill sites; the rest is dumping in open areas.

76%

of municipalities do not have policies/programs for managing plastic waste.

HOW REVALUE WORKS

Recyclable material streams - low-value plastic (LVP) waste* in Nepal



*LVPs: plastic waste that is difficult or impossible to recycle and whose processing is not economically viable. This often involves PP and multi-layer plastic (MLP) as well as soiled or otherwise contaminated plastic waste.

**Disposal at waste dumps: A waste dump, as opposed to a regulated landfill, is a waste disposal site that is not designed, constructed and operated in a manner that isolates the waste and prevents its negative impact on the environment.

MILESTONES AND CHALLENGES

First successful proof of the concept of plastic credits in Nepal:

We have achieved a significant milestone by successfully validating the initial proof of concept for the ReValue business model. This involved efficiently managing the collection, processing, and recycling of 9 tons of LVP waste, with applications in road construction or as Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF). Our rigorous tracking of all activities enabled us to assert Plastic Credits through our partnerships in the Global North. Early evaluations affirm the economic viability of our concept, providing positive indications for its scalability in larger implementations. We have become the first entity to offer Plastic Credits from Nepal. We are presenting these credits to clients in the Global North through our partner WasteReduction.

Pioneer for the highest standards in working conditions and environmental protection in the waste management sector of Nepal:

In our pursuit of certification under the Verra Plastic Waste Reduction Standard, we have set forth the highest standards in environmental protection, occupational health and safety, social safeguards, stakeholder engagement, and quality management across our waste management operations.



One of the first organisations to process and provide Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) out of LVPs for cement factories:

This is particularly impactful in Nepal, where cement production is traditionally powered by coal sourced from South Africa and Australia. While acknowledging that this reliance on LVPs is a transitional phase, our efforts represent a substantial stride towards mitigating emissions in the Nepali cement industry while thermally using LVP instead of dumping and open burning.



Completion of three research studies on plastic waste management in Nepal, Plastic Credits, and Plastic Roads under the auspices of the BMU:

With the support of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMU), over the past two years, we have conducted in-depth research into Plastic Waste Management in Nepal. We have also assessed the potential role of Plastic Credits in financing small and medium-sized waste management initiatives in the Global South. Additionally, our team explored the feasibility of implementing Plastic Roads in Nepal, using the ReValue method. All research reports are scheduled for publication on the NIDISI website in early 2024.

THE CHALLENGES

Challenging implementation of Verra Plastic Waste Reduction Standard (PWRS) requirements in local context

The incorporation of various PWRS requirements, including occupational health and safety and quality management measures, proved to be difficult due to a notable disparity between the specified standards and common local practices. Additionally, demonstrating the applicability of PWRS requirements to current waste management practices faced hurdles due to a lack of essential data on plastic waste management in Nepal. As a result, achieving Verra PWRS certification within the originally scheduled timeframe in 2023 was deemed unfeasible.

No scaling and continuation of the operations as planned

The current project location in Pokhara has proven to be unsuitable for further scaling and ongoing operation beyond 2023. ReValue must now evaluate what role the project wants to play in further scaling and publishing the business model and how potential new locations will be established.



REVALUE IN NUMBERS

> 70

tons of plastic waste collected and processed for recycling

16.08

tons of LVP plastic collected

8.35

tons of LVP processed and delivered for road construction and RDF

6

plastic credits provided

12

safe and fair jobs created in waste management in Nepal.





WHAT'S NEXT?

- 1 Blueprint publications and accessibility of knowledge:**
Supported by the Export Initiative Environmental Protection (EXI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection, we have undertaken comprehensive research initiatives. Our efforts have focused on the topic of unlocking the potential of low-value plastic waste through the combination of the ReValue Road Construction method in combination with Plastic Credits in the geographical context of Nepal. Within that framework, the three pillars of (1) plastic collection & processing in Nepal, (2) Plastic Credits as financing instrument and (3) Plastic Roads under ReValue Method in Nepal were researched and piloted. Combined, all learnings and research findings will be publically published as a blueprint on NIDISIs website in early 2024.

Unlocking the potential of Low-value plastic Waste

A comprehensive study on the ReValue method's feasibility in Nepal through plastic credits

Plastic Collection and Processing in Nepal

Research report:
Plastic collection & recycling in Nepal

Piloting
Plastic collection & recycling centre

Plastic Credits as a financing instrument

Research report:
Plastic Credits

Piloting
Plastic Credits

Plastic Roads under the ReValue method in Nepal

Research report:
Plastic Roads in Nepal

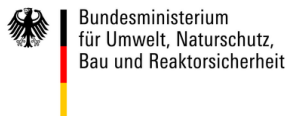
- 2 Evaluating possible scaling strategies with partners and local politics to establish LVP processing under Plastic Credits and the ReValue method in Nepal.**

WHAT'S NEXT?

3 Plastic Recycling Awareness campaigns in combination with the Sparsa ambassador program

The program targets 7,500 school children through playful workshops and 1,500 adults per year through discussions in selected communities. This combines knowledge about menstrual hygiene and the environmental consequences of plastic pollution. With our plastic-free menstrual pad, these topics can be ideally linked together and explained using a concrete example.

Our partners:



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We celebrate the support of all our partners, supporters and advisors. Without you, our work would not be possible.

If you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas feel free to reach out! We look forward to hearing from you.

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