



# 2024 Impact Report



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# At WASTE we dream of a world where everyone has access to a clean and healthy environment driven by inclusive system-led change.

We are turning this into a reality by working together with local partners to catalyse scalable, system-level solutions to urgent solid waste and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) challenges in low- and middle-income countries across the world. Sustainable solutions which are rooted in the local circular economy and designed to unlock opportunities for all.

## Note from our Supervisory Board



As we look back on 2024, we celebrate that over 1.7 million people are now living healthier lives with improved access to WASH and waste services — showcasing the power of working together to catalyse system-led change and the importance of standing at the intersection of waste, water and sanitation.

Last year was not without its challenges, but our agile approach helped us navigate shifting political landscapes, build climate resilience in the communities we work with, and expand into new areas — most notably through humanitarian partnerships in waste management. Central to this progress is our multi-stakeholder diamond model, shaped by over four decades of experience which we will explore in this inspiring Impact Report.

However, as waste and wastewater generation continue to rise, billions remain without safe water or sanitation and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals remains off track, we must not stand still. Together let's work with urgency to ensure cleaner, healthier environments for all.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Adriaan Mels**  
WASTE Supervisory Board Chair

*Kavita, an informal waste worker in Jaipur, was determined to provide a more stable income for her family. She learnt to drive a waste collection vehicle and, with the support of FINILOOP, is now empowering other women to do the same.*



# 2024 at a glance



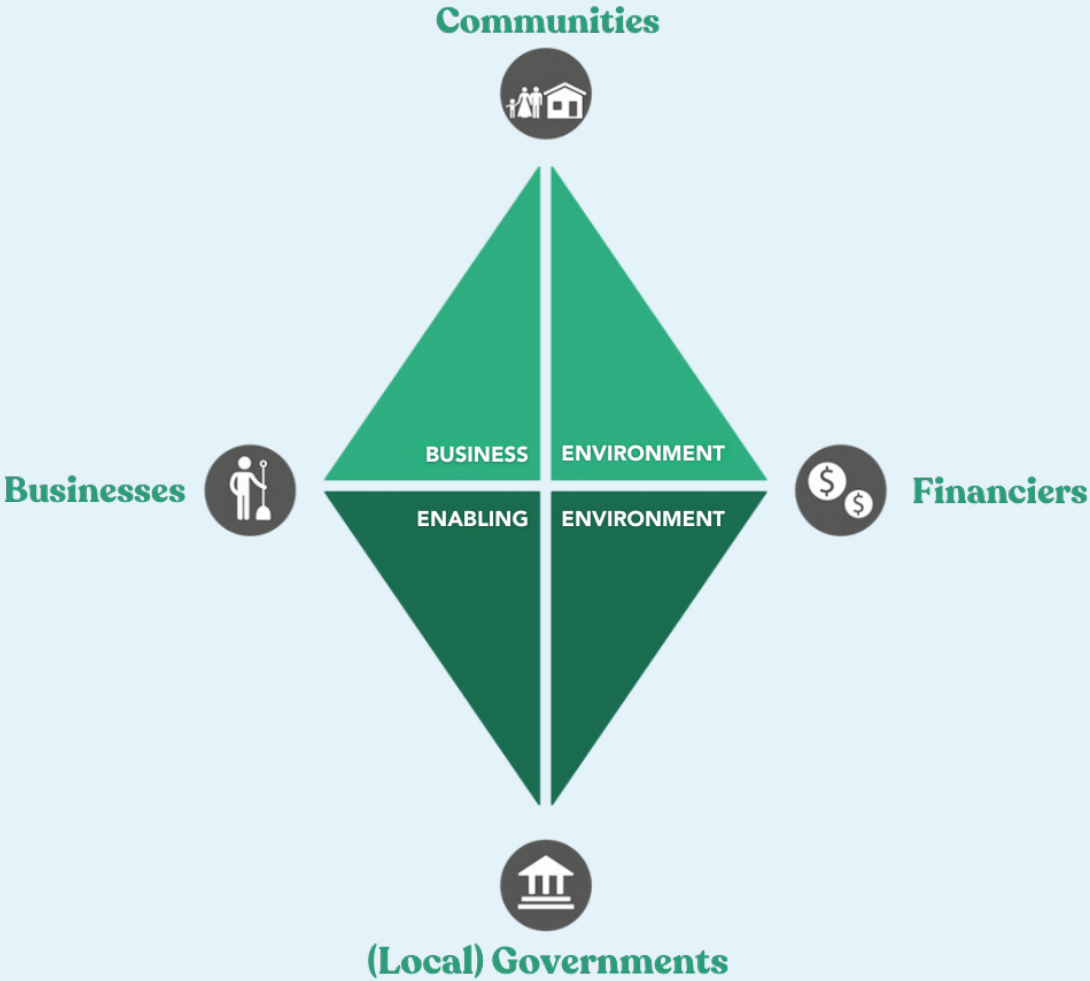
**More than 1.7 million people living healthier lives with improved access to waste and WASH services across Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.**



To ensure sustainable change we believe all stakeholders must work together.

This lies at the heart of our proven *multi-stakeholder diamond model*, developed to connect key stakeholders, identify and address gaps and opportunities within systems, and create an enabling environment for local systems to flourish. An approach which recognises that sustainability is multi-dimensional and incorporates our *Financial, Institutional, Environmental, Technical and Social (FIETS)* principles.

And an approach which fuelled our progress in 2024 enabling an environment for communities, businesses, governments and financiers to interact.



Beneficiary of a flood resilient toilet in Bangladesh. A technology being piloted by our FINISH Mondial programme to ensure access to safe sanitation even during climate emergencies.



# Empowering Communities in 2024



We fuel demand for vital services and products by empowering communities and driving behaviour change.

This is how:



In India 10,000 households were reached with awareness campaigns on the importance of separating waste at source and door-to-door collection with the support of our *FINILOOP programme*. This sparked a real change in the walled city area of Amritsar, where previously residents were reluctant to pay for services. Through awareness campaigns and working with the local municipality to identify a collection route for Montu (pictured), a local informal waste worker, today 90% of residents are willing to pay a monthly collection fee recognising the value of Montu's work and the need to clean up their community.

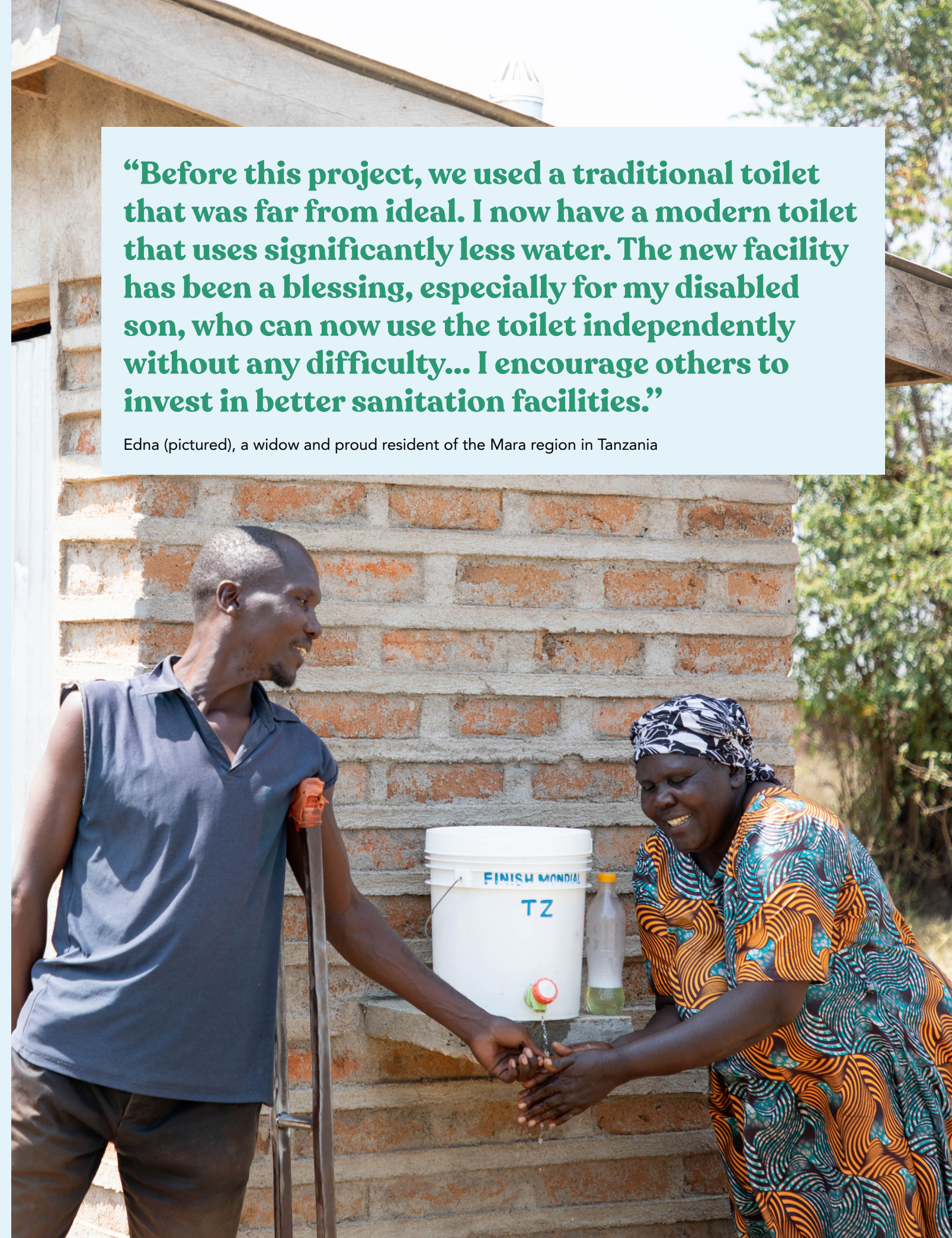
In the Mara and Mwanza regions of Tanzania more than 40 local community health workers were trained by the local *FINISH Mondial* team to monitor toilet conditions and educate households on the importance of safe sanitation. This, combined with local leaders embracing the initiative, led to a deeper understanding of the health benefits of improved sanitation and a significant increase in the uptake of safe sanitation systems.

Additionally in India and Bangladesh through our *FINISH Mondial programme* we saw a rise in demand for upgrading toilets rather than building new ones. This has been largely driven by a recognition of the need to increase the sustainability of sanitation systems and increased access to micro-finance enabling households to dream bigger with their sanitation systems.

To increase uptake of sanitation systems and affordability, our teams work hard to develop lower cost construction methods. In Ethiopia, for example, through exploring different technologies and training masons on low-cost construction techniques, facilitation costs of new toilets fell by almost 50%.

“Before this project, we used a traditional toilet that was far from ideal. I now have a modern toilet that uses significantly less water. The new facility has been a blessing, especially for my disabled son, who can now use the toilet independently without any difficulty... I encourage others to invest in better sanitation facilities.”

Edna (pictured), a widow and proud resident of the Mara region in Tanzania







**“Through FINILOOP’s interventions with different stakeholders the quality of waste which reaches our business is improving.”**

Apex level trader Nitesh Ahuja (pictured), co-owner of Ridhi Sidhi Plastic Enterprises in Udaipur

## Strengthening Businesses in 2024



**To meet increased demand we strengthen businesses who lie at the centre of solid waste and WASH value chains**

**This is how:**



Our FINISH Mondial programme is **committed to training local masons and sanitation entrepreneurs** and in 2024 provided training to more than 4,000 people. This expertise was officially recognised in Uganda, with the local team launching the National Artisan Curriculum — the national standard for artisan training ensuring high-quality skills development in the sanitation sector.

In Udaipur, **one group of determined women is on the path to starting their own plastic waste enterprise**. The Gorakhnath self-help group (SHG) is a collective of female informal waste workers who, with FINILOOP’s support and financial literacy training, began saving ₹100 a month in 2024. They are now working towards their shared dream of starting a small business and inspiring others along the way with two more SHGs formed in their community.

**Carbon Masters**, an inspiring small and growing business (SGB) in India is turning organic waste into biogas to replace fossil fuels and to apply organic fertiliser to rejuvenate soil. By closing the loop, they’re **saving over 11,000 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions annually, creating local jobs and improving soil health**. Through investment support from our **Take-a-Stake (TAS)** initiative they have been able to prove their investment case and in 2024 made significant strides forward in scaling their circular economy solution. **Meet them here.**

Apex level trader Nitesh Ahuja is co-owner of Ridhi Sidhi Plastic Enterprises in Udaipur, one of the **45 plastic waste enterprises receiving business development support through our FINILOOP programme**. Ridhi Sidhi Plastic Enterprises separates different fractions of plastic waste – a crucial step before it can be passed on for recycling. With FINILOOP’s support Nitesh has made important steps forward in expanding his business with aspirations to increase product categories and double the amount of plastic they process and sell.



# Engaging local **Government** in 2024



**It is critical to equip and work alongside local governments as they have the power to develop and reinforce laws and regulations to increase the effectiveness of vital systems.**

**This is how:**



We are sharing knowledge with local government leaders on how to respond more effectively to sanitation and waste management challenges. Leaders like Dethi (pictured), a 50-year-old transgender woman and local councillor in Bangladesh who has become an inspiring changemaker. A journey which grew out of her understanding of the problems faced by marginalised groups and was accelerated when she participated in capacity building organised by FINISH Mondial. Through these sessions, Dethi developed her waste management knowledge which she now proactively educates her community about. Her efforts have helped significantly

improve waste management, helped foster social acceptance of marginalised groups and seen people adopting healthier habits in her wards.

Jaipur's waste management system was previously struggling under the weight of poor infrastructure and disposal of waste. But in 2024, **sustained dialogue between FINILOOP and Jaipur Greater Municipal Corporation led to the transformation of the Jhalana Dungri transfer station** into a fully mechanised transfer station. This mechanisation has resulted in informal waste workers being trained to operate the facility and higher-quality plastic waste recovery.

In Tanzania we are **working hand in hand with regional water authorities and other key stakeholders to address faecal sludge emptying challenges**. In September 2024 this led to a new innovative solution being introduced in the Mwanza region – the PuPu Pump. A tool designed to address the critical issue of pit latrines and toilets that cannot be serviced by conventional vacuum trucks. **Find out more here.**



**“I am happy to have my toilet emptied by this new technology, especially as it has been flooding during the rainy season for the last ten years.”**

Sakina Shelali, local resident in the Mwanza region whose toilet was emptied using the PuPu pump





**“If we can find ways of profiling more businesses like ours and show the impact, I think there will be a lot more people who want to invest, it will open up the space for investors to believe in such businesses”**

Bonnie, founder of the WEEE centre

## Mobilising **Financiers** in 2024



**By showcasing market opportunities within waste management and WASH, financiers are willing to offer loans and investment opportunities to businesses and households.**

**This is how:**



We conducted an **immersive study** exploring the sanitation landscape in India and the role of microfinance in advancing the sanitation agenda. Created in collaboration between our **FINISH Mondial programme** and local partner, **Trust of People**, this research explores key barriers to safe sanitation, including financial constraints, gaps in awareness, and institutional hurdles, while highlighting the key role of microfinance in bridging funding gaps. **Read the research summary here.**

Our **Take-a-Stake (TAS) initiative** strengthens small and growing businesses (SGBs) working in WASH and waste management by proving the investment case for these sectors, and mobilising finances for sustainable growth, with the eventual goal of establishing a dedicated successor fund. **TAS has successfully invested in four SGBs to date, who by 2024 collectively were able to raise a further €6,5 million as follow on investment** - equivalent to a 5x leverage.

The WEEE centre is one of TAS's inspiring investees - a pioneering social business in Kenya, who is tackling the rapidly growing e-waste challenge. **Today with the support of TAS they have grown to become one of the largest e-waste centres in Africa, turning waste into wealth by ensuring the safe disposal of over 11,000 tonnes of e-waste** and creating hundreds of green jobs for women and youth.

To accelerate financial inclusion, we began developing a results-based financing framework across FINISH Mondial's six implementation countries. This included peer-to-peer training with India sharing experience from previous success and **partnerships with more than 10 financial institutions to mobilise results-based financing mechanisms.**





## Extending our scope

WASTE's key role in implementing the diamond approach and ensuring sustainable solutions is to act as a facilitator outside the diamond, connecting stakeholders and creating an enabling environment for systems to flourish. We work with local implementation partners to make the diamond shine bright on the ground in the contexts we serve.

Our approach can be contextualised to local needs and applied to many critical areas of development, from urban areas and refugee camps to agricultural and clean energy production.

## Waste management in displacement settings

In 2024, building on past experiences innovating and redesigning emergency sanitation and waste management, we joined an exciting new partnership – *SWEEP (Sustainable Waste Employment and Environmental Progress)*. A global collaboration between WASTE, *Last Mile Climate*, the *Danish Refugee Council*, and other key stakeholders, to address solid waste management (SWM) challenges in displacement settings. As a first focus area, WASTE was commissioned to carry out a *scoping study of the state of SWM in Kakuma Refugee Camp and the adjoining Kalobeyei settlement* utilising our *Integrated Sustainable Waste Management (ISWM)* model which allows for an analysis of the current SWM system.

## Water

Within our FINISH Mondial programme we continued to extend our water scope by **piloting and scaling a water quality improvement project** aimed at mitigating fluoride and arsenic contamination in drinking water utilising nature-based solutions in India. Alongside this in partnership with *MWAUWASA*, *Vitens-Evides International (VEI)*, and *Practica* we piloted innovative technologies to tackle both ground and surface water pollution in Tanzania.

## Climate resilient systems

We also recognise the increasing impact of climate risks on WASH infrastructure and have seen first-hand that building climate resilience in WASH is not just about technological solutions or infrastructure upgrades — it's about **strengthening the resilience of the entire system**. As a result, we piloted Flood Resilient Toilets in India and Bangladesh and conducted institutional mapping to understand how local institutions are responding to climate risks, with the aim to expand this to other countries.

Working together to create sustainable waste ecosystems in displacement settings, like Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, in order to safeguard public health and create livelihood opportunities.



## Looking ahead

As we look to the year ahead, with our integrated multi-stakeholder diamond model as the foundation, we aim to further leverage our impact across the many different dimensions of sustainability and our current programmes. With this in mind, we are excited to continue extending our impact beyond the WASH and solid waste sectors by tackling vital challenges linked to these topics, such as, nature-based solutions, agriculture, and clean energy.

The ability to effectively apply our approach to humanitarian contexts is being increasingly recognised by different stakeholders and we plan to especially intensify our efforts in this ever-growing area of need. Catalysing impact investment also remains a key priority, to help close the enormous funding gap between the diminishing supply of capital versus the need to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Above all we aim to turn shared challenges into opportunities, by strengthening existing partnerships and extending support structures to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and local ownership. All focused on working towards a world where everyone has access to a clean and healthy environment.

**Finally, a big thank you to our partners and all those who have supported us in 2024 to make this possible – together let's continue to unlock impact across the globe!**







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