

# Global Interfaith WASH Alliance & UNICEF India

## PROJECT REPORT

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August - December 2022



GLOBAL  
INTERFAITH  
WASH  
ALLIANCE

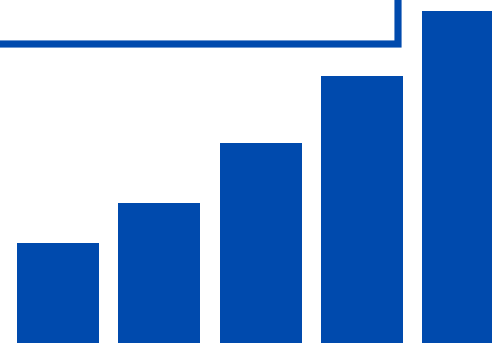
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Everyone, Everywhere

unicef   
for every child



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## INTRODUCTION

Faith leaders and faith-based organisations (FBOs) are very crucial pillars of society that offer strength, stability and direction in the lives of individuals. Throughout India's history and especially in recent times these organisations have played a crucial role in addressing many of the largest challenges that have faced society.

Faith Based Organisations are adept at mobilising large communities to take action, using ceremonies and events to raise awareness and pledge for change. In recent times have helped more and more in implementing numerous development projects. FBOs are amongst UNICEF's strongest partners and have played a pertinent role in sharing knowledge and experiences for implementing programs and providing financial aid.



## ABOUT GIWA

The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) is the world's first initiative that is engaging the planet's many faiths as allies in efforts to create a world where every human being has access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and proper hygiene (WASH). GIWA was formally launched on September 25, 2013 at the UNICEF World Headquarters in New York, during the UN General Assembly meetings.



GIWA's mission is rooted in the power of faith and faith based messaging to expand the definition of peace, to work together across diverse faith traditions in creating a just, peaceful and pollution free world with health, hygiene and harmony for all. Visit and learn more: <https://washalliance.org/>

## OUR PARTNERSHIP

This year GIWA and UNICEF under an expanded partnership set out to use the power of faith to address two thematic areas being: Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (CCES) and promoting Covid Appropriate Behaviour. This year the partnership has focussed on using different methodologies to reach out to communities to both address the basic needs of the needy, and then to use multiple faith based tools to communicate, inspire and deliver lasting behaviour change, and mobilise faith networks to reach ever more individuals. Four large Faith partners were mobilised in this partnership, while a 'first of its kind' Climate Toolkit for Kathakars was written and delivered which will be an important tool to inspiring behaviour change in some of the nation's largest faith events.





This partnership commences a new phase of formal GIWA and UNICEF collaboration, although both parties have been close collaborators right from GIWA's launch at UNICEF World Headquarters in 2012. Since then we have been coming together regularly to activate interfaith leaders, such as in our annual initiative to raise awareness about health issues through the simple and effective practice of hand washing for Global Hand washing Day.

## OUTREACH OF GIWA ACTIVITIES

GIWA has focused on leveraging the power of its own platform and activating partnerships with a host of Faith Based Organisations and in amplifying outreach for raising awareness on the issue of Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (CCES). The events and initiatives were undertaken in several states across the country- Rishikesh, Uttarakhand; Delhi, Uttar Pradesh; Ahmedabad, Gujarat; Leh-Ladakh, Rajasthan, and Kolkata, West Bengal.

GIWA's platform for outreach activities extended from the national platforms to international arena, where it deliberated the discourse on climate change and environmental sustainability in the highest level international fora that were attended by preeminent leaders in all sectors including heads of state, politicians, faith and thought leaders. GIWA's international presence during this partnership period extended through events in Morocco, Spain, U.A.E., Singapore and Indonesia, yet the impact of these meetings is not confined to any simple geographic area.



States where GIWA activities were undertaken

Duration of Project : Aug - Dec, 2022

Total Direct Outreach - 35680

## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES DURING THE PARTNERSHIP PERIOD

### ACTIVITIES AROUND GIWA HEADQUARTERS RISHIKESH

This project cycle, GIWA has carried out a diverse range of activities based from its Headquarters including capacity building workshops, training sessions, mass communication drives and the design and development of resources, all of these elements aimed at leveraging the impact of our faith based tools to inspire change.

### ACTIVITIES 1-3

#### Selecting Team Members

The project period successfully commenced with the timely on boarding of a dynamic and dedicated team members for the commencement of interventions in August, especially as the actual project and proposal was something that we had been working on for many months with UNICEF.

### ACTIVITY 4

#### Faith Leaders Capacity Building Workshop, Himachal Bhawan, Delhi

Date : 14 September  
Total participants : 20  
To read more, : ([shorturl.at/cdlpW](https://shorturl.at/cdlpW))

The Faith Leaders Capacity Building Workshop brought together 5 selected organisations that GIWA had extensively worked with in the past and with whom GIWA planned to partner with as implementation partners in certain regions to spread awareness about climate action, Covid-19 Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and improved WASH.



The objective of the workshop was that each partner organisation getting a clear understanding of the objective and vision of the partnership between GIWA and UNICEF for the next five months, explaining expectations from each organisation, sharing resources and team available to them to support these activities as well monitoring and documentation of their activities. The discussions included understanding of possible areas of activities that can be undertaken that are concrete, measurable, impactful and in alignment with their organisations core values and goals. The meeting was an orientation to these select organisations about the partnership ahead as well as acknowledgement of the work that they had already done together.

### Faith Leaders Attending the Workshop

|                                                                          |                                                                                    |                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pujya Swami<br>Chidanand Saraswati ji,<br>President,<br>Parmarth Niketan | Pujya Sadhvi Bhagwati<br>Saraswati ji,<br>International General<br>Secretary, GIWA | Pujya Swami<br>Madhavpriyadas ji,<br>President, Swaminarayan<br>Gurukul Parivar, Ahmedabad |
| Pujya Murlidhar ji Maharaj,<br>Eminent Kathakar,<br>Rajasthan            | Ven. Bhikkhu<br>Sanghasena ji, Founder,<br>MIMC, Ladakh                            | Shri Shankar Kumar Sanyal ji,<br>President,<br>Harijan Sevak Sangh                         |
| Acharya Kinley ji,<br>Drikung Kagyu<br>Institute                         | Representatives from GIWA, UNICEF were<br>also in attendance                       |                                                                                            |

#### ACTIVITY 5. KATHAKAR TOOLKIT ON MISSION LIFE

Kathas and its oral tradition offer a compelling platform to engage populations in positive behaviour change through their age-old and effective communication methods of song and storytelling to connect spiritual values, with sustainable aspirations and ideals. A guidebook was written and developed to orient Kathakars (and other faith leaders) to the Government of India's Mission LiFE.

A resource book was developed that provided current key technical information on Climate Change and Sustainability and gave guidance to Faith leaders on the types of sustainable behaviours they can encourage in line with Mission Life. The toolkit developed 4 faith based story narratives, and brought together various scriptural references to be used to approach behaviour change in kathas. The toolkit also gave guidance on how to design a 'green katha' and showcased case studies on GIWA partners who have been active in our partnership with UNICEF.

## **ACTIVITY 6. RECORD MESSAGES FROM FAITH LEADERS THAT CAN BE CIRCULATED**

An array of messages made by faith leaders from the events and roundtables assembled into a content database. These messages are as they apply to themes connected to Mission LiFE, and will be able to be used in conjunction with the toolkit once released.

## **ACTIVITY 7. ONLINE WORKSHOP ON THE WORKINGS OF THE TOOLKIT AND DISSEMINATION**

Several online calls, meetings and conversations took place with UNICEF and the team to discuss various parts of the project as well as the development and progression of the Toolkit. These calls and workshops helped clarify the direction that the toolkit should take as well as its intended purpose and objective.

## **ACTIVITY 8. OVERSEEING PARTNER IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES + ADDITIONAL REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

GIWA's representatives worked at its headquarters as well as travelled throughout the nation during the project period overseeing work that was carried out by our Partner Faith Based Organisations and activating other events to empower green messaging and the adoption of green behaviours, connected deeply to India's cultural and spiritual heritage.

### **GIWA'S FAITH ACTIVATIONS**

#### **8A. RIVER REJUVENATION POLICY IN LUCKNOW, UP AND GANESH CHATURTHI MEETING WITH HON'BLE GOVERNOR AND HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF UTTAR PRADESH**

Date : 31 Aug - 2 Sept  
Total direct outreach : 150  
To read more : ([shorturl.at/acBH2](https://shorturl.at/acBH2))

Ahead of the auspicious time of Ganesh Chaturthi, HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji was invited as a Chief Guest for a special Nadi Samagra Chintan in Lucknow with Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development Shri Swatantra Devji and water experts from across the nation. The recommendations from these roundtable discussions will be shared as a policy document with the Government after regional consultations next year.





Pujya Swamiji also met with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanathji and shared about the green Ganesh Visarjan concept by giving him a hand moulded clay Ganesha with seeds embedded inside. Thereafter he also had fruitful meetings with the Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh Smt Anandiben Patelji and Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh discussing the preliminary suggestions from the Nadi Samagra Chintan and also gifted them with one of these same special Mitti Ke Ganeshji embedded with seeds.

During His meeting he addressed the media sharing that if we make our traditions green traditions then there would be great change in our communities and our country in terms of sustainable living and inspiring people's led movement for river rejuvenation. This was an important part of climate action advocacy and laid the foundation for our work ahead in Lucknow.



## 8B. HIMALAYA DIWAS PLEDGE AND DECLARATION AT PARMARTH NIKETAN WITH HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF UTTAR PRADESH

Date : 9th September, 2022  
Total direct outreach : 10000+  
To see the full report : ([shorturl.at/brtWY](https://shorturl.at/brtWY))

A beautiful Himalaya Diwas celebrations at Parmarth Niketan was a beautiful reminder of the importance of the revered mountain chain to both Indians and the world. This event was organised to inspire just action to preserve and protect, improve and strengthen the increasingly fragile Himalayas, which serves as the world's water tower and carbon sink. Ministers, experts and stakeholders from across the state and the country joined together for a special celebrations inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri **Pushkar Singh Dhamiji**, President of Parmarth Niketan, Param **Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji**, Founder of HESCO (Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization), Padmashri **Dr Anil P Joshiji**, Param Pujya Swami Govind Dev Giri Ji, Hon'ble Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Former Governor of Uttarakhand Smt Baby Rani Mauryaji, Hon'ble Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Subodh Uniyalji, Speaker of Uttarakhand Assembly, Smt Ritu Khanduriji, MLA Smt Renu Bishtji and others. They gathered together on the holy banks of Maa Ganga, in the lap of the Himalayas, to discuss ways to ensure that the Himalayas remain a clean and pristine source of health, wellness and inspiration well into the future - especially as climate insecurity increases across the globe.

They urged that the Himalayas act as a climate protector - a climate governor - for not only 18 countries in Asia but for the world. It is becoming increasingly apparent that we need to do more than just talk about improving and strengthening the Himalayas governorship of the region's climate - we must act. The declaration from this Himalaya Diwas event was prepared and presented back to the State Government urging for a collective Himalayan Conclave with all Himalayan States, Chief Ministers and Policy Makers coming together to align policies and actions with that which is vital for the protection and preservation of it's sacred heritage.



## 8C. SEVERAL PLEDGES AT THE PARMARTH GANGA AARTI

Date : September-December  
Total direct outreach : 10000+  
To see the full report : (<https://tinyurl.com/2d3t2h2n>)

Mass awareness, faith based messaging during Parmarth Niketan's world-renowned Ganga Aarti continued to inspire thousands to stop using single-use plastic, the concept of a clean and green pilgrimage, plant trees, improve sanitation, hygiene and protect our sacred rivers. These inspiring discourses and powerful messages were galvanised by the use of mass pledges which were taken by all those in attendance to take up a new desired 'green' behaviour.



### SPECIAL AARTI HIGHLIGHT:

#### Yamuna Maha-Aarti, Delhi

Date : September 25  
Total direct outreach : 2000  
To see the full report : [shorturl.at/aCFK1](https://shorturl.at/aCFK1)

Held on International Rivers Day this large-scale Yamuna Maha-Aarti at Sur Ghat, Wazirabad was organised with eminent faith leaders, singer Kanhaiya Mittal with Delhites of over 2000 people pledging to restore Maa Yamuna, come together to protect and preserve their rivers and their environment. Pujya Swami ji encouraged everyone that now Aarti should be held at every ghat so that our rivers can be kept clean and safe. It was said that Yamuna ji is one of the holy rivers of India. In mythological scriptures like Vishnu Purana, Ramayana etc. Yamuna has been given the status of Surya's daughter, Yama's sister and Lord Krishna's consort. The water of the rivers not only quenches the thirst of humans but also of the Earth, as well as it is also the centre of our faith. The event inspired many and filled with greater enthusiasm to help clean and protect the River Yamuna.





### Kolkata Aarti - Inspiring Thousands at New Kolkata (Alcove)

Date : November 13  
Total direct outreach : 4000  
To see the full report : ([shorturl.at/npFZ9](https://shorturl.at/npFZ9))

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji; Pujya Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji; and a group of 25 Rishikumars, musicians and sevaks were welcomed to the banks of Mother Ganga to inaugurate Ganga Aarti for a 4000 person strong audience of families at the 'New Kolkata' development on the banks of Mother Ganga in Kolkata.



The event was held in celebration of progress and sustainability, acknowledging the pride in the rich cultural heritage of Kolkata. This event is a demonstration of the sheer scale of the transformative potential of the Ganga Aarti ceremony as a tool for social change. The vision of 4000 people raising their hands in unison committing to taking sustainable climate action was powerful to behold, and represents the great future opportunity for Ganga Awareness & Aarti Capacity Building Workshops.





## 8D. GANGA AWARENESS & AARTI CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

Date : December 1-2  
Total direct outreach : 35 pandits trained  
To see the report : ([shorturl.at/fmJOS](https://shorturl.at/fmJOS))

The social impact and behaviour change potential of the Ganga Aarti ceremony culminated with a unique first ever Ganga Awareness and Aarti Capacity Building Workshop, organised by GIWA and held at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh in joint partnership with Namami Gange, Jal Shakti Ministry, Government of India and it's Arth Ganga initiative as well as Ganga Action Parivar and Global Interfaith WASH Alliance.



Participants from over a dozen ghats on Maa Ganga across Northern India, spanning three states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for a special two-day training programme curated by Parmarth Niketan, to inspire, motivate and activate these participants to empower the participants in leading Aartis as spaces of social transformation, behaviour change and mass inspiration grounded in the connection to Mother Ganga. This magnifies the impact of the work already being undertaken at Parmarth Niketan Ashram through the creation of a network of like minded FBOs sharing inspiration.

This first training was inaugurated by Shri Ashok Kumarji, DG, Namami Gange and Shri Jagmohan Guptaji, Advisor to Namami Gange and blessed by HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, President of Parmarth Niketan.

## GIWA PARTNER IMPLEMENTATION

### HARIJAN SEVAK SANGH (HSS)

For many years GIWA and HSS have joined together to promote and share Gandhian principles to the modern world, especially in the shared values for sanitation, environmental preservation and serving the marginalised and under-privileged community so that no one is left behind. In their partnership with GIWA there has been a focus on providing the basic health needs alongside using the tools of Gandhian philosophy and spiritual education to increase awareness of environmental issues in the communities they serve.

### 8E. THREE DAY CELEBRATION OF HSS'S 90TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Date : September 23-25  
Total direct outreach : 2000  
To see the full report : ([shorturl.at/rvGIV](http://shorturl.at/rvGIV))

As part of the 3-day Sadbhavana Sammelan, GIWA joined the Harijan Sevak Sangh's National and State chapters for a large-scale event in which the plenary inaugural session with the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankharji joined by GIWA's Co-founder Puja Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Harijan Sevak Sangh's President Shri Sankar Sanyal along with Padmashri Bindeshwar Pathak and others. During the inauguration, Puja Swamiji gave the message about living and applying Gandhi's principles, which includes interfaith harmony and protecting the environment. The event was an opportunity to connect with the different State Chapters as well as to understand the strengths and limitations of each of these chapters such that in some of these selected chapters GIWA could support their efforts to make a greater impact.







## 8F. MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO SANT KABIR DASJI AT THE HSS GANDHI ASHRAM, DELHI- ON THE LINK BETWEEN INNER AND OUTER CLEANLINESS AND HARMONY WITH THE NATURAL WORLD

Date : October 27  
Total direct outreach : 150  
To see the full report : ([shorturl.at/lpG48](https://shorturl.at/lpG48))

A divine evening with music by Padmashri Prahlad Singh Tipaniyaji and his troupe took place at the Harijan Sevak Sangh Campus in New Delhi. The musical tribute was dedicated to Late Shri SN Subha Raoji (Bhaiji) who was a prominent Gandhian who inspired youth from across the nation to connect with Gandhian values and gave the challenge of living these principles in their lives. The music included singing and commentary on the verses of Sant Kabir and emphasised on how his teachings and example exemplified leading a life in harmony with the environment. The presenters shared through memorable story-telling narratives and songs how an individual can take steps to keep the environment clean and undertake an environmentally friendly lifestyle.





## 8G. HEALTH AND HYGIENE CAMP, KINGSWAY CAMP

Date : November 20  
Total direct outreach : 225  
To see the full report : ([shorturl.at/eDHQY](https://shorturl.at/eDHQY))

On the occasion of Worlds' Children's Day on November 20, 2022, a special Medical and Dental camp was organised at the Gandhi Ashram, Kingsway Camp, Delhi. The camp was for people of all ages but with a focus on the 225 children of Bapa Ashram School and Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya aged between 6 to 13 years.

This free Medical and Dental Camp was organised by the combined efforts of Medical professionals and sevaks of GIWA, Divine Shakti Foundation (DSF), and Seema Dental College. The President of Harijan Sevak Sangh Sri Sankar Kumar Sanyalji graced the occasion, alongside the National Secretary of HSS Shri Sanjay Rai and Director of GIWA Ganga Nandini. This event was an example of combining health care interventions with additional fun interactive learning experiences on improved WASH and sustainability for the children, as we talk about sustainability we need to also consider the total needs of communities to live happy and healthy lives.



The Medical camp was followed up with a second medical camp on the 17th December wherein children in need of oral hygiene and cavity filling were given these services in their own campus in Delhi with the help of the Seema Dental College's mobile van and team of Dental experts along with GIWA and Divine Shakti Foundations team.

GIWA utilised this opportunity to strengthen the connection with the children and team of the Ashram and to lead more focused sessions of counselling for children coming from troubled and difficult backgrounds as well as lead them deeper into an understanding of improved WASH behaviours and environmental protection and preservation.



## 8H. ENGAGEMENT WITH GUJARAT HSS CHAPTER & ECO-SYSTEM

Date : December 22-27  
Total direct outreach : 300+  
To see the full report : ([shorturl.at/bLVY1](https://shorturl.at/bLVY1))

During a three-day visit to the Gandhi Ashram in Gujarat, site visits were taken to understand and apply Gandhi's principles, especially the emphasis of Mahatma Gandhi on Swachhta, environmental preservation and interfaith harmony that can be replicated in Northern India. The visit was a chance to engage with the youth and also discuss plans for future events.

During the visit, on the occasion of the Punyatithi of Ishwar Dada, Founder of Safai Vidyalaya, the world's first ever Sanitation Academy, the children of the Gandhian Institutes, Hostels and Schools delivered an inspiring performance on the theme of environmental preservation and protection and how the actions of society are degrading nature. The crowd responded eagerly, delivering a standing ovation for the performance. The visit included a visit to the rich eco-system of the Gujarat HSS Chapter, Sabarmati Ashram and Environmental Sanitation Institute. The prospect of combining inner and outer cleanliness was the exciting area of work that GIWA wanted to partner together with this organisation bringing the values and principles required to make environmental protection and preservation natural and inherent.



## 8I. ALL INDIA SANSKRIT CONFERENCE, KOLKATA

Date: November 12

Total direct outreach: 200+

To see the full report: ([shorturl.at/HLZ15](http://shorturl.at/HLZ15))

Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati, and Pujiya Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, addressed the young minds and inspired the Sanskrit scholars to use their wisdom for a cleaner, greener and more sustainable world. Their speeches explored the importance of the Sanskrit language, but it is the wisdom contained within this language that draws people from all over the world to India. This heritage of Dharma, of compassion and righteousness and living in harmony with the natural world. Therefore Sanskrit and Sanskriti hold the masterkey for India's cultural transformation towards sustainability. The teachings in these texts must be understood, propagated and lived to encourage a sustainable lifestyle for an environmentally friendly world.

Pujya Swamiji reminded the audience that this world is turning to India's population as a viable marketplace, a 'Bazaar' - but India can illustrate that it is not merely a 'Bazaar' but also a 'Parivar,' a family that welcomes and accepts all. An important and integral part of welcoming and caring for our family is ensuring that our homes and our surroundings are clean, green and serene.



## MAHABODHI INTERNATIONAL MEDITATION CENTRE (MIMC) LADAKH

MIMC and GIWA have come together to spread the awareness of WASH in this unique border region. A special awareness drive for Global Hand washing Day was held as a beautiful example of the ongoing commitment of both organisations to work together. Hundreds of students came together to learn, grow and celebrate the importance of hand washing, health hygiene and water conservation.

### 8J. INTERACTIVE SESSION/FOCUSED MESSAGING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Date : October 15  
Total direct outreach : 600  
To see the full report : ([shorturl.at/ahpqw](https://shorturl.at/ahpqw))



Focused sessions on climate change, with a large group of school children occurring on Global Handwashing Day. Bhikkhu Sanghasena ji shed light on the need of handwashing and encouraged all to follow the 5-step method for hand washing. He mentioned how keeping hands clean is one of the easiest and the most important steps one can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. In line with handwashing, he encouraged all to use chemical free soaps, and organic soaps to reduce the burden of water pollution and health hazards. Bhikkhu Sanghasena emphasised on creating a sustainable environment, being more conscious of our Mother Earth, and it is people in areas that are susceptible to impacts of changing climate must be amongst the greatest advocates for sustainability. The first step and a small step towards saving the environment can be through the use of chemical free soaps.

## 8K. PLANNING FOR BRINGING CCES INTO THE TOURISM SECTOR FOR 2023:

As further interventions were put on hold due to the arrival of winter in the Himalayas, the focus moved to plans for the use of Sustainable Development in line with the unique Himalayan ecosystem, eco-tourism, wellness tourism, and other sustainable assets to amplify the region's unique voice in the campaigns of environmental preservation for 2023 - the possibility of training programs for the tourism sector and further using the voice of the Himalayan communities in advocacy work have been discussed.

## 8L. WORKSHOP - TRAIN THE TRAINER/TEACHERS:

Members from Ladakh chapter were due to come to Rishikesh during winter for formal training on WASH and Environmental projects. Weather has deferred these plans until after the winter season - tentatively around March 2023.

### SANT MURLIDHARJI MAHARAJ - RENOWNED KATHAKAR

Sant Murlidharji uses the age-old practice of storytelling through kathas as a potent instrument in inspiring behaviour change to large audiences. His kathas uplift, inspire and make the environmentally focused messages more memorable resulting in more likely behaviour changes.





## **8M. MESSAGING ON CLIMATE CHANGE & HYGIENE IN ONE GREEN KATHA, RISHIKESH**

To see more, see the video: ([shorturl.at/cjrVX](https://shorturl.at/cjrVX))

Advocacy and mass awareness faith-based messaging was delivered during Puja Sant Murlidharji's Kathas about climate action, environmental protection and improved WASH. There were at least three green actions discussed and encouraged at this event such as the provision of adequate water, sanitation facilities, dustbins and prevention of plastic usage. Notably at this katha held in Rishikesh, the Hon'ble Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekawat was felicitated with an offering of a rudraksha sapling (pictured). The gift of the rudraksha sapling is the traditional gift offered by Puja Swamiji as a symbol and a powerful reminder and example for others to not only live sustainably, but in a way that regenerates the environment.

## **8N. PLANNING FOR A MONTH LONG RAM KATHA AS A CASE STUDY FOR BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMMUNICATION**

Continued understanding and plans were made to integrate 'Green Katha' messages and practices from the Climate Toolkit, to the month-long Katha which will be in May-June 2023, utilising this as an example for other Kathakars and Saints who visit and grace the event. A month-long katha will be an opportunity to study and measure the impacts of encouraging people over long time frames to really imbibe messages of sustainability and WASH, protecting rivers and planting trees and measuring various outcomes.

## **SWAMINARAYAN SANSTHAN**

Swaminarayan Gurukul Parivar (SGVP) has long been active with the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) in the field of environmental sustainability, working together continually on large scale programs, such as during the Swachh Bharat Mission, where technical support of UNICEF, enabled interventions in more than 108 villages in Gujarat to make them 'Open Defecation Free' through providing much needed toilet and sanitation facilities in the year 2018.

## **8O. 7 DAY SADHANA SAPTAH AT PARMARTH NIKETAN**

|                        |   |                                                               |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date                   | : | 27 Oct to 6th November                                        |
| Total direct outreach  | : | 7000                                                          |
| To see the full report | : | ( <a href="https://shorturl.at/kmwAM">shorturl.at/kmwAM</a> ) |

During a special and annual week-long Sadhana Saptah welcomed revered saints and Swaminarayan Gurukul members on the holy banks of Mother Ganga. Over 1,800 devotees participated, at least 900 were women, with over 62 Sadhus and Sadhvis and over 200 young students.



On the 30th of October a special aarti was joined Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawatji alongside members of Namami Gange announcing the Ganga Aarti trainings which were to be conducted at Parmarth Niketan so that more people along the banks of the sacred rivers could benefit from these powerful spiritual ceremonies as platforms for faith-based messaging, social impact, awareness and behaviour change. All dignitaries were felicitated by sacred rudraksha saplings setting a beautiful example of aligning all of our actions with the values of environmental preservation and river rejuvenation.



## **8P. PLANNING FOR ANOTHER 7 DAY EVENT FOR 2023**

Discussions were had on the importance of using this same event as a learning space for propagating pro environmental teachings and lifestyles for future pilgrimages to Mother Ganga. The opportunity was noted to further share, propagate and amplify examples of success and best practices of both organisations and the impacts in their communities. There is a need to understand the impact of their messages on devotees through the use of a designed program of M&E.

## **8Q. MISSION LIFE PLEDGE AT THE GURUHARI DARSHAN NATIONAL SANT CONVENTION CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION EVENT IN AHMEDABAD**

Date : 25th December, 2022  
Total direct outreach : Over 100,000

Over 100,000 gathered together for the Darshan of His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj at Ahmedabad, India, from the 25-27 Dec 2022 at the National Sant Convention, as part of the centennial celebrations of Pramukh Swami Maharaj in which more than 250 leading swamis, mahants and acharyas graced from all over India. Param Pujya Swamiji graced the event in which He gave an inspiring message and led a special pledge for Mission Life and climate action to the devotees of the BAPS Swaminarayan community and emphasised how spiritual values inculcated by the organisation inspires us to lead lives in greater harmony with our planet and Mother Nature. He inspired everyone to learn from the example of the saints of living with less but being more and sharing more and encouraged devotees to adopt actions in their everyday lives that would be in line with protecting our planet.



## ACTIVITY 9. LARGE SCALE HYBRID EVENTS

Two large events were designed and organised by GIWA at Parmarth Niketan Ashram Rishikesh as a core deliverable for this project cycle. Two events that brought in themes of WASH, Environmental Sustainability, and Mission LiFE were designed to bring young people square into the centre of the conversation of these issues of health and sustainability. It is the youth who are the future and they must be prepared to be active participants in looking after their inner and outer world.

### 9A. GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY CELEBRATION, (ACTIVITY 9, HYBRID EVENT 1)

To see the full report : [shorturl.at/dhOQ4](https://shorturl.at/dhOQ4)  
Date : October 15  
Total direct outreach : 750

Every year the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) comes together with interfaith leaders, development partners such as UNICEF and others to raise awareness about the simple and effective practice of hand washing, especially since cleanliness is already part of every faith tradition. Annually we create a large campaign, including media and social media pushes, as an integral part of raising awareness to the critical importance of handwashing in healthy bodies and healthy societies.





Each year we engage on the grass roots level – working with students and teachers in schools, with whom GIWA and Divine Shakti Foundation serves throughout the year, to inspire interest and attention towards sustainable behaviours. Capacity building for teachers was also undertaken with a counselling program for them to develop Life Skills Education skills that will improve outcomes for our youth.

Leaders who were mobilised during our social media campaign leading up to GHD:

- Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati ji, Co-Founder/Chair, GIWA, President, Parmarth Niketan
- Pujya Sadhvi Bhagwati Saraswati, Secretary General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA)
- Ven Bhikkhu Sanghasena ji, MIMC, Ladakh (Buddhist Tradition) (Partner)
- Sardar Paramjit Chandhok ji, Chairman of Delhi Gurudwara Bangla Sahib (Sikh Tradition)
- Sadhvi Shilapi ji, Veerayatan, Kutch, Gujarat (Jain Tradition)
- Jayeshbhai Patel, Sabarmati Ashram, Harijan Sevak Sangh (Partner)



This Global Handwashing Day, GIWA brought together teachers and students from over 20 schools, institutions and women from the self-help groups with a total of 700+ participants to raise awareness about not just handwashing but also the importance of handwashing using eco-friendly and natural soaps and also to instil a sense of commitment in these kids through various activities such as painting & quiz competition, handwashing demonstrations among others. These fun and interactive sessions have been a great way to engage youth into important themes.

Additional impact was made on the theme of hand washing by Parmarth's Aarti sessions that incorporated this Hand washing messaging, during one of these aarti sessions Pujya Bhai shri ji spoke profoundly about hand washing. These messages reached thousands of people who joined these live Aarti's on the 14th to the 15th October, as well as the Summit which was also broadcast Live.

| LEADERS ATTENDING GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY 2022                                                 |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati ji,<br>Co-Founder/Chair, GIWA,<br>President, Parmarth Niketan | Pujya Sadhvi Bhagwati Saraswati ji,<br>Secretary General,<br>GIWA                               | Chief Guest Dr Ramesh Nishank Pohriyal ji, Former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Former Union Education Minister |
| Jagadguru Uttarakhand Swami Krishnacharya ji Maharaj,<br>President, Krishnapunj Ashram        | Pujya MM Dayaram Das ji Maharaj, Ram Tapashtali Brahmpuri                                       | Sadguru Shree Madhav Priyadas ji, Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul Vishwavidya Pratishthanam (SGVP) (Partner)          |
| Pujya Mahant Raviparannacharya ji, Tulsi Manas Mandir                                         | Sanjay Rai ji, Secretary, Harijan Sevak Sangh (Partner)                                         | Pujya Swami Ajayram ji, Peethadhishwar                                                                           |
| Krishna Ramawat ji, Representative of Sant Sri Murlidhar Maharaj ji (Partner)                 | Sardar Darshan Singh ji, Principal Gurudwara Public School, Hemkunt Gurudwara, Rishikesh Head   | Piara Singh ji, Gurmat Sangeet Bal Vidyalyaya, Rishikesh                                                         |
| Ganga Nandini ji, Director of Programme Implementation and Communication, GIWA                | Amit Yadav ji & Nandu Ben ji, Representatives of Swami Narayan Gurukul Parivar (SGVP) (Partner) | Acharya Kinley ji, Representative of Drikung Kagyu Institute (Partner)                                           |

## 9B. INTERNATIONAL HUMAN SOLIDARITY DAY - SOLIDARITY ALIGNED WITH MISSION LIFE. (ACTIVITY 9, HYBRID EVENT 2)

To see the full report : ([shorturl.at/AST13](https://shorturl.at/AST13))  
Date : December 20th  
Total direct outreach : 1300

A special International Human Solidarity Day event brought together over 1,100 young people and students to join together to pledge to be champions of sustainability with special hands-on and interactive sessions designed to inspire and leave a lasting impression on the youth. These sessions included both activities, games and interactive workstations for children, teachers and parents to learn about the many ways that they can join in the important work of climate action. Hands-on activities on the day included special skits prepared by school children, a poster making & slogan writing competition, a workshop exploring the benefits of cow dung as a sustainable material, and a solar educational tour.

A strategic working session for faith leaders and experts was simultaneously held to discuss aligning our collective efforts to support the Government of India's Mission LiFE by nudging our communities to take sustainable environmental action, special attention was given towards how youth can get involved in sustainable actions.

The Event culminated with a large plenary session where Faith Leaders and UNICEF shared inspirational messages to the youth. The sound of over a thousand children chanting empowering slogans of sustainability with passion and vigour together with the faith leaders was truly heartening.





## LEADERS ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN SOLIDARITY DAY 2022

|                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                               |                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati ji,<br>Co-Founder/Chair, GIWA,<br>President, Parmarth Niketan                                     | Pujya Sadhvi Bhagwati Saraswati ji,<br>Secretary General,<br>GIWA                                                             | Marije Broekhuijsen, WASH Specialist, UNICEF                                  |
| Pujya Swami Sarvanand ji,<br>Founder / President<br>International Bhajan<br>Sukhsewa Mission                                      | Dharmacharya Shantum Seth ji, Co-founder of Ahimsa Trust, ordained Buddhist teacher in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh       | Acharya Vivek Muni ji Maharaj, Founder President, Acharya Sushil Muni Mission |
| Goswami Sushil ji Maharaj, Head of Monastery, Maharishi Bhrigu Foundation, President, India's Parliament of the World's Religions | Mr. Ravi Bhatnagar, External Affairs and Partnerships at Reckitt Benckiser                                                    | Shri Sanjay Chaturvedi Ji, Core Committee Member Divya Prem Sewa Mission      |
| Ven Khenpo Konchok Rangdol ji, Doon Buddhist University, Dehradun                                                                 | Shri Sanjay Rai ji, National General Secretary, Harijan Sevak Sangh (Partner)                                                 | Sardar Darshan Singh ji, Manager Hemkunt Sahib Gurudwara                      |
| BK Arti ji, Manager Brahma Kumari Rishikesh                                                                                       | Narayani Ganesh, Lead writer and editor of The Speaking Tree, Times of India (Retd)                                           | Utkarsh Joshi, Consultant to Corporates and Industries                        |
| Mr. Madhav Agarwal, Chairman, Jonk Nagar Palika Parishad                                                                          | Dr. Himanshu Aeran, Director Principal, Seema Dental College                                                                  | Dr. Rachna Bimal, Professor, Delhi University                                 |
| Sushri Ganga Nandini, Director of Project Implementation & Communication, GIWA                                                    | And many other senior educators, community leaders, teachers and principals of many schools across Uttarakhand and from Delhi |                                                                               |

## GIWA'S INTERNATIONAL THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The reach of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance is truly Global, key members of GIWA regularly travel to high level international fora where they share ideas and best practices with world leaders. This assists in spreading messages and inspiring geographically dispersed partners to take up important social action. Some of this work that occurred during our partnership cycle is listed below.

### A. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COHESIVE SOCIETIES (ICCS)

“How Faith can Bridge Divides” (Singapore)

On September 6 through 9th, the ICCS brought an international group of leaders together from policy, faith, community and youth realms, to discuss new trends and approaches to fostering social cohesion within and beyond our communities. The event was attended by the President and Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore. Sadhviji shared on how we can build peaceful and cohesive societies based on the work that GIWA and its Partners are doing in WASH and Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability. The seniority of those leaders that attended is a testament to the importance and value that global leaders are seeing in the potential of faith as a critical tool for peace, harmony and sustainability.



### B. PARD ANNUAL FORUM ON RELIGION & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & KAICIID ASIA FELLOWS MEET (BALI INDONESIA):

From October 31 until November 3 wherein Ganga Nandini Director of Implementation at GIWA shared the work that we have done in the face of Natural Disasters including Covid19 as well as our efforts to address Climate Change during a panel discussion and multiple other sessions in the Forum.

Suggestions were made by GIWA to PARD to have a core focus around WASH in their Health Stream. Networking was done by GIWA representatives with Institutional organisations in India and Asia regions to promote further work on sustainability and climate action. GIWA also collated publications, tools and resources available on climate change and action to assist in future interventions and knowledge sharing with partners.



## C. UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILISATIONS GLOBAL FORUM (Fez, Morocco)

On November 22 and 23, the 9th Global Forum of UNAOC was held to address many challenging transversal and global issues event took place with the backdrop he need to save the planet band the requirement to learn to live together, to respect each other, and to understand the existence of different religions, cultures and civilisations. Sadhviji spoke on the topic of building and creating sustainable civilisations, sharing what GIWA is doing in WASH and using this as a platform to bring about peaceful and harmonious interfaith relations throughout civilisation.



## D. RELIGIONS FOR PEACE - INTERNATIONAL MULTIRELIGIOUS FORUM (MANRESA, SPAIN)

From November 27 to 30, Sadhviji attended a multisectoral intergenerational meeting to approach the social and environmental crisis to seek to explore the climate crisis from a multi-religious perspective, emphasising the role of youth and women. Sadhviji shared messages on harnessing the power of faith to overcome our social + environmental challenges. Sadhviji also spoke to the power of our work in bringing faith leaders together against a common enemy - being the climate crisis. Uniting for a common cause builds relationships that puts humanity in a great position to end polarisation and discrimination and 'othering' that can arise between communities, whilst addressing some of humanity's biggest problems.





## E. G20 INTERFAITH FORUM (ABU DHABI, U.A.E)

From 11-12 December, Sadhviji attended an event that was organised by the Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities. The underlying purpose was to contribute to and help to shape global agendas through practical and ethical experience and wisdom of the world's diverse religious communities. The event brought together religious leaders from around the world to discuss suggestions, recommendations and ways forward on the topics that are so central to the G20 taking place in India next year. Every year, in advance of the G20 Forum, the G20 Interfaith Forum meets to provide the wisdom and suggestions of the religious leaders for the state heads, Sadhviji approached how Faith Leaders can bring in their wisdom to address the critical issues and topics that the G20 will address in this coming period.



## WORKING TOGETHER

The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and UNICEF India are delighted to be working to empower faith leaders and communities to catalyse positive social change especially in climate change and environmental sustainability - in a way which builds bringing greater love, harmony, respect and reverence to India and the world. If you have any feedback on this toolkit, or have been inspired by how we can expand more meaningfully on this work together, please contact Nandini Tripathi, Director of Programme Implementation - Global Interfaith WASH Alliance on [ganga@washalliance.org](mailto:ganga@washalliance.org).