

TOWARDS WASTE-FREE ISLANDS

Dakshin Foundation, with the support of the PwC India Foundation, has been actively working to improve waste management in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands since 2022 by identifying key challenges, fostering collaboration between stakeholders and systematically addressing each issue. Some of the ongoing work on streamlining waste management in the islands are given below.

TRAINING YOUTH AMBASSADORS TO DRIVE BEHAVIOUR CHANGE IN COMMUNITIES

Dakshin's Youth Ambassador programme has built capacities of eight young women from the Wandoor to actively engage with and mobilise their communities for improving waste management in the village. Trained on a broad array of topics and practical skills, the Youth Ambassadors have been leading community engagement through awareness sessions, clean-up drives, games, IEC dissemination, street play performances and regular monitoring. YAs play a pivotal role in fostering broader community participation in the vision of a waste-free village and help build the foundation of greater environmental stewardship within the youth of rural ANI. Similar work is being done in Junglighat by two of our trained community catalysts.

STRATEGIC SUPPORT TO GRAM PANCHAYATS FOR AN EFFICIENT SWM SYSTEM

Dakshin has been closely collaborating with the Wandoor Gram Panchayat to understand the challenges from the implementor's perspective and offer technical support to try and address different issues. We have been working with the GP to improve collection efficiency, increase revenue generation and foster greater community participation. We have also supported sanitation workers with cycles and safety equipment like gloves and raincoats to improve their efficiency of collection and safety during work. We have also been engaging with the Gram Panchayat and other stakeholders to address issues in the baling machines in rural ANI.

EXPLORING SOLUTIONS TO TACKLE UNMANAGED WASTE

Dakshin has been working with different stakeholders to explore solutions to difficult-to-manage waste streams like sanitary waste, glass waste and wet waste.

- Promoting sustainable menstrual products:** To reduce the amount of sanitary waste generated in the long term, Dakshin has been promoting the shift to sustainable menstrual products like menstrual cups, cloth pads and period underwears through awareness sessions and peer support to women to are trying to make the shift.
- Exploring utilisation of glass bottles in local construction:** Dakshin has been engaging with technical institutes and local administration to explore the possibility of utilising some of the glass bottles as sand or aggregates in local construction, which would reduce burden of its transportation to mainland for further recycling and also reduce the demand of naturally mined sand for construction.
- In-situ wet waste composting:** Dakshin has been promoting in-situ wet-waste composting, especially for bulk generators and has initiated demonstration pilots of composting using locally available materials.

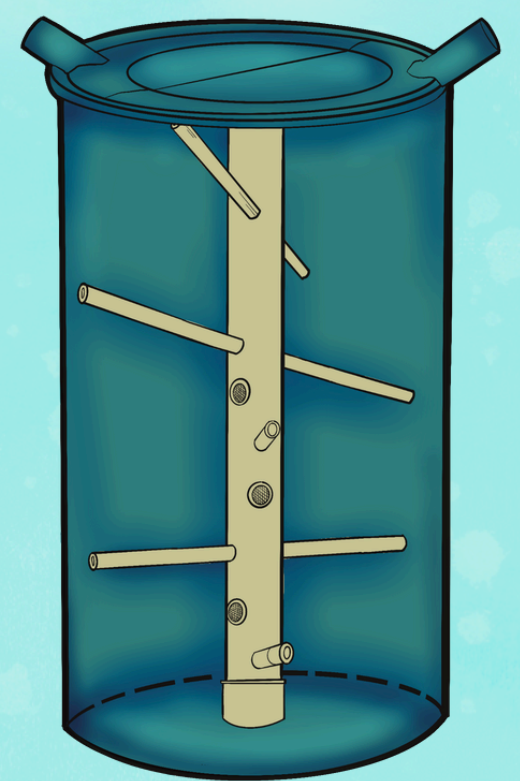
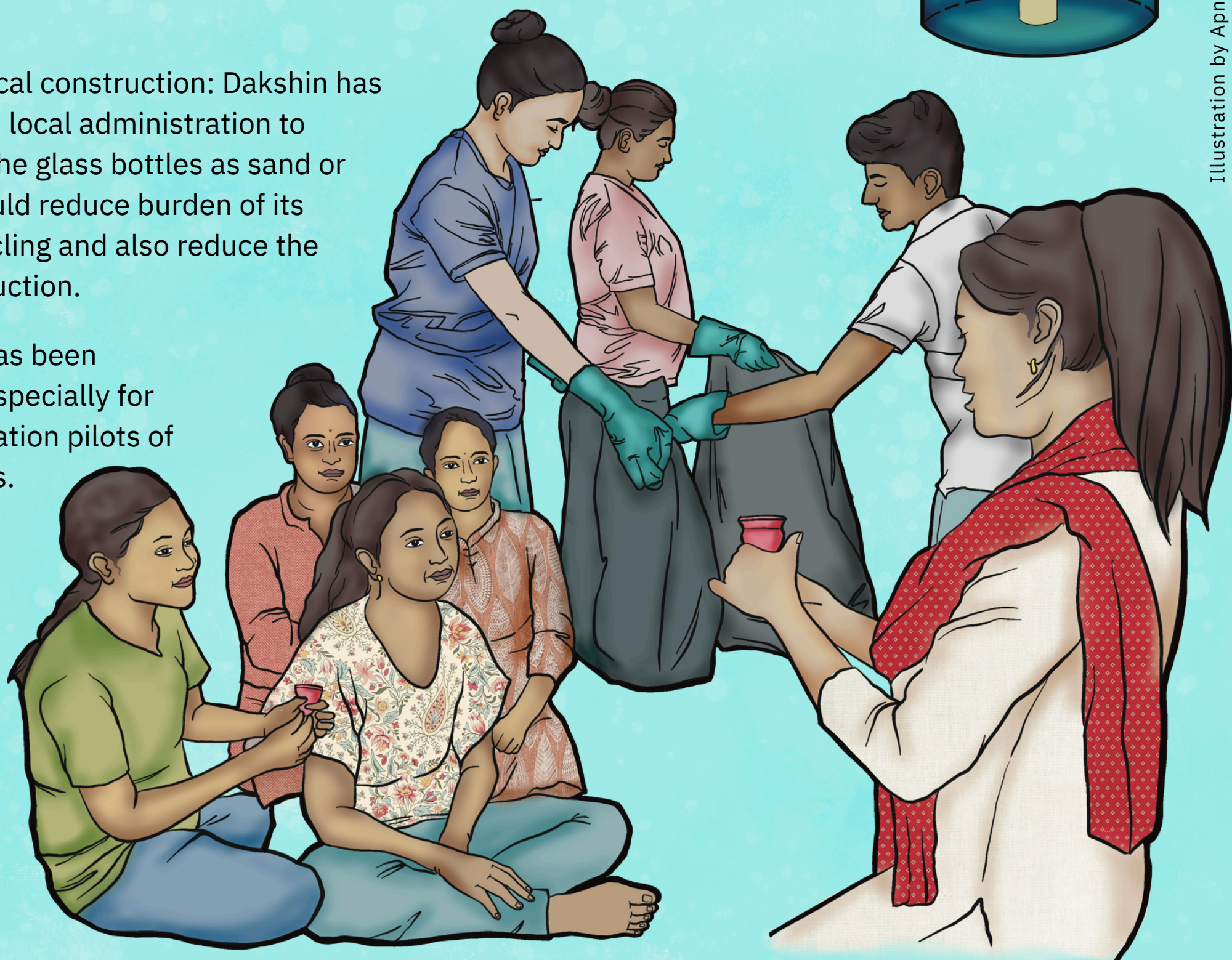


Illustration by Apna Kuruvilla. Design by Anu Priya Babu



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