



Annual Report 2025

Scaling Circularity Through Systems & Partnerships

Founders Note

There has never been a more important moment to create jobs, combat climate change, and reduce plastic pollution.

Despite growing global awareness and momentum, from negotiations toward a global plastics treaty to renewed climate commitments at COP30, progress has proven slower and more complex than anticipated. Plastic production and waste continue to rise, alongside increasing regulatory pressure across markets.

We are now at a tipping point. Regulation is beginning to unlock the potential for systemic transformation across the plastics value chain driving near-term commitments to sustainability and accelerating the transition toward true circularity. For forward-thinking companies, this is not a constraint, but a catalyst. It is an opportunity to lead, to build resilient supply chains, to strengthen brand equity, and to stay ahead of future regulatory costs.

Consumers are increasingly aligning their purchasing decisions with their values. They want to be part of the solution and they reward brands that demonstrate authentic, measurable impact. Sustainable products are gaining market share faster than ever, particularly when supported by transparent data and credible third-party certification. The leaders in this space are not waiting for policy to dictate change, they are acting now to drive stronger returns, both financially and socially.

At the heart of this transformation are informal waste collectors, the invisible backbone of recycling systems across the Global South. For decades, they have recovered materials, prevented environmental leakage, and kept cities functioning. Yet, 99.99% remain excluded from fair markets, stable incomes, and safe working conditions. Real progress depends on building systems that work in the real world, across cities, supply chains, and communities every day.

For more than a decade, Plastics For Change has been building those systems. We are formalizing informal work, investing in decentralized infrastructure, and enabling transparent, traceable supply chains for recycled plastic. We are proving that circularity can be both equitable and commercially viable.

This report reflects the progress we have made and the inclusive circular economy we are continuing to build. We invite you to join us in transforming plastic waste into opportunity, healing the planet while creating sustainable livelihoods at scale.



Andrew Almack
Founder & CEO
Plastics for Change

Impact Snapshot 2025



3025

stakeholders engaged

32,910 MT

Of plastic diverted from the environment

5270

Individuals supported through Social Additionality program

Planet

In 2025, Plastics for Change continued to strengthen responsible recycling systems that protect the environment while building inclusive supply chains.

We collected 32,910 MT of plastic and supported 3,025 stakeholders through fair pricing and transparent sourcing, helping prevent plastic waste from entering landfills and natural ecosystems.

Through our franchise partnership model, we work with local scrap shops to formalize and strengthen ethical plastic collection. Partners are supported in upgrading infrastructure, accessing development funds, and improving operational efficiency while aggregating key recyclable plastics such as PET, HDPE, and PP. This ensures traceability, fair practices, and consistent material quality across the recycling value chain.

Our plastic waste marketplace has rapidly expanded and now operates across 24 states, strengthening supply networks and ensuring reliable material availability. By combining innovation, partnerships, and responsible sourcing, we continue to advance circular economy solutions while reducing environmental impact at scale.

32,910 Mt

of plastic diverted from the environment

62,199 Mt

of co2 emission diverted



Planet

Direct Processing

In 2025, we recorded a 100% increase in total export volume compared to 2024 our highest ever in a calendar year.

This growth was driven by our strong network of 3,025 stakeholders, including scrap shop workers, waste collectors, and scrap shop owners, who continued to receive fair and transparent pricing for their materials.

We expanded our supply chains to operate in Chennai, Mangalore, Pondicherry, Vizag Mysore, Calcutta, and Bhupeneshwar strengthening transparency, traceability, and efficiency across the plastic waste value chain.

4,217 Mt

of plastic entered the circular economy

100%

increase in total export volume VS 2024



Franchise Partnership

Through our franchise partnership model, we work with local scrap shops to formalize and strengthen ethical plastic collection.

We support partners in collecting ethical plastic, upgrading infrastructure, and accessing a development fund to improve operational efficiency.

Franchise partners collect and aggregate key recyclable plastics, including PET, HDPE, and PP, ensuring traceability, fair practices, and consistent material quality across the recycling value chain.

Our franchise partners achieved an average of 2X growth year on year.

1,444 Mt

of plastic diverted from the environment

335

stakeholders in the supply chain received fair price & access to social services



Market place

Launched in 2024, our plastic waste marketplace has rapidly expanded its reach, now operating across 24 states. With a strong state presence, we ensure total volume security, guaranteeing a steady supply of recyclable materials.

Our commitment to quality and consistency enables us to serve our clients efficiently while fostering a more sustainable plastic waste management system. Through innovation and collaboration, we continue to drive circular economy solutions and reduce environmental impact at scale.

27,248 Mt

of plastic diverted from the landfill and the environment

Expanding Impact

Operating across 24 States in India



New Centre Launch

Our investment strategy focuses on reinforcing progress and scaling the systems that support a resilient recycling supply chain. By professionalizing operations, addressing infrastructure gaps, and strengthening supply networks, we aim to meet the growing demand for high-quality, traceable recycled materials.

In 2025, PFC established a fully equipped plastic collection centre in Kolkata.

Through this initiative, PFC is strengthening its operational capacity, expanding commercial potential, and laying the groundwork for collaboration with global brands—while ensuring that waste workers and supply chain partners at the heart of the value chain are better supported and benefit from improved livelihoods.

With this project, we aim to divert 1,200 MT of plastic while engaging 210 supply chain partners across the recycling ecosystem.

1050 Mt

of plastic diverted from the landfill and the environment

404

stakeholder improved their income



Creating markets for all plastics

To scale plastic circularity, we must move beyond PET and address hard-to-recycle plastics.

In 2025, we made major strides in expanding our material focus. While our collection initially centered on PET, we have steadily increased the recovery of low-value plastics, unlocking new value streams and strengthening the recycling ecosystem.

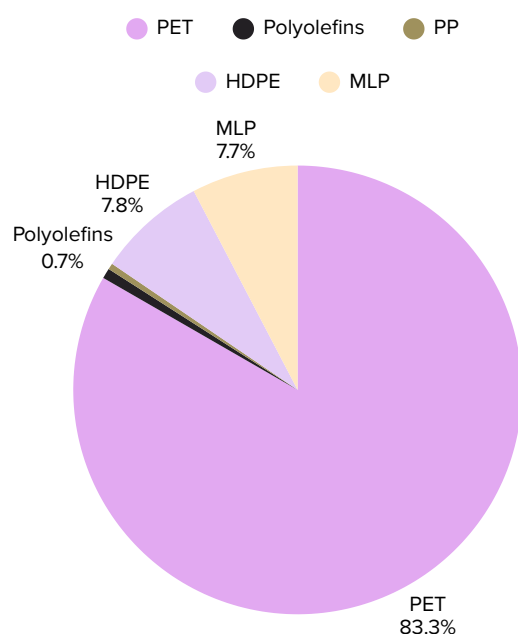


Fig 1: Collection of different plastic



Polyolefins

Polyolefin are widely used across India due to their strength, flexibility, and affordability. However, many of these materials have limited recycling value and are often excluded from conventional recycling systems. As a result, they frequently end up in the ocean, making them one of the most overlooked waste streams in coastal regions.

Plastics for Change is working to address this challenge by building systems that make the collection and recycling of these materials both viable and inclusive.

In Mangalore, PFC will establish well-managed collection and recycling systems for rigid low-value plastics and polyolefins, combining technological innovation with community-driven approaches to strengthen the circular economy.

2100

of plastic will be diverted from the ocean
by the end of three year

585

stakeholder impacted



New Partnership Announcement



Closing the Loop

Merchandise

Through and merchandise initiatives, we continue to close the loop by transforming discarded materials into new products. By partnering with ethical manufacturers and recycling partners, we ensure that recovered materials are repurposed into merchandise , extending their lifecycle while creating additional income opportunities across the recycling value chain.

70,152

units of recycled merchandise sold



Closing the Loop

Fibres

We are strengthening our fibre value chain by expanding partnerships with spinning mills and suppliers to scale the use of recycled materials in textiles. At the same time, we are addressing a critical gap in the sector material traceability, which remains largely underdeveloped in the textile value chain.

To bridge this gap, we are building a robust, tech-enabled traceability system that tracks materials from collection through processing to finished yarn and fabrics.

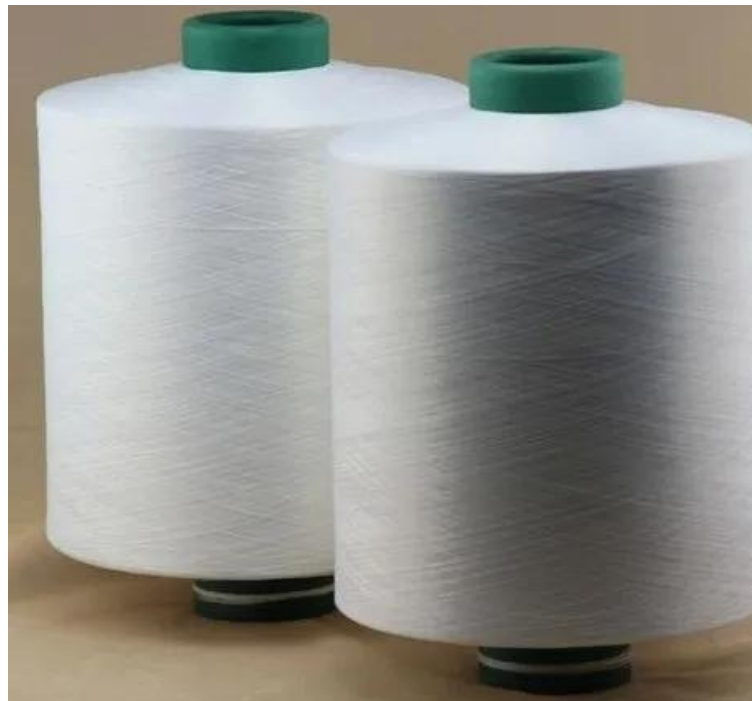
This enables greater transparency, improves quality assurance, and supports responsible sourcing for brands seeking verified recycled inputs.

836,967 kg

of recycled fibre integrated into circular fashion systems

27

Number of spinning mills and suppliers onboarded



Closing the Loop

MLP

PFC has pioneered the use of multi-layered plastic (MLP) waste to construct durable, low-cost row houses. By transforming hard-to-recycle plastic into sustainable construction panels, PFC is creating safer and more resilient homes for waste-collector communities.

The initiative supports a holistic housing ecosystem that includes improved sanitation, hygiene awareness, and access to water, demonstrating how difficult plastic waste can be reintegrated into meaningful circular economy solutions.



39,600 kg

of MLP waste diverted from the ocean

33

houses constructed using MLP
recycled panel

A woman with dark skin and a bindi on her forehead is standing in front of a wall. She is wearing a pink and white polka-dot sari. A large, full plastic bag, colored pink and white, is slung over her right shoulder and hangs down to her knees. The background is a light-colored wall with some decorations on the left and right sides.

PLASTICS FOR CHANGE

Changing Lives through

Real life story

Gowthami, Waste collector Chennai

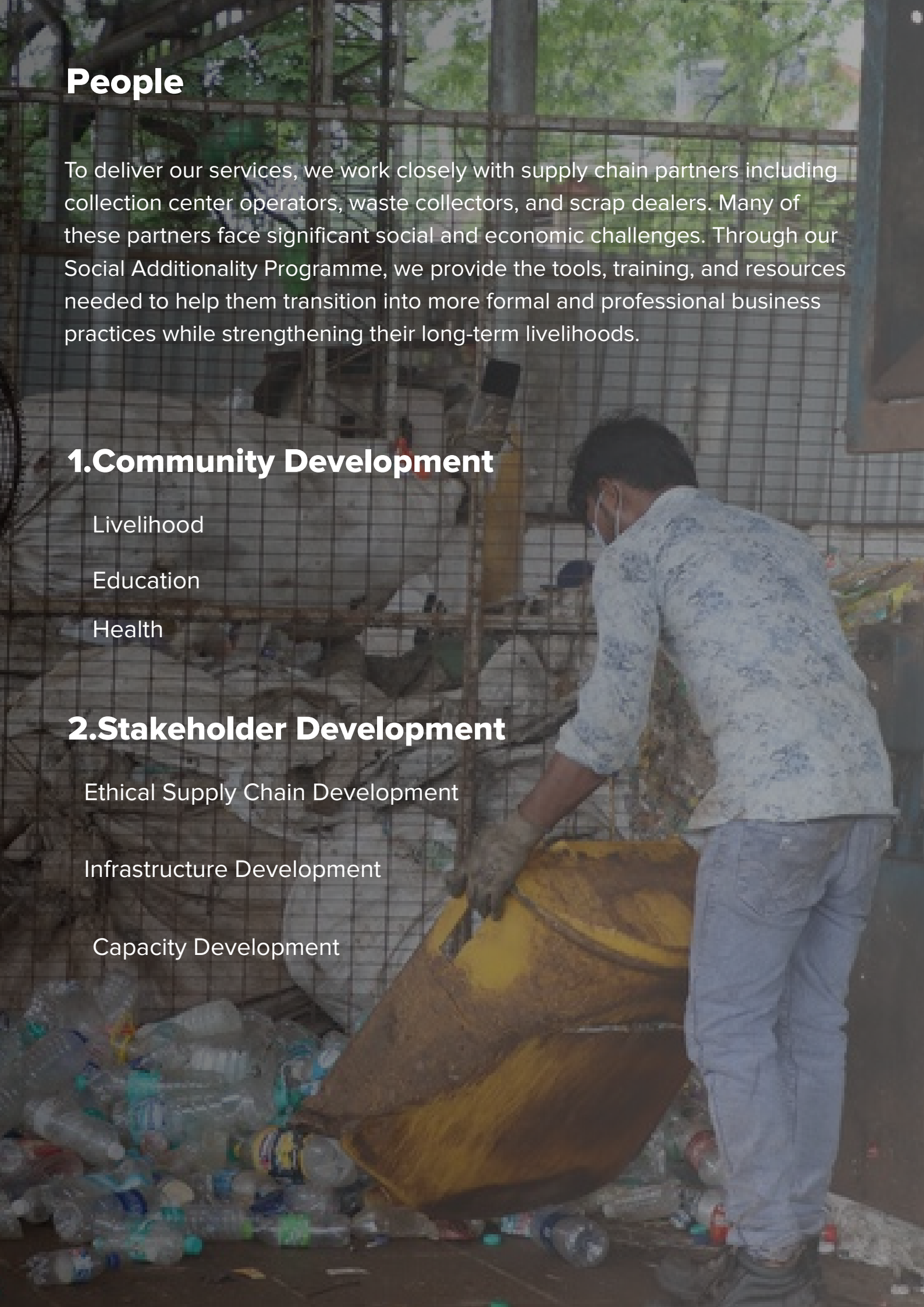
Challenges

Kaki Polayya relied on his small scrap shop to support his family but operated without an MSME registration or trade license for many years. Despite several attempts to approach government offices, the registration process remained difficult and inaccessible. Without formal recognition, his business remained informal and vulnerable. During inspections, he frequently faced fines, creating financial strain and uncertainty for his family. The lack of formal documentation limited his ability to grow his business and operate with stability.

Aspiration

With support from Plastics for Change (PFC), Polayya was able to secure MSME registration and formal recognition for his scrap shop. This milestone helped regularize his operations and reduce the risk of penalties. Formal registration has strengthened the credibility of his business and improved its stability. Today, he runs his shop with greater confidence and security. His journey highlights how formal inclusion can empower waste entrepreneurs and create more sustainable livelihoods.

People



To deliver our services, we work closely with supply chain partners including collection center operators, waste collectors, and scrap dealers. Many of these partners face significant social and economic challenges. Through our Social Additionality Programme, we provide the tools, training, and resources needed to help them transition into more formal and professional business practices while strengthening their long-term livelihoods.

1. Community Development

Livelihood

Education

Health

2. Stakeholder Development

Ethical Supply Chain Development

Infrastructure Development

Capacity Development

Stakeholder Development

Rather than approaching informality as a problem and developing a new system for plastic waste management.

PFC provided the right incentives for this ecosystem to work in order to fuel transformation in the lives of the actual waste collectors, who, so far have been extremely marginalised. There is a real capital crunch among waste collectors that prevents them from generating higher volumes.

We provided the waste collector with a fair and transparent price along with cash incentives.

Thas enabled 3025 informal actors that remove plastic from the environment, to sell plastic collected ethically with increased access to global markets, technical opportunities and benefits from the new recycling economy.

3025

direct beneficiaries

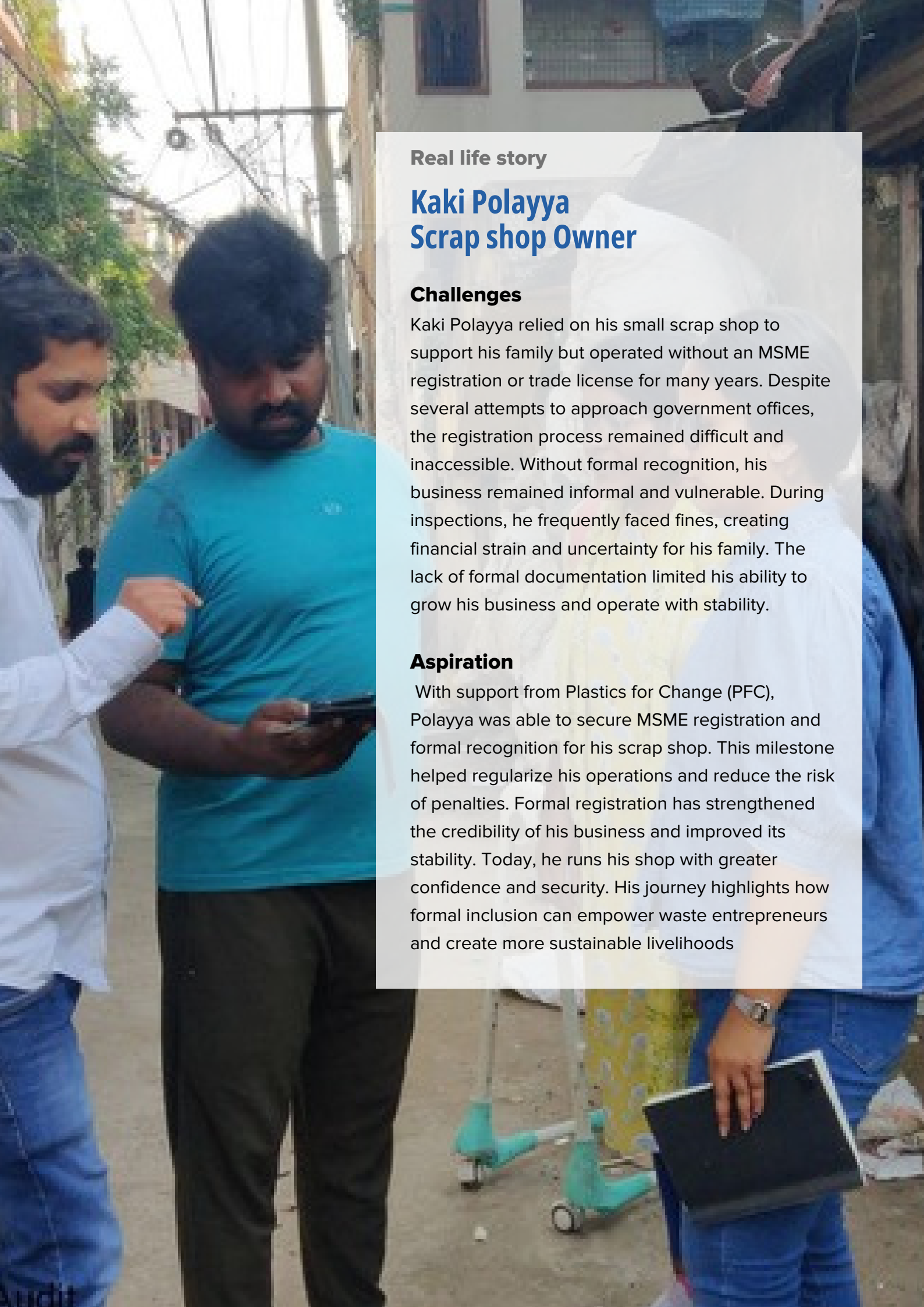
33

waste collector communities reached

20%

Average monthly income increase of waste collectors





Real life story

Kaki Polayya Scrap shop Owner

Challenges

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Community Development

Informal waste workers contribute to nearly 60% of global recycling efforts, yet many continue to face persistent marginalization, including inadequate pay, child labor risks, and health challenges. In 2025, we reached key milestones in our traceable sourcing Initiative, a multi-year program focused on addressing human rights issues in plastics recycling value chains. We launched livelihood projects in Chennai, Vizag, Pondicherry, and Kolkata, and engaged over 500 stakeholders through events to exchange best practices and strengthen collective capacity on responsible sourcing.

Through this work, we are progressing toward our broader goals—to improve the livelihoods of at least 50,000 informal waste workers, secure commitments from brands, investors, and recyclers, support the supply of 50,000 tonnes of responsibly sourced recycled plastic, and build the capacity of over 5,000 small and medium-sized enterprises across the value chain to implement responsible sourcing practices.

5270

Individuals supported through social
additionality program

49%

of the beneficiaries were women



Championing Women in Informal Sector

Less than 1% of women in India's informal plastic recycling supply chain own and operate scrap enterprises. Plastics for Change is working to change this through the Plastic Wastepreneurs program, launched in 2023 to support women waste collectors in becoming entrepreneurs within the recycling sector.

The program provides training, mentorship, and resources to help women establish and manage fair trade, ethical scrap shops, strengthening their economic independence and leadership within the recycling value chain.

By 2025, the initiative had supported the creation of 12 women-led scrap enterprises across the Plastics for Change ecosystem, while 86 women were trained through the tote bag initiative, creating additional livelihood opportunities by transforming waste materials into marketable products and advancing women.

12

women-led scrap enterprises launched through the Plastic Wastepreneurs program.

86

women trained in the tote bag initiative





Real life story

Simhachalam, Waste Collector, Visakhapatnam

Women waste collectors often face challenges such as unfair pricing, under-weighting, and limited bargaining power, leading to low and irregular incomes. To address this, Plastics for Change established Community-Based Plastic Collection Points (PCPs) and Plastic Collection Centres (PCCs) that enable organized plastic collection, fair weighing, and direct integration into the recycling supply chain.

These women-led collection systems create more stable income opportunities while strengthening leadership, transparency, and dignity within waste collector communities, demonstrating how community-driven enterprises can support both sustainable livelihoods and responsible recycling.

Challenges

After the passing of her husband, Simhachalam, 38, from Kancharapalem in Visakhapatnam, became the sole provider for her three children. As a daily waste collector, she gathered only 20–25 kg of plastic each day and earned ₹300–400 through irregular and often unfair pricing. Women in waste collection frequently face under-weighting, low bargaining power, and exploitation in the informal supply chain. Despite working long hours, these challenges made it difficult to cover household expenses and support her daughter's education. The instability of income limited her ability to provide a secure future for her

Aspiration

With support from Plastics for Change, Simhachalam established her own Community-Based Plastic Collection Centre, enabling her to sell directly through a transparent and fair supply chain. Her daily collection doubled to nearly 50 kg, and her income increased to ₹1,000–1,200 per day. The centre also promotes organized collection and fair weighing, ensuring more stable earnings for women waste collectors. Through this initiative, Simhachalam has strengthened her leadership and confidence while creating a reliable livelihood. Today, she runs her centre with dignity, ensuring her children's education continues and building a more secure future for her family

A photograph of three children in blue athletic uniforms practicing archery on a grassy field. In the foreground, a girl is holding a bow and arrow, looking towards the camera. Behind her, a boy is also holding a bow and arrow, focused on his target. To the right, another child is partially visible, also holding a bow. The background shows a chain-link fence and some trees under a bright sky.

Real life story

Devika Waste Collector Community Chennai

Children from waste collector communities often face systemic barriers such as poverty, irregular schooling, and early income responsibilities, which increase the risk of school dropouts and limit opportunities for holistic development. Limited access to safe learning and recreational spaces further restricts their confidence, social inclusion, and overall well-being, especially for girls.

To address these challenges, Plastics for Change integrates education and sports programs that create safe, structured environments where children can learn, build discipline, and express themselves.

These initiatives strengthen school retention, improve confidence, and support physical and emotional well-being. The impact is reflected in remarkable achievements, including five children setting a record in the World Young Achievers Book for completing a 21-minute archery challenge.

One such story is Devika, a 14-year-old from a waste collector community who had dropped out of school due to limited support and opportunities. Through PFC's interventions, she was re-enrolled in school and introduced to the sports program, where she discovered her talent in archery. With consistent coaching and mentorship, Devika developed strong skills and confidence, eventually representing her state at the National Archery Tournament in Goa, where she won a silver medal.

India's Largest Beach Clean up

In 2025, Plastics for Change led one of India's largest beach clean-up initiatives, mobilizing a powerful collective effort to protect coastal ecosystems. The campaign spanned 25 beaches and brought together 5,000+ volunteers, including community members, partners, and stakeholders committed to environmental action.

Together, this initiative resulted in the collection of over 12,300 kg of plastic waste, preventing it from entering the ocean and contributing to marine pollution. Beyond waste removal, the clean-up also raised awareness on responsible waste management and strengthened community engagement in safeguarding coastal environments.

This large-scale effort reflects the impact of collaboration in driving environmental change and advancing a cleaner, more sustainable future.

25

beaches covered through one of India's largest coordinated clean-up efforts

5000+

volunteers mobilized, driving community engagement and awareness

12,300

of plastic waste collected, preventing marine pollution and protecting coastal ecosystems



Thank you to our core partners

