

**United Nations** Climate Change Secretariat Nations Unies Secrétariat sur les changements climatiques

# Momentum for Change: Women For Results Category

## HelpUsGreen

### India

<u>HelpUsGreen</u> is doing its part to clean up the River Ganges by recycling flowers from temples and mosques. Over 8 million tonnes of flowers are discarded in the river every year for religious purposes in South Asia. This is contributing to the pollution of the River Ganges, which provides drinking water for over 420 million people. HelpUsGreen has come up with the world's first profitable solution to the monumental temple waste problem: <u>flowercycling</u><sup>®</sup>. Women working with HelpUsGreen collect floral-waste on a daily basis from temples. The waste is up-cycled to produce organic fertilizers, natural incense, and biodegradable packaging material.

#### **Key facts**

- 11,060 metric tonnes of temple-waste has been flowercycled<sup>®</sup> to date;
- 110 metric tonnes of chemical pesticides that enter the river through temple waste have been offset;
- The income of 73 manual scavenger families has increased at least six-fold;
- 365 families have been impacted by HelpUsGreen through increased living standards and stable incomes;
- 1,260 women have been supported through HelpUsGreen to date;
- 19 children whose mothers used to work as manual scavengers have started going to school.

#### More information

Digital assets are available for download at: http://bit.ly/mfc2018

#### **Project Contact**

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