

SOAP CYCLING SINGAPORE



ANNUAL REPORT



2020

ABOUT US



MISSION

Saving Lives, One Bar at a Time

VISION

A world in which no soap is wasted and no one suffers from the lack of hygiene and sanitation resources.

VALUES

Using hospitality waste recycling as a platform to empower and connect various communities to create a more sustainable and equitable planet.

CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP

As the global pandemic changed the world and the context in which we operate, Soap Cycling Singapore (SCSG) remained consistent in our founding vision: to utilize discarded resources to help those in need.

Never has this been truer than today. While Singapore has thankfully escaped the massive death tolls of other countries in the ASEAN region, the pandemic has wrought a significant cost on our community, especially among the most vulnerable.

The “Circuit Breaker” lockdown hit our country’s migrant worker community hard, forcing them to shelter in place in cramped dormitories with limited access to the hygiene resources that are crucial to keeping them safe and clean. Low-income Singaporeans have likewise been negatively affected by the deterioration in economic conditions, forcing many to make difficult decisions to stay afloat.

At the same time, our own operations were severely impacted. The uncertainty and fear of last Spring led us to work harder to fill a crucial role in ensuring every Singaporean has access to the life-saving tool of soap. Our own ability to pivot early on allowed SCSG to rise to the moment and distributed more than twice the amount of soap as the year before, touching 12,000 lives locally with the gifts of hygiene and kindness.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a test that cannot be faced alone. SCSG is proud to report on the partnerships and collaborations our team has fostered with other local charities, community groups, hotels, corporations, and schools. It is the outpouring of support from individuals in our community, whether as donors, volunteers, or cheerleaders on social media, that have had the greatest impact, showing that each and every one of us can make a difference in creating a healthier and greener Singapore that is aligned with the Singapore Green Plan 2030. Sincere thanks to all who helped write a page in the SCSG 2020 story.

Despite the optimism fostered by vaccinations, there will be a number of challenges moving forward. We remain optimistic in our ability to meet these challenges. SCSG is a young organization that has demonstrated a talent for flexibility, adaptation, and creativity in shifting our operations to meet new needs in an unprecedented paradigm. Whatever emerges in 2021 and the years ahead, SCSG will continue to evolve in ways to create the greatest impact while fulfilling our mission.

Gratefully,
The Board of Directors
Soap Cycling Singapore



For a

GREENER WORLD
CLEANER FUTURE

IN 2020

1,580

KILOGRAMS

**of soap distributed to
migrant workers and
vulnerable Singaporean
families**

320

KILOGRAMS

**of soap distributed to
children in the Philippines,
Indonesia, Cambodia, and
Nepal**



IN 2020

1,550

KILOGRAMS

**of soap saved from being
wasted**

227

VOLUNTEERS

**contributing over 454 hours
of service**



DID YOU KNOW?

The amount of soap saved from being wasted, and prevented from being incinerated or going to the landfill, by Soap Cycling Singapore is equivalent to the weight of 11 compact cars!

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Soap Cycling Singapore strives to connect our local community to the wider global ambitions of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Utilizing the targets and frameworks of the international community helps to guide our young organization to creating meaningful impact for our stakeholders.



QUALITY EDUCATION

Soap Cycling Singapore provided experiential leadership experiences to 17 undergraduate and polytechnic students in Singapore, creating the social leaders tomorrow.

Going forward, SCSG will:

- Expand internship plans to include secondary school students.
- Create overseas service learning opportunities.





HYGIENE FOR ALL

LOCAL IMPACT

SCSG distributed over 80% of its reprocessed soap locally to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, we donated 1,580 kg (or 40,000 bars), a five-fold increase over 2019, to our charity partners in Singapore serving migrant workers and vulnerable communities in Singapore.



SENDING LOVE FROM SINGAPORE

SCSG distributed 320g (8,000 bars) to five countries in Asia, improving thousands of lives including trafficked orphans in Phnom Penh, Afghan refugees fleeing persecution in Indonesia, and families affected by the Taal Volcano eruption in Luzon.



TURNING TRASH TO TREASURE

With COVID-19 hitting our traditional soap collection partners in the hospitality industry, SCSG diversified our soap suppliers to include individuals and fragrance manufacturers.

SCSG collected 1,200 kg of discarded soap from four local hotels and two soap manufacturers, conserving a precious resource, and preventing it from being burned in the incinerator.



COLLABORATING FOR GOOD

SCSG engaged 43 partners and 227 volunteers to help achieve our mission and raise awareness of hospitality waste.

We will expand partnerships with local schools, corporates, and community groups.



**Soap Cycling Singapore
retained its Social
Enterprise status in 2020
- a Business for Good.**

**BUSINESS
FOR GOOD**
.....
Social Enterprise Member of **raiSE**
SINGAPORE

AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEERISM & PHILANTHROPY AWARDS



Soap Cycling Singapore was honored and humbled to be nominated for the President's Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards (PVPA) 2020 in recognition of our efforts to help the Singaporean community rally together amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

This award is titled the Special Edition: Our Finest Hour in the City of Good. This award represents the highest honour for giving in the community and is conferred by the President of the Republic of Singapore.

PRESIDENT'S
VOLUNTEERISM &
PHILANTHROPY
awards
SPECIAL EDITION 2020



PEOPLE'S CHOICE - FESTIVAL FOR GOOD - RAISE

SCSG was also honored to be chosen as one of six finalists for Festival for Good 2020's People's Choice Award for the most impactful social enterprise in Singapore. The festival, which promotes local social enterprises and their impact on the community, was held in Singapore from 24 October – 22 November 2020.



Organised by the Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise, raiSE, the festival featured over 100 local and regional social enterprises interacting across a marketplace, a B2B experience, workshops, conversations, and a stage with live performances and insightful content about the Singapore social entrepreneurship space.

THE COVID-19 CHALLENGE: *a year like no other*

Soap Cycling Singapore entered 2020 on a wave of optimism. With our first hire, Ms. Jacqueline Tan, installed as partnerships manager the previous summer, our operations and impact developed rapidly in the last half of 2019.

New local hotel partners were being onboarded rapidly, corporate partners were lining up for volunteer sessions, and our outreach efforts to charities serving underprivileged communities in Singapore and across Asia were improving the lives of thousands who lack access to sanitation and hygiene resources.

A few months into the year, that situation reversed dramatically. With the coronavirus situation steadily worsening in Singapore throughout March and April and the “Circuit Breaker” quarantine measures instituted in early May, all that SCSG had achieved was in danger of being wiped out.



"I am thankful that an organisation like Soap Cycling Singapore exists. No one really pays attention to something simple like soap in a country like Singapore but just imagine if you were stuck in the workers' dormitories or somewhere without proper access to soap, and the health problems that will bring."

MD SHARIF, BANGLADESHI WORKER



HOTEL HEROES

With hotel occupancy rates plummeting overnight, SCSG's main supply of soap was threatened just as it was needed most. To secure emergency supplies, SCSG turned to one of our most supportive hospitality partners, Hilton Worldwide. Their high-quality soap, totalling 7,500 bars, would make up the bulk of our circuit breaker donations to migrant worker dorms.



MANUFACTURING A MIRACLE

Thinking outside the “soap box,” SCSG also tapped into an unconventional supply of soap from Singapore’s manufacturing industry. One of our key sustaining corporate partners, Eurofragrance, operates a small-scale soap manufacturing facility to test fragrances. An additional 45kg, or 1,125 bars, certainly came in handy to back up our dwindling hotel supplies. Other fragrance and flavor manufacturers such as Takasago, Firmenich, and Givaudan also stepped up to bolster our supplies at a critical time.



CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

SCSG also received a tremendous outpouring of support from members of the community. Personal donors stepped up to dust off hotel soap bars and amenity bottles in home storage that were collected from years of travel. All in all, six individuals donated **110kg** of soap bars (2,750 bars) and **45kg** of bottled amenities.

The latter will be packaged into SCSG's first ever hygiene kits to be distributed to Malaysian migrant workers who are rough sleeping through the circuit breaker.

SOAP DISTRIBUTIONS

Isolated in their dorms and unable to purchase necessities, migrant workers who were already living in overcrowded and suboptimal conditions were now living in a waking nightmare of fear for their health, jobs, and families back at home.

Working with our remote volunteers and interns, SCSG was able to process **12,000 bars** of soap to deliver with care packs containing sanitizer, vitamin C, and masks created by our charity partner, SGCare. While the donated items were definitely much appreciated by the **3,000 beneficiaries**, the simple act of visiting and showing that the community cares about their plight was perhaps the greatest act of kindness in this difficult period.



REMOTE VOLUNTEERING

With new supplies of soap secured, SCSG now had to turn to the “Cycling” (or “Recycling”) part of our mission. With the circuit breaker measures in effect, it was not possible to host volunteer sessions with members of the public at our activity space in Farrer Park. At the same time, many Singaporeans were stuck at home and actively looking for an outlet for their volunteer energies. Using our network of existing volunteers, we started to arrange pickups of soap for homebound volunteers to clean and package for distribution.



One challenge was training. Without a Soap Cycling representative present, how would we give feedback and maintain quality control?

The team came up with a creative solution by producing a video training volunteers on the basics of soap cleaning and packaging. Different SCSG representatives were also on call to provide video feedback on the work done. Using technology and creativity, we spread the work across the Lion City and were able to meet our goals On Time, On Target (OTOT).

SOAP CYCLING SINGAPORE

Your donation, along with our hardworking volunteers, can provide:

10	1	for the rest of the year for \$10 (SGD)
50	12	for 1 month for \$50 (SGD)
100	10	for the rest of the year for \$100 (SGD)
500	50	for the rest of the year for \$500 (SGD)

With your help, we will distribute our entire stock of soap bars over the next month to **combat Covid-19**.

20,000 bars of soap

5,000 lives touched

To Contribute:

1. PayNow to 201633439D or scan the QR code
2. Bank Transfer to DBS 048-907490-6

Please leave your contact in the "reference" field so we can acknowledge your contribution.

SOAP FOR SINGAPORE

While SCSG spends the vast majority of its energies on trying to save soap from the incinerator and get it to those in need, our organization also requires funds to remain in operation. In particular, costs for logistics, materials such as masks and gloves for volunteer sessions, and rent to maintain our space requires a steady flow of funds. As our primary source of funding has traditionally been fee based, charging hotels and corporates for providing services, the team needed a new strategy to earn the funds to keep us in operation. The team brainstormed possible sources and devised a campaign to both raise funds to help the less fortunate Singaporeans struggling during this period as well as to raise awareness of our mission. Using the crowdfunding platform, give.asia, #SoapforSingapore was born.

All in all, over \$10,000 SGD was raised from over 100 donors, enough to donate 10,000 bars of soap to the Singaporean community, a key weapon in the city's arsenal to overcome the Covid crisis. The messages received from donors explaining why they donated their precious funds to our cause were incredibly heartening and underscored the importance of our work.



LOCAL DISTRIBUTIONS

PROTECT AND DEFLECT

When the pandemic struck in early 2020, Singapore came to a standstill during the Circuit Breaker period as we all watched and waited to see how our lives would change. SCSG took the initiative to distribute **1,580kg of soap (39,450 bars)** locally to help different groups within our community fight COVID-19.



On February 28th, just as the COVID-19 pandemic was starting to wreak havoc on Singapore, we visited a dormitory housing Bangladeshi workers, and thanks to our charity partner SG Accident Help Centre, soap was also given out to a group of Chinese workers staying in Tuas. Throughout 2020, many migrant workers, especially the cleaners, poured extra hours into cleaning and disinfecting duties during this difficult period, so SCSG is happy to do our part to ensure they stay safe and healthy as well.



BANGLADESHI CLEANERS / DIWALI

2020 was a long, hard year, but November brought a little comfort as it marks the start of the year-end holidays and the season of giving.

We started off the Deepavali/Diwali weekend with a care pack distribution to 93 conservancy workers from the Bedok Reservoir-Punggol division. We were glad for the opportunity to work with Member of Parliament (MP) Mr Gerald Giam on this outreach effort, which was also supported by our friends from SG Accident Help Centre (SGAHC) and SGcare Physiotherapy Clinic who contributed to the items.



Both the local and migrant cleaners received bags filled with bar soaps, face masks, hand sanitizers, 3-in-1 instant coffee and biscuits. For the South Asian cleaners, there was the special addition of laddoo, a traditional festive sweet.

The 2020 Deepavali season might be a little different, but may LOVE and LIGHT conquer all, and shine in each and everyone of us!



RANDOM ACTS OF CLEANLINESS

As migrant workers gradually returned to work after months of quarantine, SCSG was there to help them with hygiene essentials. Last September, the SCSG team hit the streets to distribute soap to 50 construction workers who were finally back at their work site after four long months!

Even as more workers headed back to their job sites, there were still scores of them confined in their dormitories as new clusters surfaced. Working alongside our community partner, SGcare Physiotherapy Clinic, we also got soap out to 50 migrant workers staying at a floatel and another group of 30 at Tuas dormitory.



INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTIONS

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



A LITTLE SOAP GOES A LONG WAY

In 2020, SCSG distributed **320kg** (8,600 bars) of soap to 4 countries throughout the region. A simple bar of soap is one of the most effective ways to prevent COVID-19 in resource-deprived communities that lack access to basic healthcare and sanitation. Despite our focus on helping our local community during an unprecedented pandemic, SCSG remains committed to sending soap to those in need, wherever they are located.



SOAP FOR MYANMAR



SCSG's managing director, Pat Davis, made a pre-pandemic trip to Yangon in February 2020 and connected with Soap Cycling Myanmar to participate in a soap distribution at a local monastic school for orphans and underprivileged children.

The state of hygiene and sanitation infrastructure in Myanmar is a major issue hampering the long-term development of this amazing and vibrant land. The donation of soap, together with education on the proper role of handwashing, will help the children we met to stay healthy.



A 2018 UNICEF report on Myanmar suggests that, “50 per cent of schools significantly lack WASH services and the systems to effectively track them. Inadequate facilities in schools contribute to lower attendance and achievement. The lack of basic WASH facilities hampers Myanmar’s effort to reduce child and maternal mortality and illness; it also impedes efforts to reduce stunting which affects 32 per cent of children in rural areas and 20 per cent in urban centres.” Apart from the lost productivity and potential resulting from the dangers of inadequate sanitation, Myanmar suffers from an infant mortality rate of 45 per 1,000 births and under-5 mortality rate of 55 per 1,000 births, 30% higher than the global average.

We arranged a visit to a local monastic school near the industrial center of Patheingyi, a dusty 5 hour bus drive to the northeast of Yangon. The school was operated by Yellow Generation Wave (YGW), an offshoot of a national Buddhist monastic order, and the compound housed and educated 150 children ranging from < 1 to 18 years old. The children were all either orphans or sent to the school by under-privileged families who are unable to afford the cost of education. YGW operates over 300 such schools all over the country, sustaining their operations with in-kind and monetary donations from the community.

After a brief chat with the head monk, the older children were assembled before us for a brief lecture on proper handwashing tips. With final exams approaching, we admonished the youngsters to study hard and stay healthy so they can achieve their academic goals. The bathroom facilities are supplied with water from an underground well. There is no chemical treatment of the water. It is left to sit in a large cistern until turbidity decreases and clean water can be siphoned off. The shower facilities consisted of a large rectangular cistern with a trough around the outside. To shower or wash your hands, simply fill up a bowl from the trough use a bar of soap to produce lather, and rinse yourself off. All wastewater from showers and toilets runs into open ditches snaking throughout the campus, which again must produce a dangerous situation during sustained periods of rain.

With continued investment in local WASH programs, there's certainly a future in view where Myanmar's children can study and develop disease free.





VOLUNTEERS

real life soaper heroes

SCSG was blessed in 2020 to receive generous donations of time, funds, and passion from a wide variety of amazing volunteers who helped us to achieve our mission. There's not enough space in this report to chronicle all of the amazing support we received during a difficult year, but here are a few of the highlights from our favorite Soaper Heroes!

NINA "CUTE" ROTELO

When the Taal Volcano south of Manila erupted in January 2020, a soaper hero in Singapore rose to the occasion to help her countrymen affected by the natural disaster. Last Christmas, Nina Rotelo (aka Cute) shipped home 30kg (that's enough for 60 kids for a year!) of reprocessed soap and other goodies for needy families in her village of Visayas, Philippines.

With COVID-19 cases in the Philippines still on the rise, soap is needed more than ever by the children and low-income families.

One weekend in January 2020, she spent the better part of her off day packing over 600 soap bars into a balikbayan box for families affected by the Taal volcano. A soaperhero, indeed! And a superhero in many ways, too, for her tireless work and contribution to the migrant domestic worker community in Singapore.



DANIEL YAP

We thank our Soaper Hero Daniel Yap for spotting a need amongst the migrant worker community and reaching out to us for soap to distribute to them. Daniel is the owner of Yihong Trading Enterprise and he personally delivers groceries and vegetables to various dormitories located at different corners of the island.

In July 2020, he helped us to distribute 800 bars of soap to 200 migrant workers staying at a dorm in the West. Thank you, Daniel! And huge thanks, too, to our amazing interns and volunteers who have helped scrape and pack the soap for distribution.

JENA ROSARIA PASCUA

The entire SCSG Team is grateful for this fun and dynamic soaper woman who joins us regularly as a volunteer to prepare soap for distribution throughout the year.

Jena has been a domestic worker in Singapore for 15 years. She is also a marathoner (she has run 7 full marathons and counting!), a cyclist and does competitive dragon boat racing.





SERENE YAP

As a way to celebrate Singapore's 55th National Day, we were heartened by individuals like Serene Yap, who reached out to Soap Cycling Singapore about distributing soap and other essentials to the 22 cleaners in the Braddell estate where she lives. She coordinated with the supervisor on the time and date, and we finally delivered the packs of soap along with face masks and sanitizers (courtesy of SG Accident Help Centre) to the cleaners.

Last year's celebration was a poignant one, given the extraordinary times we found ourselves in, we must come together as one to face the COVID-19 challenge. This was also a timely reminder that migrant workers are very much a part of our Singaporean community!

There can never be enough soap, so get in touch with us if you would like to do a mini distribution to the cleaners in your neighbourhood!



"Soap is expensive for those who earn daily wages. Most of the people from where I come from in the Philippines work in sugarcane plantations. Many continue to work in the fields today. Thanks to Soap Cycling Singapore, I am able to regularly send enough soap for 60 families in my hometown. The children get to learn about hygiene and sanitation, and their parents, who are mostly daily wage workers, can save some money."

NINA ROTELO, FORMER MIGRANT
DOMESTIC WORKER IN SINGAPORE



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



CORPORATE PARTNERS

Soap Cycling Singapore traditionally relies on volunteers recruited from Singapore's corporate community to help us achieve our mission. With the COVID-19 pandemic shutting down group events in early 2020, we had to sadly limit physical interactions with our corporate partners to comply with social distancing guidelines.

But many companies still sought to help SCSG in other ways, with donations of soap from flavors and fragrance manufacturers when our supplies were low, pre-booking volunteer sessions to provide much-needed funding in a difficult time, and donating their skilled labor pro bono to assist with specific projects.



EUROFRAGRANCE

Our founding partner, Spanish flavors and fragrances manufacturer Eurofragrance, pitched in during the pandemic to donate 69 kg of soap samples to supercharge SCSG's migrant worker distributions. What's more, they also let us use their Loyang warehouse to help store extra supplies of soap for when we needed extra supply. Muchas gracias, amigos!

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



TAYLOR & FRANCIS

We held two soap recycling workshops for the fun and energetic teams at Taylor & Francis in September. In a show of solidarity, the team also got together to pen a few encouraging notes for our migrant workers. Thank you for having us, and for your participation and enthusiasm!!



TAKASAGO

Soap is precious, now more than ever. We are thankful for the donation of sample soap bars from the Personal Wash Team at Takasago Singapore. The bars arrived at our doorstep neatly packed, ready to be sent out soon to migrant cleaners and workers.

GIVAUDAN

As hotel soap collections dipped due to low room occupancy, SCSG was extremely grateful that home-based soap makers and soap manufacturers came forward to donate sample bars and new bars to us for the migrant worker community – the soap was distributed to migrant workers staying at a dormitory in the East and on the cruise ship throughout the spring. Thank you Givaudan Singapore for your contributions to the Soap Cycling community and for reaching out in a time of need!

SOAPNUT REPUBLIC

Responding to a call for supplies during a busy Global Handwashing Day campaign in October, SCSG was lucky to receive liquid supplies, including 12 bottles of 5L handwash from Soapnut Republic Singapore. While bar soap is our primary product for distribution, putting these health-preserving and money-saving amenities into the hands of our beneficiaries will make a huge difference.

thank you!

SUSTAINAING PARTNERS



TOKIO MARINE

NOMURA



Taylor & Francis
Taylor & Francis Group



MACQUARIE

SUPPORTING PARTNERS



GUAVA
SINGAPORE'S NO.1 GUEST AMENITIES

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



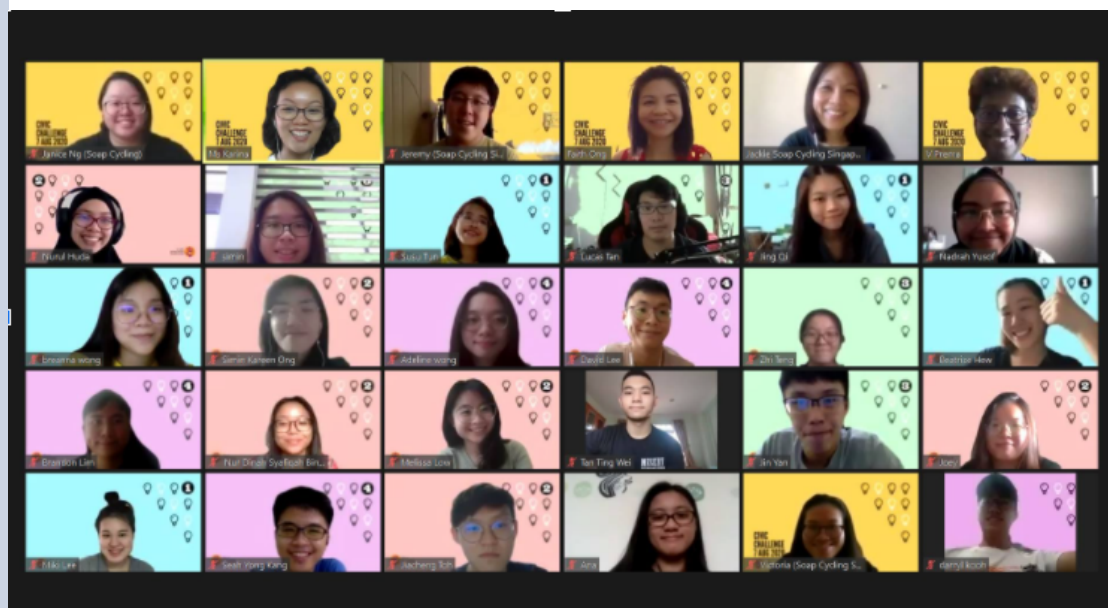
17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR A SUSTAINABLE SINGAPORE

With many of SCSG's core engagement activities curtailed due to pandemic restrictions in 2020, the team turned to school engagement sessions as a way to spread our message of sustainability and improved hygiene. No matter the age, SCSG was inspired by the creativity and energy of Singapore's next generation. The future is bright indeed!



CIVIC CHALLENGE

Thank you Service-Learning Ngee Ann Poly for having Soap Cycling Singapore as a partner for your second Civic Challenge of the year!

Very heartened by the team that executed their SOAP-LUTION for migrant workers staying at Kismis!

NGEE ANN POLYTECHNIC OFFICE OF SERVICE LEARNING (DIALOGUE IN THE DARK)

SCSG partnered with Service-Learning Ngee Ann Poly last February and organised a pre-pandemic soap activity for a very dedicated group of educators. They were joined by their visually-impaired colleagues and student interns from Dialogue in the Dark - Singapore.

It was extremely heartening to see the students guiding and working alongside the visually-impaired guides to scrape the lightly used soap bars. Together, this great bunch of 30 participants reprocessed some 60kg of soap, which was shipped out to families living in the Taal volcanic zone.

Thank you very much for the hard work, warm support and for having us in these uncertain times!

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



HARMONI PRESCHOOL

Twenty five preschoolers, along with their teachers and principal, from Harmoni Preskool Yishun joined us for an online soap recycling workshop as part of their Children's Day "Go Green & Give Back" celebrations. The kids even pitched in to help scrape some soap for our migrant workers, a group activity which was part of the Start Small, Dream Big movement for preschoolers initiated by the President's Challenge.

The school also held a Silent Art Auction where the children "auctioned" their creative works to their parents, and proceeds were donated to Soap Cycling Singapore! A big Thank You to the centre's principal, Ms Siti and team for your enthusiasm and for supporting our work!



STARDY KAKI

In September 2020, Soap Cycling Singapore was delighted to partner with STARDy Kaki, a ground-up youth initiative aiming to make education available to all, regardless of socio-economic backgrounds to conduct an educational workshop for their mentees.

The hour-long online session for primary school children covered topics close to our hearts – reducing waste and the importance of hygiene. Kudos to our summer interns, Audrey and Joanne for conducting the workshop, and to the StardyKaki team for being such great participants!

"I really enjoyed the session with Soap Cycling Singapore. Prior to the online workshop, I was skeptical about using recycled soap as it could be dirty. But thanks to the informative session, the children and their mentors have learnt that it does not affect the quality of soap and instead by recycling these wasted soap bars, we are helping communities that lack access to this basic item and also doing our part to save the environment. I think I will switch to using bar soaps to help save cost and the environment."

ANGELA GOH, COLLABORATION
AFFAIRS, STARDYKAKI ORGANISING
COMMITTEE

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS





HOTEL PARTNERS

HOPE AND HOSPITALITY

SCSG's hotel partners were hit just as hard as we were by the COVID-19 travel restrictions that choked off foreign visitors to Singapore. Despite the challenges, our hotel partners still supported us with over 700 kg of soap or almost 20,000 bars. An impressive commitment to sustainability during difficult times. Here's hoping for all of us that travel rebounds soon!

TRAINING SESSIONS

SCSG kicked off 2020 with two training sessions for housekeepers from the Park Hotel Group (PHG). Over two weeks, about 60 PHG staff were engaged through the sessions, learning more about Soap Cycling Singapore and the recommended practices on collecting and storing gently used soaps.



A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

In October 2020, our interns joined super volunteer, Wai Mun, to collect almost 100kg from the Intercontinental Singapore and Oakwood Premier.

Here's a shout-out to the housekeepers who painstakingly helped to collect the soap from the guest rooms!

"I had a really fun and fulfilling time volunteering with Soap Cycling S'pore. I am impressed by their passion and efforts to recycle simple bar soap and provide basic hygiene to everyone, especially to those in need."

CHU WAI MUN, VOLUNTEER



thank you!

HOSPITALITY PARTNERS



THE RITZ-CARLTON®
MILLENNIA SINGAPORE



PARK HOTEL GROUP

HOTEL G
SINGAPORE



TREETOPS
EXECUTIVE RESIDENCES
SINGAPORE



THE
WAREHOUSE
HOTEL



FRASERS
HOSPITALITY



Oakwood®
PREMIER
AMTD SINGAPORE



HILTON
WORLDWIDE





COMMUNITY PARTNERS

With our operations and business model in disarray early in 2020, SCSG reached out to numerous new partners to help us survive and expand our impact.



THE MAJORITY TRUST

When COVID-19 hit our shores, The Majority Trust with the support of Singapore-based family foundations, philanthropists and corporate partners launched the SGStrong Fund (SSF). It was the start of challenging times for Singapore.

But the unprecedented difficulties compelled us to do more for ground-up initiatives that rose up to face the challenges head-on.

SG ACCIDENT HELP CENTRE

Our cornerstone charity partner, SGAHC has been the rock that has helped Soap Cycling Singapore scale up its operations from scrappy startup to impactful social enterprise in 2020. Helping us to distribute over 1,300 kg (32,500 bars) to the local migrant worker community has helped improve hundreds of lives.

Apart from distribution, they also host our volunteer workshops at their Farrer Park office, allowing us to connect with the community and get our soap processed by volunteers. Sincere thanks to our friends and supporters at SGAHC!



INDIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Our first volunteer session in the New Year took off on a colourful note! Thankful for the lovely and energetic ladies from Indian Women's Association Singapore who spent their morning with us, scraping soap and learning more about soap recycling.

The team helped collect recyclable bags for packing the soaps in before shipment and processed about 20kg of soap to be shipped to residents living near the Taal volcano in the Philippines. More soap will be processed in the coming weeks for people residing in the Taal vicinity.





METHODIST WELFARE SERVICES

2020 brought a busy Global Handwashing Day. While the majority of our soap is donated to our local migrant worker community, SCSG is happy to channel some of our soap collections (including 12 bottles of 5L handwash from Soapnut Republic Singapore) to local charity Methodist Welfare Services (MWS).

On October 17th, Uncle Richard from MWS dropped by our activity centre to collect the handwash and bar soap, which will benefit the youths cared for in their Girls' Residence, patients receiving home-based care and hospice services as well as seniors and families served by the MWS centres. Thank you for the opportunity to play a small part in helping our youth, elderly and families stay safe and healthy during these times!

OCEAN PURPOSE PROJECT

We are grateful to the volunteers from the Ocean Purpose Project who readily reached out to us to scrape and pack soap.

We were overwhelmed but thankful for how you have stepped forward in a time of need. Huge thanks to the team, who went on a massive soap collection drive, and to the guy who coordinated the drop-off (and pick-up) of the soap boxes to the individual volunteers at their homes, thank you!



BIG AT HEART

Huge shoutout to our friends at Big At Heart, who did the hard work of delivering over 400 bags brimming with festive goodies and care items to 450 migrant workers staying at the factory-converted dormitories. Soap Cycling Singapore is glad to play our part by contributing good quality reprocessed bar soap (over 80,000 bars!) to the migrant workers.

Madhavan, an Indian migrant worker shared that it was a good gift bag (of sweets), and needs for essential items like soap and toothpaste have already been taken care of for the next one or two months.

"Big At Heart came in touch with Soap Cycling Singapore by a stroke of luck in our early months of foundation. A volunteer wanted to donate soaps and another volunteer introduced us to Jeremy, SCSG's director. It has been a synergetic, fulfilling and happy ride together since.

All the collaborative giveaways we worked on and other complimentary support we offer each other are always a deeply satisfactory affair. The SCSG team is a joy and fun to work with.

NALINI THITE, CO-FOUNDER/ DIRECTOR
OF BIG AT HEART

LUSH

Together with our migrant worker volunteers, a group of youths from Lush Singapore spent their off-day reprocessing the bars to near-perfection. These were distributed at Tai Seng Centre with the help of Migrant x Me and SCCare.uge shout-out to our fantastic team of volunteers who helped scrape & pack over 1,500 bars for 300 workers!



MILLENIALS OF SCSG



"I was all set to intern with a recycling services startup called Recyglo in Yangon, Myanmar during my summer break. But when COVID-19 lockdowns came into place, I began searching for an internship which also incorporates sustainability into social impact - and that's when I found out about Soap Cycling Singapore and hence, began my journey with soap recycling. As an Environmental Science student, I often get caught up in large-scale issues like climate change, yet issues like the lack of sanitation and hygiene, and access to basic soap bars are happening here in Singapore. All this was brought to light when there was a Covid-19 outbreak at the migrant workers' dormitories.

My research project delves into the hygiene levels and the availability of soap in the migrant worker dormitories. Having the opportunity to speak to the migrant workers and community workers from different NGOs that assist migrant workers felt so different from merely reading online about the problems faced within the dormitories. One thing that really impacted me was when the migrant workers were sharing their experiences living in their dormitories - even before Covid-19, basic sanitation facilities such as toilets and sinks were already poorly maintained and soap dispensers were almost always empty.

The research process has given me a lot of insight and food for thought. I have become more conscious about wastage and not to take simple resources like soap for granted. I am grateful for the humbling experience Soap Cycling S'pore has provided me during this summer break."

JANICE NG IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL & EARTH SYSTEMS SCIENCE GRADUATE FROM NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (NTU).



"Soap scraping is the first thing I did as an intern at SCSG. It soon became an activity I thoroughly enjoy for its ability to foster connections. Before the Circuit Breaker, I had the opportunity to scrape soap with migrant worker volunteers at the SG Accident Help Centre. I was amazed by how quickly we began chatting and bonding. Even during this period of social distancing, scraping soap (whilst watching TV with my family) has been my way of staying connected.

I stumbled upon SCSG during my search for a meaningful internship before I enter university. As an environmentally-conscious millennial who is passionate about social issues, I wanted to do more for our community. I was immediately drawn to Soap Cycling's cause - distributing recycled soap to those in need. I am grateful for the opportunity given to channel my artistic talents to produce materials to support the marketing and education team.

I strongly believe our work of raising awareness for Soap Cycling through social media is meaningful and important, especially during these trying times where everything has transitioned online. My personal experience has been further bolstered by the support of my fellow interns, and our common drive to make a difference, even though many of us have not met in real life.

As I prepare to study at Yale-NUS this coming Fall, I am glad that I ventured out of my comfort zone to seek new opportunities and challenge myself through this internship."

MEET ANETTA, WHO'S PART OF OUR MARKETING TEAM. SHE'S A YEAR ONE STUDENT AT YALE-NUS.



"When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, I had to shelve my plans to intern with a hotel as the hospitality industry took a hit and froze their recruitment of interns. I started looking out for other internship opportunities, and that's when I found out about Soap Cycling Singapore. I thought I could channel my passion for service in the non-profit sector too, and Soap Cycling Singapore's partnership with hotels and its unique work in helping needy communities gain accessibility to soap made me want to find out more about the cause.

Like many others, I did not think much about soap waste or how soap is even lacking in certain communities. But over the months, I've seen with my own eyes how much good quality soap from the hospitality industry would be wasted if it weren't for organisations like Soap Cycling that "saves" them from landing up in the landfills and channels them to the needy.

My most memorable experience would be the time I was put in-charge of planning and executing a few distributions. We partnered with One Bag One Book (a group founded by migrant workers to encourage reading) and #FoodfortheHomeless. I helped coordinate efforts to distribute care packs to domestic workers at Lucky Plaza and also the rough sleepers.

As a marketing intern, I am glad to be able to raise awareness about the issues surrounding hospitality waste and the work that Soap Cycling Singapore does. I hope to bring the knowledge and experience I have gained to the hospitality industry where I'd like to find work in future, and hopefully, be a small voice for change."

SHAWN THAM IS A THIRD-YEAR TOURISM AND RESORT MANAGEMENT STUDENT AT Ngee Ann Polytechnic



"With my student exchange in the UK cut short by Covid-19, I had plenty of time on my hands and wanted to find something to occupy my time productively. Being a sustainable development enthusiast, I was drawn to an internship opportunity with Soap Cycling Singapore. I have a penchant for interdisciplinarity, and SCSC's work in balancing doing social good by improving access to hygiene and caring for the environment by reducing waste resonated a lot with me.

I've helped out with Ops and am also working hard on SCSC's soap management processes. My internship journey has been a humbling experience - the work has exposed me to the many vulnerable communities in Singapore and in the region who do not have access to an everyday item we take for granted. And COVID-19 only serves to drive home this inequality!

I am grateful to SCSC for their patience and numerous growth opportunities given not just to me but to my fellow interns and also youths who are interested in sustainability and community development."

VICTORIA TANGGONO IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY & GLOBAL AFFAIRS STUDENT AT NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, SINGAPORE.

BOARD



PATRICK DAVIS

Mr. Davis is a 2016 graduate of the University of Hong Kong's full-time MBA programme. He started as a volunteer with Soap Cycling in Hong Kong starting in September 2015, and later served as general manager from March 2016 to November 2019. He is currently based in Siem Reap where he serves as a senior fundraising officer for Angkor Hospital for Children.



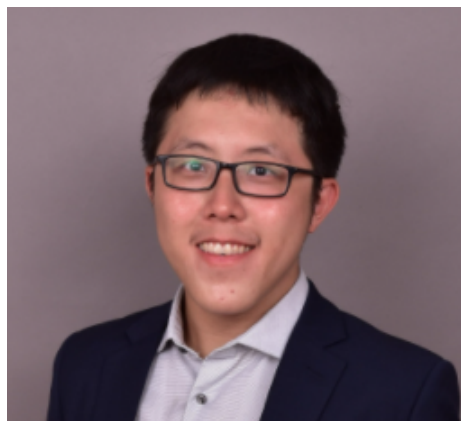
MARKUS STEGER

Mr. Steger serves as the Vice President, Marketing, Portfolio & Innovation at Connell. Connell is a leading marketer and distributor of specialty chemicals and ingredients in Asia-Pacific. Mr. Steger has resided in Singapore for 9 years and obtained permanent residency in 2017. Mr. Steger has generously offered support to Soap Cycling as it expanded to Singapore.



CORA ANG

Ms. Ang is legal counsel of Hillhouse Capital. She has diverse professional experience in legal services in Hong Kong, New York, & Singapore. She specialises on issues pertaining to capital markets, mergers and acquisitions, private equity, and regulatory compliance. Ms. Ang also has a passion for community service. Apart from serving on the board of a local Hong Kong non-profit, Greensmiles HK,



JEREMY CHIA

Mr. Chia is an incoming candidate for the Masters of Science in Big Data and Business Analytics at ESCP Europe. He was formerly a Senior Consultant at LucaNet ASEAN. Jeremy first engaged with Soap Cycling in Hong Kong through the Social Venture Management Internship course offered at the University of Hong Kong in 2018. On returning to Singapore, he continued to support the organisation's operations.

TEAM



JACQUELINE TAN

Jackie spent 10 years in the publishing and creative writing industry, regularly contributing features and lifestyle stories to Singapore's largest publisher, SPH Magazines. Time spent volunteering with a community arts project on migrant workers sparked off her interest in the low wage migrant community and their lack of access to basic rights and justice. She has worked in two Singapore-based NGOs dedicated to improving the lives and rights of migrant workers.

As Soap Cycling SG's Partnerships Manager, Jackie hopes to bring her experiences gleaned from her seven years in the non-profit sector to help raise awareness about Soap Cycling's work and forge meaningful partnerships with hotels, corporates, schools, and supporters of this initiative in Singapore.

FINANCIALS

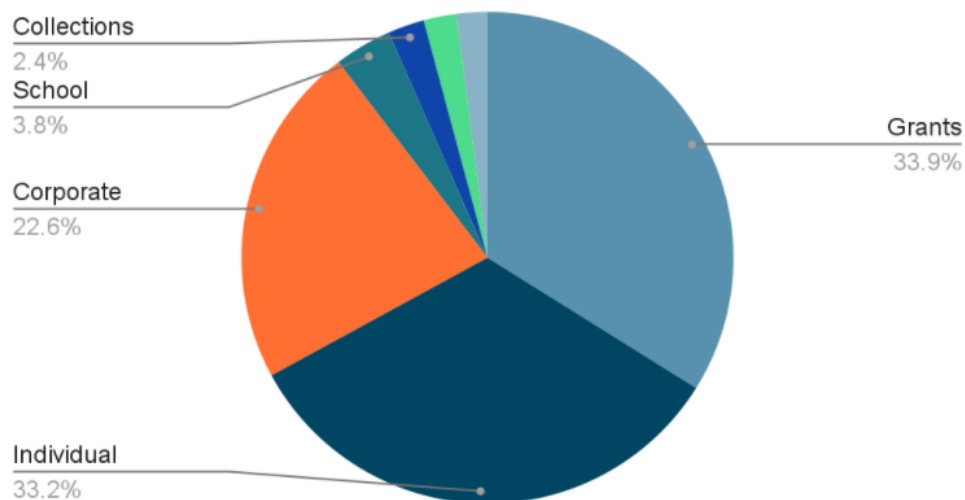
\$41,035

REVENUE

\$43,048

EXPENSES

2020 Revenue By Source



2020 Expenses by Category

