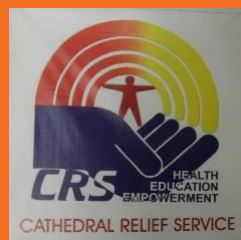


Changing Lives, Empowering Self-reliance



2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Cathedral Relief Service

EVENTS OF CHANGE

EVENTS OF CHANGE

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OUR STORY

History

Cathedral Relief Service (CRS) was established in 1971 by Canon Subir Biswas of St. Paul's Cathedral in Calcutta (now Kolkata), a repercussion of the civil war in what is now Bangladesh. The conflict forced thousands of refugees across India's north-eastern borders into Calcutta, swelling existing slums and creating new ones.

In the early years, CRS focused on emergency relief—providing food, clothing and mobile units to displaced families. Over time, CRS transitioned from relief agency into a development-focused non-governmental faith-based organization.

From the beginning, the vision was not merely to provide aid, but to empower people- irrespective of faith- through community-led initiatives in urban slums and rural villages. CRS works to build self-reliant communities by:

- training teachers to provide quality education
- partnering with doctors to deliver healthcare, and
- equipping women with skills to secure sustainable livelihoods

Through these efforts, communities are supported in planning and managing their own development and growth.

Mission

“Our mission is to provide Education, Healthcare and Empowerment to women and children of all faiths and to motivate them to realize their full potential through individual and collective action and change. We bring together people with different challenges to be strong and work as one to secure their rights.”

Vision

“To create a just and inclusive society where every child Receives education, every family has access to healthcare, and every woman is empowered to lead a life of dignity and independence – building self-reliant communities rooted in equality, compassion and hope”

Executive Members 2024-2025

CHAIRMAN:

The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

The Revd. Abir Adhikari

DIRECTOR/SECRETARY:

Mr. Rig David

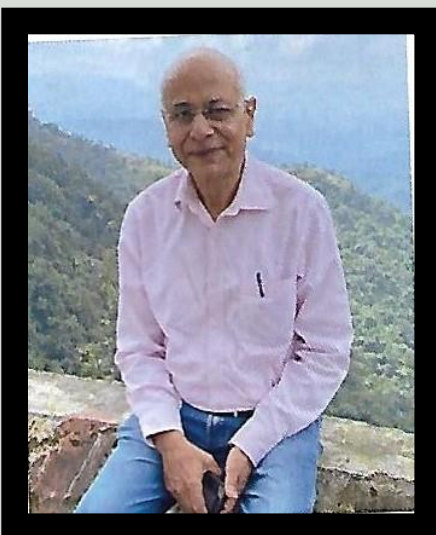
TREASURER:

Mr. Kevin Roberts

MEMBERS:

Mr.Raghab Naik
Mr. Supriyo Dhar
Revd.Pradeep Nanda
Mr.Charles Ringrow
Rev Asa Kiran Parichha
Mr. Probir Ghose
Dr.J.R.B.Alfred
Mr.T.J. Prabal
Mr.Dipt Pradeep Bose

Tribute to Mr. Probir Ghose



It is with deep sorrow that we record the passing of **Mr. Probir Ghose**, Executive Member of Cathedral Relief Service. Mr. Ghose was a long-standing supporter and guide of CRS, known for his dedication, humility, and unwavering commitment to the mission of serving the marginalized.

Over the years, he contributed not only his valuable time and expertise but also his thoughtful counsel, which helped strengthen the organization and its programs. His quiet strength, integrity, and concern for the welfare of women, children, and vulnerable communities left a lasting impact on CRS and on all those who worked with him.

The CRS family will remember Mr. Ghose with respect and affection, cherishing his legacy of service and compassion. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones during this time of loss. His life and work will continue to inspire us as we carry forward the vision to which he devoted himself.





The Rt.Revd.Dr.Partosh Canning

**21st Bishop of the Diocese of Calcutta
Church of North India**

Bishop's Vision for the Diocese is that young people discover their goals and realize them with joy, opening themselves up to an encounter with God.

To bring decisive changes in the life of oppressed and marginalized communities, irrespective of caste, creed, colour, religion or gender.

To encourage collaborative efforts between the Diocese and its Pastorates to educate young people to put their Christian faith into practice and prepare in the next generation of believers.

To empower the Clergy to be able to open up to their sense of vocation to Ministry and Mission of the Diocese and beyond.

To encourage the Pastorates and the lay people to make optimum use of available resources to move towards self-reliance in the true Spirit of stewardship.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am enthused to see the implementation of so many need-based projects.



Dear Friends

It gives me great joy to present the Annual Report of the Cathedral Relief Service (CRS) for the year 2024-2025. This has been a year of renewal, resilience and hope as we continued our mission of empowering

communities through education, healthcare and livelihood support.

In the face of growing economic and social challenges, CRS has remained steadfast in its commitment to serving the marginalized. Our education programmes have opened doors for hundreds of children who now dream bigger dreams. Our women's empowerment initiatives have helped mothers and young women gain the confidence and skills to support their families. Through healthcare camps, awareness drives and nutrition support, we have worked to ensure dignity and well-being for all whom we serve.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our teachers, volunteers, staff and partners.

Their tireless efforts remind us that transformation begins in small acts of service, multiplied through love and faith. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our donors, well-wishers and friends – both in Indian and overseas – whose generosity continues to sustain our work.

As we ahead, CRS envisions strengthening our resource base, expanding our outreach and deepening our impact. Our goal is not only to provide immediate relief but also to enable lasting change – helping communities move from vulnerable to self-reliance.

I invite you to journey with us as we continue this mission of service. Together, we can build stronger, healthier and more hopeful communities.

God bless you all.

With faith and goodwill,

The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning
Bishop of Calcutta Diocese (CNI) &
Chairman, CRS

WIDENING THE CIRCLE OF CHANGE

**“You” reached
out to children, women
and poor communities
across the slums of
Kolkata and the villages
of West Bengal**



Dear Friends,

Over the decades of restoring rights to children, women and poor communities has taught us that the process of change is continuous. Our efforts to reach out to underprivileged communities even in the remotest areas were made possible by *you* — our supporters, donors, project partners and volunteers.

With your help, we were able to spread the message of rights and widen the circle of change. This is how we reached out to 474 children and 424 women across eleven slums in Kolkata and two villages in West Bengal and Jharkhand over the past year alone. Whether you reached out by giving your time, support or money, the pages to follow will show you how the support garnered from events, initiatives and campaigns reached children, women and poor communities in our project areas.

From turning Bishal's life around to reviving schools in the slums and spreading the message of their rights, you will see glimpses of the impact that *you* made and a testimony of the great changes that can take place when we all come together with a single vision and cause.

We hope that this inspires you to keep on effecting change and reaching out to millions of children, women and vulnerable human being who need your help.

On behalf of the Personnel/Finance Committee and our Chairman The Rt.Revd.Dr.Paritsoh Canning's leadership, I thank all our donors, partners, auditors and staff for their trust, cooperation and commitment to CRS.

In faith and goodwill,

Rig J. David,
Director, CRS

SOURCES AND APPLICATIONS OF FUNDS 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025



Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to present the Treasurer's Report of Cathedral Relief Service (CRS) for the financial year 2024-2025.

This year has been marked by both challenges and opportunities. Despite a climate of economic uncertainty and rising costs, CRS has continued to manage its resources prudently to ensure that funds are used effectively in support of our mission – bringing relief, education, healthcare, and empowerment to communities in need.

Financial Overview

Total Income: (comprising grants, donations and contributions from partner organizations, individuals and well-wishers in India & abroad)

Total Expenditure: Major allocations were made to education, health, livelihood program women's empowerment initiatives.

Program Expenditure: total spending was directed towards direct program activities, demonstrating our strong commitment to serving beneficiaries.

Administrative Costs: Carefully monitored to ensuring efficiency and accountability.

Key Highlights

- Strengthened support from long-standing partners and donors, along with new contributions from individuals and institutions.
- Continued financial discipline, ensuring all statutory compliances – including audit, tax filing and reporting – were completed on time.
- Transparent and accountable funds utilization, aligned with donor requirements and organizational goals.

Challenges

Inflationary trends and fluctuating funding patterns continue to put pressure on program budgets. Despite this, CRS has maintained stability by prioritizing core activities and adopting cost-effective measures.

Looking Ahead

The coming year will require innovative fundraising and enhanced collaboration with partners to sustain and expand CRS's programs. We remain confident that, with the continued generosity of our donors and prudent financial management, CRS will meet these challenges and remain a beacon of hope for the communities we serve.

On behalf of the Personnel/Finance Committee and our Chairman's leadership, I thank all our donors, partners, auditors and staff for their trust, cooperation and commitment to CRS.

Kevin Roberts
Treasurer, CRS

SOURCES AND APPLICATIONS OF FUNDS 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025



Particulars of Receipts : SOURCES	2024-2025 Current Year Amount ₹	2024-2025 Current Year Amount £	2023-2024 Previous Year Amount ₹	2023-2024 Previous Year Amount £
Opening Cash & Bank Balances	30,22,254.92	30,222.55	12,69,461.34	12,694.61
Fixed Deposit with Standard Chartered Bank(FCRA)	-	-	21,00,000.00	21,000.00
Fixed Deposit with Indian Overseas Bank (corpus)	20,00,000.00	20,000.00	20,42,000.00	20,420.00
Donation (Foreign)	1,01,21,171.42	1,01,211.71	72,52,353.80	72,523.54
Donation (Local)	6,42,917.00	6,429.17	7,26,447.00	7,264.47
Interest Received from Bank	1,59,422.00	1,594.22	1,30,300.00	1,303.00
Refund of Advance (Program)	12,47,113.00	12,471.13	14,96,746.00	14,967.46
PF, ESIC , TDS & P. Tax deducted but not paid	13,355.00	133.55	11,698.00	116.98
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	9,714.00	97.14
Total	1,72,06,233.34	1,72,062.33	1,50,38,720.14	1,50,387.20
Particulars of Payments : APPLICATIONS	2024-2025 Current Year Amount ₹	2024-2025 Current Year Amount £	2023-2024 Previous Year Amount ₹	2023-2024 Previous Year Amount £
Project Expenses :				
Community Health	5,87,771.00	5,877.71	9,74,617.00	9,746.17
Education , Empow erment and other project expenses	68,69,800.96	68,698.01	55,45,739.18	55,457.39
Training Centre for Disabled Persons'	2,06,640.00	2,066.40	2,16,464.00	2,164.64
Accounts Department Expenses	3,56,711.89	3,567.12	2,57,216.18	2,572.16
Administrative Expenses	13,88,256.00	13,882.56	13,61,757.86	13,617.58
Other Payments :				
(1) Refrigerator	-	-	11,000.00	110.00
(2) Sew ing Machines	1,76,512.00	1,765.12	99,680.00	996.80
(3) Computer	25,556.00	255.56	25,311.00	253.11
(4) Bluetooth Box	19,900.00	199.00	-	-
Advance tow ards Program Expenses	12,44,113.00	12,441.13	15,09,630.00	15,096.30
TDS Receivable	9,000.00	90.00	8,738.00	87.38
Security Deposit to CESC	-	-	6,312.00	63.12
Investment made with Indian Overseas Bank (Corpus)	20,00,000.00	20,000.00	20,00,000.00	20,000.00
Closing Cash & Bank Balances	43,21,972.49	43,219.72	30,22,254.92	30,222.55
Total	1,72,06,233.34	1,72,062.33	1,50,38,720.14	1,50,387.20

Note : 2024-2025 Sterling Pound = Rs.100/- & 2023-2024 Sterling Pound = Rs.100/-

As per Statutory Audit 2024-2025

EDUCATION

Our school projects reflect CRS' belief that every child should have the opportunity to go to school. Our students hail from poor families, and many of them have illiterate parents, but these young minds are eager to learn.

The CRS education programme focuses on primary education and reaches out to underprivileged children between three and 10 years of age.



Teaching the Teachers State Resource Center, Govt. of West Bengal

The best teachers enjoy learning new things. CRS encourages this quality in its teachers and organizes the annual teacher training programme to support their eagerness to learn. In May 2024, CRS organized such a session for its pre-primary and primary school teachers. The programme educated the educators on ways to develop lesson plans, keep students interested and objectively measure students' progress, among other things.



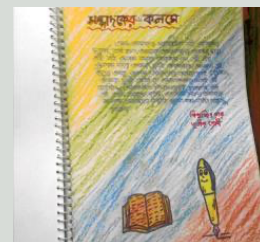
NEW UNIFORMS



School uniforms add to the school experience—they foster pride, a sense of belonging

Our students come from impoverished homes; their parents are unable to afford uniforms. But why should they be bereft of the complete school experience.

Uniforms switched by the Nari Dana women for the children of the projects to students at our education centres. 176 children received uniforms



Students' Corner CRS's students put their heads together each year to create a magazine (Shishu Jagat) that highlights their myriad talent whether poetry, drawing or fiction. The posters on the classroom walls also showcase the children's creativity.



FUN TIMES

Before the schools closed for the winter holidays, it was time to spread some Christmas cheer. The students and teachers of CRS' education centers honoured the annual Christmas tradition: they decked their schools with trees, stars and streamers, and performed special songs and dances. The CRS team provided refreshments to add to the holiday mood.

ACHIEVEMENT

169

STUDENTS MAIN-
STREAMED IN URBAN
& RURAL CENTERS

474

CHILDREN ENROLLED
IN THE URBAN & RURAL
CENTERS

The Journey of Bishal – the First Learner of His Family



Bishal Das, a student of Class X at Sri Santi Niketan Vidyalaya (Hindi Medium), was the first the enrollee when CRS began its school program in Hastings. He is

also the first learner in his family. Raised by his single smother, Rati Das, works as a domestic helpe. The family lives under a flyover, struggling to make ends meet. He is supported by **Gabbi Bursary** sponsorship since he was In Class VIII. With continued support from CRS, Bishal's hard work paid off when he successfully passed the **West Bengal Madhyamik (Class X) Board Exams—a proud and inspiring milestone for him and his family.** His journey from beneath the flyover to the examination hall is not just a personal victory—it is a symbol of hope for many.

From Nursery to Higher Secondary – A Journey



Surajit began his education at our Sukantanagar School, where he studied from Nursery to Class IV. His life has been marked by significant challenges. He lost his father when he was just three months old, and his mother, the sole breadwinner of the family, works as a domestic helper earning

only ₹3,000 pe month. Recognizing his potential and difficult circumstances, Surajit was given support from the Gabbi Bursary for his education at the local Government School. He recently passed the West Bengal Higher Secondary (Class XII) Board Examinations — a proud milestone in his academic journey. He and his mother are deeply grateful for the assistance

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The CRS Empowerment programme has one mission: to instill a sense of confidence in underprivileged women and to help them sustain themselves financially. We provide poor women with the tools to overcome their financial troubles.

CRS believes that poverty is only a temporary obstacle. An empowered and confident woman can overcome this hurdle, thereby making life easier not only for her family but for future generations as well.

"CRS' EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS ASSISTED 424 WOMEN IN EARNING THEIR LIVELIHOOD."

How We Help

TAILORING COURSES

BEAUTICIAN TRAINING

SELF-HELP GROUPS

PRODUCTS ON OFFER

APPAREL, EMBROIDERED ITEMS, BAGS,
TABLE MATS, COASTERS, CANDLES.



EMPOWERMENT IN DEMAND

The Empowerment programme is a huge success in the slums of Kolkata. There is a demand for the Skill training and Beautician classes. The beautician training extended to four centres i.e Sukantagar, Pally Mangal, Brace Bridge and Dum Dum. This year saw the inclusion of four Transgender into the empowerment programme at the Brace Bridge center. 91 women /girls/transgender enrolled in the Beautician Training.



With a record 309 new enrollments last year, we are empowering more women than ever before.

218
NEW STUDENTS
IN SEWING
COURSE

91
NEW STUDENTS
IN BEAUTICIAN
COURSE

115
WOMEN IN
LIVELIHOOD
PROGRAMME

SPREADING AWARENESS ABOUT WOMEN'S RIGHTS



Violence against women is a widespread problem among the lower socio-economic classes. Many of the women enrolled in our Empowerment programme have themselves been victims of domestic or sexual abuse at some point.

To spread awareness about women's rights among members of the Empowerment programme, CRS organized workshops and awareness sessions on violence against women and educated our project women about the various forms of violence and ways to deal with injustices.

EVALUATION

The Skill Training division of the Empowerment programme held evaluations in June 2024. 161 women from the sewing and beautician training evaluated.



Learning skills, building futures



"My name is **Mousumi Manna**, and I am part of the Nari Dana Project at Geonkhali. In 2024, my sewing teacher encouraged me to join the one-year sewing and embroidery training programme conducted in my location to which I enrolled myself. I received project books, sewing materials, and regular guidance from my trainer, which helped me step by step. Over time, I have learned various stitches, embroidery techniques, and how to use the sewing machine with confidence.

Attending classes regularly has given me new skills and confidence. After completing the course, I received my certificate and marksheet, which was the first step toward independence. With this training, I am able to earn an income and support my family. I am truly grateful to the **People who supported** us and to **Cathedral Relief Service** for giving us this opportunity."

NARI DANA (WOMEN'S WING) FREEDOM PROJECT

Nari Dana- Freedom Project is making a real difference in the lives of women in our slum communities. While they continue to face many challenges, the women are showing a new sense of confidence and determination in how they approach life. Across all locations, there's a shared feeling of pride—they see themselves as part of a wider freedom movement through Nari Dana. Learning to sew on Juki industrial machines has given them not just a new skill, but also hope for a better future. Today, around **115 women** from some of the most vulnerable and low-income backgrounds are part of this journey, building confidence and strength with each stitch.



Jayasree's Journey to Self-Reliance



Jayasree Singha, a resident of Kolkata, faced financial hardships after completing her graduation in 2022. With her father's limited income, sustaining the family was a challenge. Determined to support her household, she sought employment opportunities and learned about the G.B. Lane Centre offering the tailoring training. She enrolled in 2021 and completed and passed the year-long training in tailoring and received a government certificate



Soon after, she joined the *Nari Dana* production unit and started to earn which helped her to contribute to her family income. Her dedication led her to another role in the CRS Education Program, and eventually, she began working as a teacher at Hastings School. Through these experiences, Jayasree has grown both professionally and personally, engaging closely with children and their families.

Grateful for the opportunities provided by CRS, Jayasree proudly supports her family and continues to empower herself and others through her work.

HEALTHCARE

The underprivileged often lack access to basic healthcare services. In addition, financial constraints deter many from visiting doctors and hospitals.

Through our networks with doctors and other healthcare professionals and institutions, we attempt to fill this gap by carrying out two types of activities:

- 1) regular health checkups at our school and slum projects,
- 2) awareness programmes on health issues for children and women.



We organised 35 health clinics for students at the education centers

50 referral cases were recorded across various departments including ENT, dental, Gynea and dermatologist.

5 Health Camps organised at the projects reached out to 226 beneficiaries.

474 children received nutritional support



255
HEALTH
CHECKUPS

35
HEALTH
CLINICS

**20
AWARENESS
PROGRAMMES FOR
MOTHERS & COMMUNITY
PEOPLE**

**300
WOMEN & COMMUNITY
PARTICIPANTS**



Creating Awareness - Spreading Good Health

CRS organized a number of health awareness programmes last year, including sessions on 'Health and Hygiene' for the mothers and community people. At the same time, mothers from the community attended sessions on the importance of nutrition, ways to tackle dengue and malaria, and the risks of and treatments for breast cancer.



Doorstep community clinic



Pranati Mondal, a 35-year-old resident of Bosekati, is a regular patient at the Bosekati Community Health Clinic. She and her family have been suffering from dermatological conditions and have been under the care of Dr. Sarkar, the visiting CRS doctor. Consistent follow-up visits, and the availability of free medicines and ointments Pranati and her family have seen significant improvement. Living in an area with no nearby hospital or doctor's clinic, the community health clinic has been a crucial lifeline for Pranati. She expressed her deep gratitude for the accessible and effective healthcare provided right in her neighbourhood, which has spared her family from the burden of traveling long distances for medical attention.

IN THE VILLAGES OF WEST BENGAL...

Over the years, CRS has gradually extended its reach to the villages of eastern India by establishing schools and empowerment centres for women. Our current rural projects are located in the villages of Jharkhali, Geonkhali, Bosekati and Kulberia.

Through our activities at the rural level, we hope to spread education and empowerment while also providing basic healthcare services to underprivileged rural populations.



Geonkhali

In collaboration with the Diocese of Calcutta (CNI) this project has been set-up in Geonkhali in the Purba Medinipur district, which includes a Child Development programme and a women's empowerment programme to support the local community. At Geonkhali, CRS helps provide coaching and nutrition support to the children. A certificate course in tailoring and embroidery is offered to the women/girls in their location.



immunization, sanitation and nutrition.

Kulberia – A Collaborative Initiative of the Diocese of Calcutta (CNI) and CRS



The Kulberia project, in North 24 parganas district is a joint initiative of the Diocese of Calcutta (CNI) and CRS to support the

tribal community of the area. The community faces several challenges including the inferior and often exploited position of women, issues of re-marriages without proper divorce, and alcoholism within the families. To address these issues, the project focuses on the **women's empowerment**. A certificate course in tailoring and embroidery is offered. This skill development initiative provides women with opportunities to gain financial independence, improve their socio-economic status, and challenge traditional gender roles within the community.

Jharkhali

The project of Jharkhali encompasses two villages – Pronab Babu Bazar and Balikhali Bazar – both of which come under the Jharkhali gram panchayat in Basanti block, south 24 parganas.



In Jharkhali, CRS supports the Arpan Mahila Samity to run a primary school named Rabindra Vidya Niketan. In 2024-2025 the school had 150 students on its roll. – 68 boys and 82 girls. CRS also supported to organize community health clinics thereby reaching out to 2417 locals. Awareness programmes were also conducted, which focused on general health issues such as

St.Luke's Community Health Center-Bosekati

A joint initiative by the Diocese of Calcutta (CNI) and CRS, this programme serves the underserved community of Bosekati in Anandanagar, West Bengal, where access to healthcare is limited due to the absence of nearby doctors, hospitals, and pharmacies. The programme focuses on improving health awareness, promoting healthy practices, and providing quick access to medical care, with special attention to women and children. Weekly clinics run by qualified doctors offer consultations, check-ups, and medicines at nominal charges, while cases needing specialized treatment are referred to government facilities. Health camps and awareness sessions further support preventive care and maternal-child health, helping address critical healthcare gaps in the community.



OVERCOMING DISABILITY: LIVING WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Training Centre for Differently-abled Persons' (TCDP) assists young people with special needs. Our small but effective special needs department focuses on helping specially-abled individuals to become socially and financially independent. The ultimate goal is to promote self sufficiency and to prove that every disability is surmountable



A TCDP student practices his sewing skills while the teacher supervises his work.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES



TCDP students learn life skills such as reading, writing, performing simple calculations and recognizing currency. They also receive vocational training, which enables them to acquire crucial work skills. They create items like candles, chalk, jute and paper bags, etc. They also do tailoring and embroidery.



Our Talented Designer

30-year-old Abhijeet Dutta is a special needs person. He enrolled at our TCDP division in 2011. Since then, he has stunned us repeatedly with his creativity and extraordinary grasp of colour combinations.

The young man excels at creating bead and crystal jewellery. Each day, he makes up to six jewellery sets comprising a necklace and matching earrings. Abhijeet's hand-crafted trinkets retail for between Rs. 20 and Rs. 70.

When he is not creating jewellery, Abhijeet is busy making beautiful candles.

NEW INITIATIVES

Weekend Schools Project

Friends of the Greater Commission, a partner of Mission International, extended their support to CRS in 2024–2025 by funding the “Weekend Schools” project, following the success of the Women’s Empowerment initiative. These weekend schools are open not only to CRS center children but to all children from the surrounding communities, providing a space for holistic learning beyond academics.

Key Components of the Project:

- Training of 12 teachers
- Formation of children’s groups
- Value education
- Retreats for families
- Formation of a children’s choir
- Provision of equipment and musical instruments
- Skill-building training for teachers (Sewing & Beautician courses)

Highlights & Achievements:

- **Weekend Schools:** 10 centers established with 218 children enrolled (310 children participated overall during sessions).
- **Teacher Training:** Ongoing weekly activity-based training sessions at CRS, enabling 12 teachers to implement creative weekend programs.
- **Activities Conducted:** Singing, drawing, storytelling, moral education, and group interaction to nurture creativity and values.
- **Parents’ Engagement:** parents’ meetings per center with 200 parents attending, strengthening community trust and involvement.
- **Teacher Empowerment:** 10 teachers continue to pursue skill training (sewing & beautician) as part of income generation support.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Donor representatives visited CRS centers and communities to observe progress, expressing satisfaction with the outcomes.

The Weekend Schools have created safe, joyful, and value-based learning spaces, fostering personal growth among children and strengthening bonds with families and communities.



NEW INITIATIVES

Gender Responsive Programme

Creating Awareness on Gender Equality

To promote equal participation of women and men in community development, awareness programmes through street plays, celebration of children birthdays and through interactive session conducted in partnership with the State Resource Centre, Government of West Bengal, and other NGOs, to encourage both women and men to work together towards a more equal and supportive community. These sessions were especially important in areas where older girls are not sent to school and miss out on opportunities to contribute to community development.

The sessions provided a platform where men and women could openly talk about the challenges they face and explore ways to bring positive change. Many participants later shared what they learned with their families and neighbours, helping to spread awareness beyond the sessions.

With guidance from our donor agency, Anglican Overseas Aid, through regular online meetings, we learned how to better engage participants and adapt our approach to meet the community's needs. Their support helped us address challenges and make the sessions more impactful.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Gabbi Basra Fund

Ms. Gabrina Kaur Basra visited Cathedral Relief Service–Kolkata with a group of High School Students from Derbyshire in 2019. Gabby during her brief stay was most excited and encouraged by the education centers in the various slums in Kolkata and took very keen interest in working with the Education teachers and the children. She wore a compassionate and joyful appearance always at the slum schools. It was very apparent that she was sensitive to the needs of vulnerable children and the plight of their living. We all at CRS MISS her as she now abodes with the Lord. CRS would like to remember her with the instituting of the GABBI EDUCATION MEMORIAL PROJECT.

The Gabbi Education support is a holistic scholarship program aimed at providing financial assistance to **Bright students** who lack the resources to complete their education. It also provides mentorship to prospective bright yet needy municipal school students. It serves as an incentive for parents to continue the education of their meritorious children and as a motivation for students themselves to keep studying.

We will identify students who have scored more than 90% in their SSC/10th grade or latest examinations and whose annual family income is less than Rs. 1 Lakhs per annum. After thorough due diligence, these wards will be awarded **Bursary support** for up to Rs.25,000/- per year until the time they complete High school. This year 14 children supported through the Gabbi Basra Fund.



Revd. Anita Matthews & Ms. Alison Brown meet the management students – now staff at the New Kenilworth Hotel, Kolkata



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Sonagachi Project : Sex work is legal in India, with Kolkata being home to one of the world's largest commercial sex industries. Sonagachi, Asia's largest red-light district, is home to thousands of commercial sex workers (CSWs) and their families. Sex workers face stigma, discrimination, social exclusion, and violence, which increase their vulnerability to HIV and other health risks. According to UNAIDS, the global HIV burden among female sex workers is nearly 30 times higher than among women in the general population. Alongside HIV, the lack of non-stigmatizing health services, exposure to substance abuse, poor mental health, and the threat of violence remain major challenges.

Children of commercial sex workers (CSWs) bear a heavy burden of discrimination and alienation, often growing up with low self-esteem, poor nutrition, and limited opportunities. Since 1992, CRS has been working to reduce stigma, improve health, and support the education and well-being of CSWs and their children.

Key Challenges

- High vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and STDs
- Poor mental health, substance abuse, and violence
- Malnutrition and limited access to healthcare
- Children face discrimination, low self-esteem, and poor opportunities

Our Interventions

- **Monthly Health Clinics** – free check-ups and medication for CSWs and children
- **Nutritional support**
- **Educational support**



Making A Difference

Friends of Cathedral Relief Service, UK

Our work would not be possible without the generous support from the Friends of CRS, UK. Over the years, they have stood by us, helping us reach and support the most vulnerable communities. Their financial assistance, advice, and encouragement have strengthened our programmes in education, healthcare, and livelihood. We are deeply grateful for the continued support in making a positive difference in the lives of the most vulnerable communities we serve together.



Anglican Overseas Aid, Australia

CRS had the privilege of hosting Ms. Jo Knight, Chief Executive Officer of Anglican Overseas Aid, Australia, a key donor supporting our Women's Empowerment and Livelihood Programme. The purpose of the visit was to conduct a due diligence assessment and to gain deeper insights into the implementation of the programme. During her visit Ms. Knight visited the projects supported by Anglican Overseas Aid, where she interacted directly with the community members, women participants, and children beneficiaries. These interactions provided her with a better understanding of the challenges, achievements and overall impact. Ms. Jo Knight also met with the CRS staff to review programme operations, monitoring processes, and community engagement strategies. The discussions were constructive and reflected a shared commitment to ensuring sustainable development and empowerment. The visit further strengthened the partnership between Anglican Overseas Aid and CRS. We are grateful for their continued trust and support, which enables us to expand our efforts in empowering women and improving livelihoods within vulnerable communities.



Making A Difference

Llyod George Asia Foundation, UK

Mr. Robert Salamon visited CRS as a representative of the Lloyd George Asia Foundation, UK, the visit provided an opportunity for him to observe the ongoing activities and interact with both staff and community members. During the project visits supported by Llyod Gerge Asia Foundation, he able to assess the implementation of key programs and understand the challenges faced by the communities we serve. Meetings with staff allowed for in-depth discussions on project progress, operational strategies, and future plans. The visit helped strengthen the relationship between Cathedral Relief Service and Llyod George Asia Foundation enhancing transparency and fostering greater collaboration. We are grateful for the continued support, which plays a vital role in enabling us to deliver services and create positive impact in the communities.



Interacting with the children at Hastings, Sonagachi & Brace Bridge centers



At Nari Dana

Making A Difference

Diocese of St.Andrew's Dunkeld and Dunblane

We are deeply grateful to the Diocese of St. Andrew's Dunkeld and Dunblane for dedicating their Lent Appeal to support the women's empowerment programme of Cathedral Relief Service (CRS). Many women in Kolkata slums live in extreme poverty, face domestic abuse, and are often forced into unsafe, low-paid work. Some are even pushed into the sex trade. The CRS programme provides training that helps women gain skills, build confidence, achieve independence, and supplement their family income. **226 women** received training in sewing and beautician. **154 women** from the sewing and embroidery course and **72 from the beautician course** completed training and were awarded certificates by CRS and the State Government Institute. Training materials like fabric, sewing accessories, evaluation tools, and beauty kits were provided to ensure effective learning. The trained women are now able to work at Nari Dana's production units or independently. Certification also helps them access job opportunities in the sewing sector.

Nari Dana – Women's Wing (Freedom Project)

Some trained women have already joined Nari Dana and are producing goods for sale while receiving on-going training in quality control. Work is carried out at two centres—one at the Cathedral and another at "Dorcas" at the Bishop's House. **115 women** are employed, gaining skills and building livelihoods.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to The Rt.Revd.Ian Paton and the Diocese for their partnership and generous support, which is making a real difference in the lives of women and their families.



Making A Difference

Derbyshire schools link

A team of Derbyshire teachers visited Kolkata in January 2025 to build on school links. CRS schools took part in the programme (Gobinda Banerjee Lane; Basanti Devi Colony, Bibibagan, Sukantanagar, Hastings and Brace Bridge) along with the two schools of Cathedral Social Service (Scott Lane & Bhowanipore schools). The Derbyshire teachers visited the schools teaching alongside the Indian teachers., exploring participative learning methods - **“Education through Music”**

A day of fun and frolic was organized for the children at the La Martinier school grounds. 200 children participated in the programme. Children were divided into large groups and they rotated around all the activities such as parachute games, football, tug a war, egg & spoon race, three-legged and sack race. The children were provided with food packets. The children loved the magic show which was organised by the teachers.



A day in school at the Hastings center



Fun time – for 200 children



Teaching at the Brace Bridge center

University of Derby

Six students along with two faculty members from the University of Derby, Department of Social and Community Studies, completed their internship placements with Cathedral Relief Service in Kolkata. Through visits and hands-on work at community centres, the students learned about CRS's education, health, social care, and women's empowerment programmes. They built meaningful relationships with children and women and contributed to informal learning activities. This collaboration strengthened ties between the university and CRS, promoting shared learning and global engagement.



Making A Difference

Support from Ladies Club – Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Kolkata

The Ladies Club of Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Kolkata has extended generous support to the Education and Health programmes at our Topsia project. 36 children enrolled in the education centre and received healthcare as well as nutrition support.



Topsia Education center



Sports organized for the Topsia center children



Story telling time

Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT)

CRS was introduced to LWSIT by our donor agency, Anglican Overseas Aid, as part of an inter-agency learning initiative aimed at fostering collaboration and sharing of best practices. During the visit, the CRS team alongwith Mrs. Jo Knight, CEO of Anglican Overseas Aid met with the Executive Director, Mr. Kishore Kumar Nag at the LWSIT office to understand the organization's vision, values, and ongoing initiatives. The team also visited the LWSIT field project to see and understand the work being carried out and interact with community members.

The visit provided a valuable platform for exchanging ideas, learning from each other's experiences, and exploring new ways to strengthen community development efforts. It was a meaningful experience that reinforced the spirit of partnership and collective action in addressing shared challenges.



THANK YOU

For your prayerful support:

- Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service, UK
- Anglican Overseas Aid, Australia
- Lloyd George Asia Foundation, Hong Kong
- Diocese of St.Andrew's Dunkeld and Dunblane, Scotland
- Peter Routley, Australia
- St.Peter's in the City ,Derbyshire Diocese, UK
- Little St.Mary's Church, Cambridge
- Derbyshire schools and teachers, UK
- University of Derby
- Ladies Club - Larsen & Turbo Ltd.
- Diocese of Calcutta -Church of North India
- St. Paul's Cathedral, Kolkata
- La Martiniere School, Kolkata
- State Resource Center, Govt.of West Bengal
- Ms. Rohani Ghose, Kolkata
- Mrs. & Mr.Anirban Gupta, Bengaluru
- Dr.S.Sarkar, Kolkata
- Dr.Sanjay Gupta, Kolkata
- Dr.Kaya Banerjee, Kolkata
- Dr.Pritam Roy, Kolkata
- Late Dr.Henry

THE CRS FAMILY



Help Us Help Them

You too can join the CRS family! We welcome collaborations with individuals and organizations through funding and voluntary service

Donors can help in several ways: Sponsoring a child's education, a pre-school, a teacher or our special needs programme for a year. You can also donate books, stationery, sewing machines and computers, among other things

Have time to spare? Join CRS as a volunteer. You could teach at one of our education centres, volunteer at a health camp, or support our empowerment programme for women

For further inquiries, write in to us at: cathedralreliefservice@gmail.com

Donations accepted via account payee cheque drawn in favour of "Cathedral Relief Service".

Overseas donations should be made via account payee cheque payable to "Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service" can be sent to Friends of CRS, C/O. Revd. Anita Matthews, St. Peter's in the City, St. Peter's Street, Derby DE1 1SN.

To donate online please use Friends of CRS account with **CAF Donate**.

OUR YEAR IN PICTURES



MEET THE CHANGE THAT STAYS



*We hope you will continue to support our movement and help us reach the millions of children and women who await their **Chance for Change**.*



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