



KOLKATA  
**MARY WARD**  
SOCIAL CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT  
**2022-2023**

# ABBREVIATIONS

1. AHT – Anti-Human Trafficking
2. AHTP– Anti-Human Trafficking Program
3. ASHA – Accredited Social Health Activists
4. BFS – Brickfield School
5. BSF– Border Security Force
6. CACL- Campaign Against Child Labour
7. CBO – Community-Based Organization
8. CJ –Congregation of Jesus
9. CCPJ- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
10. CP – Child Parliament
11. CRC – Convention on Rights of the Child
12. CVC – Community Vigilance Committee
13. CWC - Child Welfare Committee
14. DCPU – District Child Protection Unit
15. DSWO – District Social Welfare Officer
16. ELS – Empowerment and Leadership for Survivors
17. GKB – Gopal Krishna Brothers
18. IBVM – Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary
19. ICDS –Integrated Child Development Service
20. JPIC – Justice and Integrity of Creation
21. KGBV – Kasture Ba Ghandi Balika Vidyalay
22. MIST - Empowering Mothers in the Sex Trade
23. PEPVC – Providing education and protection to vulnerable children at Sonagachi
24. SCAR – Sensitization of Communities & Adolescents at Risk
25. SHG –Self-Help Group
26. SMC – School Management Committee
27. TLM – Teaching and Learning Material
28. UNICEF- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
29. UNCRC – United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
30. VLCPC–Village Level Child Protection Committee
31. VEC – Village Education Committee
32. WBCPCR – West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights

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## **Vision**

The vision of Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre is to ensure that the values of love, freedom, sincerity and justice are experienced and lived out by all.

## **Mission**

Our mission is to empower every person who is touched by our work to live a life of social and economic dignity anchored in values of love, freedom, sincerity and justice. We have a rights-based and participatory approach within this we cherish a special love for and commitment to the poor, especially women and children.

## **Goals**

To reduce all forms of violence and injustice against women and girls.

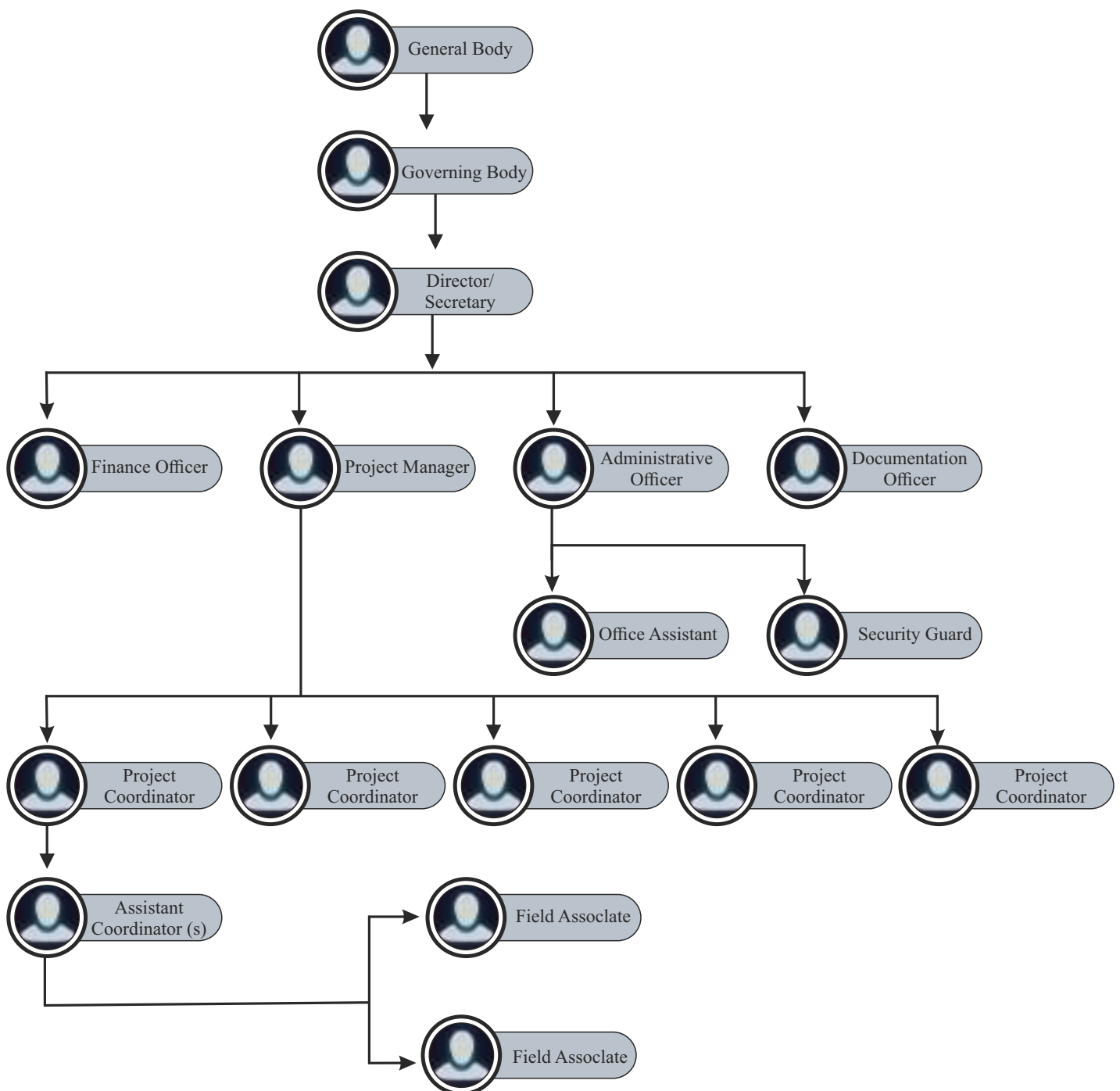
To ensure, through our service, that every Child and Woman is supported with love and care.

To promote gender equality and empowerment at all levels through education and creative opportunities.





# Roots of the Organization



## Human Resources

Name	Designation	Email
Sr. Monica Suchiang	Secretary/ Director	<a href="mailto:kmwscloreto@gmail.com">kmwscloreto@gmail.com</a>

## Lead Program Team

Rina Kumari Singh	Senior Program Team Lead: Education	<a href="mailto:kmwsc.bfs2008@gmail.com">kmwsc.bfs2008@gmail.com</a>
Samata Bali	Senior Program Lead-Human Resource and Administration cum Livelihood	<a href="mailto:kmwsc.projects14@gmail.com">kmwsc.projects14@gmail.com</a>
Sanjay Baxla	Senior Program Lead -child Rights and Community development	<a href="mailto:kmwscchildright@gmail.com">kmwscchildright@gmail.com</a>
Nabanita Shome	Senior Program Lead- Protection and Prevention	<a href="mailto:kmwsc.redlightproject@gmail.com">kmwsc.redlightproject@gmail.com</a>
Samrat Bagh	Senior Finance Officer	<a href="mailto:kmwsc.accountant@yahoo.com">kmwsc.accountant@yahoo.com</a>

## Project Team

Akhil Roy	Field Implementer- Brickfield School	<a href="mailto:projectkmwsc.bfs2008@gmail.com">projectkmwsc.bfs2008@gmail.com</a>
Sarmistha Acharjee Guha	Project Implementer	<a href="mailto:kmwsc@gmail.com">kmwsc@gmail.com</a>
Ankita Roy	Child Protection Officer	<a href="mailto:kmwscrankita@gmail.com">kmwscrankita@gmail.com</a>
Pouspi Talukder	Project Implementer	<a href="mailto:kmwsc.documentation@gmail.com">kmwsc.documentation@gmail.com</a>
Anup Biswas	Documentation Executive	<a href="mailto:programmes.kmwsc@gmail.com">programmes.kmwsc@gmail.com</a>
Vidya Bhushan Singh	Field Mobilizer	<a href="mailto:kmwsc.bfs2008@gmail.com">kmwsc.bfs2008@gmail.com</a>
Priti Kumari Singh	Field Animator	<a href="mailto:kmwsc.bfs2008@gmail.com">kmwsc.bfs2008@gmail.com</a>
John Thomas Gomes	Accountant	<a href="mailto:kmwsc.accountant@yahoo.com">kmwsc.accountant@yahoo.com</a>
Maheshweta Bhadra	Asst. Project Coordinator	<a href="mailto:kmwscidentity@gmail.com">kmwscidentity@gmail.com</a>
Gayatri Roy	Documentation Officer	<a href="mailto:kmwscatdoc@gmail.com">kmwscatdoc@gmail.com</a>
Sr. Rosita Tirkey	Field Mobilizer	
Hedaye Tullah	Office Assistant	<a href="mailto:kmwsc.accountant@yahoo.com">kmwsc.accountant@yahoo.com</a>

## Office Assistance

Ranjit Bag	Office Assistant
Mukesh Toppo	Security Personnel

## Governing Body Members

Sr Sabrina Edwards	President
Sr Priyanka Topno	Vice President
Sr T Jeba	Treasurer
Sr Beatrice Stuart	Member
Sr Marilla D'Souza	Member
Sr Flora Anthony	Member
Sr Monica Suchiang	Secretary/Director

## Interns

Names	Universities/College
Augustin Ronney Roy	St. Xavier's University, Kolkata
Jessica Gomes	St. Xavier's University, Kolkata
Madhurima Sen	St. Xavier's University, Kolkata
Ashmita Gupta	Xavier's University, Kolkata
Sudipta Kundu	Vidyasagar Smriti Mandir College
Sarita Kundu	Vidyasagar Smriti Mandir College
Rashmi Rekha Pani	Indira Gandhi National Open University

## Volunteers










Name	Period of Association
Sr. Aithien Nguyen IBVM (Australia and South East Province)	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2022 – 30 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
Sr. Jwan Kada IBVM (Australia and South East Province)	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2022 – 30 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
Sr. Carmina Mascarenhasrndm (Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. India Central Province)	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2022–current

## Universities/ Colleges

Jay Prakash Institute of Social Change, West Bengal
Tura University, Meghalaya
Vidyasagar School of Social Work
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Open University



## OUR LIFE GIVING

 <p><b>Caritas<sup>®</sup> INDIA</b> <i>The Joy of Service...</i></p>	 <p><b>NRAI</b> KOLKATA CHAPTER</p>	 <p><b>jagorigrameen</b></p>	 <p><b>misean cara</b> Mission Support from Ireland</p>
<p><b>Mary Ward International Ireland</b></p>	 <p><b>LOTUS CHILD</b> CARING FOR THE STREET CHILDREN OF INDIA The Louis and Zelig Martin Foundation</p>	 <p><b>kambia</b> MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL SPAIN</p>	<p><b>Margaret Jansen, Netherlands</b></p>
 <p><b>Calcutta Rescue</b> Caring for the underprivileged</p>	<p><b>BONO- K Germany</b></p>	<p><b>John XXIII College Perth</b></p>	<p><b>St. Michael's College</b></p>
 <p><b>O MY BAG</b> AMSTERDAM</p>	 <p><b>Saint Ignatius' College RIVERVIEW</b></p>	 <p><b>caritas</b> Germany</p>	<p><b>Lucan's Lions Clubs, Ireland</b></p>
<p><b>C.K. Ireland</b></p>	 <p><b>Manos Unidas</b></p>	<p><b>St. Stephens Green College, Ireland</b></p>	<p><b>Maria Play Delle-England</b></p>
<p><b>Loreto Grammar School-England</b></p>	<p><b>Easter Sulkers - Calcutta Rescue</b></p>	<p><b>Isabella Hug Calcutta Rescue-Netherlands</b></p>	<p><b>RASKOB</b></p>
 <p><b>RASKOB FOUNDATION</b> The RASKOB FOUNDATION for Catholic Activities</p>	<p><b>Bernadette Geoghegan</b></p>	 <p><b>MARY WARD</b> INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA</p>	<p><b>Francis McDonld Pat McDonld Michael Ellie Virginia Eicher Ingrid Portmann Mr. Colin Mcmaahon</b></p>

			
<b>P. C. CHANDRA</b> G R O U P	<b>Cherrian Foundation</b>	<b>Gopal Krishna Brothers</b>	<b>Jay Prakash Institute of Social Change</b>
<b>District Police &amp; Social Welfare Officer</b>	<b>Child Welfare Committee</b>	<b>District Legal Services Authority</b>	
<b>Block Development Officer</b>			
<b>District Police &amp; Social Welfare Officer</b>		<b>Loreto Manchester</b>	<b>Loreto Sixth Form College</b>

We thank all our Individual donors, schools, colleges, corporate houses for supporting us through out this year, we are immensely grateful for all that you do for KMWSC.



Post Engagement  
43,812



Total Reach  
29,844



Likes  
16,308



Shares  
180



### Vice President Message

"Compassion isn't giving solution, it's about giving all the love that you've got" - Cheryl Strayed.

KMWSC - CREATING A HUMANE SOCIETY.

Dear Friends, on behalf of the Province Leadership Team and the Loreto Sisters in South Asia, I express my sincere thanks to KMWSC (Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre) for their continuous, compassionate and evolving presence in West Bengal. The success of KMWSC's engagement in 17 projects in the various Districts of West Bengal in the thematic areas of Education, Women and Child Protection, Community Development, Skill Development & Capacity Building and Pandemic & Disaster Management spells out clearly the mission of the entire team, under the able and vibrant leadership of Sr. Monica Suchiang. The Team has high aspirations in embracing our vast society with developmental programmes, empowering them with invaluable human resource. As we turn the pages of the 8th edition of the yearly magazine like incense, may our thoughts rise up to the Almighty who has been the inspiration behind the sponsors and the many willing hands who collaborate with KMWSC. My sincere congratulations to you Sr. Monica and the Team as you live by your Vision and Mission, striving to create a humane society.



Sr. Priyanka Topno IBVM  
Vice President  
Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre





## *Director's Message*

“Do good, and do it well.” Mary Ward

Another wonderful and life-giving year for Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre! Our collective efforts and commitment to the Vision and Mission of KMWSC, we reached our goals of supporting those in most need, and together building a better now and future for all. The support of individuals, partners, well-wishers, donors, volunteers, institutions, corporate houses, family, and friends, we were able to act with compassion - you have personally and professionally impacted our lives. With immense gratitude, we acknowledge your generosity of heart in standing with KMWSC.

Looking back at the efforts made in 2022-2023 across four districts of West Bengal and Nawada, Bihar, you have taught us to treat each person with dignity and respect. We thank you immensely for supporting us in our growth and for being flexible in adapting to new circumstances and opportunities.

KMWSC has come a long way, and we continue on the path of compassionate actions into the future, which will shape our next vision and strategic plan for 2024 and beyond. We are confident that this inspiring process will lead to a bold and transformative Vision and Mission, as we continue to strive and innovate in our ventures in areas of women, child protection, development, education, health, community and skill development, pandemic, and disaster management.

This Year's Annual Report 2022-2023 showcases several stories that represent our community and the wider circle of friends.

I remain grateful, humbled, and inspired.

*M. Sushang*

Director Signature  
Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre

## Program Team's Message

### Message from the Program Team

Coming together was the beginning, keeping together is a progress, and working together for this financial year as a team was our achievement. As a program team we are privileged to be a part of another successful year of completion of the journey of KMWSC April 2022 to March 2023. We five individuals represents different qualities and skills but together as a team, we have grown up along with KMWSC which has also strengthened and deepened our inner being to be a better human person and serve the children, adults, youth, women, parents and the communities from different rural & urban parts of West Bengal and Nawada District in Bihar through different projects of KMWSC. Our commitment and dedication towards the organisation has enriched and have strengthened its values, its structure and its policies as a flourishing year of accomplishment not just for the organisation but for every member in the KMWSC family.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and thankfulness to our mentor Sister Monica Suchiang and the entire KMWSC family from office and from field to help us grow and expand our learning curve. Looking forward to a brighter future as individual, as team and as an organisation to success.




Ms. Nabanita Shome



Mr Samrat Bagh



Ms.Rina Singh



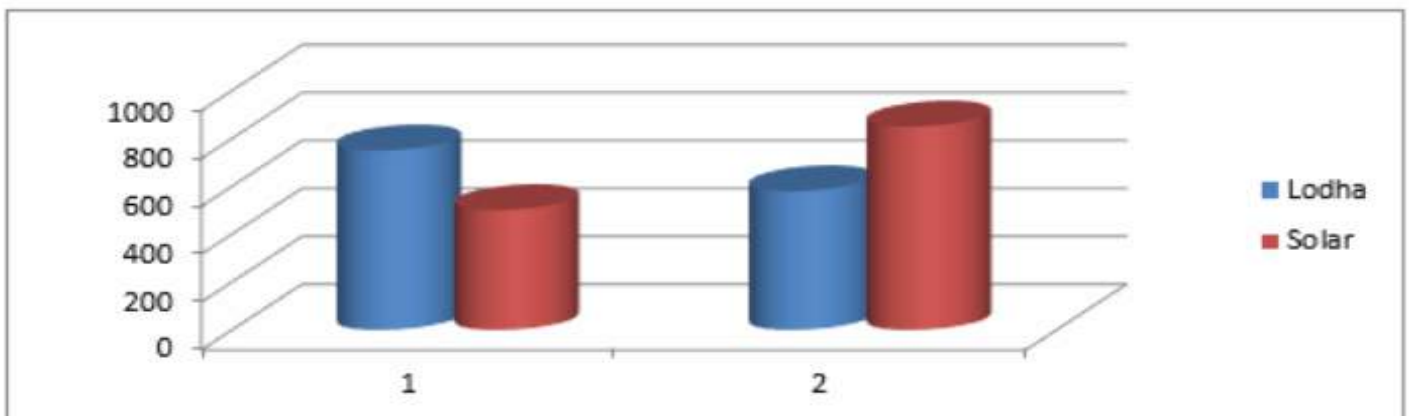
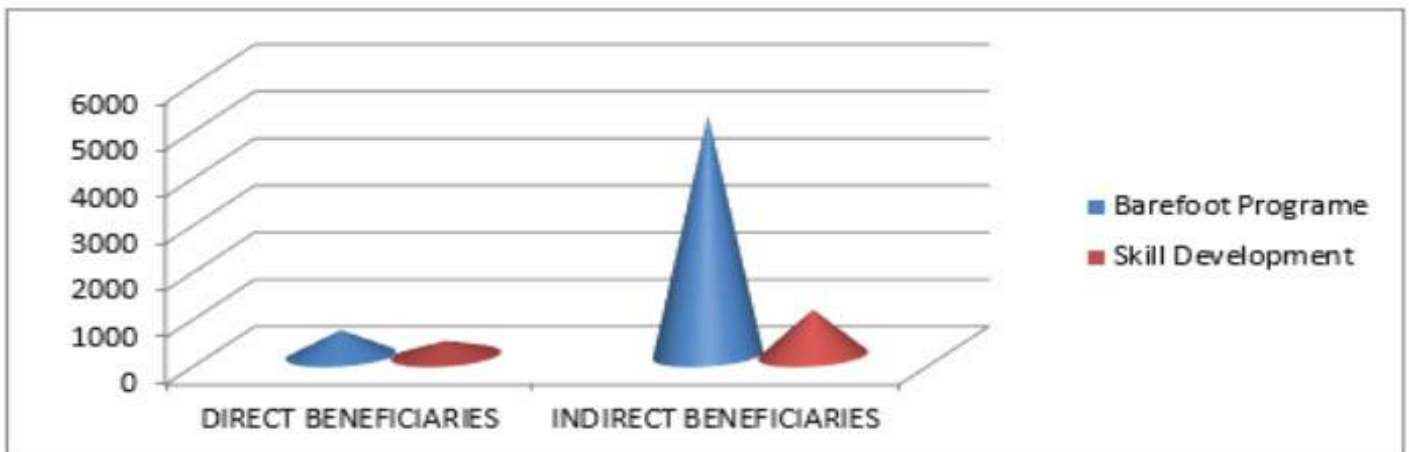
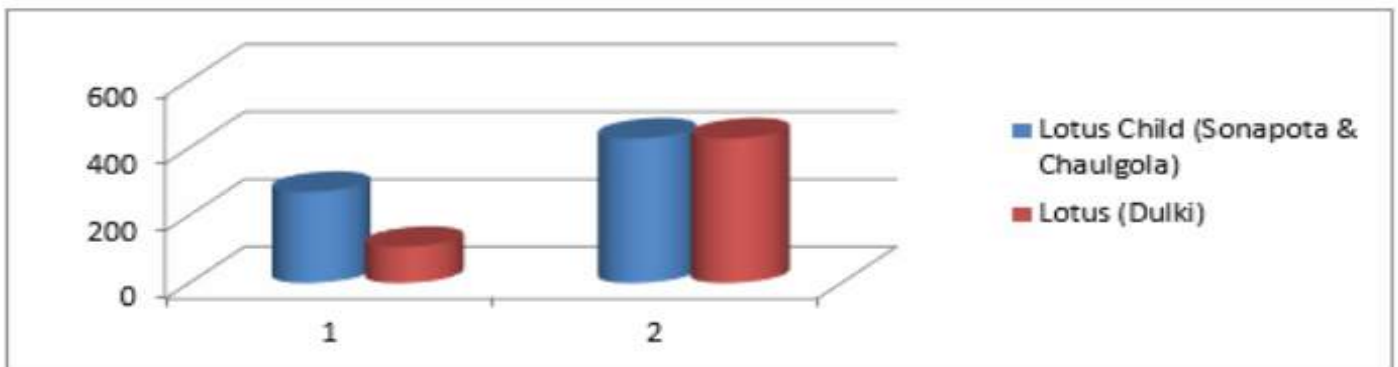
Mr Sanjay Baxla



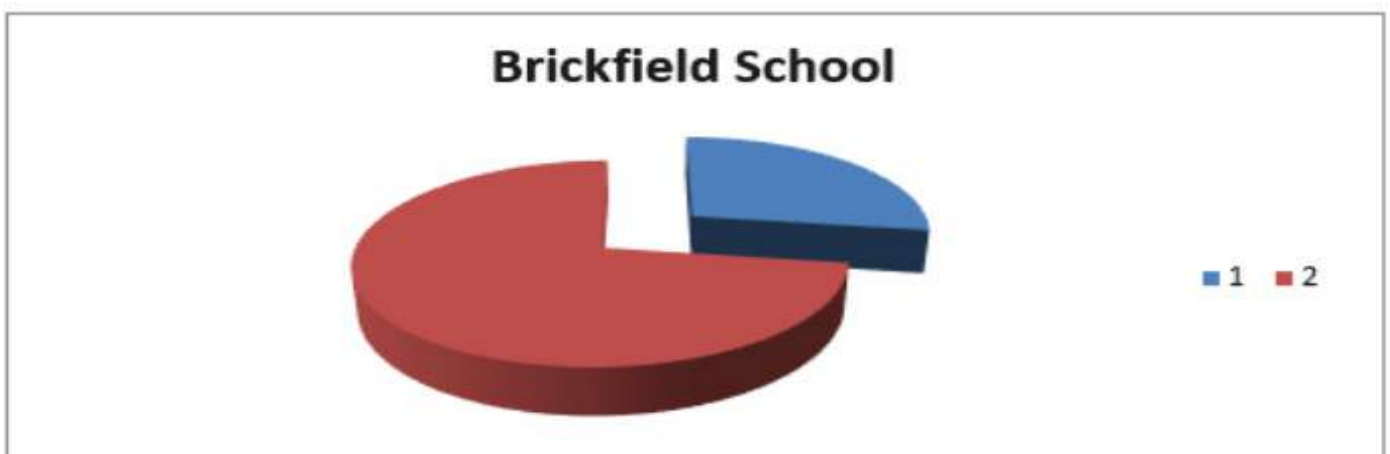
Ms Samata Bali



### Program Participant Count



### Brickfield School



## Director's Monitoring Visits

Programs	Locations	No. of visits
Combatting Anti-Human Trafficking Program	Basirhat	6
	Diamond Harbour	
Solar Enlightenment Program	Gosaba, Sunderbans	5
Brickfield School Program	Basirhat	10
	Haroa	
	Nawada, Bihar	
Lotus Child Program	Dulki, Sunderbans	2
Child Rights Program	Basirhat	3
Community Support Program	Lodha, Gangasagar	3
Red-light Program	Sonagachi	5
Survivors' Program	Basirhat	3
Combating Child Labour	Hastings	3

Monitoring visits have been initiated by the Director in four phases for the year April 2022 to March 2023. They play a crucial role in ensuring the effective implementation of the programs and encourage the building of relationships between our Director and the communities we collaborate with – helping us journey and grow with others.





## Program Team Cross-Monitoring Visits

The project team cross-monitoring visits have increased the level of transparency, accountability and efficiency in our programs. They help in the effective functioning of the programs, ensuring that we are in line with KMWSC's vision, mission and goals.



## Finance Monitoring Visits

The finance team have visited different program locations, including meeting with vendors and project staff to ensure that processes and procedures are followed. They provide an opportunity for collaboration and offer constructive feedback, supporting deeper insight and growth.





## Glad Moments

**Be seekers of truth, and doers of justice.” Mary Ward**

**Fiza Khosla and Taylor Doherty - Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA)**

Fiza and Taylor from MWIA visited the KMWSC to learn more about the Sanitary Pad Program and its transformative impact on women and adolescent girls. While in Kolkata, they visited the neighbouring communities where people live in informal housing, and after interacting with the women, they distributed free pads. They also visited the BFS in Basirhat to observe the effectiveness of the learning and teaching for the migrant communities. Accompanied by our Director, they visited the village of Gosaba, encouraging and giving hope to the participants of the Solar Enlightenment Program.



## Manos Unidas, Spain

We sincerely thank Jimena Francos and Antonio Casla, representatives of Manos Unidas, Spain, for visiting us on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 and learning about the impact of KMWSC in West Bengal. While here, they visited the office and our new program location at Hastings, observing and analysing the processes of conducting educational activities in informal settlements.

## American Consulate

Republic Day and Saraswati Puja were celebrated at Sonagachi under the Red Light Program, the Indian Tricolour was launched by the Local Ward Counsellor of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. We thank representatives of the American Consulate who were present to witness this celebration for the first time. The American Consulate visited the Brickfields in Banashree, to see the schools, the education centre and the SACK farming program – they were

amazed at the impact of this program on the development of these communities.

### **Caritas India Executive Director Fr. Poly Varghese**

Many thanks to Fr. Poly Varghese, the Executive Director of Caritas India for making an official visit to the partner organization at the KMWSC office. This momentous visit inspired us to continue to work toward a more hopeful future for children.

### **Paulien Wesselink and her team from 'O My Bag' from the Netherlands**

Paulien founder and CEO of 'O My Bag' visited KMWSC with 12 members of her team members to gain a deeper insight into how their support has impacted the women children we work with. This was followed by a visit to our SKD programs, especially the Sanitary Pad Program. In their interaction with the staff, they were delighted to know more about the work that KMWSC does in its endeavour to support those living in vulnerable situations.

### **Elizabeth Jane Agnes Livesey from the United Kingdom**

During her two-day visit, Elizabeth was able to see and learn about the impact of our work at the Redlight Program in Sonagachi and the communities living in informal settlements in Hastings. Elizabeth was warmly welcomed by the community, particularly the children. She was impressed and delighted to witness the learning and teachings that took place in the open-air classrooms.

### **Peter Seidel from Caritas Germany**

Accompanied by the Director and the Project Team, Peter Seidel from Caritas Germany and Dr Jayanta Munsri from Caritas India visited the Surokhit Shaishav program in Basirhat. They were welcomed by the Child Leaders who shared their stories of how they developed and improved their villages. They also had an opportunity in visiting the children who were attending classes in the brick kilns' open-air trunk schools and the women in the tailoring program.







### **Srs. Aithien Nguyen and Jwan Kada from Australia and Vietnam**

Srs. Aithien Nguyen and Jwan Kada were missioned to KMWSC by Wendy Hildebrand the Provincial of Australia and South East Asia to gain first-hand experience of working at the grassroots. They were captivated by the resilience, hope and leadership of the communities struck by extreme poverty in finding sustainable means to live and develop. They visited all of our programs, listening to people living on the margins, and were inspired to learn about how remote communities work together to develop their livelihoods and create a better life for their children.





## Achievements

*Dream! Dream! Dream! Dreams transform into thoughts, and thoughts result in action. – APJ Abdul Kalam*

### Bravery Award by –West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR)



Our heartfelt congratulations to Ritama (name changed) and Nityananda Biswas for being the recipients of the 2022 Birangana and Bir Purush Awards, given by West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights at Salt Lake.

Nityananda was awarded for his courageous act to see a pressing need in his community and deciding to do something about it. He raised funds for 6-year-old, Meghna Sarkar who was affected by Alimentary Canal disease. Nityananda began to fundraise, asking his family, friends and the local community, and managed to raise 1,600 rupees. Meghna's family was able to purchase all the required medical tests and medicines. They were very grateful for Nityananda's exemplary effort in bringing the community together to support the family.

Ritama was awarded for rescuing herself and her daughter from the vicious cycle of the sex trade, after lodging a complaint against her partner who had tried to run away with her daughter. After multiple attempts, with the help of the police force, Ritama managed to rescue her daughter and is now providing education for her, building a more positive future for their family.

## Lotus Child – Non-Formal Education Program

The women from the Lotus Child initiative have gained much knowledge from the program activities and are now confident to drive change in their communities. They have learnt handicraft skills, obtained small business skills and are now encouraging and educating others to do the same. The children and the peer group are well equipped, not just academically, but also socially. Since this program has reached its sustainability over the years, KMWSC, in collaboration with the community, has redesigned the program in a new location with greater needs at the Dulki village in the Sunderbans.



## Lodha Community Development Program

We have enrolled 20 children from Lodha Community in hostels to support them in continuing their studies. We have linked the community with basic government schemes like the Swasthya Sathi, Aadhaar Card, and Lakshmi Bhandar. Two mothers have managed to save 1 lakh rupees after opening a bank account, this has supported women to become self-sufficient.





## Skills Development Program

The participants of this program have gained confidence from the course, feeling ready to start their own small businesses and provide an income for their households. This has given them a powerful voice in their families and communities and the courage to engage in the workforce.

Course	No. of students placed
Beautician Course	5
Computer Course	3
Tailoring Course	5
Fashion Designing Course	3

## Sanitary Pads Program 'My Days'

We are glad to mention that better quality pads will be produced with an increased production capacity, supporting us reach out to more marginalised women and adolescent girls. The program has successfully spanned several underprivileged community areas, such as people living in informal settlements, and remote villages. Working with others, we have provided awareness sessions on health and hygiene in order to combat social stigmas and the taboo attached to women's menstruation. 'My Days' has also provided men a platform to speak more openly about the menstruation cycle, and encouraging them to also to distribute pads to both local and remote communities. We continue to work towards dismantling the “hush-hush” narrative and we have succeeded to some extent.



Awareness data		
Location	Total no of awareness	No of packets distributed
Lodha Para, Gangasagar	2	500
Sonagachi	1	200
Basirhat	1	100
Sonapota	2	100
Informal Settings in Around Kolkata In	6	850

Siksha Niketan School	1	166
Anjuman High School	1	166
Manmathanagar, Gosaba	1	150
Sukanto Nagar Vidyalaya	1	102
Janakalyan High School	1	110
Chaulgola	1	100





## Solar Enlightenment Program

We have distributed 1,575 chickens to 45 families in an endeavour to contribute towards income generation. Subsequently, women have become independent by making an earning from the chickens. In collaboration with stakeholders and villagers, we have provided solar lanterns to 456 families, improving the community's livelihoods.

## Child Rights Program

Child Leaders have taken the lead in their local communities by demanding that the authorities do something to build better roads and install street lights. Their action resulted in the construction of safer roads for the villagers and inspired them to continue fighting for their rights.





# Successful completion of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Board Examination

Madhyamik Exam 2022 was conducted in March, with results released in June. We are proud to announce that most of the students passed and are now aiming higher or their future studies.



Program	Number of Students Passed
Combating Anti-Human Trafficking Program (Diamond Harbor)	35
Combating Anti-Human Trafficking Program (Basirhat)	26
Hidden Domestic Child Labour Program-Combating Child Labour	14
Lotus Child Program (Chaulgola)	3
Lotus Child Program (Sonapota)	5
Skill Development Program	6
Child Rights Program	32
Redlight Program	10





## Immense Gratitude

"I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought; and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder."

G.K. Chesterton

### National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI)

KMWSC expresses heartfelt gratitude to NRAI for providing food packets to children of our programs, spanning several districts in West Bengal. The joy experienced by 3,645 children was transformative. Special thanks to Mr. Asif Ahmed for your generosity and continuous support – bringing joy to many families this Christmas Season.



### Loreto Schools Involvement

We convey our sincere thanks to IBVM and CJ JPIC, Loreto Schools (Elliot Road, Dharamtala, and Bowbazar) for their hospitality and cooperation in having a participatory session with the students on trafficking, social work, and getting in touch with “Parivartan”. We are thankful for their generous gifts to the children during the festive season.



## Cherrian Foundation

Many thanks to Mr Ajit Cherian Kuruvilla for providing 5 chicks, 2 kgs of chicken and food as Christmas and New Year gifts in Chandipur, Gosaba. He also provided newspapers to 45 SHG members to make 'Thongas' as an opportunity for the mothers to increase family income. He presented a Christmas cake to each of the 45 SHG members in the Solar Program, giving hope and power to women.

## P. C. Chandra

Thanks to P.C. Chandra for providing solar lanterns for the underprivileged communities of our city, including Bibradapur, Manmathanagar and Chandipur. Solar lanterns have helped communities to deal with the extremity of living in pitch-black villages that have no access to electricity, helping them perform their day-to-day tasks.



## Inner wheel club of Calcutta Midtown

Immense thanks to *Inner wheel Club Calcutta Midtown* for bringing happiness to the mothers of Brick kilns at Budge Budge, during Durga Puja. They were delighted to receive new Sarees as Puja gifts. 50 women and 50 children from the underprivileged undocumented migrant community working in the brickfields as well as the team at KMWSC are deeply grateful.

## Library Corner

The children at the Basirhat centre were unable to afford reference books, despite their great desire to learn and study. We are thankful to Dhritimaan Abilizing Infinity for the implementation of the Library Corner for the teachers and children who live in the Brickfield at Basirhat.



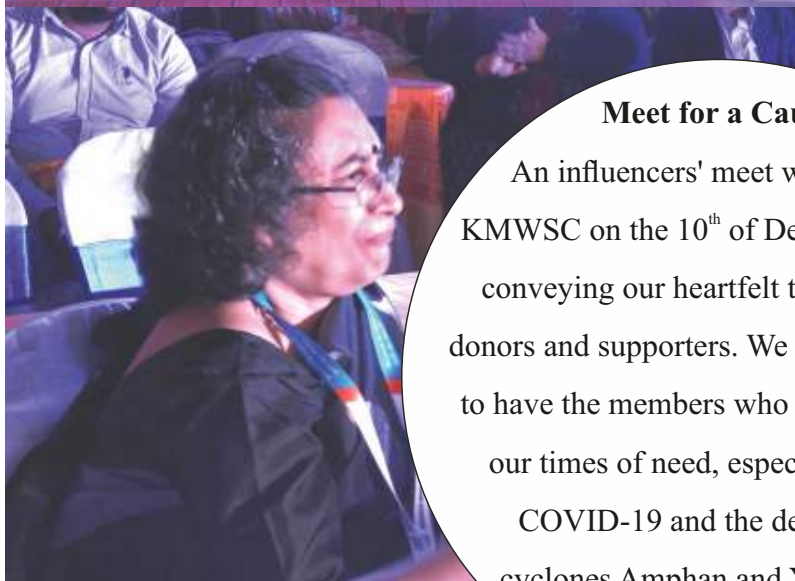






### Meet for a Cause

An influencers' meet was held at KMWSC on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2022, conveying our heartfelt thanks to our donors and supporters. We were honoured to have the members who stood by us in our times of need, especially during COVID-19 and the devastating cyclones Amphan and Yaas which affected many.



## Programs and Initiatives

### Thematic Area 1- Women and Child Protection and Development

- Combating Anti-Human Trafficking – Sensitization of Communities and Adolescents at Risk (SCAR) & Empowerment and Leadership for Survivors (ELS)
- Human Rights Program – Creating Long-Lasting Change
- Red-Light Program – Empowering Mothers in the Sex Trade (MIST) Providing education and protection to vulnerable children at Sonagachi (PEPVC)
- Child Rights-Carrier of Change for the Future
- Combating Child Labour – Creating a Safer World for Children

### Thematic Area 2- Education and Health

- Brickfield School -Education among the Bricks
- Lotus Child Initiatives – Non-Formal Education Program
- Barefoot Teachers' Training Program–Planting Seeds for a better now

### Thematic Area 3- Community and Skill Development

- Skill Development - Advanced Training and Upskilling of Young People
- Cafe & Bakery - One for you and one for the hungry outside the gate
- FOOD ATM – Reach out to Combat Hunger
- Community Support at Lodha – Reaching Out to the 'Untouchables'
- Solar Enlightenment Program – Transforming Communities
- SACK Farming Program – Planting for Health
- Menstrual Product Program – Addressing Social Stigma and menstrual Hygiene

### Thematic area 4- Pandemic and Disaster Management West Bengal





## Thematic Area 1- Women and Child Protection and Development

“There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they can grow up in peace.” Kofi Annan

### Combating Anti-Human Trafficking Program

SCAR - Sensitization of Communities and Adolescents at Risk: to Combat Human Trafficking and Child Abuse at the Basirhat, Indo Bangladesh Border.	Community Base Intervention Initiative on Combating Anti-Human Trafficking at Diamond Harbour
Implantation since 2021	Implementation from 2018 to November 2022 (re-structuring of program according to new needs)
<b>Types of Participants: Communities at risk including adolescents and women</b>	
Number of villages : 12	Number of villages : 10
<b>Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Combating anti-human trafficking by implementing preventative measures, rescuing and rehabilitation.</li> <li>■ Sensitization of communities and adolescents at risk on child protection and human rights.</li> <li>■ Ensuring gender equality.</li> <li>■ Mobilizing of local stakeholders to create safety nets in the community.</li> <li>■ Networking and advocacy.</li> </ul>	







## Rescue Cases

Type of Cases	No. of cases in Basirhat	No of cases in Diamond
Trafficking	11	0
Child forced and illegal marriage	5	12
Missing	4	2
Rape or sexual assault	1	0
Cyber abuse	2	1



## Basirhat

## Diamond Harbour

CVC and Child Parliament meeting	CVC and Child Parliament meetings
Child tracking system training with Child Parliament Leaders	Child tracking system training with Child Parliament Leaders
Mass Awareness Campaigns and Programs (distribution of leaflets and posters)	Mass Awareness Campaigns and Programs (distribution of leaflets and posters)
Sensitization meeting with Panchayet, SHG, ICDs, shopkeeper union and Vehicle Union	Sensitization meeting with Panchayat, SHG, ICDs, shopkeeper union and Vehicle Union
Community Awareness Workshops	Community Awareness Workshops
Meeting with local law enforcements	Meeting with local law enforcements
Staff capacity sharing training	Staff capacity sharing training
Home visits	Home visits
School and college awareness	School and college awareness
Alliance meeting with other local NGOs	Alliance meeting with other local NGOs
Support for special cases	Social investigation report
Networking and advocacy with law enforcements and government stakeholders	Networking and advocacy with law enforcements and government stakeholders
Collaboration with Child Line	Total numbers of peer to peer monitoring through the Child Parliament members to create a safety net in the community to combat trafficking.
Director's monitoring visit	
Team cross monitoring visit	
Relief kits distribution among the Child Parliament and CVC members	

<b>Basirhat</b>
2,400 children
<b>Diamond Harbour</b>
2,000 children





## Support and Leadership for Survivors under Combating ( Change to ELS- Empowerment and Leadership for Survivors)

Area of functioning – Indo Bangladesh Boarder near Basirhat
Implemented since 2022
Number of Groups- 2 with 20 members
Type of Participants: Survivors of AHT, gender-based violence, domestic and sexual violence.

### Objectives

- To combat Trafficking
- To create a survivor centric approach
- To rescue and provide rehabilitation
- To ensure a holistic approach and development
- To increase networking and advocacy



### Efforts Being Made

Survivor meeting and counselling
Monthly meetings
Capacity sharing workshop with survivor
Monitoring visit
School and college awareness
Distribution of relief and nutrition kits
Educating communities through the distribution of leaflet and posters
Networking and advocacy with law enforcement and government stakeholders
Home visits

## Sewing Machine Distribution

KMWSC provided sewing machines to 13 survivors under the ELS at Basirhat, in hope that they obtain the skills needed to be self-sufficient, find work or start their own businesses.

They were provided with training in tailoring before receiving the machines. We continue to support survivors in their fight to bounce back from the adversity they have faced and to build their own future.



## Goats Distribution

Creating alternative livelihood opportunities for the survivors in Basirhat, we helped two survivor by giving each one 3 goats (2 female and 1 male), in the hope that they use them as a form of income for their families and sustain their own living. We pledge to continue supporting these survivors to develop their lives and future.

## Survivors Groups

Group A			Group B		
Case Type	Number	Case Status	Case Type	Number	Case Status
Child Trafficking	6	Solved	Child Trafficking	5	Solved
Child Trafficking	3	Ongoing	Child Trafficking	2	Ongoing
Domestic Violence	1	Solved	Domestic Violence	3	Solved

## Supporting the Rights of Marginalised Children, Women and People with Disabilities in the Disadvantaged District of South 24 Parganas in West Bengal

Implemented since December 2022 (The program was re-designed according to the needs of communities)
Number of villages - 10
Type of participants: At-risk communities in vulnerable positions, including, adolescents, women, and differently able individuals
<b>Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To combat violations of basic human rights by increasing access and awareness of each person's rights.</li> <li>- To increase equity and access to education, health, clean water and sanitation.</li> </ul>





### Efforts being made

Child parliament meetings
CVC meetings
Mass Awareness Campaign including the distribution of leaflets and posters
Sensitization meeting with Panchayet, SHG, ICDS, Vehicle union and Shopkeeper Union
Community and health awareness
Home visits
Staff capacity sharing training
Support to PWD (persons with disability)
Education support for children
Social investigation report
Alliance meeting with other local NGOs
Networking and advocacy with law enforcement and government stakeholders



## RED-LIGHT AREA PROGRAM

### Area-Sonagachi, Kolkata

Providing Education and Protection for Children Living in Sonagachi  
Implemented since 2014  
Type of participants : sex workers and their children

#### Objectives

- To ensure quality education for excluded children, starting from basic education in the Centre.
- To eradicate inequality in educational opportunities, irrespective of caste, creed, gender and language, especially for children with disabilities.
- To engage adolescent children and support them in gaining greater knowledge of their rights and health issues affecting them.
- To provide vocational training to the SWs for alternative livelihood.
- To rescue and rehabilitate on the basis of a case.
- To engage the mothers (sex workers) with the program, motivating them to quit the trade and or provide their children with a positive future, away from sex work.
- Activities with sex workers and their children
- Music, art and craft therapy as well as martial arts classes for children
- Support for special cases
- Skill development- tailoring classes for mothers
- Parents meeting capacity city building workshops for mothers and children
- Counselling session with children
- Parent meetings
- Child parliament meeting
- Sponsorship children support
- Children's mainstreaming and readmission into schools
- Advocacy and monitoring with government official
- Staff Capacity Sharing Training
- Home visits

Supporting Mothers in the Sex Trade  
Implemented since 2023 (the program was restructured and expanded)  
Type of participants : sex workers

#### Objectives

- To combat substance abuse among sex workers.
- To combat domestic and sexual abuse.
- To provide education on health and hygiene issues.
- To provide adult education.
- To support with the management of finances.
- To provide awareness on basic human rights
- Activities with sex workers
- Formation of MIST group
- Education classes for sex workers
- Counselling classes for sex workers
- Development of safe zone inside Red-Light area
- Monthly meetings with staff and teachers
- Free distribution of condoms, Sanitary pads and contraceptive pills
- Advocacy and monitoring with government official
- Staff Capacity Sharing Training
- Home visits

**Four children from the project received admission to the Hostel this year**

## Child Rights-Carrier of Change for the Future



Surokhit Shaishav Program – Promoting Safe Childhood

Implemented since 2019

Type of participants: Children, mothers, ICDS workers, health workers, government stakeholders, and Panchayati Raj Institutions members

Number of village- 21 villages under 3 Gram Panchayats of Basirhat Block-1 near Indo-Bangladesh Border

### Objectives

- To build community awareness and mass sensitization campaigns on child protection issues.
- To form and strengthen children and mothers' groups.
- To strengthen the existing Child Safety mechanism like child-friendly police stations, VLCPC, VEC, SMCs, etc.
- To networking and advocate with the local governing bodies, BDO, CDPO, ALU, CWC, DSWO, DCPU, Police, etc, to ensure child safety interventions and children issues are addressed.





## Efforts being made

- Awareness campaigns through child-friendly activities (stickers and leaflets distributions, CRPD set up) on various child protection issues. As well as sessions with students with Basirhat P.S on Cyber Safety of children
- Network meetings with school administration and healthcare service providers
- Half yearly inter-school workshops on child rights and protection for school teachers /administration
- Anganwadi meetings for enrolment of children (0-6 years) addressing child-forced and illegal marriage issues, etc.
- Sensitisation dialogues with the union of taxi drivers, shop keepers and employers pledging 'No to Child labour'.
- District-level consultation of children with North 24 pgs. CWC, DCPO, DSWO, DM and Basirhat P.S (one year of Child-Friendly Corner celebration) on VLCPC formation, Case intervention, Government schemes, etc.
- Capacity sharing for members of Village Education Committees to enable allocations of roles and responsibilities
- Community meetings for the formation and strengthening of Mothers' collectives and Village Level Child Protection Committees







## Thematic Area 2- Education and Health

“Education is education. We should learn everything and then choose which path to follow. Education is neither Eastern nor Western, it is human.” — Malala Yousafzai

### Brickfield School Program –Education Among the Bricks



## Combating Child Labour – Creating a Safer World for Children



Area of functioning	Name of the Club	Location of Slum	KMC Ward No
	Kishor Sangha Club	Muraripukur	32
	Kali Sangha Club	Dhapa	58
	Jibon Sathi Sangha Club	Chingrighata	36
	Red Rose sporting Club	Park Circus	59

Implemented since 2014

Number of multi-purpose activity centres- 4

Type of participants: Children and parents living in the informal housing of Kolkata

### Objectives:

- To reach out to all forms of child labour and ensuring that we place preventative measures against them.
- To mainstream children into the formal school system or provide them opportunities for alternative livelihood to live a dignified life.

### Efforts being made

Surveying and research
Mainstreaming of children in Government Schools
Vocational training
Home visits
Parents meetings
Children & peer group meetings
Meeting with club members
Life skills training
Capacity sharing training for children
Health check-up camps
Orientation programme for stake holders







<b>Brickfield School Program</b>	<b>Sack Farming</b>	<b>Intervention at Nawada District</b>
Implemented since <b>2008</b>	Implemented since <b>2022</b>	Implemented since <b>2012</b>
<b>Type of participants:</b> undocumented migrant families in search of a livelihood at the brickfields.	<b>Type of participants:</b> Undocumented migrant families working as labourers in the brickfields.	<b>Type of participants:</b> Children and families who return to their native villages at the end of production season in the brickfields.
Number of Brickfield Schools: 40 and 3 Model Centres	Number of brick kilns - 5	Number of Blocks: 7 blocks in the district of Nawada in Bihar.
<b>Objective:</b>  To provide education to children of undocumented migrant families during their stay at the brickfields in West Bengal.	<b>Objective:</b>  To improve the health of families by increasing the consumption of green vegetables and fruits as an alternative to mostly consuming rice, legumes and potatoes.	<b>Objectives:</b>  To mainstream children in government schools in their native villages once they return from the brickfields. To facilitate the obtaining of Labour Cards, Health Cards and benefits under Government Schemes designed for underprivileged and deprived communities.





Brickfield School Program	Sack Farming	Intervention in Nawada District
Adolescent Group Workshops	Training of women and adolescent group in SACK gardening	Training of government school in teachers coming from seven different blocks in Nawada district
Teachers' Capacity Sharing Training	Preparation of sacks at brickfield	Advocacy with the Labour Department of the Nawada district
Lead Teachers Meeting	Master session on sack gardening	Mainstreaming of 577 children in Government Schools and ICDS centres
Nawada Intervention	Educational session on sack farming to the community	Community awareness meetings in villages across 7 blocks in Nawada
Teachers' Meeting	Workshops in harvesting	Distribution of education kits to children mainstreamed in secondary schools
Brickfield School Survey	This program will continue at 5 Brickfields in Basirhat. For each Brickfield we have prepared 50 Sacks, i.e. 250 sacks in total. We aim to reach 50 families both women and Adolescent groups.	



**642 children were admitted into the mainstream education system this year.**

## Lotus Child Initiatives – Non-Formal Education Program

Non-Formal Education Program at Sonapota & Chalugola	Non-Formal Education Program at Sunderban- Dulki Village
Implemented since 2014	Implemented since 2023
Type of participants: Children, adolescent & women	Type of participants: Children, adolescent & women
Number of villages 2	Number of villages 1

### Objectives - Non-Formal Education Program at Sonapota & Chalugola

- To develop the cognitive skills of children in the community.
- To enhance the awareness of the importance of education among children and parents
- To analyse and develop children's social and academic backgrounds.
- To create a peer group to combat the challenges and encourage confidence to be the change-makers in the community.
- To develop children's mentality and flexibility.
- To strengthen the skills of the teachers through training and workshop on pedagogy, enabling them to be effective educators.
- To conduct parent meetings to gather the information of children and to create awareness among them to take ownership of the program.
- To raise awareness and sensitization dialogue/campaigns to sensitize the communities on various social, health, hygiene, and cultural issues.
- To build general knowledge and relating to social stigma of covid.

### Objectives - Non-Formal Education Program at Sunderban- Dulki Village

- To improve the state of quality education for the children, focusing on their cognitive development.
- To spread awareness on menstrual health and hygiene among the villagers, addressing its causes and prevention.
- To build the adolescent group with active members to build awareness of child rights.
- To establish a group that works on issues relating to child protection and become leaders in dealing with incidents that violate the rights of children.







### Non-Formal Education Program at Sonapota & Chaulgola

- Regular remedial classes
- Home visits
- TLM distribution
- Mothers' meetings
- Peer group meetings
- Auto campaign awareness
- Sex education
- Awareness and distribution of menstrual products
- Distribution of masks, hand sanitizers and multivitamin tablets
- Free eye check-up camp
- Handicraft training
- Accounts' workshops
- Staff review meetings
- Staff capacity sharing trainings
- Teachers' training workshops
- Sports Day





## Non-Formal Education Program at Sunderban- Dulki Village

- Regular remedial classes
- Home visits and surveys
- Formation of Mothers' Group
- Formation of Adolescent Group
- TLM distribution
- Awareness and distribution of menstrual products
- Teachers' Training on classroom management
- Hand holding training
- Networking with government officials & and other stakeholders
- Special day celebration





## Barefoot Teachers' Training Program – Planting Seeds for a Better Now



Area of functioning – West Bengal - Kolkata, South 24 pargananas, North 24 pargananas, Howrah, Bihar  
Implemented since 1988

Type of participants : Individuals who have passed class 10 and those who live in rural villages, informal settlements, government & primary school teachers, and ICDS teachers

### Objectives

- To implement teaching methods and techniques which are practical
- To enhance the skills of the trainees.
- To guide teachers to create effective lesson plans.
- To highlight the importance of culture and specific language acquisition techniques.
- To offer class observation to improve child-centred learning and teaching.





**Total no of teachers trained in Phase 1 and Phase 2- 478**

Efforts being made
In-house Teachers Training- Online & offline both Level -I
In-house Teachers Training- Online & offline both Level -II
Outstation Teachers Training
Create Teaching Learning Corner (library Corner)
Monitoring visits
Art & Craft Corner at KMWSC





### Thematic Area 3- Community and Skill Development

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." – Margaret J. Wheatley

Skill Development - Advanced Training and Up-skilling of Young People





## Skill Development - Advanced Training and Upskilling of Young People

Implemented since 2016
Type of participants: Children, adolescent & women
Areas of intervention- Kolkata
<b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To empower women living in informal settings and help support them restart their careers and earn their own living.</li> <li>- To empower marginalized youth</li> </ul>







**Efforts being made  
Enhancing skills development of students**

Student enrolments
Special training sessions
Master classes by experts
Orientation program
Therapeutic sessions
Meeting with participants
Exams – theoretical and practical
Certification of trainees
Auto awareness campaigning
School awareness
Staff meetings
Parents meetings



## Café & Bakery - One for You and one for the hungry outside the gate

KMWSC initiated a new concept to serve disadvantaged communities by setting up the Food Any Time Machine (ATM). This initiative was established in November 2019. The Loreto sisters highlighted that the feeding of the neighbouring communities who may come from low socio-economic backgrounds is not a new concept, in fact, it began some 110 years ago!



## Cake Baking Season–December 2022

With the beginning of the Christmas season, the Bakery Program hosted a cake-baking event beginning on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December and concluding on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. People were encouraged to bring their own recipes to showcase their baking skills! Each family provided their own ingredients in an endeavour that they will receive the cake baked for them. The families enjoyed their experiences at KMWSC Bakery, and we are glad to announce that 669 kilos of Christmas cake were baked this year.





## FOOD ATM –Reach Out to Combat Hunger

Food ATM
Implemented since <b>2020</b>
Type of participants: Children, adolescents & women
Areas of intervention- Kolkata

### Objectives

- To feed hundreds of people from and around the regions of Tangra, KuliyaTangra, Bibirhaat, Motijhil and Dhobighat.
- To reach out to the most malnourished and offer them food between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm feeding almost a hundred people on a daily basis.



## Community Support at Lodha– Reaching out to the ‘Untouchables’



### Lodha Community Development Program

### Tribal Community Development & Support Program(re-designed)

Implemented since <b>2014</b>	Implemented since <b>2023</b>
<b>Participants:</b> Children of Lodha community at Gangasagar Radhakrishnapur, Rudranagar GP in South 24 parganas.	<b>Participants:</b> Children of Santhali Community and fishermen Gangasagar, Gram Panchayat in Sagar, Island under South 24 parganas
<b>Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To build community awareness on issues relating to health, hygiene, child protection and education. importance of education.</li> <li>- To ensure that children admitted and mainstreamed schools.</li> <li>- To make families aware and link them with existing government schemes.</li> <li>- To provide learning support to children in order to place them in age-appropriate classes.</li> <li>- To strengthen networking and advocacy to ensure the improvement of lives in the community.</li> </ul>	<b>Objectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To build community awareness on issues relating to health, hygiene, child protection and education.</li> <li>- To ensure that children admitted and mainstreamed schools.</li> <li>- To make families aware and link them with existing government schemes.</li> <li>- To provide learning support to children in order to place them in age-appropriate classes.</li> <li>- To strengthen networking and advocacy to ensure the improvement of lives in the community.</li> </ul>



## Efforts being made

Lodha Community Development Program	Tribal Community Development & Support Program (re-designed)
Learning support	Learning support
Admission of children in the Learning Centre	Admission of children in the Learning Centre
Admission of children in government schools	Admission of children in government schools.
Home visits	Home visits & Community Surveys
Visits to Lodha Para	Visit to tribal para
Health check-up camp	Health check-up camp
Staff meetings	Staff meetings
Awareness programme on Health & Hygiene	Awareness programme on Health & Hygiene
Awareness programme on Government schemes and inclusion of Lodha community in the schemes	Awareness programme on Government schemes
Parents meetings	Legal entitlements
Awareness programme on Child Rights	Follow up visits of Lodha children residing in Hostel
Child Parliament meetings	
Children Leader Meetings	
Periodic leadership workshop for Child Leaders	
Follow up visits to hostel of Lodha children	
Covid 19 health kits distributions	
Networking with local administration	



## Solar Enlighten and Community Support Program

Implemented since 2013

**Type of participants:** Communities at the remote villages of Gosaba, Sunderban

Number of village-3 (Manmathanagar, Chandipur, Biprodaspur) under Gosaba Block under Canning Sub-division of South 24 parganas

### Objectives

- To help enlighten the life of the community through the use of solar lanterns.
- To strengthen the skills of young people to assemble solar lanterns.
- To support women and enhancing livelihood skills.
- To strengthen income generation of the community.
- To raise awareness and use of government schemes through advocacy with both the government and stakeholders.





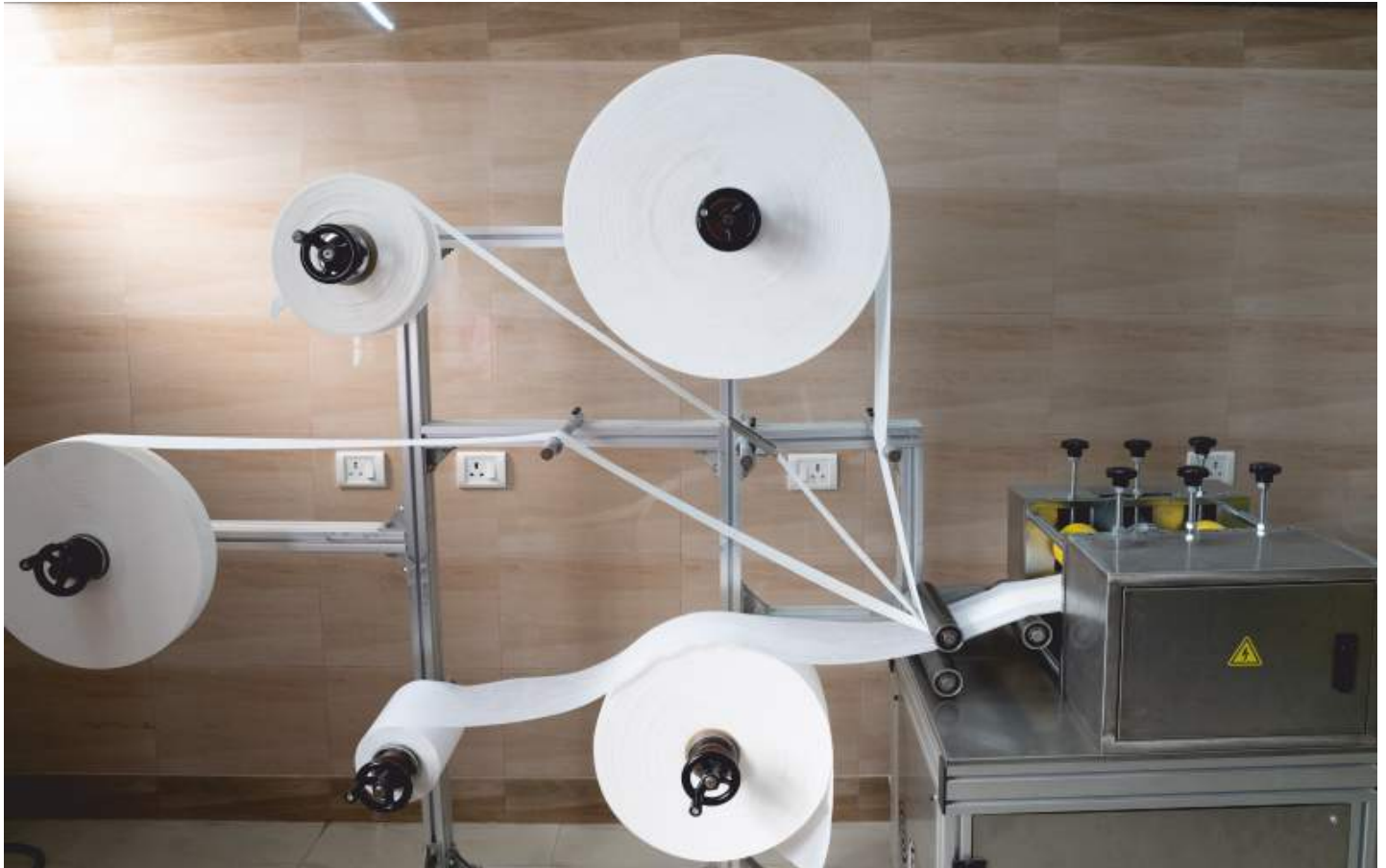


### Efforts being made

Awareness programs at various parts of targeted villages
Self-help group meetings with mothers of existing SHG
Stakeholder meetings with Panchayat Prodhan, sangsad members, etc
Solar lantern-making, distribution and repairing.
Training of young people on Solar light assembling
Tailoring training for women
Chicks production and distribution among women in the villages
Regular basis home visits to complete needs assessment and follow up
Linking community with government schemes.



## Sanitary Pads Program 'My Days' – Addressing social stigma and menstrual hygiene



### Menstrual Product Program 'My Days'

Implemented since 2018

Type of participants: Underprivileged youth women & adolescents

Areas of intervention – Kolkata

Government Schools : Siksha Niketan Vidyamandir, Muraripukur, Anjuman High School, Park Circus, Sukanto Nagar Vidyaniketan, Chingrighata, Jana Kalyan School, Surendranath College.

### Objectives

- To reach out to the vulnerable communities in our society, including, women and, adolescent girls, by providing them with health and hygiene workshops.
- To help educate men about some of the adversities that women undergo to combat social taboos and the stigma attached to menstruation.
- To provide free menstrual products to the people who cannot afford it.





## Efforts being made

Mass awareness sessions on menstrual products, menstrual cycle and hygiene in community areas
Mass awareness on sex education
Mass awareness sessions on menstrual products, menstrual cycle and hygiene at government schools.
The intervention of new machines and raw materials for better production
Daily production of menstrual products.
Free distribution of pads to underprivileged and remote areas
Government school visit for mass awareness and free distribution



## Thematic area 4

### Pandemic and Disaster Management

Materials	Quantity
Rice	44,690 kgs
Sugar	960 kgs
Biscuits	360 packets
Mustard Oil	2,390 litres
Sanitizer	15 litres
Masks	30
Glucon D	50 kgs
Horlicks	50 packets
Chilli Powder	3 kgs
Coriander Powder	3 kgs
Turmeric Powder Packet	68 packets
Salt	210 kgs
Puffed Rice	8 kgs
Chanachur	12 kgs
Health Drink	240 litres
Daal	970 kgs
Pulses	120 kgs
Milk Powder	20 kgs
Detergent Powder	690 kgs
Atta	4,300 kgs
Soyabean Chunks	70 kgs
Cooking Oil	150 litres
Soap	60 pcs
Cumin Powder	3 kgs
Sunflower Oil	380 litres
Chattu	20 kgs



Total Participants – 1,540 women & children

3,098 participants were served cooked meals

Snacks for 200 vulnerable children

**Total Participants – 4,838**



## Creating Memories

“The Journey of a thousand miles begin with one step.” Lao Tzu

United Nations World Day against Trafficking in Persons - July 2022

United we stand against human trafficking!

In an endeavour to end human trafficking, KMWSC observed United Nations Day Against Trafficking of Persons by holding an event in Basirhat. Eminent guests from law enforcement agencies, BSF officials, CWC, local counsellors and Panchayat Pradhans attended the event where tied branches of trees, symbolizing the freeing of oppressed survivors were released. It was followed by performances from our project team and participants as well as a panel discussion between our eminent guests and child parliament leaders perfected by their mentors. On this special day, a pledge was taken by all “to work towards the betterment of our great nation”.



## Independence Day –August 2022

KMWSC celebrated 75 years of India’s Independence with its participants and stakeholders at different locations in West Bengal. At each location, the National Flag was unfurled as the National Anthem was sung. The children showcased spectacular performance



## Teachers' Day –September 2022

Happy Teachers' Day!

'Let the light of knowledge and wisdom be lit forever,' KMWSC celebrated Teachers' Day 2022 under various programs, highlighting the important values and principles of dignity and respect for each human being. We are immensely grateful to all the teachers in our programs for their contribution in shaping the future of our nation. We continue our mission of ensuring free, equal and accessible education for all, inspired by Tagore's words, "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, where knowledge is free."



## Sharing day – July and September 2022 and March 2023

To inculcate the spirit of sharing and instil a sense of community among the staff members, KMWSC celebrates sharing day every after 3 months. It is an opportunity for staff to gather together around the table and share not only food but also visions, dreams and ideas.

## International Girl Child Day - October 2022

Women claiming their own power is a message that KMWSC promoted as we celebrated International Girl Child Day on 11th of October 2022 across all the programs and initiatives. During the celebrations, we provided sessions on the use of menstrual products and hygiene practices. International Girl Child Day is celebrated to create a better place for women and focus on the education of the Girl Child.



## Exposure Visit – October 2022

An exposure visit to Nicco Park for mothers and children was conducted under the Red Light Area Program to give hope to those whose lives are confined to narrow lanes, it was a day filled with joy and hope.

## Cake Mixing- October 2022

The cake-mixing ceremony held on the 25th of October marked the beginning of preparations for Christmas – the most sought-after festival for the KMWSC family. Fruits and ingredients are mixed together and fermented in wine for more than a month before they are added to the Christmas cakes which begin in the first week of December.



## United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - November 2022

Children's Day was celebrated by the West Bengal Commission for Protection of the Child Rights during UNCRC Week from 14th to 20th November. On the 16th of November, 10 children from our Red-Light and Hidden Domestic Child Labour Programs visited Eco Park and the Wax museum, it was a fun-filled outing and a wonderful exposure for the children. They were delighted to receive gifts like school bags, pencil boxes, magazines, badminton rackets, dry food, health drink, hygiene kit, lunch box, water bottles and stationery kits. On the 17th November, the children visited the Alipore Museum where they were provided with opportunity to learn about the story of our freedom fighters.



## Christmas Celebrations

Christmas is a time of joy and celebrations! During this Christmas, the KMWSC team gathered to create a Christmas atmosphere, to bring joy to people across all the programs, it was a day full of games, activities and music.

### *Secret Santa – December 2022*

The Secret Santa gifts exchange is a tradition of KMWSC, where every staff member offers month-long prayers for their secret Santa and their families. It is culminated with the exchange of surprise gifts before we begin our Christmas Holidays. This year, the celebration was held on the 23rd of December at our office, followed by fellowship-sharing lunch prepared by each one's family.





### ***Christmas celebration with associates - December 2022***

A pre-Christmas event was celebrated with the project staff of all the programs at the KMWSC office, to honour the work carried out by our project staff who continue to change lives of people across all our projects.



### **Republic Day – January 2023**

Republic Day honours and celebrates the momentous occasion in our history when the Indian Constitutions were adopted. This year's 74th Republic Day celebrated the journey of Dr. B. R. Ambedhkar, and the revealing of the Indian Tricolour followed by a spectacular dance performance.



## Saraswati Puja - January 2023

Saraswati is a Goddess of knowledge and to honour her, we held festivals across all our schools in our project areas, seeking her blessings for the education of children. During the festival, we offered free books, pens and other stationary items.

## International Women's Day – March 2023

‘Women in time to come will do much.’

Mary Ward's words resonate deeply with our vision and mission of empowered women who have shaped and developed their communities to build a better future for their children. This year's celebration of International Women's Day was held across all our programs, sharing stories of courage and resilience, embracing the culture and diversity that makes each woman unique and special.





## Gratitude to Lotus and Lodha Teachers

As the Lotus Child and Lodha Community Development Programs come to an end in their respective villages, we sincerely thank the members of the project teams, the communities in the village and all stakeholders for their enormous contribution to fulfilling the program's objectives. Their dedication and hard work enabled the effective implementation of the programs. It is with a heavy heart, that we bid them farewell, and to express our appreciation for their dedicated service, we presented them with a small memento.



## Holi - March 2023

This year the festival of colours Holi was celebrated at KMWSC, it gave us an opportunity to gather together and recognise the beauty of unity, colour and festivity. We enjoyed the day with food, music and laughter.



## **Staff Marriages- Feb and March 2023**

Marriage is an institution that unites not only two people but also two families. KMWSC family was very happy to join in the happiness of two of our staff members who were married on the 9th of February and the 9th of March 2023. The KMWSC family visited the families of both staff members and wished them well for their bright futures ahead, we presented them with a gift to show our love and support for their new lives.

## **Staff Birthdays**

KMWSC celebrated staff birthdays with a prayer and a cutting of the cake ceremony. We thank God for the life of our staff and we continue to pray for their health and happiness.

## **KMWSC Foundation Day –June 2022**

The KMWSC team came together and observed KMWSC Foundation Day and shared our thoughts on Mary Ward's values of justice, freedom, felicity, truth, and sincerity, and how her life and legacy is foundational to our NGO.

## **One Billion Rising Movement- February 2023**

This year the theme of One Billion Rising (OBR) 2023 was to RISE FOR FREEDOM. Freedom from patriarchy, capitalism, impunity, poverty, oppression, division, exploitation, shame, control, individualism, greed, and violence and in in this rising we create a NEW CULTURE! KMWSC is the pioneer of OBR, creating awareness in Kolkata, the city of joy. It has been in solidarity with women and protecting their rights since 2015. This year KMWSC has also included in its initiative the LGBTQI+ individuals and communities; supporting their full inclusion in Indian society. People who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or questioning are among the most marginalised and excluded members of our society. They are particularly vulnerable to stigma, violence and discrimination, due to their real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. We salute Eve Ensler who founded this movement after seeing the oppression and exploitation of women and girls who have faced injustice, rape and sexual violence worldwide. The program was inaugurated by all the guests by releasing rainbow colour balloons to symbolize the LGBTQI+ community with the pride movement. With all your support and collaboration KMWSC feels that we have taken the first step to voice the rights of this community and stand in solidarity to achieve freedom for all. We support the human plight for freedom and continue the promotion of human dignity.







## Inspiring Lives

“I believe we are here on the planet Earth to live grow up and do what we can to make this world a better place for all people to enjoy freedom.” Rosa Park



### Child Rights Program

#### Case Study 1 - *Gita Mondal* (name Changed)

Child forced and illegal marriage is a threat to children and damages their childhood. Since Covid 19, children have grown an interest in getting married at a young age which is most likely due to their experience of extreme poverty.

On the 1st of July 2022, Ghoadanga, a Child Club member from a nearby village informed us of a child who is planning on getting married on the 2nd of July. After we intervened, we came to know Gita is undertaking studies at Itinda Union High School and is currently in class 12. Her father is a farmer, her mother is a housewife and she has two siblings. Their economic condition is quite dire. Gita had been in a relationship with a boy from her village and after her parents found out, they forced her to get married to him before she turned 18.

After confirming the details of the case, we informed the Basirhat police station and Child Line. We also shared the information with A.H.T.U of BSF Ghoadanga. On the day the marriage had been planned, our team reached the place of where it was going to take place and found that the child was about to be given by the family in marriage and since Gita is underage, we successfully managed to stop the marriage. The family members were given a letter informing them of the child forced and illegal marriage Prohibition Act which claims that no child can be given in marriage before the age of 18. We were able to support Gita to return to her studies and continue her education.





## Case Study 2 - *Sriparna Sarkar* (name changed)

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2022, we received information from a Kolapota Child Club member that Sriparna has left her house. After gathering more information, we came to find that she was in a relationship and wanted to marry a man ten years older. We immediately informed the case to Childline and filed an FIR at the local police station. We visited Sriparna's home along with the Childline team and found that the family members wanted her back.

Her father being a farmer meant that they were at risk of not having sufficient income due to the monsoon season impacting farming. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, the family requested from us that we fund their daughter's school admission, as they could not afford it, she had just finished her madhyamik examination. The child would lose a year of schooling if fees are not paid, therefore we took action and went to Itinda Union High School and spoke with the Headmistress and she was admitted on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Unfortunately, the child had run away to marry her boyfriend as she wanted to escape from poverty. She had chosen to live with her boyfriend rather than continue her studies. We also came to know that the boy belongs to the same village and from his family, and we were able to obtain information about their whereabouts. Sriparna began to live with her boyfriend in Barasat, where he works, after a few hours, her family managed to bring her back.

The information was given to CWC, Sriparna and her family wrote a letter to Childline assuring that she will be separated from her boyfriend and will only marry him until she is at an appropriate age and only after completing her studies.

## Combating Anti-Human Trafficking Program

### *Case Study 1 - Puja Rapta*

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2022, we found out from BSF camp that Puja was missing from her house. We obtained information about Puja and learned that she lived in Dhusunikhali village. We informed the family members of who we are and our advocacy work. We asked the father about Puja's disappearance. Her father told us that his daughter had left the house on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2022 around 3 p.m. with one of her friends for tuition as she was completing her madhyamik examination, and had two papers to finish. Puja's friend returned without her and after Puja's father enquired about the whereabouts of his daughter, her friend claimed that she had no idea. Puja's father asked his neighbours about his daughter, and one of his neighbours said that his daughter was seen on the back of a man's motorbike. Her father visited Puja's friend again and this time she admitted that Puja had fled with Raju Mandal, a man whom Puja was in love with. Raju is a resident of Ray Gopalpur village and his father's name Chittya Mandal. Puja's father lodged an FIR against the boy at Sandeshkhali PS, we obtained a copy along with an Adhar card and a photo of the girl.

### *Case Study 2 - Juli Sharma*

While living in Mumbai, Juli Sharma made friends with her roommate. Juli was asked by her roommate to go to Kolkata to care for her ill mother. Her roommate moved to Kolkata, where she allegedly was looking after her ill mother, Juli agreed. They caught the train from Mumbai station for Howrah, and then to Sealdah station where they caught another train to Basirhat. Juli's roommate told her that they will go to Bithari where her house was but she had something else on her mind, she was planning to traffic Juli in Bangladesh through Khejuri boardar. Juli unaware of the situation trusted her friend's lead but fortunately, they were caught by the BSF. However, Juli's roommate escaped the BSF and went to Bangladesh.





### Case Study 3 - *Khushi Khatoon*

Khushi Khatoon, a 17-year-old girl living in Baduria village, was in class 11 at Katiahat B.K.A.P Girls High School. She was swayed by Ambujafar Gaji, a boy she came to know who made her feel loved and they were in a relationship for a few months. Khushi's parents found out about their relationship and as a result banned her from leaving the house, preventing her from going to school as well. After several attempts of trying to communicate with each other, Khushi and her boyfriend decided to run away, with the promise that he will marry her. Instead, he raped Khushi and made a plan to traffic her. Khushi found a way to escape. She and her family members informed the police and lodged a complaint against him. Police arrested the boy and he is currently in police custody. Khushi went back to school to complete her studies.

### Case Study 4 - *Alia Sultana*

Alia Sultana married Dilbar Rahman Mondal, and as a result, he received a large sum of money and jewellery as dowry. Initially, their marriage seemed to be going well, however, after a few days, Alia was tortured by Dilbar and her father-in-law. Alia tolerated the abuse and even asked her parents for more money and jewellery, but they refused to give her any. Consequently, she was beaten by her husband, while her father-in-law abused her verbally. Alia called her parents and informed them of what was happening and this time they agreed to give her husband more money. The situation settled, but after some time, Dilbar began to abuse Alia again, asking for more money. He abused her again, pouring poison into her mouth. Alia shouted loudly, alarming the neighbours who then informed Alia's parents. Her parents came to take her to the hospitable and after 3-4 days she was discharged and returned to her husband. She continued to ensure further abuse, making her parents take her to the hospital again. This time when she was discharged, she refused to go back to her in-law's house and instead returned to her parent's home. She was pregnant and delivered her baby. Her husband found out and came to take his wife and daughter. He continued to threaten her that if she does not give him money from her parents he will kill both Alia and his daughter. Alia decided to move back to her parent's house with her daughter.



## Human Rights Program

### Case Study 1 - *Arifa Khatoon*

When Arifa was in class 3, her father passed away due to TB and Hepatitis. Her mother used to work in a hospital in Kolkata to provide for the family and support Arifa's education. Born a female meant that Arifa and her mother were thrown out by family members, and they began living with her mother's uncle. Her uncle's house is in Madhusudanpur village, under Magrahatp in south 24 parganas district.

Arifa came to know through KMWSC that it is illegal to marry before the age of 18. When she was in class 11, her mother and uncle wanted her to get married, and it was arranged by the family in August 2022. She refused to go ahead with it and desired to complete her studies and wanted to help her mother in the future. Learning more about child-forced and illegal marriage and its harmful impact, she persisted in her need to be educated and independent. During a monitoring visit, the Director of KMWSC came to know more about Arifa and her exceptional skills in embroidery, she was given an opportunity to work in the KMWSC Textiles Program as an intern and earn money on part-time basis, which meant that she can continue with her studies while developing her skills in embroidery.

## Red-Light Program

### Case Study 1 - *Shakina Khatoon*

Shakina Khatoon, a 23 years old woman, resident of Sonagachi, married a man at the age of 13, and after some time he left her to look after their baby girl. She found it very difficult to survive in her community. She later engaged to another man, who sold her to the sex trade at the Red Light. She started to work there while she and her daughter stayed there. After some time, she got into a relationship with another man who took her into a rented house and told her not to stay in Sonagachi. But later he brought her to Sonagachi and forced her into sex work to earn money, she was tortured by him and he even fractured her skull.





## Case Study 2 – *Nafisa khatoon* (name changed)

KKMWSC is implementing a MAC at Sonagachi with the sex workers and their children. One of the Project Child Parliament members contacted the project team about Nafisa, a 12-year-old whose mother, Ayesha is a sex worker in Sonagachi. Nafisa used to live with her aunt (Ayesha's sister), and the arrangement was that Ayesha was going to pay the aunt to look after Nafisa. Ayesha stopped sending money to her sister and so Nafisa was given back to her mother even though her mother did not want her and considered her a burden.

After obtaining all the information from our child parliament member Kajal (name changed), we approached the mother who was on the verge of releasing her daughter to the sex industry in Sonagachi. After speaking with us, she agreed that she would keep Nafisa under care in a hostel in Sonagachi, ran by sex workers who are out of business.

From January till March Kajal befriended Nafisa and the staff kept monitoring her well-being. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2023 late at night, the staff got information from Kajal that the mother have stopped paying for Nafisa's care and the caregiver has returned her to her mother. The mother was planning to sell her daughter and was sharing her plans with other sex workers. On the 24<sup>th</sup> the staff intervened and tried to save Nafisa from her mother and the buyer, the buyer claimed that they had given her mother money not to be trafficked just to adopt Nafisa. There were follow-up questions, that revealed the possibility of these people being traffickers and after being asked to give declaration on the child's safety, the lady who was planning to traffic Nafisa refused and fled the area.

Based on Kajal's information it was clear that Nafisa's mother was grooming her to be sold to the sex industry. In the meantime, the local people involved in the selling process of the girl tried to stop the team from cooperating with the police on the basis that the fate of the child should be her mother's decision. The crowd started gathering around the centre with threats, wanting the child to be handed over back to her mother. The KMWSC team stood their ground with the support of our project mothers who acted as the protective shield for us and cooperated with CWC Kolkata and the local police station. Nafisa was handed over to CWC and referred home late at night and the crowd eventually disbursed.



## Combating Child Labour

### Case Study 1 – *Tushar Mondal*

Tushar Mondal a 17 year old is the eldest son of Dilip and Manju Mondal. His family of 4 live in informal setting in Basanti Devi Colony at Chiungrighata. Tushar's father has cancer, which means he is unable to work and earn an income causing the family to fall well below the poverty level (BPL). Tushar recently began working in the private sector as a pantry labourer and his mother in domestic support and their earnings are spent on his father's treatment. Our teachers came across Tushar and his family while they were surveying the community. They had a brief discussion with Tushar's mother about her son's education. The mother was keen for him to continue his studies but explained their dire economic situation. With persuasion from our teachers, the mother agreed to enrol Tushar at the Multi Activity Centre in the informal housing area. At the MAC, Tushar regularly attended classes and demonstrated great success and abilities. In November 2022, our teachers spoke to the authorities of Bidhan Nagar Municipality Open School, who after an interview with Tushar, agreed to enrol him in their school, where he was admitted to Class 10. At present, Tushar is preparing for the Class 10 Board Examination in 2024. Tushar's mother is extremely happy and wants her son to complete his education and go to college in order to obtain a good job.

### Case Study 2 - *Rupali Bag (Name Changed)*

Rupali Bag, aged 15, is a peer group member of the Multi Activity Centre in Muraripukur. She is one of our proactive members. One day, while taking a bath, Suman (name changed), an 18-year-old man who also lives in the same slum, recorded a video of her. Needless to say, the video was recorded without Rupali's consent.

Suman showed the video to Rupali and started blackmailing her, which shocked and disturbed her. The boy further threatened her that unless she agreed to have a physical relationship with him, he will upload the video on social media. Rupali somehow managed to escape but because of the shame she felt, she could not tell anyone. Threats from Suman continued, and as they became unbearable, Rupali told her friend Vishaka (name changed) about the incident. Vishava immediately informed our teachers at the MAC about the incident and the threats that followed.

## Brickfield School Program

### Case study 1 – Story of the “Magnificent 7”

In June 2022, our team was on a visit to Nawada, to place children who had returned to their native village at the end of production season in West Bengal in the mainstream education system. During their visit to a village named Eknar in Hisua Block, the team identified 7 girls from 7 families who have just returned from the brickfields along with their parents. All the girls were aged between 14-15 years and had completed education up to class 8. According to their age and merit, the 7 girls were eligible for admission in Class 11.

The 7 girls belong to the Dalit community, considered to be untouchables. Income from the brickfields is the only source of sustenance for their families as undocumented migrants. In Bihar, school education up to class 8 is free, however after that, education comes at a cost; for the 7 girls, affording school fees is a luxury. Thus, they community had no other option but to stop educating their children after class 8.

When our team met the 7 girls, they expressed their eagerness to continue their education. Each one of them said they want to complete their education at least up to college level. We met the girls' parents, who also said that if they had the means, they would definitely enrol their daughters in Class 11. After visiting the families, our team went to the High School in the village and met the Headmaster. The Headmaster assured all cooperation to provide



admission to the girls in his schools. He mentioned the documents required to secure admission, fortunately, the families had all the required documents. The Headmaster requested our team to come after two days along with the requisite documents and fees. We revisited the school along with the girls and after paying admission fees, the girls were enrolled in class 11. Subsequently, the girls were provided school kits comprising of school bags, textbooks and stationery items. The girls were thrilled to be at school again and working really hard to succeed.



### ***Case Study 2 – Emergency Medical Intervention***

In October 2021, Nurul Islam Gazi, along with his wife Saleha Bibi and their 9 years old daughter Taslima Khatoon migrated to Bipasa brickfield in Casirhat in search of work. The family are natives from the village of Paik Para in Basirhat Block of North 24 Parganas district. After our survey at the brickfield, Taslima was registered in our Brickfield School at the Bipasa.

On the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2022, during class, Taslima started experiencing chest pain and had breathing discomfort, causing her to become unconscious. The teacher immediately sprinkled water on her face helping her to regain consciousness. The teacher immediately informed the girl's parents, and took Taslima to Basirhat Government Hospital along with her parents. The doctor prescribed some medicines which were provided by us and Taslima was kept under observation.

On 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022, a Chest X-Ray of Taslima was completed. According to the doctors at the Subdivision Hospital, no abnormality was observed in the X-Ray report. However, they suggested keeping Taslima under observation for another 24 hours. On 18<sup>th</sup>, as Taslima did not show any symptoms of discomfort, the doctors ordered her release from the hospital.

Unfortunately, after two days, Taslima developed chest pains again and found it difficult to breathe. This time, Taslima's parents took her to R. G. Kar Medical College in Kolkata, where she was admitted for further treatment. The next day they conducted an electronystagmography test for vestibular function, an MRI of brain and a few other tests. Fortunately, no abnormality was noticed in any of the tests. After two days of being kept under observation, Taslima was released from the Medical College Hospital and was recommended to remain under medication for some time. Being quite expensive for a family with marginal economic resources, our team arranged the medicines prescribed for Taslima. She was under medication at her home in Bipasa brickfield and continued with her studies.

### Case Study 3 - Medical Intervention

Mithun Kumar is a 9 year old student from our BFS in Kalyani, Nadia district. Mithun's father RajuManjhi migrated to the brickfield along with Mithun's mother Reshma Devi and their two other children. The family is from Sudama Nagar village of Mirzapur block in Nawada district of Bihar.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2022, Mithun was roasting stone apples at his home, and suddenly, one of the stone apples exploded causing a burn injury. Mithun's mother used some age-old traditional methods like applying crushed potatoes and toothpaste on the injury to prevent further damage and informed the Munshi (brickfield manager), requesting medical help. The Munshi assured the parents that he will arrange for medicines in the evening at the end of the work day.

Realising that Mithun was absent from class, our teacher went to his and came to know about the incident. She immediately contacted the Lead Teachers of Kalyani area and informed them about the situation. Understanding the urgency of the situation, our Lead Teachers immediately arrived at Mithun's home. The Brickfield Project Team suggested taking Mithun to the nearest hospital without delay.

Initially, Mithun's parents were not willing to take their son to the hospital, they wanted to wait for the Munshi to arrange medicine in the evening. After much persuasion and assurance of getting better treatment, the parents agreed to take Mithun to the hospital. Our teachers along with our lead teachers made arrangements for transportation to JNM Hospital, the nearest hospital to the brickfield.

By the time our team arrived at the outdoor section of JNM Hospital, the section had already closed down, they were asked to go to the emergency, where no doctor was on duty. They were then sent to the surgical ward. At the surgical ward, the doctor recommended admitting Mithun for further treatment. However, Mithun's father was not willing to admit his son. Despite persuasions by our lead teachers and the doctor and explaining the need for in-patient hospital treatment, Mithun's father remained stubborn. Finding no other option, the hospital authorities obtained a declaration from Mithun's father stating that he is not willing to admit his son. The doctor however dressed the wound and prescribed medicines for Mithun. They also stated that the dressing needs to be changed after two days.

Our lead teachers arranged for the medicines to be brought to Mithun's home. After returning home, the lead teachers thoroughly explained to Mithun's mother when to give the oral medicines to her son. They also made arrangements for a paramedic staff to visit Mithun and change the dressing of the wound. After treating Mithun for two weeks, he recovered from the burn injury and started going back to his school at brickfield.





## **Lodha Community Development Program**

### **Case Study 1 - Saving helps the family to survive**

Kajal Bhakta a 34-year-old is the wife of Sukumar Bhakta and lives with her elderly mother, three sons and two daughters in the Lodha community. There are 7 members in the family. In 2018, her husband was seriously injured in an accident and was unable to support the family. The main occupation of the family was to catch crabs and fish from the river (their monthly income was 2000 rupees). He used to earn an income by running a local alcohol business. Kajal's husband died due to a lack of proper medical treatment in the month of January 2019. The teachers of the learning centre supported her through the social rituals, they even helped in the cremation of the body. With Kajal being a widow with 5 dependent children, she struggled to feed the family. She was in touch with the teachers of the Lodha centre and helped them to collect all the Lodha children from the community to bring them to the centre. She assisted the children in bathing, washing their clothes and combing their hair. This helped her earn a living and she even opened a savings bank account in 2019, she has saved up to 1 lakh rupees, and next year, she intends to buy land for farming.

With her own bank account, she can now save money for herself and her family. She says, “I was helpless and alone after the death of my husband. I had no hope in life but the Lodha project team has helped me a lot, they have continuously counselled and motivated me to live a dignified life. Today, I am able to save money and use the money for the needs of my family and children. I am grateful to the teachers who are always by my side. A million thanks to KMWSC for providing me with the opportunity to change myself.”

### **Sanitary Pads Program 'My Days'**

#### **Case Study 1 - Pratik (name changed)**

Pratik a class 9 student had no understanding of menstruation and other facts regarding human body development. When he attended the awareness program conducted by KMWSC he showed interest in knowing the real factors of the menstrual cycle and clarified his doubts. Now after gaining knowledge on menstruation he is keen to share what he has learned with his friends, in order to remove the social stigma associated with menstruation and respect women more.

#### **Case Study 2 - Latha (name changed)**

Latha was a timid girl who always avoided eye contact when talking about her monthly cycle. While on her period, she is told to refrain from eating pickles, touching plants or flowers, and going to the temple. Now after gaining more knowledge on why women get their period, she has changed her perspective and the way she looks at herself and has come to understand that the menstrual cycle is sacred rather than dirty or unholy. She also tries to convince her family about the dangers of believing in those superstitious ideas. Latha tries to give the right information so that her parents will one day change their perspectives on women's health.

## **Lotus Child Initiatives – Non-Formal Education Program**

### **Case Study 1 - Sagarika Sardar**

Sagarika Sardar was left without any educational help when the Chaulgola Lotus Child educational centre closed down a few years back. Her parents would leave home early for work each day, leaving her alone to look after herself. As she got older, gradually reaching higher grade levels, she found it difficult to succeed in her studies as her grades started to deteriorate. It was very fortunate that the Lotus Child centre reopened in Chaulgola in 2015, as this meant that Sagarika began to seek help with her studies. After the support Sagarika received, she began to flourish in her studies and passed her board exams in 2022 and is now studying in class 11 with a Science major.

## Challenges and Obstacles

### Organizational Challenges

- We face a constant struggle to find the funds to operate and sustain our programs and other organizational activities.

### Program Challenges

- Due to the Varna Caste system, we face issues like unequal distribution of wealth, illiteracy and low income generation.
- Children shy away from talking about menstruation, due to schools not giving priority to the health of women, puberty and reproduction. Young women are swayed to superstitious ideas and myths rather than science and facts.
- The importance and priority of health are a major concern with the communities we collaborate with. Most of the participants have mental health issues, and due to the economic crises these communities face, caring for their mental health is not a priority.
- Avoiding large gatherings at the health check-up camps is a challenge. In some locations, the check-up camps extended more than 7 hours, increasing the stress on medical practitioners.
- As many of the doctors working with us became engaged with the government health system during the pandemic times, the number of our panel doctors has decreased, causing an overload on the remaining doctors in correlation with KMWSC.
- Adequate access to services has become a struggle since some of our villagers do not have their proof of ID card.
- Covid 19 has had a drastic impact on children's psychological health, their interest in education has deteriorated, making it difficult for the project staff to bring children back to mainstream study.
- Online Classes were conducted by the teachers which caused various issues since many students do not have access to adequate internet connection.
- A number of our teachers have left their job due to personal reasons and this has caused disruption to our learning and teaching program.
- Some remote villages that we collaborate with face difficulties due to extreme weather conditions such as floods and cyclones, causing water logging and damage to their homes. These hazardous disasters lead to an electricity outages, making it during extremely dangerous to be on the road in the evenings.
- We face the challenge of informing our participants about the operational cycle of programs and its ending when sustainability is reached.





## **Learning and Insights**

- By collaborating with women, children and the community we have learned that it is only through relationships we can make social change, and only in walking together we can we eradicate injustices.
- We have gained insight into ways we can run effective group counselling, leading survivors to rebuild their lives rather than live in shame and darkness.
- Through various awareness programs, we have learned about ways we can engage villagers about human and child rights, education, health and community development.
- By providing quality education, networking and advocacy, we have been able to make effective and long-lasting change. We have learned ways we can engage participants in all levels of education whether it is academic or related to the arts. We have gained insight into educating the whole person and providing them with alternative models of learning.
- We have discovered new strategies to engage both women and men on subjects relating to women's health, and to a great extent, remove the social stigmas and put a stop to myths and harmful beliefs and traditions.
- We have improved the quality of sanitary pads to promote menstrual hygiene.
- Through education and engagement, we have gained an insight into Human and Child Rights, especially the right to education, equality and freedom. Education will help us in combating discrimination, trafficking, child-forced and illegal marriage, child abuse and child labour.
- In collaborating with the tribal communities, we have come to learn about their lifestyles, income sources, financial conditions, and level of education. We have gained an insight into the importance of having legal documentation to access government schemes.
- Through our engagement with communities and listening to their stories, we were able to support future leaders who can sustain their own communities, improving their livelihoods.



## Staff Personal and Professional Development

Capacity-building workshops were conducted for the entire KMWSC staff which entailed the exploration of what it means to develop on a personal level. The training workshops were conducted in four phases. The staff were given sessions on self-growth, self-esteem, personality development, non-judgmental attitude, team-building activities, and thinking outside the box. The workshops also included intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual development. The workshops opened up new insights on how one can make a positive impact in both our personal and spiritual life.

### Accounts workshop for the project team and project mobilizers

A constructive training session was held on the formation of programs including the completion of the financial cycle which entails the processes and procedures of accountancy across our programs.

### Constructive implementation of the project level activities

KMWSC initiated an effective training program on various important issues which covered Human Rights, Disability Rights, Child Rights, Health and Hygiene, focusing on HIV and AIDS. Project staff from various locations attended this training and found it effective in the implementation of their specific programs.





## Advocacy

### March – 2022

Alliance conducted a meeting on Resilience City Development where collaborations between different NGOs took place in an effort to improve the livelihoods of communities and advocate for child protection. Ms. Sharmistha Guha of the AHT program team met with the government and stakeholders in Basirhat in order to network and advocate. She met the DSP of Basirhat and arranged for follow-up meetings with representatives of DALSA and BSF Officials.

### April – 2022

Nabanita Shome and Sarmistha Acharjee attended a meeting with CWC Committee members and the Chairperson of South 24 Parganas

Nabanita Shome, Sarmistha Guha Acharjee and Ankita Roy attended a meeting with CWC North 24 Pargana for Child Rights and AHT Programs in Bashirhat. Project staff from both programs was present at the meeting.

AHT team conducted sensitization and accountability meetings with ICDS workers, SHG, Panchayat members and Purba Magrahat G.P of Diamond Harbour. BSF Unit-AHTU 153 BN BSF



### May-2022

A survey was conducted in analysis of WLCPC at the Red Light Program area. The collection of data included conversations with police officials, ICDS workers, health workers, ward committee members, child leaders and parent groups.

Nabanita Shome attended a virtual workshop offered by the UN, to familiarise participants with joining the CCPJ. She also attended a webinar offered by the UN on Anti Human Trafficking

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Femke Lotgerink from *O My Bag* visited KMWSC where we presented the work undertaken by our team. After the presentation, Femke visited the Skills Development Programs and interacted with staff.

## June- 2022

Alliance conducted a meeting at Hope Kolkata Foundation where constructive and effective planning regarding the community' livelihoods. This meeting was attended by Anjali,Pouspi Talukdar and Khushi Goel.

## July- 2022

Alliance conducted a meeting hosted by *Save the Children Foundation* on the livelihood of communities and they followed up on students who attended an interview at the Job Fair on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Samata Bali represented KMWSC at a meeting on Gender Gap and Discrimination held by WBCPCR.

Ankita Roy, Samata Bali, Rina Singh and Priyanka Prodhan attended the CACL meeting on the new bill on Child Labour. The meeting was held at WBNUJS- West Bengal National University of Judicial Sciences, Kolkata.

Sensitization on the prevention of Human Trafficking was initiated with ICDS, SHG and Panchayat members at Basuldanga Gram Panchayat in Diamond Harbour under AHT.





## August-2022

Alliance conducted a meeting for Resilient City which was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2022 at KMWSC. The meeting was conducted regarding new schemes on Child Protection, brought into effect by Government notification. The meeting was a collaborative effort by various like-minded organizations for strengthening the ward-level child protection committees around Kolkata. Ankita Roy, Sarmistha Acharjee Guha, Pouspi Talukder and Samata Bali attended the meeting representing the KMWSC team.

Free eye check-up camp was held under Lotus Child Program at Sonapota village in South 24 Parganas. 103 patients were screened at the camp. This was a joint initiative of GKB Optical and KMWSC. 14 people were found to be affected by cataracts and 67 were detected to be affected by refractive errors. These 67 patients will be provided free spectacles by GKB.

At Nawada, Anuj Kumar held separate meetings at the District Education Office with the Divisional-In-Charge of A&ST. District Coordinator, Mr Surendra Kumar and Ms Archana Kumari in-charge of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya provided and both divisional officers have agreed to follow up with all trainees who attended the training programme on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of August.



## September -2022

Alliance meeting was conducted at Hotel Park Prime to discuss strengthening the Bal Sabha, Child Cabinet and formation of strong child parliament for better execution of the program activities.

## October-2022

A networking meeting was conducted by the CACL team at KMWSC on Strategic planning for the abolition of child labour

## November-2022

Pouspi Talukder and Prity Singh attended a meeting with WBCPCR at the ICMARD building and helped them in packing gift items for children to be given during Child Rights week.



## December-2022

A networking meeting of NGOs was conducted at Bashirhat under Child Rights Program

District-level consultation program with CWC, DCPO, and DM and DSWO was conducted by Child Club and Child Parliament Leaders of Child Rights and Anti Human Trafficking Program of Basirhat.

The American Consulate visited the Redlight area during Durga Puja.

Jimena Francos and Antonio Casla representatives of Manos Unidas Spain visited KMWSC.





### January- 2023

Ankita attended a district level CACL meeting with her team members at Bashirhat. Representatives from Caritas and 19 other NGOs from the district were present at the meeting.

Pouspi attended the Alliance meeting to discuss the formation of Alliance team and formulation of vision and mission of the Alliance

### February – 2023

KMWSC attended a Child Protection Committee meeting which was held at the BDO office in Basirhat, where other NGO representatives from Gotra Panchayat, and Childline were present.

### March – 2023

The second phase launching event was organized by the Child Rights-Surokshit Saisav program team at Basirhat Townhall with the support of Caritas India.



## Cake orders pour in at NGO's baking unit in Entally

Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre gives slots to those who come to their baking unit with bags full of ingredients, which they mix and bake

BY JHINUK MAZUMDAR PUBLISHED 20.12.22, 07:38 AM



Christmas cakes at Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre on Monday  
Picture by Rudhwanig Dutta

A baking unit of an NGO has already received orders for 550kg of cake this Christmas, a rise from 410kg last year.

Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC) gives slots to those who come to their baking unit in central Kolkata's Entally with bags full of ingredients, which they mix and bake in their machines.

The orders started coming in October and all the slots are booked.

"Since we give slots, people can come accordingly instead of standing in queue for long hours. We try to create a Christmas-like ambience with music and coffee so that the wait while the cake is being made is enjoyable," said Samata Bali, programme lead, human resource and livelihood, KMWSC.

She said demand was higher this year compared to the last two years and all the slots were booked. In 2020, they had baked 300kg of cake.

"If we have pre-booked orders we have an idea of how much we are baking and we can have the personnel ready accordingly," said Bali.

In addition to these orders, the NGO is baking cakes to give to the 4,000 beneficiaries that they work with. This includes victims of trafficking and children of sex workers.



## Experiences and Reflections



***Augustin Ronney Roy***

### **Student of St. Xavier's University Kolkata**

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire team at KMWSC. It gives me huge pleasure to be part of the KMWSC family and work for such a noble cause; giving me a deep experience. The entire working schedule was well-planned and guided by the supervisor. The whole members of KMWSC guided me through the work that I was assigned and I am extremely grateful for their support. Rinku Madam and KMWSC members were a source of wisdom and experiences. It is a great initiative taken by KMWSC by providing the Children in the red light area with education and also empowering the women of Sonagachi to become independent by giving them vocational training. I was so amazed to see the children of the Multi Activity Centre (MAC), they were highly motivated and enthusiastic. I was moved by the gratitude shown by the children and for welcoming us open-heartedly. The concept of food ATM and feeding the communities surrounding KMWSC and providing women and girls with period products is a life-changing effort to make them aware of hygienic importance and prevent the spread of many diseases. The outreach of KMWSC was truly amazing and I have had such an eye-opening experience. I'm so grateful that I had a chance to have such a positive environment to learn and grow. I will be very grateful if I get the opportunity to work here and experience the act of giving myself selflessly to change the world; KMWSC is doing exemplary work for the betterment of others.



***Jessica Gomes***

### **Student of Xavier's University, Kolkata**

My experience with Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre helped me keep an open eye when interacting with people from different groups and communities. Working alongside the KMWSC team helped me gain practical knowledge on and off location, especially visiting the MAC (Multi Activity Centre) and the region of Basirhat. The purpose of MAC is to cater to the needs of children up to 18 years and also school dropouts. The children of these centres are very welcoming, making us empathise with them rather than sympathise. The organization provides basic necessities to the community members of the particular areas they work with. I have admired the team's level of passion and commitment to creating sustainable communities and their relentless efforts to go to the margins and help people struck by extreme poverty, especially women and children. As a trainee, I felt motivated every time I got a chance to visit their project areas, it has encouraged me to work with a generous spirit and make every effort to work for a noble cause like KMWSC does.





### **Sr. Aithien Nguyen, IBVM (Australia and South East Asia)\**

My time with the KMWSC was spent visiting many of the impoverished communities of Kolkata, mainly the Brickfields, where teaching children happens under the shade of a tree or in the blistering hot confines of small brick structures found throughout the dusty open-air factories. Despite their struggles, these communities welcomed us with their heartfelt and colourful holy rituals and blessed us with many encounters of kindness and compassion.

Despite the language barriers limiting our conversations, I was captivated by curious eyes and kind smiles. I felt an understanding of their dreams and hopes and saw the joy across their faces as they told stories of the transformative education and empowerment they have received, thanks to KMWSC.

I am inspired by the compassion and desire to serve the marginalized people showcased by KMWSC, particularly by Sr. Monica Suchiang, IBVM, with the support from her staff and the widespread global Mary Ward family, sponsors, and donors. My experiences in India have underpinned my courage. During this time of Lent, I reflect on my experiences with KMWSC as I consider the inspiration and courage I have gained to carry out our global mission of empowering and transforming the lives of women and children through education as I return to Vietnam.



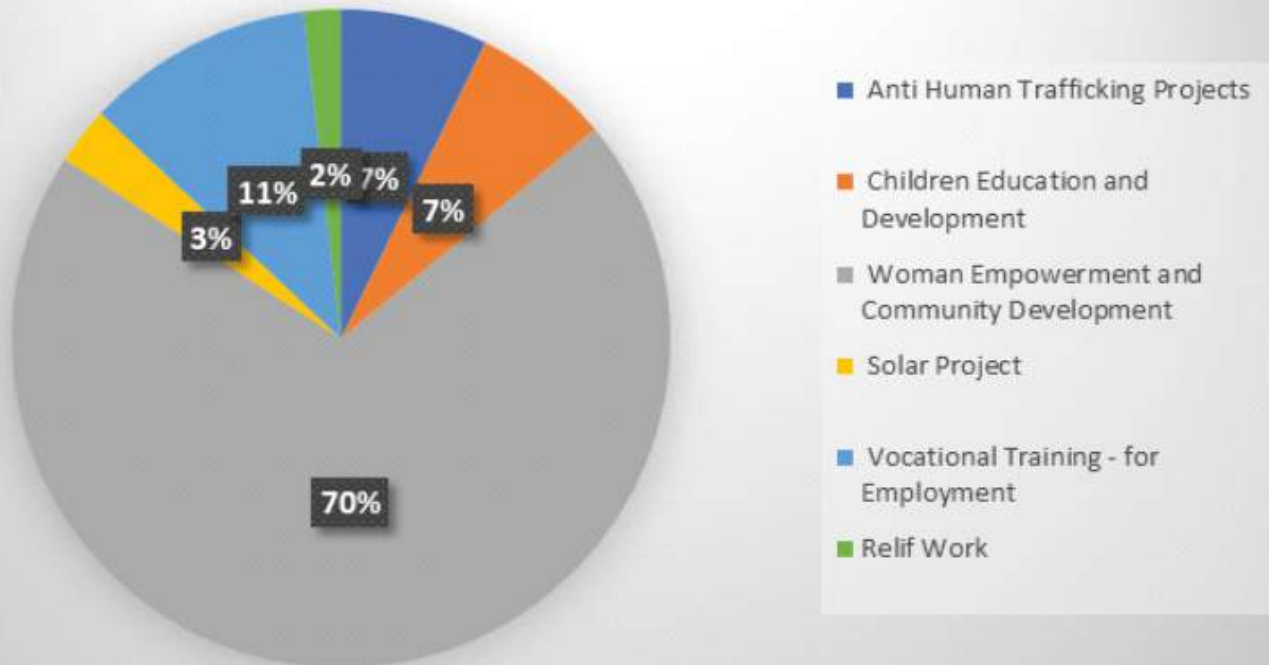
### **Sr. Jwan Kada, IBVM (Australia and South East Asia)**

Missioned by Wendy Hildebrand ibvm provincial of Australia and South East Asia to the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre for two months, involved a real plunging into some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. I visited remote villages where tribal families live well below the poverty line. I went to the informal settlements where children are attending open-air schools under bridges. I was mostly touched by encountering the women of the Red-Light District in Sonagachi, the largest sex trade in Asia where women are seen as a commodity, trafficked and violated. It is there that I truly felt that the work of promoting human dignity and human rights is the most important. It is a deep knowing that my dignity cannot be realised without also realising and promoting the dignity and worth of others. Welcomed by the villagers from Gangasagar, I felt deeply moved by the washing of the feet ritual, I was humbled by their expression of love and hospitality. Each time we entered a village, the children greet us by touching our feet, and when I asked what it meant, they said, “we do that as a gesture to say that the God in me greets the God in you.” West Bengal has transformed every part of my being, it is where I got to see and touch the sacredness of humanity, coming to know myself, the God who called me here and the people who have taught me what it means to be human. After having been engrossed in this life-giving mission, I have entered deeply into the lives of the people, listening and learning so that together with our Mary Ward values can move into action, creating a better present and future for all.



## Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre

### USES OF FUNDS



## Bank Account Details

FOREIGN ACCOUNT		
SR. NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAYMENT A/C
1	Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre	FCRA A/C
AC No.	6012061329	Kotak Mahindra Bank
IFSC	KKBK0006572	
Address	4/1, Middleton Street, Sikkim House	
	Kolkata - 700071	
	West Bengal India	
2	FCRA-Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre	FCRA A/C
AC No.	40070288087	SBI Delhi
IFSC	SBIN0000691	New Delhi Main Branch
Address	N.D. Main Branch, Parliament Street	
	New Delhi, NCT of Delhi - 110001	
3	Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre	KMWSC-Society Account
AC No.	6013453673	Kotak Mahindra Bank
IFSC	KKBK0006572	
Address	4/1, Middleton Street, Sikkim House	
	Kolkata - 700071	
	West Bengal India	
4	Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre-Donation	KMWSC-Donation
AC No.	6047163968	Kotak Mahindra Bank
IFSC	KKBK0006572	
Address	4/1, Middleton Street, Sikkim House	
	Kolkata - 700071	
	West Bengal India	





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***Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067021716550>***

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