



News from Global Care and our partner projects

Winter 2024

NEWSBRIEF

WELLS FOR WOMEN FARMERS

growing wealth (and health) with water

Ethiopia



"Financial security means regular meals, consistent education and better health for their children."

Impoverished Ethiopian women who created a farming collective to grow vegetables have inspired our 2024 Christmas Appeal.

The women included members of a self-help group funded by Global Care, which encouraged them to start small businesses. Initially they sold vegetables purchased from a wholesaler.

They soon realised they'd make more profit if they grew their own crops, so they pooled their profits to rent a piece of land. Then they made a decision which really sent their business soaring, clubbing together to dig a well and install a pump, to irrigate the land.

Not only was a single harvest more bountiful, but they could multiply the number of harvests they got from their land, hugely increasing their income. They haven't looked back!

This Christmas we want to build on this group's experience, by delivering five more wells, serving a further 50 impoverished women farmers and their families – around 250 people.

The group have shown that with a reliable source of irrigation, farming

families can double and even triple the number of harvests they can glean from their land.

This hugely increases their income potential, as well as ensuring a generous supply of fresh food for their families.

This double benefit is transformational in the lives of families who previously lived hand-to-mouth, season to season, dependent upon increasingly erratic rainfall to grow crops essential to their survival. With access to a stable water source, everything changes.

Our partners say underground water sources are in plentiful supply in this region of Ethiopia. It's just that very few families can afford to take advantage of them.

Families in poverty just don't have the funds needed to dig a well which reaches deep enough, or purchase and run a pump.

"They toil in vain," say our partners, "because they are not in a position to use the resource with which they are endowed."

This Christmas we want to raise £40,000 to deliver five new wells, for five collectives of ten women farmers.

Christmas
Challenge

Big Give

**Double your
money with the
Big Give this
Christmas!**

Thanks to generous donors and a Big Give Champion, we have £20,000 in match funding available to help us reach our five-well target.

Every penny given online during the week of the Big Give Christmas Challenge (from midday on Tuesday **3rd December** to midday on Tuesday **10th December**), will be doubled until we reach our £40,000 target.

Save the dates and please give generously to bless impoverished Ethiopian communities with tools to help build a sustainable future free from poverty.





good news

We hope to deliver **five wells** through our Christmas Appeal.

However, we are delighted to announce that we have recently won a grant to deliver an additional **eight wells**, thanks to the Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission.

These wells will benefit eighty women farmers and their families, an estimated 400 people.

It's the first time in over a decade that Global Care has been granted funding by a government body. We are very grateful for the hard work of our team in the UK, and our partners in Ethiopia, which made this successful application possible.

We are very excited about the potential of this project to deliver a positive impact for families and communities!

Head of Operations Steve Wicking met these inspiring women in Koshe earlier this year.

He said: *"This has been a really exciting project. We've seen incredible success where women have had the opportunity to work together to build a better future for themselves and their families."*

"This group are collaborating to grow crops including tomatoes, onions, bananas, wheat, maize and cabbage, which they sell in local markets. Access to ground water has tripled the annual yield and freed them from the risk of exploitation by middlemen at the wholesale market."

"In light of this success, our partners were keen to extend this opportunity

to women in other local communities.

"By providing them with the infrastructure and training needed to successfully grow and sell produce together, they are giving the women the tools they need to achieve financial security - and financial security means regular meals, consistent education and better health for their children."

Donate at
**[globalcare.org/
the-big-give](https://globalcare.org/the-big-give)**

Harvest Hope for the hungry

Thank you for your generosity this Harvest. By early October you had donated over £18,700 in support of emergency feeding programmes around the world. Some of this money has already been spent, in Zambia and Ethiopia. We are so grateful for your support!



12-year-old *Rachel's family depend on the crops they grow on their small piece of land to survive.

The long drought in Zambia has been catastrophic for families like these. Usually a net exporter of food, harvests across Zambia were crippled, food prices rose sharply and millions have gone hungry.

Usually able to provide two meals a day, Rachel's grandmother and mother were soon barely able to give Rachel and her brother enough to eat even once a day.

Then they learned that Rachel was eligible for extra feeding, thanks to emergency funding

from Global Care. Soon, Rachel and her brother were back to eating two meals a day, sometimes even three. The family are so grateful.



Rachel's family is one of 50 impoverished families, including 19 extremely vulnerable families who are not yet part of our

sponsorship programme, who received food parcels from our Zambian partners, New Life Action Foundation Trust.

Initially funded from March to August, thanks to your generosity at Harvest, we have extended the feeding programme until December.

Zambia's next rains are due in November, but even so, the next harvests won't be ready until March 2025.

Please pray the rains arrive on time and are plentiful.

Within days of launching our Harvest Appeal we were contacted by our partners in Ethiopia, on behalf of a community in which they are working, which was devastated by mudslides, following unusually heavy rainfall.

More than 200 people were killed, and hundreds more left homeless or with crops and livelihoods destroyed.

We were immediately able to send funds to feed 70 of the most vulnerable families – an estimated 350 people – for two months.



Thank you for your generosity, which made this prompt response possible.

Can you help stoke the **Engine Room?**

Global Care changes the lives of children around the world. Every day. Every year. And has done for over 40 years!

The evidence for this claim is on every page of this newsletter.

However, none of it would happen without a lot of behind-the-scenes work. Maintaining our office HQ in Coventry. Paying salaries. Technology and equipment to communicate effectively with our donors and overseas partners. Protecting our data and cybersecurity. Compliance with increasing regulatory and legal requirements.

To be frank, there's a long list of mundane things which no-one wants to fundraise for - but these things are essential to our effectiveness.

In recognition of this, we are launching our Engine Room programme, inviting committed donors to give regularly to support our general UK costs.

This is for those donors who recognise that without this infrastructure, our overseas work would not be possible, and who trust us to steward their gift wisely.

We're making The Engine Room part of our regular giving ChangeMaker programme, starting from £18 per month - just like our projects in places like Syria and South Sudan.

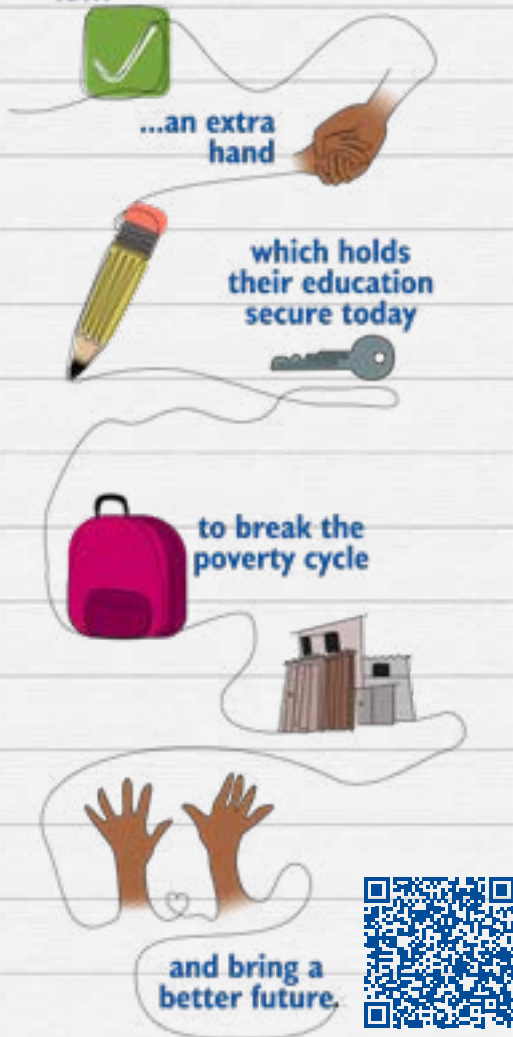
Because we know that people who give regularly to support our core UK costs are still changing young lives, just like those giving directly to work in more fragile countries.

If you'd like to give to support the Engine Room, you can find out more at globalcare.org/engine-room or phone the office on 030 030 21 030. Thank you!

[globalcare.org/
engine-room](https://globalcare.org/engine-room)



Child sponsorship
is...



Child sponsorship changes lives through advocacy, access to education and welfare support – at a cost of just 82p per day.

If you'd like to help a vulnerable child thrive through sponsorship, go to globalcare.org/sponsor or phone our office on 030 030 21 030.

HELPING MARGINALISED I

Keeping families together in Bangladesh

Four-year-old *Mary lost most of her toes when she was burned in an accident when she was younger. One of her older sisters was also hurt.

It's hard for her dad, a rickshaw puller, to meet the basic needs of his family let alone his daughters' additional needs. The family often only ate one meal a day, and the oldest daughter was on the verge of dropping out of school. Then our partners met the family.

In Bangladesh, in similar circumstances, families often consider sending one or more of their children into an orphanage, to ensure they receive an education.

We're helping our partners explore non-residential options for supporting marginalised children who

become so-called 'economic orphans', and Mary became one of the first children in a trial programme enabling children to stay with their families and be supported in their community.

Now the family receive monthly food parcels and Mary's school needs are met. The extra support for Mary also means the family can focus their limited resources on their other children – now all three sisters are in school and likely to stay there.

We're looking for new sponsors to support the needs of Mary and children like her, to prevent them becoming 'economic orphans', and keeping families together while helping children thrive.



FAMILIES

thrive

Nine-year-old *Arya lives with her grandparents and little brother in a room on the outskirts of Kolkata, where rent is cheaper.

Arya's grandparents took them in when her father died, and her mother abandoned the children.

Her grandfather is unemployed and her grandmother works as a maid for a couple of families. They all travel into central Kolkata by train each day – a journey of an hour and a half – so the children can go to school and their grandmother can go to work.

After school, they go to the Pavement Club, run by Global Care's partners, where they receive extra help with their learning, a healthy snack, and an opportunity to play and have fun. Their grandmother is always there at the end to collect the children and take them on their long train journey home.

Arya and her brother joined the Pavement Club two years ago, and Arya also joined Global Care's sponsorship programme.

The extra help through sponsorship has been a huge blessing to this little family, who struggle to make ends meet.

The Pavement Club is also crucial to their welfare - the children are safe, learning and healthy, while their grandmother finishes work.

Our partners say: *"Despite their deep anguish and pain at not having their parents, their grandparents have stood by them through thick and thin and the project has also extended arms of support whenever necessary."*

"Today they are doing exceptionally well, and Arya has shown significant improvement in all areas of her studies, and joining in with all the activities of the Pavement Club."



India



Uganda

10-year-old *Ocan is the youngest of nine children, living in a poor rural part of Soroti district.

Although he always wanted to go to school, no-one would take him regularly. His family thought he wouldn't cope and believed his disability meant he had no prospects of finding work in the future. Ocan joined the sponsorship programme in March 2024 and received a wheelchair, making school attendance more feasible. Sponsorship pays his school

fees and provides meals and uniform.

Ocan's parents are grateful that his life has already changed for the better, his wish for education has come true, and he can pursue his dreams of becoming an electronic engineer.

Now Ocan's school attendance is excellent, he looks smart in his new uniform, and his relationship with his family and community has improved.

Ocan likes art and crafts and is very good at science. *"I want to thank my sponsors for helping me, thank you very*

much," he says. *"I used to suffer, I could miss school, I could get accidents, we used to sit down on mats and whenever we were asked to sing and jump I could not, so children could jump on me and step on me. I got broken several times, because I had no wheelchair. Now I am very smart, clean, I have gained more knowledge, and I love school. I don't fear any more, I am free to talk to anybody."*

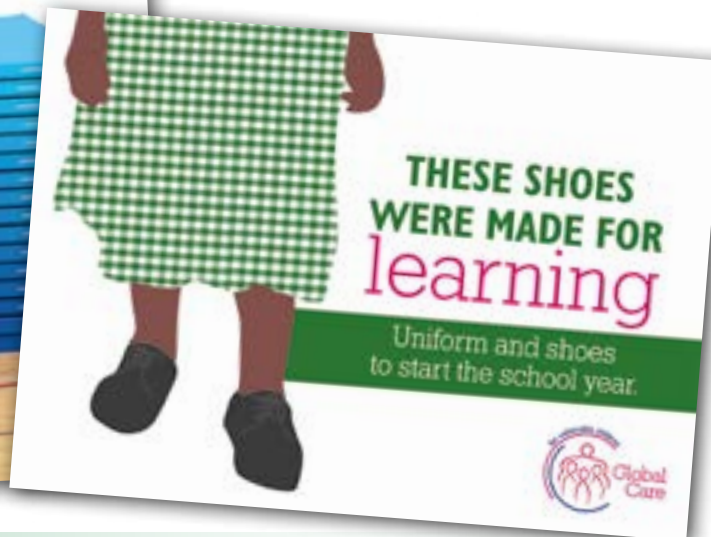
Ocan and his family also benefit from being part of a Disability Support Group.

Christmas gifts make a difference

These books... These shoes...



Our partners in Malawi work in schools to support marginalised girls through a mentoring programme, and also provide school essentials to students from impoverished families.



This Christmas you can buy a full school uniform and shoes for a student, at a cost of £45. Or you can buy a year's supply of exercise books and pens for one student, at a cost of £20.

In return you will receive a small gift pack which you can pass on to the friend or family member in whose name you have purchased the gift. This will include a leaflet explaining the gift and a postcard on which you can write a message or send Christmas greetings.

And a child in Malawi will receive a wonderful blessing!

Limited stock available!

There are limited numbers of our alternative Christmas gifts available online.

Visit our shop today to make sure you don't miss out:



globalcare.org/shop



Christmas Cards available now

Don't forget you can also buy Christmas Cards and e-cards via our online shop. This year's card features a nativity scene starring children from Spurgeons Academy, in Kibera, Kenya.

Cards cost £3.49 plus postage, or e-cards are available for a donation.

GIVE A LITTLE LIGHT THIS CHRISTMAS

Our solar lamps are available for purchase, for the fourth successive year.

In the last three years you have donated 695 solar lamps, which have been a blazing success in Uganda and Zambia!

Every year we hear again how much families love them, and how much they gain from them – whether it's the obvious benefit of being able to do schoolwork or get safely to the latrine in the dark, or the less

obvious benefits of attracting flying ants to eat or scaring snakes away!

Solar lamps are cleaner, greener and cheaper than kerosene, transformational for those families without any source of light at all, and at just £16 they make an extremely affordable and high impact alternative gift.

This year the lamps will go again to Uganda and Zambia, and to other countries on the basis of need.



TURNING YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS INTO treasure

We're now selling pre-loved clothes and accessories on two online platforms – so here's a huge thank you to those who donate items and to those who buy them!

You can find us on buycharity.com and via our new ebay shop at ebay.co.uk/str/globalcareshop.

We're very grateful to Lina, who is running this online retail initiative, as well as to our two charity shops, who are supplying the stock.

Our charity shop teams, led by manager Jill in Coventry, and new manager Paula, in Bulkington, work incredibly hard to raise essential funds to support the broader work of Global Care.

High-value donated items continue to be sold separately on ebay via Jean, a long-standing volunteer. Thank you all!



WinWin Learning & Income boosted in Bangladesh

Over 300 children and young people are benefitting from our partners' Learning Booster Centres in Bangladesh, thanks to your generosity.

This two-year project, which started in May 2023, is helping children and young people catch up on the learning they missed during Covid lockdowns, as well as helping their families earn an extra income by growing salads and raising ducks.

Funded through the Big Give Christmas 2022 Appeal, 300 children, including 165 girls, are attending 20 centres across the district where they play games, eat healthy snacks, and get help with their schoolwork from young people acting as mentors.

Many of the mentors had taken up jobs in lockdown in order to survive and, reluctantly, had given up on their education altogether. However, as a reward for supporting the children at the centres, the 40 teenage mentors also receive weekly tuition, which is enabling them to return to education and catch up on their studies.

The centres run for two hours after school, four days a week. The mentors work in pairs under the supervision of local teachers and two Project Coordinators, who visit all the centres at least once a week.

Pranesh's story

Before seven-year-old *Pranesh joined our Learning Booster Centre initiative, his family's financial situation was very fragile.

His dad barely earned enough to run the household – they didn't have enough money for food, and always struggled to pay school fees on time or to buy school essentials. So, Pranesh lost interest in learning.

But his mum learned about our Booster Centres and was quick to enrol her youngest son. Not only did Pranesh receive free learning support, school essentials and a healthy snack twice a week, his mum also benefitted from training in income generation.

She learned how to grow vegetables and rear ducklings, and on completion of the training received a gift of seeds and ducklings. Her success in putting her training into practice has helped the family become more financially stable and improved their diet.

And Pranesh is loving school!



Saiful's story

Six-year-old *Saiful is a bright little boy, and our partners say he is flourishing under the supervision of the learning mentors at the centre.

Our partners write: *"Saiful's father was very worried about his education. Like other parents they wished for their child to study and to become a respectable person. However, their financial condition was poor. They feared they might fail to fulfil their dream because they were living a very difficult life with their two children."*

Joining the Learning Booster project has swept those fears away. Saiful is doing very well, learning new skills – and he's shown a flair for poetry recital!

Our partners say: *"This has made his parents very happy, as they feel their child's education is being properly valued. They are hopeful he will do very well in the future."*



"Due to want of money my family had been experiencing some problems..."

Mum of one, Misty, enrolled her young son in a Learning Booster Centre, and received training on growing vegetables and rearing ducklings.

She sold the crops her family didn't eat, sold some of her adult ducks, and reared others to produce eggs. *"I am very grateful,"* she said. *"Earning money helps me bear some of the expenses of my family."*

Misty is one of around 200 mums who have received seeds and / or ducklings as part of this project.





GET FIT & HAVE FUN!

Do you want to get fit and have fun in January? Join our 50 miles in 30 days campaign, and you can do it while helping marginalised children too!

Our popular annual walking campaign is now in its fifth year, having raised almost £28,000 to help vulnerable children in Uganda, Malawi, Syria and Kenya since 2020.

This year we're raising funds for the nutrition programme at the Kadella Centre, a highly effective initiative helping HIV+ children and young people from impoverished families in Sri Lanka.

All you need to do is sign up with a donation of £30 or more, and then do your best to walk 50 miles in 30 days in January.

There are weekly competitions with prizes to keep you motivated, and a cosy Global

Care beanie hat to keep you warm!

There is no formal fundraising commitment, but if you can gain some sponsorship from family and friends to complete the challenge, please do so!

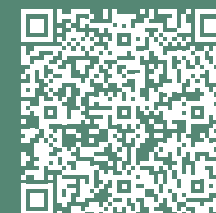
Over 300 people have taken part in our walking challenge since it launched, but **a huge 62% of the funds raised have come from just 55 participants** – those who chose to operate fundraising pages. You can treble or quadruple your impact – without walking any extra miles.

Sign up now and choose
your beanie hat:

[globalcare.org/
50-miles](https://globalcare.org/50-miles)



10-year-old *Yansili was born with HIV. Every day, she faces the risk of being ostracised in a society that harshly discriminates against people with HIV/AIDs. Find out how Kadella helps her live positively.



*Names have been changed to protect the identity of children
Global Care, 2 Dugdale Road, Coventry CV6 1PB | Tel: 030 030 21 030 | info@globalcare.org | www.globalcare.org
Global Care is a working name of Global Care International, Charity No. 1142624 (England and Wales) & Company No. 07560813

Registered with



FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR