



Global  
Care



News from Global Care and our partner projects

Winter 2025

# NEWSBRIEF

# LEARNING HOW TO DREAM

In Santa Faz, children don't know how to dream. They can't even imagine life outside their violent slum, which sprawls down a steep hillside, where mothers tell them not to play outside because they might be shot.



In the grip of gangs, poverty and fear, the wider world might as well be another planet. Yet at the Casa Club, in the heart of Santa Faz, children play in safety and are helped with homework.

They also, wonderfully, learn how to dream. They glimpse life outside this slum on the edge of Guatemala City. They meet positive adults who care for them, mentor them, teach them and encourage them to believe. Because if you can't dream, if you don't believe, you can't escape.

**We're not selling a Disney fantasy – this year, for the first time, one of the street-connected young people supported by our partners went off to university.**

## Guatemala

It was a milestone moment, not just for this young student, but for the entire project. For 12 years, the SKD Guatemala team have stood alongside vulnerable children at high risk of street and gang life, mentoring and encouraging. Now they are seeing lasting fruit in young lives transformed.

It was an aspirational moment for everyone. Now the younger children watching know they too can hope – and work – for a better future.

## This Christmas, we want to raise £60,000 to expand the Casa Club, to rent and renovate a bigger building, so we can help more children.

The Casa Club is a satellite of El Centro – a larger programme run by our partners in La Terminal, a different slum. Children from Santa Faz can't access El Centro because it's too dangerous for them to travel in and out of the area, so the Casa Club was started in a small garage-like shop unit around three years ago.

Across the road is a municipal sports pitch, with good football and basketball facilities – but most parents are too scared to let their children play there due to the dangers of drug and gang activity. But under the supervision of the Casa Club team, children can play in safety, running, skipping, playing sports.

Inside the Club they do homework, enjoy crafts, play games. It's a wonderful opportunity for children who live very restricted lives.

However, the facilities at Casa Club are limited. A single toilet is shared with other businesses in the unit – which makes safeguarding difficult to manage.

We can only have children in limited numbers and must rota different groups on different days - in contrast to El Centro, where children attend every day.

We have a waiting list of children desperate for a place, but we just can't fit them in.

Our plan to stay in the same location, but occupy the entire three-floor building, including the apartment upstairs. This will give the children access to secure toilets, and a kitchen, alongside classroom and activity space. We'll be able to offer more activities, to more children, more regularly.

Our partners' outreach team wants to connect with at least 100 at-risk children over the next 12 months, with at least 75 of these attending the centre for a minimum of four days a week.

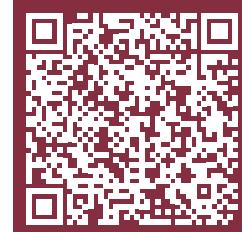
They also want to offer parenting support and workshops to at least 60 families, as they know that improving home stability is another important factor in helping children succeed.

*"To be poor is not just about lack of money,"* says Frank, the director of SKD Guatemala. *"The hardest thing for a child to overcome is not knowing how to dream of a better future. That mentality is so hard to change. But we can help them do this, to dream of a wonderful life, a better job, a brighter future. This is what can motivate them through the darkest moments."*

Can you help the children of Santa Faz learn to dream this Christmas? Thanks to match funding from generous Global Care pledgers, every gift will be doubled in value, up to a total of £60,000.

Donate to change young lives this Christmas.

**[globalcare.org/  
Christmas-2025](https://globalcare.org/Christmas-2025)**



# Waiting for a place...



**\*Jacob's dad died nine years ago, when his sister was a baby and his mum was only 20 years old.**

In the past, Jacob, aged 13, has done well at school, but now his grades are slipping.

He is easily distracted. His mum is worried.

He goes to church with his little sister,

even though his mum doesn't attend, after a local pastor got to know the family. The pastor referred both Jacob and his sister to the Casa Club – they are both on the waiting list for a place.

It's important for Jacob to get a place soon. In Santa Faz it's too easy for disaffected young boys to drift into trouble. The kind of trouble you never escape.

## GIVE BIG THIS CHRISTMAS

Double your money to help children like Jacob

Double your money with match funding this Christmas!

Thanks to generous donors, we have £30,000 in match funding available to help us reach our Christmas target for the Casa Club expansion.

That means every penny you give, either online, by cheque or by phone, will be doubled until we reach our £60,000 target. Please give generously in support of the children of Santa Faz.



You give generously to help children in Santa Faz



A matchfunder gives exactly the same amount as you.



Your donation is doubled, helping more children in Santa Faz!

Don't miss out... give now!



[globalcare.org/  
christmas-2025](https://globalcare.org/christmas-2025)

# Protecting Families

**Sri Lanka** A pioneering project to help vulnerable mothers avoid modern slavery has helped more than 2,000 women and children.

The Reducing Domestic Abuse and Human Trafficking project, run by our partners in Sri Lanka, educates women about the dangers of working as housemaids in the Middle East – a popular means of earning an income, which leaves women at high risk of exploitation and abuse.



Learning tie dye

As many as one in five Sri Lankan families have a mother who is working abroad as a housemaid, or who has previously left the family to take the job, where contracts last a minimum of two years.

Thousands of women experience horrific abuse in unprotected environments, and thousands of children left behind in Sri Lanka experience inadequate care and protection as a result. For women and children involved in this cycle, the rate of family breakdown is high.

The project was delivered through a series of

women's, children's and youth groups, established in locations across Sri Lanka.

The project had an “instant and profound” effect for some women.

As part of addressing domestic abuse and the dangers of working overseas, the team also addressed child and women's rights, child protection and HIV awareness, and offered skills training ranging from employment skills and handicrafts to English classes. Particularly popular were one-day training courses on the preparation of food which can be sold on the streets. Our partners said this had an “instant and profound” effect on some participants.

Almost 1,800 women attended groups and workshops over the last three years, and over 600 children and young people.

Our partners are delighted with the high level of engagement and the impact the project has made: *“Many participants shared that their outlook on life has changed. They have developed a more positive perspective, gained patience, and moved beyond old mindsets which once held them back.”*

*“One of the most transformative shifts was in their attitude towards employment. Previously, many women would have considered working in the Middle East. Now, they feel empowered to look for opportunities closer to home, fully aware of the risks of being separated from their families.”*

## Hope through Heavena

Work to prevent mothers going to the Middle East ran alongside the Heavena programme, supporting victims of domestic abuse.

Heavena was originally a shelter for women fleeing domestic violence, funded via our Children At Risk programme from 2004.

In 2020 Heavena changed. Instead of running a shelter, the team focus on rehousing abused mothers, covering rent for a defined period and offering a comprehensive support package, including food, school fees, medical help, skills training and counselling, depending on need.

Our partners say: *“Heavena provides a vital refuge for women and children affected by trauma, abuse and abandonment. Building on two decades of experience, Heavena expanded its services, boosting confidence, dispelling fear, nurturing hope and reinforcing positive thinking.”*

*“Practical assistance has alleviated immediate burdens, freeing mothers from the constant stress of juggling essential needs, and the counselling ‘listening room’ offers much-needed emotional sanctuary. All this empowers women to rebuild their lives as resilient, hopeful individuals. We extend our deep gratitude to Global Care for backing this life-changing work.”*



# KICK OFF YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

## We've got them covered!

Even in sweltering India, the nights can be cold, particularly during the winter months (December - February) and the rainy season (July - September).

In the Patripul slum, few Dalit families can afford luxuries like blankets. When every day is a struggle to feed the family and pay the rent, a cosy blanket is a precious extra you must do without.

Instead, children wrap themselves in old newspapers and plastic bags.

Inevitably, the cold and damp nights affect their health, and their quality of sleep – which in turn affects

their attendance at school and their concentration in the classroom.

In the worst of the cold spells, children may develop very serious respiratory problems, which can even be fatal. Last winter a newborn baby died.

This Christmas we'd like to give cosy blankets to all 226 children currently attending the GCare Centres in Patripul, through our alternative gifts programme.

It costs just £28 to donate six blankets, helping six children get a good night's sleep, and protecting their health through the worst of the cold weather.

We need to sell a minimum of 38 blanket gift packs to ensure every child receives one – but we'd like to sell more, to help other children in the future, based on need.

What a fantastic gift - get them covered for just £28 this Christmas!



### NO MORE FEVER

\*Pardhvi lives in Patripul with her parents and two siblings, in very poor-quality slum housing.

After her younger brother was hospitalised for two months Pardhvi dropped out of school as her parents couldn't afford it.

When our partners at the GCare Centre met the family, they helped Pardhvi back into school and provided extra healthy nutrition.

Despite this, Pardhvi was often sick, suffering with fevers, especially in the rainy season, when the children couldn't keep warm despite wrapping themselves in newspapers and their mother's sari.

The GCare team bought Pardhvi a warm fleecy blanket, which has really helped to protect her health. Pardhvi was one of only five children to receive a blanket last year, due to limited resources. This Christmas we want to provide blankets for all the children at the GCare Centres. Can you help?

Buy all our alternative gifts online at  
[globalcare.org/alternative-gifts](http://globalcare.org/alternative-gifts)

# ING WITH OUR **ALTERNATIVE GIFTS**

## Super Solar lamps

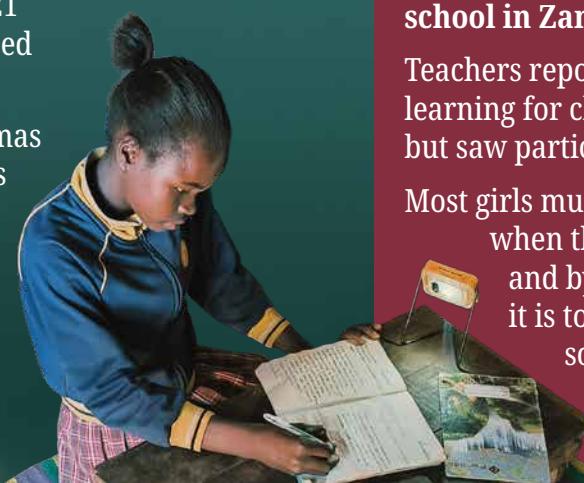
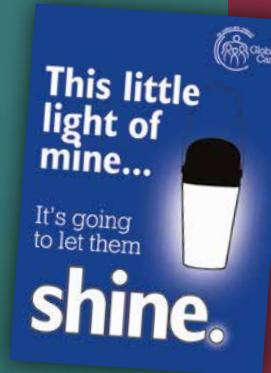
Our ever-popular solar lamps are back! Cleaner, greener, healthier and cheaper than kerosene, the solar lamps make a wonderful gift for families without electricity.

Children can study in the evenings, families can safely use pit latrines at night, and the lamps scare snakes and rats away!

Health is protected as families aren't breathing in toxic kerosene fumes, safety is improved as there are no more naked flames and the lamps are completely free to use, protecting scarce family resources for other needs.

The robust lamps, which cost just £16, last at least three years. Our partners across Africa have been delivering these lamps to marginalised families without electricity since 2021 and they have been welcomed everywhere.

With funds raised at Christmas 2024 we provided 146 lamps in Zambia, 100 in Uganda, 60 in Malawi and 31 in Zimbabwe. We love this programme - let's provide more this year!



## BETTER SAFETY...

Children and caregivers at the Houtberg Childcare Centre in Zimbabwe all received solar lamps earlier this year.

The greater safety provided by solar power was highlighted just a few months later when a nearby children's home was gutted by fire, after a child left a candle burning in a bedroom when going out to play.

The team at Houtberg have thanked Global Care for the lamps in almost every communication since!

## ... AND BETTER STUDY

**Solar lamps donated last Christmas were given to all 114 children in Grade 7 (the last year of primary education) at M8 school in Zambia.**

Teachers reported a significant impact on learning for children who received lamps but saw particular progress in girls.

Most girls must help with household chores when they arrive home from school, and by the time they have finished it is too dark to study. For girls, solar lamps change everything – giving them new opportunities to learn.

## Tools for Transformation

School supplies are another 'extra' which most families struggle to afford. Although education is officially free in India, children must bring their own equipment – a huge challenge for the poorest families.

It creates a real barrier to learning – it's hard to learn if you can't write anything down.

Yet this Christmas, for just £23, you can donate enough school stationery to equip three children for most of a school year.

Our 'Tools for Transformation' alternative gift is new for 2025 and will help the children attending our GCare Centres in Patlipul make the most of their time in the classroom.

Your donation will provide at least four notebooks, exercise books, pens or pencils and a maths set including a protractor, ruler and a pair of compasses, to each of three children.

Donations of 76 gift packs this Christmas will fund school supplies for all the children.



# WATERWORKS

2025 has been a year which reminded us of the transformative power of water!

## Zambia

In Zambia, doctors from a local village came to investigate after the provision of clean water at M8 school reduced the numbers of children seeking treatment for severe diarrhoea and gastric problems from 30 children per week to just one child per week.

Just months earlier Global Care had built a water tower at the school, to provide children with consistent clean water, with taps for handwashing at the school's pit latrines.

The doctors immediately identified the water tower as the reason for the vast improvement in children's health. What a blessing!



## Ethiopia

Over in Ethiopia, our Wells for Women Farmers initiative is transforming hundreds of lives, as the new wells are built. By the end of September, 10 of the 13 planned wells had been completed, supporting 120 women farmers.

This high-impact initiative is delivering rapid results, with many encouraging stories already emerging – like \*Wuletta, a mother of four whose tomato farming collective has been a storming success since accessing a reliable water supply.

Previously, Wuletta relied entirely on seasonal rain-fed farming. Her plot of land barely produced enough for her family to eat. Erratic rains and long dry spells meant her tomatoes would often either dry out or rot

before harvest. Her income was erratic – sometimes less than ETB 50 per day (26p) and she struggled to afford school essentials or medical care for her children.

Then Wuletta joined the Selam irrigation group – one of the first to be established. Now with access to year-round water, she harvested four cycles of tomatoes in one year. In the last quarter, her group harvested a huge 10,000kg of tomatoes, selling them at ETB25 (13p) per kg, giving Wuletta a share of around ETB 25,083 (£129) – a previously unimaginable sum.

*"Now I can send my children to school with full bellies and school bags,"* she says. *"I have also saved enough to buy a water tank and build a small iron-roofed house."*



Wuletta with her co-farmers and some of their children.

One of the women farmers sorts her cabbage harvest.



\*Meaza also previously struggled to support her two children, often earning less than ETB 60 per day (31p). But after joining an irrigation group she began growing green cabbage using water from a new well – soon discovering this meant she could grow cabbage across the dry season when market demand and prices were higher.

After successfully harvesting 100 crates of cabbage, her group sold each crate at ETB 1,700 (£8.81) – Meaza’s portion was nearly ETB 20,000 (£103). “Before this, I had no idea I could grow food in the dry months,” says Meaza. “Now I’ve even started saving weekly and dreaming of buying a small ox.”

What a transformation in just one year! Head of Operations Steve Wicking visited Ethiopia in September. He said: “It was wonderful to be able to visit several of the women farmers groups and learn more about the impact of this project.

*Communities are being changed for the better. The women can provide their families with a consistent and varied supply of vegetables and salads and sell the surplus. This gives them enough*

*income to send their children to school, buy them shoes and school bags and purchase medicine when they are sick.*



*One of the really encouraging things I learnt was how the project had provided an alternative for many women who were otherwise going to go abroad to the Middle East to work as housemaids, enabling them to stay at home with their families and work for a better future with dignity.*

*The economy in Ethiopia is really struggling, with the currency losing about 150% of its value over the last 18 months and many of the men I met are struggling to find regular work.*

*A husband of one of the group members told me that the project has taken some of the pressure off him to provide everything for the family. He told me that ‘poverty makes conflict, but this project has brought harmony to our household.’*

This initiative was funded through a grant from the Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission, and our Big Give Christmas Appeal in 2024. A huge thank you goes to everyone who gave.

# Your support changes children's lives.



Sponsor a child today at  
[globalcare.org/sponsor](http://globalcare.org/sponsor)



"Because of your support I have gone through a process of change which has been full of good things. I graduated to O level class, I was able to go to vocational college and very soon I'll be graduated.

"Thank you for changing my life."

**These are the words of 19-year-old Daisy, who was aged just seven when she arrived at the Houtberg Childcare Centre in Zimbabwe, a shelter for children without a safe family.**

Today she is a confident, educated young woman who is full of hope for the future. Such is the transforming power of child sponsorship.

Looking back on her life with her grandmother, Daisy remembers hunger, meals which consisted only of sudsa (boiled mealie meal) tattered clothes, no shoes and hard work. *"I don't think I would have gone to school if I had stayed with my grandmother,"* she says. *"I would have been subject to child labour and I know I would have been married when I was very young. I would never have had the opportunities I have been given."*

Daisy was just about to graduate from a vocational skills course in tailoring when she met CEO John White during his summer visit.

She had spent her placement learning to make school uniforms and plans to

set up in business very soon. On graduation she will receive a sewing machine from our Moving Forward Fund, and Pastor Mishack intends to employ her to make school uniforms for the children at the Houtberg Centre. This will be cheaper than buying uniforms, and will be a good source of income for Daisy as she establishes her business.

Thank you to all our child sponsors. Your investment in young lives over the long term is life-changing.





Sri Lanka

### Pray for ten-year-old \*Joel who was forced into hiding for his own protection after his parents were implicated in the murder of his cousin.

\*Joel joined the tuition programme at the Morning Star Care Centre (MSCC) in Sri Lanka, three years ago. Known for his quiet and caring nature, he made steady progress through one-to-one support from the team, despite being a slow learner. Sadly, his life was thrown into turmoil last May when his cousin was murdered – and his parents were imprisoned for their involvement.

Joel and his little brother went into hiding with their grandmother, for their own safety. He has missed months of education, and although the MSCC team have been in touch to offer support, the main thing Joel needs is the ability to live in safety and return to school. Pray this situation can be resolved peacefully.

Want to pray regularly for Global Care? Join our prayer supporters to receive prayer news by email.



[globalcare.org/  
prayer-focus](http://globalcare.org/prayer-focus)

### No to Drugs *David's Story*

#### Cambodia

10-year-old \*David wants to be a policeman. *"I want to protect my community from violence and abuse,"* he says. *"I don't like people using and selling drugs in my community."*

David attends the Graveyard PreSchool in Phnom Penh supported by Global Care. When he joined the preschool two years ago he couldn't read or write, but now he can do both. He added: *"I study very hard even though I don't always understand!"*

Thank you to our Change Makers, who support informal education initiatives for marginalised children in countries including Cambodia, Myanmar, India and Syria.

[globalcare.org/  
change-maker](http://globalcare.org/change-maker)



### Little \*Ajani was hit by a taxi and broke his leg. Sadly, because he is a Dalit child, many bystanders just walked by and refused to help.

It was only when Mahendra, from our partners in Patripul, the GCare Foundation, arrived on scene that Ajani received the medical help he needed.

Mahendra arranged transport to take Ajani to

hospital and was able to use our Medical Response Fund to pay for his treatment, which cost far more than his parents could afford. Ajani is expected to make a full recovery.

Thank you to our Children At Risk donors. When children are in crisis, your regular donations mean our partners are equipped to intervene. Ajani is now registered with our partner's GCare Centre in Patripul, and will benefit from ongoing care, advocacy and support.

"Because he is a Dalit child, many bystanders...refused to help."



[globalcare.org/  
children-at-risk](http://globalcare.org/children-at-risk)

#### India

# Light up Advent

with Global Care

Would you like to light up Advent with Global Care this year?

We have a new series of short reflections intended for use on each of the four Sundays through Advent for anyone who'd like to light a candle, reflect and pray for our wider international work.

We'll be sending them out via email every Sunday through Advent. Written by Reverend Keith Parr, a long-standing friend of Global Care and former chair of trustees, there is also a podcast version for those who prefer to listen.

To sign up and for details of where to find the podcast, go to [globalcare.org/light-up-advent](https://globalcare.org/light-up-advent).



## 50 MILES for Myanmar

Can you kick off the New Year by getting fit, having fun and raising funds for our work in Myanmar?



In January 2026 our popular 50 Miles in 30 Days walking challenge is back. This year we're raising funds for our work supporting the education of oppressed Karen minority ethnic children in beleaguered Myanmar.

Conditions here are almost unimaginable for those of us who never known what it is to grow up in a conflict zone.

Here, children gather in class – and learn to flee into the jungle at a moment's notice. They learn maths – and how to dig air raid trenches. They dream of becoming doctors and teachers – but could be shot on sight by their own government's soldiers.



Kayah State, the smallest and poorest of Myanmar's minority ethnic states has been a conflict zone for most of the last 60 years and is so again. We recently heard that the town where one of our supported schools is based was bombed. All the children had to leave the area temporarily.

Despite the risks, our partner, DS, walks and rides for miles, dodging roadblocks and airstrikes, to deliver aid and support to struggling village teachers, and to students who live away from home because the only viable secondary schools are too few, and located too far away.

Can you get your hiking boots on, like DS, and walk 50 miles in January in support of the marginalised children of Kayah State?

Sign up and donate at [globalcare.org/50-miles](https://globalcare.org/50-miles).



Registered with



\*Names have been changed to protect the identity of children

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