

for vulnerable children

Global Care

News from Global Care and our partner projects

Winter 2026

NEWSBRIEF

BEYOND THE PLATFORM

India **Sealdah Station, in Kolkata, India, is one of the world's busiest railway stations, with up to 1.5 million passengers passing through every day. Amongst the commuter chaos, the station is also home to dozens of children at any time.**

Some live there permanently with a parent, tucked into a corner of a platform or sleeping rough in a corridor. Others are there temporarily, arriving from across India with nowhere to go.

Far too many are alone, and for these children, whether begging, working, or simply hiding, the risk of exploitation and abuse is unimaginably high.

No-one knows exact numbers, because by very definition these children are overlooked, undocumented and forgotten, but agencies estimate at least 500 children stay in the station over the course of each year.



But not everyone looks away.

Stable funding for this passion project is desperately needed

But not everyone looks away.

Since 2023, Global Care's Kolkata partners, Emmanuel Ministries, have run a small drop-in centre in a tiny room near the toilets in the station car park.

Every day they feed breakfast to up to 35 children, 15 mums, mostly with babies, and 10 young people, all living at Sealdah station.

Children can learn literacy and numeracy and enjoy art and crafts - our partners try to help children bridge learning gaps so they have a chance of success if they ever go to school. Mums join adult literacy classes, often simply to learn how to sign their names.

Welfare support ranges from working with authorities to house abandoned or runaway children, helping young people access services to fight addiction, providing counselling, hygiene kits and food parcels - even giving away umbrellas during India's monsoons.

All this happens on a shoestring budget in a room which measures just seven feet by nine. The size of the room is not remotely adequate for the size of the task.

Our partners have never had stable funding for this passion project. They desperately want a bigger centre, so they can provide better services to more children.

This Christmas, we want to raise £66,000 to expand and run this programme for 3 years.

Your donations will help rent larger premises, fund four members of staff and cover the costs of food, educational supplies, welfare support and other extras.

Our partners say: *"Through the Sealdah Drop-In Centre, children who once lived without care or opportunity now receive nutritious meals, education, guidance, counselling, and the encouragement they need to believe in a better future.*

"Many have returned to school, improved their health or overcome harmful behaviours, and begun to dream beyond life on the railway platform.

"Today, the greatest challenge is not a lack of commitment or experience - it is the lack of space. A larger, child-friendly facility will allow us to reach more children, provide better learning opportunities, and create an environment where every child feels safe, valued, and inspired to thrive."

Can you help us help the children of Sealdah Station this Christmas?



Give now

Lost aged 5, adrift aged 18

Gafur's story

Five-year-old *Gafur was playing with friends in the fields near his village, when he saw a train standing nearby. Curious, the little boy ran to investigate. He climbed inside.

Suddenly the train began to move, and Gafur's life changed forever. Frightened and alone, he had no idea how to return home. He didn't even know the name of his village.

Suddenly the train began to move, and Gafur's life changed forever.

For nearly five years, Gafur survived by moving from one railway station to another, begging to survive, hoping to recognise his home. He had no home, and no-one to guide or protect him, until, thanks to an act of kindness, his life took another turn.

A compassionate traveller saw him begging, recognised his vulnerability and took him to a boys' hostel. Finally, he had somewhere safe to stay.

He remained in institutional care until he turned 18 but then, without a family network or clear path forward, he was adrift again.

Gafur returned to the only life he knew, in and out of railway stations, until he arrived at Sealdah Station, in Kolkata. Here he found our partner's Drop in Centre. The team offered food, counselling, encouragement and emotional support. It was another turning point for Gafur.

Today, Gafur is moving towards a more stable and independent future. He regularly attends the centre which supports him with food, clean clothes and continued guidance.

Most importantly the team helped him find work at a small diner nearby. The job gives him regular income and, with it, a growing sense of dignity and independence.

Medical treatment for a facial disfigurement and counselling have also helped Gafur improve his confidence and well-being.

Our partners say: *"Gafur's journey reminds us that a child's life can change dramatically because of circumstances beyond his control. But it also shows the power of timely intervention, compassion, and continued support.*

"His story is not only about what he has survived. It is about what he is becoming. From a lost and lonely child, to a boy finding safety in a hostel, to a young man standing independently with a job and a renewed sense of hope - Gafur's journey is a testament to resilience. With support and opportunities, he is now looking ahead with greater confidence, dignity, and hope for a better tomorrow."



DOUBLE YOUR DONATION

Thanks to generous match funders, **every penny given to this appeal will be DOUBLED** until we reach our target of £66,000.

So if you give us £50, we'll receive £100. Donate £100 and we'll receive £200.

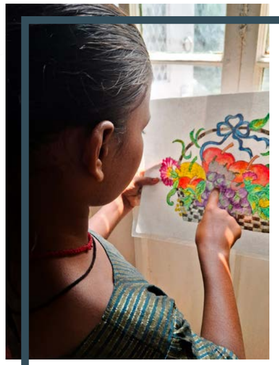
What a blessing!

Help us make the most of this wonderful opportunity to help these railway children live in greater safety, and with hope.

Please give generously.

globalcare.org/Christmas-2026

Or call us on 030 030 21 030 to donate over the phone.



Station Baby: Nabhanu's story

11-year-old *Nabhanu was born in a corner of Sealdah Railway Station.

Her parents are street sellers, and Nabhanu has never been to school. Instead, from a very young age, she was expected to help her parents sell vegetables.

The drop-in centre team noticed Nabhanu roaming aimlessly on a station platform. They offered to bring her for lessons at the centre, but her parents were reluctant to lose her help. The team didn't give up, meeting with her parents several times. Eventually, persuaded that Nabhanu's education could benefit the whole family, her parents agreed to let her join.

It hasn't been an easy transition. Nabhanu had never been in a formal learning environment, and found it hard to sit still, getting into fights with other children.

But, as staff responded with patience rather than punishment, Nabhanu started to feel safer. She is now calmer, interacts more positively and has started taking interest in the activities at the centre.

Our partners say: *"Her transformation is still a work in progress, but the changes in her behaviour and engagement are encouraging. We remain hopeful that through continued learning, counselling, nutrition and care, Nabhanu will acquire the foundational skills she needs and move towards a brighter future."*

"Just a small opportunity can change a life": Hannah's story

Mum of two *Hannah was begging with her children at Sealdah Station when she first met the drop-in centre team. Her husband had very irregular work, and begging helped them survive.

The team encouraged Hannah and her two sons to attend the drop-in centre, where they all had a healthy breakfast. Hannah joined adult literacy classes, and the children could access learning and play activities in safety.

Last year, after months of learning interventions, 10-year-old *Adam started school, which the team describe as *"a moment of happiness and hope"* for his proud mum.

Even better, a friend of the centre gave Hannah 1,000 rupees (£7.50) to start a small business. Now Hannah makes money selling vegetables and no longer needs to beg.



Our partners say this shows how even a small opportunity can make a big difference in someone's life.

"Hannah is thankful for the support and encouragement she needed at a difficult time," they write. *"Today her biggest dream is to see her children study, grow up safely, and have a better future. Her journey from begging to running a small business is a simple but powerful story of courage, hope and self-reliance."*

Help us help people like Gafur, Nabhanu and Hannah this Christmas

£19 could buy educational materials for three children to last a year

£70 could pay for breakfast or a hot meal for up to 60 children for five days

£122 could cover salary costs for a social worker or counsellor for five weeks

Give today and double your donation at globalcare.org/christmas-2026

BUILDINGS & BLESSINGS

Ethiopia
CLASSROOMS & A PLAYGROUND

Six new classrooms, a new playground and a host of new resources have transformed the teaching and learning experience for hundreds of children at a school in Ethiopia, thanks to funding via Global Care.

Government provision for education in rural Ethiopia is minimal. Global Care's Ethiopian partners responded to this need in Woalito, a rapidly expanding town in Sodo district, south-central Ethiopia, by starting a preschool.

Led by a local church, over the last decade the school has grown to include 349 pupils in 11 classes, serving a very vulnerable community.

The school must renew their licence with the local authority every three years and in 2024 they were told to replace their traditional mud and timber buildings with permanent brick classrooms before they could renew in 2027. Global Care successfully applied to a trust for a grant of £47,580 and work was completed earlier this year.

Our partners built three new classroom blocks providing six classrooms, each seating 50 children, and installed new playground equipment. 75 new chair / desk units were purchased, along with a host of new resources including a library of reference books and a new IT suite – 12 new computers supporting digital learning and improving the school's admin capacity.

As part of the package, our partners also delivered teacher training on teaching methods, learner-centred approaches, classroom management and assessment.

Safeguarding training was given to teachers, support staff and parents, with follow-up activities to reinforce child protection awareness and practices across the school community.

Our partners say the changes created *"a lasting positive impact on the school and its community"* and improved the standing of the local church in Woalito Sodo. Church and community engagement was an important part of the project – volunteers gave free labour, donated locally-available materials and provided in-kind contributions and some financial support, cutting project costs and promoting ownership.

Our partners say: *"The project has strengthened the spiritual and community outreach mission of the local church. The visibility and credibility of the church have significantly increased, creating greater opportunities for sharing the Gospel.*

In addition, the positive contribution of the church to education and community development has been recognized by local government authorities. This has strengthened relationships and created a supportive environment for the church to continue its work.

As a result, the church is better positioned to reach children and families with both educational support and spiritual guidance."









Government provision for education in rural Ethiopia is minimal.

Zimbabwe
TRANSITIONAL HOME



In Zimbabwe, kitchens are usually housed away from the main building.

Thanks to your incredible generosity earlier this year, our partners in Zimbabwe have built a transitional home for young people 'aging out' of the care system, and the first three young men have already moved in!

At Lent this year we asked you to donate £22,000 to support young men who were forced to leave the security of their life at the Houtberg Childcare Centre because they had reached adulthood at 18 – but were not yet ready to cope with life on their own.

Our partners wanted to build a three-bedroom home on land already identified and run a two-year transitional programme to help young care leavers enter adulthood with more structure and stability.

You caught the vision and donated a wonderful £24,094 to make this a reality. Our partners were quick to act, and by late summer, the first three tenants moved into their new home.

"The transitional home is an answer to many children's and staff prayers," our partners tell us. *"The boys signed contracts before moving in and all are very happy to be there."*

Staff immediately led with training on personal care and hygiene, safety in the home, cleaning and waste disposal and recognising danger signs. *"The boys are showing a positive attitude towards these life skills training,"* the team report.

They have also supported land management and horticultural training, so the boys can make a start on the new home's garden, which they hope will eventually supply most of their food. This has included land preparation, crop selection and varieties, and pest and disease management.

Finally, the boys are busy learning to cook. Our partners say: *"In African culture, cooking is considered an activity mainly for girls, but the boys are learning this art and putting it into practice. They have had sessions on how to prepare affordable, safe and nutritious meals, cooking with locally available foods and building a community which is cooking and eating and talking together. They are eating the food they are cooking themselves."*

Thank you so much to everyone who so generously donated!

GIVE A CHILD AN 'ALTERNATIVE GIFT' THIS CHRISTMAS

***Sidiki is one of 179 marginalised children in Uganda to receive a solar lamp this year. He attends Soroti Secondary School, where he is a keen student. However, studying at home was difficult and the solar lamp has made a huge difference.**

Sidiki says he can now study every evening for up to three hours, compared to no more than an hour with kerosene on those occasions his family could afford fuel. His eyes used to hurt in the dim light, but the bright solar lamp stopped his eye strain. Now his homework is always done, and he feels he is making faster progress.

Sidiki told our local partners: *"I am very happy because the lamp has helped me improve my learning."*

Sidiki's story has been replicated many times over. Many families in poverty have no source of light after sunset, while others rely on unhealthy, expensive kerosene lamps. In contrast, solar lighting is cleaner, greener, safer and free of charge!

Our Ugandan team say: *"Solar lamps provide an affordable, safe and sustainable solution that supports children's education, household safety and improved livelihoods. Thank you so much."*



Since 2021, we've given solar lamps to over 1,000 marginalised families in Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi. They protect health, promote wellbeing and prevent environmental damage. That's what we call impact!

Solar lamps are once more available for you to donate as an 'alternative gift' this Christmas, priced at just £19, which includes delivery of the lamp to a child in need, and a gift pack for you to give to a friend or family member, if desired.

Give a child a solar lamp today



"Before receiving the solar lamp, I found it difficult to read at night because the kerosene lamp was dim and we could not always afford fuel. Now I can study every evening, complete my homework, and prepare well for school."



A set of two uniforms for two children in India, boosting their self esteem and confidence

The Pavement Club offers a safe space for marginalised children from the slums and streets of Kolkata, India, to learn, grow and thrive. Some children are enrolled in school, but many are not, and the Pavement Club is the best chance they have to access education, health and welfare support.

We want to provide two sets of uniform this Christmas for every child at the Pavement Club who is not yet in school. That's 124 vulnerable children. Our partners say uniforms increase the self-worth of children living in poverty.

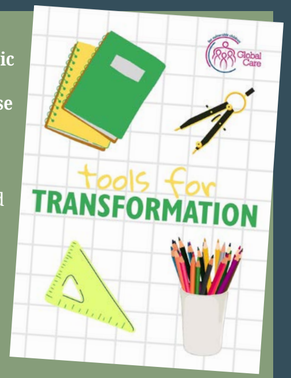
"This organisation seeks to restore dignity and hope to children who are often neglected by society," our partners tell us. *"Although this may appear to be a small issue, uniforms carry deep emotional and social significance for children. Wearing a uniform creates a sense of equality and dignity. Children feel respected, included, and valued regardless of their economic background.*

"For underprivileged children, uniforms also reduce feelings of shame caused by the inability to afford proper clothing. The uniforms will help children develop confidence, discipline, self-respect, and a stronger identity as learners."

It costs just £25 to buy four uniforms - two sets each for two children. Help us bless the children of the Pavement Club with dignity and confidence this Christmas!

New uniforms give a child fresh dignity & confidence!

There are many barriers to learning for children in poverty – one of the most basic is difficulty in affording essential school equipment, like pens, pencils and exercise books. Unlike in the UK, schools expect parents to provide these basics.



The Houtberg Childcare Centre (HCC) in Zimbabwe is a residential shelter for abused or abandoned children without safe family, which has partnered with Global Care for over 25 years.

Currently HCC is home to 29 children and young people, 21 of whom are sponsored through Global Care. Children are referred to HCC by the courts, community leaders or social workers, and the team works hard to prepare them for independent futures.

Education is an essential part of this – children go to local schools and HCC provides all their educational requirements. A local business provides extra sponsorship for the higher costs of three children who won places at top boarding schools after excelling in their primary leaving exams.

In an era of escalating costs, we'd like to further support HCC this Christmas by covering all the costs of school equipment, especially for non-sponsored children, for the next school year, starting in January 2027.

It costs £21 to buy school essentials for one child, for one term. Your donation will purchase pens, pencils, a maths set including protractors and a compass, a ruler, notebooks and exercise books. The child also receives files, sellotape and plastic covers to protect their books. Exercise books are particularly expensive, as older primary and secondary students must use a heavy-duty hardback known as a counter book.

Help equip a child to succeed at school this coming year!

NO MORE ~~FEAR~~, NO MORE ~~SHAME~~

Sri Lanka **When baby *Tushan's mum was five months pregnant, she discovered she had HIV. Then came the news that her husband was also HIV+.**



Sadly, due to ignorance of the disease and how it is transmitted, she went on to breastfeed her baby boy, and *Tushan is now also living with the virus.

The little family relocated from their Sri Lankan village to be closer to the specialist hospitals and clinics which could treat them.

They were frightened, ashamed and isolated by the very real fear of stigma, as discrimination against the HIV community is rife in Sri Lanka. But it was here they met the Kadella team.

The Kadella Centre is at the heart of Sri Lanka's only significant HIV/AIDS support network and Global Care is its only substantive funder.

"They look forward to a much brighter future."

Located close to the Infectious Diseases Hospital in the capital Colombo, the Kadella team offer drop-in services, temporary refuge, advocacy and a range of emotional and practical support for a network of over 1,000 HIV-affected people.

All the Kadella staff are themselves 'living positively' and know the social, physical, emotional, relational and financial challenges of living with the virus. Together, they provide an excellent suite of support services for fellow sufferers and their families.

At the core of Global Care's support is a monthly feeding programme for 29 marginalised HIV+ children whose families cannot provide the level of nutrition needed for them to fight the virus.

But the centre delivers much more than monthly food parcels, and Tushan's family is a great example of this.

"When they first met us, they were devastated by the diagnosis and uncertain of the future," the team report. *"We provided counselling, guidance and emotional support, helping them understand that with proper treatment and care they could live healthy, productive lives together as a family. "Having relocated away from familiar surroundings, the family faced many challenges and the team became a valuable source of practical, emotional and social support. They were encouraged to look forward to a much brighter future than they had initially imagined."*

The team helped them access the right treatment, and the family have remained committed to their medication. They have their own home and are making a living through agricultural work. Tushan is now 11 months old, and the family are so much more hopeful for his future.

Photo by Vetrivel Viswanathar on Unsplash

Thanks to a generous donor who left us a gift in their will, we were able to make a £10,000 gift to Kadella to cover over half their budget for this financial year.

You can now write or rewrite your will for free, thanks to an exciting partnership between Global Care and estate planners Octopus Legacy.

Find out more about free wills at **globalcare.org/octopus**, or phone Octopus direct, quoting Global Care, on 020 4525 3605.

globalcare.org/octopus

SUMMER CAMP TO STOP SCHOOL DROPOUT

Malawi **59 marginalised young people at risk of school dropout enjoyed a two-day summer camp in Malawi, thanks to a grant from our Children at Risk fund.**

Our partners, Muthange, say the Nditha camp was an incredibly powerful experience for those taking part, none of whom had experienced a retreat environment, and some of whom had never experienced 'western' amenities.

"I didn't know that one day I could use a shower, a flushing toilet and sleep in a room where there is a fridge and a fan. This has inspired me that there is a better life than what I live," said one participant.

For others, the impact was motivational in different ways, including spiritually. *"This camp reminded me that God has a plan for me. I'm going to work harder in school and serve in church,"* one learner said.

The group included 33 girls and 26 boys, aged 16-22. The camp aimed to encourage students on the verge of dropping out to complete their secondary education. Shockingly, only 23% of young people in Malawi complete junior secondary school, and only a tiny 15% complete upper secondary education.

Students enjoyed sessions focusing on academic excellence, education and entrepreneurship, health and mental health, including recognising depression and coping with stress, and spiritual growth.



"It means you choose to live."

Muthange has been supporting 18-year-old *Penny since she started secondary school three years ago, with school fees, stationery and other essentials, and mentorship. Without Muthange's help, as one of 15 children, Penny would have dropped out years ago.

But it was only at Nditha camp that Penny finally opened up. *"I want to tell you my story,"* she said. *"It has been eating me up."*

When Penny was ten, soon after her father died, her mother started sending her to the hospital alone to get medication but never explained why. Penny grew up confused. *"Why do I have to take medicine every day?"* she wondered.

So, one day, she stopped. She got very sick. That's when her stepfather finally told her the truth. *"You were born positive,"* he told her. *"You need ARVs for the rest of your life."*

For years, that truth disturbed her. *"Sometimes I feel like committing suicide,"* she told our partners. *"Sometimes I feel like dropping out. What's the point of school? Who will marry me? Who will employ me? Will I just spend all my money on medicine?"*

Our partners say: *"At Nditha Camp, because it was a place of freedom, Penny chose life. She talked. She cried. We sat with her, we listened, we encouraged her.*

At Nditha Camp, because it was a place of freedom, Penny chose life.

"By God's grace there was a doctor with us who works with people living with HIV. She explained that taking ARVs is like taking medicine for blood pressure or diabetes. 'It doesn't mean the end of life,' she told Penny. 'It means you choose to live.'

"By the end of the camp, Penny was different. She was lighter. She was laughing. She was mingling with friends freely. She went home changed."

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL ABSEIL

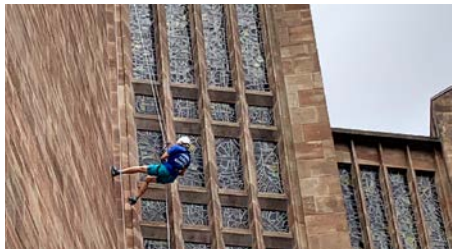


In August, five wonderful supporters abseiled from the roof of Coventry Cathedral, raising **£3,342** for our Children at Risk programme.

The event was part of a local charity day run by the Cathedral. The event may run again next year - if you'd like to join in contact us at events@globalcare.org to register your interest.







50 miles THIRTY DAYS

It's time to put your best foot forward in support of children with disability in Uganda, with the return of our popular walking challenge.

Can you walk 50 miles in 30 days in January 2027 to help children who may need crutches, wheelchairs and walkers to get to school at all?

This year we're raising funds for our Disability Community Outreach project in Soroti, Uganda, which identifies isolated disabled children in rural communities, and connects them to services, treatment and parental peer support, and provides specialist aids with a view to improving their quality of life, reducing isolation and improving access to education.

Make a donation of £40 to register for the challenge, at globalcare.org/50-miles. We'll send you a registration pack, including a beanie hat to keep out the chill, and set some fun challenges – with prizes - each week to keep you going! Further fundraising is welcome but not required.

SIGN UP TODAY!

NEW LENT BOOK COMING...

Did you enjoy 'Where You Go, I Will Go', our 2021 Lent Studies in the book of Ruth?

If so, look out for a new book from the same authors for Lent 2027, looking at the story of Jonah.

If you'd like a copy, or copies, let us know at donor.relations@globalcare.org and we'll be in touch with details very early in the New Year.

*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

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