



Women Helping Women Through Nano Finance
Annual Report 2024-2025
www.ourbiswasusa.org
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Dear Friends,

Namaskar,

Basic needs are human rights. Our Biswas (OB) helps the most underprivileged women of India, Uganda, Mexico, Nigeria, and US meet their basic needs through its signature project **“Nano Finance”**.

It has been another successful year for OB. OB continues to provide livelihood opportunities and money for emergency needs, basic education, and health care to thousands of women of the world. With your kind support, OB implemented the NF project in India in November 2007; in the US in August 2020; in Cuernavaca, Mexico in September 2021; in Nigeria in December 2021; in Uganda in October 2022, in Lincoln, Nebraska in October 2023; and in San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico in April 2024. Every year, we are able to expand the project to meet the great demand from the women at the grass root level.

The women show their deep appreciation for the interest-free loans and share how helpful this small amount is to them in their time of crisis. They talk about how the program has helped them to be financially independent and, as a result, they have gained respect and confidence.

Financial Statements

India Projects (\$66,500)

Corpus fund for Aamara Biswas (AB) organization (\$26,000)
Nano Finance (NF) Projects (\$13,000)
Sanitary Napkin (\$950)
Salaries for the coordinators (\$9,500)
Rent and Training Centers (\$1,700)
Education (\$500)
Administrative (Travel, Auditor, Annual meeting, Website, and Office expenses) (\$2225)
Total: \$53,875

CDF, Oakland, US (\$0.0)

VAMOS, Mexico Nano Finance Project (\$10,000)

WOMI, Nigeria Nano Finance Project (\$39,025)

GNIB, Uganda Nano Finance Project (\$10,000)

MTKO, Lincoln, Nebraska Nano Finance Project (\$0.0)

Mision de Caridad, México Nano Finance Project (\$0.0)

Grand Total: \$125,525



Project Reports

India Projects in collaboration with Aamara Biswas (India based organization)

- **Corpus fund for Aamara Biswas (AB): \$26,000**

Normally a corpus fund denotes a permanent fund kept for the basic expenditures needed for the administration and survival of the organization. Currently, the Aamara Biswas organization has about \$160,000 as a fixed deposit for the corpus fund and the interest accrued is only being used for the expenses of the organization. The increase of the corpus fund helps the future stability and sustainability of the organization

- **Nano Finance (NF): \$13,000**

Currently AB is working in 240 villages (including many tribal villages), 11 districts, and two states (Odisha and Chhattisgarh) of India. There is a great demand for the expansion of the NF project.

Due to inflation, there is a request from some women to increase the loan amount from Rs 1000 (about \$12.00) to Rs 2000 (about \$24.00). AB gives Rs 2000 loan amount for livelihood purpose only to the women who have taken loan five times and returned them in time. AB started larger loan amount with 60 women in 2024, and the return rate was 100%. Most of them returned their loans in four installments in one year. AB has expanded the number of larger loans this year.

- **Sanitary Napkin Unit: \$950 (materials and salaries)**

Getting materials is the most difficult part of this project. We are still having a problem getting raw materials. It is a constant challenge and struggle to run this unit. It is now time to upgrade to a better and more efficient machine. AB needs help not only financially but also expert advice for the sustainability of the project.

- **Salaries for 22 coordinators for one year: \$9,500**

The salary budget is increasing every year. The expansion of the NF project also needs new coordinators. The coordinators are the backbones of the organization. and they are responsible for the success of the NF project. The coordinators are chosen by the women from the local areas they come from.

- **Rent for the office, training centers, salaries for the tailoring teachers, and purchasing sewing machines: \$1,700**

AB has four training centers and two offices. Many women and girls have started their own businesses independently after getting training through Aamara Biswas organization and some women have gotten jobs. AB started another training center in March 2025 in one of the villages of the Kendrapara district. There is a continuous demand for training centers.

- **Education: \$500**



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This is a new project. AB will support the girls to finish 11th and 12th grades of high school education which in turn would help them for further vocational training opportunities. The Odisha government provides free education until 10th grade. AB hopes to expand this project in the coming years.

- **Administrative expenses: \$2,225**

Office expenses, annual meeting, Audit & Accountant payment, travel, printing record keeping books, and small miscellaneous expenses.

NF in US in collaboration with Community Development Finance (CDF) The NF program was started in Oakland, California, US on August 4, 2020, in collaboration with CDF, a California-based nonprofit organization. The project continued with remarkable success and was discontinued in December 2023. CDF discontinued their work and closed the shop. Due to the recirculation of the initial amount of \$40,000, CDF gave 300 loans, totaling \$131,000 through the end of April 2023. CDF recovered \$37,458, from the original amount of \$40,000. Dan Leibsohn, the Director of CDF, returned the amount to Our Biswas account and hoping to start the NF program again, at a different location in the state of California soon.

NF in Mexico in collaboration with VAMOS (Vermont Associates for Mexican Opportunity and Support, Inc.): \$10,000

Sean Dougherty, Executive Director, VAMOS, says:

For VAMOS!, the Nano Loan project is continuing with great success here in Mexico!

We have made a total of 1095 loans to 514 women. Vamos has loaned \$110,850 to the women in the state of Morelos, Mexico . from a total funding of \$35,000 received from Our Biswas from September 2021 through March 2025.

Edith started her little business with some snacks and a small table, barely making any profit. Her oldest daughter Gretelle is a beautiful, bright-eyed preschooler who lives with a rare heart condition. The treatments are expensive. But today, thanks to a nano-loan from Our Biswas, Edith was able to buy a cart—nothing fancy, but strong enough to push through the streets and reach more customers. That cart changed everything. Now, Edith can move to where the people are. She sells more. She saves more. And slowly, she chips away at the medical bills. She can't control Gretelle's illness—but she can do this. She can fight for her child with everything she has. This is what a loan does when it's built on trust and dignity. It doesn't just help a woman start a business. It helps her rewrite the future.



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NF in Nigeria in collaboration with Work of Mercy Initiative (WOMI): \$39,025

Ebere Ugwunweze, the President WOMI says:

We are all very grateful to the Board of Our Biswas and the funder of this noble project. The NF project was started in December 2021. We have made a total of 2321 loans to 1533 women through this life saving project. Nano finance project has made a lot of positive impact on the lives of hundreds of Nigerian women. We are very grateful and cannot thank you enough. The number of women accessing the loan increases every month and the news spreads like wildfire thereby increasing requests.

My name is Hadiza Musa, a tailor and a mother, I was in a very serious abusive marriage. My husband beats me up every time for not contributing to feeding in the house. At some point, my husband left the house leaving me with our two children to care for. I used to have a small sewing machine, one day, a friend introduced me to the Work of Mercy Initiative where I can get loans without interest to add to the little, I saved. With that, I was able to buy this industrial sewing machine. This industrial sewing machine is really making my work very easy, and there are no delay meeting customers' needs. I am super grateful to Our Biswas and Work of Mercy Initiative for the good work they are doing in the lives of poor women here in Nigeria. May Allah reward each and every one of you. Thank you all!

Many thanks for all the help you have given to us. We are very grateful and will continue to pray for God's blessings to you, the Board, and the funders.

NF in Uganda in collaboration with Grazia Nano Initiative of Our Biswas (GNIB): \$10,000

The progress report has not been submitted. We hope to continue the NF project in Uganda. The women of the Uganda work very hard for the sake of their families, knowing they play a key role in strengthening the future of their families and community.

Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach (MTKO), Lincoln, Nebraska Nano Finance project

MTKO's vision is to defeat hunger and homelessness. This was challenging for OB to start the NF project in MTKO center. The program was officially launched in October 2023. The women take loans for phone bills, car registration, electric bills, security deposit, gas bills, job application fees, and living expenses. They return the loan slowly when they can. The NF loans have been given to 37 clients. They are all very grateful for this interest free loan in the time of emergency.

"I am so thankful – this program really changed my life and my children's. I had no other option and no one to turn to. Without the loan, I would have to postpone my surgery. Those two nights in the hotel brought us so much peace." Sheri Lockman



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“Having the loan when I needed it, and being able to pay it back gradually – it helped more than I can explain.” Christine Lewis

One of the program participants was so thankful for the help that she paid \$90 extra to help someone else out, and told “So very kind of them!” from the project coordinator, Leanne Pelser.

Mision de Caridad, México Nano Finance Project

We lunched the NF project in San Luis Rio Colorado, a border town in Sonora, Mexico in collaboration with Mision de Caridad, US based organization on May 10, 2024. Jean Sicurella is the founder of the organization. They have made a total of 97 loans to 48 women, from a total funding of \$5,000 received from Our Biswas from May 2024 to June 2025. Some women have taken the interest free loan three times to expand their business and for emergencies. The project coordinator, Ange Garcia, says; “It has been a blessing for the women of the community. There is a great request for expansion.”

Conclusion

We, the women of India, US, Mexico, Nigeria, and Uganda, the coordinators, and the board members are extremely humbled by your trust, encouragement, and the constant kind support you have shown since 2007. The success of OB’s projects is due to your generosity, the coordinators’ hard work, and the women who trust the organization and understand the importance of small loans and returning them on time to help other women. We hope, with your help and trust, we will continue our service to empower the women and their families who are in extreme poverty in various parts of the world. **Thank you with our sincere gratitude.**

If you would like to support our work, please write a check to Our Biswas, and mail it to the treasurer of Our Biswas at the following address.

Nupur Sethi
6154 Graebear Trail
East Lansing
MI 48823

If you prefer,
Please click the following link to donate online.
<https://www.ourbiswasusa.org/donate/index.php>

Submitted by Joyasree (Ranu) Mahanti, Founder and President of Our Biswas, a 501 (C)(3) organization.