



Women Helping Women Through Nano Finance
Annual Report 2025-2026
www.ourbiswasusa.org
ourbiswas9@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

Namaskar,

Our Mission

Basic needs are human rights. Our Biswas (OB) supports women facing extreme hardship in India, Uganda, Mexico, Nigeria, and the United States. Through our signature **Nano Finance** initiative, we provide interest-free loans that help women meet urgent needs, strengthen their livelihoods, and build more secure futures.

This Year's Progress

This has been another strong year for OB. We have continued to provide livelihood support and financial assistance for emergency needs, education, and health care to thousands of women worldwide. With your generous support, Nano Finance has expanded steadily: India since November 2007, the United States since August 2020, Cuernavaca, Mexico since September 2021, Nigeria since December 2021, Uganda since October 2016, Lincoln, Nebraska since October 2023, and San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico since April 2024. Each year, we broaden our reach to respond to growing demand at the grassroots level.

Impact on Women and Communities

The women we serve regularly express how meaningful these interest-free loans are, especially during times of crisis. Even modest support can make a life-changing difference. Through the program, many women have gained greater financial independence, along with increased confidence, dignity, and respect within their families and communities.

Financial Statements

India Projects (\$47,000)

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

WOMI, Nigeria Nano Finance Project (\$34,200)

Uganda Nano Finance Project (\$1,500)

Mision de Caridad, México Nano Finance Project (\$5,000)

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

Grand Total: \$97,700



Aamara Biswas, India

Nano Finance (NF): \$17,500

Aamara Biswas currently serves more than 300 villages, including many tribal communities, across 13 districts in the Indian states of Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Each year, the organization expands its reach by offering interest-free loans to women in additional villages, helping more families build stable livelihoods.

Because of inflation, many women have requested an increase in the loan amount from Rs 1,000 (about \$12) to Rs 2,000 (about \$24). Aamara Biswas provides the higher amount only for livelihood purposes and only to women who have already taken and repaid five previous loans on time. More than 200 women have now received the larger loan amount, and the repayment rate remains 100%. Most borrowers repay in four installments or in a single payment within one year. Demand for larger loans continues to grow.

Sanitary Napkin Unit: \$1,820 (materials and salaries)

Obtaining materials remains the most difficult part of this project. We are now working with a new vendor that supplies better-quality raw materials. Aamara Biswas provides sanitary napkins to women in the Nano Finance program at a very low cost. Although it is time to upgrade to a more efficient machine, we have not yet found the right equipment. The project would benefit from both financial support and expert guidance to strengthen its long-term sustainability.

Tailoring Production Unit: \$7,100 (Rent, Salaries, Machines, Materials)

Aamara Biswas has established a production unit in Matiparilo village, Cuttack district, which is expecting to provide livelihood opportunity to hundreds of women in coming years.

Salaries for 23 Coordinators: \$10,200

Salary costs continue to rise each year, and the expansion of the Nano Finance program requires additional coordinators. These coordinators are the backbone of the organization and play a central role in the program's success. They are selected by women in the local communities they serve, which helps ensure trust and strong local leadership.

Training Centers, Office Rent, Teacher Salaries, and Sewing Machines: \$1,860

Aamara Biswas operates four training centers and two offices. Many women and girls have started their own businesses after completing training through the organization, and some have found employment. In March 2026, Aamara Biswas opened another training center in a village in Kendrapara district. Demand for additional training centers remains strong.

Education: \$500

This is a new project. Aamara Biswas will support girls in completing the 11th and 12th grades of high school, which can open the way to further vocational training opportunities. The Odisha government provides free education through 10th grade, so this support fills an important gap. The organization hopes to expand this project in the coming years.



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Administrative Expenses: \$2,885

These expenses include office operations, the annual meeting, audit and accounting payments, travel, printed record-keeping materials, and other small miscellaneous costs.

This year's annual report includes perspectives from the directors, presidents, and coordinators of our partner organizations.

Aamara Biswas, India

Sasmita Mangaraj, President

The Nano Finance program succeeds because of the women themselves. Aamara Biswas does not advertise; instead, the program grows through word of mouth as women share their experiences. Though not designed to create wealth, it protects women from exploitative lenders and provides vital support in emergencies. The program helps women create income, improve family well-being, and pursue their goals. In doing so, Aamara Biswas strengthens mutual support and builds more resilient communities. The program also trains coordinators as community leaders who mentor other women and help grassroots businesses grow. The program also fosters a culture of giving: when women repay their loans, those funds help other women in need. Each participant benefits directly while also sustaining the program's impact in her community.

VAMOS (Vermont Associates for Mexican Opportunity and Support, Inc.), Mexico

Sean Dougherty, Executive Director

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

Since 2021, the partnership between VAMOS and Our Biswas has become one of the most empowering programs in the communities we serve. What began with an investment of \$35,000 has now generated more than \$130,000 in nano loans, supporting over 1,200 loans to more than 530 women. But the true impact of this program goes far beyond the numbers. Again, the women tell us that the most important part of the program is not simply the money — it is the confidence. Many of these women have spent their lives being told “no,” overlooked by banks and ignored by society. Through Our Biswas, they are told something radically different: *we believe in you*. With these small, interest-free loans, women start home businesses, sell food, buy supplies, and create beautiful crafts learned through VAMOS classes. The income helps families buy food, keep children in school, repair homes, and build a sense of dignity and independence. Just as importantly, the program creates hope, self-confidence, and the belief that a different future is possible.

Work of Mercy Initiative (WOMI), Nigeria

Ebere Ugwunweze, President

Launched in December 2021, Nano Finance project by **OUR BISWAS USA**, through **Work of Mercy Initiative (WOMI)** Nigeria. By May 2026, a remarkable **3,218 loans** have been disbursed, with figures continuing to rise monthly, driven by the strength of this recirculation model. The journey has not been without its challenges. Early difficulties in loan repayment tested the resilience of the program. However, those challenges have since given way to extraordinary discipline and commitment. Today, **over 90% of participants repay consistently**, a testament to the character and determination of Nigerian women. Repayment is no



longer viewed as a burden. It has become a gateway, a steppingstone to greater opportunity and deeper empowerment.

The impact of Nano Finance extends far beyond financial relief. Through communities, it has ignited excitement, restored confidence, and cultivated a spirit of collective progress. The success of this initiative would not be possible without the visionary generosity of **OUR BISWAS**, whose unwavering support has made Nano Finance a life-changing reality for thousands of women. This initiative which offers interest-free loans, rooted in faith/trust, empathy, and genuine goodwill, stands as a rare and noble act of humanity.

It is our earnest desire and firm belief that Nano Finance will one day extend its reach to **every community across Nigeria**, leaving no indigent woman behind.

Women Over Sisterhood Initiative, Kampala, Uganda

Aminah Nakayiza, Director

Many women are eager for this opportunity because of the responsibilities they carry for their families. In Busega and Kiboga, many participants are actively engaged in crop farming and animal keeping. Women in these communities are using the program to strengthen their livelihoods. They are currently mentored by Aminah Nakayiza, as the CBO does not generate enough profit to support additional coordinator salaries.

Grazia Nano Initiative of Our Biswas (GNIB), Kampala, Uganda

Ruth Mbabazi, Founder

GNIB Our Biswas women are in impoverished slums/villages in Katabi sub-county, Wakiso District, Uganda. When women receive Our Biswas loans, they enter our ecosystem of support. Our women have little support from their families and communities. Some of our women are young mothers with limited formal education and other women take care of grandchildren of whom some children are orphans. GNIB enrolls the women and utilizes community-based decision-making to encourage them to do small-scale businesses to provide a source of income for their families. The women are grateful to the GNIB project because of the no-interest loans which have enabled them to improve and diversify their businesses while taking care of their families. Since October 2022 we have distributed over 350 no-interest loans to women in Katabi sub-county, Wakiso District – Uganda. These women step up 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

Leanne Pelser, Coordinator

The program was officially launched in October 2023. Since then, it has helped 38 households through the Nano Finance program. Women use these loans to cover urgent expenses such as phone bills, car registration, electric and gas bills, security deposits, job application fees, rent, hotel stays, insurance, license plates, pet medication, clothing, and other basic living costs. Loans have been provided to 38 clients, who repay gradually as they are able. The interest-free structure offers crucial support during emergencies and helps families manage immediate financial pressure. Loans are capped at \$500 to help prevent debt cycles. The program gives women and families a practical way to manage unexpected or urgent expenses while building financial stability and confidence.

- Only one loan may be issued per household at a time.
- A current loan must be repaid before a new loan can be issued.
- Repaid funds are returned to the program to support future borrowers.

Together, these principles promote responsible borrowing and long-term sustainability.



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Mision de Caridad, Sonora, México

Ange Garcia, Project Coordinator

The program was officially launched in May 2024. It has been a blessing for the women of the community. There is a great request for expansion. We currently have eighty-four women who have made use of the OUR BISWAS loan program. These small, interest-free loans provide women with immediate and practical support during moments of need, while also treating them with dignity, trust, and respect. Instead of creating additional financial pressure, the program gives women the opportunity to establish payment plans that fit their own realities and abilities.

More importantly, these loans empower women to make decisions for their families, stabilize their households, and avoid predatory lending systems. They provide not only financial relief, but also hope, confidence, and a sense of security. In many cases, what may seem like a “small” loan becomes a life-changing opportunity for a mother trying to protect and provide for her family.

OUR BISWAS is not simply lending money — it is investing in women, strengthening families, and helping create a more stable and compassionate community.

Conclusion

Since 2007, we—the women of India, the United States, Mexico, Nigeria, and Uganda, along with our coordinators and board members—have been deeply grateful for your trust, encouragement, and steady support. The success of Our Biswas is made possible by your generosity, the dedication of our coordinators, and the commitment of the women who use these small loans responsibly and repay them so that others can benefit. With your continued help, we hope to keep empowering women and their families who are living in extreme poverty in communities around the world. **Thank you for your support and heartfelt generosity.**

If you would like to support our work, please make your check payable to Our Biswas and mail it to the treasurer at the address below.

Nupur Sethi
6154 Graebear Trail
East Lansing
MI 48823

If you prefer,
Please click the following link to donate online.

<https://ourbiswasusa.org/donate>

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