



compelled
by love



Annual Report

2024 / 25



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Who We Are

Compelled By Love is a community development organisation providing opportunities that empower some of the world's most vulnerable individuals, families and communities to transform their lives.

Front Cover Image: Jeanne, genocide survivor.

Our Values

- Love
- Collaboration
- People
- Integrity
- Excellence
- Prayer

Our Mission

We are compelled by love to see things made right where poverty and brokenness exist. We work collaboratively to build capacity in local organisations in order to release potential, restore dignity and reconcile relationships.

Our Pillars of Change

We work holistically in specific countries - eSwatini, India, Rwanda and Sri Lanka - on specific projects that align with six key areas.





From left: Karen with Diane from CARSA (centre) and members of the Turiumwe Co-Operative

Reflection

Story after story in this report shows the incredible power of generosity as a catalyst for change in people's lives. As I reflect on last year, I see your generosity with your financial resources, enabling the work of CBL to take place.

But there's more.

I see generosity of time as our staff and board teams and supporters give of themselves with such heart for transformation. I see our partners give such intentional and unhurried space to mentor, counsel, follow up, encourage, teach and guide people as they develop their lives. I see a generous approach that values each person as having worth and dignity, that sees the bigger picture, and is willing to invest over the long term to see change both inwardly as well as physically.

Generosity is a practical action. It's a mindset and a way of living. And it's so powerful.

Proverbs 11:24 says that *the world of the generous gets larger and larger* (MSG). My hope for you as you read this report, is that your heart will be enlarged, and you will be moved and inspired by the amazing effect of generosity.

Karen Visser, CEO

“I used to constantly have dark thoughts telling me to end my life. But through these Empower program lessons, I have come to realise that there is still hope of better life. Even in the hardships I go through, I can find someone to walk with me, show me love, encourage me, and guide me.”

Beatha, Empower Program participant (see page 7)

Reflection

I'm always in awe of how intentional investment can create such beautiful, sustainable transformation. There is so much to celebrate over the last year, and the many stories shared in this report encapsulate not only the heart of CBL, but the dedicated work, the generosity of time and the deep love and care reflected in our partners to so many individuals and communities.

This 'love in action' means that people feel seen, heard and valued. They start to believe in themselves, they experience the restoration of dignity and have new hope for the future. This kind of heart and mindset change leads to deep transformation that has generational impact.

How wonderful that you and I get to be partners in that change!

Fiona Grech, Senior Project Manager

“Your generosity and kindness have changed our lives in ways we never imagined. You have given me peace and the exact motivation I needed to focus on raising my children and rebuild my life in a safe and conducive environment. It is such motivation that wakes me up each morning, having a sense of direction and looking forward to a brighter future.”

- Ruth (see page 22)



Fiona with Gilbert, Education Sponsorship graduate



Compelled to help people build resilience



Trauma Recovery

We work with our partners to facilitate healing and restoration, help individuals regain their dignity, mend relationships and improve their quality of life.

Our trauma recovery programs help people exposed to experiences of human trafficking, abuse, and conflict, to alleviate the symptoms of trauma. Our work with our partners in Rwanda and Sri Lanka continues to demonstrate that healing, freedom and the restoration of dignity and hope are achievable - with profound outcomes for people's daily lives and development.

Snapshot

- 9** Empower programs with 324 participants
- 14** Empower follow up programs with 569 participants
- 43** children received care at Kedella Rehabilitation Centre
- 311** children supported through trauma recovery in Sri Lanka

Transformation in Rwanda

In 1994, a genocide against the Tutsi people in Rwanda saw over 1 million deaths in just 100 days. The physical, emotional, and psychological scars remain. Despite efforts to rebuild, PTSD still perpetuates a cycle of poverty and trauma.

Our partner, CARSA, facilitates the seven-day Empower program, where people begin to engage with their trauma and embark on a journey of hope and healing. Originally intended for those directly impacted by the genocide, Empower now benefits the next generation as well. Participants report improved health and wellbeing, mindset shift, family and community reconciliation and livelihood improvement.



Empower participants receiving certificates from the CARSA team



Empower participants at Follow Up Program in Kabacuzi, July 2024

Committed to Restoring Relationships

Jean Baptiste and his wife Zawadi came to the Empower program estranged and dealing with conflict and poverty.

Zawadi had dropped out of school and was working as a housemaid when she became pregnant at 18. Soon after the birth she married Jean Baptiste, relying on his promise to look after her child. She was devastated when he sent the baby away. Their conflict intensified over the years, leaving the family in disarray. Jean Baptiste and Zawadi seemed unable to move forward to improve their lives.

After the Empower program, and hearing the lessons on repentance and forgiveness, Jean Baptiste was profoundly moved to change his life.

He began by caring for his wife, communicating with the family using the skills learned at Empower, and starting micro-businesses to increase income. Together Jean Baptiste and Zawadi developed savings goals to work towards, including having electricity connected to their house before the end of 2025. Several months later, the children were doing better in school because of improved family communication, and their capacity to work together to improve their lives. After Jean Baptiste telephoned Zawadi's oldest daughter and apologised for his actions, the whole family celebrated Christmas together.

By addressing the issues of trauma and conflict, this whole family has been empowered and equipped to address their poverty, and to seek and create change for themselves.

“I want to thank CARSA for this outstanding program... We get helpful lessons that can teach us how to move from one step to another, to get our purpose here on earth, and how you can work toward the sustainable holistic development.”

- Jean Baptiste



“The Neighbours Wonder What Happened to Us”

Joseph, a genocide ex-perpetrator sentenced to nine years in prison, struggled for years with deep shame, isolation, and unresolved trauma following his release. Haunted by his past and burdened by a difficult childhood, he arrived at the Empower program withdrawn and overwhelmed by guilt.

Throughout the program, Joseph remained mostly silent—until the final day, when he openly acknowledged his crimes and expressed sincere remorse to the group.

He committed to positive change, including reducing alcohol consumption, improving his financial habits, and taking greater responsibility for his family's wellbeing. For the first time in years, he began contributing to household expenses, signalling a shift in mindset and behaviour.

Before Empower, Joseph would abuse alcohol and argue with his family. In the months after Empower, Joseph reduced his drinking, and this money went instead to support his family. His relationship with his wife improved so much that

the neighbours started asking questions about what had happened. Joseph set goals to develop his life and family and has already reinforced his mudbrick house with cement render and connected electricity, purchased a pig and built a pigsty for it, and now has plans to purchase a second pig.

Joseph's story reflects powerful steps of personal accountability and reintegration, and we remain hopeful for his continued transformation.



“My life and behaviours have been completely changed. I talked to my heart that I need to forgive myself and accept my role in the genocide. I approached my neighbour survivors and asked them for forgiveness, and they did not hesitate to forgive me; we now have a very good relationship.”

- Joseph



"I was Destroying my Family instead of Protecting it."

Constantly in conflict with each other, married couple Marie and Jean were causing problems in their local community, with Marie frequently in jail for assault, and Jean constantly drinking at the local bar. The atmosphere at home was so bad that the children found safety with other people.

The leaders of Marie and Jean's community were aware of Empower's reputation for changing lives and recommended that the couple participate. Marie was struck by the idea that she could resolve problems in positive ways. Jean saw clearly that he was 'living in a mess', and that he could do things to restore the family.

Positive steps included learning to talk to each other again and working together. Their first task together was planting banana trees. Each positive change led to new goals for family restoration and livelihood. As they both reduced their dependence on alcohol, they became reconciled to each other and created a more peaceful environment for their children to move back to.

"We're grateful to see this broken family fully restored and working together for the family's wellbeing."
- Diane, Empower Coordinator, CARSA

"Our family gradually came back despite its total destruction. Slowly by slowly the family is being restored and we are living in peace. My contribution to the family development is now increased as I can pay [public] health insurance and other essentials."
- Jean

Peace after Devastating Loss and Trauma

When the Rwandan genocide began, Suzana's husband, Paul, a Tutsi man, fled for his own safety. Suzana, a Hutu, took their four children to her family hoping for safety, but when they found only rejection, she and the children tried to survive by themselves.

Tragically, just before the end of the genocide, Suzana witnessed the murders of her four children - a horrific experience. Paul survived, and reunited with his wife, but her experiences had left her severely traumatised. Filled with hatred for all Hutus, and consumed by her grief and bitterness, she found it incredibly difficult to live alongside her neighbours.

Empower helped Suzana to understand how the genocide had destroyed her marriage, and how much she was personally affected by the death of her children. Putting the Empower lessons into practice helped her begin to recover, live peaceably with her husband and sleep better. She's enjoying new feelings of kindness and is developing skills to help her be a better mother to her four children born after the genocide.

Most incredibly, as a result of the Empower program, Suzana was able to forgive the person who had killed her children. Using that forgiveness, she was able to establish new relationships with Hutu neighbours whom she previously hated and avoided. She has started working together with perpetrators' families, investing money together in farming cassava - with the goal of earning enough to replace the roof of her home.

Suzana's story is remarkable for many reasons, and demonstrates how much restoration of community and trust can be achieved through forgiveness and reconciliation, when people are supported to move through their trauma.

"I used to have nightmares... but now I sleep in tranquillity, even getting a dream. These are possible after provision of forgiveness."
- Suzana



From Fear to Forgiveness

“Before attending Empower, I was a very quiet person, but people used to call me harsh, and I agreed with them – I was a harsh man. At home, I did not care about my wife or children. In terms of my daily work, I am a builder by profession (a mason), and whenever I got construction work, I focused only on earning as much money as possible. I would give the family just a little money, only when I felt like it, and it was never enough for them.



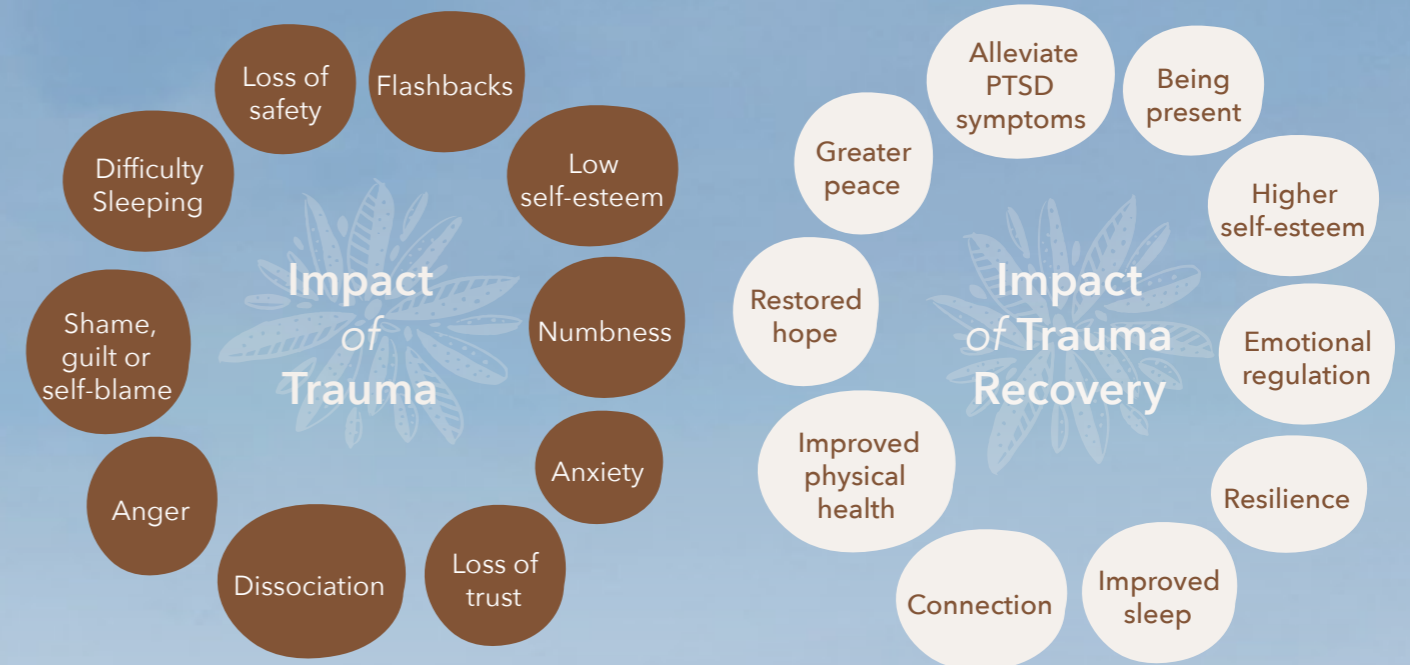
But after listening to the Empower teachings, I realised that my behaviours were creating conflicts in our home. From the third day of the program, I made the decision to change and become a responsible father to my six children, as well as to my wife.

I used to be so quiet a person as a weapon, so that my family feared me. Even during meals, no one dared to speak because I had created an atmosphere of fear.

Since that third day, I began talking with my children, we now have conversations, and they even see me smiling – something they were not used to. I have started buying them the things they need, which I used to ignore, even though I had the money.

I have learned that forgiveness is a gift from God, and it is something we offer even to those who may not deserve it. I have chosen to use forgiveness as my main tool to restore my broken heart as well as our broken family. I deeply asked my wife to forgive me, and she accepted with a sincere heart.”

– Kamali, Empower participant



Empower Outcomes

- Increased fidelity and trust in marriage, leading to developing family goals and managing finances together.
- Mindset change about capacity to improve their own life, resulting in vision-building and goal-setting.
- Forgiveness within the family leading to a reduction in family conflict and a more peaceful home environment.
- Improved sleep and learning how to control negative thoughts that had been affecting their lives.
- Forgiveness of community members that they wronged or who wronged them.
- Reduction in alcohol consumption leading to more income spent on basic family needs.
- Awareness of their own negative behaviour and trying not to pass on their own trauma to their children.
- Increased joy and courage to share their experiences and testimonies.
- Increased growth in spiritual life and setting goals to grow this.
- Increased understanding of their identity as Rwandans, and as human beings, and the journey of restoring trust begun between direct survivors and perpetrators of the genocide.



From left: Budhini, Theja and Sandya, LEADS Kedella Team members

Fresh Beginnings

Fifteen-year-old Sewwandhi* grew up in a turbulent and impoverished household where her father's drug addiction caused constant conflict at home. Her unemployed mother often took shelter elsewhere, taking Sewwandhi and her younger sister with her. Following incidents of sexual assault against Sewwandhi and a violent dispute, the police were called - Sewwandhi was placed in the care of LEADS at the Kedella Rehabilitation Centre, and her sister was placed in a Child Development Centre (CDC).

Sewwandhi was severely depressed when she arrived at Kedella. LEADS provided mental health treatment and gave her a female counsellor for care and emotional support. As part of their work in strengthening families, with the goal of reintegration where possible, Sewwandhi's parents were offered monthly counselling sessions. Sewwandhi was able to connect with them, and her younger sister in a safe environment.

After several months at Kedella, Sewwandhi showed interest in vocational training in sewing. LEADS covered the costs of a year-long course and consistently supported her with visits and counselling. After completing this, Sewwandhi began a six-month job training, did a computer course and now has a steady job where she earns a well-deserved salary.

**names are changed to protect identity*

“ Sewwandhi's resilience is truly inspiring. Her determination to provide her younger sister with the education she missed and to build a stable home for her family showcases her unwavering spirit.”

- Counsellor, LEADS



Restorative Care Work in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has a deep need for trauma recovery services for children who have survived human trafficking, sexual abuse or abandonment. We are privileged to partner with LEADS in their program of trauma support and recovery for vulnerable children, providing both in-community support, going out to children and meeting them where they are, and specialised residential care at Kedella Rehabilitation Centre.

Child counselling focuses on helping children to release any guilt or self-blame and past hurts, and look forward to a future they dream of. Where possible, LEADS works to strengthen families so children can safely reconnect with their family network. Any children who are participants in court proceedings against a perpetrator are accompanied to court and a lawyer is provided if needed. At Kedella, children receive intensive counselling and support during their four to six-month stay, with ongoing follow up.

Helpless to Hopeful

When Kalpani* was five years old, her mother left her at a police station and never came back. Like other children who have come under the guardianship of the state, whether because of abandonment or abuse, Kalpani was put into a Child Development Centre (CDC).

Many children are already traumatised when they enter a CDC, which is not helped by small numbers of untrained staff caring for large numbers of children. Kalpani's lack of trust led to fights with other children. When she was referred to Kedella, she was reluctant to participate in anything. With counselling and encouragement, Kalpani started to believe in her abilities and potential. Part of the rehabilitation at Kedella involves giving children opportunities to explore their talents and interests, and participate in fun, childhood activities. Kalpani performed in the 'Kedella talent show' with much joy and delight.

Despite their efforts, LEADS were unable to connect with Kalpani's mother, so Kalpani has moved to a vocational training college with on-site accommodation, where she will continue

to be supported by LEADS. Once an angry, helpless, deserted child, Kalpani is now hopeful, positive and determined, learning skills for a future that she never imagined possible.

“ The change in her is just huge, and her life is now on a trajectory for a future.”

- Counsellor, LEADS





Compelled by seeing young people empowered for the future

Education

Supporting young people to make the most of learning and educational opportunities overcomes poverty and releases potential, with benefits that last for generations.

Our goal is not simply to give students from vulnerable and marginalised backgrounds an education, but to build pathways towards meaningful employment that leads to sustainable income.

Snapshot

- 11** students in secondary school
- 8** students in university courses
- 3** students in vocational training courses
- 12** students pursued internships as part of study courses
- 1** Education empowerment project completed after 20 years

Big Dreams, Second Chances, Great Outcomes

Alexis was a young man with obvious academic potential but, with six other children to support, his family could not pay his school expenses. In Rwanda, children from backgrounds of poverty often experience an interrupted education and at the age of 20, Alexis had still only completed Grade 9. However, he had a big dream - to qualify for university and become a teacher.

Alexis became part of the Education Sponsorship Program in 2016 and was supported with fees to enable him to attend school. Sadly, when he was in his last year of high school, some mental health challenges meant that his results were not enough to get to university. However, Alexis was incredibly motivated and focused, and of his own initiative enrolled to repeat his final year and retake his exams.

Many educational support programs have a cut-off age for sponsorship, but when we looked at Alexis' potential, the full picture of his journey, and his determination, courage and resilience, we believed that supporting this repeat year and his ongoing education would be transformational.

Four years later, Alexis has his degree in education and expects to soon find a teaching job in a government high school. Education sponsorship has empowered Alexis with a qualification that makes him highly employable. Achieving his dreams will transform the future of his whole family.



Alexis (centre) with his parents and siblings

“ Alexis’ story is a powerful reminder that potential doesn’t just disappear because of setbacks. When given the right support, students are able to thrive. As Alexis stands with a degree in hand, we celebrate not only his incredible determination, but the beginning of lasting change for his entire family.”

- Carmen O'Connor, CBL Project Manager



Our partner, Obed (centre), with graduated students

Celebrating Two Decades of Empowerment

In 2025, CBL celebrated the completion of almost two decades of educational support in India, supporting an incredible group of young people through kindergarten, primary and secondary school, university and tertiary courses and onto meaningful and sustaining employment.

CBL's first holistic empowerment project began in 2006 with a group of children in India. Our goal was to provide each child with a quality education that would enable them to achieve meaningful employment and live a life free of poverty, marginalisation and vulnerability. We achieved this by supporting each student's educational costs, whilst walking alongside them individually and as a group, providing for their holistic needs and giving mentoring support.

Their stories are shared here. What's clear is that while they are now 'educated' young people, they are also flourishing and thriving young people, who have had their dignity restored by being loved and valued as human beings.

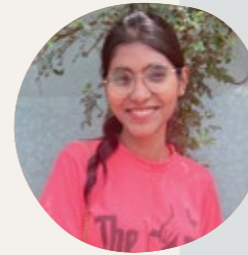
When long-term generosity is paired with a holistic approach, it creates deep impact and sustained transformation for generations to come.



Tashu

General Nursing and Midwifery course. Now employed in a cancer hospital in Nagpur, and independently studying a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

"I was just a kid when CBL came in my life as a ray of hope. CBL had not only supported me financially, but also emotionally. I want to help others the way that I have been helped."



Yamini

Bachelor of Commerce. Working at a small company that functions as brokers helping people obtain loans.

"Your kindness and generosity have made a significant impact in my life...I am thankful for the way you always go out of your way to make me feel comfortable and welcomed... Your unwavering support has helped me to overcome some of the most challenging obstacles in my perspective and helping me to navigate life's complexities."



Harsh

Bachelor of Arts. Recently obtained new employment in Mumbai.

"I thank you from the bottom of my heart that you have given me so much love and care and considered me capable of this... I haven't thought that someone will be a pillar of my life, you had given me such a strong foundation for my life to become a good human being, you were the best and the greatest blessing which will have received."



Santoshi

General Nursing and Midwifery course. Employed in a hospital in Mumbai for the last two years.

"Your belief in me and your constant support and motivation gave me the strength to face everything in life. You always showed me the true meaning of 'family'. Today I'm able to stand on my feet and serving the people through my work."



Anuj

Bachelor of Commerce. Now working in an accounting firm.

"I have hope now. My eyes are focused on my goal, like a horse in a race. I now feel like I belong."



Sharon

Bachelor of Commerce. Now employed in a school in a clerical position whilst also studying a Master in Social Work through distance learning.

"CBL had transform my life today. I'm always thankful for your love and support and care. If you haven't supported me, I would not be here. I am here because of you."



Om

Bachelor of Commerce. Employed at a travel agency.

"I can never imagine that anyone can love me so much without wanting anything. Everything is a big thing for me. From childhood till now, you have taken care of me...You have given us each and every good thing and helped us to achieve our goals in life. I never felt that there was no one with me, you always gave me so much love and care. Today I am in a job only because of you all."



Ankit

Bachelor of Arts. Now employed at a travel agency.

"Since my childhood until now, you are always there. Many difficulty we faced, but you never loosed and leave my hand... The love you shown to me, now maybe I'm also able to love others like you...Now I'm able to take care of my mum and my family because you built me into a responsible boy."



Shimon

Bachelor of Commerce. Now employed in a school as an accountant and independently studying his Masters to further his career.

"When I was in the village, my family could not afford my education and future. Since the day I was connected to the CBL organisation, my life changed. The tension and problems that my family faced before vanished."



Compelled to
create generational
change



Family Support

We love seeing small changes bring big results. Family support is all about seeing families move forward one step at a time, whether that's a big step like obtaining secure and stable housing, or a small first step like food security, all to create positive, lasting change across generations.

Our partners are dedicated to working in respectful, collaborative partnerships with each family they help through food and livelihood support, small business training, microfinance, sanitation, advocacy, and housing projects. It is an immense privilege to walk alongside families, restoring their dignity and sharing their journey in such an important way.

Snapshot

- 3** families supported through the Mealie Meal program
- 2** families given microfinance to start a business
- 2** families received livelihood support of kitchen gardens
- 3** families given new houses
- 4** families supported with advocacy to obtain legal documents
- 3** families supported with medical assistance

Dudu's Story of Peace, Safety and Dignity

No one who sees Dudu's huge, beaming smile would guess the amount of adversity she has overcome. Dudu was just a young woman when her first husband died leaving her with a baby. Her second husband was abusive and abandoned her with two small children when an illness caused Dudu to lose her sight.

Dudu returned to her parents' home for help, but their house collapsed. When she tried to run a market stall to support herself, her produce was constantly stolen. She was frequently sick, and for a significant period, she was separated from her sons, who had to live elsewhere due to Dudu's homelessness.

Operation Hope stepped in with CBL to facilitate change in Dudu's life, in 2023 providing a home with a storeroom for Dudu's business. A secure home meant Dudu's sons could return to her care, reuniting this family. This year, we together assisted with fencing and seedlings for the flourishing vegetable garden that now graces the front of her house. Stress is reduced: the family can eat, their nutrition has improved and Dudu can sell excess vegetables for income.

“The garden is very helpful in my house, because it reduces costs of buying vegetables as we are able to pick fresh spinach with my boys and prepare a healthy meal.”

- Dudu



Dudu and her sons in front of their new home

Ruth's Story of Hope and Belonging

When Operation Hope Swaziland went to visit Ruth, they found her on her bed, desperately ill, with her four children who were listless and hungry.

Ruth had previously taken part in a Small Change business training course and started a small market stall to keep the family afloat. Unfortunately, severe sickness had left her without work and the children without food.

Being a foreigner, she had no family in eSwatini, and her husband had abandoned her and their four children.

We helped to cover her immediate medical bills, but Ruth had other needs, including housing and income. Her dream was to have a garden to restart her market stall business. However, having relocated from Mozambique with no papers meant she couldn't be allocated land. Operation Hope advocated to the local chieftom for land on which they built a two-room house for the family with a pit latrine, a water tank and fencing.

The next stage was to establish a home kitchen garden so that Ruth could feed herself and her children. Together with Operation Hope, we built a structure and provided a small loan for an income-generating shop on her property. Finally, we assisted Ruth to obtain birth certificates for her children, which allows them to attend school in eSwatini.

"Your generosity and kindness have changed our lives in ways we never imagined. You have given me peace and the exact motivation I needed to focus on raising my children and rebuild my life in a safe and conducive environment. It is such motivation that wakes me up each morning, having a sense of direction and looking forward to a brighter future."

- Ruth



Ruth's new home



Ruth and her children in their garden



Ruth and her children enjoying corn from their garden



Isabel and Kenneth and their children in front of their new home



Isabel and Kenneth's Story of Family Transformation

Isabel and Kenneth, with their four children and one grandchild lived in an unstable, disintegrating one-room mud shelter. The family was unemployed and relied on temporary work and odd jobs to make a hand-to-mouth living. Isabel worried about the risks of letting the children sleep in the structure, and the children found it hard to learn at school and do their homework.

The family moved to Kenneth's parents' more secure house but conflict within the extended family flared and Isabel was told to leave. When Kenneth's mother died, the children were also sent away. Once again, the family had nowhere safe to live. To make matters worse, heavy rains made their 'house' even more precarious.

Operation Hope brought Isabel and Kenneth's situation to the attention of the local administrative body. It allocated some land to the family and in 2024, Operation Hope, with the support of CBL, built the family a solid, secure home. The new house gave them less stress, better sleep, increased confidence and a healthier mindset. It also enabled the children to focus on their schooling.

After attending a Small Change micro-finance business training with Operation Hope, Isabel applied for a small loan to start a small business

selling 'mobile money'. Her new business is slowly growing, and her family has the security and support it needs to take more steps towards education, advancement and independence.

"I would like to thank Operation Hope, their partners, and Umphakatsi for the support they have given to my family... and built this beautiful house for us. I was also not aware that the people of my community have so much love for me. I have seen them coming to assist while the project was in progress, and also celebrating with us in the housewarming."

- Kenneth

"I have seen Operation Hope bringing development in the communities. They have helped the vulnerable with love and commitment. I am very happy to see my community developing, as I am from this community too."

- Local Community Leader

Alpheous' Legacy of Change

Hard-working Alpheous had a disability that affected his walking, but it didn't stop him from taking all sorts of odd jobs to provide for himself and his two sons. Several years ago, the family was supported towards independence by Operation Hope through the provision of land and a house, as well as medical assistance and school support for the boys. When his condition worsened in recent years, Alpheous was given food assistance, and provided with a wheelchair and ramp to assist mobility.

Sadly, Alpheous became ill and passed away in May 2025. We were able to support his sons with medical and burial costs, and a funeral conducted with the community in attendance. His sons are now on their own, but because of the support in previous years, they begin this period of their lives with a secure and stable home. Operation Hope is supporting them with food assistance, and advocacy to get legal identification documents so they can pursue employment opportunities and become self-supporting into the future.





After



Before

Compelled to
**support and
 inspire
 communities**






Community Empowerment

An empowered community has a powerful impact. We actively seek to empower communities to bring about long term, sustainable change from within, through both community participation and education and training.

Having thoughtful discussions leads to the active involvement of each community in developing ways to make changes for themselves. Our projects focus on the skills and assets that already exist within a community and are community-initiated and driven, which leads to longer term sustainability and ownership.

Snapshot

-  Mattakkuliya Community Project 'Theory of Change' process
-  Kitchen, storeroom and water tank bases at Mnyafula Primary School
-  Lukhetseni Cooperative community poultry project

Lukhetseni Community - Mnyafula Primary School

Our support of this community empowerment project in eSwatini began in 2022 when we funded new classrooms. Mnyafula Primary School is the only school in the area, and together, CBL and Operation Hope have worked alongside the community to help improve its facilities and safety for the children, who might not otherwise attend school.

This year, a new kitchen and storeroom was constructed to replace the unstable shed where snakes found shelter, and the children's daily meal was cooked on an open fire. The storeroom provides space for teachers to store school supplies and food.

We've also provided concrete bases to enable the installation of water tanks at the school. These water tanks mean water can be collected and stored for hand washing and cleaning, increasing hygiene, as well as to water vegetables and crops now growing in the school's garden project.

The next stage for the school is providing fencing for safety and security and to keep animals off the property - the materials have arrived onsite, and we can't wait to get started!



Community members unloading building materials



Breaking ground for the chicken house

Lukhetseni Community - Chicken House Project

The Lukhetseni Cooperative Association is committed to seeing their community - which mostly relies on subsistence farming - make progress in becoming more sustainable, independent and prosperous. They are working with our support to create an income-generating poultry farm which provides both employment and food supply to the local community.

The co-op had previously operated a broiler chicken business, however, the size of the chicken house wasn't adequate, and they realised that they needed to find their own land to house the business.

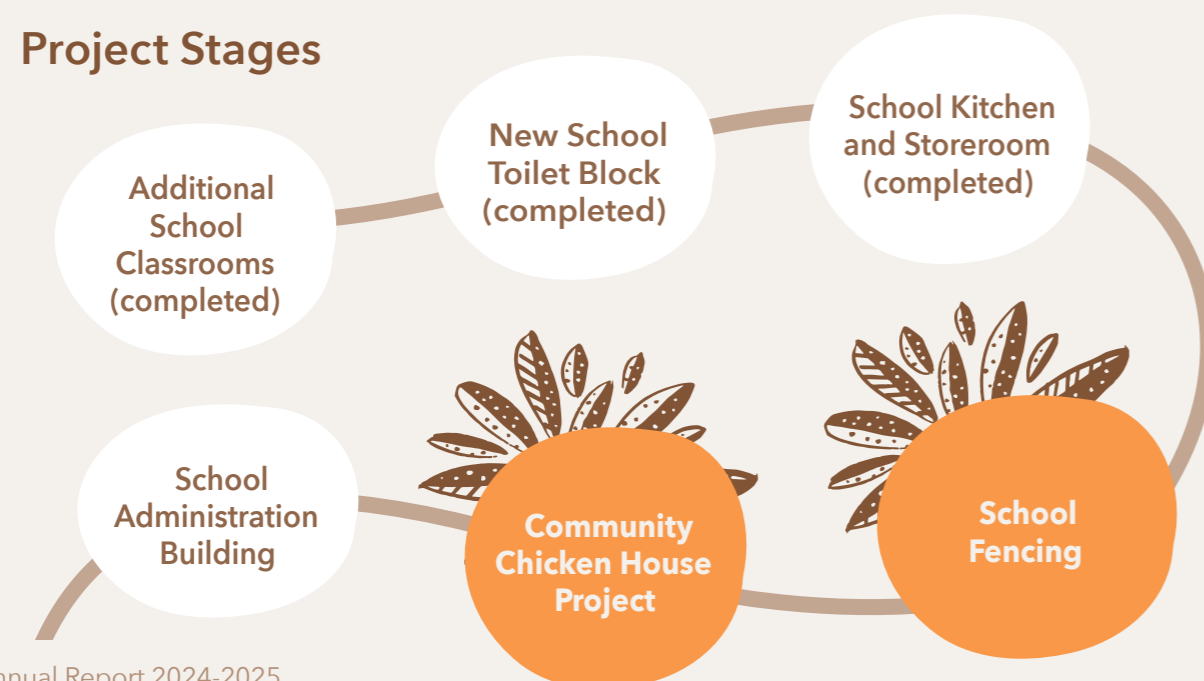
The local council has provided a location, close to the road and opposite Mnyafula Primary School. The Cooperative were originally planning a milling house project

through a government grant. Unfortunately, the government had insufficient funding to provide the milling machine as originally agreed, but the Cooperative didn't give up. Instead, they came up with a new idea - the chicken house project.

Operation Hope and CBL will construct the chicken house and install electricity, with labour support from the Cooperative. The Cooperative will use its savings to stock the chickens and buy feed. Selling chickens to community members and passers-by will create profit, which can be reinvested into the business, and benefit co-op members.

It's a privilege to partner with communities like this - driven by a desire to create lasting change for themselves and future generations.

Project Stages



Mattakkuliya Community Project

Mattakkuliya is an urban slum community in Colombo, Sri Lanka. With our partner, LEADS, we have consulted extensively with this community, and through the data gathered have developed a Theory of Change for the two villages we are focusing on. The first step in the plan is to establish Community Based Organisations (CBO), which will mobilise the community for change, and be the structure for the community to keep working together. These groups will also ensure that our work remains community-led and community-driven.

LEADS will build the capacity of the CBOs with training and equipping in leadership, organisational structure and function, and how to advocate for themselves, as well as facilitate and foster connections with local government that can support the community. The CBOs will be mentored and developed so they are well-functioning groups that can continue to lead the community forward in the future.

Water sanitation and hygiene issues were identified as high priority by community members, and will therefore be the focus for the first interventions.



Project Stages







Compelled to **respond**

Emergency Relief

Compelled By Love primarily engages in community development, which is about long-term, sustainable change and solutions. But when disasters strike and crises happen, we empower our partners to respond and support their communities with emergency relief.

Snapshot

-  Norbert and his family emergency medical assistance
-  Mnyafula Primary School emergency food supplies

Norbert's Story of Courage

When 12-year-old Norbert experienced an horrific road accident on his way home from school this year, he was rushed to hospital, where doctors had no choice but to amputate his leg.

On their own, Norbert's family would have had no way to pay for their son's medical treatment, which included surgery, a ten-week hospital stay, nutritious food, rehabilitation, medication and physiotherapy for his recovery. As CARSA were already connected with the family when Norbert had his accident, we were able to come alongside with specific support in addition to the medical treatment, including counselling, a prosthetic

leg, and transport to enable Norbert's father to visit Norbert and his mother, who remained with Norbert in hospital.

"If it wasn't for God using CARSA, we would still be at the hospital. We had no way to pay. My son was sick, but he was eating meat, eggs, and fruits - foods we've never had at home."

- Zawadi, Norbert's mother

Mnyafula Primary School food support

In eSwatini, the government supplies food to all primary schools so they can provide a daily meal for their students. For children living in poverty, like those who attend Mnyafula Primary School, the meal they receive at school is often the only meal they eat that day.

This year the Swazi government struggled to provide the food for school meals. Mnyafula Primary School put out a request to parents for donations, and received some supplies, but drought had impacted crop yields. When the school sent an emergency request to our partner, Operation Hope, we were able to provide 250kg

of rice and 50kg of beans - enough for five weeks of daily school meals, providing critical food to children in the Lukhetseni community.



Nomsa from OH handing food to the school principal



Compelled by
partnership
that works



Partner Capacity Building

We resource local organisations so our collaborative efforts drive sustainable change over the long-term and produce lasting results.

“Your commitment to journey with us has made a significant difference and we are truly appreciative of your partnership in fostering both our mission and our work environment. Thank you for your unwavering support and for playing such a crucial role in our continued success.”

- LEADS

Snapshot

- 4** training courses
- 10** supervision sessions for lead facilitator in Rwanda
- 4** partners with essential equipment and supplies
- 3** project visits

‘Training the Trainers’ in Financial Literacy

People who grow up experiencing poverty or trauma frequently lack financial literacy skills. This makes it challenging to build savings or plan for the future and can perpetuate the poverty cycle. Financial issues also frequently lead to family conflict and relationship breakdown. For these reasons, we recognised the need for financial literacy training to be an element of CARSA’s work with communities in Rwanda.

We supported selected CARSA staff members, along with some community facilitators, to receive a five-day training program in financial literacy content, which included training in workshop facilitation skills that will enable them to pass on what they’ve learnt to individuals and communities in a practical and effective way.

“I gained a deep understanding of what it truly means to be a facilitator, not just a teacher. I learned that participants come into a learning space with their own experiences and knowledge, they are already experts in their own lives. I used to guide participants as if I had to give them all the answers, but now I see myself more as a guide who helps participants make meaning from their own experiences.”

- Training Participant



Training participants and facilitator





Retreat for Empower Community Facilitators

CBL also supported a three-day training retreat for the 12 community facilitators who assist with the Empower program in Rwanda. Community facilitators are previous Empower participants from rural communities who have been through the program and experienced their own healing and transformation.

Their role in holding other people's experiences and stories of trauma and dysfunction is significant, and the retreat was designed to provide refreshment; build resilience; and increase skills like active listening, small group leading and the ability to contextualise and adapt the Empower lessons to specific groups of participants. This was the first time CARSA has run such a retreat, and both the experience and the training were warmly received.

“ This retreat showed me how much I am a valuable person. Thanks to CARSA for this special time.”

- Retreat Participant

“ Sharing about the characteristics of a great leader encouraged us to improve our work of facilitation and it was enjoyable to learn all of these together as Empower facilitators.”

- Retreat Participant

Project Visits

Project and partner visits are vital to CBL's work. We are deeply and personally connected with our local partners - who they are, and what they do.

When developing projects, much of the collaboration with our local partners can take place over email and online meetings, but time spent in person is also incredibly valuable. By visiting projects and personally connecting with the people we are working with and our partners, we gain a better understanding of who they are, their context, their issues, and the impact of our work.

This year we made two visits to Rwanda, to engage in extended reflection and planning with our partner, CARSA, as we make an exciting shift in the way we're partnering. Highlights included time with Gilbert, one of our supported students now employed as a teacher; spending time with the CARSA team; and attending the incredibly transformative Empower program. It was a privilege to meet with a small group that came out of Empower a decade ago. These people are still supporting each other to see long-term sustained change.

We also visited India, to follow up with the young people we've been supporting and formally close our financial support for them through our partner, as this work is completed. Working with these children at the time, was CBL's very first project. To see it completed and to share in that with our partner and the young people themselves was a privilege.

CBL Community

One of our CBL values is people. Connecting and taking time for people is important to us.

Our Board team and Staff team are always seeking to learn and grow, to increase our knowledge and skills, engaging in training and professional development. They take time away every year to reflect, learn, share and plan.

We love to celebrate the joy of transformation and continue to provide opportunities for our supporters to connect with their impact through supporter celebration events and dinners. We want to share the power of your generosity, why it matters, and the difference it makes in people's lives.

Financials

Your gift has a direct impact

98% of your donation goes straight to local projects

We've had an incredible year of opportunity, connection and generosity.

We've welcomed new partners for change who have become part of these unfolding stories of transformation through their generous support.

3fold Resources is our major supporter, funding all CBL's administration costs including staffing, office space and equipment, as well as covering the costs of our project visits. Their generosity allows your donations to go directly to our projects.

As its capacity allows from year to year, 3fold also donates to support our projects. Their major

donation for this year was given in advance, before the end of the financial year, to support the activities of our 2025-2026 strategic plan and budget. We are carrying these surplus funds into this next year to continue, to expand, and to enlarge our activity and impact as we empower our local partners in their work.

Behind 3fold Resources is a family with passion and vision to make a difference. We're grateful for their generosity, as well as that of our broader family of supporters (you!) who have the same passion and vision. Your generous donations help bring change to individuals, families and communities, and we are privileged to partner with you.

Profit & Loss

1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

INCOME

Donations (including operating expenses and project donations from 3fold Group)	\$1,055,515
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Interest	\$16,477
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Total	\$1,071,992
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EXPENSES

Projects	\$587,531
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Operating Expenses and Project Management (covered by 3fold Group)	\$83,778
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Staffing Expenses (covered by 3fold Group)	\$158,874
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Foreign Currency Translation Losses	-\$3,266
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Total	\$826,917
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Total Surplus	\$245,075
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Balance Sheet

1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

ASSETS - Current Assets

Cash assets	\$1,086,644
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Trade and other receivables	\$6,621
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Total Current Assets	\$1,093,265
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ASSETS - Non-Current Assets

Property, plant and equipment	\$1,476
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Total Current Assets	\$1,476
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Total Assets	\$1,094,741
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LIABILITIES

Trade and other payables	\$6,879
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Provisions	\$23,453
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Total Liabilities	\$30,332
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Net Assets	\$1,064,409
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EQUITY

Retained Surplus	\$1,064,409
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Total Equity	\$1,064,409
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Celebrate Gratitude

Partnership is everything to us. What we do is driven by our local partners and made possible by the generosity of our supporters.

Every story in this report is the work of our local partners - resourced, facilitated and made possible by partnership with CBL.



LEADS,
SRI LANKA

OPERATION HOPE
SWAZILAND, ESWATINI

We are so grateful for our local partners - for their vision, integrity and passion; and for what they do on the ground to empower people to live better lives.

And we're deeply grateful for you. Your generosity empowers our local partners to continue their vital work - and it's making a real difference. Every story of transformation we celebrate is one you're part of, thanks to your generous support.

Compelled by
**partnership
and generosity**



The Year Ahead: Your Invitation

What will CBL do in the new year?

We're excited about our plans for 2026 and beyond. Working together with our partners, our current funding allows us to fulfil these goals and more:

eSwatini

- Family support work will continue, with three house construction projects, livelihood and micro-finance support, as well as food security and advocacy support.
- Community development in the Lukhetseni area will see fencing and an administration block added to Mnyafula Primary School, a chicken house built for the community cooperative, and chickens provided to another community cooperative.
- A visit to eSwatini will provide valuable time with our partner for reflection, review and future planning.

India

- We'll be intentional about following up and mentoring the young adults we have supported through education.

Rwanda

- We will continue our successful Education Sponsorship Program, with several students set to graduate from high school and university.
- The transformative Empower program will be deeply focused in one village, where everyone can access it, and CARSA will work with the whole community to understand needs and develop solutions.

Sri Lanka

- LEADS will establish Community-Based Organisations in two Mattakkuliya villages, and then implement the next stage of the development project, focusing on extensive and urgent sanitation issues.
- We are working on seeing more reintegration for children with Kedella stays increasing to six months, and will run training for government staff on engaging with traumatised children.
- We'll improve efficiency and capacity at LEADS by partnering with Australian organisation Device Donors to provide software and hardware to enable digitisation across the organisation.

Can we do more?

We can always do more, if the funding is there.

There's always more we can do - when the resources are available.

Your donations in the coming year will directly expand our impact. With increased support, we could build another home, empower another student, or facilitate another community project.

A strong, growing base of supporters gives us the means and momentum to carry this life-changing work into the future.

We invite you to be a part of real, lasting transformation.

*Join us. Share the vision.
Let's make change - together.*





**Become a Partner
For Change.**
Your generosity matters.



Follow us on social media
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