ASSISI AID PROJECTS
Empowering Change

Assisi Aid Projects
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Dear friends,

Alongside our Annual Report for the 2025–2026 financial year, I wanted to share a few more recent updates from Assisi.

In her letter to you back in June, our President, Elizabeth Morris, mentioned that we had started planning our next project in India. **I'm delighted to share that our work in India has now officially recommenced.** We are currently working to reach thousands of people living in informal settlements in Southern India with a range of supports, including:

- 100 women will be equipped with practical skills to establish small businesses to earn an income.
- 200 women will be enrolled into Self Help Groups to encourage regular savings and access to business loans.
- 300 women will be supported with training on life skills, confidence building, communication, and personal development.
- 3,000 community members will be supported to access government welfare schemes, benefits, and social protection programs such as pensions.

I'm really pleased that we're able to continue working in India, and I look forward to sharing more about the project and its progress with you. You'll find some key facts about the new project overleaf.

While there is positive news to share from India, we are also thinking of everyone in Nepal following the recent devastating floods. The imagery that emerged was truly horrifying. I have been in close contact with our partner in Nepal – the Business and Professional Women's Network (BPWN) – thankfully, the BPWN team are safe. However, we know that the loss of life and destruction caused by the floods have had a devastating impact on so many people and families across Nepal, Tibet, and indeed all around the world. To help in our own small way, as an immediate response, BPWN and Assisi distributed hygiene kits to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and other vulnerable women in the flood-affected areas of Nuwakot district. We took our lead from BPWN, who are on the ground and best placed to understand what support was needed and how we could help. We continue to work with BPWN to explore additional supports to flood affected communities.

Finally, if you're on social media, I'd love you to connect with us! You can find Assisi Aid Projects on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, where we share photos, stories and updates from our work. Simply search for 'Assisi Aid Projects' to find us. It's a lovely way to stay connected and see how your support is making a difference.

With my thanks and best wishes,

Cate Coleman
Chief Executive Officer

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Assisi's new project in India: UpLiftHer

UpLiftHer will support women living in informal settlements (locally referred to as 'slums') who rely on unsafe, low-paid and unreliable work such as 'rag picking' - the collection and selling of recyclable waste. Rag picking exposes women to hazardous materials, toxic fumes and injuries, while providing little financial security. Limited access to healthcare, clean water and sanitation adds to the risks.

Many women living in informal settlements do not currently access government welfare schemes. Low awareness of their entitlements, difficulties obtaining the required official documentation, and the absence of local women leaders to help link women into relevant services contributes to ongoing cycles of poverty and marginalisation.

Without targeted support, women are likely to remain trapped in poverty. We are addressing this challenge through a comprehensive approach.

Over 12 months, UpLiftHer will address women's economic and social barriers through five connected activities:

- **Small business training:** 100 women will develop practical skills to start or grow small businesses based on local opportunities to earn an income.
- **Self-Help Groups**: 200 women will be supported to build savings, access affordable loans, and improve their financial management skills.
- **Access to services and entitlements:** Thousands of women and their families will receive support to access government welfare schemes, health and financial services.
- **Roshni Club:** Through these clubs, 300 women will build confidence and develop life skills through training in communication, health and personal development.
- **Community guides (Rehbars):** 50 local women will be trained to help others access services and government support, promote community wellbeing and take on leadership roles.

By combining income-generating opportunities with confidence-building, community leadership and better access to essential services, UpLiftHer will help women improve their financial security, play a stronger role in making decisions that affect their lives, and help build better futures for themselves and their families.

How you can support women in India

Your donation can help women in India to live a better life by developing new skills, starting small businesses, earning an income, and accessing the supports they are entitled to. Every contribution makes a difference.

- **$18** can enroll one woman into a Self Help Group and/or a Roshni Group
- **$53** can help train and upskill one woman to start her own small business

To donate to support women in India to develop sustainable livelihoods, please refer to the last page of the Annual Report for donation options or click here. Thank you.

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