



Change in Action

Stories of the impact we make together

Who we are

For over 115 years, CBM has been transforming lives around the world.

We work with local partners to make sure that people with disabilities in some of the world's poorest communities have access to healthcare, education, and a future where they can thrive. Rooted in Christian values, we believe that everyone should have the same opportunities in life, no matter where they live in the world.

Our mission

Fighting to end the cycle of poverty and disability.

Our vision

An inclusive world in which all people with disabilities enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential.

Our values

CBM UK's work is founded on the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Our ethos is based on and inspired by Christian values and the teaching and example of Jesus Christ:



We Champion Inclusion



We Embrace Partnership



We Strive for Justice



We Live with Integrity



We Pursue Excellence

Front cover image: Thanks to your support, Amboaraso, aged 8, has received a new wheelchair. She is also nonverbal, and since starting at a disability-inclusive school, is much happier. ©CBM/Rakotoarivony

A message from our Chief Executive

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who supports our work – for your continued commitment to CBM UK and to people with disabilities around the world. In the face of increasing global challenges, your compassion, generosity and determination are helping to drive real and lasting change for those most affected by cuts to international aid, climate crises and deepening inequality.

Your support – through donations, church communities, prayer and gifts in Wills – makes our work possible. Together, we are transforming lives by improving access to healthcare, education and sustainable livelihoods, and by delivering vital humanitarian support. By working closely with local partners, we are ensuring that this change is not only meaningful but lasting.

It has been a great honour to be appointed OBE, but this recognition also belongs to you, our partners and the communities we serve. It reflects a shared commitment to breaking down barriers and building a more inclusive world.

Thank you for standing alongside people with disabilities. I look forward to all we will achieve together.

Kirsty Smith OBE

Chief Executive Officer,
CBM UK



CBM UK in numbers

We provide healthcare and practical support for people with disabilities, their families and communities. We deliver sight saving surgeries, train doctors and healthcare workers, support children with disabilities to go to school, and so much more.

Last year, we reached
1,383,163
people, including:



829,605
people treated for
blinding diseases,
with thousands
able to see again.



34,443
people screened
for mental health
conditions or
supported to access
mental health services.



3,905
children given the
opportunity to go
to school and build
brighter futures.



23,177
people reached with
life-saving support
in emergency
situations, such as
cyclones and floods.



32,105
people supported
with financial
support, training
or equipment to
build and sustain
their livelihoods.



“The day after my bandages were removed, I felt an incredible sense of relief. The doctors and nurses... were gentle and kind.”

Dora’s story

In the heart of Taita Taveta County, Kenya, lives Dora, a 78-year-old mother of ten.

Once a hardworking farmer, Dora’s life changed when her eyesight began to fail. What started as twitching and blurred vision soon grew into severe headaches, painful sores on her eyes, and the inability to farm, cook or even visit her neighbours.

“I can no longer work on the farm. Cooking has also become difficult because I rely on firewood, and the smoke makes my eyes worse.”

Despite her challenges, Dora showed incredible resilience as she cared for her daughter, Euster, who is blind. Fear of surgery and her responsibility as a caregiver kept her from seeking treatment.

But after years of living in pain and fear, Dora finally decided to go ahead with cataract surgery at a CBM-supported hospital. The night before, she was filled with worry, but the operation went smoothly and without pain.

Though her vision was still a little blurry at first, Dora could already begin to see letters and light again. Her vision had been restored.

“I am profoundly grateful to God and thankful to CBM,” Dora told us.

Our achievements

Saving sight

In 2021, our Light up Lives appeal raised over £1 million in donations from UK supporters. This amount was matched by the UK government, and along with Gift Aid, brought the total raised to £2.3 million. Together with HelpAge Zimbabwe, this project has enabled us to address critical eye health needs in Midlands Province, Zimbabwe, and restore sight to thousands of people who had been living needlessly blind.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, this project has:



screened
54,101
people for eye
health issues



carried out
2,557
cataract surgeries



provided glasses to
2,166
people



shared eye health
messages with over
8 million
people



“One in eight people around the world live with sight loss - but here’s the shocking truth: 90% of it could have been prevented or treated with something as straightforward as a cataract surgery or a pair of glasses. That’s why I’m a passionate supporter of CBM UK. Every day, they’re restoring sight and creating a clearer, brighter future for millions.”

Gyles Brandreth, author, broadcaster and long-time CBM UK supporter.

"After I had gone completely blind, I could no longer take care of myself. I relied on my sister-in-law, who assisted me with everything."



Lucia's story

When we met Lucia in 2023, she was completely blind.

Over three long years, cataracts had slowly taken her sight - and with it, her independence, her livelihood, and the life she once knew.

As her vision worsened, Lucia could no longer care for her children. One by one, they went to live with relatives.

Her world grew smaller every day.

"The blindness meant that I could no longer work or attend church. I would weep every day."

One day, her local pastor encouraged her to visit a nearby clinic, where she discovered that her blindness could be treated through cataract surgery.

After years of blindness, Lucia finally had surgery that restored her sight. She has since trained as an eye health champion, using her own experience to help others in her community access the care they need.

Lucia is now one of 440 eye health champions trained through our Light up Lives project - each one reaching others, sharing knowledge, and helping people find treatment before it's too late.

Financial inclusion

We were proud to launch our new project: Financial Autonomy of Persons with Disabilities through Agriculture (FAIDA) – a four-year initiative aimed at enhancing financial inclusion for people with disabilities in Chitwan District, Nepal.

In Nepal, people with disabilities often face exclusion from financial services, limiting their opportunities for economic independence. FAIDA aims to change this by working with local organisations such as cooperatives, self-help groups and financial institutions to make their services accessible.

Thanks to funding from Jersey Overseas Aid, the project is already making a difference. 98 self-help groups for people with disabilities and their family members have been formed, with many receiving training on basic financial literacy.



The groups now include

1,482 members, including
991 people with disabilities.

Training in disability inclusion has also been delivered to local cooperatives. The change in attitude was so significant that some of the cooperatives enrolled people with disabilities as members for the first time.

FAIDA has created the foundation for the disability movement in Chitwan. Through being members of self-help groups, being trained as trainers, and participating in workshops, people with disabilities are more visible, confident, and active in their communities. In 2025, our supporters also contributed £139,809 towards the total cost of the project.



“After joining the self-help group, for the first time in my life, I have a forum to share, learn, and inspire – and to change perceptions in my community towards people with disabilities.”

Ram Maya’s story

Ram Maya, 35, was born with a physical disability. She is a member of a newly formed self-help group in Rapti Municipality, Nepal.

She told us how people in her community would often overlook and discourage people with disabilities, believing them to be incapable of being independent or contributing to their community.

Ram Maya doesn’t want her disability to prevent her from being active in her community. Since joining the self-help group, she has already noticed an improvement in her life and is grateful to be able to discuss common challenges and opportunities with others.

Disability inclusion

Yeasmin is a young woman from Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. She loved sports at primary school, but when she was 11 years old, her right leg was badly injured after falling from the roof of her grandmother's house. Poor medical treatment caused further damage and Yeasmin thought she would never be able to play sports again.

But when our Actions for Change project started, Yeasmin met Bashir Al Hossain – a programme manager at National Grassroot Disability Organisation, one of CBM UK's partners. A keen sports player himself, Bashir also has a physical disability and uses a crutch.

Bashir recruited Yeasmin (pictured below and right) as a project volunteer and community facilitator, which helped grow her confidence and knowledge about disability-inclusive climate action. Now she facilitates community training for people with disabilities and their caregivers on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.

Bashir also supported Yeasmin and other young women with disabilities in the area to access a football training programme run by Sports for Hope and Independence. Now these young women meet regularly to practice and play together.

Despite living in a culturally conservative area where it's unusual for women to



"I want to empower other women. When they see me playing football, they will feel strong!"



play football - particularly women with disabilities - they are determined to continue playing and dream of competing nationally. They also see football as an opportunity to spread the word about climate action. They share messages on disaster preparation and climate change with their fellow players and the people who come to watch them play.

Yeasmin knows how much she can inspire other young women if they see her play. **“People laughed at us because we are women with disabilities,”** she says. **“But we have the right to play. I want to empower other women. When they see me playing football, they will feel strong!”**

What is Actions for Change?

Actions for Change is a partner-led programme working in three countries – Bangladesh, Kenya and Nepal – each with an Organisation of People with Disabilities. It’s testing new ways of shifting resources and decision-making power to our partners. It allows local organisations to identify the needs in their communities, set their own priorities, and design projects to address them, without any restrictions.

Climate resilience

People with disabilities, especially those living in poverty, are among the hardest hit by climate change, which is increasing the frequency and severity of floods, hurricanes and droughts.

Kenya has experienced repeated droughts and increasingly erratic rainfall due to climate change, leaving millions of people facing severe hunger while also increasing the risk of crop failure, flooding and mudslides in mountainous regions. In Bungoma County, we have been working in partnership with the Kenya Red Cross Society to support those most at risk.

Over the past three years, together we have:



equipped **147** climate change champions with in-depth knowledge of climate change



reached over **12,000** people with training on climate action through these champions



provided **1,611** people with seed capital to start and scale businesses



supported **277** people to access assistive devices such as white canes and wheelchairs.



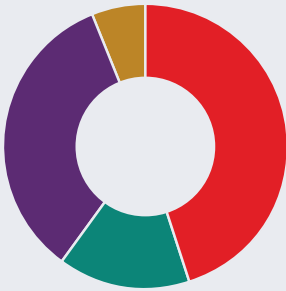
For communities across Bungoma, the project has made a lasting impact. In 2025, we met the Imani Inuka Widows Group (member Eunice pictured above), who were supported by the project to create climate-smart briquettes as a sustainable alternative to charcoal. This initiative not only provides them with a source of income but also plays a role in tackling deforestation. Now they no longer need to cut down trees for fuel – an issue that contributes to mudslides and the loss of crops, homes, and livelihoods.

The group are using the income from the project to fund the school fees for children in their community, and they hope to grow further afield. As one group member shared, **“It is our prayer to God that one day we expand.”**

Where your money goes

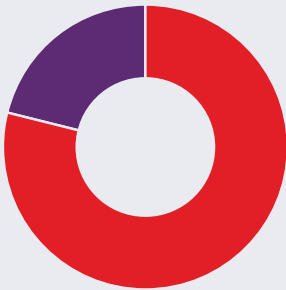
Thanks to the commitment and generosity of our supporters, last year our income reached

£6,523,632



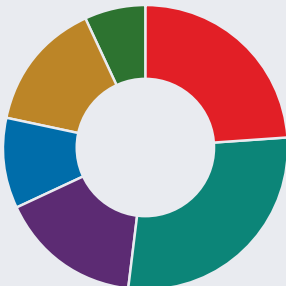
Income

- Donations from supporters: £2,943,823
- Gifts in Wills: £984,455
- Governments and institutional funding: £2,201,611
- Investment and other income: £393,743



Expenditure

- Delivering our work: £6,021,327
- Raising funds: £1,602,028



Our life-changing work

- Saving sight: £1,440,899
- Building inclusive communities: £1,690,369
- Community mental health: £970,962
- Humanitarian action: £621,090
- Advocacy: £896,192
- Inclusion advisory services: £401,815

Tsiry's story

When Tsiry was three, his mother knew something wasn't right. His eyes wouldn't focus, and he struggled to keep his balance.

Glasses helped - but his family couldn't afford to replace them as often as needed. At school, Tsiry was singled out. Other children teased him. Even adults turned away.



“People would stare at us in the street,” his mother told us. **“It made me sad to see my son being teased. He didn't even want to play with the other children anymore.”**

Everything changed when Tsiry's parents found an inclusive school, part of CBM's MAHAY Inclusive Education Project in Madagascar.

Tsiry received eye care and a pair of new glasses, and thanks to our supporters, his vision improved.

“I'm infinitely grateful,” his mother told us.

Today, Tsiry - now ten - is in a school where he is supported, included and believed in.

Fundraise for us

We are incredibly grateful for the many ways our supporters help change the lives of people with disabilities in some of the world's poorest communities. There are many ways to get involved beyond donations.

From hosting sponsored walks, runs, and bake sales to creating your own unique challenges, there's so much you can do to transform lives. We're here to support you every step of the way.

If you, or someone you know, would like to find out more about hosting an event or taking on a challenge, we'd love to hear from you.

To find out more, visit www.cbmuk.org.uk/fundraising.

Supporter spotlight

Supporters Gill and Peter Godber recently marked an incredible anniversary – 20 years of volunteering for CBM UK. During this time, they have organised and participated in events across Cambridgeshire. From fun runs to garden parties, Gill and Peter are committed to raising awareness and funds for people with disabilities living in some of the world’s poorest places.

They marked their 20-year milestone with an afternoon tea party to celebrate World Sight Day 2025. The event, which raised over £700, featured a performance by award-winning pianist James Williams, and a raffle with prizes donated by over 20 local businesses.

For Peter, who has been living with dementia since 2017, the event carried special meaning. He has played the piano since the age of four and served for several years as an organist at a dementia-friendly church. Alongside Gill, Peter has spent two decades championing our work, inspired by witnessing its life-changing impact first-hand during visits to Tanzania and Vietnam.

We are incredibly grateful to all our wonderful volunteers and ambassadors who commit their time and energy to holding events and sharing stories of our work.



“CBM has always been a passion of mine, and it’s incredibly rewarding to see the difference we can make together. Partnership is our strength.”

Gill Godber

Rohit's story

Rohit, from Nepal, was working in the timber industry and living a happy life. He earned enough money to meet his family's needs, including his daughters' education and his mother's care.

But one morning, Rohit was crushed under the wheels of a heavy tractor and was paralysed from the chest down. Unable to walk, sit, or work, Rohit was pushed into severe financial hardship.

Thankfully, everything started to change for Rohit when our partner – Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal – designed a bed with wheels for him and installed ramps that allowed Rohit to move outside. For the first time in two years, Rohit was able to sit in the courtyard and feel sunlight.

The project also helped Rohit earn a living from home. A chicken coop was built in his courtyard at a height which was accessible from his bed, along with vegetable planters to provide a second stream of income.

“Once I could not even see the sunlight, but now I support my household by selling vegetables and chickens.”

Rohit's community now see him as a symbol of resilience and inspiration.



Want to transform lives with us?

Take action

Explore all the different ways you can get involved and change lives by visiting our website:
www.cbmun.org.uk

Contact us

We would love to hear from you. Please give us a call on **01223 484700**, or send an email to info@cbmun.org.uk

Legacies that change lives

Did you know that gifts in Wills help change the lives of one in five people we support?

These special gifts are one of the most impactful ways you can contribute to our life-changing work. After taking care of family and loved ones, many supporters choose to include a gift in their Will for future generations.

Legacies like these can help restore sight, ensure children with disabilities can access education, and strengthen health services in some of the world's poorest places. Gifts in Wills are also free from inheritance tax and can reduce the amount of tax paid on the rest of an estate.

You can write your Will for free with one of our partners by contacting us on **01223 484700**, or emailing **info@cbmuk.org.uk**.



“We can trust CBM to ensure that the money we give reaches the projects and people who need our support and hope that you will all consider leaving a gift in your Will to CBM.”

**CBM UK supporters
Rodney and Shirley**

Looking ahead

At CBM UK, we believe that everyone, wherever they live in the world, has the right to healthcare, education and a future where they can thrive. But cuts to the UK's Overseas Development Aid budget will hit the most marginalised people hardest - including people with disabilities.

Less money means less access to health services, less access to vital medicines and less access to education and economic opportunities. For some, it will be a matter of life and death.

This is why our work has never been more important. People with disabilities are at the centre of our programmes and partnerships because we know this is key to achieving lasting, sustainable change.

Whether that's inclusive education for girls in Zimbabwe, climate-resilient farming in Kenya, or financial inclusion for women in Nepal, change happens when we listen to those who understand the solutions that are needed.

As this report demonstrates, our locally led, scalable approach is achieving measurable impact. But we can only do it with your support. And, at this challenging time, your support has never been more important.

Together, we'll ensure people with disabilities are at the centre of transforming their communities.

Thank you for sharing our vision to ensure nobody is left behind.



Birbal Tamang, 64, at his home in rural Bhumlu Municipality, Nepal. Birbal has a physical disability and, thanks to support from CBM's partner, has received bamboo stool-making training.

Bandana, 6, was born blind due to cataracts in both eyes. Growing up in a rural village in Nepal, she had never seen her parents' faces clearly. Surgery to restore her sight was out of reach.

Everything changed when a community eye screening camp, run by our long-term partner, Biratnagar Eye Hospital, identified Bandana. Thanks to support from people like you, she was referred for surgery.

After the operation, Bandana's bandages were removed. For the first time, she could see her mother Lila's face. **"I became very emotional,"** Lila told us.



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