



KARUNA
compassion in action

2026



“

We barely scraped by. Now, my standard of living has completely changed. Managing to educate my children, being able to buy what we need to eat or purchase something for the house – that is where my peace comes from.

— Tuli

Welcome to the Karuna Annual Review 2025-26



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As this is my first letter to you as Karuna's Chief Executive, I want to use it to say something about how this work actually gets done – because I think it explains why the year you funded went as well as it did.

During my first few months, I sat in on a session run by one of our partners

in India. In the room were seven leaders of grassroots organisations, working on violence against women, child sexual exploitation and girls' access to decent education. They knew their communities better than anyone. Each of them had built an organisation from scratch to solve the injustices they themselves had lived through.

146,000
PEOPLE WERE
SUPPORTED
THIS YEAR

Each one of these leaders had the kinds of skills and experience that cannot be imported. The standing in a community that lets a family invite them inside. The knowledge of which official will act and which will not. The credibility to be believed.

What they hadn't had was a way of translating this into a strategy a funder would recognise. A way to clearly measure what they had already achieved or a network to connect them with others, perhaps thousands of miles away, but fighting for the exact same vision. That gap was the only thing standing between them and reaching ten times as many people.

That gap is our work. Bridging it is what you make possible.

22
PARTNERS
30
PROJECTS

Leaders like these are some of the most dedicated in the world – yet too often they struggle to find support, being seen as too small, too new or too isolated. Even we would never find them on our own – and we don't try to. Instead, we rely on the deep networks of local partners we have spent forty-five years building.

Those relationships allow us to close the gap other organisations simply can't. We can find the people on the margins, doing the work that makes the difference and work with them to access the resources they need. Part of that means funding. Most of that means building resilient, self-sustaining networks, pooling resources, sharing expertise from within their own countries and developing the governance they need to sustain and spread.

Neither half works without the other. Money without local leadership gets wasted. Local leadership without infrastructure stays small and, too often, disappears.

Though much of the sector is only arriving at this idea now, Karuna has worked this way since 1980. It has always been obvious to us that the people closest to a problem should hold the power to solve it.

That philosophy mattered more than ever this year. With governments cutting aid budgets and financial environments tightening, shockwaves were sent through organisations large and small. While we did invest 86% of the £8.8 million we set out to commit across our three-year strategy, the shortfall shows we didn't escape the impact either.

10
STATES
IN INDIA
4
DISTRICTS IN
BANGLADESH
8
DISTRICTS
IN NEPAL

However, the thing I'd ask you to take away is this. Even though it was a year where funding was tighter across the board, the impact of the work still grew. The organisations you support built their own networks. Together, those networks reached 2.2 million people – more than double the number three years ago. They also fundraised £1.4 million themselves from sources who would never have opened the door to them before.

We did not get bigger this year. Our impact did. That's the whole idea, working.

I want you to see this approach in action. That's why, this year, we have given most of these pages to Bangladesh, where climate change is displacing half a million people every year. We've highlighted three of our fantastic partners there – Grambangla, Pragya and OKUP – whose essential work is finding its shape, thanks to your support.

In the coming year, we will review Karuna's long-term vision. It will begin exactly where it should: with our partners and the communities they belong to. I look forward to writing to you then to share what we find.

The world is changing quickly, and we intend to keep pace with it. But what Karuna is for has not changed at all.

Thank you for standing with us, so we can stand behind them.

Louise Thomas
Chief Executive Officer

Our three-year strategy, 2023-26

As we complete our three-year strategy this year, we are incredibly proud of the impact we've achieved together. While navigating a tighter financial environment and recent shifts in government funding, we successfully invested £7,552,883 into our programmes – reaching 86% of our ambitious £8.8 million target. Despite these external challenges, this sustained investment allowed us to deliver remarkable results for the communities we serve.

What we delivered each year, on average:

Girls supported to stay in school and avoid early marriage
Yearly Target: 14,000 / **Achieved:** 14,946

Women and girls protected from violence and trafficking
Yearly Target: 34,000 / **Achieved:** 42,448

Migrants and marginalised people supported into livelihoods and entitlements
Yearly Target: 55,000 / **Achieved:** 50,232

People supported to adapt to climate change
Yearly Target: 18,000 / **Achieved:** 20,894



WHAT YOUR SUPPORT ACHIEVED:

146,000 People Were Supported This Year, Through 30 Projects With 22 Partners.



61,344

women gained protection from violence through legal support, training and community protection groups

94,443

women and girls took part directly in projects – nearly two-thirds of everyone we reached

15,562

students stayed in school or returned to it, 11,458 of them girls

30,300

people increased their income through skills training, small enterprise and access to government welfare schemes.

31,085

people received information on migrating safely, or support to rebuild after returning home

17,770

people adopted climate-adapted farming and community disaster planning

9,432

women and girls gained access to safe menstruation, maternal health and hygiene support

Across India, Nepal and Bangladesh in 2025-26 your support meant...

Karuna Changemakers

Everything in these pages started with somebody deciding to give something away.

From Michael running the Isle of Man Marathon to get education to those who need it most, to Trish fundraising to support victims of menstrual exile while doing her Master's Degree, thank you to all of you who went above and beyond as Karuna community fundraisers to support those parts of our work that feel closest to you.



I chose to support Karuna because their mission to break the cycle of poverty and injustice deeply resonates with me. They don't just offer temporary relief; they invest in lasting dignity and independence. If you are considering fundraising for Karuna, my advice is simple: just start. Whether it's a big physical challenge or a smaller community initiative, the energy you put in is multiplied by the reach of their work. And I promise the community support you'll receive along the way makes every bit of the effort worthwhile.

— Michael



Coming from a developing country and having seen so many marginalised groups within Nepal, finding Karuna Trust was inspiring. They support so many women and other marginalised groups across South Asia. Having a strong passion towards these communities, I would strongly advise people to consider fundraising for projects that really make a difference. Trust in the Karuna Trust that they will give you all the information you need on where the money is going and how it gets used. They provided me with brochures and video calls to support me through my fundraiser, especially as this is my first time fundraising. They have made the experience all the more worthwhile and it has grown my passion for supporting women in rural areas of South Asian countries.

— Trish

If you would like to fundraise for Karuna or volunteer with us, we would love to hear from you. Please email info@karuna.org

Bangladesh

25,036
PEOPLE SUPPORTED

Bangladesh is losing land faster than almost anywhere on earth.

Rising seas and stronger cyclones displace close to half a million people in Bangladesh every year. Around 2,000 arrive in Dhaka each day, most of them from the coast, most of them having lost a farm, a house or a fishing livelihood they cannot rebuild. They arrive in a city whose informal settlements already hold more people than they can serve, where more than 40% live below the poverty line and where clean water and sanitation are scarce. Others travel further, taking work in the Gulf States on terms they often cannot verify before they leave.

By 2050, one in seven people in Bangladesh may have been displaced.

Karuna began working in Bangladesh in 2023. This year, we consolidated the programme around four partners, working at both ends of the same journey – with coastal communities determined to stay where they are and with the families who have already arrived in Dhaka with nothing.

It is our newest programme, accounting for 17% of the people we worked with this year – but it is already producing some of our clearest results.

Our next three stories trace the journey from the delta banks to the inner city, highlighting the far-reaching impact on those we serve.

Project snapshots...

Healthy Futures for Child Waste Pickers

Partner & Location: Grambangla Unnayan Committee / Dhaka

Description: Waste pickers collect, sort and sell recyclable material. They are essential to how Dhaka manages its waste and they are among the least protected workers in the city. This project runs an education centre beside the landfill sites where families live, so their children can go to school instead of the dumpsite.

Impact: Moved 248 children out of hazardous work and into school, with no new cases of child labour or child marriage reported.

Resettlement of Returning Migrants

Partner & Location: OKUP / Dhaka

Description: Practical, medical, legal and counselling support for workers returning from exploitative or abusive conditions overseas, alongside peer-led training for people preparing to leave.

Impact: 5,201 returning workers, most of them women, gained the knowledge and support to seek justice and rebuild.



Transforming Lives through Inclusive Livelihoods

Partner & Location: Nari Maitree / Dhaka

Description: Skills training, business support and childcare for women in Dhaka's informal settlements, most of whom arrived in the city after losing rural livelihoods.

Impact: 420 families increased their household income. 25 children gained daycare places, freeing their mothers to work and train.

Participatory Community-based Disaster Preparedness

Partner & Location: Pragya / Coastal Bangladesh

Description: Works with coastal households on regenerative farming, community flood planning and nature-based protection against erosion.

Impact: 4,731 farmers moved to climate-adapted farming, with women and young people taking on leadership of local planning.

No Childhood Should Go to Waste

Matuail is one of the largest landfill sites in Dhaka. Several thousand families live on it or beside it, making their living from what the rest of the city throws away.

These waste pickers sort through what arrives each morning by hand, pulling out plastic, metal and glass to sell on. It is essential work – Dhaka's formal waste system could not function without it – yet it is also hazardous work with no contract, no protection and no recognition, done in heat, among sharp metal, medical waste and standing water.

Most of the waste picker families in Dhaka come from rural towns, pushed into the cities after floods took their land or cyclones took their homes. The dumpsite was the only place the city had space for them that also offered a means to survive.

Children follow their parents onto the waste sites. Located on the outskirts, there are no schools nearby and education is a cost the already struggling household can rarely afford. Instead, most children must join their parents in the work – as well as the risks.

Karuna's partner Grambangla runs a primary education centre on the edge of the site, close enough that children can walk there. Alongside quality, free tuition, uniforms and meals, the school offers a safe place to be for the length of a school day.



Bithi's Story

Even after nine years, Bithi still isn't used to the smell.

Each morning, she sifts through mountains of new rubbish outside Dhaka with her bare hands. You don't have to be there to imagine it, she says. "You already know how terrible the stench must be."

That's just the beginning. There are also the constant headaches from sifting through toxic refuse. Her hands, every day covered in fresh cuts. More injuries, some from sorting, some from dodging the huge trucks and machines that process the waste, so she doesn't get crushed.

**“
An education gives
a person a voice.
It allows them to
speak up.**

Bithi is not from Dhaka. She is from Patuakhali, a town on the south bank of the Laukathi river, near the coast. Like so many communities within the Delta, climate change has increased catastrophic

floods, making traditional agriculture impossible. She and her family were forced to leave for the city, in search of work.

Most of the waste pickers are just like her, displaced migrants, forced to leave their coastal homes for the same reason.

Despite the horrendous conditions surrounding her, Bithi is grateful to have found work. Some days, she can gather up to 700 items to take to the recycling centre – enough to survive the month. But that isn't why she is smiling. In fact, she says, "My mind is completely at ease." Her daughter, Sadia, attends a school nearby run by our partner, Grambangla.

It isn't the first time Sadia tried to attend a school. Bithi always knew that the importance of education, especially



for girls, extends even beyond learning. "An education gives a person a voice," she says. "It allows them to speak up and hold a meaningful conversation. Without an education, a person completely loses their voice in society."

Bithi wanted that for Sadia. She didn't want her working on the site. So, she sent her there – however, it was far away and meals, stationery, books were not provided. Every day was agonising.

"The stress used to be constant. I would be trapped in loops of worry over whether my child was getting food. I didn't know where I would find the money for notebooks and pens."



248 Children

WHO WERE WORKING ON DHAKA'S WASTE SITES ARE NOW IN SCHOOL

The school had fees and expenses that were simply impossible for a family living in extreme poverty. At that time, Bithi says, even a pen costing 10 takas – about 6 pence – was unaffordable.

"I would panic about whether I could afford it. We simply don't have that kind of money." Worse was how Sadia was treated. "They used to beat me a lot," Sadia says.

When Sadia moved to the Grambangla school, all of this changed. The school sits close enough that Sadia can walk to it safely. Tuition is free. So are the uniforms she gets each year. The two meals she eats every day. The books, the pens, the notebooks and the stationery Bithi used to lie awake budgeting for.

Sadia is now learning computer skills alongside her lessons. When she finishes primary school, she will move to the neighbouring secondary school.

Bithi is delighted. The daily worries about how her daughter is being treated. Whether she is being fed. Whether she needs to choose between pens and meals. All gone. "My mind is completely at ease. It fills my heart with joy when I hear that she is studying well. I deeply appreciate it. The teachers are wonderful."

This past year, Grambangla successfully re-integrated 248 children of waste pickers into schools, with no reported new cases of child labour or child marriage.

Thank you for making that possible.

Changing Tides

The Bengal delta is one of the most fertile regions on earth and one of the most precarious. Saltwater pushes further inland every year. Cyclones arrive harder and more often. A single storm surge can put salt into soil that then takes years to recover. A family who farmed that soil for three generations can lose the ability to feed themselves overnight.

Karuna works with many coastal households on the alternative – staying and making staying viable. That means regenerative farming methods suited to damaged soil, water and seed systems that survive a flood, tree planting and nature-based defences that slow erosion and community flood plans built by the people who will have to use them.

However, for some communities, staying is simply never viable. New approaches entirely are needed.



Tuli's Story

Each time Tuli moved, when and where was not her choice. It was the river's.

Her family's first home was in Dighalia. When the Padma river took it, it didn't just take all the homes around her. It flooded the fields. Destroyed the villages' crops. Stripped the villagers of their livelihoods and survival. Even the ground her children played on a season ago is riverbed now.

This has happened to Tuli three times.

Tuli lives in Mushiganji, a district deep within the vast Ganges delta. The Padma is one of several colossal rivers in this dynamic system. While the delta naturally shifts every year, the local populations have learnt to adapt to this for centuries. What's happening now is different.

Climate change has turned the river's cycle increasingly volatile. Heavier rainfall and unpredictable water flows are destroying a delicate ecosystem that has existed in balance for generations.

Thousands have died. More than half of the surviving population have been forced to move between two and four times in just five years, with the number of displaced people and families in the tens of millions – and rising.

In Tuli's village, almost everyone there is a victim of the same erosion. They too arrived the same way, pushed out of a home that simply no longer exists. With their only means of survival and work being the agriculture that is so dependent on proximity to the river, they are forced to stay in vulnerable areas. Each time, they rebuild, knowing the next flood is only a matter of time.



As our partner, Pragya, was delivering work in Tuli's district, she was able to connect with the local team. A community trainer named Shila taught Tuli traditional Katha quilt stitching alongside the machine work she already knew. She learnt how to keep ducks and chickens, learnt how to grow chillies, cucumbers and gourds – a little to eat, the surplus to sell. She soon saved enough to buy her own sewing machine and began running a business out of her home. More than just a livelihood, these skills go where she goes.

"If my husband earns twenty takas, I bring in ten," she says.

It's not just about the income. When her children need books or food, she doesn't have to wait for her husband to decide, she can provide it herself.

"In the past, I used to get through the days with intense hardship just trying to keep my children fed. We barely scraped by.



Now, my standard of living has completely changed. Managing to educate my children, being able to buy what we need to eat or purchase something for the house – that is where my peace comes from."

She put five children through their schooling, married three daughters and watched her two sons go into work of their own.

Today, the women come to her. They cross the neighbourhood to watch her stitch and learn from her,

the way she once sat and watched someone else. Training in the craft that transformed Tuli's household, Lutfai is quietly handing on to the next generation, without anyone having to organise it.

The river will keep moving – it always does. But what Tuli has learned is something that cannot be washed away.

You supported 4,731 farmers in coastal Bangladesh to transition to climate to climate-adapted livelihoods this year. Thank you.

Coming Home

The locals call it Mora Kartik. “The dying months.”

Each year, these seasonal famines force Bangladeshi workers to migrate in search of low-paid labour work overseas. Competition is fierce; securing a job is quite literally a matter of survival. Workers sign contracts they cannot read, in languages they do not speak, through recruiters who charge fees that take years to repay.

Separated from their families, the journey to the new foreign country may take weeks, only for them to arrive and find the job is not the one they agreed to. Some have their passports taken away on arrival. Physical abuse is common on worksites and there is no access to healthcare. Women working in domestic roles are the most isolated of all, living inside the households that employ them, beyond the reach of anyone who might intervene.

People who come home early usually come home with less than they left with, with an experience they have no way to talk about. Some return in debt. Some return injured or ill. Many return to a community that reads their early return as failure.

Our partner OKUP works with people at both ends of that journey. Before departure, peer-led training run by returned migrants themselves covers what a legitimate contract looks like, what recruitment should cost and who to contact if things go wrong – information delivered by people the trainees can see have already been where they are going.

On return, OKUP provides medical care, legal support, counselling and practical help to plan a livelihood at home. The legal work matters most where it is least expected. Many returning workers do not know that what happened to them was unlawful or that justice is available to them.



Tasnia's Story

In the rural char (river island) communities of Munshiganj, overseas work often feels like the only way out of poverty.

For Tasnia, sending her husband to Qatar was not desperation. It was ambition. A local labour broker promised a salary far beyond anything they had earned and the family like so many others, believed him.

The opportunity still meant travel and expenses. The broker would require a fee – their entire life savings.

The riverbeds were shifting. The floods were coming more often. So, they paid, trusting that his work abroad could finally secure their future.

Months passed. The promised wages never came. What he was paid arrived late and irregularly – once his employers took their own costs out of it first. What was left to send home was around 3,000 takas – about £18 a month.

Her husband was trapped in a system where he could not afford to feed himself, let alone the family who had given everything to send him there. Protesting carries real risk, but he couldn't bear the thought of his family starving. He went to his employers and asked for the wages he had been promised, explaining he had paid more to come than he had earned in all the months since.



To his shock, they told him they had never taken a penny from him. They lied, then they beat him. He was thrown into a foreign jail.

Back home, Tasnia found out from a relative. She had no way to contact him.

"We wept uncontrollably and felt completely lost," Tasnia says. "We had no idea where to turn."

Every day of silence compounded her grief and her debt as she struggled to keep her family fed. At the time, our partner OKUP was holding a meeting at the house next door. Her neighbour asked if she wanted to come. Tasnia could not see what good it would do. She went anyway.

"After just one meeting and listening to what they had to say, I realised how incredibly valuable this information was."

With what she learnt there and OKUP's support behind her, Tasnia contacted the embassy herself – and kept calling until she got the answers she needed. Eventually, she got her husband repatriated.

He was finally home – but he was ill, in debt and, in her words, completely broken. OKUP arranged his medical treatment and helped the family purchase livestock, so they had a sustainable local income that did not depend on anyone leaving again.

The family were finally able to begin healing. However, Tasnia's story doesn't end here. It begins. She wasn't satisfied knowing how many wives, mothers, daughters were out there, still going through what she did.

"I realised that if I could bring my own husband back, I could definitely work for other struggling migrant families."

OKUP was a lifeline for her. Now she wanted to be that for someone else.

She began going door to door. She told neighbours what a passport actually costs and how to get them, so brokers



could not overcharge them. How to spot a predatory recruiter. Why you leave a copy of the contract at home before anyone leaves.

Not everyone wanted her doing it. As a woman working outside the household, she faced sustained hostility from the village – including her own in-laws, who said her work brought shame on the family.

"I asked them: what is the actual difference between a man and a woman? If someone's focus is clear and they genuinely want to do good, what does it matter?"

They didn't listen. Instead, they refused to let her continue. However, her husband came to her side, defending her against his own parents. "He told me: go ahead. No matter what obstacles you face, keep doing it."

So she did. Her advice started saving families money. Most of all, it kept people safe. The village noticed. The hateful voices faded. The community changed its mind.

Neighbours began telling her mother-in-law about Tasnia. How she had saved their husband or son. How much she had helped their family. Before long, her mother-in-law was the one telling everyone how proud she was of Tasnia.

"This transformation boosted my confidence immensely."

Yet, as her work expanded, what drove her was not the approval of others. It was always her conviction that the work mattered.

"I never paused to worry about whether I would be successful or not; I just had a burning desire to make a difference. I wanted to achieve something meaningful for this society, this country and these migrant families. Through consistent hard work, success naturally followed."

She soon officially became a member of OKUP herself. Then the sub-district elections were announced, her family and the members of the OKUP Migrant Forum told her to stand.

She won by a landslide.

Today, Tasnia is President of the Migrant Forum and an elected representative in Munshiganj Sadar. She has been to every single household in her union. Her twelve-year-old son says people stop him in the street to ask if he is Tasnia's son. He intends to volunteer when he is older.

"When a migrant sends money home, everyone respects them," says Tasnia.

We must ensure that the same respect we shower on a migrant during their good times is not stripped away the moment they fall into trouble. We must always stand firmly by them.

"My lifelong commitment is to remain by the side of migrant families until my very last breath."

With your support, 5,201 returning migrant workers rebuilt their lives and their rights this year.

Thank you.

Campaign Updates

Last year, we asked you to support two urgent appeals. One was backing the small organisations we support, the kind that make changes stick. The other was taking on the horror of child traffickers exploiting Nepal's poorest villages. Both times, you answered with incredible generosity. The result: both campaigns went much further than we planned.

Missing Not Lost

£94,482 Raised

Our Christmas Appeal, "Missing, Not Lost", raised £94,482 highlighting our work to prevent the trafficking of children and young people and reunite survivors with their families.

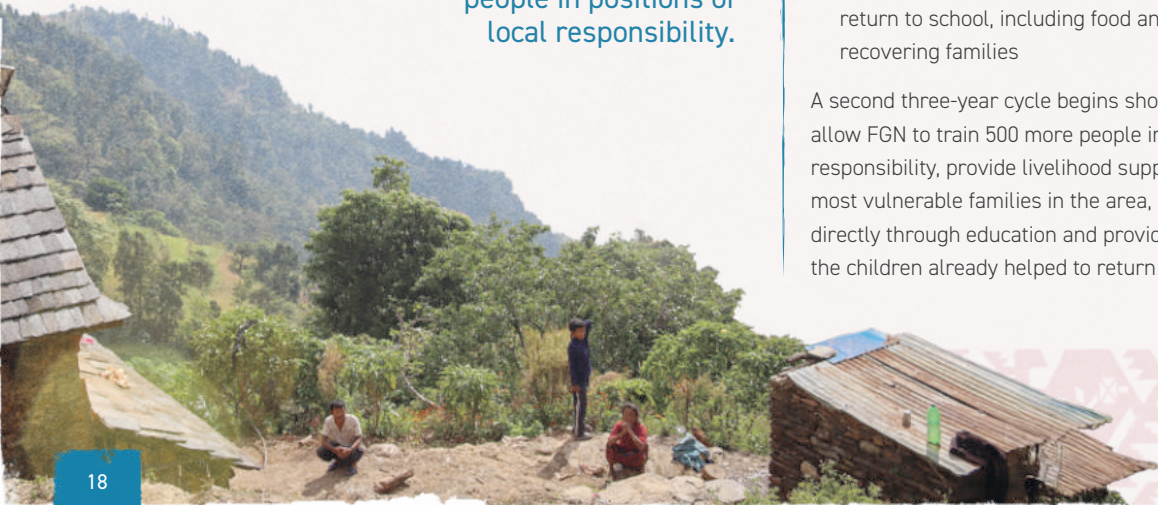
This year, with your support, our partner Future Generation Nepal (FGN) were able to do exactly that, continue rescuing more children, while also developing answers to the harder questions – like how to stop the children leaving in the first place.

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A second three-year cycle begins shortly, which will allow FGN to train 500 more people in positions of local responsibility.

The pilot worked with the Chepang community in Kalika, Chitwan, where most of the children FGN has rescued in the past have come from. Over the project, FGN:

- ran 17 interactive street plays performed by a professional company, reaching close to 4,000 parents, elders and neighbours
- trained 993 people who hold local responsibility – ward officials, police, teachers, school committees, women's groups and the drivers and transport workers who see children moving
- set up local Child Rights Committees, connecting officials and community members
- continued to support 19 rescued children in a phased return to school, including food and support for recovering families

A second three-year cycle begins shortly, which will allow FGN to train 500 more people in positions of local responsibility, provide livelihood support to 68 of the most vulnerable families in the area, support 300 children directly through education and provide rehabilitation to the children already helped to return home.



Grass Roots Resilience

£30,000 Raised

Last year, we introduced you to the Grassroots Resilience Initiative (GRI) and to Sunita, who built an organisation from nothing in a community the state had spent a century treating as criminal. Moved by her story, a group of supporters donated an extra £30,000 to support this work. Thank you.

This year, we can go a step further and share what happens to organisations like Sunita's once that kind of support has been given time to compound.

On the surface, GRI does an unglamorous thing. It takes small organisations, run by people from the communities they serve, and enables them to develop the organisational skill set that larger organisations take for granted – a defined mission, accounts a funder will accept, policies, technology and someone who knows how to write a proposal.

None of that shows up in a photograph – but all of it decides whether an organisation is still working in ten years.

Where it gets interesting is how that compounds over time.

Organisations in their first year with GRI are still finding their footing. Financial systems come first, because good finance systems are needed to give an organisation the confidence and credibility to approach potential donors. Governance and fundraising take longer. By the third year, the picture changes completely – organisations that have been with the programme longest are strong across every measure, from strategy to audit readiness to the ability to go after funding independently.



This year, 101 organisations received training, mentoring and seed funding, enabling them to collectively reach 1.85 million people they otherwise could not have.

The reach is incredible – but the benefit goes deep.

More than two-thirds have quantifiably boosted their fundraising and have been able to raise £1.4 million independently.

It's an amazing achievement – and it means that the model works. These organisations are becoming self-reliant, sustainable and independent, where before they may not have survived at all.

All that is now possible because of your support. Thank you.

Kate Atkinson

Award-winning novelist Kate Atkinson has supported Karuna since a fundraiser knocked on her door in 1997.

On a dark and stormy night...a stranger knocked on my door. That's a slight exaggeration as I don't recall it being stormy, but what was unusual about this story is that I invited that stranger in. This is so out of character for me – I'm reluctant to let even people I know over my doorstep. Yet, within minutes, a young man was sitting on my sofa 'selling' the idea of Karuna to me. (I've heard this story from several supporters of Karuna since. I don't know how Karuna go about recruiting their fundraisers but whatever it is, it clearly works!)

That was twenty-nine years ago. I've been supporting Karuna one way or another ever since.

What was it, I wonder, that drew me to Karuna in the first place? Certainly, the refreshingly genuine aspects of that young man's

character but also because he had the ability to convey the essence of Karuna's work, as true now as it was when they came into existence in 1980.

Karuna works with the world's most dispossessed and disadvantaged people at a grassroots level with providers on the ground who understand local communities and local needs. It's not top-heavy with bureaucracy and not infected with a sense of saviourship but instead is driven by a real humanitarian desire to improve peoples' lives.

I remember that young fundraiser telling me that one of the projects they were involved with at the time was supplying sewing-machines to women in northern India,

then teaching them how to use them so that they were able to earn a dignified living and lift themselves out of poverty. Yes, it's the "old teach a man to fish" adage – but also so true. I think it was this simple and effective approach that first attracted me. Dignity is at the very core of Karuna's approach to helping the vulnerable and the excluded.

The work has obviously expanded since those early days. Karuna is active now in Nepal and Bangladesh as well as India and the nature of the work itself is more widespread, given the problems of climate change, affecting so much of that part world.

Nonetheless, a significant part of its work remains dedicated to concerns that are close to my heart – girls and women. Gender equality in education is the way out of poverty, be it learning to fish, operate a sewing-machine or, most important of all, supporting girls to remain in school.

Maintaining a girl's education doesn't just mean direct support. It means instigating programmes with more multifaceted approaches, tackling the poverty at the root of the curtailment of education and cultivating with compassion and understanding in a wider circle – fathers, families, communities.

My father grew up with poverty and abuse and was cruelly denied an education and so he made sure that I had an excellent one. I am one of the lucky ones and for that I am forever grateful. I believe that education is a gift deserved by every girl everywhere in the world no matter her circumstances. No, not a gift – a right, something that Karuna believes in and helps to put into practice.

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Karuna works with the world's most dispossessed and disadvantaged people at a grassroots level with providers on the ground who understand local communities and local needs.



1980

KARUNA WAS ESTABLISHED
IN 1980 AND HAS NOW
WORKED IN SOUTH ASIA
FOR OVER 45 YEARS

Financial Summary

A heartfelt thank you to every supporter who stood with us this year – your generosity has powered remarkable progress for communities across India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Together, Karuna UK, Karuna Germany and Karuna USA raised a combined £3,472,048 in 2025-26, a wonderful achievement made possible by the trusts, individual supporters and institutions who believe in our mission. Of this, £1,866,792 came from individual supporters, £1,526,531 from Trusts and Institutions, £13,311 from legacies and £65,414 from investment income.

Thanks to this generosity, we channelled £2,410,610 directly into programme delivery this year, pushing us to an excellent 87% of our three-year goal of investing £8,815,200 across our three countries of operation. Reaching this milestone amid a genuinely challenging fundraising climate is a testament to the loyalty and commitment of Karuna's supporters.

We've also kept our costs lean: just £558,636 (17% of income), went to direct fundraising across the three charities, a reduction of £96,239 year on year, while £327,074 supported UK administration and £71,460 covered governance – keeping the focus firmly on impact.

With momentum building and our strategic goal almost within reach, we look forward to an even stronger year ahead, together.

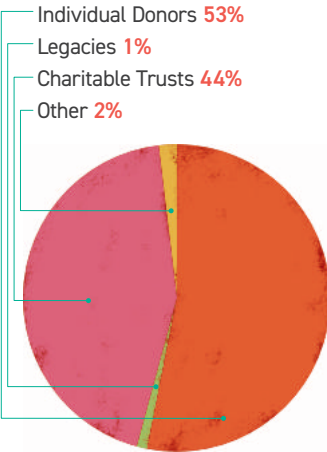
“With momentum building and our strategic goal almost within reach, we look forward to an even stronger year ahead, together.”

Karuna Germany

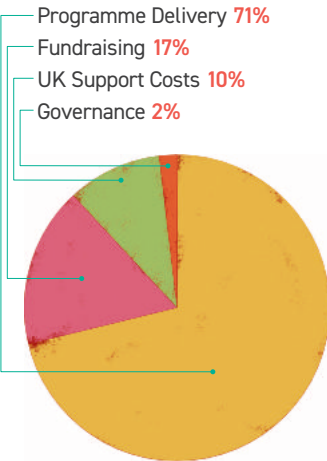
Karuna Germany invested a record €1.4 million into projects in India, Nepal and Bangladesh in 2025, reaching more than 95,000 people. Its total income rose 8% to €1,602,205, most of it secured from BMZ, the German government's development agency. Donations from individuals more than doubled.

Karuna Germany's financial year runs January to December, against April to March for the Karuna Trust, so the two sets of figures cover different periods.

KARUNA UK, DE & USA
INCOME 2025-26



KARUNA UK, DE & USA
EXPENDITURE 2025-26



Karuna Income & Expenditure*

For the year ended 31 March 2026	UK 2025-26	DE 2025-26	USA 2025-26	Total 2025-26	Total 2024-25
INCOME	£	£	£	£	£
Individual Donors	1,735,163	120,307	11,321	1,866,792	1,847,242
Legacies	13,311	-	-	13,311	20,087
Trusts/Institutions	347,711	1,178,820	-	1,526,531	1,521,329
Grants Karuna UK/USA	3,678	-	6,666	-	-
Other	65,414	-	-	65,414	82,845
	2,165,277	1,299,128	17,987	3,472,048	3,471,503
EXPENDITURE	£	£	£	£	£
Programme Delivery	1,204,494	1,206,118	-	2,410,612	2,513,638
Grants Karuna UK/USA	6,666	-	3,678	-	-
Fundraising	521,847	23,227	13,562	558,636	654,875
UK Support Costs	327,074	-	-	327,074	280,585
Governance	66,174	5,286	-	71,460	69,570
	2,126,255	1,234,630	17,240	3,367,781	3,518,668
SURPLUS/-DEFICIT	39,023	64,498	747	104,267	-47,165

* Notes: 1. Figures for Karuna UK are extracted from the Karuna Trust statutory accounts which are available on our website. 2. Figures for Karuna DE & USA are drawn from unaudited accounts prepared on a receipts and payments basis, contain inter-organisational transactions and exchange rate estimates and are provided for indicative purposes only.

Thanks to the many Trusts who continue to support our work, including:

- Festival Medical Services

The Fulmer Charitable Trust

The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust

Liebenrood Charitable Trust

The Richard Harris Charitable Trust
- State Street Foundation

Network for Social Change

The Shears Foundation

Souter Charitable Trust

The School of Meditation

- Assured Guaranty

Halcrow Foundation

Midnight

Mood Foods Ltd

Pan United Ltd
- The Hari Prasad Shastri Charitable Trust

The Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation

The Levy Rifkind Family Charitable Settlement

PAWA: Pan Asian Woman's Association

The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation

- Tellus Viva Foundation

The Tula Trust Limited

Zephyr Charitable Trust



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