



Women Helping Women Through Nano Finance  
Annual Report 2020-2021  
[www.ourbiswasusa.org](http://www.ourbiswasusa.org)  
ourbiswas9@gmail.com

Dear Friends,  
Namaskar!

Hope, you and most of your family members have taken the vaccines and staying safe and healthy. We pray for everyone's good health and happiness. The COVID has changed the living condition of many families. It is extremely harsh on the most vulnerable population of the world.

Our Biswas received about \$71,000 in the year 2020. Our Biswas also received a grant of \$3,500 from Lansing Rotary Club for Sanitary Napkin material costs in February 2021. We also collected about \$69,000 for COVID project in Odisha for the year 2021. We have received \$900 from SEEDS-USA for the Mask project. Our sincere gratitude to you all for your generosity and kindness.

### **Financial Statement (The following expenses also have used some of the 2021 collection.)**

- **COVID Initiative:**  
**Mask: \$3,400**  
**Odisha Chief Minister Relief Fund: \$68,500**  
**Relief materials to 110 covid affected families: \$2,000**  
**Total: \$73,900**
  
- **Nano Finance (NF): \$19,500**
- **Sanitary Napkin Unit: \$ 3,750**
- **Training Center: \$415**
- **Salaries for 6 months to 11 coordinators: \$3,166**
- **Travel and Office expenses: \$587**
- **Mexico project: \$10,000 (budgeted)**

**Total Expenditure: \$ 111,318**

## **Projects**

### **A. COVID initiatives by Aamara Biswas (India based organization)**

- i. We have given more than 30,000 free masks to the women and their family members and to the school children. This is an ongoing project. Many girls and women also make some money by making these masks. We will continue making masks and distribute to the women and their family members when they need.
- ii. We have given free sanitary napkins to the women for three months.
- iii. Our Biswas has given \$68,500 to the Chief Minister's Relief fund of Odisha. The fund is being used towards financial support to set up 110-bed COVID wing in the Vikash Multispeciality Hospital, Bargarh, Odisha for treatment of critical Covid patients. The total projected budget is about \$137,000. Our Biswas and The Government have equally shared the cost to finish this project.



Women Helping Women Through Nano Finance  
Annual Report 2020-2021  
[www.ourbiswasusa.org](http://www.ourbiswasusa.org)  
ourbiswas9@gmail.com

- iv. Our Biswas has supported 110 (covid effected families) of Jagatsingpur district by giving basic groceries, sanitary napkins, and soaps. (\$2000)

## **B. Odisha Projects**

**Nano Finance:** Many women can't return their outstanding loans but they need financial support for their livelihood. Due to COVID, there was no collection or disbursement of loans for months. We have started giving loans. We are planning to give loans to 1400 women for the year 2021.

**Sanitary Napkin units:** Due to constant lock down it was difficult to make napkins. Also, delivering the napkins was a problem. We have managed to make some napkins and distributed to the women free of cost . The unit is running for last few months and we are delivering the pads at nominal price or free.

**Training Center:** The Matiparilo training center of Cuttack district was closed for more than one year. We have just opened the center.

## **C. Chhattisgarh Project**

We have launched the Nano Finance project in the state of Chhattisgarh, India in February 2020. It was started with giving loans to 65 women. It has expanded and currently close to 300 women have taken loans.

## **D. NF in US in collaboration with Community Development Finance (CDF)**

The NF program in US was started on August 4, 2020, in collaboration with a California based nonprofit organization as a pilot program for one year. **The following comment is from Dan Leibsohn, the director of CDF.**

“Community Development Finance has been in partnership with Our Biswas for roughly one year. The funds that Our Biswas has provided have made a deep impact on our program and the partnership has become a crucial part of the financial services that we offer to low and very low income people. We have been able to move most of our below-market payday loan borrowers off of these loans to the zero-interest loans. In addition, many of the borrowers have changed their borrowing behavior – they are getting out of debt and taking out new loans at a much later time period if they do need to renew their loans. The zero-interest feature has been of particular importance during the pandemic as people's incomes have been stretched very thin and, in many cases, close to the breaking point. These funds have been used in multiple ways to help people who have been really struggling and the support has been of great help to them. We have started several new programs in the past year and have a number of proposals out for the future – and the Our Biswas funds play a crucial role in our future plans and programs. We are very grateful to Our Biswas for this important assistance and partnership.”



Women Helping Women Through Nano Finance  
Annual Report 2020-2021  
[www.ourbiswasusa.org](http://www.ourbiswasusa.org)  
ourbiswas9@gmail.com

### **E. NF in Mexico in collaboration with VAMOS**

OB is taking it's signature project, Nano Finance to Cuernavaca city, Mexico by collaborating with Vermont Associates for Mexican Opportunity and Support, Inc. (VAMOS) in September, 2021. Mr. Sean Dougherty is the director of the organization. Please visit the website to know more about VAMOS; <http://www.vamosinmexico.org>.

### **F. Conclusion**

We are extremely humbled with your trust and constant support since 2007. The success of the projects is due to your generosity, the coordinators' hard work and the women who trust the organization and understand the importance of small loans and returning them in time. We hope, with your help and trust, we will continue our service to empower the women and their families in extreme poverty in different parts of the world.

Submitted by Joyasree (Ranu) Mahanti, Founder and President of Our Biswas