



Calcutta Kids

Annual Report 2025

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Letter from the Directors | 1 |
| Key Indicators | 2 |
| Achievements | 3 |
| Financial Stewardship | 7 |
| Board of Directors | 8 |



**CALCUTTA
KIDS**

Healthy mothers. Healthy children. Families that thrive.

Letter from the Directors

Dear friends of Calcutta Kids,

After our recent visit to the Calcutta Kids team in Fakir Bagan, one word kept coming to mind: **Commitment.**

Over the last year, our community health workers and other staff have shown time and again just how committed they are to the well-being of beneficiaries and to maintaining strong, trusted relationships with them.

Often this has meant going above and beyond the job description of providing basic medical care and counseling.

The Calcutta Kids field team made us see how our immunization partnership with the Indian government was undermining beneficiaries' trust, and compelled us to find a better strategy. **Their advocacy led to a more sustainable solution for fully immunizing beneficiaries and keeping their trust.**

They identified beneficiaries' unique needs and delivered outside-the-box support to get those needs met. **Their personalized care meant that women like Rifat, Nikita, Soniya, Manisha, and Hamida have healthy babies and ongoing support despite tremendous complications.**

They embraced opportunities for additional knowledge and skills building. **Their enthusiasm for learning has strengthened the services they provide our beneficiaries.**

Along with our appreciation for the commitment of our staff, we also deeply appreciate the commitment of you, our supporters. Without you, none of our achievements would be possible.

With gratitude,



Evangeline Ambat & Noah Levinson
Co-Directors, Calcutta Kids

Key Indicators

Our [Maternal Health Program](#) and [Child Health Program](#) (also known as the Maternal and Young Child Health Initiative or MYCHI) provides women and children with essential health and counseling services.

These services are critical to:

- Reduce maternal morbidity and mortality
- Empower women with knowledge and skills to help themselves and their families thrive
- Reduce child morbidity and mortality
- Improve birth weights
- Ensure normal growth among children from birth to 3 years old (the window when 80% of brain development occurs)



Beneficiaries served in 2025

- Children **841 (including 194 new enrollments)**
- Pregnant women **241**
- Adolescent girls **39**

Key indicators in 2025

- Community health worker visits (virtual and in-person) **16,910**
- Medical consultations (virtual and in-person) **4,713**
- Children with up-to-date immunizations **92%**
- Children with severe malnutrition **3.2%**
- Children with moderate malnutrition **14.8%**
- Babies born **120**
- Babies born with normal birth weights **77%**
- Hospital births **99%**

Achievements

In 2025, we sustained our signature achievements: low rates of child malnutrition and high rates of immunizations, safe hospital births, and normal birth weights. These achievements in childhood set beneficiaries up for health and well-being throughout their lives.

In addition to the key indicator outcomes, here are a few notable achievements from 2025.

Successful negotiation to lower vaccine costs

Until 2024, Calcutta Kids had administered and covered the cost of child immunizations for all of our beneficiaries. Then 2024 brought a big change: The Indian Academy of Pediatrics added new vaccines to its child immunization schedule and the cost to fully immunize a child grew ten-fold.

In an effort to maintain our track record of child immunizations, we partnered with the Indian government: Our community health workers (CHWs) would administer the original vaccines and send beneficiaries to government facilities for the new, expensive vaccines.

The partnership proved untenable. The vaccine supply at government facilities was unstable; it was common to wait in long lines and then get turned away. Our beneficiaries grew frustrated and the arrangement undermined beneficiaries' trust in CHWs.

Set on finding a sustainable solution, the leadership team pleaded its case to the medical supply distributors, who ultimately agreed to a 25% discount on vaccine costs.

While the amount to fully immunize beneficiaries is still a stretch, Calcutta Kids is able to afford it with the generosity of our donors.



Counseling before vaccination

Personalized support for families who need it

Calcutta Kids has standard protocols for how and when to provide care for beneficiaries. These protocols, rooted in science, have changed thousands of lives and yielded public health gains across the community.

But standardized care is just the foundation of what we do. We build on that foundation and provide extra support when families need it.



Providing extra support for Rifat and her family

Last year Rifat, who has longstanding mental illness, became pregnant at 20 years old. Our CHWs provided Rifat the high-quality prenatal care we give all pregnant beneficiaries, including medical check-ups, prenatal vitamins, and education.

Yet early on the CHWs recognized that Rifat's mental health was deteriorating and she needed more support.

They jumped into action, providing:

- A warm handoff to a mental health specialist
- Financial help with consultation costs
- Facilitation of regular follow-up visits at a tertiary hospital
- Counseling to family members on mental health, maternal care, and social support

Rifat completed her psychiatric medical treatment in October and is now mentally and emotionally stable. With continuous support from Calcutta Kids and loved ones, Rifat delivered a healthy baby boy named Mohammed. At a recent home visit, Mohammed was growing normally and Rifat reported that they recently enjoyed a trip to Mumbai. Rifat and Mohammed are now back on track and receiving standardized Calcutta Kids care.

Rifat is just one of many beneficiaries who has needed, received, and benefited from extra Calcutta Kids support.

We see it as an enormous achievement to deliver the spectrum of effective services — from broad, evidence-based public health interventions to human care that matches individual needs.

Enhancing staff knowledge and skills

Health and life skills training

In August 2025, all Calcutta Kids CHWs participated in a four-day training led by the Child in Need Institute (CINI), a nonprofit with a 50-year legacy of working with and for vulnerable children.

The training was a refresher for CHWs on a range of health and life skills topics, including:

- Sexual and reproductive health, including specifically for adolescents
- Contraception
- Early marriage prevention
- HIV
- Anemia
- Stress management and emotional coping
- Interpersonal relationships and effective communication
- Self-awareness
- Critical thinking and creative thinking
- Financial independence and literacy

To reinforce this content, our CHWs have begun holding regular sessions to review CINI's training materials and engage in activity-based learning that prompts critical and creative thinking. These sessions are helping staff enhance their skills and confidence in health education and develop habits of continuous learning.

Promoting financial independence among women

CHWs are already integrating CINI's training on finances into their work.

In Calcutta Kids community meetings and home visits, CHWs are now educating women about:

- The importance of financial independence
- The steps and required documents to create a bank account
- Financial literacy
- Government welfare and benefits programs



Leadership training

As we shared in the 2024 annual report, over a year ago we promoted four seasoned Calcutta Kids CHWs — Laxmi, Munni, Neelam, and Tulika — into leadership roles.

To prepare these women for their new roles on the leadership team, Calcutta Kids Trustee Sriya Srikrishnan facilitated six training sessions:

1. Self-awareness and leadership identity
2. Understanding personal leadership style
3. Leadership styles and adaptability
4. Vision, intent, and personal growth
5. Emotional resourcefulness and decision-making
6. Leadership presence

Toward the end of the training program, each member of the leadership team — including Laxmi, Munni, Neelam, and Tulika — met with Sriya one-on-one to discuss their personal goals, challenges, and development.

As of early 2026, these leaders are in the process of setting professional development goals for 2026 and developing plans to achieve them. These personal goals will all serve the leadership team’s ultimate purpose of working together to advance the mission of Calcutta Kids.



CK staff reviewing CINI training materials

Financial Stewardship

Immunization costs

We consider the discount from the vaccine distributor to be an enormous win. And yet the cost to fully immunize our beneficiaries remains much, much higher than it once was. We are brainstorming ways to ensure consistent funding for full immunization.

The value of each donation

Calcutta Kids is funded entirely through the generosity of individual donors. We know you have many philanthropies knocking on your door, and we take seriously our responsibility to extract the most value out of your financial support.

All services that Calcutta Kids provides are completely free for beneficiaries.

Thank you for your support. We couldn't do it without you.

To make a donation to Calcutta Kids, please visit <https://www.calcuttakids.org/donate/>.

Budget and financials

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|---|------------------|
| Total budget | \$173,019 |
| Program operations (field team, clinic, medical supplies, training, and consultation) | \$139,000 |
| Program administration, oversight, fundraising, and travel | \$33,519 |



Karate class for Cohort 2 of the Ashayein Program

Board of Directors

We appreciate the dedication and contributions of our Board and Advisory Committee members.

India Board

The India Board provides programmatic support and oversees financial and administrative operations.

John Ambat (Trustee)
Kalyan Kumar Roy (Managing Trustee)
Sudipta Sinha Roy (Trustee)
Sriya Srikrishnan (Trustee)

U.S. Board

The U.S. Board primarily supports fundraising efforts and provides high-level public health and nutrition expertise.

Evangeline Ambat (Co-Director)
Alan Berg
James Levinson
Noah Levinson (Co-Director)
Pranav Reddy

Advisory committee

The Advisory Committee provides high-level expertise on public health and nutrition.

Denish Moorthy
Jon Rohde

For details about our Board and Advisory Committee members, please visit <https://www.calcuttakids.org/board/>.



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