



# GLOBAL PROGRAM UPDATE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Your Impact through Economic Development

Poverty is more than lack of money. It keeps people from planning for the future and experiencing the dignity all humans have as children of God. Rather than choosing how much to save or what dreams to pursue, people are forced into decisions of survival.

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries partners with local churches to equip individuals and families to interrupt the cycle of poverty and affirm their God-given dignity. Through training, vocational education, and tools such as savings-and-loan groups, both women and men gain the opportunity to earn an income by creating sustainable small businesses. Additional small-scale farming gives families the ability to earn income and put food on the table.



Through a self-help group in Nepal, Naija started her own business.



In **Bangladesh**, more than 7,500 women and their families benefit from savings groups organized by NCM child development centers.



174 women in **Liberia** learned income-generating skills in tailoring, catering, soap making, and tie-dyeing through a vocational training program.



94 women in **Iruttumadu**, a small village in Sri Lanka, have been impacted through participation in a savings group.



In **Bulgaria**, where unemployment is extremely high, one church runs a business center to provide resources, training, and development tips.

## Stories from Nepal

Three years ago, Naija\*, now age 35, joined a self-help group in Nepal. Lack of choices had been forcing her to beg on the streets, and she longed to be able to support her family with dignity. The group helps members generate income, save well, and learn how to start small businesses. Naija was inspired by others who were successfully running businesses, and she decided to open her own small grocery shop. Today, she doesn't have to beg anymore, and she has become a leader in her community. "Now the ladies in my self-help group count on me," she says. "They ask me questions and hope to learn from me. I feel empowered and honored."

In 2015, Nepal was ravaged by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake that killed nearly 9,000 people and injured 22,000 more. Since then, NCM has been working with the local Church of the Nazarene to develop programs like Naija's self-help group. These programs give individuals the capacity to break the cycle of poverty that was intensified by disaster, in turn transforming whole communities.

*\*Name is changed to protect privacy.*

Learn more at [ncm.org/EconomicDevelopment](https://ncm.org/EconomicDevelopment)