

Community Reconstruction of Social Service

ANNUAL REPORT **FY2023-24**

(A comprehensive report of the projects, programmes and activities of the Society during the Financial Year 2023-24 starting with the period 01-April-2023 and ending on 31-March-2024)

An introduction to the background of the Society

Community Reconstruction of Social Service (CROSS) is a registered Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The organization was founded on 19 February 1994 at Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh.

CROSS is also registered to receive foreign contributions under the Foreign Contributions Regulations Act. CROSS has applied for FCRA Renewal and received the renewal effective from 01-04-2024 to 5 years. CROSS is exempt from paying income tax on all income u/s 12 AA and all contributions made to the Society are exempted to the permissible extent u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act of 1961.

CROSS receives funding support and grants from both foreign and domestic philanthropies and grant making agencies which include the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Nabard Financial Services Limited which is Subsidiary of NABARD which comes under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. And ministry of youth affairs and sports

During this reporting financial year, CROSS received income from all sources through foreign funding and local funding

CROSS Society has been compliant with all the rules and regulations under the Income Tax Acts, Labour Acts, Provident Fund and Professional Tax Laws, FCRA, Society Registration Act and all other ancillary statutes and laws of the land.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

PROJECT: Sustainable income generation for Dalit and tribal women's through coir threads and mats making programme

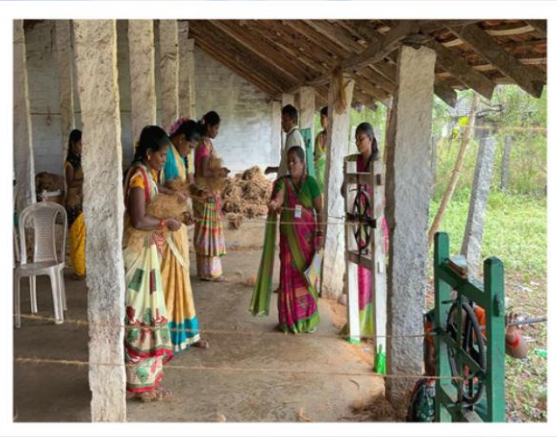
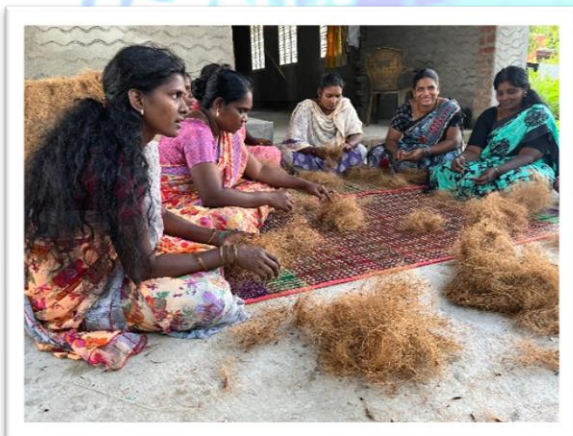
EU CAN AID- Brussels:

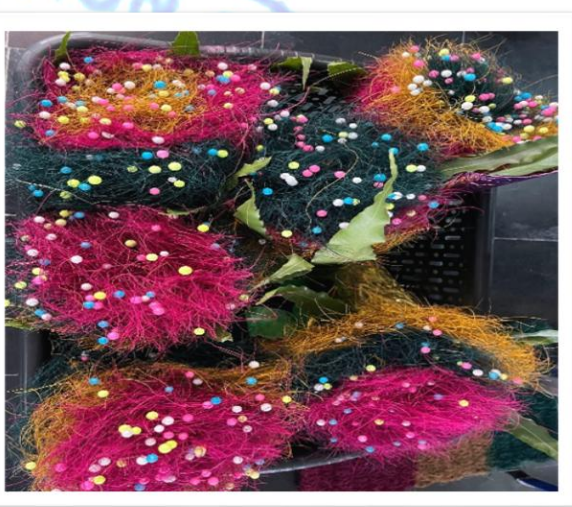
EU CAN AID is a Belgium based organization which support NGOs and local communities to break the cycle of the poverty and creating long term sustainable changes through micro development projects. Under EU CAN AID the project sanctioned to support and train 80 dalit and tribal women in the G.D.Nellore region in 4 batches i.e each batch consist of 20 women from a village. This training consist of making of coir threads in 2 villages and making of coir mats in 2

villages each training is for 60 days and the trainers and the machanaries,Raw materials were supported by the EU CAN AID through the project.

The goal of the project is to empower these women with skills that can provide them with a sustainable source of income, breaking the cycle of poverty in their communities. By providing the necessary resources and training, CROSS aimed to create a positive impact on the lives of these marginalized women in the G.D. Nellore region. This initiative not only helped the women become financially independent but also boosting the local economy by promoting traditional crafts. This project also aims to improve the overall quality of life in these 4 villages by empowering women through skill development. This holistic approach not only benefiting the individual women involved but also has a ripple effect on their families and the community By investing in these women, CROSS is contributing to long-term sustainable development in the region. The machineries procured for the training were given to the same women group to continue to production so that they could have a source of income and improved quality of life. Further this women groups also linked with MSME(Ministry of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises) and Coir Board to market the coir Threads and mats to a wider audience and also this linkage will help the women groups to expand the market reach and increase their income potential.

Under this project by the end of the financial year 80 Dalit and Tribal women's from 4 villages were trained and equipped with coir products.





PROJECT: Study Centre in G.R.Kandiga

Volunteers in Service to Education in India – USA:

Volunteers in service to education in india is a USA based organization working in the context of education and under this CROSS has initiated a study center in G.R.Kandiga village in G.D.Nellore this is a remote village which doesn't have proper access to road and school facility. Through this project supported 20 Children by providing educational materials and evening retreat center which focus on English,Mathametics and Science subjects to children from Monday to Friday and the weekend with sports and Life Skill education activities and the progress of the children were shared with parents in the monthly parent meetings. This study center is equipped with a volunteer who is educated in the village and is dedicated to helping the children improve their academic performance and overall well-being. Further we had collaboration with local NGO Community Development Trust to provide nutritional snacks to children on weekly basis. to ensure they have the energy and nutrients necessary to focus and learn effectively. From this collaboration not only nutritional snacks and also awareness on nutritional snacks and healthy eating habits was provided to children and their families. This holistic approach aimed to support the children's physical, mental, and emotional development. By addressing both their academic and nutritional needs, we are able to create a more conducive environment for learning and growth to children.



PROJECT: Micro Enterprise Development Program on Coir Fiber and General Entrepreneurship.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):

NABARD is a apex development bank established in 1982 under an act of parliament to promote sustainable and equitable agriculture and rural development through FPOs,CBO,NGO. Under NABARD Farm sector development department CROSS has organized Micro enterprise development program on coir fiber and general entrepreneurship in venkatapuram village for 25 SHG women this is a 10 days training program. the training sessions on entrepreneurship was highly informative and empowered. It highlighted the importance of packaging and branding in product presentation, which has transformed marketing strategies. The session also provided insights into funding opportunities like Mudhra, PMEGP, PMFME, and PM UDYOGINI, enabling members to navigate the complexities of securing funding. The orientation on social security schemes like NPS, PMJJBY, PMSBY, NSAP, and ABHA ensured the welfare and security of members. The training also highlighted the versatility of coir fibre-based products, sparking creativity and innovation within enterprises. The training provided essential knowledge and skills in food safety standards, financial literacy, marketing, technology linkages, and WASH practices, laying a solid foundation for sustainable growth and success for women entrepreneurs.

The training program also followed with exposure visit to the Gudiyatham Coir Mats training centre which has left an indelible mark on trainees. Witnessing firsthand the intricate process of coir mats designing and production was not only enlightening but also inspiring. The visit provided the trainees with valuable insights into the coir industry and its significant role in micro-enterprises, particularly in rural areas and gained a deeper appreciation for the craftsmanship involved in creating coir-based products and the potential for innovation and market expansion within this sector.

Furthermore, interaction with local artisans and entrepreneurs allowed the trainees to learn from their experiences and challenges, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared learning. The visit also highlighted the importance of preserving traditional skills while embracing modern techniques and technologies to enhance productivity and quality.

Furthermore the trainees were provided with certificates of completion of training and CROSS has helped the trainees in linking with financial institutions to get assistance and more than 50% of the trainees has received loans to set up enterprises



PROGRAM: “Meri Matti Meri Desh”

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangham- Ministry of Youth affairs and sports

"Meri Maati Mera Desh" is a central government program with the tagline 'Mitti ko naman, veeron ka vandan', is a nationwide and people led “Jan bhagidari” initiative to commemorate 75 years of India's independence. It is the finale of Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav program. 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' celebrates the many achievements of the nation. It involves paying tribute to the 'Veers' who protect our nation. this program includes Dedication of Shilaphalakam-installation of nameplate of Veers,Taking the Panch Pran Pledge,creation of Amrit Vatika with 75 saplings of indigenous trees. this program is conducted in Nellore of G.D.Nellore and sent the kalaham to new delhi program.CROSS has involved in organizing the event in G.D.Nellore on Behalf of NYK-Chittoor



PROGRAM: “ Block Level Sports Meet”

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangham- Ministry of Youth affairs and sports

Out of the five priority areas under Draft National Youth policy 2021 to catalyse widespread action on youth development, Health, Fitness and Sports is one area that aims to develop ‘a culture of fitness and sports among Youth and achieve National and International eminence’.

To supplement the search of talented out-of-school youth/ youth in rural area, women and in the spirit of the Fit India Mission, Khelo India, all the district NYKs conduct Block sports events along with NGO.

Under this activity NYKS- Block Level Sports meet conducted in Kalijaveedu Panchayat in the presence of local physical education teacher for 40 participants in various games and awarded prizes for the winners with the presence of Project manager District Rural Development Authority and oriented the community on importance of sports and fitness to have a healthier lifestyle.



PROJECT: NABARD Financial Services Limited (NABFINS)

SHG Linkages

Nabfins is a subsidiary of The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) continues to provide grant support to CROSS although in a minor scale. During the previous project periods, CROSS facilitated many Self Help Groups (SHGs) and established bank linkages with NABARD. We operated in 3 zones i.e G.D.Nellore, Vedurukuppam and Karvetinagaram mandals.

Every year, 50 to 80 SHGs were linked to NABARD which in turn provided them with group loans for various productive purposes including income generating activities, purchase of farming equipment and materials, purchase of cows, animal husbandry, starting petty shops and other micro-enterprises and initiatives etc... This program of yesteryears continue to provide us with a minimal amount of income in the form of commissions. During the financial years we continued to monitor the project through our regular SHG Awareness programs, financial literacy campaigns through our dedicated staff team.



PROGRAM: Intensive Voter Awareness & Voter verifiable paper audit trial

NYKS-SVEEP(Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation

As Andhra Pradesh had election in 2024 Voter education and registration campaigns are essential to ensure that every citizen has the opportunity to participate in the democratic process. The purpose of this campaign is to increase voter registration and turnout in India by educating citizens about the importance of voting and the electoral process.

In this context, voter education, spreading voter awareness and promoting voter literacy in India assumes paramount importance. A multi-intervention programme that reaches out through different modes and media to educate citizens, electors, and voters about the electoral process in order to increase their awareness and promote their informed participation in elections this program was organized by CROSS on Behalf and presence of SVEEP Nodal Officer and conducted the programs in 3 Panchayats of G.D.Nellore.



PROJECT: Holistic Village Development Initiative: Pilligundlapalli

LACIM-FIST INDIA

LACIM is a France based organization working for the development of communities in Asia and Africa by supporting projects like adopting villages for a period of 8 to 10 years and developing it in the forms education, health, sanitation, awareness, agriculture, income generation... etc

From a 32 members group from Montbrison has taken up pilligundalapalli a yanadi tribal village located in srirangarajapuram mandal of Chittoor and initiated to construct a Community hall which can be further used as pre primary school and setting up an evening retreat center to the children in the village and providing nutritional snacks to the children. LACIM has supported 8 members in the village to set up small business.

Furthermore team from LACIM Ms.mme Estelle teysier and Mr. Robert bezia has an visit to pilligundlapalli village to evaluate the progress we made from in the pilligundalpalli village and had interacted with villagers and explored the village and had discussion with the villages about their needs and requirements. During the visit, they also conducted training sessions on financial management and entrepreneurship to help the villagers sustain their businesses. The team identified areas for improvement and future projects to continue supporting the community in Pilligundlapalli village. The team also provided guidance on implementing sustainable practices and encouraged the villagers to work together towards long-term development. Overall, the visit was productive in assessing the current situation and planning for a brighter future for Pilligundlapalli village.





PROJECT: Micro Scale Bio Gas Project.

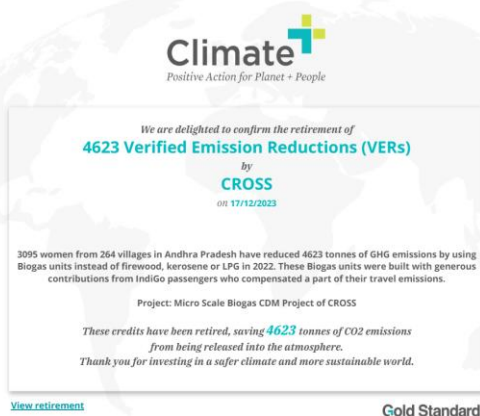
-Maintenance of Micro Biogas Units supported by Fair Climate Network (FCN)-Indigo Airlines

A major share of the organisation's funds are received by CROSS as grant-in aid supported by FCN. The FCN is an international platform of 28 grassroots NGOs and 16 support organisations including 13 subject matter expert members. This network tries to project the local environmental framework on Climate Change, as experienced by the rural poor negatively affected by erratic and unpredictable weather patterns.

Under the Clean Development Mechanism project, FCN supported the construction and commissioning of 5,000 biogas plants in Chittoor district between 2014-17. Through biogas units, non-renewable biomass used for cooking and heating water can be replaced with methane produced from cattle and kitchen waste. These projects provided rural women with a smoke free cooking environment, ridding them of the necessity to gather firewood and dependence on kerosene through the public distribution system. Between 2014 and 2017, CROSS built and commissioned about 5,000 micro biogas units in eight Mandals i.e G.D.Nellore, Vedurukuppam, Karvetinagaram, Puttur, S.R.Puram, Ramachandrapuram, Nagari and Pichatur. The beneficiary were shortlisted according to the criteria of having at least one cow and 15-20 Sq Ft space for construction of the unit. Each unit costs approximately Rs.25,000.

During the reporting period, CROSS continued to maintain over 78% of the still functional biogas units through our team of trained volunteers. Each volunteer is provided with a biogas kit – a tool box of essential paraphernalia to maintain the units in working order by taking care of the regular repairs and fitments. Each volunteer is responsible for the maintenance of 30+ units over an allotted geographical area. These volunteers are supported by our project staff who monitor and supervise them and provide hand-holding assistance wherever necessary. The volunteers are incentivized through monthly stipends in appreciation for their services.

With the generous support of 3095 women from 264 villages reduced 4623 tons of GHG Emissions by using bio gas units instead of firewood, kerosene or LPG in 2022 and this Emissions were validated in December 2023.



Finances :

COMMUNITY RECONSTRUCTION OF SOCIAL SERVICE (CROSS)
Velkur Village & Post, G.D. Nellore Mandal, Chittoor District - 517 125 A.P.
Consolidated Receipts and Payments account for the year ended 31st March 2024

2022-23 Amount in Rs.	Receipts	2023-24 Amount in Rs.	2022-23 Amount in Rs.	Payments	2023-24 Amount in Rs.
	Opening Balance:			Foreign Contribution	
	Foreign Contribution			EU CAN AID Project	
1,027.64	Cash at Bank- Bank of India A/c No: 9319	1,051.49	-	Machines	1,44,000.00
1,238.30	Cash at Bank- Bank of India A/c No: 6259	1,274.30	-	Raw Materials	45,000.00
	Local Contribution:			Trainer	80,000.00
19,719.00	Cash in Hand - General Account	13,861.30	-	Project Coordination Cost	11,200.00
128.00	Cash in Hand - Bio Gas Project	45.00	-	Finance and Marketing Awareness Program	10,400.00
51,624.11	Cash at Bank-BOI A/c No: 9183-Bio Gas Project	8,38,735.85	-	Volunteers in Service to Education in India (VSEI)	
1,822.40	Cash at Bank-IB A/c No.570260718	1,529.05	-	Learning Materials Purchased for Poor Children	31,850.00
4,179.40	Cash at Bank-SBI A/c No.30859983104	4,293.40	-	Honorarium Paid to Field Officer	16,000.00
	Foreign Contribution			Travel	17,600.00
24,100.00	Foreign Contribution received	3,87,629.00	-	Monitoring Expenses	2,200.00
64.00	Bank Interest	2,026.00	-	Printing and Stationary	2,000.00
				Records and Stationeries	4,282.00
	Local Contribution:		22,258.00	Program Expenses	
	Bio Gas Project			Educational Materials Purchased for Poor Children	-
27,65,000.00	Income for Climate Projects	23,75,000.00	1,846.15	Administration Expenses	5,405.05
2,542.00	Bank Interest	6,352.00		Bank Charges	
	Loans and Advances:				
2,000.00	TDS Deducted	60,491.00			
	General Account:			Local Contribution:	
	Grant Received from			Bio Gas Project Expenses:	
6,19,769.00	NABFINS Disbursement Income	6,06,389.00	1,53,150.00	Village Volunteers Stipends	1,96,250.00
-	NABARD - MEDP	96,300.00	1,20,026.00	Fuel and Maintenance of Motorcycles	1,19,151.00



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5,000.00	NehruYuva Kedram	27,000.00	-	DoE Verification Fees	6,19,500.00
-	Donation Received From Members	16,000.00	1,09,060.00	UNFCCC Issuance Fee	5,92,683.00
434.00	Bank Interest	505.00	1,76,082.00	Office Running Costs & Administration	1,96,033.00
-	Interest on IT Refund	4,259.00	11,90,000.00	Staff Salaries	12,82,500.00
	Loans and Advances		66,252.00	Staff Family Insurance	65,574.00
89,870.00	Income Receivable	47,229.00	28,751.00	Village Volunteer and Staff Review Meeting	46,900.00
-	TDS Receivable	63,041.00	23,600.00	Audit Fees	23,600.00
			18,150.00	Professional Charges	41,300.00
			74,060.00	Repairs and Maintenance	8,000.00
			-	TDS Late Filing Fees & Interest	2,659.00
			382.26	Bank Charges	1,261.00
				Property, Plant & Equipment	
			21,000.00	Laptop	-
			2,000.00	Loans and Advances:	
				TDS Paid	60,491.00
				General Account:	
			3,74,000.00	Program Expenses (NABFINS)	
			1,27,200.00	Field Officer	5,01,100.00
				Travel and Food Expenses	1,14,100.00
				Micro Enterprise Development Program (MEDP)	
			-	Travel, Food & Boarding Expenses	31,500.00
			-	Traning Materials	8,500.00
			-	Stipend to Participants	15,000.00
			-	Exposure Visit	16,506.00



