

# KISHALAY FOUNDATION

4,Bhounick Park, Kamrabad, Sonarpur , south 24 Parganas, Pin -700150

*Nurturing Young Minds • Empowering Communities • Building Climate Resilience*

## ANNUAL REPORT YEAR - 2024-25



**KISHALAY**  
FOUNDATION

[www.kishalayfoundation.org](http://www.kishalayfoundation.org)  
[Kishalayfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:Kishalayfoundation@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/KishalayFoundationNew/>  
9163978864HP

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Annual Report FY 2024–25 | Kishalay Foundation

Sl. No.	Content	Page No.
1	Table of the Contents Page	1
2	About Kishalay Foundation	2
3	Vision, Mission & Core Values	2
4	Our Supporters & Donors	3
5	From the Desk of the Founder	4
6	From the Desk of the Director	5
7	Programme Overview (FY 2024–25)	06
7.1	Early Childhood Education – EduKids & Hatekhori Centres	06
7.2	Nutrition Programme	06
7.3	Women Empowerment & Livelihoods	06
7.4	Climate Adaptive Natural Farming & Kishalay Organic	06
7.5	Climate Action & Environmental Conservation	06
8	Geographical Coverage	06
9	Key Achievements & Outcomes	07
10	Governance & Management	07
11	Impact Assessment (FY 2024–25)	07
11.1	Impact on Early Childhood Education	08
11.2	Impact on Child Nutrition & Well-being	08
11.3	Impact on Women Empowerment	08
11.4	Impact on Livelihoods & Natural Farming	08
11.5	Impact on Climate Action & Environment	09
11.6	Community-Level Impact	09
11.7	Learning & Continuous Improvement	09
12	Challenges & Lessons Learned	10
13	Future Directions (2025–2030)	11
14	Financial Performance (FY 2024–25)	13
15	Compliance & Statutory Status	13
16	Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	13
17	Acknowledgement	14
18	Contact Information	14

## ABOUT KISHALAY FOUNDATION

Kishalay Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation established in **2013** with the objective of strengthening **early childhood education, nutrition security, women empowerment, natural farming and climate action** in marginalized and climate-vulnerable regions of India. The organisation works primarily in **West Bengal and Jharkhand**, with a strong presence in the Sundarbans and other rural districts.

Kishalay believes that sustainable development must begin in the **early years of life** and be reinforced through healthy nutrition, dignified livelihoods, empowered women and resilient ecosystems. All programmes are community-led, women-powered and designed for long-term impact.



## VISION, MISSION & VALUES

**Vision:** To build resilient and inclusive communities where every child receives a strong foundation for life, every woman is empowered and development progresses in harmony with nature.

### Mission

- To deliver quality, play-based early childhood education to children from marginalized communities
- To improve child and maternal nutrition through integrated nutrition interventions
- To empower women as educators, farmers and community leaders
- To promote climate-adaptive natural farming and sustainable livelihoods
- To strengthen climate resilience through environmental conservation and community action



### Core Values

- ✚ Child dignity
  - ✚ Community ownership
  - ✚ Gender equity
  - ✚ Sustainability
  - ✚ Transparency
- OUR SUPPORTERS & DONORS

Kishalay Foundation's work during FY 2024-25 was made possible through the **generous support, trust and collaboration** of corporate partners, civil society organisations, networks and Retail & philanthropists. Their continued engagement has enabled us to strengthen **early childhood education, nutrition security,**



women empowerment, natural farming, and climate action across marginalized communities in West Bengal and Jharkhand.

## INSTITUTIONAL & NGO PARTNERS

We gratefully acknowledge the support and collaboration of the following organisations, who have contributed through programme partnerships, technical guidance, outreach support and funding assistance:

- **Nanritam NGO** – Pedagogical guidance and early childhood development support
- **Aakar Innovations** – Innovation and community engagement support
- **Young Indians** – Youth engagement and volunteering support
- **Kolkata Gives** – Community fundraising and donor outreach
- **Mukti** – Grassroots collaboration in rural development
- **Parivaar** – Knowledge sharing and sectoral collaboration
- **Get Bengal** – Advocacy and visibility support
- **Milaap** – Individual donor mobilisation and campaign support



## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) PARTNERS

We sincerely thank our CSR partners whose financial and strategic support has strengthened programme continuity and scale:

- **Asite Solutions**
- **Nextuple India Private Limited**

Their partnership has contributed significantly to sustaining education centres, nutrition programmes, and community-based initiatives.

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS & PHILANTHROPISTS

Kishalay Foundation is deeply grateful to the **many individual donors and well-wishers** who supported our mission during the year. Their flexible and timely contributions helped us respond to local needs, ensure uninterrupted services for children and expand community-led initiatives.

### COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS

We also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of **parents, community leaders, women educators, volunteers, and farmer groups**, whose time, effort, and in-kind support remain the backbone of Kishalay's community-owned model.

## A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Every contribution large or small has helped Kishalay Foundation nurture young minds, empower women, strengthen livelihoods and build climate-resilient communities. We look forward to deepening these partnerships and welcoming new collaborators in the journey ahead.

Together, we are building lasting, community-led impact - one child, one family, one village at a time.



## FROM THE DESK OF THE FOUNDER

As we reflect on FY2024–25, I do so with deep gratitude and renewed hope. Kishalay Foundation was born from a simple belief—that every child, regardless of where they are born, deserves a joyful, dignified and strong beginning in life. Over the years, this belief has grown into a shared mission embraced by communities, women educators, partners and supporters who walk this journey with us.

This year reaffirmed the power of our community-led and women-powered approach. Across our EduKids and Hatekhori learning centres, children learned through play, curiosity and care. Our nutrition programmes ensured that learning was supported by health and well-being. Women stepped forward not only as educators and farmers, but as leaders shaping the future of their villages. At the same time, our work in climate-adaptive natural farming and environmental conservation strengthened resilience in regions increasingly affected by climate uncertainty.

What makes Kishalay's work meaningful is not only the numbers we report, but the trust we have built within communities. Parents, caregivers, local women and young learners are active partners in this change. Their participation reminds us that sustainable development is strongest when it grows from within.

I extend my sincere thanks to our donors, CSR partners, institutional collaborators, volunteers and well-wishers for their continued confidence in our mission. Your support has enabled us to serve with integrity, transparency and accountability.

As we look ahead, Kishalay Foundation remains committed to deepening impact, expanding responsibly and strengthening partnerships. Together, we will continue to nurture young minds, empower communities and build climate-resilient futures—one child, one family and one village at a time.

With gratitude and resolve,

Biplab Das  
Founder  
*Kishalay Foundation*



## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

FY **2024–25** has been a year of consolidation, learning and steady progress for **Kishalay Foundation**. As an organisation rooted in community trust, we focused on strengthening the quality, reach and sustainability of our programmes across education, nutrition, women empowerment, natural farming and climate action.

During the year, we placed strong emphasis on **programme effectiveness and operational discipline**. Our EduKids and Hatekhori learning centres continued to provide safe, joyful and inclusive learning environments for young children. Nutrition interventions were integrated more closely with education, reinforcing school readiness and child well-being. Women educators and community facilitators remained at the heart of implementation, ensuring that our work stayed responsive to local realities.

Equally important was our focus on **good governance, financial prudence and transparency**. Kishalay Foundation maintained robust systems for planning, monitoring and reporting, supported by regular audits and statutory compliance. These practices help ensure that every contribution is utilised responsibly and generates measurable impact.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our **donors, CSR partners, institutional collaborators and individual supporters** for their continued trust. I also acknowledge the dedication of our field teams, educators, volunteers and community members whose commitment turns vision into action each day.

As we move forward, Kishalay Foundation remains committed to **scaling thoughtfully, strengthening partnerships and deepening community ownership**. With shared purpose and collaboration, we look ahead with confidence to building resilient communities and brighter futures for children.

With warm regards,

**Shipra Das Maity**  
Director  
*Kishalay Foundation*



# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW (FY 2024-25)

During FY 2024–25, Kishalay Foundation implemented integrated programmes across **four districts in two states**, focusing on education, nutrition, livelihoods and climate resilience.

## 1 Early Childhood Education:

**EduKids & Hatekhori Centres**, Kishalay operated **EduKids and Hatekhori learning centres** providing play-based, child-centric education for children aged 3–8 years. The centres focus on school readiness, foundational literacy and numeracy and social-emotional development. Local women are trained and employed as educators, strengthening community ownership and sustainability.



## 2 Nutrition Programme:

Nutrition remained a core component of early childhood development. Regular nutrition support was provided at learning centres, along with hygiene awareness and caregiver engagement. The programme contributed to improved attendance, better learning engagement and overall child well-being.

## 3 Women Empowerment & Livelihoods:

Women were supported as educators, farmers and community facilitators. Capacity-building initiatives strengthened leadership, income security and social participation. Women-led activities played a central role in education delivery and natural farming initiatives.

## 4 Climate Adaptive Natural Farming & Kishalay Organic

Kishalay promoted chemical-free, climate-adaptive natural farming to enhance food security, soil health and farmer income. Produce grown through these practices was promoted under **Kishalay Organic**, supporting local market access and sustainable food systems.

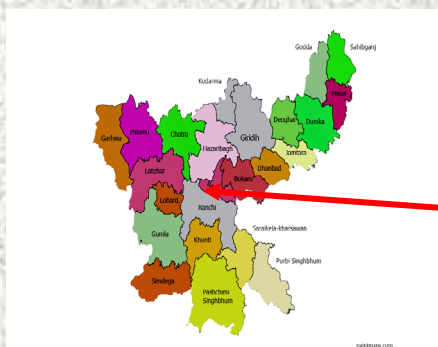
## 5 Climate Action & Environmental Conservation

Environmental initiatives included mangrove plantation, water conservation, rainwater harvesting and community awareness on climate risks. These interventions strengthened resilience in ecologically fragile regions, particularly coastal and rural areas.

## GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

### West Bengal:

1. South 24 Parganas (Sundarbans),
2. Purulia,
3. Murshidabad



**Jharkhand:** Selected rural and tribal clusters (Ranchi)



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & OUTCOMES

- Strengthened early learning outcomes and school readiness among young children
- Improved child nutrition and regular attendance at learning centres
- Enhanced women's participation in education delivery and livelihood activities
- Expanded climate-adaptive farming and environmental conservation initiatives
- Increased community ownership and participation across programme areas

## GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Kishalay Foundation is governed by a dedicated Board of Directors supported by an experienced management and field team. The organisation follows strong governance systems, internal controls and ethical practices to ensure accountability and transparency.

Regular monitoring, reporting and statutory compliance are integral to organisational operations.



## IMPACT ASSESSMENT (FY 2024-25)

During FY 2024–25, Kishalay Foundation assessed its impact across programme areas using **regular monitoring, field observations, beneficiary feedback, attendance records, learning assessments and community consultations**. The assessment reflects both **quantitative outcomes** and **qualitative change** experienced by children, women and communities across project locations in West Bengal and Jharkhand.

### 1. IMPACT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Kishalay's **EduKids and Hatekhori learning centres** continued to play a critical role in preparing children from marginalized communities for formal schooling.

#### Key Outcomes:

- Improved **school readiness**, including basic literacy, numeracy and social skills
- Increased **regular attendance** and sustained engagement in learning activities
- Enhanced **confidence, curiosity and communication skills** among young learners
- Greater parental involvement in early education

Teachers and caregivers reported noticeable improvements in children's ability to follow instructions, express ideas and adapt to structured learning environments key indicators of readiness for primary school.



### 2. IMPACT ON CHILD NUTRITION & WELL-BEING

Nutrition interventions were integrated with education delivery to address learning barriers linked to hunger and poor health.

#### Key Outcomes:

- Improved **regularity of meals** for children attending centres
- Reduction in signs of **under-nutrition and fatigue** among enrolled children
- Better **learning concentration and classroom participation**
- Increased caregiver awareness of **nutrition, hygiene and child health**

The linkage of nutrition with education significantly strengthened attendance, continuity and overall child well-being.

### 3. IMPACT ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women remained at the centre of Kishalay's programme model as educators, farmers and community facilitators.

#### Key Outcomes:

- Women gained **stable income opportunities** through centre-based roles
- Increased **leadership, decision-making capacity and self-confidence**
- Enhanced skills in teaching, nutrition practices and community coordination
- Greater recognition of women's roles within families and local institutions

Many women educators emerged as **local role models**, influencing community attitudes toward girls' education and women's leadership.



### 4. IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS & NATURAL FARMING

Through **Climate Adaptive Natural Farming (CANF)** and **Kishalay Organic**, small and marginal farmers particularly women adopted sustainable practices.

#### Key Outcomes:

- Increased adoption of **chemical-free and climate-resilient farming methods**
- Improved **soil health and crop diversity**
- Strengthened **household nutrition and supplementary income**
- Improved market access through local Organic Haats and branding initiatives

These interventions reduced climate-related risks while promoting sustainable food systems.



### 5. IMPACT ON CLIMATE ACTION & ENVIRONMENT

Environmental initiatives addressed climate vulnerability in ecologically fragile regions.

#### Key Outcomes:

- Expansion of **mangrove plantation and green cover**
- Improved community awareness on **climate risks and conservation practices**
- Enhanced local participation in **environment protection and water conservation**

Community-led plantation drives and awareness activities contributed to stronger local ownership of climate resilience efforts.

## 6. COMMUNITY-LEVEL IMPACT

Across programme areas, Kishalay observed a shift toward **greater community participation and shared responsibility**.

### Key Outcomes:

- Stronger **parent committees and local engagement**
- Improved trust between communities and programme teams
- Increased willingness to contribute time, space and in-kind support

This collective engagement has been central to the sustainability of Kishalay's interventions.



## 7. LEARNING & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The impact assessment also highlighted areas for growth, including:

- Strengthening documentation of learning outcomes
- Expanding nutrition coverage and monitoring
- Enhancing digital tools for programme tracking

These insights are being incorporated into future planning and implementation.

## CONCLUSION

The **FY 2024–25 Impact Assessment** confirms that Kishalay Foundation's **integrated, community-led approach** is generating meaningful and lasting change. By addressing education, nutrition, livelihoods and climate resilience together, Kishalay is helping children grow with confidence, women lead with dignity and communities move toward sustainable futures.



## CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED (FY 2024–25)

FY **2024–25** presented both opportunities and challenges for Kishalay Foundation as we continued working with marginalized and climate-vulnerable communities. Navigating these realities strengthened our understanding of local contexts and reinforced the importance of flexibility, community trust and integrated approaches.





## 1. KEY CHALLENGES

**a) Climate and Environmental Vulnerability:** Extreme weather events, particularly in coastal and rural regions, disrupted regular programme schedules, affected farming cycles and limited community mobility. Flooding, heat stress and erratic rainfall posed ongoing risks to education continuity, nutrition supply and agricultural activities.

**b) Nutritional Insecurity and Rising Costs:** Inflation and rising food prices increased the cost of providing regular and nutritious meals. Ensuring consistent quality and coverage of nutrition support required careful budgeting and prioritisation.

**c) Resource Constraints:** While programme demand continued to grow, funding availability remained limited. Balancing expansion needs with quality maintenance was a key operational challenge.

**d) Human Resource Retention:** Retaining trained women educators and field staff in remote locations was challenging due to family responsibilities, migration pressures and limited local employment alternatives.

**e) Monitoring and Documentation:** Collecting consistent data across geographically dispersed centres required strengthening systems and building staff capacity in documentation and reporting.



## 2. LESSONS LEARNED

**a) Community Ownership is Critical:** Strong involvement of parents, women educators and local leaders proved essential in sustaining programmes during disruptions. Community-managed solutions ensured continuity even in difficult conditions.

**b) Integrated Interventions Create Stronger Impact:** Linking education with nutrition, livelihoods and climate action improved outcomes across all areas. Children learn better when they are healthy and families engage more when livelihoods are supported.

**c) Flexibility Enhances Resilience:** Adaptive planning such as adjusting schedules, diversifying nutrition sources and modifying farming practices helped mitigate the impact of external shocks.



**d) Investing in Women Builds Sustainability:** Women educators and farmers demonstrated strong leadership, reliability and commitment. Continuous capacity-building increased programme stability and local ownership.

**e) Strong Systems Matter:** The year highlighted the importance of robust financial controls, simple monitoring tools and regular reviews to ensure transparency, accountability and informed decision-making.

### 3. WAY FORWARD

Based on these lessons, Kishalay Foundation is strengthening:

- Community governance structures and parent committees
- Nutrition sourcing through local and sustainable channels
- Staff capacity-building and leadership pathways
- Monitoring, evaluation, and documentation systems
- Long-term partnerships and diversified funding strategies

The challenges of FY 2024–25 reinforced Kishalay Foundation’s belief that **sustainable change is built through learning, collaboration and resilience**. Each challenge offered valuable insights, shaping stronger programmes and clearer strategies for the future.



### FUTURE DIRECTIONS (2025–2030)

Guided by its **5-Year Strategic Plan (2025–2030)**, Kishalay Foundation is entering a phase of **planned growth, deeper impact and institutional strengthening**. Building on over a decade of grassroots experience, the organisation will focus on expanding quality, strengthening systems and ensuring sustainability across all programme areas.

#### 1. SCALING QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Kishalay will significantly expand its **EduKids and Hatekhori learning centres**, ensuring access to **play-based, high-quality early childhood education** for children in underserved rural areas.

##### Key Priorities:

- Gradual expansion of learning centres to new villages
- Standardisation of curriculum and teaching quality
- Strengthening the **hub-and-spoke model** for training and academic support
- Improved learning assessment and child progress tracking

#### 2. UNIVERSAL NUTRITION INTEGRATION

Recognising nutrition as foundational to learning, Kishalay aims to strengthen and scale its **nutrition programme** alongside education.

##### Key Priorities:

- Expansion of regular nutrition support across all centres
- Community-led kitchen models and local food sourcing



- Enhanced caregiver education on child and maternal nutrition
- Integration of health check-ups and growth monitoring

### 3. WOMEN LEADERSHIP & LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Women will continue to be central to Kishalay’s model as educators, leaders and economic contributors.

#### Key Priorities:

- Training more women as educators, master trainers and cluster leaders
- Creating structured leadership and career pathways
- Expanding women-led livelihood initiatives linked to farming, nutrition and local enterprises
- Strengthening women’s participation in community governance

### 4. CLIMATE ADAPTIVE NATURAL FARMING & KISHALAY ORGANIC

Kishalay will scale **Climate Adaptive Natural Farming (CANF)** to improve food security, farmer income and environmental sustainability.

#### Key Priorities:

- Expansion of chemical-free farming to additional villages
- Seed conservation, soil health improvement and water-efficient practices
- Strengthening **Kishalay Organic** branding and market linkages
- Greater participation of women and small farmers in sustainable value chains



### 5. CLIMATE ACTION & ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Given increasing climate risks, Kishalay will deepen its environmental initiatives.

#### Key Priorities:

- Large-scale **mangrove plantation and ecosystem restoration**
- Water conservation and rainwater harvesting in vulnerable areas
- Community climate awareness and preparedness programmes
- Integration of renewable energy and green practices at centres

### 6. ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTHENING & GOVERNANCE

To support growth, Kishalay will invest in **institutional systems and governance**.

#### Key Priorities:

- Strengthening Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) systems
- Enhancing financial management, MIS and reporting
- Capacity-building for staff and leadership teams
- Strengthening Board oversight and compliance frameworks



### 7. PARTNERSHIPS & RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Strategic partnerships will be essential for sustainable scale.

#### Key Priorities:

- Deepening CSR, foundation and institutional partnerships

- Diversifying funding sources and exploring social enterprise models
- Strengthening communication, visibility and impact reporting
- Collaborative advocacy for early childhood education and climate action

## LOOKING AHEAD

Through this strategic roadmap, Kishalay Foundation aims to create **lasting, community-owned impact** where children begin life with strong foundations, women lead with confidence and communities thrive in harmony with nature. **The next five years will be defined by purposeful growth, stronger partnerships and unwavering commitment to the children and communities we serve.**



## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (FY 2024–25)

### Income & Expenditure Summary

- **Total Income:** Rs.76,70,221
  - Donations: Rs.61,60,418
  - Tuition Fees: Rs.13,77,384
  - Other Income (Interest): Rs.1,32,419
- **Total Expenditure:** Rs.75,79,202
- **Surplus for the Year:** Rs.91,019

### Key Balance Sheet Highlights (as on 31 March 2025)

- **Corpus & Reserves:** Rs.81.73 lakh (approx.)
- **Cash & Bank Balance:** Rs.85.66 lakh
- **Total Assets:** Rs.96.74 lakh

The accounts of Kishalay Foundation for FY 2024–25 have been **audited by a Chartered Accountant** and present a true and fair view of the financial position of the organisation.

## COMPLIANCE & STATUTORY STATUS

- Incorporated under Section 25 / Section 8 of the Companies Act
- Registered with Ministry of Corporate Affairs (CIN: U80901WB2013NPL196716)
- 12A & 80G Income Tax registrations in place
- CSR-1 Registered
- NITI Aayog DARPAN Registered
- Regular filing of IT Returns, Annual Returns, and Audited Financial Statements



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Kishalay Foundation sincerely thanks its donors, CSR partners, community members, staff, volunteers and well-wishers for their continued trust and support. Your partnership enables us to nurture young minds, empower communities, and build resilient futures **one child at a time**.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### KISHALAY FOUNDATION

4, Bhoumick Park, Kamrabad, Sonarpur, Kolkata – 700150

Tulana Das

Director of Kishalay Foundation

[www.kishalayfoundation.org](http://www.kishalayfoundation.org)

Mail id: [Kishalayfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:Kishalayfoundation@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/KishalayFoundationNew/>

Mobile : +91-9163978864

