



Clara Mridula Biswas is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as a community worker in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She works with the 'poorest of the poor,' especially children, in slum areas and garbage dumps to facilitate their transfers to relocation and rehabilitation centers.

The program supports 620 students in public schools by providing classes in such areas as music, computer science, and art. It offers Sunday school and conducts Christmas and Easter programs each year. A health component refers patients to hospitals and non-governmental organization (NGO) health centers. Clara has worked for a long time with a church at one of the dumpsites, and now also works with the Berung Kok Methodist Church in Phnom Penh's large slum area of Toul Kork, which is near the railway station and similar to the dumpsite areas. She also networks with other churches and NGOs, as well as visiting, monitoring, and caring for patients.

Prior to her commissioning as a missionary, Clara was in Bangladesh with Food for the Hungry International (FHI), a Christian service group based in the United States. As the community development area manager, she served the poor, lower caste, and oppressed by supervising, managing, and monitoring education and development programs from 1983 to 1998. Clara also served as the program director of the Christian student center at Sendai City in Japan. She emphasized issues of justice, development, international understanding, worship, and equality from a Christian perspective.

Born in Barisal, Bangladesh, Clara holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in social science and a diploma in rural leadership and development from the Asian Rural Institute in Tochigi-Ken, Japan. She is a member of the Church of Bangladesh, a united denomination.

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