

Report on Covid-19 Relief in Odisha

Lockdown and suffering of the poors



Relief distributed at Leprosy Church, Cuttack

Entire India witnessed an unprecedented lockdown of 69 days. Starting from 24th March, 2020 India went into lockdown and in 4 phases till 31st May, 2020 there was complete lockdown in India. In these lockdown and the continuing worsening of Covid 19 situation in India, the most affected people are the migrant workers scattered all across India. The daily wagers, small roadside shop owners and slum dwellers in the cities have to face the maximum heat of the situation. Immediately after the lockdown was announced by Government of India, the migrant workers began their exodus from all across India to their native places. Thousands of them were seen walking along the highways with their children and belongings. The reason is that they have no income, no food and shelter for their family. The house owners asked them to vacate their houses realising that they cannot pay rent since they have no income. So the migrant labourers started walking to their respective native villages, covering hundreds of kilometres. In the process some people died on the way. What is the distance a human being can walk on foot with his limited physical strength, carrying his belongings? How about old people and children? It was a painful and pathetic sight.

In Eastern India, the state of Odisha alone has more than 5,00,000 migrant workers scattered all over India. Around 5000 migrant labourers returned to Orissa from different cities of India until third week of May. Another approximately 1,00,000 labourers are set to return within next few weeks. This will make the situation more complex for govt to handle. In Odisha 10,624 Coronavirus positive cases have already been reported, 6,703 recovered and 48 dead reported so far (as on 8th July). People are really suffering during lockdown as they have no income.



Dry food distributed to Children of Leprosy Colony in 2 locations

They cannot afford to buy their daily essentials due to lack of cash.

Secondly, the slum dwellers in the cities are most affected. They include rickshaw pullers, daily labourers, domestic workers, municipality workers (sweepers and garbage lifters) etc. We have been working in the Slums of Cuttack City over the years with Education, Relief and Emergency Assistance. We are reaching out to children through Non-Formal Education, Health, Hygiene & Sanitation, Remedial Coaching etc. We have helped 320 children for their education, health and overall development through Compassion sponsored Project.



Relief to Slum dwellers



Relief to Domestic workers

Now under the lockdown period slum dwellers are suffering to the maximum without any source of income. With no income they are in desperate need of daily essentials for their survival. We plan to help 1000 (one thousand) families in the slums where we are active with essential goods. So far we could reach out to 100 families and 50 Sunday school children at Leprosy Colony with whatever limited funds we have. There are 900 families waiting to be reached with relief to complete our target.

Though the numbers are miniscule compared to the level of relief needed for families in dire state, but we are while heartedly trying to reach the maximum families possible. With our limited resources it's impossible to reach even our targeted number of families seeking relief. We earnestly request support from all big hearted to contribute to their maximum to enable us to stand beside and help the maximum possible most needy families and children.