

Hope Kolkata Foundation

COVID-19: Emergency Relief Update

We have reached out and provided ration kits to 1,24,672 vulnerable individuals in the slums of Kolkata and Howrah till the 30th of June 2020.



Please visit www.hkf.ind.in / www.hopechild.org and contribute online
<https://www.hkf.ind.in/Home/DonateOnlineIngenico>

For queries, please contact us at hopecsr@hkf.ind.in / hoperesource@hkf.ind.in / sunil@hope-foundation.in
Cell numbers: Geeta Venkadakrishnan - 9830201145, Sunil Iyer - 7900189154

Our COVID-19 relief intervention from 26th March to 30th June 2020

To briefly introduce our organization, Hope Kolkata Foundation is an NGO registered under The Society Registration Act 1961 and has been working with street and slum children since 1999.

Our Vision is A World where it should never hurt to be a child

Our Mission is "The Holistic care and development of severely underserved children/persons in India and other developing countries" and our vision "a just and equitable society, in which people can live a quality life in dignity".

Over the last two decades, HKF has been working with underserved and vulnerable children - street & slum dwellers; working children, children of sex workers, child beggars, orphan and abandoned children, trafficked and missing children – reaching out to over 55,000 children and 1 million population. Success stories have proven that our care has helped countless boys and girls out of poverty; they are now working and leading independent and satisfying lives.

The COVID 19 pandemic has left none in peace and the world around us seems to have come to a standstill.

Thinking of the people living on the street and slums, they are the worst sufferers. We are continuously receiving phone calls from the areas we work in Kolkata, Howrah and the suburbs and the people living on the streets and slums are earnestly requesting us to help them with ration. They require the ration urgently, as most of them are daily wage earners and some of them resort to begging on the streets.

The lockdown, which commenced on 24th March 2020, has been extended to 31st July 2020. The current scenario shall create huge job losses and negatively affect the physical and mental health of many people. Of the 60% of Indian daily wage earners, 15% reside in Kolkata, and they live on the streets and in the slums of the city.

To respond to this humanitarian call, Hope Kolkata Foundation launched the Food Security and Personal Hygiene campaign on 26th March in and around the city of Kolkata and the Howrah suburbs to help provide a safety net to families of daily wage workers and migrant workers. In this mission, we have already partnered with Zomato Feeding India and Kolkata Gives Foundation and with a generous donation from The Hope Foundation, Ireland we have already reached 24,683 families comprising a population of 1,24,672 individuals till 30th June 2020.

We have distributed ration, cooked food, sanitizers, masks etc. Many families thanked us by expressing that they could use the ration and other sanitization items and asked us if we would come back again in the coming weeks for further distribution. As our team went to distribute the items to them, they saw an inexplicable worry in their eyes, as if their eyes pleaded us to say, that they wanted us to

return at the earliest to hold their hands in such times of distress and help them come out of this plight very soon.

On one such day, after the distribution of groceries, while coming back home, our director, Ms. Geeta Venkadakrishnan met a few people living on the streets who are daily wage earners, rag pickers, scrap seller, and construction labourers. Some of them usually go to their village back during the weekend. But could not go home as there are no train services and so they are staying in the street connected slums. They had tears in their eyes as they said: "Some of us will die due to hunger, some of us will live to suffer as we are poor". One of them said they have a small thatched house where 8 of them live, some stay in plastic sheets. Girls expressed that they do not have sanitary napkins and have no money to buy them. One five-month pregnant mother had not eaten for two days as there was no food. Few elderly people had no access to treatment and are suffering from hazards such as skin disease, fractures and have no access to general medical treatment. They were waiting for medical teams to set up a clinic in their areas. Our director said with a very heavy heart, "The misery of these people made me feel a lump in my throat and I had just one prayer in my mind, may their sorrow come to an end soon".

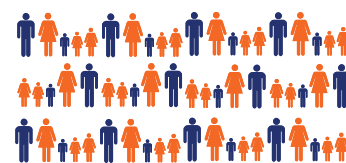
Most of the slums in Kolkata and urban areas have one room with 5 to 6 members, where social distancing seems to be a myth and is not practically feasible. Most of them used to beg near temples, gurudwara, churches, and mosques and some sell incense sticks and flowers to earn their living. Now they have no one to sell their items to. On few days they receive food from gurudwara volunteers, other kind souls and on the other days they don't, this leaves them with no other option but to sleep on an empty stomach. It is really painful to hear all this when some of us are privileged enough and are isolated in our houses with our families, having access to all basic amenities and have access to three to four square meals a day.

Yes, it is a question of saving lives and ensuring livelihood. Let us come forward and stand for those who do not have even one square meal a day. Let us make a difference in the lives of these underserved people. We must always remember that by living only for ourselves, we are merely existing. Our life gets a meaning when we start to lead a part of it for others, by helping those who are not as fortunate as we are.

Our aim is to mobilise resources for 200,000 people (approximately 4000 families) so that we can provide a grocery and sanitary kit amounting to INR 500 for each family, which would include: 10 Kg Rice, 2 Kg Masoor Dal, and 5 Kg Potato, which would help to feed a family of five members for one week.

Direct Beneficiaries:

(24,683 families
approximately a population
of 1,24,672 individuals
reached till 30th June 2020)



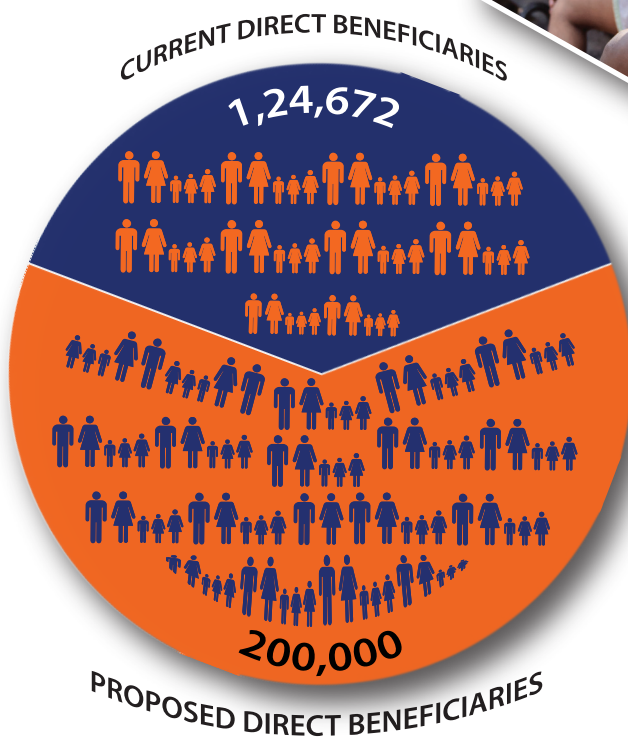
How you can make a difference and create a culture of smiles

With the support of philanthropic individuals and organisations, we can help many more people and families who are facing acute financial distress to a complete loss of livelihood during the COVID-19 lockdown, which has now been extended to 31st July 2020.

This loss of livelihood has meant that these unfortunate people who live in slums and unorganised shanties are unable to meet their daily dietary needs or even fundamental essentials like feminine hygiene products.



**You can help us
make a significant
difference in the
lives of these
communities.**



We would like to thank The Hope Foundation - Ireland, Sky Children Onlus, HSBC GSC- Kolkata, PDP Group, Kolkata Gives Foundation, Bees Trees Water, Letz Dream Foundation, Zomato Feeding India, APPI and all our individual donors for their support.

To pledge your support you can click the donate buttons and make a generous contribution. All donations are exempted under 80G of the Income Tax Act.

DONATE

<https://www.hkf.ind.in/Home/DonateOnlineIngenico>