

Newsletter
August
2019



Child Help Foundation
Bringing Smiles

The Great Indian Monsoon—saw states across the country face flood fury, as never before!!

The month of August witnessed incessant rains and wreaked havoc in at least nine states of India. Heavy and continuous rainfall affected the people and husbandry in equal measure and saw the losses surmounting at an alarming rate. Entire Northern, Eastern, Western and Southern parts of India was devastated by the torrential rainfall in the month of August Kerala was one of the worst-affected states. The state which always boasted of steady monsoons and salubrious climate, grappled with deluge this year too, a repeat of the devastating August 2018 floods. Massive landslides wiped out hundreds of houses, places of worship and other buildings. The death toll rose to frightening level and many were feared missing. As many as 250,638 people are displaced due to the rains with many living in 1326 relief camps, while alert was sounded in 13 of the state's 14 districts. Kochi was totally paralyzed due to water logging and across the state rail and air services were badly hit. Incessant rains pounded the state for days causing grief and misery.

Excess rain resulted in overflowing rivers and heavy water discharge from Maharashtra reservoir brought deluge in northern parts of Karnataka. Hampi, the UNESCO recognized world heritage, on the banks of the Tungabhadra river in Ballari was inundated after over 1.70 lakh cusec water was released from a reservoir. On August 8, Karnataka received nearly five times the rainfall it normally used to have, adding to the severity of the ongoing floods in the 12 districts that had killed many and displaced lacs.

Maharashtra too witnessed one of its worst floods. Sangli and Kolhapur considered the sugar bowls of Maharashtra were completely submerged, threatening the livelihood of the farmers there. Landslides and flash floods have destroyed houses, damaged roads and swept away electric poles and trees. People are still struggling to emerge from the massive floods that had swamped the region. Due to heavy rain, the city of Vadodara and its administrative district in the state of Gujarat were affected by severe flooding. On the 1st August, nearly 50cm of rain fell on Vadodara within 12 hours, with 424mm recorded in one 6 hour period. As a result, the nearby Vishwamitri River rose above the danger line and the Ajwa dam overflowed, flooding the city. The flood caused deaths and the evacuation of more than 6000 people by the NDRF and SDRF. Train services were cancelled owing to water-logging, and the electricity supply was interrupted. On 1st August, Vadodara Airport was closed, GSRTC buses were cancelled and 69 trains passing through Vadodara Junction railway station were either cancelled or rerouted. As water in the Vadodara receded, Crocodiles were seen on Vadodara roads causing harassment to people and Stray dogs. Crocodiles were rescued from the residential areas of Vadodara within a week after flood.

Incessant rain, overflowing Brahmaputra and Barak rivers and water discharge from Bhutan's reservoirs brought misery to the 33 districts of Assam. **The Brahmaputra swamped 2,168 villages and 51,752 hectares of cropland.**

Around 70% of the Kaziranga National Park was submerged causing wide-spread destruction to wild life.

Bihar bore the torrential brunt too with its own share of heavy downpour and excess water from swelling rivers of Nepal. The scene of devastation was no different than other states reeling under the monsoon fury.

As per the latest report of the National Emergency Response Centre, MHA released on 26th August 2019, more than 8869768 population have been affected by flood and landslide, nearly 1155 people are reported to be dead across India due to heavy monsoon related incidents.

Child Help Foundation responds to the crisis

While the central and state governments led the relief and rescue work in the affected states, many humanitarian agencies rallied around and supplemented the government's effort. True to its credo, Child Help Foundation mobilized volunteers, opened relief operation in **4 states** and set out to distribute relief material worth of lakhs to the flood-affected victims. All in all, **we reached out to 16175 people, covered 6995 families and touched the lives of 2670 children.** We feel humbled by the sheer love and blessings we were showered with, by the people who we reached out to. In Sangli and Kolhapur, Maharashtra, 2295 families were provided relief package consisting rice, wheat flour, lentils and hygiene kits. 1070 children provided with biscuits and eats. In Karnataka we initiated relief operation reaching out to more than 4700 families and touched the lives of 1600 children. In Assam we were able to reach out in a small way to the affected areas. By the time this edition of newsletter was on its way for printing, relief operations plans for Kerala and Bihar were under way. We will stay for the long run to help rebuild their lives.



Maharashtra – CHF Flood Relief

1. Relief Operation at Kakhe and Degwadi village – Kolhapur, Maharashtra – 15th August 2019

On 15th August 2019 when the nation was celebrating Independence Day, a team led by CHF Volunteer Mr. Priyankush reached out to 150 families affected by the flood, in Kakhe Village of Kolhapur district. The 150 families were provided with a relief kit consisting of food grains, biscuit packets and toiletries. Once done, on the same day, the relief team moved over to the next, location identified as Degwadi village, of Kolhapur district, Maharashtra. Here they provided relief materials packets consisting of Dry ration and toiletries to 20 most affected family. Priyankush and his team's undying zeal to reach out to maximum people was really infectious and inspiring



2. Relief operation for school kids- 16th August 2019

On 16th August 2019 the relief team visited 3 government schools at June Paragoan, June Chavare and Ghunki all in Kolhapur – 95 children were provided with the school kits.



3. Relief operation at Rajapur village– Kolhapur – 22nd August 2019

Trucks laden with relief goods reached Rajapur village in Kolhapur district on 22nd August 2019. Volunteers along with the CHF staff took up various responsibilities that include identification of the most affected families, distribution of relief material to the most affected and ensuring proper distribution. More than 800 families were provided with the family ration kit consisting of essential food grains. The team also identified 185 children and they all received one liter of milk each.

Similarly in Vidhyasagar Anganwadi and kurundwadi, CHF team distributed relief kits to 25 families and one-liter milk provided to 15 children.

4. Relief Operation -Sangli, Maharashtra- 28/08/2019

500 families were the direct beneficiaries of the relief camp organized in Sangli on 28th August 2019. The families were provided with a family pack consisting of dry rations (Rice and dal) stationery items, toiletries, and biscuits for children. Hats off to the Teams led of CHF staff led by Alex Daniel, Ganesh, Stephen Halge and ably supported by CHF Volunteers: 1.Arif, 2.Rashid, and 3.Imran



5. Relief Operation- Dhawali Village, Miraj – Sangli District, Maharashtra (30th August 2019)

In the aftermath of the severe southwest monsoon that devastated the two district of Maharashtra. The CHF Maharashtra team lead by CHF staff Mr. Alex Daniel, Mr. Ganesh, and Mr. Stephen Halge and Rohit Choghule, the local CHF volunteer began their relief operations in Dhawali Village of Sangli District. The CHF team provided the beneficiaries with ration kit consisting of essential food grains like rice, dal, noodles, and biscuits, besides hygiene packets, and insects' repellents to the 800 affected families and about 400 children received Biscuit packs and eats. In all 1200 people were provided with relief materials.



Relief Operation - Assam

Assam Flood Relief Work:-

The Kolkata CHF team was one for the first team to support Assam Flood relief. The team had an interaction with the Rotaract Club of Barrackpore and Rotaract Club of RCIIT for generating resources for flood relief on 27th July 2019. A plan was put in place. Relief materials were collected repacked and transported through rails on 12th August 2019 to the flood victims. The team led by Priyankush, Nayan, and Rubi reached out to the affected people in their hour of need.



Relief operation - Karnataka

1. Relief Operations - Hubli, Karnataka – 12th August 2019

As Northern Karnataka battled the worst floods in its recent history, Child Help Foundation extended its support to ensuring supply of essential relief items to the worst affected areas of the flooded state. In Karnataka, the relief operation took off in Hubli on 12th August 2019. Child help foundation delivered relief materials consisting of family pack to 300 families, benefitting approximately 1800 individuals.

Big thanks to the team led by: Mr Vinayak Gaurish Shetty, CHF Volunteer for organizing the relief operation in Hubli



2. Relief Operation - Ramadurg

18th August 2019

The second relief camp was organized at Hirethadsi, Chikathadsi and Bennur villages in Ramadurg Taluka, Karnataka on 18th August 2019. The relief operation at Ramadurg in Karnataka reached out to 350 families. The families were provided with an essential family pack containing food grains like dal, rice, biscuits, etc. The kit also included mosquito repellents and hygiene kits. The total number of beneficiaries reached out to was 1750 people.

A Big thank you to the Team on the ground led by CHF volunteer Vinayak Gaurish Shetty



3. Relief Operation – Manjari Village , Belagavi District, Karnataka Dt.30th August

Relief material was distributed to 290 families who were severely affected by flood at Manjari Village in Belagavi District.

In all about 750 people benefited by the relief operation. The relief operation was coordinated and organized by CHF staff Mr. Alex Daniel, Mr. Ganesh and Mr. Stephen Halge ably supported by Local Volunteer: Mohammed Dawood Ali, and Arif Kha.

Relief operation - Kerala

For the second year in a row, heavy rains in the state of Kerala have proven deadly for the people of Kerala. Over 2.51 lakh people have taken shelter in 1,639 relief camps. The data from the Kerala State Disaster Management states that as many as 1,789 houses had been damaged fully in between 8th and 19th August 2019, while the number of partially damaged houses is 14,542. There have been 80 landslides in the span of 2 days, and many people feared to be buried alive.

Districts that have been severely affected include Wayanad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur, Palakkad, Thrissur and Ernakulam district.

At the time of printing the newsletter, Child help foundation was putting a plan in place for intervention in Wayanad, another very badly affected district of Kerala.



News from West

Mastek Project - Health Camp (22/08/2019)

Health camp has been conducted for adolescent girls of Bhopoli Ashram Shala in Vikramgad of Palghardistrict, in collaboration with Aastha Hospital, Palghar with the objective to identify the issues related to anemia and menstruation in adolescent girls in the government residential schools.

109 adolescent girls were medically examined out of which 29 girls were detected anemic and were prescribed medicines for the same. The District Medical Officer, Palghar will be approached for providing the prescribed medicines to the adolescent girls



Menstrual Hygiene session & Sanitary Napking Distribution Program (7th Augsut and 10 th August 2019)

An awareness session on menstrual hygiene management was organized for Adolescent rural school girls of Smt Kamlabeen Jayantilal Jogani English High School, Bhopoli, Vikramgad, Palghar)and Vathaslay Prathimik Madhyamik Aashram Shala, Bhopoli, Vikramgad, Palghar .In all 281 adolescent girls participated in the session.

A large number of adolescent girls from tribal and rural areas of India are still not aware about issues related to menstruation and maintaining personal hygiene during this period and dealing with associated physical problems. They usually don't get a proper platform to get information or discuss such issues. An awareness session was conducted in which all associated topics related to menstruation were explained to adolescent school girls, like what is menstruation, calculation of the period, physical problems faced by girls during their periods and ways to deal with it, maintaining personal hygiene during this period and importance of maintaining hygiene, avoiding the traditional methods of using dirty cloths and promoting use of sanitary napkins, etc.



Baby Feeding Centre Palghar Station - Foundation laid - (07-08-2019)

Inauguration of construction of the breastfeeding center on platform no 1 at Palghar Station happened on 7th August 2019, on the occasion of world breastfeeding week 2019, in the presence of Station Manager, Mr. Milind Teerthikar; Section engineer, Nagarsevak of Palghar, Retired professor of Dandekar College, Prof. Gadhari, Head- Programme of Child Help Foundation Ms. Meena Lokhande, and many others. The people present there were sensitized about the importance of breastfeeding and the breastfeeding center and the responsibilities of all the citizens towards a lactating mother and an infant.



73rd Independence Day Celebrations

CHF celebrated 73rd Independence.

As India celebrated her 73rd Independence Day on August 15, 2019, Child Help Foundation team celebrated Independence Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor with the children of Umele ZP School and Rajavali ZP School, Naigaon and Desire Society, Goregaon, Mumbai on the morning of 15th August 2019. The spirit of freedom and nationalism was well exhibited by the student-teacher and CHF team by singing of the national Anthem. The CHF team also joyfully, conveyed their greetings to the children and the staff of the institution. It was indeed a day to remember.



News from the East

In partnership with Writer Information, Child Help Foundation provided food grains packages consisting of items like rice, dal, soya bean along with potato, and onion to Tagore Foundation School Kolkata for their mid-day meal purpose. The principal said, that it was really a great help because they were facing a real crisis in mid-day meals.



The Independence Day was celebrated with full energy, thrill, and vigor in Koel Saraswati sishu mandir, Rourkela and Delhi Public School, Durgapur. The national flag was hoisted and all the students and teachers saluted the flag and sang the National Anthem. The flag hoisting was followed by Cultural Programmes. Patriotic Poems and Songs were recited both by the teachers and the students.



Independence Day celebrations in Koel Saraswati Shishu Mandir, Rourkela and Delhi Public School, Durgapur

News from Down South



Stationary and Uniforms distributed to students of St.Victors School at Baj agoli ,Mangalore

Cancer Awareness Programme in Schools – Chennai



Cancer Awareness Programme in Kendriya Vidyalaya Schools –Chennai SFR team covered more than 75 schools and got permission to conduct cancer Awareness Programme in another 40 schools.



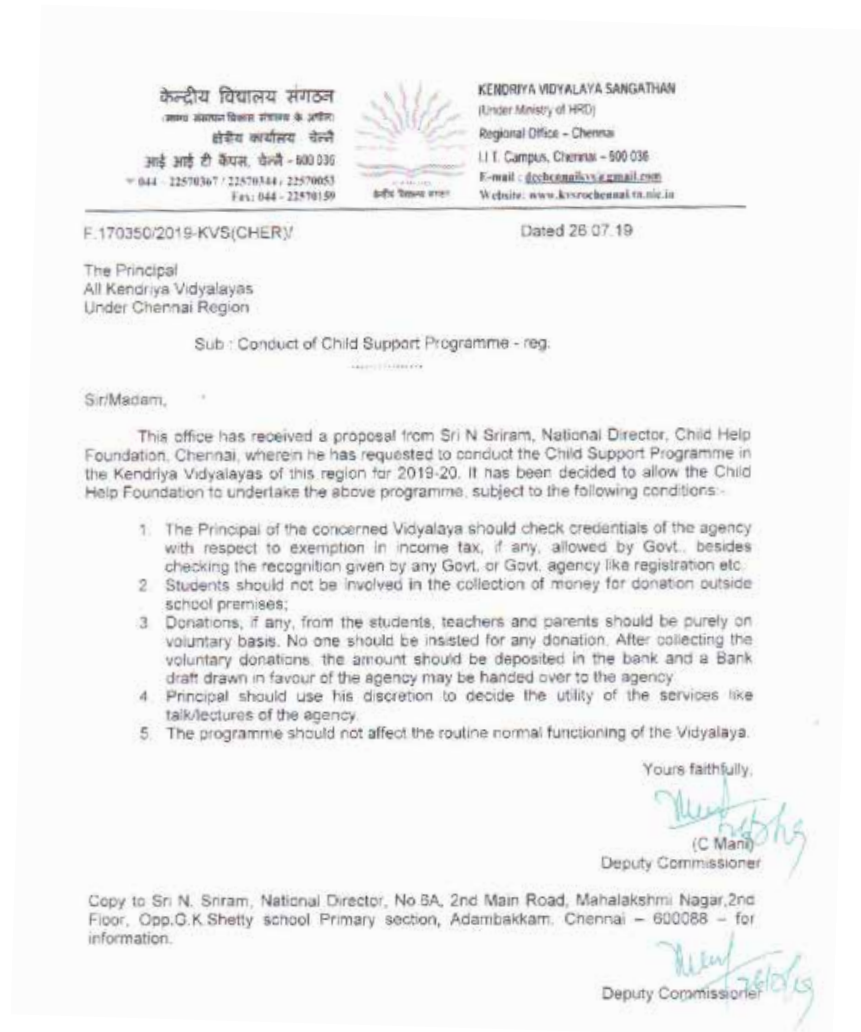
Ms.B.M.RADHA -Topper of South SFR being awarded and being felicitated for her for outstanding performance for second consecutive month



Mr.Sriram– CHF National Director with the school principal where cancer Awareness programme was conducted



Mr.Sunil Varghese-Trustee with Sriram and his Bangalore SFR team



Sriram – CHF National Director received Authorisation letter to conduct Child Development Programmes in all kendriya Vidyalaya schools in Chennai region.

News from Bangalore

Child Help Foundation, in partnership with iConnect has taken up an initiative to paint 3 government schools and make educational sketches on walls for better learning process. It is in the pursuance of this project that CHF visited Government Thirupuvanam Kannada, Tamil and English High & Primary School, in Vivekananda Nagar on Friday, the 30 th of August, 2019

Key Observations

The following are the key findings from the visit:

1. Although, the entrance hall is beautified with educational sketches and colourful hanging flower pots, the classrooms were dull with plain and leaky walls from which the paint was coming off in pieces.
2. The Pupil Teacher Ratio was found to be unsatisfactory as we could see many classes with no teachers and some teachers handling multiple classes.
3. There was no running water facility in the sanitation units as a result of which most of the units are kept locked. Only two such units seemed functional, but they had no lights inside.
4. There was no supporting staff/helping assistant to help with the cleaning of the school and its premises, as a result of which students of classes with no teachers were doing the cleaning by themselves. While the girl students cleaned the school, the boys collected the garbage and disposed them outside.
5. The children are provided free uniform cloth from the government. They, however, don't have the capacity to get the material stitched. The students therefore, go to school without wearing any uniforms or shoes (to be disbursed only with the stitched uniform).



School painting Initiative

Plan of Action

Based on the data collected from the school, it is understood that the school requires the following basic amenities to assure quality education to the students.

1. Bright walls for classrooms with educative sketches.
2. Separate sanitation units for boys and girls with running water facilities
3. Water purifier for clean drinking water
4. Class partitions
5. Wall plasters for the leaky walls
6. Mosquito meshes on windows
7. Rs. 35,200 to get 160 pairs of uniforms stitched.
8. A Helping Assistant to do all the cleaning and garbage disposal.



NEED CHARITABLE TRUST – Bangalore

iConnect, in partnership with Child Help Foundation, agreed to support the painting of an orphanage in Bangalore, as a result of which, on Friday, 23rd August 2019, we got an opportunity to visit Sneha Orphanage (shelter home for boys), run by Need Trust, located in Horamavu. There are 26 boys, a cook, a care-taker and a couple who take care of the kids.

The Sneha home is being managed by Mrs. Rita Thomas, with support from Mr. Satyraj and Mr. Patrick. The orphanage is a three-storeyed building with five bedrooms having attached toilets and a living room with a study hall adjacent to it. The kitchen on the second floor has an adjoining common hall, where everybody gather to dine. The walls are not very well-maintained and paint coating have started to wear off.

The iConnect representative, Ms. Katyayani arrived within an hour of our reaching the orphanage. Mrs. Rita Thomas showed us around, after which, there was an interactive session with the kids, where they were asked to share their ideas regarding what sketches go on the walls and the ceilings. We were overwhelmed with their responses, ranging from cartoon characters to life of a plant from a seed, to the solar system and so on.

Post the interactive session, another discussion took place on how to go about the painting and sketching. The trustee of the orphanage suggested simple whitewash or painting to be done only in the common areas and not in the bedrooms and toilets, as they are shifting to a new and bigger place in March 2020. Ms. Katyayani also suggested that the new building may be painted well, with the sketches the kids like, as it is going to be their long term residence. The children were also recommended to be part of such painting activity.

Thereafter, Mr. Christopher pitched for support to Pink March, a Menstrual Hygiene Management project for adolescent girls in Kolar, which caught Ms. Katyayani's interest. There were also talks about a pioneer project on lake adoption (cleaning and beautification) in Krishnarajapura.

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New Marine Line,
Mumbai - 400020.

+ (91) 28118588, 9029010081/ 82/ 83/ 84
www.childhelpfoundation.in