

# HOLISTIC CHILD DEVELOPMENT INDIA

## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT- 2020-2021

As the COVID-19 crisis was steadily increasing at the beginning of the year 2020, the Government of India had to take strict measures to contain the spread of the virus by imposing a lockdown for the entire country at the end of March. Clamping of sudden lockdown impacted the livelihoods of millions of migrant workers, which lead to their reverse migration to their respective far-off villages. The funding from the foreign donor organizations in the last couple of years was already declining due to the global economic downturn. The unprecedented outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic had further adversely impacted the social sector/charitable organizations world over. As such, HCDI was not spared from this sudden crisis. Nevertheless, the Holistic Child Development India (HCDI) had decided to respond to the COVID -19 crisis in addition to what it has always been engaged in the regular Child Focussed Community Development programs and other development interventions.

As a child-centred organization, HCDI has been reaching out to various groups of children such as rag pickers children, street children, children from the remote tribal and rural areas of underdeveloped states in India. The main objectives have been promoting education, health & nutrition and the overall development of the children, especially their rights and interests. Awareness building amongst community members and children on various issues that affected them and organizing various training programs for the project staff to effectively implement the programs at the grassroots level was given importance. Similarly, conducting different workshops and training for the children on child rights issues and leadership qualities have been the activities that the HCDI has undertaken during the year. Apart from carrying out these regular program interventions, the primary emphasis was laid on mitigating the spread of pandemics and providing dry ration to the communities for whom HCDI has been working for the welfare and advancement of their children.

### **HCDI's COVID-19 Pandemic Response:**

Whenever any disaster had stuck in the past in any part of the country, the Holistic Child Development India (HCDI) had always responded. As such, in the case of this pandemic, HCDI had decided to focus on the following three issues:

- to provide dry rations (Grocery bags) to those who are experiencing bring relief to their hunger, especially to children,
- to offer them Hygiene kits to protect themselves and prevent form others from getting contracted, and
- to create awareness about the disease and how and why they should avoid it by following specific protocols in their dwelling places and surroundings.



The first preference naturally is given to those already under the support of HCDI. The development work has already been undertaken for the children who are being helped in their education and health. So, HCDI had started to provide dry rations (grocery kits) and Hygiene support to the communities in Assam and Nagaland. These communities have already been sending their appeals to consider support as they started to face a food crisis when their resources were drying up. The negative impacts of lockdown on the lives and livelihood of these poor communities of hunger have already been. Children were mainly affected due to lockdown as their schools are closed. Such children did not have the privilege of the benefits of online classes due to poor network, and most of them do not have the necessary electronic devices either. HCDI has to choose these marginalized segments of the society comprising of Tea garden workers, daily wage workers, migrant labourers, out of work construction site workers, Agricultural labourers, needy people of old age, widows etc. in Assam and Nagaland and in the surroundings of the city of Bangalore where quarry workers, Migrant workers from North-East, widows, labourers without work etc. to provide them with food in the grocery items.

Below are the details of the statement showing the different deserving groups, places, break-up of food items, cost etc.

<b>Families / Children of Target Groups:</b>	<b>Migrant workers, unemployed casual labourers, Tea garden workers, quarry workers, workers irregularly employed, persons with disabilities, Widows etc.</b>
<b>Area / States, where grocery bags distributed:</b>	States of Assam, Nagaland, and Karnataka.
<b>ASSAM:</b>	Rice 10 kg, Wheat Flour (Atta) 2kg, Cooking oil 1 litre, Massor dal 1 kg, Boot Gota (Chana) 1 ½ Kg, Sooji/Rawa 1 kilogram.
<b>NAGALAND:</b>	Rice 20 kg, Mustard oil, Dal 2 kg, Egg 1 tare, Amul dry milk packet.
<b>BANGALORE SLUMS:</b>	Rice 10 kg, 1kg Wheat Flour (Atta), 1-litre Cooking oil, 1 kg Toor dal and soaps
<b>DELHI COLONIES:</b>	Rice (Packet of 8 Kg), Atta (Packet of 5 Kg), Dal (Packet of 1 kg), Oil (1 Kg), Soap (1 set) and Hygiene items

**No. of families & Places of Distribution of Grocery Bags:**

Sl.	No. of Distribution	Location State/Town	Month/year	No. of Families
01	First Distribution	Assam / Dhekiajuli	November 2020	350
02	First Distribution	Nagaland/ Dimapur	August 2020	60
03	Second Distribution	Assam / Dhekiajuli	January 2021	350
04	Second Distribution	Nagaland /Dimapur	February 2021	150
05	First Distribution	Karnataka/ Bangalore	February 2021	200
06	First Distribution	Karnataka/ Bangalore	March 2021	120
07	First distribution	Delhi Shahid Nagar/Rajiv Nagar colonies	February 2021	150



In Assam, Tea garden workers



In Nagaland, Dimapur slums



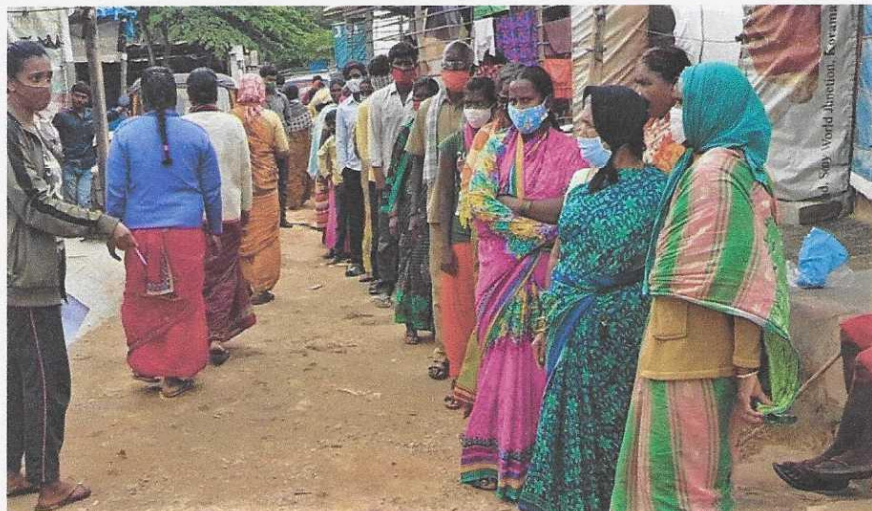
In Karnataka, Bangalore



In Karnataka, Bangalore Quarry workers



In Karnataka, slum dwellers





At the time of distribution of Grocery bags, the beneficiaries were given awareness on Covid-19 for them to take necessary precautions and prevent the spread of the Pandemic into rural areas. Social distancing was maintained; people were given hand sanitizers to sanitize their hands before the distribution and wearing of masks were ensured. Also, the communities were helped to get connected with the local administration to have the facilities to benefit from virtual media for getting awareness and the correct information on Covid-19. The staff working on the project were in constant touch with the communities and children and guided them. The relief work was made more accessible since the VDCs (Village Development Committees) members and volunteers extended their full cooperation in the whole process. They helped the team identify the beneficiaries, packing the materials and distributing them to all the families. Printed materials giving guidelines and the world health organization posters/national disaster management authority posters were circulated in each village to educate and encourage them to follow the COVID-19 protocols in the villages.

#### **Child Focused Community Development Programs through large projects in six states:**

Though in this year, this organization had laid the main emphasis on mitigating the covid-19 pandemic, especially in bring awareness and relief to the families suffering from hunger due to lack of financial resources in the form of food, the regular child-focused development programs in different parts of the country were not neglected. Two major international charitable organizations are funding the below-described programs, and HCDI, as usual, shouldered the responsibility of providing continuous professional guidance for the execution of the programs and monitoring and evaluating the program and reporting to the donors periodically.

The program adopts a child-centred approach coupled with a child rights approach in designing and implementing the programs. Considering the needs and interests of the children are most important and ensures the empowerment of their families. So, HCDI reaches out to the most poverty-stricken areas of Tribal and Rural regions where children's basic needs are met. Also, to work amongst those children who are exploited and subjected to various forms of abuse such as children engaged in rag picking children living on the street etc. Apart from this, the farmers' empowerment in adopting new farming methods to enhance agricultural productivity to improve their livelihoods was taken up. Of course, HCDI being a 'child rights' organisation the programs are designed to work against all forms of exploitation and abuse in the project area.

The concept is clear that while children's needs and interests are identified and addressed, their parents are socially economically and politically empowered to collectively deliberate and address the issues affecting their lives. The economic empowerment of the families living in rural and tribal areas focuses are mainly on improving their agricultural activities both on and off-farm, especially in motivating them to go in for land levelling, land improvement, bunding and adopting the different watershed approach to save the rainwater and improve the soil. Also, to switch over to climate-resilient agriculture methods to protect their plants/crops from weeds and insects and avoid chemicals to protect the soil and the crops.

The execution of the Child Focus Community Development programs for the five large projects monitored by HCDI is in the states of Jharkhand (the integrated child-focused community development program), Madhya Pradesh, Khandwa (Parivartan community development project), Assam, Dibrugarh (Adivasi Community Project), Nagaland (Liangmai



community development0, Odisha (Gram shakti community development program) and one child ragpickers project in Mumbai, Kalyan.

#### Details of CFCD programs in the villages:

#### Child Focused Community Development Projects:

No. Child Focused Community development projects	5
No. Children Covered	2853
No. Households covered	5594
No. Villages covered	66
Population covered	28948

#### Children at High-Risk Project:

Number of projects	1
Households covered	164
Population covered	820
Children Covered	500

#### Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

CBO	Number of Groups	Members
Self Help Groups	192	2137
Farmer's Groups	71	990
Youth groups	44	2013
Adolescent girls' groups	37	429
VDCs	70	824
Children's Parliaments	85	2021

These programs are carried out in the following states through CFCD & CAHR projects:

Sl.	Location	Name of the projects	No. of Children Covered	No. of Villages Covered	No. of House hold
1	Nagaland, Tenning	Liangmai Community development project	350	7	854
2	MP, Khandwa	Parivartan Community development project	200	20	1130
3	Assam, Tinsukiya	Dibrugarh Adivasi CDP	400	7	1341
4	Odisha, Kalahandi	Gram Shakti Community development project	300	22	1095
5	Jharkhand, Turbunga	Turbunga Community Development project	300	10	1132
6	Mumbai, Kalyan	Child Rag Pickers project.	500	4	164
<b>Total:</b>			<b>2050</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>5716</b>



### Programs / Projects through Educational Activity Centres in 8 states:

This is another major program that benefits 3504 children through the established Educational Activity Centres, which are supervised and monitored by the HCDI, for promoting Education and ensuring the overall development of underprivileged children in eight states. The Light funds this program to Light organization based in New York, USA, which positively affects the children across the country through its comprehensive child development programs that aim to bring about holistic development for the children to transform their lives. Educational Activity Centres are managed and implemented by the local implementing organization; independent entities / Projects located in 8 states benefitting about 3504 children in the country. After school hours in the evening, children come to these centres where they stay for three to four hours and get educational, nutritional, and other supports for their overall development. They receive support in the form of regular academic coaching and a one-time nutritious meal. The social workers and the teachers, besides taking care of the needs of the children, regularly visit the children's houses, interact with their parents and create a conducive environment for the children to focus on their studies. These program initiatives have a long-lasting impact on the children and provide a natural support system for their holistic growth. HCDI plans, designs, and ensures the program's execution by these 32 Educational Activity Centres in 8 states and periodically monitors the programs and finances and reports to the funding organization, which sends funds directly to the entities, which locally manage these centres.

### STATEWIDE DETAILS EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES/PROJECTS (2020-21)

S. No	State	No. of Children's Educational Activity centres / Projects	No. of Sponsored children
1.	Chhattisgarh	1	150
2.	Odisha	1	150
3.	Madhya Pradesh	1	200
4.	Maharashtra	1	53
5.	Haryana	1	100
6.	Tamil Nadu	2	265
7.	Karnataka	10	960
8.	Kerala	15	1626
	Total	32	3504

These projects (EACs) faced a big challenge when the pandemic broke out. Children were not able to attend the schools and so also these Centres due to lockdown restrictions. But after the lockdown was lifted, children started to come slowly to the centers but in batches following the COVID-19 protocols. Children were provided with sanitizers, masks and proper social distance was maintained in every project. During the lockdown, staff visited the children's homes and conducted classes in the community and provided them with necessary school kits along with nutritious food & snacks. Centres also supported the children's families with essential food kits and hygiene kits every month during the pandemic time. Awareness programs and counselling sessions for children, parents, and communities were organized. Staff supported the children in their online classes as an alternate income generation parents

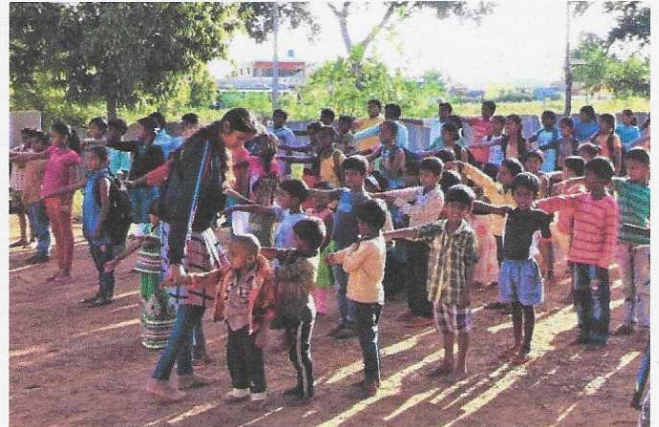


were trained on making masks, sanitizers, detergents and encouraged group farming, a kitchen garden to augment their family income.

HCDI organized two online programs for project staff on "Post lockdown – COVID-19 safety guidelines" & "Psycho-social well-being and mental health for children during the COVID-19 pandemic", which helped the project staff to do their work in an effective manner. All the projects were visited and provided needed support provided during the time of the pandemic to make sure the real needs of the children are met through various programs.



**SNAKE CHARMERS' VILLAGE CHILDREN, HARYANA**



**CHILDREN ASSEMBLY - BANGALORE PROJECT**

Since its inception in the year 1995, HCDI has been striving hard to reach out to the unreached areas in the country and uplift the communities that are most deserving, especially the neglected children who are deprived of education, health and development. In the past, hundreds and thousands of underprivileged children had benefited and are now found to be productive and responsible citizens contributing for the good of their families and the communities.

  
**Thomas Rajkumar**  
**Secretary**

**April 2021**



  
**SECRETARY**  
**HOLISTIC CHILD**  
**DEVELOPMENT INDIA**