

# HOLISTIC CHILD DEVELOPMENT INDIA

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

FY 2021-22

The Holistic Child Development India (HCDI) is a non-profit Child Focused Development organization, established in the year 1995, with a mission of bringing transformation in the lives of children and the communities where they live. HCDI through its innovatively designed programs and well-planned activities which is mainly grounded upon child rights-based approach, worked towards bringing about a positive change in the quality of life of children and their families, who are basically exploited and deprived of any basic human rights in their lives. HCDI made sure that the programs planned and implemented under its care, result in a long-lasting positive impact in the lives of children, their families and communities at large.

As a national Humanitarian organization, having no boundaries, HCDI has joined hands with the sponsors & donors who share the same passion for helping the poor & needy, had implemented programs of different kinds and promoting the rights, interests, and dignity of children, families, and communities. HCDI completely believes in the active participation of the people, including children, in any development programs that address their needs and interests.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck the nation for the first time during the end of January 2020, and which peaked in the month of Sep 2020 had drastically affected the lives of thousands across the country. More than the effect of the disease, people were found to be worst affected by the frequent shutdowns and loss of livelihood. Adding more to the woes of the people, the second wave of COVID-19 in the country started from the first week of March 2021, and by end of April 2021, India had massive surge of COVID-19 positive cases and deaths, resulting in becoming the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the world with respect to identified cases. The major affected states were Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. Even children education was affected largely. Due to COVID-19 pandemic related academic loss and delay or postponement of the examinations many students committed suicide in India in 2020. In the year 2021, having a peak during the month of May, the still students were uncertain as many examinations are delayed and schools were closed for indefinite periods. People were still experiencing the effects caused by the pandemic, during most part of the year 2021-22.

## **HCDI's HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC:**

When the second wave of COVID-19 started from March 2021, Holistic Child Development India (HCDI) through the timely support from various Donors had decided to provide Humanitarian Relief support to the children & their families across the country. As in the past, whenever any disaster had struck in any part of the country, HCDI had responded in a quick and swift manner. In the same way, even during this year, HCDI reached out to families through the following programs:

- Providing dry ration kits and meeting the starvation needs of children & their families.
- To make available Hygiene kits to protect themselves and also others.
- Continue to create more awareness on the disease and equip them with the knowledge about changing nature of the disease, for effective prevention and protection purpose.

Some of the COVID-19 mitigation programs carried out by HCDI in the year 2021-22, through the support from various Donor agencies have been discussed below in detail, which had brought great relief among the COVID-19 affected people, especially the children whose needs were taken care of by this timely support from HCDI.

**HUMANITARIAN RELIEF PROGRAM FOR THE FAMILIES AFFECTED BY COVID-19 PANDEMIC – SUPPORTED BY GEMEINNUTZIGE STIFTUNG FRIEDHELM LOH GERMANY:**

After the resurgence of 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of COVID-19 in India from the first week of March 2021, many people were affected by this pandemic in a more severe manner as compared to the first wave of COVID-19. Many people lost their lives and also could not recover from the disaster which struck them twice, within a gap of few months or so.

Thousand lost their livelihood and found it very difficult to lead their lives during this difficult situation. Looking at the plight of the people, and due to the request placed by HCDI, the GEMEINNUTZIGE STIFTUNG FRIEDHELM LOH GERMANY came forward to extend its Humanitarian Relief program for children and their families who are suffering because of this COVID-19 pandemic. Around **1300 families of the children** living in Rural Bangalore District belonging to scheduled caste families whose livelihoods were also affected due to COVID-19, they being landless/agricultural labourers, received food kit support to run their families during the difficult phase of their lives.



A total of **2350 food kits** were distributed to the families covering **35 villages** in rural Bangalore district from July 2021-March 2022. It was found that around **2550 children** received food in their plates due to this food kit distribution. HCDI was ably supported by the local youths and volunteers who worked hard to reach as many needy families as possible, who are worst affected by the pandemic.

Besides, families belonging to Kole Basava community who are living in make shift tents in open grounds inside different parts of Bangalore city, also were supported with food kits during July 2021 to March 2022. The members of this Kole Basava tribe are basically nomads who have migrated from Andhra Pradesh few years back. They move from one place to another with their decorated Bulls or Basava collecting alms (alms). They live in unauthorized open grounds, by erecting make shift tents covered with old and damaged tarpaulins.



It was found that during COVID-19 and for many months followed by COVID-19 pandemic their livelihoods were dearly affected as their movements were restricted. Their families were starving with insufficient food especially children during this period. Besides they also found it difficult to take care of their bulls which are their only source of income. The food kit distribution helped this

Kole Basava community population who were living in around 13 different locations inside Bangalore city to fend themselves against starvation. It was found that around 1650 dry ration food kits were distributed to these during different part of the year. Around 520 children were benefitted through this food kit distribution.



Meanwhile, people among the Kole Basava community were struggling to store water for their bulks and also for their daily use. During summer they had to face more problems when there is acute water scarcity. They do not have proper facility for storing large quantity of water, therefore based on the request from the community, water storage tanks (Sintex Tanks) with capacity of 300 liters were provided for 85 very needy families in the Kole Basava community. Now they are able to store their water for their bulls and for their daily use. Kole Basava community people also received Woolen Blankets to withstand the severe cold during winter time & during most part of the year in Bangalore. The blankets which were distributed were very useful to the children and their families to protect themselves from severe cold condition. Also, children living in rural Bangalore District and in Kole-Basava community also received warm clothing (sweaters) to fend off the severe cold. Around 860 children were benefitted through this warm clothing distribution.



**COVID-19 HUMANITARIAN RELIEF SUPPORT PROGRAM OF IJM (International Justice Mission):**

HCDI extended its humanitarian support with the financial assistance from the International Justice Mission (IJM), which gave funds exclusively for the humanitarian aid mainly to the communities of Kole-Basava tribe temporary living in Bangalore city. Due to the adverse impact created by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown in the year 2020 & 21, which was lasting, affecting the livelihoods of some marginalized communities, especially the lives of the children remained affected during this period.

Holistic Child Development India being a child welfare and humanitarian organization which mainly works for the overall development of neglected and marginalized children, it also reaches out to the children and their families as and when disasters occur in any form in any part of the country, where no other NGOs are working for such communities. The marginalized children in general were vulnerable and grappled with issues like lack of education and health care, compromised safety and

abuse and were at high risk of suffering more than the adults during COVID-19 and hence they were the main focus of HCDCI.

**The beneficiaries:** As such, HCDCI on hearing about the Kole-Basava tribe living right in the midst of the city of Bangalore, it chose to reach out to them to extend COVID-19 humanitarian support as they were struggling to survive during and after COVID-19. The community that HCDCI has mainly chosen belongs to a section of the Kole-Basava tribe, the source of livelihood of which has always been collecting money by moving from house to house with a decorated bull and with a small musical drum in the hand announcing the fortunes of the families living in the house. They are basically nomads move from one place to other with the bulls and their profession being viewed by many as begging. A few years ago, they had moved in to the city from the rural Andhra Pradesh where they were experiencing drought and now living with families and children in an unauthorized open area, erecting small tents covered with old and damaged tarpaulins with the bulls around, with no basic facilities like water or electricity. Unfortunately, during COVID-19 and for many months followed by COVID-19 pandemic their livelihoods were affected because their movements were restricted. They were starving with insufficient food especially children during this period. It is not that they have to see that they survive but also, they have to ensure that their bulls which are the main source of income also subsist.

**The location, number of families and children, etc.:** They were altogether 500 families living in tents in seven different areas but HCDCI was only able to reach out to about 300 families for extending humanitarian support.

S. NO.	CAMPS / DWELLING AREA WHERE KOLE-BASAVA FAMILIES ARE LIVING IN MAKE-SHIFT TENTS IN BANGALORE CITY	NO. OF FAMILIES
1	HORMAVU	49
2	TATANAGAR	45
3	MALAGALA	10
4	KAMAKSHI PLYAM	8
5	LAGGERI	35
6	KUMARASWAMY LAYOUT	22
7	MUDDINA PLYAM	8
8	CHILAKA	7
9	ARIKERE	11
10	KOTHANUR DHINNE	16
11	BANGARAPPA GUTTA	46
12	MAHADEVAPURA	25
13	MARTHA HALLI	18
	TOTAL	300

The number of children, who have no opportunities for schooling had no enough food to eat, cloths to wear or opportunities to play and go to a place where they can sit together and learn, so they usually loiter around or the grown-up girls takes care of their siblings and boys help their father in taking care of bulls in feeding by taking them to the places for grazing. The living environment is pathetic because it is an unauthorized area full of bushes around with no water or electricity. When there are excessive rains the area is flooded and the rain water flows in to their tents. The number of children living in these families exceeds 500.

**Food and other materials distributed to meet their basic necessities:** The following materials were supplied as per their priority and need.

1. Ration kits consisting of rice 10 kg, wheat 2 kg, cooking oil 1 litre, yellow dal 1 kg, etc. were supplied twice to 500 families (300 families of Kole-Basava and 200 families of the children

living in the rural Bangalore District belonging to scheduled caste whose families' livelihoods were also affected due to COVID-19, they being landless/agricultural labourers) between December 2021 and March 2022.



2. Water has been a serious problem for them to bring from far off place and store. Sometimes they buy water as a group and bring to their place by water tankers. They have no containers to store so therefore, large water containers were purchased and supplied to 178 families, each container are kept in front of their houses storing water which now is of great help for the women and children.



3. Uniform and clothes were distributed to 500 children, of them 250 are to Kole-Basava and 250 are to the poor children living in rural district of Bangalore.



4. 500 hygiene kits were distributed to children consisting of toothbrush, paste, nail cutter, soap, coconut oil, etc. (250 to Kole-Basava small children and 250 to small children in the rural district).



5. Since the Bangalore city has been experiencing torrential rains with chill winds, the families requested for tarpaulins to cover their tents as their areas are flooded with rain waters and they are not able to protect themselves.



The whole Relief support program was executed with the help of the staff, a couple of volunteers and a group of youths from the Community. The community as a whole was very supportive and were very cooperative in executing the program as per their need.

### **COVID-19 Relief Humanitarian Support from ERIKSHJALPEN SWEDEN**

**Dibrugarh, Assam (Oct 2021):** Dibrugarh Adivasi Community Development Project from Dibrugarh district, Assam along with HCDI organized the COVID-19 Humanitarian relief dry ration and essential supplies distribution among the poor and needy children in the month of October 2021 with the support from ERIKS, Sweden, who magnanimously agreed to support the families & children. Compared to first wave of COVID-19, the second wave caused more damage to the lives of people, including much causality in the state. People had to face severe job loss condition and many lost their livelihood due to strict lockdown situation in the state. It was found that a total of 1816 people (361 households) from 7 villages were benefitted through the food kit distribution. Out of which around 761 were children, who received food in their plate at least for a month or so. The food items provided were: Rice – 20 Kg; Rahar Dhal – 4 kg; cooking oil – 2 Litre; Hand wash soaps – 10 pieces; Detergent soaps – 4 pieces. The distribution program was inaugurated by Rt. Rev. Dr. Nelson Lakra and well-coordinated by the local volunteers & youths in the village.



**Dhekiajuli block, Sonitpur Dist. Assam (Oct & Nov 2021):** Gozner Evangelical Lutheran Church, North East Diocese along with HCDI organized a Humanitarian Relief food kit distribution for 350 families in 8 villages under Dhekiajuli Development Block of Sonitpur District (Assam) in the month of October 2021. The Beneficiaries Identified, mostly belong to Adivasi Community who were migrated to Assam several years back to work in the Tea Gardens as laborers. It was found that around



1815 people were benefitted through the food kit distribution, out of which 940 were children. The food kit distribution coordinated by HCDI has indeed helped the villagers to survive during these difficult times and overcome the starvation problem in their households. Again, in the month of November 2021, a second round of dry ration distribution was organized in the same area (Dhekiajuli) for 150 families, which also included more than 400 child beneficiaries.



**Dimapur, Nagaland (Oct 2021):** HCDI, along with Nagaland Development Outreach (NDO) organized the COVID-19 Second wave Humanitarian Relief support – food kit and essential items distribution in the villages in and around Dimapur, Nagaland during the month of October 2021. Around 150 families were benefitted through this distribution program. Rev. C. Amop Noklang, NDO Director

inaugurated the relief distribution program. Due to COVID-19 strict lockdown, people lost their livelihood as their movements were hampered and less economic activity took place in the areas. Children and families were struggling hard to meet their ends and were left with no resources to lead their life. A total of 630 people were benefitted through this distribution program, which also included 336 child beneficiaries. People who were benefitted were migrant workers, daily wage & agricultural laborers. It was also found that many Old Aged People, Widows, Single Parent, and Orphaned children were largely benefitted through this Grocery kit distribution program.

- ▶ A total of **13,876** people from Assam, Nagaland & Karnataka received COVID-19 Humanitarian Relief support from GEMEINNUTZIGE STIFTUNG, ERIKS – Sweden & IJM Germany. Around **5,187** children were benefitted through this support.

### **COVID-19 - Support from Marthoma Church - DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE:**

**Kalahandi, Odisha (July, Aug & Nov 2021):** Marthoma Church of North America & Europe Diocese as part of its mission to support families affected by COVID-19 in India, reached out to the families of the Light to Life project in Kalahandi, Odisha in the months of July, Aug & Nov 2021, with the implementing & monitoring support from HCDI. Around 200 families were supported with dry rations and essential items, to help them overcome the damage caused by the pandemic in the region. People of Kalahandi are still deprived of many basic human rights like food, clothing, housing, medicine and education. They are still in backward condition considering the development indicators and they are predominantly from tribal background. Around **517 children** and their families were benefitted through the dry ration distribution in Kalahandi. A total of **974 people** were benefitted through the distribution program. People received the Dry rations and essential items for



two months in July & Aug 2022. Some of the items distributed were: Rice -1 kg, Mutter Channa 1 kg, Sooji 2 kg, puffed rice 1 kg, Cooking oil – 1 Litre, Handwash soaps 5, Detergent soap 2. The distribution was well coordinated by Kalahandi Mission Director Rev. Jobin E.T Abraham and his team who were part of the Light to Life project.

**Hoskote Light to Life projects (July, Aug & Nov**

**2021):** As part of the COVID-19 Relief Humanitarian support, Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, Diocese of North America & Europe supported the families affected by COVID-19 in Hoskote region of Karnataka, through Dry Ration & essential items distributions in the months of July, August & November 2021. Children and families present in the 3 Light to Life project centres in Hoskote, Shivanapura and



Jangamakote were benefitted through this distribution program. Around 274 families from these 3 project areas received the grocery kit support, which included a total of 1,941 people having more than 631 child beneficiaries. The dry ration kit which was provided thrice largely benefitted the children and families in Hoskote, Shivanapura and Jangamakote. In addition, around 50 deserving families from community were also provided with the dry ration support in Hoskote. The following items were provided: Rice 5 Kg, Wheat 3 Kg, Yellow Toor dhal 1 Kg, Black Channa 1 Kg, Cooking Oil 1 Ltr, Peanuts 1/2 Kg, Detergent soap 2 Pcs, Disinfectant 1 Ltr, Handwash soaps 3 Pcs, Masks 3 Pcs. The village sarpanch leaders (Panchayat) from the community were also present during the food kit distributions. All these programs were well coordinated by HCDI which made sure that the benefits reached the right person.

**Sangareddy, Telangana (December 2021):** The Mar Thoma Mission of Sangareddy District, of Chennai Bangalore Diocese along with the HCDI organized the COVID-19 humanitarian relief support- dry ration kit & essential items distribution for the children and families of the Light to Life project in Sangareddy during the month of Dec 2021. This initiative was possible through the timely support from the Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar. Around 150 families were benefitted through this food kit distribution, which included 290 child beneficiaries, who received food in their plates because of this distribution. Sangareddy Mission and the beneficiaries were very thankful to Marthoma church Diocese of North America & Europe & also Holistic Child Development India (HCDI) for all the coordination efforts in the field through their supervision & guidance throughout the distribution program.

**Faridabad, Haryana (December 2021):** Sapera Light to Life project which is a special project, started for the children of Snake charmers' community in Faridabad, Haryana under the Dharma Jyothi Vidya Peeth, reached out to the children and their families who are affected by COVID-19 through the dry ration and essential items distribution in the month of December 2021, with the support from Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, Diocese of North America





and Europe. Sapera Light to Life project which is a unit of CARD, Thiruvalla, supported around 150 families in Aruva village where the snake charmers' children and families are living. Around 80 children and their families from Sapera Light to Life project are supported along with 70 families from the community. More than 330 children were benefitted through the program. Some of the essential items distributed were Rice, Wheat, Sooji, Masoor Dal, Cooking Oil, Moong Dal, Chole etc.

Around **9,945** people from Odisha, Haryana, Karnataka & Telangana were benefitted through COVID-19 Relief support from **Diocese of North America & Europe** out of which **4,118** were children's beneficiaries.

### **COVID Relief Support for children and families in Dharwad & Belgaum, Karnataka:**

An initial survey carried out in the Dharwad & Belgaum district showed that hundreds of people are worst affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly due to the loss of livelihood. It was found that different categories of people were directly and indirectly affected by this pandemic. Therefore, HCDI decided to support the families and children who belong to the following categories: People Infected and affected by COVID-19, Below Poverty Line Families, Women Headed families/Widows, Orphans and persons with disabilities and HIV/AIDS affected or infected people. Beneficiaries were selected from the following villages/Taluk: Dharwad & Hubli talukas: Hubli Slum, Dharwad Slum, Gopankoppa & Ram Nagar. Khanapur taluks: Bosgalli, Manturga, Harsanwadi, Navaga & Nittur. HCDI distributed around 505 food kits for the families living across the identified areas in Feb 2022. Rice 10 kg, cooking oil-1 liter, Toor Dhal – 1 kg, Atta 5 kg, Salt, Bathing soap 4 & Detergent soap 2 were provided to each family. The beneficiaries were extremely delighted to receive this support from HCDI. The support leveraged for 500 families was an exemplary step to tackle the effects caused by the pandemic in the Dharwad & Belgaum district of Karnataka.

### **Child Development Centers of Light to Life program of Marthoma Mission Board:**

HCDI as in the past, during the previous year continued to provide monitoring and supervision support to the child development projects of the Light to Life program funded by Mar Thoma Mission Board, based in New York, USA, benefitting around 3886 children, which is aimed at promoting Education and ensuring overall development of under privileged children in 10 states of the country. These projects through its educational activity centers provide various programs for the holistic development of children especially through its comprehensive child development programs in the areas of Education, Physical, Socio Emotional & value-based living, thereby enabling them to face the outside world with more confidence and help them achieve their dreams for the bright

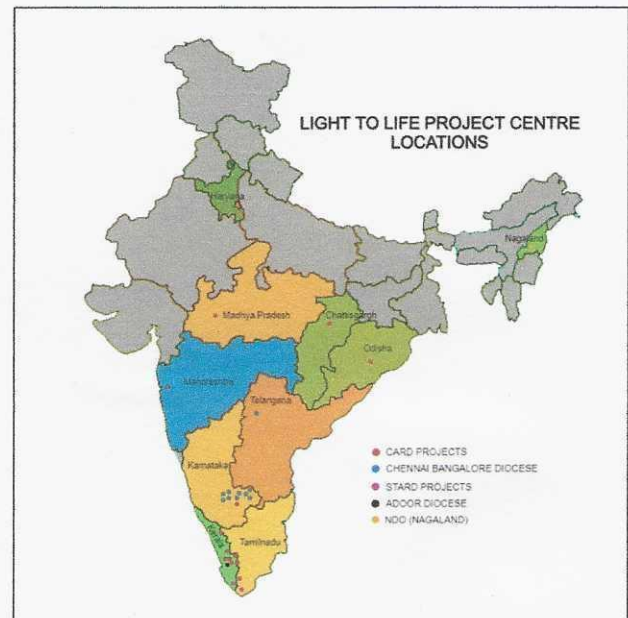


future. These Educational Activity centers or Child development centers are managed and implemented by the partners/implementing organizations who are mainly responsible for organizing these children's programs at the field level. Children after their school hours come to these centers, spend almost 2-3 hours and are provided with educational, nutritional and other supports necessary for the overall development. Children receive regular educational support in the way of remedial teaching where they receive additional care and support to excel in their studies. After the classes, children are also provided with a one-time nutritious meal aimed at developing them physically. During weekends children are also involved in various cultural and extra-curricular activities in order to help them develop physically & socio-emotionally.

The social workers and teachers provide additional care to the children and meet the needs of the children by regularly meeting the parents, making visits to houses and schools where they study, thereby creating an enabling environment for children to concentrate in their studies and also excel in other areas of life. At the centers, children are also provided with educational materials like school supplies, uniforms, bags etc. During the current academic year, most of the schools were closed till end of July and schools were started only in the month of November 2021. Children were given extra care and additional classes by the teachers in the centers in order to help the children to cover the subjects which they missed during the lockdown time. Children were also provided with sanitizers, masks and proper social distance was maintained in every project. The partner projects were visited periodically by HCDI for monitoring and handholding purpose. As an ongoing process, HCDI kept track on the progress & checked the quality of the project or programs, mainly focusing on improving the overall efficiency of the project, and providing inputs wherever essential. The ground report on the projects progress was regularly updated to the funding agency, which sends the funds directly to the partner organizations, which locally manage and implement the program in these centers. In addition, advisory & training support to the projects were rendered, including making aware about the Govt. compliances both programmatic and in financial matters.

#### STATEWISE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES/PROJECT CENTRE DETAILS

S. No	States	Project centres	No. of children
1.	Karnataka	10	1167
2.	Kerala	9	1577
3.	Tamilnadu	2	265
4.	Chhattisgarh	1	150
5.	Odisha	1	150
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1	200
7.	Maharashtra	1	50
8.	Haryana	1	100
9.	Telangana	1	77
10.	Nagaland	1	150
	Total	28	3886



HCDI has always committed itself to the service of poor and marginalized communities across the country, particularly working for the upliftment of the under-privileged children and their families who are subject to various forms of exploitation and denied of a meaningful and dignified life. HCDI has reached out to children and families beyond the boundaries bringing about lasting impact in their lives that would enable them to become more productive and useful instruments in nation building process. HCDI still yearns to reach out to many rural and tribal pockets of the country which is yet to be reached, through its innovative development programs for poor and marginalized people.



**Thomas Rajkumar**  
Secretary

**September 2022.**

