

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It's been really busy these past few months at BREADS with the COVID 19 solidarity work. Perhaps not so much on the field, but in creating synergies that greatly impacted the field. The pandemic taught us to work differently. We used various ways to be present to situations of need: using technology and partnering and networking with donors, volunteers and other organisations to reach places and people that the lockdown restricted us from reaching physically. As we cover some of these partnerships in this edition of Slice, we sincerely appreciate all their contributions and efforts in supporting those affected by the pandemic.



With best wishes,  
*Fr. Joy Nedumparambil SDB*  
Executive Director  
BREADS Bangalore

## BREADS' DIRECT OUTREACH IN THE TIMES OF COVID 19



The New Year 2020 began with the worst pandemic witnessed this century as the novel corona virus spread across 213 countries in world, infecting more than 72 million and killing more than 4 million so far. Learning from others' experience with the virus, the Indian government declared a series of lockdowns beginning 25 March 2020. The entire nation came to a standstill except for essential services. Ignorance about the virus, and the sudden lockdown, sent the public into panic buying and a scramble to get back home to safety, even by breaking lockdown rules and inviting police action on themselves. Within a couple of days, the world changed completely from what had been normal life.

Those sections of society with economic and social currency were cushioned from the worst effects of the lockdowns and the infection. But those that didn't were hit badly; the worst affected being the daily wage and migrant labourers who number almost 40 million across the country. Around 50,000 to 60,000 of them began a reverse migration to their rural homes from the urban areas in the span of a few days. Others were held up or stranded. Loss of jobs and income, and restrictions on all means of travel added to their plight. For a large section of Indian society, survival became the primary issue as opposed to the possibility of infection.





The restrictions on travel and safety protocols had great impact on the speed and quantum of outreach. Nevertheless, BREADS responded directly to calls for help in and around Bangalore city, reaching affected workers and families with food supplies and masks. Among the vulnerable, those specially identified for help were the elderly, widows, physically challenged, transgenders, people living with HIV/AIDS/leprosy, and quarry workers. Working tirelessly to communicate and raise resources for those in need, BREADS won the goodwill and partnership of the corporates, volunteers, and donors who joined forces in the battle against COVID 19.



As the planning and development office for the states of Karnataka and Kerala, BREADS had been monitoring the situation closely, keeping in touch with the Province leadership, PDO Network in South Asia and the Don Bosco Mission offices to chart out possible actions for each region and situation. The Don Bosco partners in Kerala and Karnataka were offered guidance and assurance of BREADS' support for their relief work. Possibilities of working with the state administration were identified, and the DB partners across both states sprang into action. The Kerala Interstate Migrants Alliance for Transformation (KISMAT), BREADS' project that works exclusively for migrants in Kerala played a huge role in the state through its migrant help desks in 11 districts.

## PARTNERSHIPS IN SOLIDARITY



BREADS commissioned the women's self-help groups in Bangalore, Chitradurga, Bidar, Hospet and Kollam to produce cloth face masks to meet the increasing need and the non-availability of masks. The women did an excellent job of jointly producing 249,670 masks. BREADS was pleased to donate 25,000 of these masks directly to people in need. Fr. Joy Nedumparambil, the Executive Director handed over 5000 masks to the City Police Commissioner Mr. Bhaskar Rao IPS, for the use of the police personnel of Bangalore city in April 2020. In addition, BREADS also distributed masks to other public service personnel in Bangalore — the employees of Vidhan Soudha (Karnataka's legislative assembly), transport, health, and essential service providers, besides those without access such as slum dwellers.

BoscoNet helped connect corporates Zomato and General Mills with BREADS. Zomato's Feeding India programme helped BREADS reach out directly to help 5412 families (26510 beneficiaries) survive the lockdown in Bangalore, Chikkaballapur and Ballari districts of Karnataka. The distribution areas were selected and DB presences such as BOSCO Bangalore, Social Service Guild (SSG) of Kristu Jyoti College (KJC-Bangalore), Don Bosco Youth Services – Karnataka, DB Church-Lingarajapuram, and Don Bosco Hospet were put in charge. Functional Vocational Training and Research Society (FVTRS) supported essential groceries for 216 families in bangalore.



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Cookies and cakes from General Mills- Pillsbury (27670 units) delighted thousands of children in the foster care homes of Dream India Network; institutions of BOSCO Bangalore, Social Service Guild, Don Bosco Hospet, and Don Bosco Palluruthy. It was an unusual treat for the children during a time when such things were out of reach.

The sense of insecurity and uncertainty among the migrants due to the pandemic and the lack of livelihoods in the informal sectors, prompt them to return home; resulting in long queues of people in police stations, railway stations and waiting areas in Bangalore, all to get a travel pass. Waiting with their families in desperate hope for their turn to travel, the migrants are dependent on the goodwill of people and the State, for food and shelter during the waiting period. The ready-to-eat food items donated by IndiGo through ResponseNet to BREADS were most useful in these circumstances. Overall, 20980 units of upma, poha, chana jor, nuts and cookies were distributed to such migrant families waiting to board trains across Bangalore city. Active volunteers from the Bangalore Student Community helped in the distribution of these items at Palace Grounds, Bangalore.



Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) and the District Administration of Kolar together with the Child Welfare Committee of Kolar Gold Fields approached BREADS to collaborate in providing care for 76 migrants including 21 children from Uttar Pradesh who were stranded at the Kolar railway station. BREADS supported the efforts to feed the group thrice a day for around 10 days until they could continue their journey home. Milk and fruits were provided for the children.



BREADS supported the Don Bosco Youth Services- Karnataka with online outreach services including tele-counseling to help people deal with their life situations. Infotainment activities such as the Lockdown Buzzer – a quiz competition, and Corona Beats — a COVID 19 prevention- themed choreography competition aimed at bringing families together in enjoyable activities. These creative initiatives intended to help people cope with the stress triggered by fear and uncertainty, abrupt change in lifestyles, social distancing, increased work pressures, lack of recreation and socialisation during the lockdown.

BREADS sincerely thanks all its donors, partners, volunteers, and well-wishers for their whole-hearted solidarity with the last in society during these trying times of the COVID 19 pandemic.



# BREADS' DIRECT INTERVENTIONS FOR COVID 19 RELIEF

SL No	PARTNERS IN SERVICE	RESPONSE	OUTREACH	BENEFICIARIES	LOCATIONS
1	BREADS, ZOMATO, BoscoNet	Provision of rice, dal, and wheat flour	26510 people (5412 families)	Migrant families, slum dwellers, daily wagers, quarry workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Ramanna garden, Vinobha nagar, Pulikeshi nagar, Vyamshala, Nagarbhavi, Sumanahalli, Giripuram, TC Palya, Horamavu, Janatha colony, Halehalli, Avalahalli in Bangalore</li> <li>•Jambunathahalli in Hospet</li> <li>•Tilakuntahalli, Gontiganahudya, Sadalli Cross tar plant in Chikkaballapur</li> </ul>
2	BREADS, General Mills-Pillsbury, BoscoNet	Distribution of Cookies and cakes	3000 children	Children	Bangalore, Hospet, Palluruthy
3	BREADS	Production and distribution of cloth face masks	10900 people	Employees of Vidhan Soudha, Bangalore city police, traffic police, transport staff, migrants, daily labourers	Bangalore
4	BREADS, ResponseNet, Citrix	Distribution of Grocery kits	1520 people (300 families)	Poor households, slum dwellers and daily wagers	Cox Town, Janakiram Layout, Lingarajapuram, Chellekere, Horamavu, Hennur Bande, Baiyappanahalli areas in Bangalore
5	BREADS, IndiGo, ResponseNet	Distribution of packaged foods	20980 units	Migrants	Avalahalli, Kumbalagodu, Bannerghatta, Chamrajpet, Palace grounds, St. Charles School- migrant shelter, Kempegowda bus station, KGF, Lingarajapuram areas in Bangalore
6	BREADS, FVTRS	Distribution of grocery kits	897 people (216 families)	Migrants, daily wagers, slum dwellers	Lingarajapuram, RS Palya, Oil mill road, Janakiram Layout, KHB quarters, Kullappa circle, Kacharakannahalli in Bangalore
7	BREADS, DC, CWC-KGF	Provision of food	76 people	Migrants	Kolar
8	BREADS, Centre for Social Action -CHRIST (Deemed to be University)	Distribution of grocery kits	930 people (155 families)	Migrants	Lingarajapuram, Janakiram Layout in Bangalore
9	BREADS, BoscoNet, St. Joseph's College	Distribution of grocery kits	263 families	Migrants, daily wagers	Mahadevapura, Seshadripuram, Srirampura, Horamavu, Chellekere in Bangalore
10	BREADS, SOLAR PACK	Distribution of grocery kits	600 families	Migrants, poor households and daily wagers	Nanjangud, Chincholi
11	BREADS, Kanyakumari Social Service Society	Distribution of grocery kits	125 families	Daily wagers	Kuzhithurai, Pathukany, Chenamcode, Kulasekaram, Mukutukal, Manjalmoodu, Bengiri, Kalluvilai, Malaicode in Kanyakumari



# BREADS COVID 19- EMERGENCY RESPONSE

AS ON 15 JUNE 2020

SN	ACTIVITY	KERALA	KARNATAKA	MIGRANTS (KERALA)	TOTAL
1	DON BOSCO PARTNERS ENGAGED IN COVID RELIEF WORK	19	20	0	39
2	FACE MASKS PRODUCED FROM ALL DON BOSCO CENTRES	54300	195370	0	249670
3	GROCERY KITS DISTRIBUTED	3246	14864	1956	20066
4	READY-TO EAT-FOODS DISTRIBUTED	10238	38412	0	48650
5	BENEFICIARIES OF GROCERY KITS	16368	62823	8346	87537
6	BENEFICIARIES OF COOKED MEALS	940	50016	59400	110356
7	TOTAL BENEFICIARIES OF COOKED MEALS/ GROCERY KITS	17308	112839	67746	197893

## BREADS CALENDAR

MAY 2020

JUNE 2020

- COVID-19 relief work
- Online fund-raising campaigns for COVID 19 relief
- Online campaign on World Environment Day 2020
- Start of WeLive — a new project for social empowerment and micro enterprises for rural women in Kerala
- Start of the 2nd phase of the Foster Care programme in 10 districts across Karnataka

## NEWS

### BREADS donated 5000 masks to the Bangalore City Police

The Bangalore Rural Educational and Development Society (BREADS) which is the development office of the Salesians of Bangalore Province, has gifted 5000 face masks in cloth to Mr. Bhaskar Rao, City Police Commissioner, IPS. As the coronavirus is spreading across the lands, one of the most vulnerable groups is the police personnel who enforce the lockdown to check the community spread of the virus. A minimum of protective gear, a mask could save the day for them, said Fr. Joy Nedumparambil, Executive Director BREADS. As of now, BREADS has reached out to 16217 families with essential groceries, 194770... [more](#)



### The long way home from Kalaburagi to Kerala

It was on the night of 12th March, that I was shocked by the news of a septuagenarian's death due to COVID 19 in the Kalaburagi district of Karnataka. It was the first COVID 19 death in India and the local government immediately implemented a curfew in the district. We, the students and teachers, thought of leaving for our home state, Kerala, after the curfew. But we really got stuck when the Government of India implemented the lockdown. We waited with the hope of relaxation after April 14. Days became nights and nights turned to days. We tasted poverty at times and it was too bitter to taste. The scorching heat doodled her... [more](#)



### Don Bosco PYaR makes no Compromises in serving the Needy

The nation-wide lockdown since 25 March 2020 undoubtedly had adverse effects on everyone. The labour class of the country were the worst hit in multiple ways. Sulepet hobli in Chincholi taluk, Kalaburagi district, 70 kms away from the district headquarters, was the habitat of 15 tribal nomadic groups. On getting news of their existence, DB PYaR visited the families who were stranded without essentials. The life of these people became very hard after the outbreak of COVID 19. Originally from Bihar, these groups had come to Kalaburagi six months ago to sell natural medicines, which is their traditional business. Fr. Saji SDB... [more](#)



### BREADS Reaches out to Stranded Labourers in Kolar

Images of the plight of migrant and daily wage labourers during the COVID 19 lockdown, suffering hunger and deprivation due to loss of income, have been filtering into our awareness through the media. BREADS and the Don Bosco partners in Kerala and Karnataka have been very active on the ground in seeking out and helping these individuals and families in need. Therefore, Mr. Binu Varghese, State Coordinator of Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) turned to BREADS as a first resort to provide assistance to 72 migrants who were stranded at the Kolar railway station. On 13 May 2020, late at night, Mr. Binu received a call... [more](#)



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