

## COVID 19 AND CHILD LABOUR

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The COVID 19 situation continues to challenge the world and us to find effective ways to respond to it. Its impact on children's education and consequently on the issue of child labour is becoming a serious concern as the closure of schools continue. Another issue that has serious implications for children and their well-being is climate change. COVID 19 is one of the adverse consequences of our biodiversity being threatened by careless human actions. The month of June brings both these large themes into focus, prompting us to reflect and act upon these concerns across our working areas, which we report in this edition of Slice. I sincerely thank our donors and well-wishers for their support as we continue to reach out to those in need of help because of the pandemic.



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

COVID 19: Protect children from child labour NOW more than ever. This theme of World Day against Child Labour 2020 resonates strongly with BREADS' agenda. The impact of the pandemic is being felt deeply across all sections of society, but the children are especially vulnerable in different ways.

Protecting them from exploitation and harm is requiring us to become alert to new situations of danger especially because of the pandemic. There has been an unprecedented closure of schools across the world (188 countries affecting 91.3% of students) but this is not accompanied by the glee of extra holidays for a very large population of children. Lockdowns are sometimes lockups for children in abusive environments. To varying degrees, school was a space that provided respite from problems at home, even abuse in some cases; a chance to explore and learn, a hope for a different future and most basically, a warm fairly nutritious meal for the day. Importantly, school was also a place to play with friends, create bonds and socialise. The peer network and safe teachers can be a strong emotional support system for children. For those children who depended on school for these things, life has become even harder.

## CALENDAR

### JUNE 2020

- COVID 19 relief work in Kerala and Karnataka
- Celebration of World Environment Day
- Observation of World Day against Child Labour
- Online fundraising campaign for COVID 19 relief in Nagarhole

### JULY 2020

- COVID 19 relief work in Kerala and Karnataka
- Online consultation with children on Gender Empowerment and Age of Marriage of Girls

With the lack of incomes and livelihoods, adults are stressed out about survival. Children are automatically assigned to finding some way to supplement the family income—working, begging etc. Online learning is mostly unavailable and unfeasible for children of this background. With the impact of the pandemic expected to last for 6-12 months more (at the minimum), children of poor households are at very high risk of dropping out of school altogether as they focus more on surviving along with their families. Therefore, we need to protect these children now more than ever, from becoming child labourers.

## BREADS' RESPONSE

BREADS and its partners are trying to intervene in all possible ways to work around the situation. In Kerala, televised and online classes are organised even in government schools; but the lack of access because of technology and internet is causing students to despair. Where possible, BREADS is providing students in impoverished situations with televisions and smart phones to access school lessons. Through its programme Kerala Interstate Migrants Alliance for Transformation (KISMAT), BREADS reached out to 314 children of long-time migrants studying in local schools, to help them access online learning through 43 televisions and 10 smart phones that are otherwise unaffordable for them. It also provided stationery and school bags for these children.



In the Nagarhole forest belt, BREADS reached out to the tribal children there with books and stationery to help them practice their learning until schools reopen. There are no online classes being conducted in these areas. BREADS is supporting the school fees of children whose parents have lost their livelihoods, thereby impacting their ability to pay for children's education. In addition, BREADS is supporting Don Bosco schools to set up online platforms for learning by providing equipment and technology. This will enable structured learning for children from marginalised communities while schools remain closed due to the pandemic.

Continuing the COVID 19 relief work wherever needed, BREADS and its partners leave no stone unturned in reaching those in need. The table summarises the overall COVID 19 relief as on 6 July 2020.

COVID 19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE BY BREADS					
AS OF 6 JULY 2020					
SN	ACTIVITY	KERALA	KARNATAKA	MIGRANTS (KERALA)	TOTAL
1	Don Bosco houses engaged in COVID 19 relief	19	20	0	39
2	Face masks produced from all Don Bosco centres	54300	195370	0	249670
3	Grocery kits distributed	3246	15484	1956	20686
4	Ready-to-eat food distributed	10934	39118	0	50052
5	Beneficiaries of grocery kits	16368	66543	8346	91257
6	Beneficiaries of cooked food	940	50016	59400	110356
	<b>Total beneficiaries of cooked food/ grocery kits</b>	<b>17308</b>	<b>116559</b>	<b>67746</b>	<b>201613</b>



# REACHING OUT TO THE ADIVASIS OF NAGARHOLE

In its efforts to reach as many groups of people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, BREADS partnered with Good Quest Foundation, Project Vision, Corona Care Bengaluru, and AIFO India to support tribal colonies in Nagarhole and Bandipura forests in Karnataka with grocery kits, cookies and other eatables.

As yet untouched by the Corona virus itself, safe within the forests, these families were nevertheless affected by the fallout of the pandemic: lack of incomes because of the lockdowns, closed schools and anganwadis. Therefore, their food and living situations were badly affected, especially for the children as their free school meals and lessons were no longer available. Seeing the need of the people there, BREADS organised an exclusive online mobilisation drive to collect new clothes and educational materials (books, stationery) for the children of these colonies.



Thanks to generous donors, the successful drive enabled BREADS to reach out to 353 children aged 3-15 years with new clothes and educational materials on 27-28 June 2020. Grocery kits were also distributed to 620 families across 15 hamlets namely- Goluru Hadi, Bavali Hadi, Maanimoole, Anabethodu, Thimmanahosahalli, Kere Hadi, Sebinakoli Hadi, Nadadi, Kanthana Hadi, Seegur Hadi, Dadadalli Hadi, Vaderahalli Hadi, Alanahalli Hadi, Bavikere Hadi, and Kebbepura Hadi.

## OBSERVANCE OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - 5 JUNE 2020

### IT'S TIME FOR NATURE

DISTRICT	ACTIVITIES
<b>Bangalore Urban</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Half-day workshop for BOSCO Nilaya staff on medicinal plants: two varieties of Holy Basil, Indian Borage, Aloe Vera, Indian Tinospora, Chrysanthemum, Periwinkle and Sweet Basil. Saplings of these were planted on the premises and assigned to the care of the staff</li> </ul>
<b>Ballari</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting of 10 saplings in Don Bosco Hospet by the staff</li> </ul>
<b>Bidar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procured subsidised saplings at Rs. 3 each from the Forest department. Distributed 50-60 saplings per village with one sapling for every household with the space and willingness to nurture the plant. More than 790 plants in 10 villages planted so far.</li> <li>60 saplings were planted in the government schools in Gadgi panchayat</li> </ul>
<b>Chitradurga</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 saplings planted by the children of the tuition centre in Kodamballi village, Molkaluru taluk</li> </ul>
<b>Kalaburagi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planted 10 saplings of Indian beech, moringa, teak, pomegranate in each of the 5 government schools with functioning ECO clubs</li> </ul>
<b>Mysuru</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 saplings of mango, moringa and Indian beech were planted in Kesere and Belavathgrama Government Higher Primary Schools in Siddalingapura panchayat</li> <li>DB Makkalalaya staff decided to dedicate one hour daily to keeping the streets in their office neighbourhood clean</li> </ul>
<b>Raichur</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planted 108 saplings of mango, neem and rose apple in 7 Government Higher Primary schools in Devadurga taluk</li> </ul>
<b>Ramanagara</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40 gooseberry, guava and pomegranate saplings were distributed to 20 leaders of Child Rights Clubs to be planted in Ramanagara urban and rural, Channapatna, Magadi and Kanakapura taluks</li> </ul>
<b>Yadgir</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 650 saplings of moringa, neem, almond, teak, and custard apple were provided free by the Forest department and distributed to 24 government schools across 19 villages in Yadgir, Shahapur, Gurumitkal and Wadigera taluks.</li> <li>At the request of the Child Rights Clubs, the Horticultural department supplied banana, rose apple, pomegranate saplings to 22 government schools in these four taluks</li> </ul>
<b>Kollam</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planted a mango sapling at the Vishappinu Vida centre in Mundakkal as a symbol of strengthening our relationship with Nature. Planted ornamental varieties in the courtyard to celebrate biodiversity and to promote a system of nurturing life on earth</li> <li>Inaugurated "Women empowerment through livelihood and entrepreneurship". This new BREADS Bangalore and FCDP collaboration promotes sustainable livelihoods for women through organic farming and kitchen gardens in Kollam district, Kerala</li> </ul>

# OBSERVANCE OF WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR – 12 JUNE 2020

COVID 19: Protect children from child labour Now more than ever

District	Activities
<b>Bangalore Urban</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme-based activities on 'Watch out and protect children'</li> <li>• Awareness for lorry drivers and cleaners at Mahalaxmi layout APMC area</li> <li>• Used posters and pamphlets to create awareness among the public in city locations: bus stands, auto stands, tea shops, railway platforms etc. with focus on bus drivers, conductors, security guards, police, traffic police etc.</li> <li>• Awareness creation with pamphlets by Railway CHILDLINE for railway officials, public, and passengers in Krantiveera Sangoli Rayana railway station, Bengaluru</li> </ul>
<b>Ballari</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness programmes in the DB centre and 3 tuition centres in Hagaribommanahalli taluk</li> </ul>
<b>Bidar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loudspeaker announcements in all the taluks to raise awareness in collaboration with the Labour department</li> <li>• Rescue of children employed in tea shops, restaurants etc.</li> <li>• The Labodepartment sponsored education materials up to Rs. 45000 for 22 rehabilitated child labourers. These children were successfully enrolled in formal school after preparation at the Don Bosco Child Labour Rehabilitation Centre.</li> </ul>
<b>Chitradurga</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loudspeaker announcements to raise awareness with the permission of the District Labour Officer (DLO)</li> <li>• Posters used to create awareness in public places in Chitradurga city: DC's office, Electricity board, banks, bus stands, post office, railway station, taluk office and main circle</li> <li>• Online quiz competition for children</li> <li>• Online conference with the agencies and departments related to child welfare: CWC, DCPU, SJPU, other NGOs, a psychiatrist, and BREADS to discuss COVID 19 impact on child labour and ways to mitigate it. It was decided to meet fortnightly to monitor the situation.</li> </ul>
<b>Kalaburagi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loudspeaker announcements to raise awareness in the taluk cities in collaboration with the Labour department and CHILDLINE</li> </ul>
<b>Raichur</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Chinthalakunda government school, Devadurga taluk, 20 children, teachers and SDMC members were provided face masks and educated about COVID 19 preventive measures. Awareness was created about protecting children from potential harm through early marriage, child abuse, child labour, dropping out of school due to poverty and the loss of income due to the lockdown.</li> </ul>
<b>Ramanagara</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loudspeaker announcements to raise awareness in the city in collaboration with the DLO and the District Legal Services Authority</li> </ul>
<b>Yadgir</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loudspeaker announcements to raise awareness, distribution of leaflets to prevent child labour in Yadgir taluk in collaboration with the DLO</li> </ul>
<b>Tiruvananthapuram</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don Bosco Veedu and CHILDLINE organised a painting competition for children in Don Bosco Nivas on the theme 'freedom from Child Labour and dreams of the future'. Children shared their experiences of child labour and made speeches about observing the World Day against Child Labour</li> </ul>





# NEWS

### It's time for Nature

Since 1974, World Environment Day is celebrated every June 5 to focus on pressing environmental issues. This year, while the world still battles the COVID 19 pandemic, Nature is reclaiming its space and healing itself. The theme for 2020— Celebrating Biodiversity and the tagline “It’s time for Nature”—essentially encourages us to think about how we should treat Nature by celebrating its biodiversity. Over the years due to extensive pollution, the quality of air, water and soil has been alarmingly ... [more](#)



### Don Bosco PYaR in Support of the Migrants in Kalaburagi

The recent COVID 19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns tremendously impacted the lives of migrant labourers from Chhattisgarh, who had been working in Kalaburagi in construction sites. Their attempts to return to their native state failed due to the strict lockdowns. Fortunately, the lifting of the lockdown and the commencement of train services relieved their pain and they finally were allowed to travel on 10 June 2020 from Kalaburagi. Don Bosco Programme for Young at Risk and BREADS ... [more](#)



### A joint venture to aid tribal families in Nagarahole, Karnataka

BREADS Bangalore was happy to associate with the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), Good Quest Foundation, Project Vision, Aifo India and Corona Care Bengaluru in reaching out to the tribal colonies in the Nagarahole Forest East belt in Karnataka. A total of 800 families with more than 1800 children were supplied with essential items. The hamlets covered were Nagarahole Forest East belt (Aanaechowkuru aadi, Bamboochowku aadi, Janglaadi), Nagara... [more](#)



### World Environment Day 2020 – Devadurga

While humanity battles the COVID 19 pandemic, Nature received a much-needed break during the varying degrees of lockdown around the world. It was indeed time for Nature to heal itself and the result was noticeably cleaner air and water, and the increased sight and sound of birds and animals in the environment. It was a clear message that drastic climate action even for a short while is a powerful boost to Nature’s innate capacity to replenish itself. Don Bosco Devadurga observed World Environment Day.. [more](#)

