



BREADS
Bangalore Rural Educational
and Development Society

SLICE

NEWSLETTER

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BREADS Bangalore

www.breadsbangalore.org

START





Director's Message

FR GEORGE PS

Executive Director
BREADS

This edition of Slice is unusual, covering events from June to August; and in that period, of course, the most significant event that took place was the devastating landslides in Wayanad. Kerala is no stranger to disasters. But one can never get used to them because the tragic impact on humans and the environment is ever new.

As the Province Development Organisation, BREADS is responsible for the coordination of disaster relief in the province comprising of Kerala and Karnataka States. With the floods of 2018 and 2019 in Kerala and the COVID relief between 2020-21, BREADS was in the forefront to organise relief and rehabilitation for the affected people in collaboration with local as well as Don Bosco partners. In response to the recent Wayanad landslides, BREADS supported local partner Don Bosco Sultan Bathery to reach out to hundreds of people suffering from the loss of their loved ones and livelihoods.

I thank every benefactor and funding agency who responded to the situation with kind generosity and especially, Don Bosco College Management, all the students, staff and their families, for their courageous and generous personal responses to a highly challenging and distressing situation. We are continuing our efforts in the same spirit, rebuilding the lives of the people particularly through psychosocial support and other rehabilitation programmes.

Our Response to the Wayanad Landslides

Wayanad is an ecologically sensitive district in Kerala with forested hilly terrains. In a terrifying illustration of the combined impact of climate change and ecologically inappropriate development, when the Mundakkai region in Wayanad received 572 mm of rain in two days, it resulted in the collapse of hillsides, sending torrents of water, rocks and mud gushing through the land. Two villages were destroyed, 231 people died, 212 parts of bodies were recovered, and 128 people remain untraced or missing as per reliable data sources. Twelve billion rupees worth of property, infrastructure, crops and cattle were destroyed. While the army, state government and local people responded promptly and admirably to the disaster, rescuing as many people as possible, it does

not take away from the harsh reality that environmental experts had cautioned about such disasters as the result of unsafe mining and quarrying.

Both the government and non-governmental agencies/individuals responded very quickly and generously to the disaster. With the control of relief operations by the government, non-government agencies such as BREADS and the Don Bosco partners collaborated closely with the government machinery to reach out to affected people. BREADS, other individuals and institutions supported DB College with materials, financial and human resources.



Photo Credit: bbc.com

The 300-strong college team was organised and deployed for various purposes. They were involved in evacuating survivors and transporting to relief camps. They helped in camp organisation, procured and packed relief materials and delivered them to relief camps and affected individuals. Students also volunteered in 41 camps, serving in all capacities according to the need, also supporting the district administration at the Collectorate for data entry and relief management. Real time communication among the team, volunteers, and people in need, ensured effective coordination and prompt response to the situation as it unfolded. Devastating disasters such as this sudden landslide have huge psychological impact on the survivors, as they try to cope with loss of loved ones and a way of living. The professional staff and DB College students equipped themselves to offer trauma counselling to affected people in camps and outside of them.



Beyond Material Support

The BREADS-supported counselling team provided psychosocial support to traumatised people, especially 40 children, in the camp in St. Joseph's UP School, Meppadi, a place close to the affected area. The survivors of the disaster had to grapple with the trauma of their losses and counselling provided basic support at this time.

Kutti-yidam—Children’s Corner

Disasters are often managed at the adult level—rescue, organising survival, managing loss, future planning, etc. These are largely things that children are left out of. Because of their own fear, worry and stress about survival, affected adults often don’t have the time and mental space to provide support for their children. A very sad fact about the landslides is that 53 children lost their lives and the traumatic impact on their companions would be very high. In a sensitive intervention, in collaboration with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), a children’s space was created in each relief camp to engage children in activities that would help them process their trauma and fear. The space was open from 9 am to 3 pm every day to children in the age group of 3-18 years. After initial reluctance, the children showed great interest in participating in group activities there, conducted by the DB College and DREAM counsellors. Group therapy sessions were conducted for the children in addition to art and music therapy, indoor and outdoor games, and various other recreational activities. One of the many interventions by the DREAM counsellors was the appropriate psychological and emotional support of a child, who was re-traumatized by inappropriate media questioning about the loss of his family. Amid the turmoil and uncertainty, this *Kutti-yidam* became a space of solace for the children.

Overall, the BREADS team responded dynamically and effectively to the landslides, offering much-needed support to people affected by them.



Going Forward

As of 24 August 2024, all 702 families (a total of 2556 individuals) residing in various relief camps were relocated to rented houses, government quarters, and the homes of relatives.

Going forward into the next phase of rehabilitation and reconstruction of lives and livelihoods, BREADS is in discussion with local partners and communities to identify the needs of the affected people and ways of addressing them. Some interventions are the provision of additional professional counsellors, social workers who can support people through life adjustments in the coming months, as well as assistance towards materials required in the temporary rented homes of the survivors. In collaboration with the district administration, long term rehabilitation plans, especially for building houses for the survivors and alternative forms of care for orphaned children, are underway.

BREADS and its Don Bosco partners especially intend to support children in the landslide-affected areas, through various interventions:

- Educational support through learning materials and scholarships
- Psychological support for traumatised people with special focus on children
- Enabling disaster preparedness for children in schools, colleges
- Capacity building of teachers to provide support for traumatised children



- Organising events and group activities to bring them back to the normal rhythm of life

As the beloved Kerala festival of Onam approaches in September, it is a very sorrowful reminder of everything lost, and yet it also carries the message of renewal and hope in every season of life. BREADS is working with the district administration to specially commemorate the festival with the survivors of the disaster. We hope that we will be able to effectively help children and their families find their footing again as they embark on the long difficult journey of rebuilding their lives.

The Months in News



AUGUST 2024

August events highlighted the role and power of community in creating safer and more equitable situations in life. From the tragedy of the Wayanad landslides to human rights training for social activists, women's entrepreneurship or CSR employee engagement, we are reminded that we can bring about transformation in society through our concerted actions.



Bringing health care services closer to communities!

On August 2, 2024, the Don Bosco Child Labour Mission, Davangere, successfully conducted a mobile clinic..

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Women's Youth Empowerment Project (WYEP) – Cake Baking Class and Certificate Distribution Ceremony

The Women's Youth Empowerment..

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Tackling Digital Dependency

A workshop on "Mobile and Pornography Addictions in the New Digital World" was held on August 10th and 11th, 2024 at Don Bosco Provincial..

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Unleashing Changemakers: Human Rights Workshop Sparks Action!

On 20-21 August 2024, the Human Rights Training Workshop was held, bringing together 40 participants from...

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All in a Day's Work!

In an initiative by the Dell Talent and Acquisition team with BREADS, 128 Dell employees came to work on 30 August 2024: not to their usual workstations...

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JULY 2024

July had youth at the centre of many activities. Social Work students educated the public about children’s rights. BREADS’ Employment and Skilling Academy (DB BEST) students were coached by professionals before they embarked on their careers—chefs from Taj West End demonstrated culinary skills and Deutsche Bank volunteers taught resume skills. This was our 24th batch with 77 trainees, all of whom were successfully placed in jobs! That’s a 100% result!



Students educate Mysuru citizens

Mysuru in Karnataka is a popular tourist destination, offering many options for sightseeing. Unfortunately..

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The Second Batch of Human Rights Training for Social Workers and Community Organisers

On July 12th and 13th, 2024, the second batch of the Human Rights Training...

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A great opportunity to test the potential of all the BEST students!?!?

The volunteers of Deutsche Bank conducted a mock interview session...

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Tasty lesson!

A team of chefs from Hotel Taj West End, Bangalore gifted the students of DB BEST Academy an impactful culinary training session. They demonstrated the..

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Adieu Batch 24!!

Students from the 24th Batch of DB BEST Academy bids farewell. The students celebrated their last day with much joy as they were stepping..

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June was dedicated to children—promoting their rights, preventing child labour, promoting education and skilling, as well as the preservation of the environment. Don Bosco partners across Karnataka and Kerala demonstrated through words and actions, their commitment to the child's right to a secure childhood, sound education and a healthy green environment.



We are #GenerationRestoration

This year, World Environment Day (WED) on 5 June, drew our attention...

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You can fly too!

The girls of Don Bosco Vatsalya Bhavan (BREADS' partner) were excited to host the crew members from Indigo airlines on 9 June 2024.

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DBSSC- Yadagiri appreciated for Child Protection

During the observation of the World Day Against Child Labour on 12 June...

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Sparking Curiosity

Sixteen Morgan Stanley (MS) employees changed their clientele for a day. Instead of their usual clients, they visited Don...

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Acting on Commitments

Don Bosco partners in various parts of Karnataka supported by BREADS, were on the streets on World Day Against...

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ADPG – Making Friends with Bangalore Children

Mr. Gilles Conesa, President of Amis du Père Guézou (ADPG), which partners...

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Shaping Career Paths Through Hands-On Resume Training

BREADS and Deutsche Bank (DB) have long been partners in DB BEST...

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World, here we come!

June 22, 2024, was an important day for the young trainees of BREADS' DB BEST Academy in Bangalore...

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Reorientation to Human Rights

A Human Rights Training for social workers and community organisers was held on 24-25 June 2024 at the Salesian...

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CALENDAR

AUGUST 2024

- Human Rights ToT workshops
- Independence Day celebrations
- Project monitoring visits by BREADS
- Visits to landslide-affected areas in Wayanad
- CSR employee engagement programmes – DELL
- Inauguration of creche in Lingarajapuram, Bangalore
- Social Work student internships
- Facilitation towards DB Green Schools for Principals and Managers



SEPTEMBER 2024

- Project monitoring visits by BREADS
- MINDS — induction programme
- Rehabilitation work - Wayanad
- Human Rights ToT workshops
- Resource mobilisation workshop in Hyderabad
- Poverty reduction project meeting



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