

COVID-19! Response from Intact India



COVID-19 is wreaking havoc globally and it is on the rise in India in spite of extended 'lockdown' periods. As on today, 27th of May, more than 150,000 people are infected in India with death toll of 4400. In Tamilnadu alone more than 17000 people are infected.

The families of unorganized labourers, persons with disabilities and the tribal population in Kalrayan hills are facing twin problems: the infections and the hunger.

While they struggle to protect themselves against infection of the disease they have to ensure their existence against hunger. The challenge is between life and livelihood. As such, social distancing and washing hands don't mean much for these people.

INTACT is helping such sections of people in our primary target area, Tiruchirapalli and Kallakurichi (Kalrayan hills) districts. We are carrying out the following activities consistently:

- Distribution of food, biscuits and water for the hungry.
- Distribution of Rice and food stuff on weekly basis
- Distribution of Face masks, soaps, sanitizers
- Providing necessary information and Counselling
- Awareness activities through pamphlets, posters and presentations
- Facilitation service for essential things, banking, medicines through field workers.

Kalrayan Hills

Tribal population in Kalrayan hills was unaware of the seriousness of Covid-19. They were crowding in market places and completely ignored hand washing or physical distancing in spite of the curfew and campaigns by our field workers and volunteers.



Road to Kottaputhur village



Containment Zone (Vellimalai)

Since it is dry summer season, as usual, there was mass-migration of tribal families to Kerala, Karnataka and other destinations in Tamilnadu for seasonal employment. In many villages 50% of population have migrated for seasonal employment this year. This was the risk. When Government of India declared nationwide lock down from 23rd March, 2020 most of these migrant labourers lost their employment, income or shelter to stay. They were forced to vacate and go back to their homes. Since there was no transportation facility many had to walk hundreds of kilometers to Kalrayan hills.



Arrival of migrant labourers from Mysore

Actually there was no infection in the mountains until the first migrant arrived home. At present all the infected persons were treated and there are very few of them under medication. There is no casualty so far. But now, the State Governments have organized busses to bring these people back accommodating 20 persons in a bus (at the cost of the tribals). Within two days more than 8000 people have arrived in the villages around Vellimalai where we are working. They are being screened for infection which will take more than a week to complete.

However, they are advised for self-isolation. So far 10 villages confirmed as containment zones and several others are under observation.

Challenging task at hand, our team is doing their best, taking proper protection to reach the people who are in need. A feeling of being cared for and supported helps them to sustain themselves during this crisis.



The needs:

We are in need of further quantities of the materials in the weeks to come:

- Face Masks
- Personal Protective Equipments (PPE)
- Soaps
- Hand Sanitizers
- Rice Groceries & food stuff Groceries (food stuff, spices)



Part of relief materials (Face masks, rice, sanitizers, soaps etc..)

The battle cannot be fought alone. I feel it will be a long challenge and have a fear that the worst is yet to come.

I appeal to our friends, philanthropists and citizens to join us in this serious battle to help the poor families living in insecurity in various villages in Kalrayan hills and families of persons with disabilities in Tiruchirapalli district. You can also put us in contact with sources of help and support. Please find the bank information for sending your contributions.

Thank you,

Stay safe & healthy!



Thomas Ebenezer
Director, Intact India

For more information:
Email: intact1992@gmail.com
Website: www.intactindia.org

Bank Account Details

For Overseas contribution:

Integrated Action Trust, (INTACT)
Account Number: 10322365145
Swift Code: SBININBB467
IFS Code: SBIN0001312
Branch : Tiruchirapalli Town
State Bank of India, Shree Complex, Madurai Road,
Tiruchirapalli-620008

For contribution within India:

Integrated Action Trust, (INTACT)
Account Number: 10322361402
IFS Code: SBIN0001312
Branch: Tiruchirapalli Town
State Bank of India, Shree Complex, Madurai Road,
Tiruchirapalli-620008

Alternatively you can also take contact with:

Intacts Vänner, Sweden:

Email: intactsvanner@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.intactsvanner.com/>

Intact Schweiz, Switzerland:

Email: escacchi@bluewin.ch
Website: <https://intactschweiz.ch/>

Please Sound, Italy:

Email: pleasesound@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.pleasesound.org/>