



# RAYS OF HOPE



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE  
COVID-19 RESPONSE





# THIS ISSUE

## COVID-19 Response

Page 2-3-4-5-6-7

## Education

Page 8-9-10

## Healthcare

Page 11

## 74th Independence Day India 2020

Page 12

## Arrivederci Matteo

Page 13

### ***Thank you to each of you for your support!***

As per World Health Organization, globally as of 14th September 2020, there have been 28,918,900 confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 922,252 deaths [1]. India is the second worst-hit nation by the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of total coronavirus infections. In India, as on 14th September 2020, 49,30,236 confirmed cases and 80,776 deaths reported from 35 States/Union Territories [2].

The persistent spread of COVID-19 has placed enormous strain on humanitarian organizations as well as on marginalized communities. Silently, they are facing the risks and struggling to meet their daily needs.

At frontline, KIRAN team is doing initiatives to equip the communities impacted by the pandemic like providing relief kits contextualized to local needs comprising essentials to provide appropriate nutrition, sharing awareness on preventing spread of COVID-19, improving communication, providing education support and medicine supplies to children with and without disabilities.

Thanks to contributions from different friends, supporters and donors, the team involved in these variety of initiatives and to many people's efforts working remotely in this disrupted phase. Through your kind support, KIRAN was able to reach out to the needy communities so that they can survive and manage through these challenging times.

We sincerely express our gratitude to everyone who would be willing to come forward and contribute to support these families in need during this difficult time. Your support will go a long way in helping us in our efforts.

***To contribute in making a difference in many lives - Act Now!***

KIRAN team wishes you to stay safe and healthy!

[1] World Health Organization

[2] The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India







### Improving communication to reach out families living in remote areas

*40 poor families of children with disabilities were provided communication support (mobile handsets) to continue telerehabilitation services*

Parents and caregivers of children and youth with disabilities are facing unique challenges as a result of COVID-19. While social distancing has been widely promoted as the best strategy to avoid transmission, that advice may not be realistic for people who care for children and youth with disabilities. Children with disabilities require therapy or assistance with daily tasks. Children's rehabilitation and special education services are being disrupted with the closures of schools and limited reach to the rehabilitation centre. In remote areas, children with disabilities with poor economic situations are getting affected more as they do not have another medium to avail of essential services. KIRAN provided mobile handsets to 40 families of children with disabilities so that along with other communication they can benefit from telerehabilitation services and other updates easily. After this support, regular communication and telerehabilitation consultations services are being provided by therapists and special educators to children with disabilities.





Humanitarian efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in remote areas of Mirzapur and Varanasi districts of Uttar Pradesh, India

With support from Roche and Embassy of Switzerland

Due to COVID-19, the last five months have been challenging and such tough situations are expected to continue in coming months. The life of poor as well as families of people with disabilities residing in rural areas most, in many ways, despite having some relaxation from the lockdown/restrictions situations. As many of these identified families mainly work as a labourer in agriculture and informal sector. Most of them have lost their job and reinforced to return to their respective villages and have no earning resources enough in this tight situation. Their life became miserable and facing difficulties to arrange daily needs commodities. To fulfil these gaps and complement various efforts, KIRAN provided support to 677 identified persons/children with disability and marginalized families of Mirzapur and Varanasi districts of Uttar Pradesh. These families were given grains and hygienic materials which are very much essential for survival in this life-threatening condition.



677 Families

533 Female  
144 Male

189 Children/Persons with disabilities

488 Marginalized Children/Persons

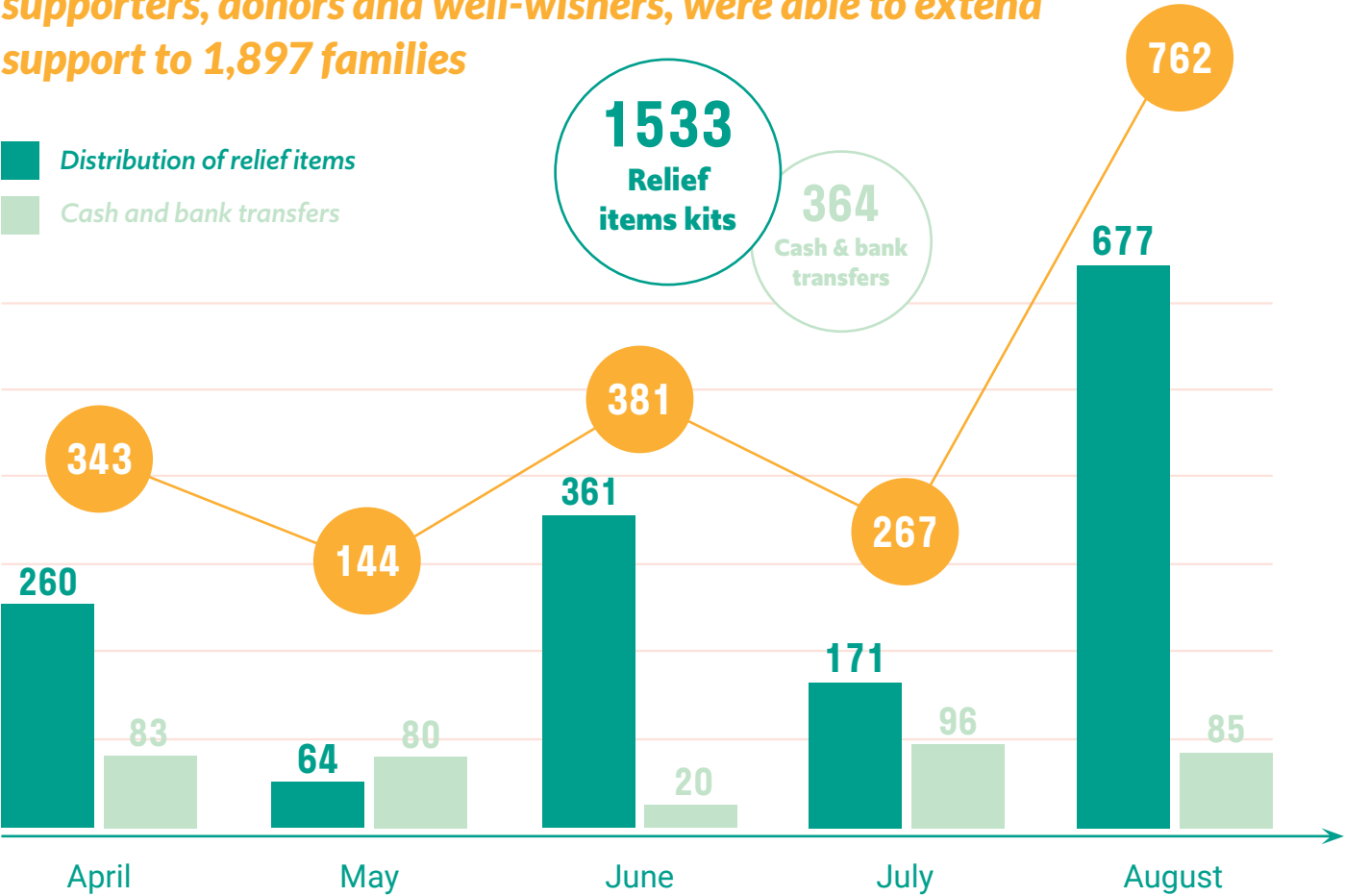
A big thank you to ROCHE and Embassy of Switzerland, India for their valuable contribution to reach out to these families with such vital support.

The list of distributed materials:

Nutritional supplies		Hygiene supplies	
Pulses	2Kg	Sanitary Pads	For 2 to 3 months
Grains	2Kg	Soap	4 pcs
Mustard oil	2Lt	Dishwasher	2 pcs
Spices	250gm	Soap for washing clothes	2 pcs
Soyabeen	1Kg		
Vegetables	5Kg		
Jaggery	1Kg		



In these last four months, KIRAN team along with its supporters, donors and well-wishers, were able to extend support to 1,897 families





# IN ACTION: ONSITE





# IN ACTION: ONSITE





# AWARENESS ABOUT COVID-19





# Assessment exercises

The present situation caused by the COVID-19 has vastly affected and disturbed the life of people globally. At the same time, it provides an opportunity to find out different perspectives of dealing with our day to day life. The present learning for education has also changed from classroom in schools to digital classes at home. At regular intervals, institutions are teaching, supporting children and assessing the progress through such available digital platforms.

In KIRAN school, attempting the digital approaches for teaching and conducting the regular assessment exercises of the students in different (mainly three) formats or approaches as per available resources.

**Through video classes:** In the Pre-primary classes, the tests were taken through video calls on individual basis whereas in Primary and Upper Primary classes it was conducted through worksheets. Students were allotted a time limit within which they had to complete and send back their completed worksheets to their respective subject teachers. About 75% of students were able to give exams in this mode.

**Telephonic one to one:** Some of the students who did not have smartphones or they did not have internet recharge were called by their subject teachers individually and evaluated through oral question answer-based assessment (QABA) method. About 10% of students were able to participate.

**Test taken at school:** Some students from the surrounding areas of the school, who didn't have either smart or bar phones, were coordinated by the subject teachers and their tests were taken nearby to their respective areas. The social distancing and sanitization rules were strictly followed during this activity. About 10% of students were able to participate in it.

## Online classes for trainee teachers

In the month of August, the teaching faculty were engaged to manage online classes of students pursuing Diploma in Special Education (specialization in Cerebral Palsy). The initial ten topics were covered in almost 30 hours of online classes. The students are becoming tech friendly and teachers are now well equipped to transact online classes.





## Improving learning facilities for students especially girls with and without disabilities

Education is the right of children. In India, the gender gap in literacy rate is very contrasting. Women are a vulnerable section of society, even more struggling for females with disabilities.

KIRAN is determined to march towards its vision of an equitable society for persons with disabilities especially women. KIRAN constantly disperse an abundance of efforts to help this section of society to excel. One such effort is to create safe, accessible, and barrier-free learning spaces. KIRAN has built an accessible, barrier-free hostel for girls with disabilities and with poor economic backgrounds. The motive is to provide a better learning opportunity and healthcare services (especially rehabilitation) in KIRAN village for the girls residing at faraway. One of such interventions becomes possible with the valuable support of **"LINA-LOUISE Project"**. Thank you for such vital and precious contributions for the betterment of society.



## In community: Sharing of experiences by teachers

A teacher's training session was organized to discuss the challenges and opportunities of education (online) under purview of COVID-19, at UPS Vidyalaya at Badhwa in Majhawa block of Mirzapur district. In the training session, challenges of online education, social life, economic

crisis, and increasing mental illness were discussed and elaborated due to existing situations. In the end of the session, a few remedial suggestions were made for coping up the pandemic situation.





# Exchanging learning through webinars

## Protection of child rights

A webinar was organized by 24 x 7 Nyaya on "Protection of child rights – A way to develop nation" on 16th of August 2020. The purpose of the webinar was to share a reflection on the situation of children and crime against them as well as legal rights and remedies available in the country. The key facilitators were Ms. Sangeeta J.K, Prof. Handu, Legal practitioner Mr. Jain, Mr. Madhok and a few more experts. The feedback of the webinar by the participants was positive, informative and useful.



## Constitution and disability

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) organized a webinar on "Constitution and disability" related issues on 25th August 2020 which was attended by some of the team members in KIRAN. The key speakers of webinar were Ms. Shakuntala D. Gamlin, DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ms. Tarika, Assistant Director, DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Directors of all National Institutes

working in the field of disabilities, the Heads of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFD) and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO). The key recommendations in the webinar was bringing the disability under the marginalized category of the constitution through the amendment and to have a representation of persons with disabilities from panchayat level up to parliament.





# HEALTHCARE

## Caring for children through different services

The rehabilitation professionals from KIRAN delivered key services for children living nearby areas of KIRAN such as case assessment of neurological, orthopedic cases and follow-up , CTEV plaster, special education, tele-rehabilitation and tele-education, to the beneficiary while taking all the safety measures. The team is also involved in providing dry ration distribution, support for communication through mobile handsets, visit to community areas, practice sessions and file upgradation in the soft copy.



## Supporting parents of children with disabilities

As public transport has started, the visits of children and their parents have improved for health needs (rehabilitation services). After a long break of COVID-19, some of the parents started visiting KIRAN with lots of queries and expectations. The different professionals of

parent child care services have answered their queries and also motivated them to follow further rehabilitation plans for their children. The tele-rehabilitation services have been also provided to the beneficiaries who were unable to visit.







## 74th Independence Day India 2020

Independence Day is an annual event on the 15th August 2020 commemorating the anniversary of India's independence from the British Empire on 15th August 1947. This year, the event was celebrated with residential staff and their families in the KIRAN village. The flag hoisting was done by Ms. Sangeeta JK, Founder and President of KIRAN Society. She gave a message to KIRAN village members on peaceful living, cultural harmony, love and care for each other. After the flag hoisting and the national anthem, the music teachers presented a patriotic song. A short speech was delivered by Ms. Nidhi Biswas, Head of Department - Education, as the concluding part of the ceremony. The event ended with distribution of some sweets to everyone.







## Arrivederci Matteo...

Hi everyone, I'm Matteo Zattra, I'm 39 and I'm Italian. From 17 December 2019 to 31 August 2020 I was a volunteer at KIRAN as a carpenter in the carpentry of the center. My job was to help trainees in various jobs. Unfortunately, in March 2020 due to COVID-19 the center was closed and the trainees and staff returned home. I continued to support carpentry as a maintenance engineer, I studied, read and built wooden chess boards. In July 2020 the carpentry reopened, but without the trainees, my work continued as a helper and builder of some indoor games.

My experience is divided into two very different moments. The first moment was in the first 4 months (before COVID-19) an intense period of work, knowledge, experiences and parties ... a moment full of joy and commitment. The second moment concerns the isolation due to the contagion. A very hard period, where you were afraid of other people because maybe they were infected, where you could not move freely on the street and food was scarce. In spite of everything, I feel lucky because I have always been helped and supported by the people of the center. Everyone here has been kind and caring towards me. I have always felt supported and encouraged in these difficult times.

I thank everyone for the beautiful and intense experience and I hope my testimony will be useful for future volunteers ... a hug ... Matteo.





# DONATE

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SUPPORT  
is valuable**



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reach us at **+91-7571010009**

for more information visit us at  
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International donors please write to [finance@kiranvillage.org](mailto:finance@kiranvillage.org)

*Education is the most powerful  
weapon which you can use to  
change the world.*

*Nelson Mandela*