

Secunderabad Province - Social Intervention during COVID-19

In response to this invitation from our Provincial Superior most of our communities have launched out to identify the neediest, mobilise resources, collaborate with others, and extend service to the people in need. Following are some of the services offered by our communities.

St. Francis College for Women, Begumpet organized **COVID 19 Relief Program** in collaboration with its Department of Social Management. The relief Program of the College is a Phased Program. For Phase 1 Brahmanwadi slum was selected. It is located in the heart of city and near to the college has around 100 families who basically cater their services as domestic workers, plumbers, electricians, daily labourers, and construction workers etc. most of whom are tribal migrants from Andhra Pradesh. However a good majority of them are rag pickers. The lives of such have come to a standstill because of their inability to earn their livelihood due to sudden late informed lockdown.

On 2nd April 2020, the COVID-19 Relief Program was formally launched at 11.00 a.m. to help these 100 affected families of Brahmanwadi slum and 100 ration kits were allotted for them while 50 kits to different migrant workers stranded in the city and who are in contact with Sr. Lissy Annamma Joseph - Director of National Workers Movement for help and support. A sum total of Rs. 2,32,500 was spent for the provision for 150 kits.

Thereafter the 10 slum community leaders who were selected from the Brahmanwadi received the tokens from the dignitaries. This Coupon acts as a pass to collect their month long ration from the local supermarket with which the college has placed the order of ration kits for these 100 deserving families. These leaders were entrusted with 10 families each to help them receive their provision from the store. On each day one member from each of these 25 families will go and receive their ration kit. This principle was adopted keeping in mind the protocol rule prescribed by the Government of maintaining social and physical distance and to avoid people clogging into groups. The recipients were also informed that the collection of ration kit was spread across four days starting from 2nd April 2020.

St. Francis School and Junior College, Secunderabad, Hyderabad

Under the Leadership of Sr. Carmely Thaniath the whole community of sisters and St. Francis School and Junior College sprang into action in order to respond to the most needy in the Secunderabad area where there are many categories of people including migrant workers, domestic workers, vendors, security personnel, daily wage workers, homeless, beggars, widows etc. The community volunteered to purchase and pack the provision, identify and contact the neediest in the area and made arrangements for the distribution of essential things for a family for a week with safe distance to be followed by the recipients. 150 families were identified and packets distributed worth Rs 1600/- each to all of them on 3rd April as planned with participation from all the members of the community.

Holy Mary Convent Saifabad

Responding to the COVID-19 lockdown and sensing the need of people in the neighbourhood Holy Mary Community with Sr. Teresa Varu and Sr. Elsy Joseph taking leadership provided ration to the neighbouring families who were in financial crisis and had no food.

Second Phase of the Programme

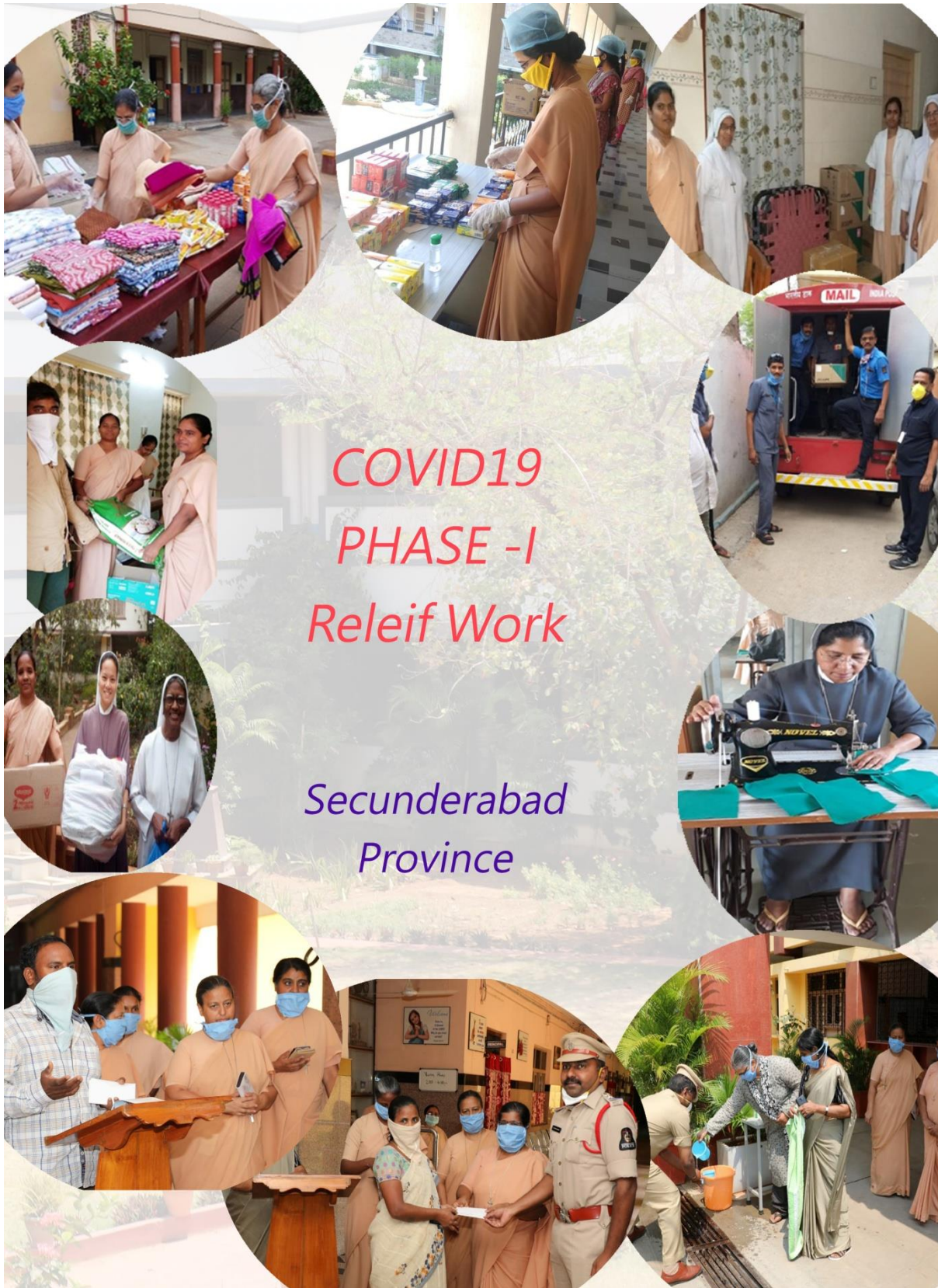
On 2nd April there was a message from the Social Activists group that due to the Emergency situation caused by the death of a woman at Gandhi Hospital, Musheerabad there was violence on health personnel and Police evacuation of 200 and more people who were in the hospital premises due to lockdown. Some of them were discharged from the hospital; some were attenders, some from village who had come for follow up treatment and were taken to Lalapet Stadium and there was an urgent need for assistance. They needed food, clothes, and cots for the just discharged, recently delivered women, bed sheets, towels, soaps, etc.

Information was brought to the SCCG city communities and there was great enthusiasm among all sisters to come to the assistance of the evacuated people. Vijay Marie Hospital community, St. Francis Convent, Begumpet, St. Francis, Secunderabad, Capitanio Convent and Vijay Marie College of Nursing, and Holy Mary Convent provided the needed basic materials. While in the first phase the contribution and distribution was made with financial and groceries to the neighbourhood, in the second phase it was a response to a crisis situation of the poor and marginalised who had no place to go amidst lock down and had no basic amenities to live until the lock down was over. There was great joy in giving and detachment from one's personal belongings and share whatever the community had with a true spirit of care and concern.

Mea Niketan Pune, Maharashtra: The sisters of Mea Niketan Pune are utilising their time in stitching masks for the police and public in their city and neighbourhood as cases of Covid-19 are on the increase. The police were only happy to come and collect the masks they prepared free of cost and they took the responsibility of distribution. The watchman who is a tailor worked from home while the whole community in cooperation with the staff reached out to a large number of people in the locality of Chakkan, Pune.

Sr. Lissy Annamma Joseph who is involved with unorganised labour and migrant workers was able to reach out to 1000 migrants by availing the offer given by the NGOs and Government. Similarly the overseas migrants and their families were reached out through the staff at various districts of Andhra Pradesh both for receiving help and in assisting them and their families in this time of crisis.

Fifteen of the South Sudanese Guest Students were helped with Rs. 3000/- each at this time of crisis to buy their provision as they are poor students and thrown out of the hostel. Sr. Lissy took initiative in encouraging and collecting this amount from ATCRI Executive board members.



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