



**NOV.  
2020**

# I V D TRUST

**INTEGRATED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT**

*Newsletter No.30*

*. . . working in India to relieve rural poverty.*

This year has presented everyone with extraordinary challenges. Apart from all the difficulties that we have faced trying to continue with our work under present circumstances, there has been the constant background worry about whether all of those involved in our work have managed to keep safe – our partners, and all of our supporters. We hope you are all well, and thank you so much to everyone for their continuing support and interest.

I'm afraid this is not a Covid-free zone! It is inevitable that it has affected everyone, another problem on top of all the others that people have to face daily. It was natural that we should keep in close touch with our partners. And we watched the figures, here in the UK and in India, too, in Delhi and in Odisha, puzzling about the whys and wherefores. Suffice to say that only a small number of our project staff contracted Covid-19, and they have all recovered. Much of this remains a total mystery; no doubt it will provide data for academic work on comparative studies for years to come. Many of you have been in touch asking how things have gone, and this newsletter will answer some of your questions. It shows what we have managed to do in spite of everything. We hope you will be impressed with what our partners have achieved in helping their communities, and while continuing with project work wherever possible.

I've written, briefly, about the progress of Covid-19 in India, especially in Odisha and Delhi where our partners work. This sets the context for the action we have been able to take. In Nuapada we have funded a nine-month project which is designed especially to address the issues raised by Covid-19. We have carried out Covid-awareness and alleviation work across all our other projects, helping communities and individuals find their way through this situation, doing all they can to minimise the damage that is done to the lives of people who were already living on the margins. And, at the same time, we have continued wherever possible with our long-term works which remains as important as ever.

We are only able to write briefly about our projects in this newsletter, If you would like to know more about any of our work, please do not hesitate to get in touch at: [helenanightingale@hotmail.com](mailto:helenanightingale@hotmail.com) In the meantime, we are really grateful to you all, and . . .

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

## HOW COVID-19 HAS AFFECTED INDIA

When the pandemic first appeared, we had serious concerns about how it might affect our project areas, and India generally. We know the financial fragility of the majority of people, and are only too aware of the inadequacy of healthcare services. Most people live in over-crowded conditions, with limited access to clean water, and the cities are appallingly polluted. All these are factors that contribute to long-term diseases which would seem to put people at greater risk from Covid-19.

India has had 8,590,000 million cases so far, with about 127,500 deaths. The numbers are huge, but for a population of 1.3 billion, the rate has been much lower than feared. The real problem is that the figures cannot be more than indicators, because of the unreliability of recording especially in rural areas..

Things started off very badly, when Narendra Modi announced a total national lockdown with only a few hours' notice. Millions of migrant workers were caught out, hundreds of miles from home with no income and no accommodation. There was chaos and many appalling and sometimes heroic stories. By hook or by crook, most migrant workers returned to their villages, some of them carrying the virus with them. Quarantine Centres were set up which staved off the worst of the medical impact. Meanwhile, most families had lost their income; and for many migrant families this was their total cash income for the year. As the virus took hold, it soon became clear that medical services were not adequate to deal with a large number of cases, and there are horrific stories of suffering.

Even though the lockdown has been eased, there is no denying the economic and medical suffering that has been caused, but we are puzzled to see that India has been far less affected than one might have expected. To quote a BBC report: *"India has a sixth of the world's population and a sixth of the reported cases. However, it accounts for only 10% of the world's deaths from the virus, and its case fatality rate or CFR, which measures deaths among Covid-19 patients, is less than 2%, which is among the lowest in the world."*

There are a number of possible reasons. The median age in India is 26; here it is 40. Given that Covid-19 affects older people more, this might be a factor. Other ideas have been put forward: two studies (not yet peer-reviewed) have looked at 106 and 122 countries, comparing 24 parameters, and conclude that low income countries appear to have a higher immunological response to the disease. It is proposed that *"Covid-19 deaths are lower in countries which have a higher population exposed to a diverse range of microbes, particularly of what is called "gram-negative bacteria". These bacteria typically are responsible for severe pneumonia, blood and urinary tract and skin infections. But they also are believed to produce an antiviral cytokine - molecules which help fight pathogens - called interferon which protects cells against the coronavirus."*

Whatever the reasons, the cost has been catastrophic, especially for the one-third of the population living below the poverty line. Meanwhile, India is making plans to roll out a vaccination plan for its 1.3 billion population. The logistics of this are massive. We hold our breath and hope that this will help us all to deal with the pandemic, wherever we are.

**Recent funders include:** Jennifer Anderson, David Bennett, The Big Lottery Fund, Mike Deeks, The Just Trust, Gillie Howarth, Douglas MacIldoon, The Network for Social Changr, Quaker Relief Grants, Religious Society of Friends (Cornwall), Ann Scott, Mary Stephens, and many others

## HOW COVID-19 HAS AFFECTED OUR WORK

From April to July, the priority was to respond to the immediate needs due to COVID-19, and most direct project work came to a standstill. The priority for our partners was to see what were the urgent needs of their communities, and what role they could play in helping address those needs. It was a time of panic and fear, as people wondered what might befall them in the months to come. Both CHALE CHALO and the BALIGA TRUST worked closely with local government staff, supporting their initiatives, and doing what they do best - filling the many gaps, working with local communities, raising awareness, enabling local people to access the various government schemes and supports that were made available. And ensuring government officials carry out their Duties. Our volunteers, Women's Self-help Group members, and teachers were mobilised and trained to take part in COVID-19 awareness campaigns, health checks, supporting returning migrants to quarantine, and distributing soap, sanitiser, masks, etc.

The Baliga Trust staff played an active role in ensuring that food supplies were distributed to those who most needed it. This was especially important in Delhi where shops and markets had all closed down, and people are unable to store large amounts of food in their homes.



*CHALE CHALO staff and volunteers visit a village to raise awareness about Covid-19, and the importance of masks, safe-distancing and hand-washing*



*In Delhi, volunteers are preparing to go out to various community centres, complete with supplies, to train people in Covid-19 precautions.*

One of the big issues in both Delhi and Odisha, is that, while people have been encouraged to go back to work, the economy has almost come to a standstill, so families are still struggling to make ends meet. We initiated a project in Western Odisha which will help people set up kitchen gardens, and access the various government schemes. More is written about our partners' specific initiatives later in the newsletter. We have done all we can to help the vulnerable deal with the virus and its impacts.

One of our serious concerns has been about the support that our partners receive from other sources. The income of many funders has been badly hit by the economic standstill, and some of our partners' projects have been temporarily put on hold. Other funders, maybe better placed, have been a wonderful support, and have allowed our partners to reprioritize their work, allowing for targets to be shifted in order to attend to immediate needs. We have done all we can to support our partners and are relieved that most funders are doing the same where they can.

## THE MANGRO PROJECT

### COVID-19 Response Works

Considering the challenges which faced local communities, already poor and under-resourced, I am amazed at what our partner has managed to achieve. The following is just a selection from the long list of what we have made possible. A more detailed report has been posted on our website. Please do have a look at it. Every single one of these initiatives has made, and continues to make a real difference to people.

- Twenty WSHGs have been helped to access government-run subsidised loans of Rs.50,000 (£500) each to meet immediate needs in their communities.
- 154 marginal farmers have been able to access government support.
- 50 farmers have been supported by the Horticulture Department to plant 1,150 coconut trees, and care for them for 3 years; more will be included.
- 110 farmers received 50 quintals paddy seed for 150 acres and were supported for transplantation of paddy seedlings.
- Planting of 20,000 general tree species on roadsides and unused land, providing much-needed income for the work through MGNREGS.
- Continued promotion of 350 units of organic compost pits, organic vegetable cultivation, and home and neighborhood-based grafting and planting of useful grafted seedlings (lemons, guava, etc.).
- Two farmers linked with Rs.50,000 (£500) support each and intensive training for bee-keeping.
- Thirty WSHGs trained by Horticulture Office in mushroom cultivation with support of Rs.10,000 (£100) each.
- 60 women farmers (mainly WSHG members) received support from Odisha Livelihood Mission for growing rainy season vegetables.
- Awareness among the villagers and women about all the relevant schemes and packages available from central and state government, and support to access them.



Schools are still closed, and we have kept in regular touch with teachers and students in their villages individually or in small groups, by phone and WhatsApp. Books and materials from the MANGRO Centres are being shared with teachers and students on a rotation basis. We are also carrying out counseling and encouraging the teachers and parents to keep the spirit of children high and engage them not only in study but also creative activities. Amidst the COVID situation, we managed to collect creative materials from children and teachers and published a very good “Hental” newsletter (for Ecoclubs),

ensuring this reaches children and teachers for reading, discussion, sharing and learning over the phone. It’s working well but everyone is looking forward to getting back to normal again!



*Bee-keeping (above) and transplanting paddy seedlings (right)– two of the government-funded schemes we have been able to organise for local marginal farmers affected by the restrictions of the pandemic.*

## NEW NURSERIES AND PLANTATION AT BURUNEI RIVER MOUTH

Earlier this year we received a generous grant from the **Network for Social Change**, and this, along with another generous donation from **The Just Trust**, meant that we were able to continue with our valuable work on the MANGRO Project and to extend the area covered by plantation. There have been two main challenges on top of the usual difficulties which we face: the shadow of the pandemic has been ever-present, but the coast was also hit by a serious cyclone in May, the second in six months, causing significant damage to young plantations. However, having repaired much of the damage, and taking Covid precautions, it was possible to get most of the scheduled work done within the timeframe.

The plan was to plant out an area of mangrove at the mouth of the river Barunei. Using saplings from our existing nurseries, we have been able to transplant 20,000 saplings. Nursery beds have been set up, planted out with collected seeds and seedlings, and the plan is to raise another 30,000 trees for transplanting in the forthcoming season. This work will continue on a traditional rotational basis.

The planting has been carried out on both sides of the river, in nala beds, and to fill in some of the gaps in Forest Department plantations – in collaboration with them, of course. The plan is to plant 60,000 mangrove trees in this area in the long-run and this work will continue as long as we have the funds. It will arrest serious erosion of river banks, maintaining wetland, river and ocean biodiversity, and help support the lives and livelihoods of local people in the long run. The MANGRO Project is widely recognized as having serious skills and experience in promoting, regenerating and sustaining mangrove, and works very closely with the local Forestry Department, a mutually complementary relationship.



Thank you to the **Network for Social Change**, the **Just Trust**, and **everyone else** who has contributed to this project and other MANGRO Project work, and congratulations to everyone on the project who has invested so much time and care, and helped to make this valuable work possible.

Above and right:  
*Transporting and planting mangrove saplings at the mouth of the Barunai River. These young trees will be cared for by local villagers, over the next five years, with the grass being cut. This provides fodder for cattle, and fuel for cooking, while giving the young trees the best possible chance to reach maturity.*



## POST-COVID-19 PROJECT

As the pandemic emerged we were determined to help the people in our Western Odisha project area, one of the poorest in India. This work would address long-term problems as well as immediate issues. At the time we imagined it might all be over within months – hence the name. But this was our only foolishness! The project has been an enormous help to current problems, while helping to create skills and knowledge which will last into the future.

We had a limited amount of money available, coming from general funds, and decided we would focus on 20 villages. The immediate needs were: to raise awareness about Covid-19, to help people understand how to protect themselves, to ensure proper quarantine provision for returning migrant workers, to ensure the medical and local government officials carried out their duties and implemented the various schemes and benefits designed by central government to help the situation. The team organised local health-workers, teachers, and Self-help Groups to distribute masks, soap, and take-home rations (eggs, pulses, potato and vegetables) for young children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, destitute and other vulnerable persons, and ensured access to cash benefits for all poor families.

Thinking about the longer term, the focus was to increase family incomes, making up for lost wages, to improve food security, and improve long-term sustainability of communities. Mostly, this has meant enabling vigorous demands for MGNREGS work, and training people in vegetable growing. So far, 380 women have set up rainy season vegetable gardens, using local seeds suited to the local climate and conditions. Seed clubs have been set up to store and share seeds. The vegetable gardens are now producing food for family consumption, the surpluses being sold for additional income. That means 380 families, about 2,000 people, are better off for taking part in this initiative, which is now being extended to include more people.

Because of the lockdown, the local economy ground to a standstill; those without land were without wages. We encouraged villagers to come together (masked, and safely distanced, of course) and helped them decide what work they could apply for under various government schemes. MGNREGS is the obvious one, because it provides a certain number of days' work each year, paid at minimum wage, for approved local infrastructure projects and other work. Under this, villagers have been able to build local check dams, which will conserve water when the rains come, raising the water table, and providing water for irrigation and animals, while reducing flash floods. In some villages, work has been provided in reforestation, planting trees which will help retain water in the soil and reduce soil erosion. Support has also been given for building village and farm ponds, for growing paddy and other crops.

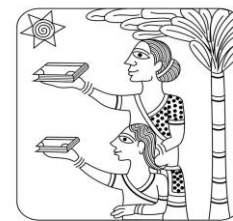
We were able to give a grant of £6,000 to cover this small project which will continue till March in the coming year. In the run-up to March we will review the situation to see what more can be done and whether we have the funds to extend this project. The money came from our general funds, and we have to thank our many donors for their contributions to this valuable work which has been a real help to over 2,000 people.

*We helped villagers to get paid work to build a check dam for their village, which would improve their long-term agricultural sustainability*



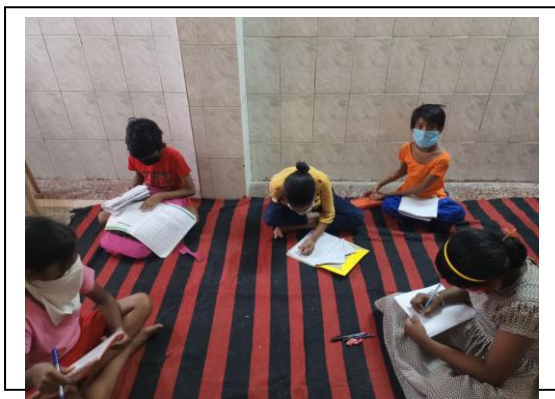
## The BALIGA TRUST

The Baliga Trust is based in Delhi and works with marginalised and disadvantaged communities, focussing primarily on children, young people and women. Over forty years they have had many substantial achievements. When we first met them twenty years ago, we were impressed by the integrity, quality and creativity of their work, and are proud to have supported them ever since. Most of our support has been directed at children, and we have funded Remedial Education Centres which have helped thousands of children stay in school and improve their future prospects.



**Dr. A.V. Baliga  
Memorial Trust**

Early in the Covid-19 pandemic, the country was put into tight lockdown and schools were closed. The government set up a number of programmes which moved education to online. The Baliga Trust set up Whatsapp groups, ZOOM, MEET and Youtube apps for online of learning, and did its best for those who were able to access these resources. However, the majority of children in any of our project areas do not have access to lap-tops, i-pads, or even smart phones which enable them to take advantage of the learning available. And apart from having the equipment, there is a cost to families for all of this, beyond the means of many, especially when most of them have lost their income in lockdown. Many children were unable to use these resources, so, after careful planning, some of the Remedial Education Centres were opened for children in greatest need. As you might have seen in past photographs, most of hub Centres are housed in tiny rooms in private houses, often only three metres by four. It would be impossible to safe distance in these rooms. So the large spaces in the key Centres have been adapted and are hosting more of the remedial classes than they normally do, taking children in shifts. These spaces allow the children to safe distance, with all the necessary protective measures.



Their parents are now mostly back at work, but schools remain closed as the incidence of Covid-19 once again climbs higher. Delhi has been very badly hit by the pandemic, but we have helped the Baliga Trust to do what they are able under very difficult circumstances, and help these children continue their education which is their key to the future. As with our other work, we will keep this under review.

### **AN ADDITIONAL NOTE**

CHALE CHALO runs projects on behalf of funders other than IVDT. One of these, funded by WIPRO, an Indian organisation, works to promote education for Adivasi (tribal) girls. As in Delhi, maybe even more so, these children do not have access to IT equipment. So CHALE CHALO has been providing book packs and home-based education packages, and distributing them to children so they can continue their learning at home.

In our newsletter we have only been able to highlight a small amount of the work that has been carried out on our projects in recent months. If you want to know more, then please do not hesitate to contact us on [helenanightingale@hotmail.com](mailto:helenanightingale@hotmail.com) and we will do what we can to give you more information. Thank you for all your support.

## **SUMMARY of IVDTrust accounts for 01.04.19 to 31.03.20**

### **Balance on 01.04.2019**

Nat. West Bank	12,287.43
COIF	<u>233.96</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>12,521.39</u></b>

### **Income for the year**

Covenants & donations	26,556.99
The Just Trust	3,000.00
Network for Social Change	8,560.25
HMRC Gift Aid Refund (for 2 years)	2,037.68
VAT Refund	103.40
Interest (COIF)	<u>0.96</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>40,259.28</u></b>

### **Expenditure for the year**

CHALE CHALO, projects	25,993.00
CHALE CHALO, Core costs	2,197.00
The BALIGA TRUST	7,574.00
UK admin., memberships, etc.	0
Fundraising costs	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>35,764.00</u></b>

(Please note: payments to Indian partners listed above include the cost of bank transfers which comes to £130 for the year.)

### **Balance on 31.03.2020**

Nat. West Bank	16,781.75
CAF	<u>234.92</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>17,016.67</u></b>

The accounts have been independently examined and will shortly be submitted to the Charity Commission,

## **GIVING to IVDT**

Without your help it would be impossible for us to continue with our work, so all donations are always very welcome.

**GIFT AID** - If you are a taxpayer, then you can make it possible for us to reclaim the tax on your gift – it gives us an extra 25% on top of your donation, and that can make a tremendous difference.

**REGULAR GIVING** by Direct Debit – Regular giving makes it much easier for us to plan our work. If you feel that you could manage to give in this way, we would be especially grateful.

**DONATIONS** can be made online using Paypal through our website: **[www.ivdtrust.org](http://www.ivdtrust.org)**

or by post to:

**47 Brome Place, OXFORD OX3 9LR** or  
**7a Rosewin Row, TRURO TR1 1HG**  
with cheques made out to 'IVDT'.

Gift Aid and Direct Debit forms are included with the newsletter. Thank you.

We will continue to send out newsletters by post to those on our mailing list, but we are trying to reduce our costs, so if any of you would be happy to receive the newsletter by email, please do let us know, and we can make sure that that happens in future.

Contact us at:

**[helenanightingale@hotmail.com](mailto:helenanightingale@hotmail.com)**

# **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

We hope you enjoy reading about our work and all that our projects are achieving with your generosity. We feel very proud of what we help happen, bringing positive change to the lives of so many people, and it would not be possible without your help. The need for support continues – there are always more ways to spend money than raise it! Please help if you can. Your donations make a tremendous difference to the lives of people and communities. Details for making a donation are given on the last page. Thank you to everyone.



*This kitchen garden will provide food and income for the coming months*

IVD Trust, Charity No. 1013316. Registered Address: 47 Brome Place, Oxford OX3 9LR

Trustees: Zinat Bennett, Zara Bieler, Kim Devenish, Gabriel Grouas, Erskine Holmes, Helena Nightingale

**01872 270954 [helenanightingale@hotmail.com](mailto:helenanightingale@hotmail.com) [www.ivdtrust.org](http://www.ivdtrust.org)**



## MAKING A DONATION

If you wish to be a regular donor, please use the **Monthly Standing Order Form** below. Regular donations help us to plan ahead for our work and fundraising, but all gifts are welcome. If you want us to know about your gift, please let us know, then we can thank you properly, and for those of you who are tax payers, there is a **Gift Aid Form** as well. We also need your consent to keep your **details**, and there is a form for that below as well. Very many thanks to you all.

.....  
**MONTHLY STANDING ORDER INSTRUCTION – Please complete and send to YOUR bank, and NOT to IVDTrust.**

TO: The Manager, (name of bank) .....

Address .....

Please pay from my account each month on ..... (date) the sum of £ ..... to the IVD Trust (Charity No. 1013316), Account No. 87213508, Nat. West Bank, 32 Cornmarket Street, OXFORD OX1 3ES (Sort Code 54-21-23)

This monthly payment to start on ..... (date)

Signed ..... Date .....

Bank Account No. ....

Address .....

P. S. If you want us to know about your gift, please do let us know, and then we can thank you

-----

**GIFT AID** *If you make a donation to us we are able to claim back the tax that you have paid – 25p for each £1. All you need to do is fill out this form. Thank you very much for helping our work and for making your gift go further.*

**Please return to:** Integrated Village Development Trust, 7a Rosewin Row, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1HG

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms ..... (Surname & initials)

Address: .....

..... (Postcode) .....

Email .....

**Gift Aid Declaration:** I would like Integrated Village Development Trust to claim back the tax on my donation of £ ..... (amount)

SIGNATURE ..... DATE .....

.....

## KEEPING YOUR DETAILS

By law we need to have your consent to keep your contact details without which it is not possible for us to keep in touch and let you know how your donations are being spent. We'd be grateful if new contacts could sign the following and post it to us at **IVDT, 7a Rosewin Row, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1HG**, or send an email to [helenanightingale@hotmail.com](mailto:helenanightingale@hotmail.com), letting us know you are happy for us to keep your details.

I, (name), ..... of (address) .....

..... Email .....

do give my consent that IVDT may keep my contact details as given above, and may contact me with news and information about their work.

Signed ..... Date .....