



**NOV.
2021**

IVDT

INTEGRATED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

Newsletter No.31

. . . working in India to relieve rural poverty.

It is a real pleasure to be able to bring you news of the work that IVDT and its partners have carried out over the past year. It hasn't been an easy time for anyone, what with waves of the epidemic and the consequent lockdowns, topped by the insult of yet another serious cyclone in Odisha. These struggles have challenged us, but they also bring stories of courage, commitment and generosity, and this newsletter hopes to bring some of the GOOD news that has come from this year.

Our Covid Project in Western Odisha aimed to alleviate the impact of the epidemic in that area, and it provided valuable help to over 2,000 people in 10 villages. A major component was the creation of kitchen gardens to help people produce food for their families and for sale. This was so successful that when we received a substantial and unexpected donation, we decided to expand on that work and apply it in the coastal area where the MANGRO Project operates. The work on MANGRO continues, of course, planting more mangrove and other trees to increase coastal protection against threats such as Cyclone Yaas which hit Odisha in May. We are always mindful of the impact that climate change already has on the people with whom we work; all our projects help to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities, while the tree planting on MANGRO and other projects helps by absorbing and storing CO₂.

India, and Delhi especially, were fiercely hit by a second wave of Covid earlier this year. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we were able to provide immediate help to the Baliga Trust. You can read about what they have been able to do, and about the efforts of Amar who is pretty typical of their phenomenal team.

Who knows what the coming year will bring, but IVDT will carry on doing all it can with its partners in India who continue to make plans and shape their future. We remain as enthusiastic and committed as ever, buoyed up by what it is possible to achieve even under difficult circumstances.

We hope that you all remain well in spite of the difficulties that you might have faced this year, and we thank you for your amazing support and generosity which has done so much to help people in Delhi and Odisha.

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 In the meantime, we are really grateful to you all,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

COVID NEWS

Last year India called an instant lockdown causing utter chaos. Migrant workers returned to their villages, many taking infection with them. It spread, inevitably, but infection and death rates appeared far less than anticipated. Please remember that the Indian figures do not have the same reliability as we expect here, and it is believed that death and infection rates might be up to ten times higher than the official figures currently given as 34 million cases and 452,000 deaths (15 Oct.).

Delhi was fiercely hit by a second wave of Covid earlier this year. Readers might remember the appalling pictures that we saw on our screens, and it seemed to go on for ever. Our supporters were incredibly generous, which meant that we were able to send money to the Baliga Trust immediately, so they could equip themselves with what they needed to provide help and support to their communities.

It was less serious in Odisha, partly because everyone has more space. However, this is offset by inadequate medical services. We have no idea how many lost their lives, because deaths were only recorded as Covid-related if patients had previously tested positive, which is laughable seeing as testing facilities in rural area were minimal. There were hot-spots which were hit very badly, but we will never know the true impact. When Cyclone Yaas hit in May, there was serious concern about so many people taking refuge in cyclone shelters with little space and protection, but people's fear of the cyclone was greater than that of the virus. There was, indeed, a sudden peak of cases in the coastal areas following the cyclone.

The wave of infection and death eventually passed. Restrictions have gradually eased. Urban shops reopened in August. School Classes IX-XII opened in early September, followed shortly by Classes VI-VIII, and primary classes are starting again now. Some children have been out of school for over a year. Less than 40% have had online access to learning, and that figure is even lower in rural areas.

The number of cases has returned to a manageable level, but everyone is proceeding with caution for fear of a third wave. This makes it vital that the vaccination roll-out goes smoothly. The vaccination is free, and will cost the country £3.6 billion. It is estimated that it will take 1.8 billion doses for all eligible adults, but only 1.35 bn doses will be available this year, so the government cannot meet its target. The vaccines being used are Oxford AstraZeneca (made in India and known as Covishield), Covaxin (made by Bharat Biotech), and Sputnik V (Russian). So far (15 Oct.) 276 million people have had two doses, and a further 416 m have had one. People are generally eager to be vaccinated, though there are pockets of resistance and women are less likely to come forward than men. It has also been noted that about a third of those due for their second jab have failed to turn up, so it is very important that the information drive continues. There is no plan yet to vaccinate children, but an Indian Council Medical Research study showed that 60% of children have had Covid – which is probably an indication of quite how serious that last wave was.

We wait, the whole world waits, to see what happens next, but in the meantime everyone is trying to prepare for whatever the future might bring, whilst picking up the pieces that the virus has so far left in its trail.

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

ZARA'S MARATHON

Zara is our Chair, and a valued member of our Trustees. This year she did something which I can fairly say would not be done by any of the other trustees, and we knew nothing of it till it was almost done. Typical modesty! We have been very impressed, and thank her so much for raising £1,600 (plus Gift Aid) for IVDT. In Zara's words:

"It started with a rather unfocused curiosity. Why, and more to the point, how, do people run marathons? It was buzzing around in my head. I had no intention of running one. I don't or rather didn't view myself as a runner.

My local bookshop had a book with a title 'Eat, Drink, Run' by Bryony Gordon. Bryony, a journalist, had run a marathon by starting from knowing nothing about the process and being decidedly more unfit than me. I thought, 'I'll read this and that might stop this buzzing curiosity'. That was the match that lit the fuse. I was so impressed with Bryony's achievement. My goodness, if she can run a marathon, maybe I can. It was still a maybe.

"I looked up the route of the Belfast marathon. I live in Wales but Belfast is my home city. Ever looked up something after a few glasses of wine, click, click? Well, the Belfast marathon route was a revelation. Mile 24 went right past the street I grew up in. Mile 25 was the entrance to my primary school and the finish was my local park. That was it, sold. I booked a slot."

That was just the beginning, of course, because no one runs a marathon without very rigorous training. And all of this during the pandemic while Zara carried on with her work as a GP and caring for her family. After several postponements, the race was on. Of course she was anxious about the run, but her biggest concern appeared to be the supply of jelly babies to keep her going through the course – how could she fit enough in her back pocket?

"The big day came, a perfect sunny autumn chill in the air as I boarded the bus at Belfast city hall to head out to Stormont. The crowds were fantastic, I chatted and enjoyed listening to the chat all round me. I ran with people, I ran on my own. The city looked stunning and I think I smiled the whole way round. I shed no tears on the day. I was so happy and proud to have made it through the training and to be able to be there and take part. My girls were there at half way with my sugar stash (the jelly babies) and my younger brother waved me on at mile 23 from the roadside pub. Mile 24 I hugged my parents and my big brother. I seemed to fly down to mile 25 past my primary school and was storming along to the finish when a runner alongside me seemed to fold in two like a puppet. I placed my hand on her back and said gently, 'Only 100m to go, heads up!' She popped up like a jack-in the box and we crossed the finish line together. What a day, what a journey."

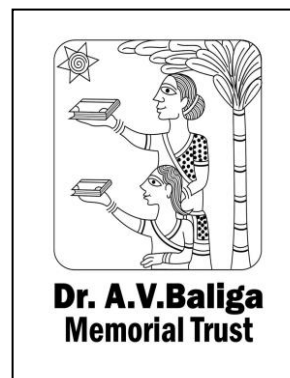


THANK YOU SO MUCH, ZARA!

The BALIGA TRUST

The Covid Crisis in Delhi, 2021

At this distance it is always very hard to tell what is actually going on in India, even in the capital city. However, it was clear to everyone that, earlier this year, the Covid situation in India, and especially in Delhi, was out of control, and that government structures and health systems were completely failing to deal with it. There was horrifying footage on our television screens, and IVDT supporters responded magnificently, without even being asked. It meant that we were able to send money almost immediately to help cover the cost of the Baliga Trust's efforts to alleviate the impact of the epidemic. The following lists the work that this money made possible:



Food support to families which had lost their income in the lockdown:

Dry ration kits distributed to 10,177 needy families.

Cooked food through family-to-family kitchen to 10,000 people and regularly for 135 people for three months.

Enabling needy families to access benefits, rations and e-coupons.

Medical help and support:

Awareness campaign on prevention and protection against COVID.

Online doctor's consultation, prescribed medicine and nutrition to 1000 patients.

Over 1500 patients provided with primary medical care services including free medical check up and free medicines in Basti Khwaja Meer Dard.

Regular Life Line Clinics in Holambikalan and in Narela in North district.

Vaccination drive by Baliga Trust Team members has been continuing. We are ensuring 100% vaccination in our project areas.

Online sessions on mental wellbeing

Also provided:

Over 1000 Education and hygiene kits to school children.

Transport of needy people to hospital or medical services.

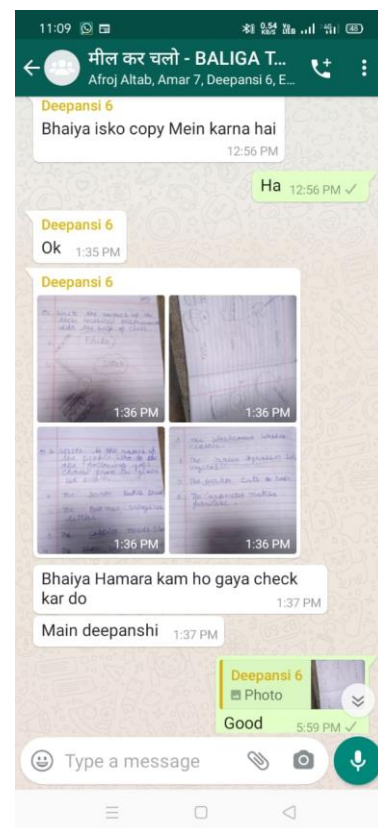
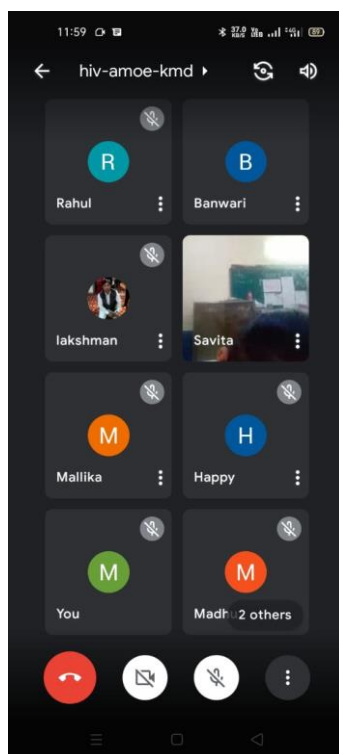
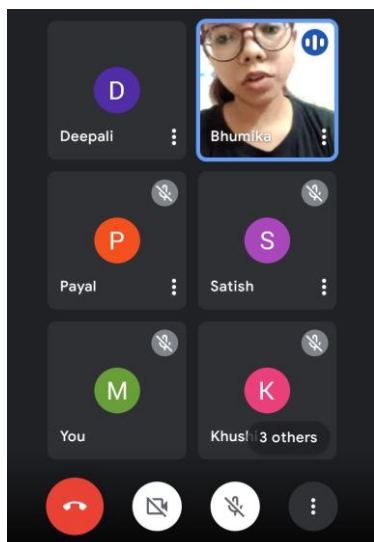
Running two Help Desks for children who have lost one or both parents. A total of 43 children have been registered by the Baliga Trust for compensation and ongoing support.

Eventually the situation in Delhi was brought under control, and the vaccination programme was rolled out with vigour. It is hoped that medical services in the city will have learnt lessons from this dreadful episode, and that, should there be another wave, they will be better prepared. There have been many, many people who have acted heroically through this wave, but it has to be said that it threw into the spotlight many of the shortcomings of the central government.

Meanwhile, the Baliga Trust has been doing its best to continue with the provision of educational support to the many remedial students who have attended its classes. Most of the classes used to take place in tiny rooms, three by four metres, and it has not been possible to gather in such small spaces. But, where there is larger accommodation, classes have continued, with the children spaced and masked.



For older children who have access to mobile phones, it has been possible for teachers to provide online support. This has helped a very large number of young people. The pictures of mobile phone screens shown here give an indication of how a teacher is able to speak to several children at once, in the middle case, ten children. They can send photos of the work they are doing for the teacher to check and comment on. It works very well for those who have mobile phones, but, of course, **60% do not have this access.**



There is serious worry that the loss of mobile phones has had a major impact on children's education, and our continuing support for this work is essential to ensure children are able to catch up. Project teams in both Delhi and Odisha are very aware of this issue and are working on strategies for addressing the problem.

Amar acts with Empathy and Energy



We asked Ashok of the Baliga Trust if he could send us any stories about how they have been dealing with the problems caused by the pandemic. The following is his account of the contribution made by Amar, a long-term member of the Baliga Trust team.

Amar (left) and a colleague sort out coupons which will be distributed to those in greatest need so they can access support, both from the Baliga trust and from various government departments

It was shocking news for everyone in India, when the first Covid-19 lockdown was declared in March, and the people of Holambikalan Resettlement Colony in North Delhi were no exception. It is an area of mainly poor migrant workers who mostly belong to the informal sector and are daily wage earners: factory labourers, rickshaw pullers, construction workers and cleaners. They lost their work at a stroke, and with that their capacity to feed their families. With little in the way of savings, they feared for their very survival.

/contd. . . .

Supported by Terre des Hommes (TDH Germany), the Baliga Trust has been working in Holambikalan (amongst other areas in Delhi) on livelihood, education, health and environment. A community-based approach has been followed from the beginning, leading to strong community rapport. They run an E-learning Centre and Remedial Educational Centres (funded by IVDT over many years) apart from advocacy for rights of children, youth and poor people. **Amar** has worked with Baliga Trust since 2005 and is one of the most energetic, committed and respected members of the team. A quiet and self-effacing man, he always thinks and acts beyond simply the projects, putting others before himself.

At the beginning of the lockdown he observed a huge crowd struggling to get food at a government school, with children and women getting injured. He was also getting calls from various people for food support, people who were at the verge of starvation. He decided he had to try his best to prevent this.

He faced many challenges such as lack of adequate required food and ration, lack of transportation, panic situation among community, fear of infection from COVID19, safety issues etc. In spite of all that he decided to devote his services 24/7. He was regularly in contact with his colleagues at the Baliga Trust and shared his concerns about the needs of the community, and thanks to the support of TDH it was possible to provide dry rations for 180 families. Amar took the responsibility to lead the team in smooth distribution, reaching the unreached or less-reached vulnerable people who so desperately needed the rations. In total, he managed to help 231 families, (over 1200 people) with dry rations mobilized by the Baliga and by himself as well. And then in the second lockdown Amar distributed dry ration kits to over 200 families (supported by IVDT), helping over a thousand people more.

Amar has helped in organisation and distribution of cooked food to over 1000 people daily in Government schools with SMC (School Management Committee) members. He identified over 100 most vulnerable people with the help of his team and youth volunteers to ensure they had two meals a day through an innovative intervention, Family to Families Kitchen (supported by TDH). He managed to get E-coupons for rations for 160 people, and he and his youth team facilitated hundreds of people in registering of E Coupons. He helped old people in getting them in shelter home. He contacted SDM office, Alipur, to ensure adequate help in Holambikalan, and he motivated his local team members and youth volunteers to extend all support to the community.

He was so lost in the relief work that he forgot this own food, snack, water, dates, days and time. Unsurprisingly, but in spite of his precautions, Amar was infected with COVID 19 and was hospitalised for over 11 days. Even during his hospitalisation, he was helping COVID patients in hospital to access food, bed, blankets, tests etc. And since then he has been motivating people to be vaccinated, providing support to those unable to access, especially the elderly.

There are many people who owe an enormous amount to Amar personally for all the help and support that he has been able to provide and organise over the past eighteen months, work that he has carried out at real risk and cost to himself. But he is happy that he did all he could to reach people who might otherwise have been forgotten. And he is very happy to acknowledge that much of what he has achieved has only been possible with the help and support of many other willing volunteers and Baliga Trust staff.

MANGRO (Community-based Mangrove Regeneration in Odisha)

As our income slowly decreases, it is always touch and go whether we will be able to continue funding the MANGRO project. In a world of great need and competing demands, it is always difficult to find regular funding. Without the valued support of the **Network for Social Change** and the **Just Trust** in particular we would have been able to do nothing more than keep the work ticking over at a very basic level, so we are very grateful to them for their support. As long as there is work which we can usefully do, we will continue to try and find the funds to make it possible.

We spoken before of how mangrove helps to protect the coastline, riversides, and communities from erosion. This was demonstrated again during **Cyclone Yaas**, a very severe cyclone which directly hit this stretch of the coast in May. In our replanted areas there was only limited damage, which was a great relief, but it was noticeable that the worst affected areas were those where we have been campaigning against illegal prawn farming. Though those prawn ponds have been destroyed, thanks to our success, the replanting has not yet been carried out by the Forest Department, so embankments were washed away, and land was covered with sea water following the tidal surge. This is the area where we have set up a kitchen garden project, in particular Talchua (see next two pages).

Meanwhile MANGRO continues with its cycle of work raising mangrove seedlings, planting and caring for them. We have expanded existing plantations at Kankadia and Koelpur where we have established teams who are enthusiastic, experienced and skilled. And we have continued to plant at the mouth of the Barunai on the silted river- and creek-sides. All this is visibly preventing soil erosion, and reducing the impact of cyclones.

Much of the work has been constrained by the pandemic, but schools are gradually re-opening, and school **Eco-clubs** are starting again. These receive major support from the MANGRO team, who are keen to be working with the children once more. Over the coming months visits are planned to the mangrove nurseries and plantations so the young people can see the work at first hand. And already discussions are being held with Eco-club leaders and members about the next issue of their magazine, "The Hental", which will be ready for circulation next month. After such a long time away from school, it will be good to return to some kind of normality.

The **campaigning** continues, promoting mangrove forests, protection of Olive Ridley sea turtles, and striving to ban illegal prawn farming. Sometimes it seems as though little progress is made, but slowly, slowly over the years it is possible to see what an extraordinary change there has been in the attitudes of local people, the Forestry Department, and even politicians! And the visible changes in the environment too.

The MANGRO Project has been running for many years now, during which many lessons have been learnt. A tremendous body of knowledge and skill has been built, and the success of our plantations is widely acknowledged by the Forest Department. It is planned to carry out a **community mapping programme** which will help us understand the current situation very clearly. We will then be able to prepare plans for the future, for us, for the local communities, and for the Forest Department. This will be most interesting, and also most valuable, but, above all, it will help our work be as effective as possible, planting where it is most needed.

Thank you to everyone who continues to make this amazing project possible. It shows what can be done on a small scale, with continued consistent effort. And it helps the whole world by absorbing CO₂ emissions, an all-round good. As the world begins to take on board the enormity of climate change, we feel that this project, working with vulnerable communities, demonstrates what is possible and positive.

FROM SMALL SEEDS – A KITCHEN GARDEN PROJECT FOR WOMEN IN THE BHITARKANIKA AREA OF ODISHA



In May this year we received a very generous anonymous donation. The donor wanted the money to be used to help empower women, and it was an excellent opportunity for us to adapt the kitchen garden project for the Dangamal area on the edge of our MANGRO area. It was ideal because there was a clear need; the people in the area had shown that they were willing and able to work together (this was where we ran a successful

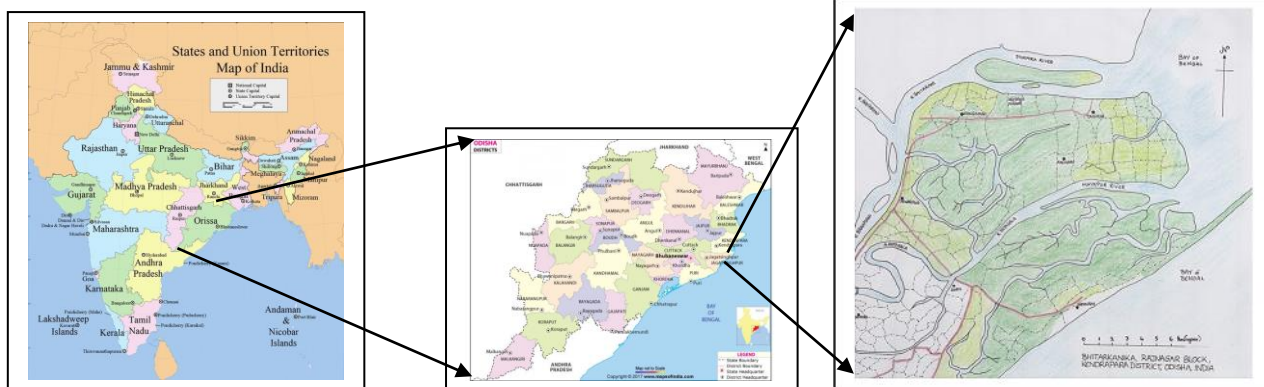
campaign against the illegal prawn farms in 2018); and we had an excellent person to lead the project – Baluram, who has been a long-term committed volunteer.

The **aim** of this project is to provide relief during the Covid pandemic and into the future, by helping to improve the diet of families and increase their income. The prospect of hunger is one of the key issues currently facing people across India, especially for those who rely on paid work.

While both men and women traditionally carry out the growing of vegetables, this project is aimed primarily at improving the horticultural skills of women thus increasing their capacity to contribute to the family income. They are doing this by sustainably increasing the range, quantity and quality of the fruit and vegetables that they produce, enabling their families to have a better diet, while selling surpluses as individuals or together.

Stage 1 is focussed on 400 women in ten villages of the three Gram Panchayats of Dangamal, Krishnanagar and Talchua in Bhitarkanika, Rajnagar, Kendrapara, Odisha (see map below).

Stage 2 –Stage 2 will use the Stage 1 villages as a model and, using key Stage 1 participants as voluntary peer educators, will apply the lessons learnt to a further 800 women in neighbouring villages and beyond. Stage 2 will run for the same time length, but in the following year, having allowed the work of Stage 1 to be firmly established and consolidated.



The project area is shown in the right-hand map, on the northern edge of Bhitarkanika National Park which is the area coloured green. The three Gram Panchayats, Dangamal, Krushnanagar and Talchua, either abut or are close to the Baitarani River towards the top of the right-hand map.

Stage 1 of the project began with a survey of the existing village gardens, what is grown, by whom and how, and continues with groups of women making visits to Baluram's own village where he has led the initiative for kitchen gardens, homestead orchards, compost and pesticide making, and seed banks. The women are now receiving training and practical experience in veg growing, raising fruit trees, compost and pesticide making, grafting and growing for sale. Seeds have been bought, and will be distributed, though we are setting up seed banks for the future.

Readers who are gardeners will know how dependent we all are on the weather, and this is especially the case in Odisha. Cyclone Yaas, in May, caused extensive flooding with sea water, leaving the soil saturated with salt. The rains then came late, and it wasn't until mid-September when enough rain had managed to wash the salt out of the soil. So now it is possible for the hands-on work to start, and the plan is to start growing a crop of winter vegetables very soon. Villagers are looking forward to this first crop, and when it comes they hope there will be enough to sell as well as feed their families. And they will also be saving seeds for future use, encouraging villagers to grow from successful plants which are suited to the particular local conditions.

We are optimistic that we will have enough money for a second year of this project. During the first year we will select potential volunteer peer educators who will be trained next year in leadership so that they can then work with women in additional villages, passing on their skills and experience. They will continue to receive support, training and guidance from the project team. We hope that, in this way, we can reach an additional 800 women, making a total of 1,200 in thirty villages (helping about 6,000 family members overall). On previous projects we have shown how it is possible to use volunteers, who, if properly trained and supported, are able to deliver change in a very cost-effective manner. In addition, it gives the participants a very strong sense of ownership of the project, a sense of what they themselves have achieved, reducing the risk of developing a culture of dependency.

We are really grateful to our anonymous donor who has made this project possible, and to everyone else whose donations mean that we are well on the way to having enough money for Year 2. Thank you everyone.

COVID RESPONSE PROJECT IN WESTERN ODISHA

In our last newsletter we described the work we were doing in Western Odisha to alleviate the immediate impact of the coronavirus epidemic. The sudden lockdown meant migrant workers had to return to their villages and needed to be quarantined. There was a serious lack of understanding of the disease, and our project helped with information, training on protection, and demanding action from health workers. Many people had lost their source of income, and we were able to mobilise a number of government schemes to help them access benefits and work schemes. Schools were closed and we were able to provide learning materials for children. And we set up a kitchen garden project, providing training and support to women, and providing seeds, so they could increase the range of vegetables that they grew for their families and for sale, something which was of great help as the pandemic continued, and family incomes fell. Most of these women have continued with their vegetable gardens, producing food not just last winter, but on through the summer and into the rainy season. Papaya trees and drumstick (a kind of tree whose fruits/seeds are edible) are flourishing. Over 2,000 people were helped on the kitchen garden project alone, and it has made a significant difference to their ability to cope with the difficulties that the pandemic brought to their homes and villages.

SICKLE CELL DISEASE IN INDIA – A GLIMPSE AT THE GLOBAL DISPARITIES

Some of you might have noticed an item in the news early in October when it was reported that NICE had agreed a new treatment for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) and that it would be available for 5,000 people. My heart leapt because SCD is a serious problem in some of the areas where we work. We have come across many cases of “sickling” in our work on Chronic Kidney Disease which is also a major issue in our project area in Western Odisha. In fact, we had explored a possible link in our study of CKD in Khariar, but found no evidence for it. So, was this news a glimpse of hope?

In the UK we tend to associate Sickle Cell Disease with Africa, but India is the country with the second highest incidence of the disease. It is an incurable genetic condition which affects people of African and Caribbean background, and also Adivasi (tribal) people in India. It causes long episodes of extreme pain, anaemia, an increased risk of infection, strokes, lung conditions, tiredness and shortness of breath. Until recently it has not been much studied in India, so the incidence is uncertain but research is now being carried out, including by Sambalpur University in Odisha, taking samples from new-borns to establish the incidence. It is believed that there are 535,000 cases in Odisha, mostly in the Western, tribal fringes of the state. Studies are also being carried out to discover the best course of treatment.

When I read about the new development, the use of Crizanlizumab, I checked to see what the cost might be, and discovered that it was something like £6,000 a month. So my heart sank, because I know that this is completely out of the question in rural India. The current treatment in India is hydroxyurea, which costs about £7.30 a month, and sometimes folic acid is given. Neither treatment is a cure, and neither is universally effective. I would never, ever, wish to deny anyone in the UK access to this new treatment, and I do hope it goes well with everyone on the programme, but it does illustrate the enormous gap in provision and access that exists across the world.

The Indian government is now carrying out extensive research into SCD under the Odisha Sickle Cell Project. Diagnosis, treatment and support is supposed to be available for those affected, though, as ever, it is not as simple as that. The reality is often very different. Pramila Bhaskar's nearest Primary Health Care Centre often does not have the folic acid tablets that she needs, so she has to travel over a further hour to reach the next one. As a SCD patient, she should receive free transport to get to the clinic, but that has not been implemented in her area. Her husband and daughter are also affected, but they have not yet had their son tested because of the cost. The disease means family income is much reduced, while they face constant medical bills, now and into the future, when they may well face the costs of hip replacements, etc.

Pramila Bhaskar and her family, all affected by SCD



There is little that we, as a very small charity, can do except raise awareness and ensure that those who need treatment get access to it, and this is something that is being done with our partner's projects in Western Odisha. Following their campaigning on the issue of Chronic Kidney Disease, they now have extensive experience in this kind of work and could not be better placed to give support where possible.

FUTURE STEPS

It is now very difficult for IVDT to access to large-scale funding. Much of that is now, quite reasonably, focussed on aid to Africa, and we are not eligible for most grants. But it is important to emphasise that, though India itself is (only just) above the level of greatest need in the UN's Human Development Index, and in spite of the real achievements over the past twenty years, about a third of India's population lives in very serious poverty without any access to most facilities, services and rights that we take for granted. Recognising the need which remains and the difficulty of raising money, and believing that in the long-run it is important for our partners to seek financial support within their own country, we have encouraged our partners to make funding application themselves, directly to Indian organisations and companies which run social responsibility programmes. This is a growing sector, though the pandemic and consequent financial crises have affected the level of funding that is available there too. However, both CHALE CHALO and the Baliga Trust have made real progress with obtaining grants from within India. We will continue with our policy of supporting them as far as possible to make those applications themselves.

Our main concern has always been sustainable long-term reduction of rural poverty. The heart of our wide-ranging work has remained remarkably consistent over thirty years: the empowerment of women; improved access to rights, schemes and benefits; protection and enhancement of environment; and education. These issues will remain at the core of our work and are reflected in our current projects and future plans.

MANGRO run by **CHALE CHALO**, has always been a small-scale project which has shown what can be done by local communities over a long period of consistent investment and action. We look forward to seeing the results of the Community Mapping, so that we can work out where most needs attention, where it will be possible, and plan for action.

The **Kitchen Garden Projects** focus on women, and are proving a real success. We will continue to build on these, at the same time as promoting sustainable farming.

In Western Odisha, **DIDI** (big sister), funded by PHF India, builds on all that we have achieved helping women develop skills to take the decision-making lead in their communities, planning for a wide range of activities such as development plans and watershed management. We are proud to see the direction this work is taking, and to know the part we have played in its beginnings.

We have a long history of involvement with **education**, helping communities build and manage schools, training teachers, and, in particular, promoting environmental education. Building on our work in this area, CHALE CHALO has received funding (from Indian organisations) over recent years to promote education for Adivasi (tribal) girls, and to support educational provision in Western Odisha and in the coastal area as well. We continue to support the environmental education programme, and are currently applying for funding to contribute to our partner's educational work.

Over twenty years our focus with the **Baliga Trust** has always been its educational work. We were unable to continue funding as we would have wished, but now make regular grants which make it possible for funding applications to be made, and this has been successful; they now run more **Remedial Centres** than they were able to do when we covered the cost! We feel that this is an excellent investment of our funds, and produces valuable results.

One of the major concerns that arises out of the pandemic and the long-term lockdowns is the gaps in the education of young people. It is hard to imagine how children will be able to catch up in schools which already suffered from serious shortcomings, so our partners are exploring ways to helping their recovery, and are preparing funding applications to raise the necessary funds. IVDT is doing all it can to support them in this.

Climate Change is constantly at the forefront of our minds. An awareness of all the problems it will bring underpins all our work, as we help reduce CO₂ emissions by planting trees and increasing the resilience of some of the most vulnerable communities

IVDT will continue to raise funds to support projects directly and will do this as long as there remains a need and funds are available. Thank you, everyone, for your help.

SUMMARY of IVDTrust accounts for 01.04.20 to 31.03.21

Balance on 01.04.2020

Nat. West Bank	16,781.75
COIF	230.11
TOTAL	17,011.86

Income for the year

Covenants & donations	12,150.02
The Just Trust	3,000.00
Punjab National Bank refund	5,959.00 *
HMRC Gift Aid Refund (for 2 years)	5,912.53
COIF Interest	1.04
TOTAL	27,022.59

Expenditure for the year

CHALE CHALO, projects	21,967.00
The BALIGA TRUST	2,500.00
Additional payment to CC	5,979.00 **
Transfer and bank charges	198.00
UK admin., memberships, etc.	0
Fundraising costs	0
TOTAL	30,644.00

Balance on 31.03.2021

Nat. West Bank	13,159.30
CAF	231.15
TOTAL	13,340.45

(* refund of £5,959 from the Punjab National Bank)
(** additional payment of £5,979 due to failure of first payment via PNB)

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**

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

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.



Our partners in Odisha and Delhi have continued to support children and their education throughout the pandemic, something which has been recognised by the press in both cases. In addition

they have continued to help the children engage with environmental issues so that they do not lose touch with the fundamental basis of their future. Here, the children celebrate World Environment Day on 5 June this year, in spite of the pandemic, a gesture of hope in the future (and all properly masked and distanced, of course).



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 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, 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