

IIMC Coping with Pandemic, Lockdown, Amphan Cyclone & Super Monsoon Flood.

Dear Friends,

As you might be, I was pretty confused. And, so were the volunteers who have been working within our IIMC - Mission for a long time. We together in the past dealt with many adversities. These were mainly natural disasters, which created extra problem for the people who were struggling in poverty. Since the effect of the disasters had less impact on us, we were free to reach the people with all kinds of emergency assistances.



Presently we are around Kolkata, India, struck by multiple disasters: COVID-19, 100% Locked down, Amphan cyclone and super monsoon rain water. The people live in coastal area of West Bengal are finding it hard to cope with such monstrous disasters. While COVID-19 was pushing the people to stay at home unable to engage themselves in earning any income, cyclone AmPhan added up extra burden and now super monsoon rains.

Most of the long-term development programmes of IIMC are temporarily reorganised. We are giving priorities to help the affected people with emergency services, for example, food supplies. I say it heavy heartedly we are unable to serve the affected people as fast as we wish to because COVID-19 is slowing us down for health and safety reasons. However, we are determined that the people receive medical, economic, essential supplies and socio-psychological assistances seamlessly.

Our Indoor Campus at Sonarpur remain open as well all sub-centres. All our senior volunteers are engaged and do their work regularly maintaining the measures required for the protection from the COVID-19. We sit together to discuss and plan for our day's actions. Some takes care of information dissemination while others get involved in communicating with the field-based volunteers. We make it sure our link IIMC offices to the people in remote areas remains strong. This is giving assurance that the food distribution is reaching to the affected people in remote areas. We are well-aware without regular food supply. the people may go for starvation. We are also taking care that the people are maintaining social distance and using masks and sanitizer.

All schools are closed, hoping to open them as soon the government gives final decision. The students and their families are kept in touch regularly by the field-based volunteers. We make sure that the students are able to carry on home-based education and their families supported by the resources so that they can stay calm during this crises period. If necessary, they are free to communicate the field-based volunteers or to come to our Indoor Campus to meet and talk about their problems with anyone in education programme unit. We remain aware that once the crises period is over, we would adopt the plan to catch up with the students' lessons lost due to the COVID-19 closer, however Barnali organising with her teachers team open book exam for all school students at their home.

While we keep our outdoor clinics closed, we offer emergency services with the help of standby medic volunteers. We are taking care of vulnerable children and mothers

