



## SEBASTIAN HUNTER MEMORIAL SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TRUST

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### The Second report (April –May 2020) on Seb's projects response to COVID19 in Vellore District

As we begin a new month under lockdown, we find ourselves with more time at hand and see the world reeling under the impact of this pandemic. The only ray of hope is the manner in which we have all come together to reach out in our own little ways to brighten the lives of others, be it a stranded patient come for treatment to our town or the CMC Chatram patients from other states undergoing treatment, or the multitude of homeless people in our town and the daily wage labourers who are part of the informal sector.

All this was made possible by our donors who came forward and joined hands with Seb's. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following individuals: Asha and Vinod Nehemiah, Sheila and Prasad Bhoopalan, Charley Aiken, Laura Walford, Mary and Kurian Thomas, Anna Tharyan Valsa George, Daya and Selvakumar, Annie Sudarshanan, Renu Raju, Susheela Koshi, Tor Inge (Corporator), Tharyan Koshi (Tess Data Solutions) and the Jain community, and many other individual well wishers who came forward to sponsor this initiative.

We have moved into the second phase and continue to provide the hot breakfast to the CMC Chatram but the lunches have been stopped from the 3rd of May as CMC will cover lunches under their Manna Programme. We continue to provide cooked lunches to about 175 homeless and elderly people, and provisions to about 1015 families who have not been able to access the government schemes, particularly targeting the elderly and vulnerable children.



Seb's Projects India would like to introduce a young volunteer of ours - Giri Dharan, who I would call a Corona Hero. He is an Visual effects artist by profession but his passion has been to get involved with the most vulnerable groups in our communities and make a difference. He took the lead to organise the cooked breakfast and lunch at CMC Chatram and deliver hot meals for over 250 people daily. To date, Giri has distributed 535 bags of provisions to over 15 rural and slum communities in Vellore district. It was heart-warming to see the faces of young mothers and the elderly brighten up on receiving the bag of provisions and what it meant for them at this time when they are out of work, with no public transport, and with the future looking so bleak and uncertain.



Seb's Projects has also been involved with Trifed and is in the process of getting our tribal self-help groups to make large quantities of soaps and masks. We have had enquiries from corporates like Steria in Chennai for masks. We are in the process of securing the raw materials and training the women to give them the skills required to make high-quality masks. It is a blessing that our tribal communities continue to be free of the infection and do not allow anyone from outside to come up to their villages. The possibility and opportunity of improving the livelihood of our tribal women during this challenging times is exciting. Seb's staff in the Jawadhi Hills have also volunteered to create awareness and distribute provisions to the elderly

*(Jawadhi hills provision being handed over)*



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