

## Relief is a right, not a charity....

**MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION...** Together we reached our \$25,000 goal, a fantastic result!! The annual high tea event became the online COVID-19 fundraiser. Not knowing if it would succeed in the climate of this pandemic, we are greatly encouraged by your support and generosity and that of many local businesses.

Now we can help families through this difficult time.

**CYCLONE AMPHAN...** Struck the south of West Bengal, destroying houses and the precious food rations that families had gathered for the COVID lockdown. It's hard to comprehend the unimaginable challenge families are now facing.

Our colleagues in India are returning to their offices, fieldworkers are visiting pregnant mums again. The emergency relief effort and essential shelters for street children have continued throughout the crisis.

We can assure you that your donations are getting through. Our COVID APPEAL ([www.givenow.com.au/mothersday2020](http://www.givenow.com.au/mothersday2020)) will remain open as CINI is providing emergency food and sanitation packs to families in desperate need.

**ANNUAL VISIT...** In February, we saw the remarkable progress achieved by our program teams - more inside...

**MODUS PROPERTY** has continued its monthly contributions even though, as a home renovation company they too have been effected by the economic shutdown. Their remarkable generosity has not faltered.



## CINI Responds, bringing relief and support, again and again...

**CINI HAS A LONG HISTORY** of launching rapid and effective emergency responses when disaster strikes. The COVID-19 pandemic and Cyclone Amphan are no different. CINI's big picture aim is sustainable development but right now daily survival, food and shelter are needed urgently.

**DR CHAUDHURI SAYS** "Families we have provided with food relief are asking for help to repair houses and more food support. Many breadwinners are stranded in metro cities trying to get home, some dying on the way. We are aware that we are taking your generosity for granted, but Bengal has been doubly unfortunate to be struck

by this natural calamity when COVID 19 is already upon us. So again we appeal to you to give, we shall spread this to as many families we can reach .... I am grateful to all my colleagues and our donors who help us to help others."

### NEWS JUST IN...

One of our wonderful IICCHAA outreach workers had her home destroyed in the cyclone. Over the last 8 years she has worked tirelessly to bring families with HIV to the program. Her commitment has helped rebuild the lives of so many families. Now she too needs a hand.





## COVID-19

**THE SITUATION...** India's COVID-19 infection numbers continue to rise and their strict lock down has been extended. Migrant workers, who have lost their city work, are walking hundreds of kilometres back to their families. Food insecurity is severe.

**EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT...** CINI donors from India and abroad joined the relief efforts. Through its well established, trusted teams community relationships, CINI has distributed either Nutrimix (over 28,000 packets) or dry ration packages to thousands of families. This included Kolkata pavement dwellers and daily labour families, 1400 migrant families, 500 families in brick fields, 300 stranded families, remote tribal villages of Purulia, 150 tea gardens families, 102 TB patients, 100 Sex Worker and homeless families of red light district of Rambagan, 30 stranded porters in the railway platforms, 100 street-connected children and 50 poor families of Uttar Dinajpur.

**EARLY ASSESSMENT...** When the lock down started on 23rd March, CINI Teams rapidly identified vulnerable populations and their immediate needs. Food scarcity was the major issue.

**FIRST RESPONSE, FOOD...** Child health centres that normally provide food for children were closed, so distributing Nutrimix (CINI's nutritious food mix) to children and mothers was prioritised. CINI put together a basic family pack of Nutrimix, cooking oil, soya nuggets, sugar, tea, biscuits, soap at a cost of \$20 /family/month. The state provided food grains and dal to families below the poverty line. CINI inner city Boys and Girls shelters stayed open for essential protection to the most vulnerable children.

**FUNDS...** CINI's employees, family members and friends were asked to contribute before CINI reached out to donors.

**DISTRIBUTION...** CINCOMM, (CINI Nutrimix production unit) increased production of Nutrimix, sending to remote locations such as tea gardens in north Bengal and Sunderbans in the south.



"When I heard that COVID-19 had hit India, I could only think of one woman.

This woman (pictured) and her three daughters live on the streets. They live right where I took this photo. While I was there, I watched her tend to her middle daughter while her youngest lay on the footpath, naked from the waist down.

Every time the news tells me to practise good hygiene, I think of her small bag of vegies lying on the pavement.

Every time the news tells me to social distance, I think of her life inches from the feet of a thousand passers-by. Every time the news tells me to 'stay home', I wonder where she will go."

Kalika Duck, March 2020

## ....and then Cyclone Amphan



**ON 20TH MAY, CYCLONE AMPHAN DEVASTATED PARTS OF WEST BENGAL...** destroying homes and the livelihoods of thousands. A quick survey in CINI's project area in South 24 Parganas and in the slums of Kolkata, revealed that many families had waterlogged houses, lost rooves, destroyed walls and needed cash to repair their homes. They lost food rations saved for the lock down, belongings, documents and animals were washed away. Villages and roads were damaged. Power and water was out. CINI has responded again with food supplies and is now raising funds to help people make their homes habitable again. We need about \$450 per family....(and now the monsoon season begins).

**NEXT STEPS...** CINI will continue to assess and respond to the lockdown and cyclone requirements. When restrictions are eased, the staff will assess the impact on the nutrition, health and education of children and our community development programs will be re started and adjusted as needed.



## February Site Visit to India

**JENNIE (CINI A BOARD MEMBER) MADE THE ANNUAL VISIT TO INDIA** to understand the situation on the ground. Meeting with staff, mothers, children, school teachers and local government services gives us an essential understanding.

**CHILD FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM...** Now 12 months into the "Block level", our 5 field officers have the huge task of reaching 94 villages. They all come from this district and are dedicated to creating change in their communities. They have made significant progress, developed strong collaboration between local self-help women, child health workers and midwives addressing malnutrition. School management, teachers and parents are eagerly working with CINI to improve school grounds, safety and resources which in turn improves attendance. The government of West Bengal, recognizing CINI's capacity, has directed the local governments to work with CINI which will increase the rate of change especially in quality of health and education services.



**IICCHAA...included 45 new HIV families this year.** Other families have "graduated" now they get regular medication, their children are in school and their economic security is stronger with access to government schemes, education scholarships and housing funds. These parents become advocates for new families and as a result the program reaches even more affected families.

The contrast between new and 'old' families is dramatic. Meeting up with Ashima (pictured above, smiling) was fantastic. Last year, on her first day with IICCHAA she was in tears, with no hope for her future. This year she is secure, has a regular food and medication, understands her illness and her little boy is progressing in school and she now brings her mother to IICCHAA. Ahmed, a new attendee, is overwhelmed with worry about his little boy who contracted HIV through a transfusion. Ashima's confidence is helping him know that his situation will also improve.

**KITCHEN GARDENS...** Saripha's kitchen garden was such a success that her neighbour followed her example, improving both families' nutrition (pictured below). Adolescents are enthusiastic participants in the community safety net program that focuses on adolescent health and underage marriage.



**SPONSOR A MOTHER EDUCATION SESSION...** Visual aids are a powerful way to teach about woman's health. Here (below left) a young pregnant woman is wrapped in bandannas, representing difficulties she may face such as early marriage, interrupted schooling, inability to voice their own opinion, access to food in pregnancy and more. You can see her relief as each layer is removed through education and empowerment.



Indian flag colours are also used to illustrate healthy eating.



## Thank you to our Mother's Day Raffle Donors



These 12 wonderful businesses contributed this year. We thank them for their generosity in this time of widespread financial stress in our community.

Active Games and Entertainment  
Bindi Bindi Dreaming  
Mokoh  
Sienna Cary  
Boatshed  
WASO

South Beach Cycles  
Lenx Candles  
Little Love Rugs  
Easy Peasy  
Dinninup Grove  
Tamara Yoga

We also acknowledge the support of many other businesses over the last 6 years.

## CINI Australia Events - What's coming up?

**MOVIE NIGHTS** As soon as restriction are raised we'll be planning a Movie Night. Watch our social media and emails for details. We always need volunteers if you'd like to help.

**KILLERBY WINE OFFER** ORDERS DUE 12th JULY Killerby's generous offer is open again to our supporters & they will donate to CINI Australia for each 6-pack sold. To take advantage of this offer, email us for details & order form - [admin@ciniaustralia.org](mailto:admin@ciniaustralia.org)

**GIVENOW COVID-19 APPEAL** will remain open as our primary fundraiser in support of the responses to COVID-19, Cyclone Amphan repairs and to get our regular programs back into full swing as soon as possible.

[www.givenow.com.au/mothersday2020](http://www.givenow.com.au/mothersday2020)



## How You Can Help

- Become a regular donor or sponsor at [www.ciniaustralia.org](http://www.ciniaustralia.org)
- Donate in lieu of a Christmas or Birthday gift
- Volunteer your time or resources

Your feedback is always welcome...email us at [admin@ciniaustralia.org](mailto:admin@ciniaustralia.org)



Aston  
Accountants



**Donate** on line [www.ciniaustralia.org/how-to-help/donate](http://www.ciniaustralia.org/how-to-help/donate) or complete & post this form

General programs donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ monthly for \_\_\_\_\_ months OR ☐ until advised OR ☐ once

Sponsor a Mother & baby: ☐ \$450 once OR ☐ \$15/month for 30 months OR ☐ until advised

Sponsor Educate A Child: ☐ \$240 once OR ☐ \$10/month for 24 months OR ☐ until advised

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by: ☐ Direct Debit bank account OR ☐ Master Card OR ☐ Visa card OR ☐ Cheque

Debit Account Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

BSB: \_\_\_\_\_ Account number: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cheque payable to "CINI Australia" Post to PO Box 8358 PO Angelo St South Perth 6151

*Thank you for making a difference with CINI Australia*

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[www.ciniaustralia.org](http://www.ciniaustralia.org)