



CINI Australia

Child In Need India
Newsletter June 2021

News from India

DEADLY SECOND SURGE PROMPTS PLEA FROM FOUNDER...

CINI is experienced in mounting effective, emergency responses in times of disaster. As the second surge of COVID-19 engulfed the country, this urgent message from Dr Samir Chaudhuri, the founder of CINI India, requested our support. Thank you to the many of you who have already responded so generously.

"It is with a sense of sadness and despair we are approaching you, to help us mount the Second Surge COVID 19 relief programme from CINI. CINI is not in a position to start hospitals, etc ...We have a dedicated staff, who can't sit around waiting to see people die. CINI has begun its relief programme specifically addressing preventive measures that can still save us from the virus, provide counselling and advice to those who are still healthy, with clear guidelines to those who have come in contact or have symptoms, how to isolate at home with telemedicine support or be directed to "safe homes" run by the government"

After thorough assessment of local needs, CINI has established 18 COVID Assistance Centres throughout West Bengal and plans to reach Jharkhand, Odisha and Assam, states that are even more in need of help. Family COVID Wellness kits will help families prevent further spread and devastation. Tuks tuks and street theatre spread critical public health messaging in hard-to-reach slums and villages where resources are

scarce, literacy is low and poverty is severe. CINI Field workers are the best people to educate communities at risk, about COVID prevention. CINI's response is evolving as the situation changes. Three 50-bed quarantine and care centers have been established. CINI's long-established, trusted relationships with families and government, has enabled them to mount a rapid, effective response.



And now a Cyclone...again...



HISTORY REPEATS... Only a year after the devastation of Amphan, Cyclone Yaas hit West Bengal on 26th May yielding 150km/hr winds and 2m tidal waves. Over 1.5million villagers were evacuated to 14,000 shelters in Bengal alone, following flooding that wiped out homes and livelihoods. Early reports describe how in one location villagers, desperate to save their homes and meagre belongings, lined up against a mud embankment to protect it from the rising flood waters – efforts that were sadly in vane, ending with the barrier's collapse.

CINI is currently housing and feeding 500 people at 2 shelters in collaboration with a partner organisation. The current crisis is safe drinking water. CINI has responded to this desperate need for drinking water and food by arranging Nutrimix for children and packaged drinking water (as the entire area was submerged by ocean, also washing away the basic food stores of many families). This crisis is yet another blow on top of the impossible challenge of observing and maintaining COVID protocols and hygiene in makeshift rooms shared by many families.

Good news among the chaos

A FAMILY REUNITED... This is Devi (pictured with her father and stepmother below). She was 7 years old when she was separated from her mum on a crowded railway platform. She spent the next 7 years scared and alone in India's complex orphanage system, struggling to survive with no sense of who she was or where she belonged.

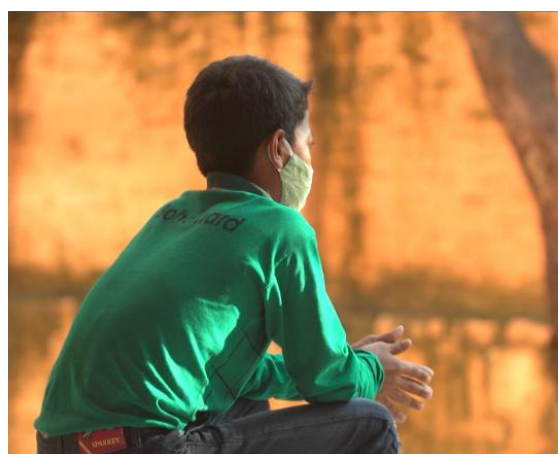
Two years into the ordeal, she met CINI Social workers, Rini and Neepa. With immense care and patience, they enabled Devi to painstakingly retrace her journey along the railways. Eventually Devi recognised familiar landmarks that lead the way home and Rini and Neepa supported her safe return home as a 14 year old.



Today, Devi is settling well into family life. She is enrolled in school and enjoying her studies. She says "I'm really happy to be back home instead of in the orphanage because now I have love and a family to care for me".

CINI TEEN SPEAKS AT UN ... Supported by CINI India, 16 year old Isika represented CINI Street Children on the world stage when she delivered a statement to the UN's Human Rights Council in March. Her presentation was part of the panel discussion on the rights of the child in relation to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are so proud of her! To see her presentation scroll to 55minutes 30seconds on the video at this link!

<http://webtv.un.org/search/panel-discussion-on-rights-of-the-child-and-sdgs-15th-meeting-46th-regular-session-human-rights-council-16236414761001/?term=&lan=english&page=22>



BOYS RESCUED FROM FACTORY LABOR ... Among the enduring crises of 2020, another great achievement took place in the rescue of 21 boys (6 - 17 years) who were being trafficked as child labourers from Bihar. They were all heading for bangle factories in Kolkata.

Initially the children were "unwilling and unhappy" at CINI India's Children's Shelter Home. The children and their families were angry to be deprived of much needed income especially following job losses in the pandemic. They were unaware of Child labour laws. The good news is that CINI returned them to their families and linked them with local NGO's in Bihar. Now, with the help of the state governments and Childline India Foundation they are receiving training and education for future employment.

CINI AUSTRALIA NEWS

NEW BOARD MEMBERS CINI Australia welcomes its four new board members who bring enthusiasm, knowledge, cultural diversity and professional and industry experience to our organisation. They have each expressed their strong desire to contribute to healthcare and empowerment of women and child in India and we look forward to working with them.



Alex Blennerhassett is a lawyer with a strong background in class actions litigation. She has been a fierce advocate for the rights of women since a young age and is passionate about social justice.



Matt Herring has extensive experience in the corporate, government and non-profit sectors and is currently a Partner and Board Member at KPMG Australia. His PhD from Uni of Adelaide focused on rural health care in India and he's a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is interested in international development and social justice.



Dr Ashwita Vanga moved to Perth from New Delhi in 2018 and has advocated for fellow International Medical Graduates ever since. She was the first female President of the Indian Medical Association, student wing. In 2020 she joined Aarogyia Foundation COVID-19 Taskforce in Delhi to spread awareness about coronavirus.



Jaz Walia came to Australia in 2014 from Kenya with a 40-year career in accountancy and financial audit. He has enjoyed working with non-profit organisations for a great part of his life including the Sikh Temple, Rotary in Kenya and the Australian Indian Business Association.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT - TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

Don't forget that all contributions to CINI Australia are now fully Tax Deductible. Please consider this as the end of financial year draws near.

This QR code will take you straight to our donation page!

MOTHERS DAY CELEBRATION FUNDRAISING SUCCESS CINI Australia once again thanks all our wonderful supporters who helped us raise in excess of a staggering \$30,000 for our essential programs. A special thanks to those who held celebrations for CINI Australia in Wyndham and across Perth!

Continuation of our ongoing HIV and Community development programs is more important than ever. It will take years to overcome the impact of COVID on worsening malnutrition, health care, devastated education and risks of early marriage, trafficking and child labour.

COVID SUPPORT Your generous support raised over \$16,000 for CINI Australia's COVID relief response. COVID Assistance Centres are providing education, support, basic health assessments, referral, emergency food and Wellness Kits. Over 6000 people will receive soaps, masks and nutritional supplements.



Special Thanks



BIG TREK BY AN EVEN BIGGER HEART Graham Backhouse made an incredible trek of over 1000 km from Albany to Perth along the Bibbulmun Track, all in the name of charity. He raised over \$13,000 for 4 charities close to his heart, one of them being CINI Australia. Through torrential rain and fire (true story!!) Graham Backhouse hiked solo for 7 weeks, hitting the finish line 5 days ahead of schedule! CONGRATULATIONS GRAHAM! And thank you for including CINI Australia in your fantastic fundraising efforts.

PERTH'S INDIAN COMMUNITY is an integral part of CINI Australia. We thank the Assam Association of WA, Australian Indian Medical Association, Bengali Association WA and WA Indian Docs for their collaboration and support, particularly during our most recent appeal, which has enhanced our capacity to respond to the current crisis in India.



CINI Australia Events - What's coming up?

Celebrating
— 10 YEARS —

CINI AUSTRALIA TURNS 10 There is much to celebrate with this incredible milestone. We hope to hold a celebration with all our supporters in person later this year when the COVID situation is more stable. Keep an eye on our social media for up to date announcements.

How You Can Help

- Become a regular donor or sponsor at 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



Aston
Accountants



Donate on line 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