

COMBATING VIRUS COVID WITH DEDICATION

March-April, 2020 » Vol. 01

Karnataka Jesuit Province

INITIATIVES
A N D
RESPONSES

#CombatingVirusWithDedication

There were plagues, famines and wars all through human history, but the present pandemic COVID-19, is the greatest challenge across the world after World War II. According to one source, it has infected more than two million and led to the deaths of over 1,70,000 people. Not only precious human lives are lost, but the whole socio-economic fabric is torn asunder creating uncertainty and panic.

Some opine that COVID-19 is a natural culmination of a reckless human trajectory. When, people are deaf to the plight, especially of the poor and of the ailing planet, a pandemic like COVID-19 is bound to happen. It is the only way, they think, to awaken the disoriented and deaf humanity from its supine slumber, compelling it to collectively pause, ponder and prioritize life. In this sense, the terrible scourge, COVID-19, has done its bit. It has levelled the playing field by affecting all regardless of the boundaries of religion, political views and the resources at hand. Positively, it has united people. There are global talks about health, hygiene and harmony. The air quality has improved, social concern is rekindled and religious faith deepened.

It is natural that in the face of danger, our natural instincts are for our own safety, security and survival. Still, many have dared to be different. Pope Francis not only offered a special benediction to an empty St. Peter's square, but also urged the bishops to accompany, comfort and console the faithful. It is not only the Pope, but also scores of people, especially the health workers, NGOs and government leaders have gone out in a big way to contain the scourge and alleviate the pain of the people. Some, who remain indoors for health and other reasons, pray quietly for the victims of the virus, long quarantine and lockdown. Some others counsel people, send positive vibrations in their conversation and WhatsApp messages and yet others have made financial contribution.

We, Jesuits have also walked the untrodden path and the result is **COV-WID, combating virus with dedication**. Joining hands with people of goodwill we began to

contribute our mite to ease the pain and suffering of people of Bengaluru and Mangaluru, Mundgod and Manvi, Vijayapura, Hassan and Harihar. E.g. St Joseph's institutions, Bengaluru along with their staff and students, alumni and alumnae, benefactors and well-wishers, government and non-governmental agencies were able to supply about 76,500 food kits to the afflicted in Bengaluru urban and rural districts. Along with food, we also offered accompaniment with counselling. We have focussed primarily on the migrant workers, landless labourers and daily wage earners who are the hardest hit in India.

Incidentally, for most of us in India, COVID-19 made its entry during the holy season of Lent, when we, Christians, contemplate the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a time to die, rise with and raise like Jesus. It is a time to transcend suffering and pain and generate happiness. It is a time to join hands with God and people of goodwill. I thank all those who have joined hands with us. I invite all people of goodwill to join hands with us and make a difference within and around us.



Rev Fr Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza, SJ
Provincial

Bangalore Jesuit Educational Society

The Bangalore Jesuit Educational Society in collaboration with the NGOs Diyaghar, Hasiru Dala, OBA of SJBHS and alumni of XLRI and St Joseph's College is carrying out the COVID-19 relief work extensively in the urban as well as in rural areas of Bengaluru, reaching out to the poorest of the poor, the migrants, destitute homes, slum-dwellers, orphans, elderly people and widows.

The Society is galvanizing both human and financial resources to join hands with an alumnus of XLRI who took the lead to carry out the massive COVID-19 relief work. The students from the hostel, volunteers from the college vicinity, religious women from the neighbourhood and the Jesuits of the town have brought the yeomen force and strength to the re-



lief work. Every day the relief packages worth a thousand rupees are being distributed to the needy. A total of 75,000 kits have been distributed to 3,00,000 needy people as on April 20. The work is getting bigger and the cause is being witnessed by the government and the city police, including the Police Commissioner. The BJES extends its heartfelt gratitude to all who are contributing towards its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.



Mangalore Jesuit Educational Society



The Mangalore Jesuit Educational Society has taken a lead in providing the construction workers and other poor families with food grains. Nearly 3,000 families are being served in co-ordination with the Mangaluru City Corporation as well as the Labour Department. Provision kits are also distributed to over 200 families of our poor students.

St Aloysius College Community Radio Sarang has continued its 16 hours broadcast even during the lockdown. During this time, it has specifically focused on Corona related issues to create awareness among its listeners. Several doctors from the Wenlock hospital including the District in-charge minister Mr Kota Srinivas Poojary came to the studio for live phone-in programmes. The Psychology Department of the college and the Listening Centre have jointly begun a helpline facility called *Manottejaka* for people to deal with stress. This was initiated in association with Prajna Counselling Centre, Mangaluru and Aadyaa Foundation, Bengaluru. Meanwhile, the cutting and sewing trade at SAITI is helping the district administration in preparing face masks.



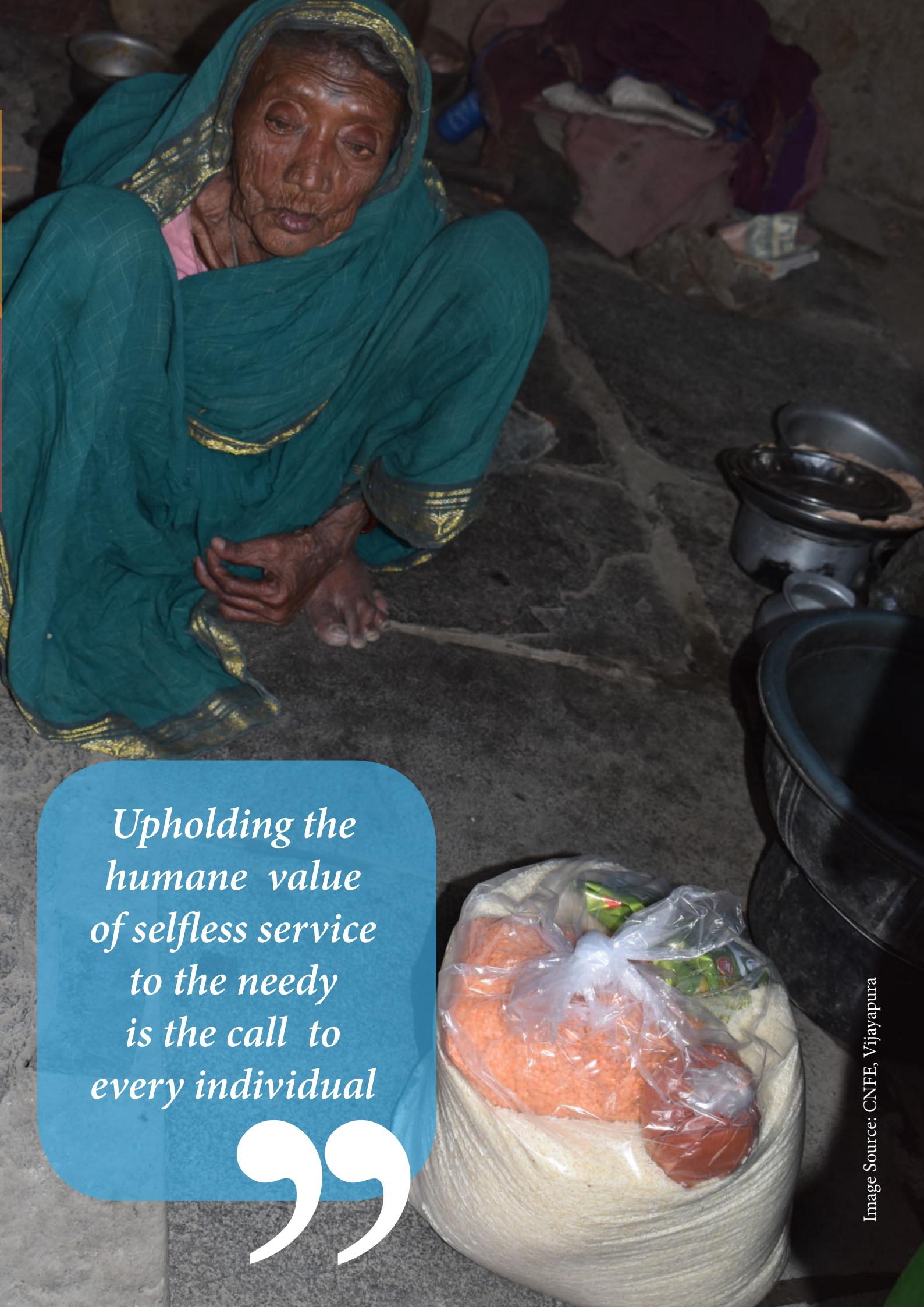
St Joseph's Indian Institutions, Bengaluru

St Joseph's Indian Institutions, through the Centre for Social Concern have reached out to the migrant workers, the poor and the needy in and around the locality all through this period of unprecedented lockdown announced by the government due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The services extended during this critical period are as follows:

- *Shelter for 120 migrant labour/construction workers since the lockdown has been announced.*
- *Food pack and groceries for 75 stranded construction workers from North India.*
- *Supply of ration to the families of economically weaker students of St Joseph's Indian Institutions.*
- *Online counselling service for the parents and students of SJII by the staff members of St Joseph's School CBSE.*
- *Supply of necessary provisions to the most neglected and abused community of the society, the transgender community housed at JD Mara Slum.*
- *Supply of essential ration to the needy Pourakarmika's of BBMP.*
- *Masks to the construction workers to help them stay protected from the Corona infection.*
- *Moral support to the Police personnel who are tirelessly working in managing the public movement on the roads during this quarantine period by providing them with snacks and tea at regular intervals.*
- *Supply of necessary ration to the homeless and other needy people from the Leprosy Colony, Muneshwara Layout, Chikkanayakanahalli and Sarjapur Main Road.*





*Upholding the
humane value
of selfless service
to the needy
is the call to
every individual*

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Loyola Institutions, Bannerghatta Road

Loyola Institutions are leaving no stone unturned while dealing with the threat of Corona virus. Self-isolation, hygiene, social and physical distancing at common meeting points are some of the measures taken to curtail the entry of corona into our campus! The Institutions have taken up the relief work for the daily wage labourers and migrant workers in the vicinity. The Jesuit community has extended its services in terms of providing meals to 148 people for 10 days on a daily basis, and 6,103 grocery kits to 26,384 daily wage workers, migrant labourers, construction site workers, poor families, stranded people, slum-dwellers, orphans, widows and sick people for 21 days.



Center for Non-Formal Education, Vijayapura



The district administration has recognised 10,000 families in Vijayapura district that are in crisis due to COVID-19. These families lack proper shelters and food. Most of these families are daily wage workers, families without permanent

jobs and slum-dwellers. Hence CNFE approached the DC to highlight the problems of slum-dwellers covered by the CNFE, Vijayapura. Immediately, he sanctioned milk packets to the families of the slums. The staff of CNFE along with the federation leaders distributed one litre of milk to each of the 5,000 families in 29

slums for 10 days. CNFE identified 500 most needy families of daily wage workers, senior citizens and widows and supplied provison kits worth Rs 1,000 each, consisting of rice, dal, sugar, chilli powder, turmeric, dhaniya powder, oil, and salt.



Centre for Integral Rural Welfare, Anekal



Anekal has been no exception to the great pandemic COVID-19. Centre for Integral Rural Welfare, Anekal in collaboration with St. Joseph's College Bengaluru reached out to the migrant labourers and the poor villagers in and around Anekal Taluk by distributing around 800 provision kits. The Jesuits of Anekal Mission and the staff of CIRW were involved in surveying, packing and distributing the ration to the needy.



St Aloysius College, Harihar

Over 500 families of migrant labourers in Harihar and Davanagere towns who were stranded received food and provisions comprising rice 10kg, sugar 2kg, rava 2kg, oil 1 ltr, salt 1kg, chilli powder ½ kg, tea powder ½ kg, washing soap 2, tooth paste 1, beaten rice 2kg, jeera 100grm, sambar powder 250grm, turmeric powder 100grm, and a bathing soap from the management, staff and students of St Aloysius College, Harihar. There are many migrant families who have been given temporary shelter in tents on the outskirts of Harihar and Davanagere.



Loyola Vikas Kendra, Mundgod

Following the crisis of the Corona Pandemic, Loyola Vikas Kendra, Mundgod conducted a survey to identify the most affected families which comprised migrants, widows, senior citizens, and differently-abled people. With the help of local ta-



luk administration, around 760 provision kits were distributed. Hand-made face masks prepared by the tailoring staff of LVK, hand sanitizers and other necessary hygiene materials were dispensed to 1,300 families. The social centre has also spread COVID-19 awareness through phone calls and local leaders in the villages.



Loyola Institutions, Pannur-Manvi

Though the district of Raichur falls under the green zone category of COVID-19 affected places, the residents of the vicinity have been much affected due to the lockdown effect as many are daily wage labourers. The Jesuits of Pannur-Manvi mission have risen to the call of this crisis in providing provision kits comprising rice 25 kg, dal 5 kg and oil 2 ltr to 1,000 families. The Loyola Health Centre located at Pannur is actively involved in spreading awareness about government welfare schemes, sanitization and hygiene methods and need for social distancing. The ambulance of the health centre is very much available for the needy.



St Joseph's Institutions, Hassan



Serving families from the SC/ST community who have been supported with provision kits.

St Joseph's Institutions Hassan have sheltered 40 construction workers who were stranded due to the lockdown, and are helping them by providing provision kits and spreading awareness. Conducting a survey in collaboration with the Holy Cross and Charity sisters, the Jesuits have also identified 80 de-



TABULAR PRESENTATION OF COVID-19 INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE PROVINCE UNITS

Institutions	Services Provided	Volunteers Involved	Type of Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Location
Bangalore Jesuit Educational Society	Provision kit: Rice, dal, oil, salt, potatoes, sambar powder	289	Migrants, extremely poor families, slum-dwellers, transgender communities	75,000 kits to 3,00,000 people in collaboration with other NGOs (BJES - 15,000 Kits)	Bengaluru Rural Bengaluru Urban Kolar
	Local hospitality: Coffee, tea and lunch		Volunteers at the site, Police personnel deployed on COVID-19 duty in and around St. Joseph's Institutions	6 policemen and volunteers per day	Bengaluru
	Counselling service		People who need accompaniment		Bengaluru
	Financial assistance to pay house rent		Transgender groups	100 people	Bengaluru
	Masks		Villagers	2,000 people	Pandithahalli
	Financial aid of Rs 22 lakhs to distribute provision kits		Migrants, extremely poor families, slum-dwellers	2,590 families	Mundgod Manvi Harihar

Institutions	Services Provided	Volunteers Involved	Type of Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Location
CNFE, Vijayapura	Provision kit: Rice, oil, dal, sugar, chilli powder, turmeric, dhaniya, salt	30	Daily wage workers, senior citizens, widows	500 kits	Vijayapura slums Sindagi villages
	Milk packet distribution		Slum-dwellers	5,000 people	Vijayapura slums

Institutions	Services Provided	Volunteers Involved	Type of Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Location
Mangalore Jesuit Educational Society	Provision kit	25	Migrants, daily wage labourers, poor students	3,000 kits	Mangaluru City Corporation limits Shaktinagar, Jyothinagar, Kunjathabail
	Awareness Programmes and information on COVID-19 given by officials of the district administration, elected representatives and health department officials through Community Radio Sarang		Listeners of the radio	5,000 listeners	Dakshina Kannada Udupi
	Counselling – <i>Manotejaka</i> - with a toll-free number through St Aloysius College Listening and Learning Centre		People and families in distress as a result of COVID-19	Approx. 200 people	Dakshina Kannada Udupi
	Mask distribution		District administration: doctors, nurses and health workers	700 masks	Dakshina Kannada

Institutions	Services Provided	Volunteers Involved	Type of Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Location
Loyola Institutions, Bannerghatta Road	Food packets	84	Migrants, poor families, slum-dwellers, orphans, widows and sick people	148 people for 10 days	Bannerghatta Jigani
	Provision kit: Rice, wheat, dal, oil, salt, sambar powder, chilli powder, turmeric powder, tomatoes, onions, potatoes		Migrants, poor families, slum-dwellers, orphans, widows and sick people	6,103 kits to take care of 26,384 people	Bannerghatta Jigani

Institutions	Services Provided	Volunteers Involved	Type of Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Location
St Joseph's Indian Institutions, Bengaluru	Provision kit: Rice, dal, oil, salt, potatoes, sambar powder	50	Migrants, poor families, families of leprosy colony, destitute home, poor students	1,589 kits	Bengaluru Urban: RT Nagar Ashok Nagar Ejipura SR Nagar Kammanahalli Sarjapur Road
	Food and shelter		Migrant workers from North India	75 people	Bengaluru
	Online counselling service		Parents and students of SJII		Bengaluru
	Mask distribution		Migrant workers	75 people	Bengaluru

Institutions	Services Provided	Volunteers Involved	Type of Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Location
St Joseph's Institutions, Hassan	Food and shelter	15	Migrant workers from North India	40 people	Hassan
	Provision kit: Rice, dal, oil, salt, potatoes, sambar powder		Poor families of SC/ST community	80 families	Hassan

Institutions	Services Provided	Volunteers Involved	Type of Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Location
St. Aloysius College, Harihar	Provision kit: Rice, sugar, rava, oil, salt, chilli powder, tea powder, washing soap, toothpaste, beaten rice, jeera, sambar powder, turmeric powder and bathing soap	5	Migrant labourers, poor families, slum-dwellers	500 kits	Harihar Davanagere

Institutions	Services Provided	Volunteers Involved	Type of Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Location
CIRW, Anekal	Provision kit: Rice, dal, oil, salt, potato, sambar powder	40	Migrant labourers, poor families	3,200 people	Anekal



Institutions	Services Provided	Volunteers Involved	Type of Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Location
<i>Loyola Vikas Kendra, Mundgod-Hanagal</i>	Provision kit	25	Migrants, widows, senior citizens, and differently-abled people	760 kits	Mundgod Hanagal
	Hand sanitizers, masks and other necessary hygiene materials			1,300 people	Mundgod Hanagal

Institutions	Services Provided	Volunteers Involved	Type of Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	Location
<i>Loyola Institutions, Pannur-Manvi</i>	Provision kit: Rice 25 kg, dal 5kg and oil 2lts	25	Poor families of SC/ST community	1,000 families	Pannur Manvi
	Awareness on govt welfare schemes, sanitization and hygiene methods and need for social distancing by Loyola Health Centre Pannur		Villagers	25 villages	Manvi

* Figures are as of 20 April, 2020



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