



Annual Overview 2020-2021

# Thank You

The Hope Foundation are extremely grateful to all our wonderful supporters – both individual and corporate, and to our phenomenal volunteers who have assisted HOPE by volunteering on our projects in India, and also by volunteering on fundraising events in their own countries over the years.

To all the students who have fundraised within their communities, and to those who have organised and attended HOPE events – we cannot thank you enough. We acknowledge those who have provided HOPE with donations in kind, and have provided us with pro bono support.

We are extremely grateful to all our Patrons and Ambassadors, for promoting the work of HOPE and encouraging others to engage with and support us.

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Cover Picture: Collage of activities during COVID-19 and Cyclone Amphan Emergency Response and Relief

**All names have been changed in “Story of Change”**



## From The Founder Director



2021 has been another difficult year for everyone but we are still here, still going, and it is all thanks to your support. We have learned a lot about how to hold onto hope when sometimes it just seemed a little impossible. We witnessed families trying to survive a horrendous outbreak of the Delta variant of Covid which ravaged the people of India before taking over as the most dominant strain in the world. HOPE rose to meet that crisis. As a result of the generosity of the people of Ireland, UK, USA, India and our supporters from all over the world, so many lives were saved. Thank you for playing your part in this.

Covid 19 has been compounding the existing poverty-stricken conditions of the children and communities in Kolkata for too long and we refuse to look away from their need. We are also seeing the devastating effects of Covid here at home, many people losing loved ones and livelihoods. We understand this

only too well, all of our fundraising events have had to be postponed again because the health and safety of our supporters, volunteers and staff is so important to HOPE.

We, at the HOPE family understand this anguish. We share your heartbreak and sadness, but we go on with optimism and love in our hearts believing that a better brighter 2022 waits.

To all of you who have supported us during the past year our volunteers, our students, teachers, our staff, patrons, board members and our donors, your generosity never fails to astound us and you are the reason that we can keep HOPE alive.

HOPE is a source of light to thousands of children and their communities. We continue our mission with hope and gratitude in our hearts.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maureen Forrest', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maureen Forrest



## From The Director, Finance & Administration

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to share that The Hope Foundation has successfully completed its 22 years of journey. This Annual Overview of April 2020 – March 2021, highlights the various aspects of our engagement in the field of child rights, education, health, livelihood and emergency support.

The year 2020-2021 was unlike other years. The breakout of the Coronavirus pandemic brought huge changes globally. Especially for the children, people from street connected communities, the challenges were multifaceted. The children's education was on hold and the adults became jobless. We at HOPE adopted various strategies to ensure the people in need were supported to ensure their right to food, education and life.



After the announcement of the nationwide lockdown, HOPE immediately set up emergency response units to ensure basic necessity of food. HOPE distributed more than 25,000 food kits to the people in dire need. We expanded our support to six districts of West Bengal after cyclone Amphan caused huge damage in several areas including Kolkata and Sundarban.

To deal with the medical crisis, the HOPE Hospital's ICU was converted into a 10 bed Covid ward which treated 118 people who are mostly from extremely vulnerable backgrounds. HOPE followed the Government of India guidelines to ensure the health and safety of children from the Child Care Units. Street connected children who were completely deprived from school education were supported by our education projects through online, live and recorded classes. We introduced a worksheet based education system on a regular basis to ensure continuity of education at home. The Life Skills training continued online.

I would like to announce that we have set up a weekly Community Clinic in slum areas to fulfil the basic medical need of the slum dwellers. The Education on Wheels project was also introduced during this year to support children from slums to continue their education.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our Founder Director Maureen Forrest, team members from India, Ireland, UK & USA, Germany, donors, supporters, volunteers who were with us during this difficult time. Our staff have been our greatest strength in this time of uncertainty and the large scale outreach work were impossible without their commitment and courage.

As we move forward to another year, we hope life will come back to normalcy soon and we will continue to empower children and vulnerable people and look forward to a healthier world.

*Sachidananda Das.*

Sachidananda Das

## About Us

The Hope Foundation (HOPE) is a development organisation working to provide sustainable pathways out of poverty and advocate for the rights and equal treatment of vulnerable children and communities in West Bengal, India.

The power and potential of a child is often suppressed by poverty, discrimination, and violence. However, in today's world every child should have the right to be healthy, educated, protected, and valued in their own family and society. To create long-lasting change, we empower the children, their families, and their communities to access their rights and break the cycle of poverty.

Since 1999, The Hope Foundation has been building a strong partnership with children, families, government departments and civil society organisations fighting for the rights of children through 53 projects supported by more than 437 members of staff.

**Our Vision:** 'A world where it should never hurt to be a child'. Restoring childhoods to children and sustainability to individuals and communities.

**Our Mission:** To improve the quality of life for the most marginalised street and slum connected children and communities, primarily in India. Ensuring their basic rights and enhancing their dignity of life, through protection, health, education, and economic development in a sustainable life cycle approach. Achieving this mission through fundraising activities and initiatives.

## Our Core Values

### Accountability

We are accountable. We believe in transparency and in making ourselves accountable to all of our donors, supporters, and beneficiaries. We are committed to the highest standards of governance and best practice in all areas of our work.

### Collaboration

We collaborate. Communities are at the heart of our work. We believe in building and fostering partnerships at different levels at home and abroad in order to leverage local, regional, and global strength for sustainable development.

### Equality

We treat one another equally. We are committed to promoting equality by removing barriers that stop full participation of every individual, group, or community in public or political life. We believe in and promote inclusivity and diversity inside and outside of our workplace.

### Innovation

We are innovative. We believe in the power of great ideas. We are always open to accepting and developing new and creative ideas; ideas which will enhance systematic change for sustainable solutions.

### Integrity

We have integrity. We aspire to the highest standards of honesty and encourage critical thinking for further development. We never compromise on quality and act in the best interests of those with whom we work.

## Respect

We are respectful. We respect the people we work for and on behalf of. We respect ourselves; we respect our colleagues and our community. We have fostered an organization that enables and encourages respect.

## Caring for the Environment

We are responsible. We are responsible for our contributions to the organization's value for saving the planet. We must act decisively and responsibly to protect the environment. We must aim towards creating a clean and green environment and reducing our carbon footprint.

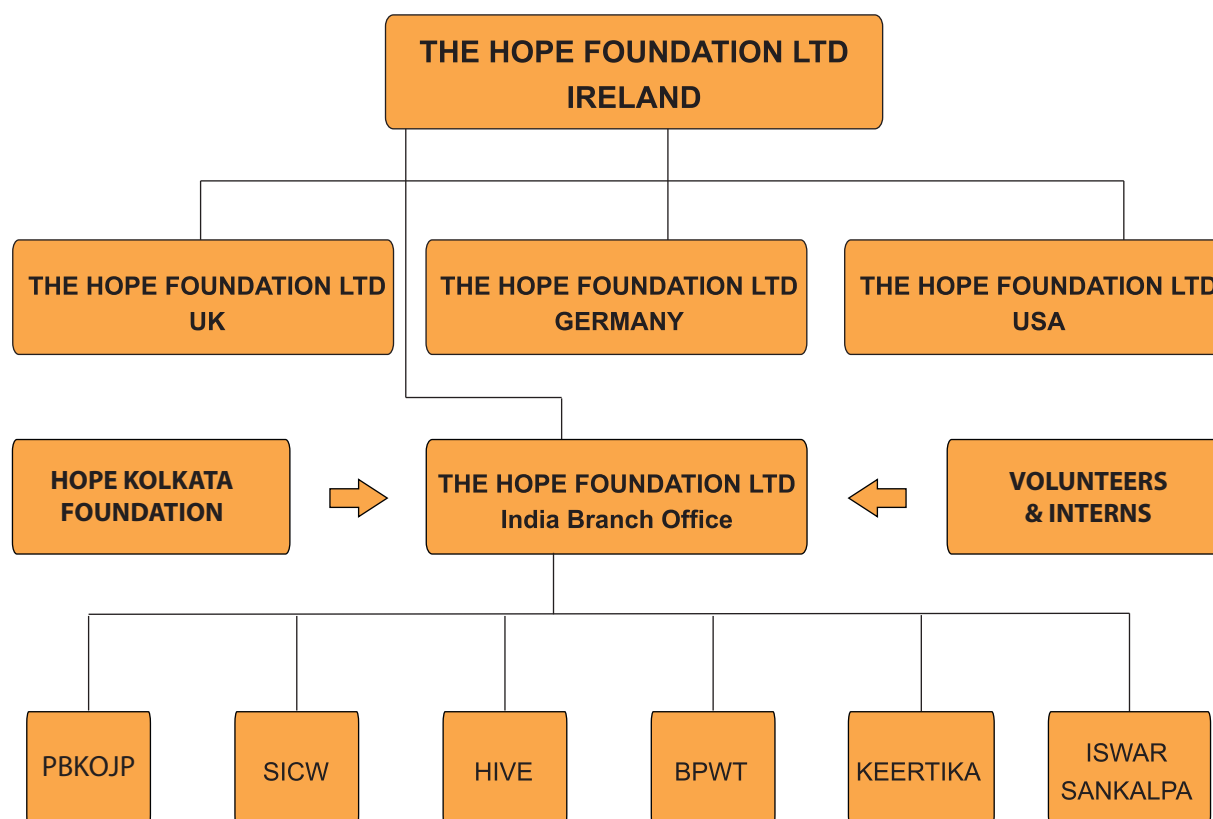
## Our Strategies:

1. Improve the healthcare status of underprivileged and/or marginalised communities, with particular attention to maternal health, child mortality and combating RTI/STI and HIV/AIDS.
2. Improve learning outcomes and the educational attainment of children and raising the quality of learning environments in formal schools.
3. Provide home-based and family-based care and protection for children to combat child labour, abuse, exploitation, and deprivation.
4. Empower marginalised young people and women to increase their skill capacity to secure sustainable livelihoods.
5. Be a voice for children through the implementation of an all-encompassing family and community approach to development.
6. Improve management effectiveness and accountability within the organisation.
7. Increase fundraising initiatives in India, Europe and Internationally for organisational stability and sustainability.
8. Increase volunteer and stakeholder engagement.





# Structure of HOPE



## Our Local Partners

### 1. Hope Kolkata Foundation (HKF)



The Hope Kolkata Foundation was set up in 1999 to improve the lives of children surviving the difficult circumstances they faced living on the streets of Kolkata. For the protection and development of these underprivileged children, Hope Kolkata Foundation manages 4 Child Care Units, 2 Crisis Intervention Centre for children, 1 Mother & Child Care Unit, Punorjibon Rehabilitation Home for Boys and provides early adulthood support, a Holistic Education Programme in government schools,

7 Nabo Asha education centres, 4 crèches, an Early Childhood Care Programme, a Life Skills Training Centre, a Hospital, Pharmacy, Night Round Mobile Medical Unit, Blindness Eradication Programme, Child Watch, and a Sponsorship Programme.

### 2. Paschim Banga Krira-o-Jana Kalyan Parishad (PBKOJP)



HOPE partnered with PBKOJP at the time of its inception in 1999 and collaborated with them in various interventions such as education, vocational training and early childhood care and education. Currently, HOPE supports "Prerona Home" for girls which was set up in 2003 for children from marginalised sections of society including children of sex workers.

### 3. HIVE India

HOPE has partnered with HIVE India since 2006 to support the Emergency Response Unit, set up to rescue any person at risk on the streets, involved in accidents, suffering from physical or mental illnesses, victimized by harassment or abuse, or involved in child labour and domestic violence.



### 4. Society for Indian Children's Welfare (SICW)

Since 2005, with the support of HOPE, the UMEED Special Needs Unit has worked with children with special needs to ensure their development and to bring them into mainstream society. HOPE also partners with SICW to support the Education Sponsorship Programme.



### 5. Iswar Sankalpa (IS)



HOPE has supported the Naya Daur outreach programme since 2007, a city-wide community-based programme providing treatment and support to address the needs of homeless people with psychosocial disorders on the streets of Kolkata.

### 6. Bhoruka Public Welfare Trust (BPWT)

"Snehneer Home" was established in 2005 in partnership with HOPE. Snehneer ensures the holistic development of children affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS through the provision of protection, healthcare, nutrition, education, and recreation in a loving and caring family environment.



### 7. Behala Keertika



HOPE collaborated with Behala Keertika in the year 2008 to support "Keertika Home". Girls in need of care and protection are provided with holistic support to flourish into independent and empowered women.



# Good Governance

As an organisation, The Hope Foundation is open and transparent. HOPE implements international best practice in governance.

We recognise our responsibility to you, our donors, sponsors, volunteers, and fundraisers.

HOPE is committed to safeguarding children. We implement best practice guidelines and provide child protection training and capacity building for all staff who work directly with children and vulnerable adults.

Our membership of representative organisations ensures that we are supported in keeping up to date on procedures, legislation and developments that impact on our work. Some examples of best practice in Governance include:

- HOPE is a signatory of the Comhlámh 'Code of Good Practice for Volunteer Sending Organisations'. 'Comhlámh' is Irish for solidarity and is a member and supporter organisation for those working for social justice, human rights, and global development
- HOPE is a member of Dóchas, the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations, and subscribes to its 'Code of Conduct on Images and Messages'
- HOPE is a member of The Wheel, a leading support and representative network for the community and voluntary sector in Ireland
- HOPE is fully compliant with The Governance Code, a Code of Practice for good governance of community, voluntary and charitable organisations in Ireland
- HOPE is a member of the Charities Institute Ireland, the body formed from the merger of ICTR and Fundraising Ireland in 2016 and adheres and implements the ICTR 'Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising'. We have been awarded 'Triple Lock' membership by the Charities Institute Ireland, demonstrating our commitment to best practice in all aspects of transparent reporting, ethical fundraising and governance
- HOPE's Directors' Report and Financial Statements are presented in a form which complies with the Companies Act 2014, and, as far as possible, with the New Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP), are published on our website
- Our founder and Honorary Director Maureen Forrest does not take a salary
- Modest Staff Salaries
- Numerous pro-bono professional service-providers and special rates help to keep administration costs down

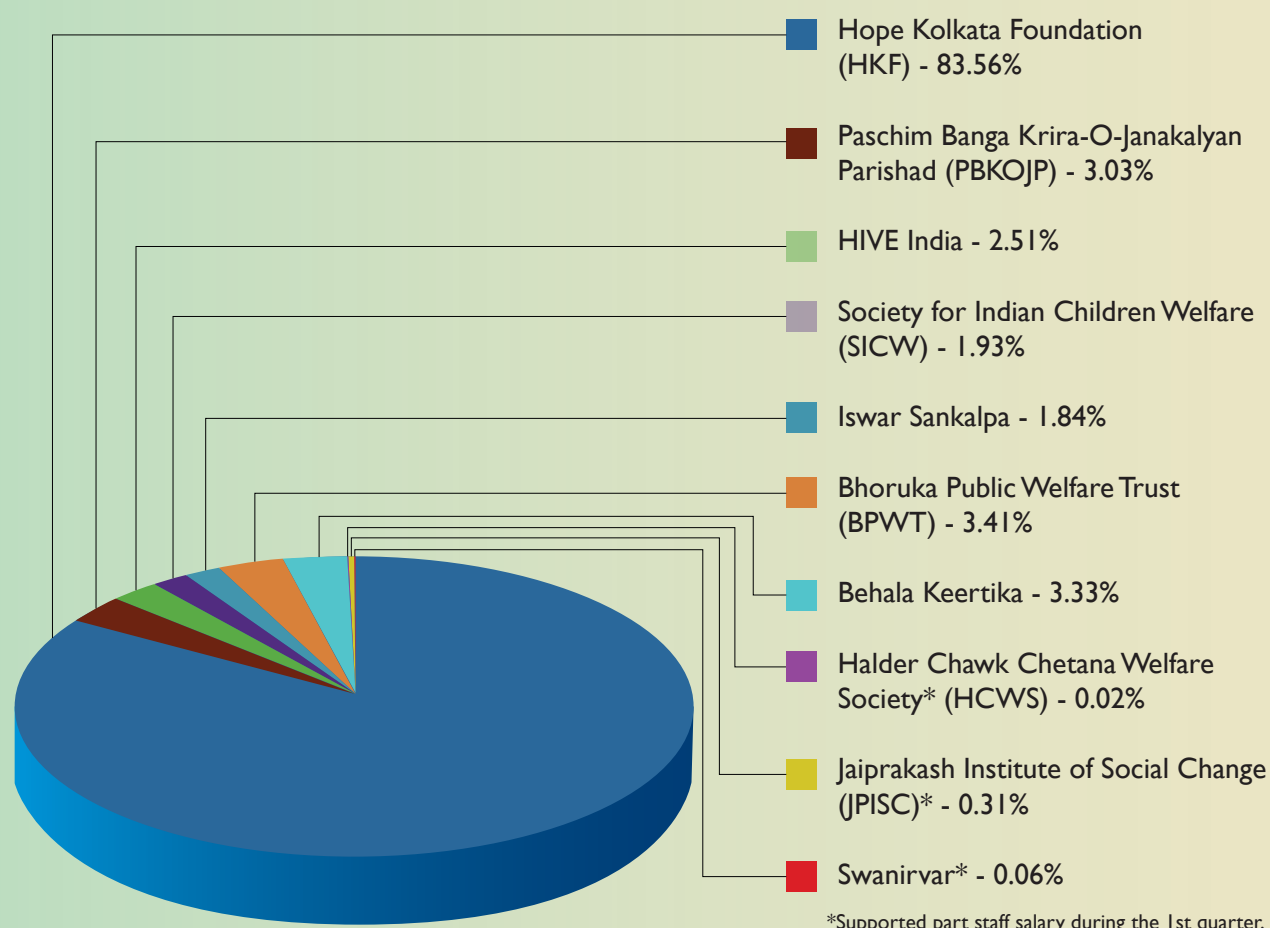


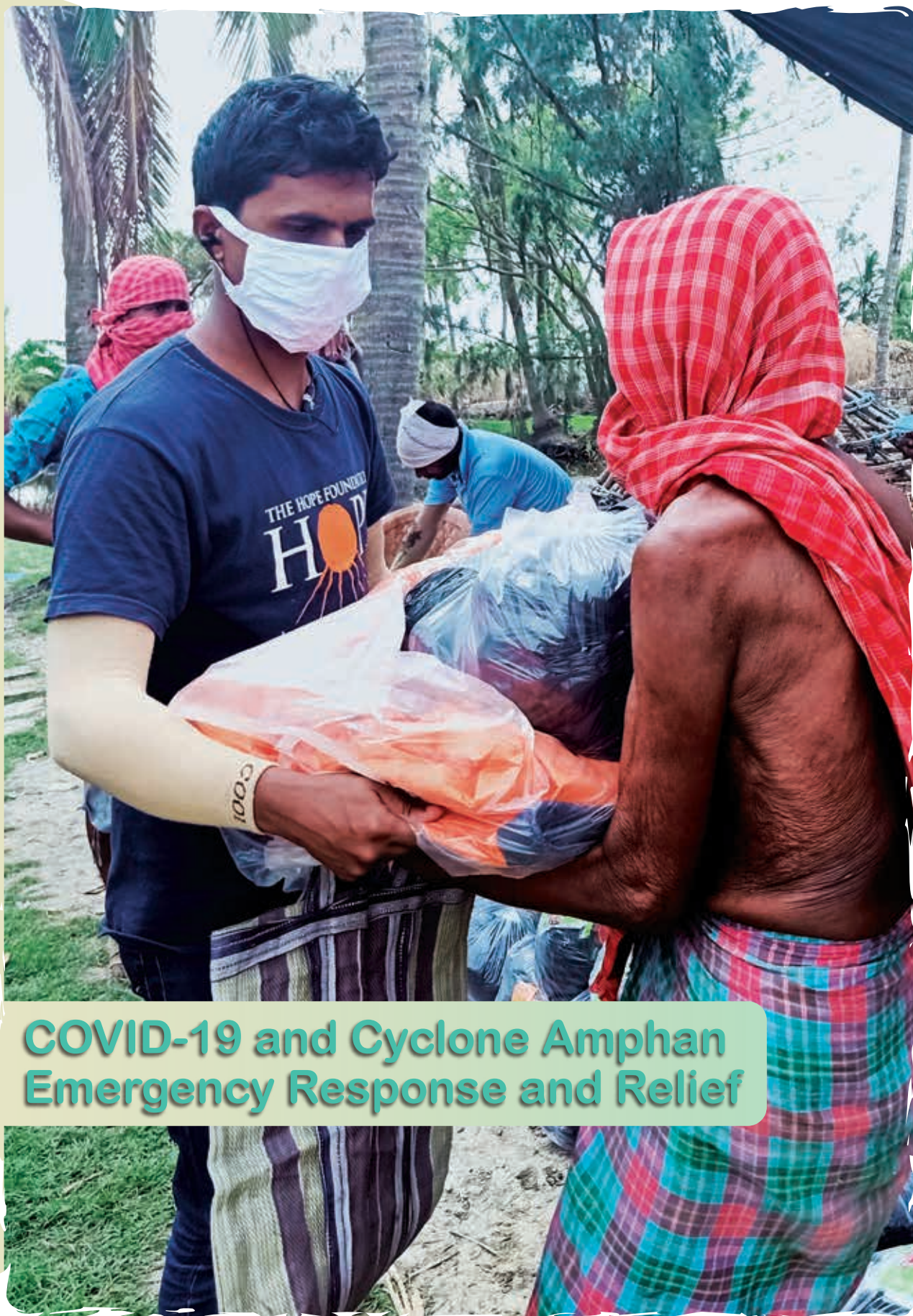


## 2020-2021 Major Achievements

- 18,802 individuals across Kolkata have been direct beneficiaries of HOPE healthcare programmes and interventions in street connected and slum communities, including over 7,700 who have been treated in Hope Hospital's Inpatient and Outpatient Departments
- 3,142 children have received educational support through HOPE crèches, Nabo Asha projects, educational sponsorship, and our Holistic Education Programme
- 1,033 children have been protected from abuse and neglect by our Child Care Units and Child Watch Project
- 590 young women and men have engaged in HOPE's vocational training, skills enhancement, and income generation programmes to provide sustainable pathways out of poverty

## Fund Allocation to Partners of Financial Year 2020-2021





**COVID-19 and Cyclone Amphan  
Emergency Response and Relief**



# COVID-19 and Cyclone Amphan Emergency Response and Relief

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world's understanding of vulnerability. Every person around the world became vulnerable to Coronavirus. India, a country with a population of 1.33 billion, was affected tremendously from the first day of complete lockdown on the 24th of March 2020. People living on the streets and slums, as well as daily wage labourers lost their jobs immediately. Moreover, huge numbers of migrant labourers, who became unemployed and homeless, returned to their native homes on foot, walking thousands of miles. The danger of starvation and hunger meant survival was uncertain even before facing the real threat of the pandemic.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, HOPE established Emergency Response Teams immediately after lockdown to distribute essential food items and sanitization kits and to provide primary healthcare services to those that had no access to food or medical support. The Emergency Response Team also rescued abandoned people. Secondary healthcare interventions were provided in Hope Hospital.

The uncertainty and vulnerability only increased when another disaster hit in May 2020. Cyclone Amphan caused great damage to the city of Kolkata and other districts including the Sundarban delta. HOPE reached out to people in dire need of food, clothes, and healthcare.

## Living on the street during the Pandemic and Cyclone Amphan

No security, no safety net, no guarantee of income, no surety of two square meals; people can die in accidents, women and children can be abused, abducted, and trafficked; this is the life of a person staying on the street in Kolkata.

The pandemic made life even more miserable. The earners didn't know when they would return to work and children did not know when they would return to school. Around 10 days before the full countrywide lockdown the schools were shut down to arrest the spread of COVID-19. Children from the streets and slums were in the greatest distress. They have no access to Smartphones to study online.

The adults did not know how they would procure food. The street and slum population had to depend on charities. The helplessness was visible on every face. Some people started storing food for relief material; people even started drying cooked food for the future. The uncertainty became infinite.

**“We are going through such a hard phase of life. Every time the HOPE social workers come in, we check if they will return with food next month or not. HOPE's groceries were like god's gift for us”- Zubeda Khatun, Hastings area.**

Under the leadership of the late Geeta Venkadakrishnan, then Director of Hope Kolkata Foundation; Samiran Mallik, CEO of HOPE Hospital; and Programme Managers, HOPE staff worked day and night to serve those in need. Some of the young adults from HOPE's Over 18's Programme also joined in the relief work voluntarily.

The generosity of the Irish people, the international community, and Indian corporates helped HOPE to



initiate the work. This section is evidence of the struggles confronted, the battles faced, and the sacrifices made during this global disaster. It also documents those untold human stories which would otherwise be lost.

**“While distributing the relief material I could feel the pain of the people from the street. But after receiving the materials I could see the spark in their eyes. That was fulfilling, I felt proud that I decided to volunteer for the relief work”.**

*- Abul Biswas, a young adult from HOPE's Halfway Home.*





## Emergency Relief by HOPE Hospital

I have been working with HOPE for 10 years. The term emergency is part of my everyday work life, but I never imagined an emergency like this where everything would standstill. We had to suspend our night ambulance services a week prior to the nationwide lockdown as there is always a gathering of people which was restricted. I would not say we were in shock as both Europe and the Americas were already highly affected by Corona virus. We had to make very fast decisions as we knew the people from the streets would be the very first to be affected by the lockdown before they got infected by COVID-19.

In consultation with our Directors from India and Ireland, we started the relief drive on the 3rd day of lockdown. The Hospital team turned into a relief team. Many of the staff and nurses stayed back in the hospital as travelling was impossible. I did the same. We packed essential dry food items like food grain and basic sanitization kits every day and visited our project areas. It was a very hard time. People from the streets were so helpless. They are daily wage labourers; 80% of their daily earnings are spent to feed their families. We started our work from Hastings area; the intention was to reach those who are dependent on our night ambulance service for medical support. But very soon we realised we cannot restrict our relief materials to those we know.



One day Soma called up and informed us there were around 20 people staying opposite Mother's House who were surviving almost without food. There were a few children amongst them. I immediately asked her to pass on the packets to them. We will always keep extra kits with us that we can go beyond our plan and ensure no one starves.

We rescued many people from the street during lockdown. They were in a terrible condition with no food, maggots, infections and psychosocial disorders. We found some of them were Covid positive. At this stage, we had to take the crucial decision of setting up a separate Covid Unit as we knew the government hospitals were already full. There was a scarcity of beds even in private hospitals. We set up a separate 10 bed Covid unit. Several NGOs, Sisters from Missionaries of Charity and even Kolkata police contacted us to rescue sick people from the street at that time. The circumstances made everyone afraid; no one wanted to touch a sick person. I must thank all of my staff for their dedication, courage and hard work.

It was quite surprising when my colleagues and I started getting phone calls from other districts and rural areas for support. Situations were already very critical. Our team went to Sundarban one day to give relief materials for Covid. They were very worried as several migrant laborers returned from different parts of the country around that time, anyone could be a carrier. But that was the beginning of another disaster. Cyclone Amphan hit the coastal areas of West Bengal on that very day. Sundarban was underwater for a few days. Thankfully, there were not many casualties in those areas as a timely alert allowed the government to evacuate those people and livestock to the newly built cyclone shelters. We could not do anything on the following day as the city was in very bad shape. I never saw such a frightening storm in my life.

We shifted our focus to Sundarbans. Travelling by basic boats for 4-5 hours every day was not easy. We reached extremely remote islands with our grocery kits and witnessed how vulnerable people have suddenly become. We could very well understand they could be economically marginalised but neither homeless nor dependent on others and the storm changed their life. The agricultural land was gone under salted water which will take 3 years to get back its fertility and a huge number of mangroves were destroyed. The natural disaster led to various health issues like diarrhoea and skin disease. We collaborated with another local NGO that hosted our medical team and treated more than 500 people from Sundarban.

Every day was challenging but I never lost hope. I am really grateful to all our supporters from Ireland, India and all over the world for encouraging us to continue with the good work forward.

*Samiran Mallik, CEO - Hope Hospital*



**“But I would not ever forget the way the people of Sundarban acknowledged our contribution when they conducted traditional rituals for our wellbeing by washing our boat before our return journey along with ululation.”**

*Soma Chatterjee, Coordinator- Night Round*



## Emergency Relief by Hope Kolkata Foundation

An interview with the late Geeta Venkadakrishnan,  
Former Director, Hope Kolkata Foundation



As the lockdown was announced from the 24th of March 2020 in India, our first and foremost concern was the children from the HOPE homes. We started storing food for them to ensure food safety. There was lots of uncertainty, no one knew, how long it will continue. We started getting phone calls from our beneficiaries from the slums as they were panicking. The time was around the end of the month, and the salaried people already finished their money. They had no food in stock, and the daily wage laborers were the main sufferers.

The CEO of our Hospital, Samiran Mallik, started the Emergency Response Team along with his staff from the Hospital and the night ambulance team

to reach out to the people from the streets of Kolkata. After ensuring food and groceries for the children of HOPE homes, I started planning for the people from the slums.

People in the slums were in great distress. Migrant workers started returning home from cloth industries, electricians, goldsmiths, construction workers, to name a few. Their families were expecting they would bring money, but they were penniless. As everything was closed, they spent all their hard-earned money on the way home. They were ready to take up any work, but nothing was available.

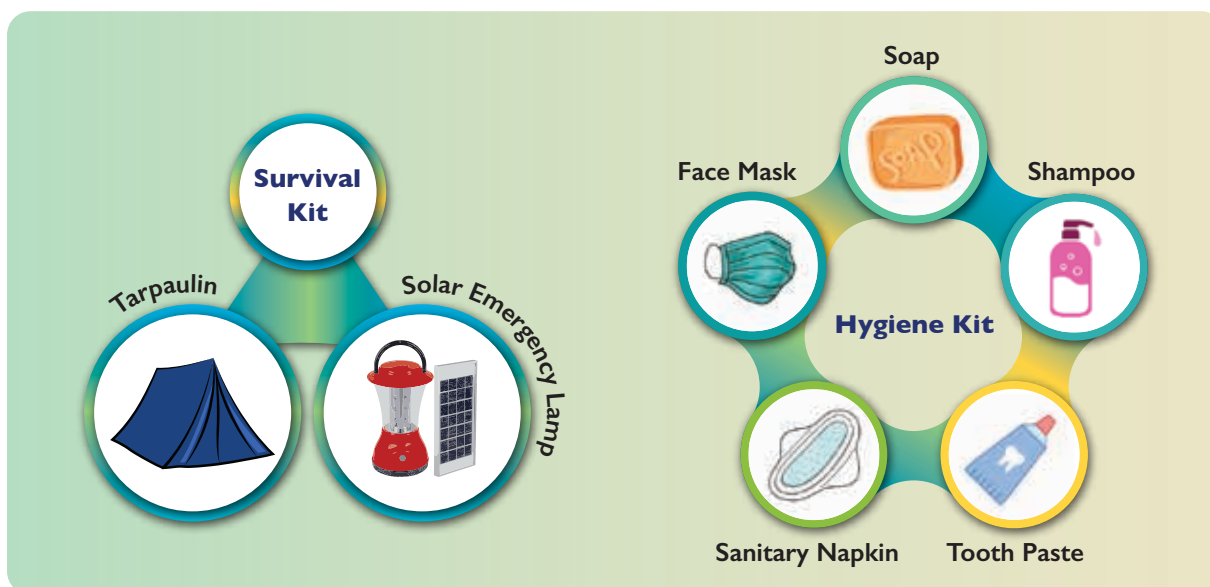
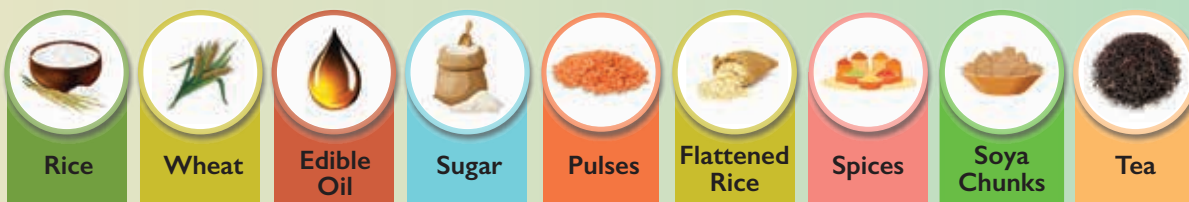
A family of 8 sleeps in a shanty house and spends the day on the street. During lockdown, they are expected to stay indoors. Social distancing is impossible. We distributed masks and conducted several awareness programmes on health and hygiene in 22 slums. 25 people use one washroom, for water they have to queue for 2-3 times a day and queue again to collect food in the ration shop. Most of the slums were getting infected. They have very limited access to medical services. Most of the slums depend on NGO run clinics, but those were closed due to lockdown. The Government started fever clinics in nearby areas or health centres, but catering to this huge population is a big job.

When we approached the staff to support the relief distribution programme during lockdown, they were anxious about themselves, their elderly parents and young children. I could very well understand their concern. Gauri and Somnath are amongst those staff that came forward at the very start. We developed a proper guideline on precautions and safety measures. Other staff came forward and eventually, it became a big team.

I was amazed when Abul one of the adult boys from the halfway home called me to volunteer in the distribution. Later two other adult girls Nilima and Baishakhi joined our team. That was really fulfilling, they were truly giving back to society.

*(This interview was conducted by Jhulan Ghose, THF team member in India, on 20th August 2020, when Geeta was actively leading the community relief programme on a regular basis.)*

### Food Packet



### IMPACT

- 3 Emergency Response Teams were formed
- 6 districts of West Bengal were reached
- 28,793 food packets were distributed
- 11,144 hygiene kits were distributed
- 6,430 tarpaulins were distributed
- 2,362 solar lights were distributed
- 600 people received treatment, face masks, and medicines during medical check-up camps which were conducted over three days in the Sundarban area
- 1,165 street dwellers were provided with primary healthcare services during the relief distribution
- 300 packets of cooked meals were distributed

# Acknowledgement of Staff & Donors

**We** are grateful to all our donors who have given us the much needed support to reach out to the people in need during the pandemic and natural disasters.

The HOPE project staff are the key people in the ground level who had made this huge work of relief distribution possible. We truly acknowledge their bravery, dedication and commitment to the communities they work with and the society at large with the ultimate sacrifice of putting their own life at risk.



Geeta Venkadakrishnan, Samiran Mallik, Ashok Maity, Bijay Jadav, Biram Imran, Biswajit Kar, Chiranjit Mondal, Gopal Saha, Jadav Hazra, Mamata Ghosh, Nantu Dhanuk, Pintu Jana, Rabi Dhara, Raju Das, Ramayan Prasad, Samir Das, Sanjay Das, Sanjeev Dhanuk, Satyajit Roy, Sibsankar Das, Soma Chatterjee, Gouri Pandit, Indu Prasad, Sayani Thakur, Suparna Banerjee, Ankita Saha, Mousumi Karmakar, Puja Saha, Tamalika Sen, Manjurika Rang, Manisha Mondal, Elora Das, Rachana Das, Sayantika Ghorui, Abhishek Jha, Ananya Das, Arpita Mondal, Arunava Das, Biswajit Mallick, David Das, Keerthy Menon, Nancy Ghose, Romio Mondal, Salil Dhara, Somnath Mali, Sonakshi Sinha, Stephen Mondal, Sudipa Das, Lily Ray, Pushpa Basu, Aparna Das, Arpita Paul Chowdhury, Sumita Das, Mousumi Mondal, Nisha Das.





## Health Programme





## Health Programme

HOPE has reached out to thousands of marginalised people from the streets and slums of Kolkata and other districts of West Bengal through various awareness generation programmes on health, medical camps, and by empowering community volunteer groups. Since its inception, HOPE health workers have supported street dwellers by providing medical assistance. HOPE also extends support to the homeless people who are in need of psychosocial support and responds to medical emergencies 24/7.

Hope Hospital was set up to serve those in need of medical attention and care. HOPE's night ambulance service, eye camps in different districts of West Bengal, and community clinics have provided medical assistance to a great number of underserved people.

After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in India, approximately 12,148,487<sup>1</sup> people had been infected by March 2021. Bed scarcity was inevitable. In response, HOPE set up a very specialised 10 bed Covid ward with ventilator facility to treat Covid patients from the streets and slums. The Hospital also provided COVID Testing facilities. HOPE initiated an emergency response team distributing food packets to counteract the risk of malnutrition and starvation during the pandemic.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/india/>



### Hope Hospital – Hope Kolkata Foundation

Hope Hospital, established in 2008, caters to the secondary healthcare needs of street-connected and slum-dwelling children and adults living below the poverty line, who would otherwise be deprived of necessary medical treatment.

Hope Hospital supports and collaborates with several charities in Kolkata and other districts to support socio-economically vulnerable people through the provision of medical services. Many of them are supported through the Hospital's outreach programmes such as the Night Round Mobile Medical Unit, Community Clinics and the Blindness Eradication Programme.

The Hospital has an In-Patient, Out-Patient and Surgical Department, Intensive Care Unit, Diagnostic Centre, and a Pharmacy. Most of the patients are from Kolkata and adjacent areas. Some patients are also referred from other states such as Jharkhand, Bihar and Orissa.

The State Health Department of the West Bengal Government provided special permission to Hope Hospital to open a COVID-19 ward to provide secondary medicinal support to Covid patients. Hope Hospital started a 10 bed COVID-19 ward with all the necessary equipment required for the treatment of Coronavirus.

## IMPACT

- **1,184** patients were treated in the Inpatient Department
- **6,536** patients attended consultations in the Outpatient Department
- **7,489** diagnostic tests were carried out
- **191** inpatient surgeries and **342** outpatient surgeries were carried out
- **116** homeless street patients were rescued from different parts of Kolkata and admitted to Hope Hospital for secondary healthcare treatment
- **427** Covid tests were done by Hope Hospital
- **118** COVID-19 cases were treated in Hope Hospital
- **15** patients were severely ill and required ventilation support. With proper medication and care, they gradually recovered their health
- **20** patients were admitted with high breathing problems, they were given high flow e-nasal oxygen to maintain their oxygen saturation level
- **15** homeless patients were rehabilitated to suitable homes for further support

### Story of Change

Surya is 5 months old. He is from an underprivileged tribal family who live in a remote village. His father is a marginal agricultural worker, and his mother is a housewife. Surya's father earns less than 1000 rupees per month (€13) and is the only earning member of the family of four.

Surya's abdomen was swollen since birth. His parents were worried but could not afford his treatment. They tried to get him treated by local physicians and paramedical practitioners, but they could not cure Surya. They also took him to a Government hospital in the Birbhum district but could not get proper medical assistance.

The parents found out about Hope Hospital from their relatives in Kolkata. Surya was admitted to Hope Hospital. He was diagnosed with Congenital Hernia. After carrying out all the necessary medical tests, Surya underwent surgery which was a success. After a week of observation Surya was discharged.





## Night Round Mobile Medical Unit – Hope Kolkata Foundation

Street and slum dwellers living in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions are deprived of information, money and access to health services. The costs associated with medical care can be overwhelming; in the worst cases, families may need to sell their property or take their children out of school to earn a living or beg. The street and slum communities are mostly daily wage workers and cannot afford to lose a day of paid work to access healthcare. The concept of the Night Round Mobile Medical Unit was established to address this crisis.

The Night Round Mobile Medical Unit is an outreach project of Hope Hospital. This project provides primary health care services and creates health and hygiene awareness among the street-connected communities of Kolkata. The Night Round team participated in the Emergency Response and relief distribution programmes during the initial lockdown and night curfew period in Kolkata. From July 2020, the project work resumed following COVID-19 protocols.



### IMPACT

- **5,528** patients received primary healthcare support
- **3,663** patients were provided with medicines free of cost for various illnesses
- **19** patients received wound dressings
- **14** patients were referred to Hope Hospital for secondary treatment
- **98** patients were referred to government hospitals
- **600** people received treatment, face masks, and medicines during medical check-up camps which were conducted over three days in the Sundarban area
- **2** children were referred to the Child Watch team for rehabilitation and shelter

## Story of Change

The Night Round team got a phone call regarding a 9-year-old girl named Sushma who was found with her family on the street. Her hand was injured. After getting the information, the team immediately responded. Sushma is from a poor family who lived in a village. Her father was a daily agricultural worker. They went to Kolkata in search of work because their farmland was ruined by cyclone Amphan. But misfortune did not leave them behind. After arriving in Kolkata, Sushma was in an accident and burned her hand.

After the injury, Sushma was not able to move her hand because of a skin contracture that developed as a result of the burn. Sushma's parents became worried about her condition but were not able to help her. However, local neighbours informed the Night Round and they provided treatment.

She was admitted to Hope Hospital by Night Round and it was found that she had a post-burn contracture on three fingers of her right hand. After doing all the necessary medical tests and check-ups, her plastic surgery was done successfully. Initially, she was not able to undergo treatment because of poverty but with HOPE's support, she was provided with the treatment which changed her life.

## Community Clinics in Chitpur and Sickline – Hope Kolkata Foundation

The Community Clinics provide primary health check-ups and primary medical treatment to cater to the medical needs of the community. Special emphasis is placed on providing care to children, pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescent youths, and the elderly. The project places importance on improving and maintaining the general health of patients by providing medical care and treatment.

The successful implementation of the Community Clinic in Chitpur led to the replication of a similar programme in Sickline slum in Kolkata. Sickline is another unregistered urban settlement located next to the docks under Kolkata Port Trust. HOPE's Community Healthcare intervention in Sickline under the ten-year long Jana Swasthya Suraksha Programme reflected that the slum dwellers often have medical problems which are different from the general public, due to the particular poor and unhygienic environment they live in; the closeness of the dwellings to each other; neglect of ailments which then exacerbate, particularly for young women who often feel too self-conscious to approach a doctor.

### IMPACT

- **1,257** adults and children received health checkups in Chitpur Community Clinic
- **1,565** adults and children received health checkups in Sickline Community Clinic





## Blindness Eradication Programme – Hope Kolkata Foundation

HOPE's Blindness Eradication Programme aims to increase the provision of high-quality, sustainable eye care through primary, secondary and tertiary treatment for urban and rural communities where medical facilities for both children and adults are lacking. HOPE reached out to 7 districts of West Bengal, including Kolkata.

The Specialised Eye Clinic of Hope Hospital was closed in April and May 2020 as the strict Covid-19 lockdown was announced by the Government. The Eye Clinic and eye surgeries resumed from June 2020, and Eye Check-up Camps resumed from July 2020, maintaining Covid protocols and with permission from the local police and Government Authorities.



### IMPACT

- **2,253** adults and children were tested in 19 eye check-up camps held in villages throughout West Bengal
- **878** people received medicines
- **1,381** adults and children received spectacles during the camps
- **1,495** people benefitted from 76 specialised eye clinics at Hope Hospital
- **322** eye surgeries were carried out
- **1,444** different forms of eye testing were done at the specialized eye clinic

## Story of Change

Jyostna (65 years) lost her vision and was abandoned on the street. She was very sick and in an unhygienic condition when she was rescued by the Night Round Mobile Medical Unit.

Jyostna was treated by doctors in Hope Hospital and cataracts were detected in both eyes. Necessary eye tests were done in the specialized eye clinic, along with other medical tests. Jyostna underwent cataract surgery and got her vision back.

Through counselling, it was found that she was married but was not accepted by her in-laws and other relatives. She lived with her parents and siblings, but after the death of her parents, she was abandoned on the street by her relatives. After post-operative care, she has been rehabilitated and provided with shelter in a home for the elderly.

## Early Childhood Care and Education for underprivileged children in collaboration with the Integrated Child Development Scheme, Government of West Bengal – Hope Kolkata Foundation

The Integrated Child Development Scheme is one of the world's largest early childhood care and education programmes run by the Government of India. To make it successful in the slums of Kolkata, Hope Kolkata Foundation has collaborated with the Government of West Bengal since 2018.

In 2020-2021, 2 ICDS centres were renovated and refurbished to make them child-friendly, accessible and to increase the quality of the service provided. Community-based programmes, including meetings with mothers, adolescents, and community people, were conducted. During the pandemic, the centres remained closed and Community Volunteer Groups played a critical role in ensuring the continuity of preschool education for children.



### IMPACT

- **2** Government ICDS centres were renovated and refurbished to make them child-friendly
- **38** community-based meetings were conducted to reach out to 143 mothers, adolescents and other community people
- **151** children are accessing services from 3 ICDS centres in the slums of Kolkata

## Rescue, Restoration and Rehabilitation Mission in Kolkata: Emergency Response Unit – HIVE India

The Emergency Response Unit delivers 24/7 services, rescuing abandoned children, women, the elderly, accident victims or those suffering from psychosocial disorders.

The Response and Rescue Team is equipped with ambulances to respond to any emergency call and the team is trained to handle emergency situations. Immediate first aid and psychological support are provided to support victims, stabilise them, and make them comfortable. Medical and psychological support is provided when required, in addition to hospitalization and treatment. All necessary legal documentation is submitted to the local police.

The Emergency Response Unit helps to rehabilitate rescued victims, assists in their restoration and provides follow-up support. The project liaises with the Child Welfare Committee and, CHILDLINE in relation to the restoration and rehabilitation of children. A strong network has been established with other organisations to provide shelters and half-way homes for the elderly, women, and men.

During the lockdown and night curfew, HIVE provided cooked food and grocery items to families living on the streets of Kolkata. Restricted public transportations and mobility resulted in fewer accidents on the road, but this in fact adversely impacted the restoration of rescued persons to their homes and families. The Emergency Response Unit provided transportation support for restoration as needed.





## IMPACT

- **215** persons were rescued from different crisis situations
- **70** persons detached from their families were restored to their homes and resumed their normal lives after treatment
- **55** children at risk on the street, who could not be restored, were rescued in cooperation with CHILDLINE, and were placed before the Child Welfare Committee for safe shelter
- **17** women who had been abandoned by their families due to psychosocial disorder or family violence were rescued and rehabilitated in association with similar Government and non-government organisations
- **12** elderly persons who were lost and abandoned by their families were rehabilitated in association with Government and non-governmental organisations
- **150** packets of grocery items were distributed to distressed families in Nimtala and Dumdum in Kolkata
- **350** families were provided with cooked food in Kolkata during the night curfew

### Story of Change

Dilruba, a woman in her mid-forties, was rescued from the street by HIVE after an alert was received from locals in an area in Kolkata. She was brought to the nearest police station. Dilruba was extremely unwell and was unable to share her own identity. With HIVE's assistance, she was admitted to a government hospital by the police. She was diagnosed with both physical and psychological ailments. While she was receiving treatment in the hospital, a team member from HIVE provided counselling.

This helped her to recall her name and address. She also shared that she was receiving treatment in a home for people with psycho-social disabilities in Kolkata. With the support of the police, Dilruba was reunited with her family who travelled 100 kilometres to find her.

## Naya Daur: Community-based Care and Support Programme for Homeless People with Mental Health Illnesses - Iswar Sankalpa

Naya Daur is a community-based project which supports homeless people with psychosocial disorders through nutrition, health and hygiene, clothing and family restoration.

Reducing the stigma surrounding mental health is a key aspect of the project which supports clients to reintegrate into society. Advocacy and awareness campaigns are conducted to promote the social inclusion of this marginalized population. Support is provided to help clients obtain Government benefits.

Caregivers are identified within the local community to support people with psychosocial disorders living on the streets. As a result, more clients are being accepted back into local communities and provided with employment.

Naya Daur mobilizes community resources such as pharmacies, NGOs, Community Based Organisations, local shop keepers, pharmaceutical companies, other corporate groups, and concerned individuals, empowering them to act as potential caregivers. Using these resources, a wider support network is formed to create an integrated mental health service model. The caregivers and other community members provided enormous support during the lockdown, by providing medicinal and food support to the clients when the social workers were not able to.

Caregivers bridge the gap between social workers and homeless people with psychosocial disabilities. Despite the circumstances, with the help of the caregivers, the Naya Daur programme continued to provide counselling and medical check-ups through video calls.

## IMPACT

- 99 clients were registered in the programme, including 14 new clients
- 28 clients were engaged in employment
- 2 clients were resettled in the community and 2 clients were restored to their families
- 88 caregivers, including 15 new caregivers, are taking care of 70 clients



### Story of Change

Sonu, as the locals called him, was hyperactive, spoke out randomly and wandered about the streets of Kolkata. The locals in the community requested us to look after Sonu. He experienced unwarranted rage and hallucinations which made him violent towards an imaginary figure. He was admitted to NRS Hospital and diagnosed with schizophrenia. Within a month of our intervention, he started to show significant signs of improvement. The symptoms that stemmed from schizophrenia rapidly began to reduce, and Sonu's manner became calm. The team found out that his home, where his mother and elder brothers lived, was nearby. When Sonu returned home, his mother held the hands of the team, tears running from her eyes in joy. They never expected their son to recover. Sonu suffered from an extreme case of schizophrenia which eventually led him to become homeless.

He returned to his family and is still receiving treatment. We have suggested to his family to help him to find a job.



## Protection Programme





# Protection Programme

In 2019 the the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child celebrated its 30th anniversary, with 196 signatory states. However, global events and the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in the widespread displacement of families, increasing children's vulnerabilities in many ways. The declaration of global health emergency and the yearlong lockdown which followed in all states in India forced many children to live in extremely precarious situations. Rather than attending school, children were often exploited, forced to work or became victims of trafficking.

Children remain in the group that is most vulnerable to violence, exploitation and the risks associated with forced or voluntary migration during the COVID-19 pandemic. A UN report published in April 2020, noted an increase in poverty of 84 to 132 million people, approximately half of whom are children. Similarly, UNICEF estimated that 463 million children globally were unable to access remote learning when COVID 19 closed their schools. Our mission remains rights-based; adopt and implement urgent actions to support vulnerable children, allowing them to grow and develop holistically.

## Child Welfare in the context of Pandemic

**Dola Dey, Child Protection Officer, The Hope Foundation**



At HOPE, children are our utmost priority. Since the outbreak of Coronavirus in several countries, we developed guidelines on COVID-19 protocols for the children and staff of the HOPE Homes based on WHO's advisory, from February 2020. We did not want to take any risks. Our first step was to make children aware of the disease and the precautions they need to take. We restricted the entry of visitors, volunteers and interns. The children were not allowed to go out of the premises to ensure their safety as per lockdown regulations.

In the first week of March 2020, the honourable Supreme Court ordered the State to provide defined guidelines for the children under the care and protection of the Child Care Units, which we implemented. Other than education our key concern was to ensure the overall wellbeing of the children. A few school authorities started online classes, and our private teachers started giving online tuitions as well. Nothing can be compared with classroom education, but continuity did not break. The home superintendents and other residential staff dedicated their time to the well-being of the children. A great deal of personal attention was given to the children to help them stay happy and calm. Constant counselling support was provided to them to boost their happiness.

HOPE tried to combat the crisis through our Child Watch and Nabo Asha education project. With the support of the West Bengal State Commission of Child Rights and Jadavpur University, HOPE and other NGOs launched a school curriculum-based learning program on community radio for the street-connected children who had no access to digital devices. Despite the risk of Coronavirus HOPE's social workers and teachers kept in touch with the community leaders and Child Vigilance Group members in our project intervention areas to ensure a 24-hour safety network and online education.

**"Everybody says stay at home; it will save you from the Coronavirus. The government needs to think about those who are homeless, where will they go."**

*Yasmin, 10 years, HOPE's community outreach programme.*

## Pushpa Basu, Senior Programme Manager, Hope Kolkata Foundation



I am with HOPE since its inception. The care and protection of children have become my passion now. So many children have grown up under my supervision in the past 20 years. Each of them came from unusually difficult situations and with our love, care, and affection we made them feel at home and always ensured their rights. Their basic requirements were always fulfilled. But the pandemic has come as the biggest challenge to us as we wanted to help the children stay psychologically and emotionally strong.

The children in our HOPE Child Care Units received every kind of support to stay happy during this difficult time. We provided information on Covid-19 to the children and the caregivers supported the children to maintain the Covid-19 protocols. Online consultations were organised with the medical officer to monitor the children's health. We started doing various recreational activities in the home to keep the children happy and motivated. Events like Fashion Show, Shilpa Mela (exhibition to showcase handmade crafts made by the children), Extempore" and "Tongue Twister" competition etc., were organised. The children in our Child Care Units created songs, dances and drama sketches to raise awareness and inform the other children and families living in the communities. Both their initiatives were highly acknowledged by the West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR). The posters prepared by the children on Anti Trafficking Day were acknowledged with 3rd position across the district by WBCPCR. These small but significant initiatives not only make the children happy but also make them responsible and contributed to the noble initiative of HOPE in their own way.

In addition to this, regular contact was maintained with their parents over the phone and children spoke to their parents. As many of the parents had lost their jobs and faced a food shortage, we immediately planned a food distribution programme for the parents. The work was not easy as they are from different districts and some areas are really remote, however we managed to reach out to each of the families in need and distributed food packets, ration for a month, hygiene kits and counselling supports as and when needed.



**"We feel especially safe here in the home after the pandemic. Aunties are staying with us all the time. We study, we play, and we enjoy home stay. But we really miss the world outside and most importantly our school."**

*Lata, an adolescent girl from HOPE Child Care Unit*

## HOPE'S Child Care Units:

The Hope Foundation established Child Care Unit to provide temporary protective shelter for children between the ages of 6 and 18, who are identified as in need of care and protection by the Child Welfare Committee. Vulnerable children, deprived of education and a proper childhood are placed in these Child Care Units to secure their rights to survival and development.

When children are placed in the Child Care Units, strategies are put in place to strengthen and support their families to enable the children to reunite with them which is an important aim of this programme.

While the communities were struggling every day for their basic necessities; challenges for the children living in the Child Care Units were different. The staff of the Child Care Units were informed of the impact of the closure of schools and outdoor activities, and the challenges this would create for the children staying in the Child Care Units. Regular schooling, educational events, outdoor recreational activities, outdoor sports and other activities play a pivotal role in the growth and development of children living in the Child Care Units. Lack of such activities created restlessness and anxieties among the children.

The daily activity chart of the children was changed and filled with various productive and fun indoor activities such as sports classes, recreational events, co-curricular classes etc. An emergency staff roster was developed immediately and the Care Givers/House mothers and fathers, Superintendent, Case Workers, Counsellors, Cooks and Cleaning staff attended residential duty so that no child remained unattended and uncared during the crisis period.

As per the directive of the Honourable Supreme Court, the Isolation Floor/Room has been created in every Child Care Unit for new children who were placed in HOPE's care with order from the Child Welfare Committee, during the Covid pandemic. Computer classes were made compulsory for the children to ensure retention in online school and online classes. Many other new sports activities and online counselling sessions were organised to keep the children happy and motivated. Training, information sessions and weekly sanitization were ensured to safeguard the children and staff from Corona virus.

## Mother and Child Care Unit:

Women are often subject to violence within the family, a place which is expected to protect their dignity and assure their safety. According to the Crime in India Report 2018, published by the National Crime Research Bureau (NCRB), a crime is recorded against women in India every 1.7 minutes and a woman is subjected to domestic violence every 4.4 minutes. Fuelled by mandatory stay-at-home rules, physical distancing, economic uncertainties, and anxieties caused by the pandemic, domestic violence have increased globally.

Between the beginning of March and April 2020, the National Crime Research Bureau in India received 310 grievances of domestic violence and 885 complaints for other forms of violence against women, many of which are domestic in nature such as bigamy, polygamy, dowry deaths, and harassment for dowry. The Mother and Child Care Unit provides safe shelter to the mothers in distress with their children during the pandemic and lockdown. Newly identified mothers and children were placed in the Mother and Child Care Unit for care, protection and rehabilitation. The staff remained in the Mother and Child Care Unit during the entire lockdown period so that the mothers and children remained protected with provisions of healthcare, safe shelter, nutrition and counseling.



## HOPE'S Child Care Units

Ashar Alo Home for Girls (13 to 18 years old)

Kasba Home for Girls (6 to 12 years old)

Female Crisis Intervention Centre (6 to 18 years girls)

Bekind Home for Boys (6 to 10 years old)

Ashirbad Home for Boys (6 to 18 years old)

Male Crisis Intervention Centre (6 to 18 years old boys)

Punorjibon Rehabilitation Home for Boys (6 to 18 years old)

Prerona Home for Girls (6 to 18 years old)

Snehneer Home for Girls (6 to 18 years old)

Keertika Home for Girls (6 to 18 years old)

Mother and Child Care Unit



## IMPACT

- **372** children through HOPE's 10 Child Care Units, and 14 children and 14 mothers have access to nutrition, healthcare, education and skill and knowledge development training
- **47** boys aged 6 to 16 years, who had a history of substance abuse, received appropriate treatment and are now free from addiction and leading a healthy life
- **313** children are enrolled in school and accessing online education and school classes
- **261** school going children improved their academic level as reported through online assessments
- **265** children regularly participated in Children Committee Meetings. They actively participated in the formation and interventions of the committee, speaking out for their own rights and ensuring the implementation of positive changes
- **229** families were informed and supported to access government entitlements for shelter, healthcare, food security, safe drinking water, sanitation, electricity etc. 69 of these families were linked and are accessing government schemes and entitlements
- **107** children have been linked with the existing schemes and entitlements provided by the Government
- **254** children attended online sports classes which kept them physically fit, active and energetic during the lockdown
- **241** children acquired spoken English and developed computer skills which became mandatory lessons to help the children to adjust to the new online education system
- **122** children above 14 years old attended vocational training
- **9** families were oriented and informed by the staff of the Mother and Child Care Unit about the rights of women and children, and legal implications of domestic violence before restoring the mothers in their families
- **14** mothers learned to manage and control their stress and anxieties; acquire knowledge on family planning, child rights and human rights
- **14** mothers were informed on maintaining hygiene practices, wearing masks, and to maintain social distance and the Covid-19 protocols
- **5** mothers suffering from psychiatric illness were diagnosed and treated, which helped them to lead a healthy life, to take care of their children and to make appropriate decision about their lives



## After Care Programme for Young Adults – Hope Kolkata Foundation

HOPE runs a special programme for young adults who were raised in Child Care Units until their adulthood. This project provides accommodation, education and nutritional support to boys and girls over 18 years of age who are continuing their education or vocational training to become self-sufficient.

During the year, 58 young adults were supported to pursue higher studies and acquire new skills, enabling them to become independent and prepared for a successful future.



### IMPACT

- **30** girls and **28** boys over 18 were supported.
- **4** boys and **8** girls were placed in jobs and are now earning an independent livelihood
- **24** girls are pursuing Higher Education. 9 of these girls are in secondary school, 1 girl is pursuing a management course, and 13 girls are in college
- **21** boys are pursuing Higher Education. 17 of these boys are in higher secondary education; 2 boys are studying Undergraduate Courses; 1 boy is studying Automobile Engineering and pursuing an internship, and 1 boy is studying Hotel Management



## Story of Change

25 year old Rekha was rescued by the Police and placed in the Mother and Child Care Unit. She was provided with treatment, healthy food and clothes. She was referred to a psychiatrist and diagnosed with Bipolar Affective Disorder.

Rekha received treatment and was provided with counselling to make her feel secure and to address her trauma, fear, and anxiety. During counselling, she told the counsellor that she was a survivor of domestic violence, perpetrated by her husband, who himself suffered from addiction. She is also the mother of two children. Unable to bear the torture anymore, she left home, but after a few days, she ended up on the street.

In the Mother and Child Care Unit, Rekha attended training to acquire new skills and a professional attitude. She was empowered to raise her children alone. She was enrolled in vocational training and received career counselling. Meanwhile, her family was traced, and family counselling and interventions were initiated. It was revealed that after she left home, her children stayed with her parents. Her father and elder sister were informed and with the consent of Rekha, she was reunited with her children and is now staying with her parents. Rekha is now working as a caregiver for a family.

*"I feel very lucky to get all the opportunity which has made my dreams come true and enlightened my life because I am under the care and protection of Hope Kolkata Foundation " – Navya*

Navya is the eldest daughter of a single mother who separated from her husband to protect her self-respect and worth. She raised her daughter alone. However, to earn enough money for the family, she had to leave Navya unattended and out of school, while she went to work. Navya was placed in Kasba Girls Home by the Child Welfare Committee, to ensure her safety and education.

The best place for a child to grow in a healthy and holistic manner is with their own family. Accordingly family intervention was initiated which consists of counselling and regular follow up. Communication was established with Navya's father. Navya's mother was supported to acquire an Aadhar card (identification card), ration card, health card and opened a savings account in a nationalised bank where she deposits money every month to secure her daughter's future. She was also linked with other schemes to improve her socio-economic condition. With the help of awareness and counselling, Navya's father was engaged in the discussions regarding Navya's holistic development and upbringing.

Presently, Navya is preparing for the Madhyamik Exam, a centralized exam for students in Class 10 conducted by the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education. She was restored to both of her parents in February 2021. An affectionate relationship has developed amongst the family, and her parents are fulfilling their responsibilities towards their children.



## Child Watch - Creating a Protective and Learning Environment for Street Connected Children in Kolkata – Hope Kolkata Foundation

Child Watch is a unique project centred on the care and protection of vulnerable children. It aims to build a strong bond between communities and education, protection and healthcare systems.

The project focuses on enrolling children between the ages of 6 and 14 years in formal school. To ensure they can earn a decent livelihood and thereby live with dignity, vocational training support and guidance is provided to children over 14 years of age, who have dropped out of school. In 2020-2021, the schools were closed in India, which affected student's education and the enrolment process. Vocational training centres were also either closed or moved their courses online. However, it is difficult, if not impossible, for street-connected children to access online vocational courses.

Community Watch Groups have been established in each area under the project. Active volunteers from the community create a 24/7 safety net within the community for children living on the street. The Community Watch Groups motivate parents, especially fathers, to reduce expenditure on addiction and save money for their child's education. Child Vigilance Groups have also been formed to protect children's rights. The groups are made up of children, who act as role models for the other children in their communities. This year, when movement and mass gatherings were restricted, the Community Watch Group and Child Vigilance Group members bridged the gap between community members and the Child Watch team.

The Child Watch project works closely with parents, especially fathers. The objective is to increase their involvement in their children's lives and encourage them to ensure that their children remain in school.

Child Watch also works in collaboration with other HOPE projects, such as the Night Round Mobile Medical Unit, Nabo Asha and the Life Skills programme, as well as government and non-government organisations to ensure children's rights and protection.



## IMPACT

- **42** children were enrolled in school
- **116** students who were previously enrolled in school were followed up to ensure they continued their education from home
- **5** children were enrolled in vocational training
- **6** children without parental care were enrolled in residential schools to continue their education in a safe environment
- **1** child marriage case was identified and prevented with the direct initiative taken by the Community Watch Group, police, CHILDLINE and Child Watch
- **4** child addiction cases were identified and received the necessary support from the Community Watch Group, the police, CHILDLINE, the Child Welfare Committee and the Child Watch team
- **17** cases of child labour were identified and prevented with the help of the Community Watch Group and the Child Watch team
- **13** single parents were linked with Government schemes and motivated to take care of their child's education
- **596** children and **276** families were supported by the Child Watch Project

### Story of Change

A 12-year-old boy called Binay lives in a small hut beside the railway tracks with his mother. His father passed away 6 years ago. He has two elder sisters, who are both married.

Binay studied in Class 5 but due to COVID-19, the schools in India closed. Binay started taking substances and gradually became an addict. He worked as a daily labourer to buy the drugs. He used to be out until late at night with his friends, using various drugs and toxic substances. His mother, the only earning member of the family, works as a domestic helper.

A member of the Community Watch Group, along with Binay's mother, informed the social worker of Child Watch of the situation and requested intervention.

The social worker and coordinator contacted the local police station and lodged a report. Binay was brought before the Child Welfare Committee who issued an order to place him in HOPE's Punorjibon Rehabilitation Home for detoxification and rehabilitation.

Today, Binay has a remarkably healthy lifestyle compared to the past. His mother is very happy with the change in his life. Binay has enrolled in school again and is continuing his education at Punorjibon Rehabilitation Home.





## Education Programme



# Education Programme

“The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries and all continents. Closures of schools and other learning spaces have impacted 94 per cent of the world’s student population, up to 99 per cent in low and lower-middle income countries. Learning losses also threaten to extend beyond this generation and erase decades of progress, not least in support of girls and young women’s educational access and retention. Some 23.8 million additional children and youth (from pre-primary to tertiary) may drop out or not have access to school next year due to the pandemic’s economic impact alone.”\*

The Hope Foundation analysed the impact of disrupted education at the early stage of the pandemic and adopted appropriate strategies to ensure that the children continued their education. The schools and HOPE education centres remained closed for the majority of the year. Therefore, the classes were conducted online, or worksheets and demonstrative videos were developed. HOPE staff designed lesson-oriented worksheets for the children. Froebel methodologies were used in the design of the worksheets for children who belong to families with little or no education. These were then distributed to the children to complete, thereby giving the teachers a means of evaluation for each child. Parental participation plays a key role in ensuring children’s engagement in this new education system. Regular motivation sessions were held for the parents to help them navigate this changed system of education and their critical role in it.

**Through its different education programmes, HOPE has been working to achieve:**

- **Enrolment**
- **Retention**

## Integration of Quality Education to ensure improved learning in Primary Schools – Hope Kolkata Foundation

The community-based education programme was HOPE’s first educational initiative. It was implemented in 14 unregistered slums of Kolkata and Howrah. Following its implementation, an evaluation study was done in 2014 which highlighted the significant increase in the rate of enrolment, but also noted that children’s retention in school continued to pose a challenge. It was on this basis that HOPE started its school-based intervention programme in 2015. A situational analysis was completed in 2017 of 78 government primary schools in Kolkata and Howrah. The objective of the study was to analyse the implementation status of the Right to Education Act and the challenges faced by children with special needs in the formal education system.

The information obtained was used in designing Phase 2 of the education project, which aims to ensure quality education at primary level. Presently, HOPE is working in 4 primary schools of Bhagar, Howrah. HOPE staff supported the teachers in these schools to design special worksheets for children with learning gaps to help them in their learning and assessing their improvement. The parents were informed about this new system of education and were motivated to be involved in the process of their children’s education. The school teachers were also motivated to discuss these issues with the parents.

\* Source: Policy Brief: Education during Covid-19 and beyond, August 2020  
[https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/08/sg\\_policy\\_brief\\_covid-19\\_and\\_education\\_august\\_2020.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/08/sg_policy_brief_covid-19_and_education_august_2020.pdf)



In the context of the pandemic, supporting children with special needs was a major challenge. HOPE staff interacted and supported the parents of children with special needs, helping them to manage their children at home. In formal schools, the Child Cabinet members were oriented on child rights and informed of the impact of the pandemic on their peers. Child Cabinets act as platforms where children can lead their own discussions and learn about their rights. In this instance, they were encouraged to support their peers in this exceptional time.

### IMPACT

- **553** children benefitted from joyful activity-based learning
- **60** children with learning gaps made progress
- **5** children with special needs have made progress
- **88** children were enrolled in schools
- **20** teachers are using activity-based learning methods for children with learning gaps
- **569** parents attended Parents Teachers Meetings, were informed of their children's progress and are now more involved



### Story of Change

Sohom is a 6-year-old child with special needs, studying in Class I. Sohom has a partial visual impairment, hyperactive behaviour, and a development disorder. His mother became fearful that Sohom would never get a quality education. His father is a daily wage labourer and the only earning member of the family. He is also an alcoholic.

Sohom was identified as requiring educational support during a home visit. HOPE staff motivated his mother to enrol him in school so that he can receive a disability certificate and proper therapies such as behavioural therapy, occupational therapy, and an IQ test. His parents were informed about the Right to Education Act.

Sohom started to receive the Mid-Day Meal from the school in the form of ration, which was very helpful for his family because they were struggling financially. The HOPE special educator set a goal for Sohom and is monitoring his progress. He can now solve worksheets assigned by the school, and his motor and communication skills have improved.



## Crèche facilities for children without parental supervision - Hope Kolkata Foundation

Early childhood care and education support the holistic development of children's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical needs, helping to build a solid foundation for their lifelong learning and wellbeing. Hope Kolkata Foundation runs 4 crèches which provide early childhood education and supplementary nutrition for children under 6 years of age. The project ensures that children living in slums in Kolkata and Howrah, who are without parental care for long periods of time during the day, can attend the crèche and eventually be enrolled in school.

The crèches give the children the opportunity to engage in friendly and joyful learning through play. The classes were mostly held online or through worksheets this year in line with COVID-19 protocols. The teachers focused on making them easily understandable and activity-based, using Froebel methodologies. The parents were motivated to send their children to the crèche and encouraged to help their children practice their learning at home. In addition to providing educational support, health check-ups and de-worming camps were held for the children. Awareness programmes were conducted for the parents and children, to inform them about COVID-19, children's rights, protection, and the importance of education. Efforts were made to involve the fathers in the meetings, thereby ensuring their involvement in the care and education of the children.

### IMPACT

- **227** children were supported in 4 crèches for early childhood care and education throughout the year
- **48** children were enrolled in formal schools
- **171** parents understand the importance of financial management, especially for their children's education
- **212** parents improved their knowledge on the importance of education for children and are supporting their children at home



## Story of Change

Girls are the most deprived and vulnerable in Indian society. Thus, the Government initiated Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, a programme that encourages the parents to build a fund for their daughters' education and marriage expenses. The people of Chitpur community were not aware of this scheme. HOPE teachers informed the parents of the benefits of the scheme and motivated them to avail of it before their daughter turned 10 years old. As a result, 17 guardians have already registered under the scheme. The HOPE teachers supported the guardians to complete all the necessary documents. Understanding the need to support their daughters, the mothers were often the ones to take the initiative. Now they regularly save money for their daughter's future.

## Nabo Asha - Educating Children Living on the Streets of Kolkata - Hope Kolkata Foundation

Hope Kolkata Foundation implements the Nabo Asha programme in 7 centres across Kolkata. Each centre provides educational support, along with nutrition and counselling to street-connected children. The majority of the children are first-generation learners, which means they are often the first member of the family to receive an education.



Froebel methodologies are implemented to prepare the children to be enrolled in formal schools, allowing them to continue their education. Focus is given to link the children with Government scholarships and schemes to ensure the continuation of their education. Support is provided to single parents and guardians so that they can access government entitlements and information. Active Community Support Groups in each area create safety nets within the community for the children.

### IMPACT

- **32** children were enrolled in school for the first time
- **531** children were provided with remedial coaching support
- **280** fathers attended parent-teacher meetings in schools. They are prioritising their children's education and have started saving money in banks and post offices for their children's education
- **531** children appeared for the annual examinations in school, improved their learning ability and were promoted to the next class
- **531** children were linked with scholarships and social entitlements such as Aadhar cards, Kanyashree Scheme, Minority Scheme, and Below Poverty Line card

## Story of Change

Vanshika is a 15-year-old girl, living with her mother, younger sister, and grandmother on the streets in Kolkata. Her father passed away when she was young. Her mother works as a domestic worker in the morning and in the evening she runs a shop with the help of her 2 daughters. Vanshika's grandmother is in need of continuous care. With her mother's limited income, the family find it challenging to access basic necessities. Vanshika's mother wants her children to get a higher education, so they can make a better living. Despite her hopes, the unfortunate reality was that she could not provide education for the two children.

The Nabo Asha teachers identified Vanshika and her sister during a community visit. They motivated their mother to send both the children to the Nabo Asha centre. The Hope Kolkata Foundation provided both of them with all the support they needed to continue their education. Once they started attending the centre, Vanshika was encouraged by her teachers to set a goal and study hard to achieve it.

Showing great potential, Vanshika later became a member of the Children's Group and started actively participating in various activities such as workshops and trainings. Her confidence grew and she started giving training and orientations to peer groups on different child-related issues such as child labour, begging, and safe and unsafe touch. She gradually became the spokesperson for her community. HOPE encouraged her to continue with this, creating a platform that gave her the chance to speak at the United Nations. From this international platform, Vanshika shared her experiences, the challenges of living on the streets and their constant struggle. Her speech was heard by many children and adults across the world.

Though the challenges facing Vanshika have grown due to the pandemic, HOPE has always supported her to ensure that she pursues her dream of getting an education and gets the chance to use her voice, a voice that represents children all across Kolkata, and a voice that needs to be heard.



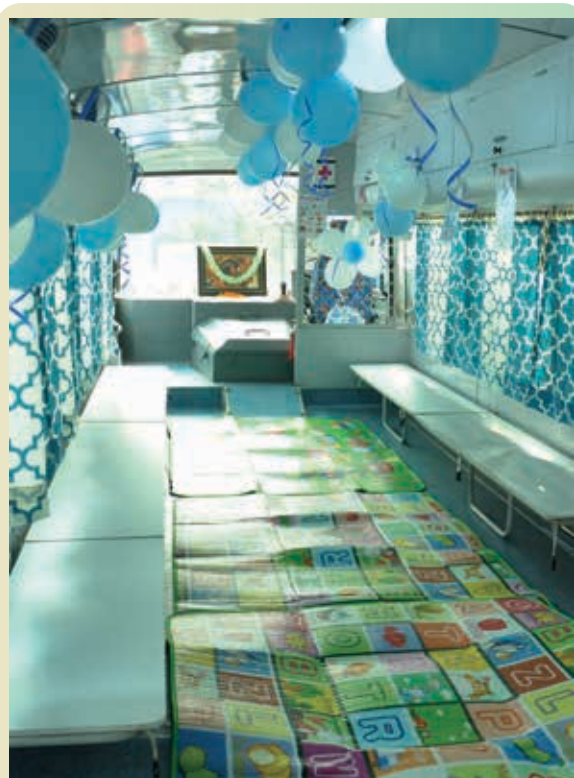


## Education on Wheels - Hope Kolkata Foundation

Education on Wheels is an innovative project which operates on a bus. The project provides educational support to 6 to 14 year old children from Chitpur slum and the surrounding areas in North Kolkata, who are either already going to school or who will be enrolled. Remedial coaching classes are provided to children with learning gaps. This facilitates their proper development, enabling them to reach their full educational potential and thereby attain good jobs, contribute to society, and look forward to a life free of poverty.

Education on Wheels supports children who do not have access to education. Children who have never been to school or who have dropped out of education are motivated and enrolled in formal school. Different strategies are adopted to ensure the children remain in school. Home visits and meetings are conducted to make sure that the children attend both formal school classes and the Education on Wheels programme. Awareness programmes are conducted to generate awareness among the children, parents (especially the fathers) and the community about children's education, child protection and other related issues.

In addition to this, the new Community Support Group is being provided with information on children's education as well as other issues. This ensures their positive involvement in developing a community for the betterment of children.



### IMPACT

- **60** children benefitted from the Education on Wheels programme
- **23** children were enrolled in formal school. 5 of these children had never been to school and 18 had dropped out
- **37** children improved their academic performances and were promoted to the next class
- **23** children received a stipend under the minority scheme Aikyashree\*
- **223** community people and children were informed about child marriage, health and hygiene best practices, child abuse, etc.
- **1** Community Support Group with 10 participants was formed. They acquired knowledge of their responsibilities, child marriage and COVID-19

\* Aikyashree – West Bengal State Scholarships for Minority Students is a state government initiative of West Bengal implemented from the financial year 2019-20 onwards.

## Story of Change

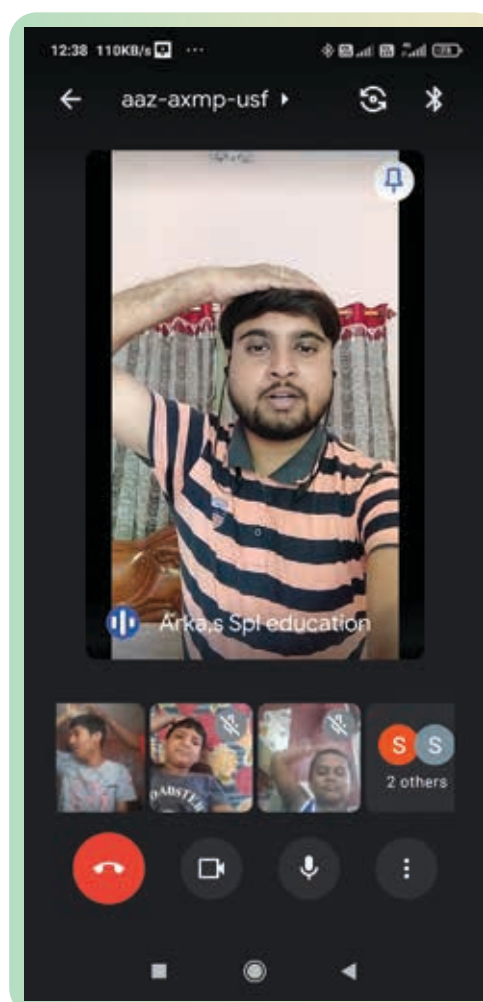
Poverty comes with lots of challenges irrespective of age. A common trend observed in impoverished communities is students from the age of 6 to 14 dropping out of school or not even enrolling in the first place. Chitpur, a slum community with hundreds of vulnerable families, is no exception. The childhoods of the children who live here are spent earning their livelihood and doing household chores. This leads to increased rates of addiction amongst children. The majority of the children abandoned their studies not by desire but by necessity. The parents, guardians, and children in this community needed encouragement to send their children back to school so that they could attain knowledge and build a better future.

The Education on Wheels project focused on ensuring that the dropout students were enrolled in school again. The project staff organised an enrolment campaign, made home visits and held camps that involved meetings to encourage students to return to school. This process also involved making the children's guardians aware and understand the importance of study and school and motivating them to ensure the children could access education. The children were also motivated to study. Several schools were approached and encouraged to admit these children. This initiative has saved the futures of 21 children. The project has additional ancillary benefits including decreasing the prevalence of child labour and child marriage and increasing literacy rates.

## Brian's Way Resource Centre – Hope Kolkata Foundation

HOPE established the Brian's Way Resource Centre in 2019 to ensure children with special needs have access to therapy. The objective of the project is to improve their quality of life by giving them access to important resources such as aids, appliances, appropriate therapies, and special and inclusive education in school. Children with special needs from under-served communities in Kolkata receive therapeutic supports such as physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapy, and dance movement. The parents are informed about disability, inclusive education and government schemes. They also receive training to support the children and are motivated to provide continuous support to their children. Preliminary counselling is also provided to help the parents support their children at home, especially during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

HOPE has set up a barrier-free centre for children with special needs, and a bus has been customised to ensure children with special needs access this resource centre.



### IMPACT

- **60** children with special needs benefitted from the project
- **32** children made progress through functional therapies
- **33** children with special needs have progressed in special education
- **29** children were linked with government entitlements
- **85** community people were informed of disability, social inclusion and government schemes and facilities for children with special needs and their families

### Story of Change

Abha is a 14 years old girl with an intellectual disability. Her family is struggling financially. Her parents enrolled her in a government resource centre. However, the centre did not provide the therapies she required. As a result, she became unstable and lost her balance. She became vulnerable, and her mother was very worried about her.

Her mother found out about the Brian's Way Resource Centre. Abha was provided with therapy and special education. She attended the centre regularly. Abha's father passed away during lockdown. It became exceedingly difficult for Abha's

mother, and her extended family members were not supportive.

She discussed the matter with the HOPE counsellor and special educator. She received counselling and was informed of schemes and entitlements they can access. With the support of the Brian's Way Resource Centre, Abha's mother is now accessing these schemes. Abha is a regular student of the Brian's Way Resource Centre. Her confidence has improved and now she can walk properly. She is also receiving speech therapy. She enjoys every class and participates with great enthusiasm.

## UMEED: A Programme for the Rehabilitation of Children with Special Needs – Society for Indian Children's Welfare

The UMEED Special Education project supports children under the age of 6 with special needs. The project ensures their right to equality and a dignified life where self-reliance is secured. Orphaned and abandoned children living within the premises of SICW are provided with care, education and protection to ensure their holistic development and physical, social and rational growth.

UMEED classes are designed to develop the children's cognitive, communication, self-help, motor, and academic skills through a progressive curriculum based on milestones. Emphasis is put on social integration. The children also receive physiotherapy, speech therapy, prosthetics, and other aids, depending on the nature of their disability.





### IMPACT

- **30** children living in the safe refuge of the SICW child care unit were provided with special education
- **16** children with special needs were provided with therapeutic care and supports
- **5** children were restored to their families by the Child Welfare Committee, and 7 children were adopted
- **24** children improved their communicative, expressive, and receptive language skills
- **24** children improved social and motor skills



### Story of Change

Chinu, 5 years old, was placed in the custody of SICW by order of the Child Welfare Committee two years ago. She has a psychosocial disability and was very hyperactive and impulsive. Chinu joined the UMEED class in January 2019 and was assessed by the Special Educators to ensure her holistic development. She also attended morning school at JANSEVA Special Needs Unit, another project of SICW, in April 2019.

The special educators and counsellor conducted different therapies such as behavioural, storytelling, modelling, art, play meditation, visualization techniques and other supports to develop her skills. She also received counselling to develop her behavioural skills.

Chinu is now showing signs of improvement. She proactively tries to follow the advice given by her psychotherapist, and her academic, communication and social skills are improving.



## Life Skills Programme





# Life Skills Programme

“The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating: tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty, while the number of undernourished people, currently estimated at nearly 690 million, could increase by up to 132 million by the end of the year.

Millions of enterprises face an existential threat. Nearly half of the world's 3.3 billion global workforce are at risk of losing their livelihoods. Informal economy workers are particularly vulnerable because the majority lack social protection and access to quality health care and have lost access to productive assets. Without the means to earn an income during lockdowns, many are unable to feed themselves and their families. For most, no income means no food, or, at best, less food and less nutritious food.”<sup>1</sup>

A large scale survey was conducted by Azim Premji University, (India), in 12 states in India amongst 5,000 people from vulnerable communities on the impact of lockdown due to the Pandemic. The report says two third of the respondent lost their work. 50% of informal workers whose job were still secured; had to go through pay cut. Almost eighty percent of surveyed households experienced a reduction in their food intake and a similar percentage of urban households did not have enough money to pay next month's rent.<sup>2</sup>

Due to lockdown the activities of HOPE's Life Skill Training Programmes was initially disrupted; however within a month, HOPE introduced online classes for Computer, Tailoring, Beautician and Spoken English. When the Covid situation improved, the trainees attended the classes in small groups maintaining all Covid protocols. After withdrawal of restrictions, the HOPE Cafe also reopened phase wise as per Government guidelines.

## Life Skill Training Centre



The Life Skill Training Centre provides professionally designed training courses which are tailored to suit the capabilities of the trainees. A one-to-one intensive learning of technical skills provides each trainee with a marketable skill. This is complemented with a certificate upon completion and job placement or support to set up a business from home. These training programs do not have restrictions based on age and educational qualifications, to ensure better livelihood opportunities and skilled workforces.

## Restaurant Training

The six-month course aims to give trainees better livelihood opportunities by providing training on traditional Indian dishes, as well as baking and cooking dishes from different countries, and restaurant service skills. Dhritimaan Abilizing Infinity Foundation donated an electric bike, which was used to deliver food to customers, in an environment friendly way without creating pollution.



1. <https://www.who.int/news/item/13-10-2020-impact-of-covid-19-on-people's-livelihoods-their-health-and-our-food-systems>

2. [https://cse.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Kesar\\_et\\_al\\_Pandemic\\_Informality\\_Vulnerability\\_June\\_2020.pdf](https://cse.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Kesar_et_al_Pandemic_Informality_Vulnerability_June_2020.pdf)



## Tailoring Unit



This six-month course on tailoring provides complete knowledge on cutting, stitching, designing, embroidery and use of high-speed commercial sewing machines.

Beautician and Hair Dressing along with personality development supports to help them build a better future.

## Beautician Training

Underprivileged young women receive a four-month quality skills training course in



## Computer Training



A year-long computer training course is run in this unit which starts from basics to web designing. An advanced course on finance is also available for people aiming at a career in Accounts. HOPE runs another 3 computer units in Kolkata and Howrah which are all funded by Corporates.

## IMPACT

- **2** trainees from the HOPE Café were placed in restaurants, despite the difficult situation arising as a result of the pandemic
- **389** trainees successfully completed courses in the HOPE Computer training units. **248** trainees were placed in different companies and small enterprises after completion of the course
- **43** trainees successfully completed the Tailoring courses and are working from home due to the pandemic
- **145** trainees from the Beautician course completed and successfully passed their exam. All the trainees are working from home or as freelancers and have been provided with beauty kits.

## Story of Change

Jharna, a 40-year-old lady with a child, was suffering from depression and anxiety. The global pandemic affected her mentally. Her husband, who is a daily labour, is the sole earning member of the family with a monthly income of Rs. 5000 per month. During lockdown, her husband used to get less or even no work, which made it extremely difficult to support the family.

Her mother, who used to work in a bag manufacturing company, taught her how to use a sewing machine. Jharna used to do garment altering work at home to earn more money.

However, it was not sufficient to manage household expenses and the education of her child. Jharna was looking for a suitable tailoring course, but her age, qualification and high course fees prevented her from accessing one. A girl from her neighbourhood, who is an ex-student of the HOPE Tailoring Unit, told her about the course.

In the HOPE tailoring unit, Jharna learnt how to make kurti, salwar, petticoats, designer blouses, 22 types of embroidery, and palazzo. She also started getting orders from her neighbours. Soon word spread about her tailoring, and she started earning money by taking more orders locally.





## Sponsorship Programme

The Sponsorship Programme aims to make education accessible to children and young adults from families who are socio-economically vulnerable, as well as those suffering from chronic diseases. For many families who belong to marginalized communities, education is a luxury that they cannot afford. They live on the streets. Their children have no safe shelter and are at risk of trafficking. Many cannot afford high school fees. Continuing higher studies is a huge challenge for the young adults of these communities. Through the Sponsorship Programme, parents are guided on budgeting, low-cost nutrition, how to access government schemes for free rations and health facilities, and income-generating opportunities.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the consequential lockdown called for measures to help the sponsored children and their vulnerable families cope with the crisis. Following government protocols, children and young adults staying in hostels and boarding facilities had to return to their homes. They were provided with monthly rations along with non-formal coaching support to ensure that they were able to continue their education. The coaching classes at Bhagar and Chitpur were also suspended. The teachers distributed worksheets and held online classes to provide academic guidance to the students.

The objective of the Sponsorship Programme is to make a lasting difference in the lives of children and to advance the holistic development of society by addressing some of the key features of the Sustainable Development Goals.





**1,350** sponsors from Ireland, UK, India, USA, Germany, Italy and Japan are supporting 1,701 children in need through HOPE's Sponsorship Programme.

#### **Outreach Education:**

Outreach Education support is provided to **923** children staying with their families in Kolkata and other districts, including the Sunderban area. Their sponsors support school fees, books, education materials and non-formal tuition support. For young adults, besides their formal education, support is also extended to allow them to pursue vocational training.

#### **Boarding and Education:**

HOPE has collaborated with a number of boarding schools and hostels in Kolkata to enrol **53** vulnerable children who are deprived of the necessary resources or accommodation facilities to continue their studies.

#### **Coaching Centre:**

HOPE runs two coaching centres for **368** sponsored children at Chitpur and Bhagar, two of the most vulnerable communities in Kolkata and Howrah. The children attend these coaching centres after school where the tutors support them to continue their education in a joyful learning environment. They are also provided with nutrition and medical support.

#### **Child Care Units and Aftercare Support for Young Adults:**

**297** vulnerable children and young adults placed in HOPE Child Care Units and the aftercare support programmes are also provided with sponsorship support.

#### **Children Restored to Families:**

**60** children who were once living in Child Care Units and were restored to their homes, are receiving Sponsorship Educational Support and/or health support directly while staying with their families.

#### **Medical and Nutrition Support:**

HOPE also supports malnourished children or children suffering from various diseases who are unable to bear the medical costs. **24** children received medical and nutrition sponsorship support.

"Sponsoring a child with The Hope Foundation is a great way to support the street and slum children of Kolkata from afar. I am thankful that I have this opportunity to support the child that I sponsor and every month I feel luckier to be a part of such a great initiative."

*Emily Hannon, Ireland*

"I am so proud of the beautiful girl I sponsor. My sponsorship means she is safe and starting further education."

*Jane Armour, UK*

"We are so proud of our sponsored child's hard work & achievements. Keep following your dreams & aspirations."

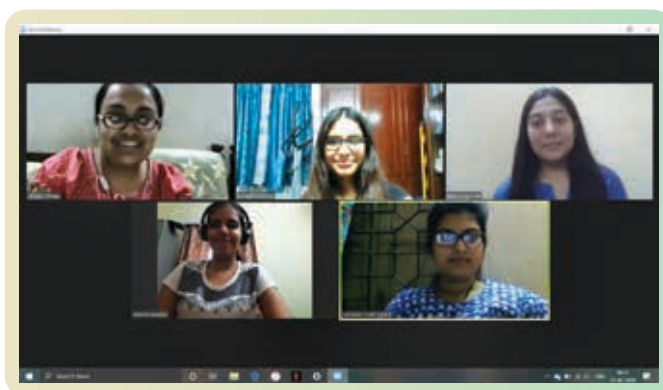
*Allz & Annie Redman, UK*



# International Volunteer & Internship Programme

The Indian Internship and Volunteer Programme was put on hold for April and May 2020 and resumed online in June 2020. The Online Internship and Professional Development Programme is designed in a unique manner whereby college and university students gain hands-on work experience under the

supervision of HOPE project managers while working from home. They are provided with workshops on professional skills, children rights and a space to discuss social issues. Additionally, several former and new volunteers came forward to support HOPE during the pandemic.



64 university interns and 17 volunteers contributed to HOPE by working remotely by developing educational content, study materials, reports, organising art & craft activities, story telling sessions, fundraising

and mobilizing food and essential items from 12 different states of India.

## Students participating from the College & Universities

*Adamas University, Kolkata*

*Amity University, Kolkata*

*FLAME University, Pune*

*IIM, Rohtak*

*Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management, Kolkata*

*KIIT University, Bhubaneswar*

*Lovely Professional University, Punjab*

*Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, Kolkata;*

*National Institute of Technology, Rourkela; O.P Jindal Global University, Haryana;*

*Rajiv Gandhi National University, Punjab;*

*St Xavier's University, Kolkata; Symbiosis*

*International University, Pune; University of Calcutta, Kolkata; Vidyasagar University, Midnapore; Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan.*



## Students participating from the Schools

*Delhi Public School; Kendriya Vidyalaya, Ballygunge; La Martiniere for Girls; St. Lawrence High School; The Heritage School*



**During a time** when all else seemed bleak and dull, The Hope Foundation gave me the opportunity to learn and explore new arenas of knowledge and experience through this online Internship and Professional Development Programme. I will continue to cherish all the memories I made with the other interns and with our respected co-ordinator, in addition to the other esteemed staff members who conducted several sessions on crucial topics. The singular aspect of the internship for me, was being able to conduct online quiz sessions for children at one of the homes under HKF and interact with them. Even without being able to socialise with the said people in person, this internship brought me joy virtually for an entire month. This shall be the best memory of the pandemic for me.

*Srishti Chakraborty, India*



**The internship program** provided by The Hope Foundation, Kolkata was a four-week enriching virtual journey which I along with a dozen more University students from around the country undertook in the midst of the pandemic. My work majorly focused on designing a fundraising campaign and assistantship with documentation work in the domain of enhancing the welfare of children. This journey went beyond empowering oneself, but also provided a platform to tune my professional skills and understand the ground reality of numerous social issues. Virtual but not deprived of human

connect, this has been a journey which truly inspired and pushed me one step forward to work for social welfare and equality.

*Maria Jovita, India*



**My first experience** of volunteering for The Hope Foundation was back in primary school, when we climbed Mangerton Mountain in Kerry in aid of the charity. Since then, my family and I have had a great interest in The Hope Foundation and all that it does for children in Kolkata. When I started in University College Cork, I joined The Hope Foundation Society and helped out with many different fundraisers over the years. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to travel to India and volunteer for six weeks in the city of Kolkata in the summer of 2016. It was a phenomenal experience and I carry many fond memories from helping out in the children's home there with me still. Someday, I hope to go back but until then, I continue to HOPE, especially during these trying times. Earlier this year, I facilitated a virtual skill training session with the girls in the Ashar Alo home wherein I showed them how I ice cakes with royal icing. Although it will never match being there in the projects in person, it was great to be able to provide the girls new skills and complete a task together".

*Clare Fehin, Ireland*



# International Development Education & School Immersion Programme

To help continue our Global Citizenship work, HOPE recently launched a new Development Education Programme for Transition Year students in Ireland. Our Development Education curriculum provides students with a deeper understanding of our place in the world, and what actions we can take to ensure a fair, sustainable, and equal society for all. HOPE has engaged over 1,000 TY students with our Gender Equality and Ethical Consumption Workshops, and a Primary School Programme is currently at pilot stage.

## Schools which have participated in the HOPE Development Education Programme

St. Joseph of Cluny Secondary School, Killiney, Co. Dublin  
Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow  
Clongowes Wood College, Clane, Co. Kildare  
St. Mary's College, Arklow, Co. Wicklow  
Loreto Secondary School, Bray, Co. Wicklow  
St. Angela's Secondary School, Waterford City  
St. Mary's Secondary School, Newport, Tipperary  
Ursuline Secondary School, Thurles, Co. Tipperary  
Coláiste Abbáin, Co. Wexford  
East Glendalough School, Co. Wicklow  
St. Angela's, Cork city  
Pobalscoil na Tríonoide Youghal, Co. Cork  
Presentation Secondary School, Ballingarry, Co. Tipperary  
St. Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary  
Ballyhaunis Community School, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo  
Coláiste an Phiarsaigh, Glanmire, Co. Cork



## School Immersion Programme

HOPE's School Immersion Programme remains postponed due to COVID-19. We look forward to welcoming back both remaining and new participants soon and are very grateful to our HOPE schools that have continued to support us through awareness raising and fundraising this year.



# The Achiever

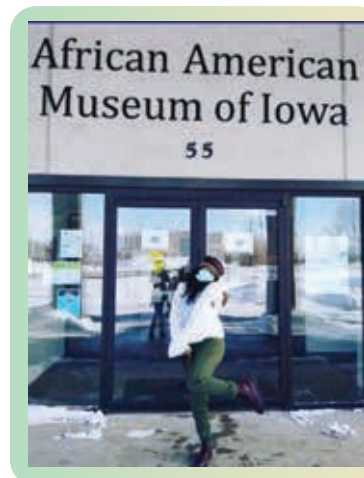
## Studying in the United States of America



Hi, my name is Ratna Sarkar. I am 21 years old. I participated in the Community College Initiative Program (CCIP) for the session year 2020-2021 in the USA. The CCIP, funded by the US Department of State offers scholarships to participants from various developing countries. The purpose is to equip these students with new skills and knowledge so that they contribute to their respective home countries and make positive impact they can in their own way.

My field of study was Public Safety. I got placed in Kirkwood Community College, Iowa. My major subject was Fire Prevention and Safety, Emergency Safety and Survival. I also completed more than 50 hours of volunteering in a span of less than 3 months. I shared my culture with my cohort by different means like cooking Indian food, dancing, exchanging souvenir. I learnt about US culture and other international cultures at the same time.

I never imagined I could study abroad; as in 2018, when I finished my high school with 90%, due to financial constraint, I assumed that would be the ending of my academic journey. But thanks to Girl2B Foundation, for sponsoring my education. I was scheduled to go to USA in July 2020. Unfortunately, with the pandemic hitting the world, the program was standstill. However, I was finally ready to set off in January 2021. We had online classes before we reached USA. My expectations were as high as was my excitement. It was my first time travelling by air and crossing international boundaries. On the first week went quarantining. Because of the pandemic my stay was only for the spring semester. The experience has changed me into a new and better person, both in personal and professional life. I have improved on my technical skills and English proficiency. I am now gifted with amazing friends from around the world. I was given a mentor family at the beginning of the program and they have been my strength.



I enjoyed the calm country atmosphere of the States. Being a girl from such a busy city of Kolkata the experience was more of a break from pollution and chaos. The snow in winter and the greenery in spring were soul-satisfying. I had enough time amongst business to figure out my short-term and long-term goals. I felt so lucky to be part of such an enriching experience that would help me to bring a change in others' life, influence girls like me and live a life of example.

I am extremely grateful to The Hope Foundation and Girl2B Foundation for giving me the platform to educate, grow and dare to dream big despite being a girl. None of these could have been possible without the inspiration & guidance of my HOPE mentor Jhulan Ghose and constant support of Girl2B Programme Manager Bulbuli Sinha. I am also thankful to the US Department of State, the US Embassy in Kolkata, Sis. Dr. Christine Coutinho, Principal of Loreto College, Kolkata, and my family and friends to make this all possible.

"I wasn't lucky to have this opportunity, I was just lucky enough to have people to make this opportunity possible for me"

**Ratna Sarkar**

# Collaboration Project

## Girl2B Empowerment Project and Education Support Unit

Hope Kolkata Foundation is collaborating with the Girl2B Foundation to empower girls through education. The Girl2B Foundation works to give every young girl a chance to reach her full potential, freeing her from the unfair cycle of poverty, and making her an agent of change. Orphans, street, and high-risk girls above 18 years are the target group of the program. 8 girls were supported through the Empowerment Project. Through the Education Support Unit, 30 girls aged up to 18 years, received support to improve their knowledge of English and progress at school.

### Story of Change



Priya Das joined the Girl2B empowerment programme with a dream to finish her school education and become a self reliant woman in the future. Life was not easy for her until then due to several uncertainties. However she never lost hope. Her potential was nurtured at Girl2B and she was financially supported to meet her educational and health needs. After completing high school, she wanted to earn a living and support her family though she was very passionate about studies.

She was then sponsored to take up a vocational course in hair cutting and make up. Being a trained beautician, Priya is now working in a renowned beauty parlour in Kolkata. She is an independent woman now and funding her own education. Priya proved optimism is the key to success.

(Real name and picture is used with the consent of Priya Das)





## Events & Activities in India

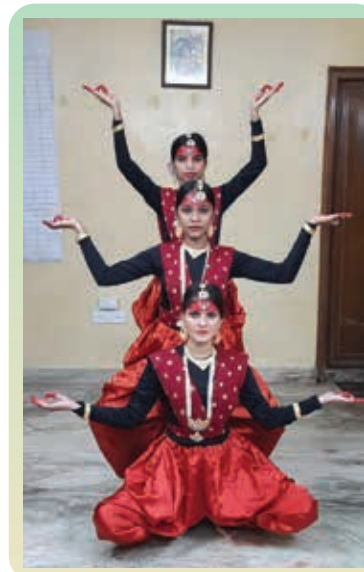
**Calcutta Run 2020:** Calcutta Run 2020 was organized virtually in August 2020 and nearly 200 participants from corporations such as HSBC, Cognizant and other individuals took part. The participants engaged in physical activities like spot jogging, push ups and zumba from their respective homes from cities all across India like Hyderabad, Kolkata and Bangalore and unanimously reiterated the slogan 'I support HOPE' as they uploaded their work out videos. The funds raised were used as a part of the relief drive to provide dry rations and hygiene kits to families affected by Covid and cyclone Amphan in Kolkata, Howrah, and the suburban areas (in pic: Rohit Raj Ghosh, volunteer and supporter).



**Daan Utsav** - Daan Utsav or 'The Joy of Giving Week' was conducted virtually between the months of September to October 2020. Schools such as Modern High School for Girls, Shri Shikshayatan High School, The Heritage School, Future Campus School, and Mahavir Birla World Academy participated and provided new dresses and groceries for the children in the child care units.

**Shining Star:** The recreational and co-curricular activities have been emphasised in the daily routine of the children to keep them physically fit and psychologically active during the lockdown. Cognizant organised a national level competition during the lockdown to engage and motivate the children.

Girls from Ashar Alo Home won several prizes in drawing and dance competitions.



**Far-Rishta:** An online activity-based wellness programme was organised by Tata Steel Foundation to keep the children engaged during the pandemic through art and craft workshops, career counselling and other activities.

## Events & Activities in Ireland



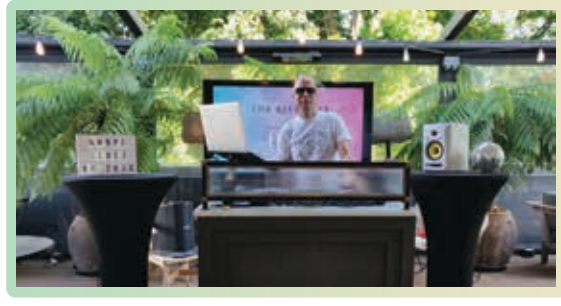
**HOPE Celebrity Zoom Series!** Thank you to all the wonderful celebrities hosted amazing virtual interactive events to support HOPE.



**HOPE Santa Splash 6th December 2020.** Thank you to Aine Bonass and everyone who donated and took part in the annual Santa Splash.



Thank you to everyone who joined the HOPE Book Club



**Virtual Graduation Ball Class of 2020.** We were delighted to team up with RedFM's renowned DJ Stevie G to celebrate the extraordinary Class of 2020.



**Virtual International Women's Day Breakfast** Hosted by TV presenter and fashion designer Brendan Courtney with guest panellists Hazel Chu, Lord Mayor of Dublin; Dr Pixie McKenna, doctor and TV personality; Vicki O'Toole, MD at JJ O'Toole Ltd.; Holly Cairns TD for Cork south-west and Aoife Moore, correspondent with the Irish Examiner.



The Pranik Healing for HOPE fundraising group have raised more than €33,000 through various fundraising activities to ensure the implementation and sustainability of PBK girls' home. They also raised funds to purchase 5 urgently needed cardiac monitors for the Covid response programme.





We are ever grateful to the schools and companies in Dublin and Galway, who sold HOPE Butlers chocolate bars during the week of HOPE in October - despite the Covid restrictions they

were under, it was very heartening to have their support and commitment for this annual fundraising event, and we are extremely thankful to all who bought chocolate bars during this campaign.

## Events & Activities in the UK



Conversation For HOPE: hosted by HOPE Ambassador, Reza Beyad in May 2020. The online event raised £4,500 for HOPE.



HOPE Ambassador, Andrea Catherwood, and her family undertook a fundraising fitness challenge and raised £3500 for HOPE.



HOPE held an online raffle which raised €17,000. The prizes were all provided by our generous regular auction and raffle prize donors. A huge thanks to all who bought tickets for this fundraising venture.



The Bedford Fundraising Group continue generate awareness on HOPE's work and has become an extraordinary example of community fund raising group in the UK. A special thanks to them for organising series of events throughout the year and raising significant amount of funds for HOPE.



HOPE was delighted to be a part of the Big Give Challenge 2020 which raised £9,500 for HOPE's ICDS Programme.





We are ever thankful to Vikki Stevenson, Ruth McNeil and Simon Lowe (HOPE Patron), Jan May, Linda Sykes for organising the wonderfully successful “Yoga for HOPE” online classes, and other key yoga friends of HOPE UK, who continued to raise funds for HOPE.

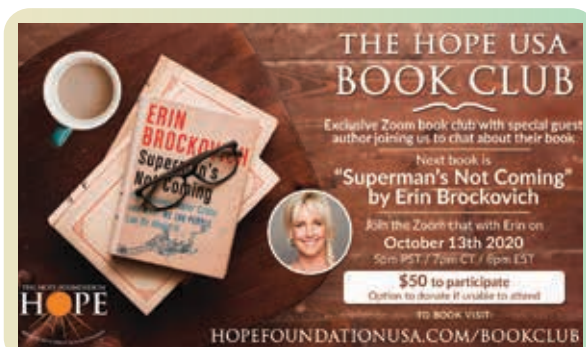


Thanks to all the families who participated in HOPE UK's Diwali Supper fund raiser in November 2020 and raised £1548 for HOPE's projects.

## Events & Activities in the USA



HOPE USA successfully raised in excess of USD 9,000 across 3 individual projects this year, using the DonorSee on line funding platform. Our sincerest thanks to all who contributed.



The Hope USA Book club: HOPE USA, under the wonderful guidance and support of HOPE Board member Mei Mei Fox held 2 successful book clubs this year. Erin Brockovich and Frank Ostaseki provided engaging discourse on their books



We are really grateful to our supporters and donors from Germany

# Major Supporters of HOPE









# Journey of HOPE







**Direct Debit  
Donation Application Form for Hope Kolkata Foundation**



Date:.....

To The Donor's Bank Account Manager

Bank Name:.....

Bank Address: .....

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Any INDIAN who want to donate,

Please Pay HOPE KOLKATA FOUNDATION

Rs : .....

Standard Chartered Bank

A/c No: 321 - 1 - 1017525, MICR code: 700036020

IFSC code: SCBL 0036087

Any FOREIGN NATIONAL who want to donate,

Please Pay HOPE KOLKATA FOUNDATION

Rs .....

Axis Bank Ltd.

A/C No: 913010033022376

MICR No.: 700211019

IFSC Code: UTIB00000253

Every Month/Year\*

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

Donor's Name:.....

(Block Letters Please)

Email: .....

Address: .....

.....

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.....

Account No:.....

Bank Sort Code:.....

Signature:.....

This form should be completed by the donor and  
when completed, it should be sent to

Hope Kolkata Foundation  
39, Panditiya Place, Kolkata - 700029, West Bengal.

Registered Society No: SO096057 of 2003-2004

Direct Debit  
Donation Application Form for Hope Head Office Ireland



Date:.....

Donor's Name:.....

(Block Letters Please)

To The Donor's Bank Account Manager

Email: .....

Bank Name:.....

Address: .....

Bank Address: .....

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Account No:.....

Please Pay HOPE €: .....

Bank Sort Code:.....

Allied Irish Bank Ltd. 66 South Mall, Cork.

A/c No: 50677089, Bank Sort Code: 93-63-83

Every Month/Year\*

Signature:.....

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

This form should be completed by the donor and  
when completed, it should be sent to

The Hope Foundation

Silverdale Grove, Ballinlough, Cork, Eircode T12 E974,  
Ireland

Registered Charity No. 13237

Direct Debit  
Donation Application Form for Hope Foundation UK.



Date:.....

Donor's Name:.....

(Block Letters Please)

To The Donor's Bank Account Manager

Email: .....

Bank Name:.....

Address: .....

Bank Address: .....

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Please Pay THE HOPE FOUNDATION FOR  
STREET CHILDREN

Account No:.....

£: .....

Bank Sort Code:.....

Signature:.....

BARCLAYS BANK  
102 High Street  
Thame  
Oxon  
OX9 3DU  
UK  
Sort code: 20-85-73  
Bank account number:73967735

Every Month/Year\*

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

This form should be completed by the donor and  
when completed, it should be sent to

The Hope Foundation UK,  
Second Home, 68 Hanbury  
Street, London, E1 5JL  
United Kingdom

Registered Charity No. SC038809



Direct Debit  
Donation Application Form for The Hope Foundation USA



Date:.....

Donor's Name:.....  
(Block Letter Please)

To The Donor's Bank Account Manager

Email: .....

Bank Name:.....

Address: .....

Bank Address:.....

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Account No: .....

Please Pay The Hope Foundation USA

Bank Sort Code: .....

\$: .....

The Hope Foundation USA  
1350 Avenue of the Americas,  
Floor 2, Suite 266,  
New York NY 10019

Signature:.....

This form should be completed by the donor and  
when completed, it should be sent to

The Hope Foundation USA  
1350 Avenue of the Americas,  
Floor 2, Suite 266,  
New York NY 10019

Every Month/Year\*

Starting on: .....

(Date) until further notice

\*Delete where applicable

Registered 501(c)3 Organization EIN: 27-3073426

**We would like to send special thanks to the Board Members and Trustees of the Boards of HOPE International Offices in Ireland, UK, USA, India, and Germany.**

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Samiran Mallick  
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*Overseas Director*

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Pauline Coffey

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Yvette Lowery

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Mary Reed

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