

CEN  
COVID-19

Initiatives of Jesuit Chennai Province (CEN)



# A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF THE RELIEF WORK DONE BY THE JESUIT CHENNAI PROVINCE (CEN)

## FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK



The 'New Normal' has surrounded significantly the uncertainty of our lives during the lockdown period of COVID-19. Nevertheless, we are learning to anticipate and to adapt to the new life situation, increase alertness and flexibility, and inevitably have shifted to the new forms of coming together and organizing meetings through online digital platforms (webinar, zoom meetings, jitsi, etc).

Having reached the peak of scientific development, digital advancement, and confidence in our ability to forecast accurately, the world intensely realizes its inability and fragility in front of the malicious effects of coronavirus. Indeed we are passing through a hopeless situation. The coronavirus has come to stay with us. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic is escalating unpredictability, uncertainty, fear, complexity, and ambiguity all over the world. The aftermath of the pandemic is going to be terrible. Pain, suffering, struggle, hunger, joblessness and utter frustration hallmark today's context.

The Jesuits of Chennai Province were able to extend their help, in a small way, mitigate the socio-economic consequences of the corona crisis. Through various relief and rehabilitation activities, we were able to reach out the marginalized and vulnerable people like **Poor, Dalits, Tribals, Small Farmers, Migrants, Women, Refugees, Transgenders, Unorganized Youth, Daily Workers, Physically and Mentally Challenged Persons, Sanitary Workers, Gypsies, Elderly People, our Students and our own Domestic Employees** who are particularly most affected and live in and around our Institutions, centres and communities.

I offer my sincere appreciation to the Province Disaster Management Committee (Frs Francis P Xavier (C), Andrew, Igny, Joe Arun, Thomas Amirtham

and Vasanth) for their meticulous planning and for mobilizing funds. They had regular meetings, spending more time in doing the need analysis, organizing the relief activities, contacting the Government Officials, executing the plans very systematically and finally consolidating the reports received on the action taken from our communities. My special thanks to Frs Francis Xavier, Igny and Vasanth for their deep commitment in leading the relief activities of the Province. I take this opportunity to thank all the Superiors/Team Leaders and all our Jesuit Companions in our communities; you have done a wonderful and committed service, even during the lockdown, to reach out the affected victims of Corona. The experiential sharings of Jesuits about their involvement is very spiritual and personal.

'Helping Hands of Loyola'- Chennai needs our special appreciation. The active and continuous involvement of our Alumni, Staff and Students, Parents, Coworkers and Collaborators of our Institutions is really appreciated. Our Response to COVID-19 has become a real and inspirational model of our collaborative venture. All our concrete responses were possible only because of the generous contributors, our Jesuit funding partners from Germany, Swiss, Spain, France, USA and Rome, and our beloved friends of Jesuit Chennai Province from different countries and India.

I profusely thank Fr Vasanth and his team for preparing this wonderful final flyer which provides the complete picture of our response to COVID-19, experiences of the involvement of Jesuits and the deep and heart touching sharings of our people.

Together with our collaborators and partners, let us march forward with confidence, aiming to **focus on right to education, food security, ecological reconstruction, social protection, rights of the marginalized etc. during the post-corona period.**

Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj SJ  
Provincial, Jesuit Chennai Province

## FROM THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONVENER'S DESK



The Coronavirus pandemic has changed us and the world much. Our outlook has changed; our helplessness on the face of natural calamities has become very clear; and our vulnerability, in spite of scientific and technological advancements, stands exposed. An invisible virus has changed us. We have realized that all, the rich and the poor, are on the same boat - The Coronavirus has been a great leveler. We feel and realize that the invisible God is our final hope and refuge.

The Disaster Management Committee of Jesuit Chennai Province coordinated all the relief activities with the Jesuits of the Province and the Loyola Helping Hands-Chennai, to reach out the needy and the affected. We have helped them with livelihood provision and medical preventive measures. The migrants had just four hours to decide, in the middle of the night, whether to go back 1000s Km or to stay, when all transports came to an abrupt halt. But what is amazing is their togetherness. The bond of love and affection among them was very strong. We could see them carrying their elderly and little children on their shoulders. We could learn resilience from them to go through tough life and hardships. They have the inner strength springing forth hope for the better. We are educated but they are learned. They have learnt a lot in life and that is why they are able to handle their obstacle-filled life better. They have a purpose to live.

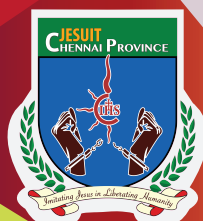
We learn patience and hope from the migrants who keep marching, with the ignoring Govt on the one side and the silent God on the other. We have

also learnt from our lockdown experience that we could live with fewer things in life. When we search for meaning in life, we feel that we need people and our life-sustaining communication with them and meaningful and lasting relationships with them for our growth. We learn from the migrants how we could make a smooth passage from panic to peace of mind.

There are many to be thanked for this collaborative relief work: Jesuit Migrant Service (JMS), manned by Frs Arul Henry William and Henry Albert, who accompanied the migrants. I wish to thank all the Alumni of Loyola College, LIBA and LICET (Helping Hands of Loyola), who have extended their help generously. Associations like World Vision, Action Aid, Dr Renuka (Radiant Foundation), Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyons, St. Joseph's Sisters at St. Thomas Mount, CSI Vepery, and other donors have provided their financial support and also their presence in the distribution of the materials. The numerous volunteers who braved their own health while distributing provisions to the migrants deserve our gratitude. I wish to thank a Class 10 student Ms Bharathi Sridhar, who used a crowd-funding platform to raise Rs 2,12,000/- to support the initiative from Loyola.

In a special way, I want to thank Dr Thomas, our PRO, for all his coordinating work and for guiding various teams involved in the relief works. Fr Vasanth has taken much effort in preparing this information flyer. I want to thank the members of the Disaster Management Committee for their insights, availability, and cooperation. The Jesuit Community at Loyola College (Chennai) extended all possible support and encouragement in this mission.

**Fr Francis P Xavier SJ**  
**Convener of DMC, Jesuit Chennai Province**



### Comprehensive Report in Video Form



**CLICK HERE**



**Total Amount Spent**  
**80,00,000**



**Accommodation at Loyola Shelter Homes**  
**300**



**No of beneficiaries**  
**1,26,226**



**COVID-19 quarantine Centre**  
**2,000**



**Dry Ration Kits**  
**4,844**



**Volunteers**  
**150**



**Counselling**  
**1,20,000**



**Location**  
**Chennai, Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram and Thiruvallur Districts**



**Help Desk**  
**1,000**



**Target People**  
**Migrants, Poor Dalits, Widows, Brick kiln Workers, Domestic Workers, Gypsies, Transpersons, HIV Affected and Children, Students of Loyola Institutions, COVID-19 positive people and quarantined People**



**Medical Aid**  
**4,500**



Loyola started its support to COVID-19 affected from the 2 April 2020. Around 35 volunteers joined hands in distributing dry provisions to Stranded Migrants, Gypsies, Transpersons, Brick-kiln workers and HIV affected children. Financial support was provided to the COVID-19 affected migrant workers who were stranded for over 2 months before they were allowed to travel back home via special trains. Migrants felt that they have a way out from this pandemic only with the support of the people around them.

Counseling was taken up at the call of the Commissioner of Chennai and over 85 volunteers and staff of Loyola led by Dr Gladson (Department of Social Work) conducted online counseling to callers with every possible need. The help-seeking callers exceeded 1,20,000 from 10 April to 30 July 2020. Loyola opened its gates to the COVID-19 Positive patients from 20 April 2020. Till date over 2,000 patients entered and left Loyola after getting cured of COVID-19.

We are thankful to God for making it possible through our intervention. The pandemic not only affected the needy but also us, the Jesuits. It has taught us to be content with the minimum. It has taught us to work through online thereby reducing the travel expenses to a very large extent. It made us to come closer to God. It made us to spend a quality time with the community members.

The joy in the service of the affected could be seen in the tireless service the volunteers exhibited with their full strength every morning, to load and unload the materials. The benevolence of the Jesuit Fathers made it possible to get the support of the Government officials and the Police force for the smooth distribution.

We sincerely thank all the Directors of Loyola Institutions, the volunteers and the Alumni for their support to conduct the COVID-19 Relief work and Counseling programme for all the needy.

**Dr Thomas, PRO**

The lockdown disproportionately hurt migrants due to the loss of livelihood and lack of food, shelter, health, and other basic amenities. To protect the health and wellbeing of the migrants was our focus, however, tens and thousands of migrant workers were stranded, with no train and bus services to reach their native places. We too felt helpless in the beginning on seeing the plight of these migrants. The migrant Jesus who had to escape to Egypt was a consoling factor for us. We felt that accompanying them daily enriched our heart to serve them tirelessly. Our minds got broadened cutting across the linguistic differences.

We started our relief activities in the name of HHL-JMS to help the migrants. We extended our

help to the most deprived people (Inter-state and Inter-district migrants) at this crucial moment.

People in brick kiln and construction sites were working even during the time of complete lockdown in-order to pay back their debt and to fight hunger and to care for their children. It was a saddening to see that when everyone was at home during the lockdown with the family, these poor and neglected people had no time to rest, working day in and day out without any safety measures.

We are sure the provisions provided by our team were of great relief for these beautifiers of our cities- the least people of the society.

Let us journey with the poor and the suffering and become a ray of hope to the least in the society.

*Fr William SJ*

## CHENNAI: Arul Kadal



**Total Amount Spent**

**3,50,000**



**Volunteers**

**25**



**No of beneficiaries**

**2,500**



**Location**

**Chennai**



**Dry Ration Kits**

**250**



**Target People**

**Migrants, Mentally Challenged Persons, Elderly and Psychiatric Patients, Poor Dalits, Sanitary Workers and Gypsies**



**Medical Aid**

**450**



Being in the heart of the city the legitimate needs were plenty. But our resources to help them were just handful. Yet we did our best during this pandemic. We, as theologians, were able to find deeper meaning in the Bible through our actions. We felt as a community that we are blessed abundantly by God. The accompaniment with the needy shaped us to live and be content with the minimum.

We also began to firmly believe that the unjust structures can be challenged only from below. Through these humanitarian acts, we experienced our poor Lord in the needy people and set an example to our neighbors too. As a community we drew a lot of inspiration and strength from the daily Eucharist. This was a motivating factor for our help to the needy.

*Sch Felix SJ*



## CHENNAI : Dhyana Ashram



Total Amount Spent  
**1,25,000**



Board and Lodging  
**4**



No of beneficiaries  
**680Z**



Location:  
**Chennai**



Dry Ration Kits  
**150**



Volunteers:  
**10**



Counselling  
**30**



Target People:  
**Poor Dalits, Widows, Children, Migrants,  
Scavengers, Refugees and Fishermen,  
Former employees**



As the spread of COVID-19 Pandemic was high in Chennai and the lockdown was clamped for weeks together, we thought of the daily wagers who were unable to go for work. That is why we decided to help the poor families around Dhyana Ashram, the fisher folk at Doomingkuppam and the auto-rickshaw drivers who did not have any income those days. When the beneficiaries were invited to DA to receive the rice bags and some groceries, some of our community members could witness the joy in their faces and the sense of gratitude. Some of them expressed their difficulty in having their daily meals with their families.

We had the fulfillment of helping the needy at the challenging time, especially the poor. Some of them had recourse to counseling to handle their fear and other psychological problems. We profusely thank God for his uncountable gifts that He had showered upon us. These people needed our prayer as well. Thus, we could extend our helping hands to people in need too. Such services gave us not only satisfaction but also renewed the sense of our duty and responsibility as fellow humans to take care of our neighbours.

*Fr Darwin Michael SJ*

## CHENNAI : Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE)



Total Amount Spent  
**1,00,000**



No of beneficiaries  
**1,500**





**Dry Ration Kits**  
**520**



**Volunteers**  
**25**



**Counselling**  
**175**



**Location**  
**Chennai & Thiruvaiyaru**



**Help Desk**  
**120**



**Target People:**  
**Poor Dalits, Widows, Differently Aabled, Destitutes and Children.**



**Awareness Programme**  
**4,500**



COVID-19 is a menacing monster that has engulfed the whole of humanity across the globe. It has added an element of mystery too. It has separated individuals from relating to each other through social distance. It has paralyzed the normal life especially that of the ordinary and common people. It has affected the core of existence by taking away the means of livelihood which we addressed from ICRDCE to help in our own little way to quench the hunger of people by supplying little quantities of food materials.

The biggest challenge they are facing now is to pay the school and college fees and to support education. The other big challenge is to affirm the faith of the people in God and in His pzvidence which was done well through various programmes of Madha TV. COVID-19 is a shattering and shocking experience which made us accept our human insufficiency and the great power of God. It has also taken our engrossing attention from all technological devices and we have started thinking about other human beings and also the unfailing guidance of God.

*Fr Xavier Alphonse SJ*

## CHENNAI: Social Watch



**Total Amount Spent**  
**8,60,000**



**Volunteers**  
**10**



**No of beneficiaries**  
**3,600**



**Location**  
**Chengalpattu and Thiruvallur Districts**



**Dry Ration Kits**  
**900**



**Target People**  
**Irular Tribals and Dalits**



Social Watch-Tamil Nadu reached out to more than 900 Irular Tribal and Dalit families of Guduvancheri, Chengalpattu and Pazhaverkadu, during this COVID -19 lockdown period, harnessing food provisions. The phenomenon of help/assistance pouring in during any disaster is stupendous.

Before the government's disaster relief reached the people in need, the humanitarian assistance from sources like ours, both institutional and individual sources reached people at the margins of our Society. The grateful regards from the people were exhilarating the benefactors.

*Fr John Kumar SJ*

## HARUR: Arulagam



**Total Amount Spent**  
**5,22,554**



**Volunteers**  
**20**



**No of beneficiaries**  
**2506**



**Location**  
**Villages in and around Harur, Dharmapuri District**



**Dry Ration Kits:**  
**460**



**Target People**  
**Widows, Orphans, Semi-Orphans and Chronically Sick People**



**Medical Aid:**  
**460**



COVID-19 has marred people to the core. This unprecedented situation has prevented people from all life-sustaining efforts. It has been worst in case of the poor, chronically sick and the daily wagers of Harur. The Jesuits and collaborators along with the staff of The Dharmapuri Diocesan Social Service Society, St. Mary's Hr Sec School, St Anne's Primary School, LIFT (Loyola Integral Formation and Training) centre and Sacred Heart Parish tried to extend our support to the victims through relief services in three phases. The divide between the rich and the poor was very vivid. We had so much of consolation when we journeyed with the poor and the needy. The everyday existence created mental and emotional

agony in the minds of the people. But we were blessed with strong mind and body which we radiated when we accompanied them. The quarantine developed stress among the people. At times we felt the helplessness in extending our help to the people who approached us for material and psychological requirements. Though our contribution was too little when compared to the needs of the people, our accompaniment with the suffering gave us a sense of satisfaction. Our systematic planning and concerted efforts have created positive vibration among the people and our collaborators for better interaction in our Jesuit mission in Harur.

*Fr John Paul SJ*



## KASTHAMBADI: Jesuit Ministry to Migrants-External (JMMEx)



Total Amount Spent

**2,39,406**



No of beneficiaries

**3,000**



Dry Ration Kits

**1,438**



Medical Aid

**890**



Volunteers

**15**



Location

**Thiruvannamalai, Vilupuram,  
Cuddalore and Kallakurichi Districts**



Financial Aid

**53**



Target People

**Poor Dalits, Widows,  
Migrants, Tribal,  
Refugees and Gypsies**



The outbreak of the COVID-19 shattered the normal life of our target people especially the Migrant Gypsies, Refugees, Puthiraivannar, Widows, Irulars and Dalits. We felt our responsibility towards them as their ministers who would help them in their needs. This also enthused us to work hard to fulfill their needs by mobilizing funds. This was a kind of anawim experience. We were amazed at the magnanimous contribution of the middle-class people in this hard time. It made us realize that there are people, who are ready to help even though they are poor. We feel that we have been the bridge between generous hearts and needy hands.

It was a graceful time for us to identify the needy groups like Gypsies, Refugees, Puthiraivannars and Dalits. We were instrumental to start the process of helping the needy in various Sister congregations. We developed a grateful heart through the kind gesture of the benefactors.

We also felt helpless at times as we don't have the means to proceed especially in the case of migrants whose whereabouts are unknown. We learnt that we must be available to people. There was also a feeling of helplessness and at the same time, we also felt the assurance of God's help to reach out to the needy.

**Fr Prabhu Francis SJ**



## KILPENNATHUR: Action for Human rights And Liberation (AHAL)



Total Amount Spent

**7,30,000**



No of beneficiaries

**4,600**



Dry Ration Kits

**1,150**



Target People

**Arunthathiyars, Gypsies, Widows, Abandoned, Differently-Abled People and Non-Ration Holders.**



Volunteers

**37**



Location

**Thiruvannamalai and Villupuram Districts.**



Action for Human Rights and Liberation Centre (AHAL) is a social action centre working for the empowerment of Arunthathiyar (a Dalit sub-group) in and around the districts of Thiruvannamalai and Villupuram. In our context, the COVID-19 pandemic has been seriously affecting all especially the Arunthathiyars and Gypsies. Every day they are losing their jobs and income, with no way of knowing when normality will return. On the contrary we found ourselves safe and secure. Descending into the lives of these people dusted and challenged our way of living. Knowing the fact and crisis, the Jesuit Chennai Province Disaster Management Committee (DMC)

and the Helping Hands of Loyola (HHL, Chennai) provided relief materials. The AHAL Jesuit team and AHAL staff had a meeting and meticulously planned out to distribute COVID-19 relief materials to Arunthathiyars and Gypsies in both districts and prioritized them in the following categories: 1. Those who do not own ration cards; 2. Those who are widows and abandoned; and 3. Those who are differently-abled. Going in search of them and providing the essentials was satisfying experience for us. We felt very strongly that moving out from the comfortable zone to the uncomfortable zone is the real mission of God.

*Fr Marianathan SJ*

## KUPPAYANALLUR: Loyola Institutes



**Total Amount Spent**  
**5,44,500**



**Volunteers**  
**20**



**No of beneficiaries**  
**3,904**



**Awareness Programme**  
**7**



**Dry Ration Kits**  
**976**



**Volunteers**  
**2,000**



**Location**  
**Kuppayanallur, Puliur, JP Nagar and Theetalam, Kanchipuram District**



**Target People**

**Poor people, Co-workers, Families of recovering alcoholics, daily wagers, widows, differently-abled people and Elders.**



As our first and immediate response to the pathetic situation owing to the economic crisis of our neighbouring daily wage labourers, we distributed Rs 1000/-each to nearly 60 suffering neighbouring families. The cruelty endured by the poor and their helplessness disturbed us a lot internally. So we decided to forego our own pocket money and reduced our food expenses. Next, we concentrated on the Christian community of our Kuppayanallur Parish Main Station and the other 3 substations namely Theetalam, J.P.Nagar and Puliur. Altogether nearly 350 families have benefitted each with a pack of dry rations. Then, we also reached out with

the same packs of dry rations to some of the students' families especially with single parents. Nearly 80 of them were such beneficiaries. Lastly, we extended our assistance with the same packs of dry rations to 60 Pandir tribal villagers and some 10 migrants' families, as well, in the hamlets of Kaliampoondi and Thirumukoodal villages respectively. It was a humbling experience for us when we experienced the suffering of the poor and the marginalized. Also, we thanked God for his immeasurable help and protection he had rendered during the days of lockdown.

*Fr Masilamani SJ*

## MAKKAMPALAYAM: Pedagogy and Action for Rights of Adivasis in North Tamil Nadu (PARAN)



**Total Amount Spent**  
**6,00,000**



**No of beneficiaries**  
**3,930**





**Dry Ration Kits**

**850**



**Nutritious food to Children**

**530**



**Awareness Programme**

**30**



**Volunteers**

**25**



**Target People**

**Poor Dalits, Widows,  
Children, Migrants  
and Tribal.**



**Location**

**Makkampalayam,  
Erode District**



COVID-19 and its impact on the lives of human persons is a new experience. National lockdown to fight against COVID-19 brought the lives of people to a standstill in the remote hills where I work. Unavailability of transport and movements of goods and food material for common people made them poorer than before. PARAN has been accompanying the tribal people in Erode district for the last ten years. PARAN COVID-19 RELIEF WORK has been initiated to help a few tribal community members. It is to show our solidarity with them during the pandemic. We were very much convinced that they deserve a decent living as a human being. During the relief work some of the tribal women told us that our help was a great support to them. They were happy to express their confidence in our accompaniment. The quantity was not a matter of concern but the quality and the thoughtfulness made them experience that we were with them. A few men told us that it was very consoling to see us at their doorstep giving them material and moral support.

In Arigiya Mellur, a tribal village, a few elderly women came and told me, "We do not need rice and dal now because we have them from our fields. We need oil and sugar, which we do not get now. We require them now." We were happy and surprised and our work got doubly reinforced when they asked what they really needed for that time being. We provided oil and sugar later to that community and others too.

Madevan from Kombaitthotti told us that he was happy and felt good when we gave relief materials to families who did not have ration cards, children who did not have parents and the widows. The people who were not under these categories accepted our decision happily and it was at that moment we learnt that when we reach the needy, the community supports us. Many local leaders helped us to reach the community. we started to team with local leaders and learnt from them to reach the needy.

**Fr Packiaraj SJ**

## METTALA: Loyola College



**Total Amount Spent**

**2,01,710**



**No of beneficiaries**

**1,044**



**Volunteers**

**10**



**Dry Ration Kits**

**171**



**Financial Aid**

**86**



**Location**

**Mettala, Namakkal  
District**





**Target People**  
**Srilankan Refugees,**  
**Poor Families, Gypsies**  
**and Non-Teaching Staff**  
**Members.**



We, as a community, were privileged to help some sections of the society during COVID-19 pandemic initial outbreak. There were Gypsies, refugees and Arunthathiyars- all at the bottom of the social ladder. They were completely vulnerable people as this testing time really exposed their inability to cope with life. They had no small savings, not even petty cash for simple expenses, when the sudden lockdown was announced and they were looking for survival,

practically for their next meal when the outside world was hurriedly hoarding things for their future luxury. we experienced our helplessness too at this critical time as we couldn't reach out to many, and couldn't help all the needy. Our hearts were big but our hands were too small to extend to the needy. We felt the weak should be defended and protected by the strong, the gifted at these startling moments as this is the nature of law.

*Fr Thangadurai SJ*

## METTUPALAYAM: Arrupe Illam



**Total Amount Spent**  
**97,573**



**Volunteers**  
**3**



**No of beneficiaries:**  
**1360**



**Location**  
**Mettupallayam, Ooty**  
**District**



**Dry Ration Kits**  
**335**



**Target People**  
**Migrant Workers,**  
**Widows, Poor Dalits,**  
**Uraali tribals and Sri**  
**Lankan Refugees**



**Financial Aid**  
**5**



COVID-19, the global pandemic did not spare our vicinity too. I could see so many people in dire need of food and money to attend to their daily needs. This COVID experience was a purifying experience for me. It purified my self absorbed heart and mind. I began to understand the reality from their

perspective of the suffering and the marginalized. We tried our best to cut short our expenses and supply to the needs of the people. At the end of the day it was a soul satisfying experience for each one of us in the community.

*Fr Devadhas Muthiah SJ*



## RANIPET: Loyola Industrial School



Total Amount Spent  
**3,20,000**



Volunteers  
**15**



No of beneficiaries  
**2,040**



Location  
**Ranipet District**



Dry Ration Kits  
**500**



Target People  
**Poor Dalits, Sri Lankan Refugees and Co-workers**



Financial Aid  
**10**



We had been relentlessly working for the deserving people in and around the campus. The complete lockdown had put everything to a halt. Some people came to us and to others we took the initiative to reach them. But both had the same effect within us. Like us, some are abundantly given while most are

struggling for existence. Their pathetic livelihood humbled us, prompted us to live a simpler or a poor life. As a community we took a strong resolution that we would provide educational facilities to the children of these families.

*Fr Richard SJ*

## OOTY: St. Joseph's Industrial School



Total Amount Spent  
**40,000**



Volunteers  
**5**



No of beneficiaries  
**160**



Location  
**Ooty**



Dry Ration Kits  
**40**



Target People  
**Malai Kuravars and Tribal**



Financial Aid  
**10**



We had provided dry ration kits to 40 poor families who are the most affected people by the pandemic like Dalits, Athion, and Malaikuravars including widows, children, migrants, Tribal, and others. They are the beneficiaries. We had a rich experience. We felt the poor are the teachers for us and the nation. If only the problems are seen from their perspective

there would be an attitudinal change within us and in the minds of the people. For them the philosophy of life is very simple: Even at the gravest situation be happy with what you have and look for a hopeful future. It was a revealing experience for us.

*Fr Frederick Xavier SJ*

## TINDIVANAM: Jesuit Irular Mission (JESIM)



**Total Amount Spent**  
**9,85,000**



**Rescue Work**  
**40**



**No of beneficiaries**  
**10,336**



**Location**  
**Villupuram and Thiruvannamalai Districts**



**Dry Ration Kits**  
**2,584**



**Target People**  
**Irular tribals**



**Volunteers**  
**12**



COVID -19 relief work has been a time of grace for us because it has helped us to feel one with the poor and the marginalized. We have been accompanying the tribal Irular through various empowerment programs but this relief work has really opened up another way possible to get closer to them to fulfill their basic needs. This COVID-19 lockdown really affected these people very much as they are all daily coolies. This unforeseen lockdown made their life miserable but we feel strongly that there is grace in forsaken situations because we have

witnessed that many good willing people have come forward to work together. As PALAVAI Team and networking partners, we have reached out to more than 8,500 Irular families, Scavengers and Street dwellers in and around Villupuram, Tindivanam, Gingee, Melmalayanoor, Marakanam, Vandavasi, Maduranthagam and Kilpennathur. This has deepened my conviction that there is another world possible if we work together.

*Fr Maria Felix Kennedy SJ*

## VADAMELPAKKAM: Loyola Academy



**Total Amount Spent**  
**5,79,932**



**No of beneficiaries**  
**9,530**



**Dry Ration Kits**  
**493**



**Financial Aid**  
**33**



**Medical Aid**  
**3,927**



**Target People**  
**Poor Dalits, Visually Challenged, Destitutes, Widows, Deserving Students, Gypsies and Non-Teaching Staff, Migrants and Irulars.**



**Volunteers**  
**5**



**Location**  
**Chennai, Villupuram , Kanchipuram and Chengalpattu Districts**



We, the Jesuits of Loyola Academy, initially identified a number of migrants who had lost their jobs due to COVID 19 and a colony of blind people whose means of earning was by selling knick-knacks on the suburban electric trains. Our initial relief service of providing them dry rations gave us a greater impetus to look for avenues and opportunities to do our mite to the most affected in our neighbourhood. We traced out a lot of households who had lost their livelihoods and had been driven to hunger and misery. Moving around their residential area itself was a self-effacing experience. Their faces were filled with grief and agony and showed us the traces of uncertainty of

their future. This propelled us to commit ourselves fully for their cause. This did not bother our untiring travel, late meals and few hours of sleep. Infact this doubled our joy and brought us closer to God.

We had great joy and satisfaction of having shared what little we could do with our own resources, and with the help of the generous contribution made by our German donors. We hope and pray to God that the poor of our country will be relieved, with the support of the Govt and philanthropic individuals, corporates and NGOs to emerge from their situation of joblessness, homelessness and poverty and begin to lead their normal lives.

*Fr Leo Antony Tagore SJ*



## VALLAM: Paathai



**Total Amount Spent**  
**17,14,745**



**No of beneficiaries**  
**11,140**



**Dry Ration Kits**  
**2,785**



**Awareness Programme**  
**10**



**Volunteers**  
**10**



**Location**  
**Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram,  
Cuddalore, Vilupuram,  
Thiruvannamalai and Thiruvalluvar**



**Target People**  
**Transgenders, Arunthathiyars,  
Washermen Community, Irulars,  
Tribal, Sanitary Workers, Lepers,  
MBCs Hindus and Christians, Dalit  
Hindus and Christians, Muslims  
and Widows.**



The target area of Paathai and Dalit Human Rights Centre (DHRC) is the northern part of Tamilnadu especially the districts of Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Thiruvannamalai and South Chennai. Paathai in collaboration with DHRC undertook corona relief works in the above-mentioned districts. At the outset, to start the work was difficult and challenging because of the nature of COVID-19 infection and the restrictions laid by the central and state governments. We needed permission to travel to these districts to carry on the work and at last, we succeeded.

We made use of this relief work even to achieve certain goals and values. We brought together people from different castes and thus in certain villages the level of animosity and discrimination was brought down. It was a consoling factor for us. We used the premises of Temples, Churches and the government buildings for distribution of the provision kits; and involved various persons for the same. We were very much convinced that being humane is far better than being good religious and a fanatic. Also, we tried to build religious and communal harmony through this work. Our way and style of relief work became a model for many organizations. At this time



became a model for many organizations. At this time of fear and insecurity we tried to inculcate in people "Hope".

This occasion helped us to strengthen our networking with movements, NGOs and other religious leaders. The leaders and cadres of Ambedkar Centenary Movement, Dalit Christian Rights Movement,

Jyothyba workers Union, Staff of DHRC and Makkal Kalam were fully involved to carry out this programme. Our evening study centres became the points of reference for this work. But for them, we could not have reached so many people in so many districts.

*Fr Yesumarian SJ*

## VETTAVALAM: Loyola College



**Total Amount Spent**  
**8,52,500**



**Dry Ration Kits**  
**920**



**No of beneficiaries**  
**3,664**



**Financial Aid**  
**100**



**Volunteers**  
**16**



**Medical Aid**  
**920**



**Target People**  
**Poor Dalits, Widows,  
Migrants, Tribal and  
Refugees**



**Location**  
**Vettavalam,  
Thiruvannamalai  
District**



The myth that India is on the fast track route of development has shown its true colour during these 5-month long general lockdown. The crudity of joblessness and poverty lay bare in most of the villages which was a slap on our face when we entered into the interiors of many Dalit, Adivasi and Gypsy villages for the relief works of the killer virus COVID-19. While the fear and anxiety of the virus must have affected thousands of people in which a few rich would be included, millions and millions of poor people were truly affected by the fear and anxiety of joblessness, hunger and poverty. This is what we witnessed from ground zero when we trudge the muddy and marshy roads of the villages during the relief work. Though very tiresome at times the Eucharistic breaking of the bread was a source of inspiration to break ourselves for the Dalits, Adivasis and Gypsies.

We were shocked to know the fact that in many villages our dry ration came as a great relief and lifesaver for about a month as they were literally starving. When we heard from many women that they were not able to eat for days together as they had absolutely nothing at home, our hearts were broken. We heard such heartrending stories especially during our second phase of relief works in which the worst affected are the Puthiraivannars, cobblers and gypsies. Though Tamilnadu is rated as one of the developed States in India, the ground reality with the marginalized community proves otherwise. Still there is lot more to be done in the backward districts of Northern Tamil Nadu.

*Fr Selvaraj Arulnathan SJ*

## THIRUMANUR: John de Britto Parish



**Total Amount Spent**  
**2,00,000**



**Dry Ration Kits**  
**400**



**No of beneficiaries**  
**1,600**



**Volunteers**  
**10**



**Target People**  
**Poor Dalits and Daily Wagers**



**Location**  
**Thirumanur, Ariyalur District**



As the COVID -19 disease started to spread in March, the normal life of our people was greatly disturbed. All the parish activities were abruptly stalled. Then I had to handle the traumatic and challenging situation all alone. The parish consists of poor families and they earn their daily living by their hard labour. I was aware of the reality, therefore I had the moral responsibility of helping our people. Deep within me I was feeling helpless and abandoned. The positive response from DMC team boosted me morally. I constituted the parish COVID-19 relief team. We worked together in getting the dry rations and distributed the relief

materials to the needy people in time. As the Bible verse rightly says, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me (Mt 25: 40). Our parishioners were extremely grateful for the timely help and support. Most of them, while receiving the dry rations, expressed their deep sense of gratitude saying 'Thank you father'. As Yahweh strengthened the covenant with Israelites, we, the Jesuits, also have deepened our relationship with the people and 'sealed' our love in their hearts. Thirumanur Parish is grateful to the Chennai Province and DMC Team members. Thank you!

*Fr James SJ*

## PORULUR: St. Joseph's Church Parish



**Total Amount Spent**  
**20,000**



**Financial Aid**  
**10**



**No of beneficiaries**  
**40**



**Location**  
**Porulur, Dindigul District**



**Target People**  
**Poor Dalits and Daily Wagers**



The Parish Priest together with the Parish council identified 10 deserving families and helped them with Rs 2000/-. The blatant reality shook me a lot. They were economically, spiritually and psychologically drained. They had no means for their subsistence. I was greatly pained by the situation.

Through generous contribution of many donors I was able to do

something economically. While counselling them, I was horrified to know how many families are in the verge of getting split as they are inside the home throughout day. It was a herculean task and at the same time a satisfying experience for me to meet the family members personally and deal with the problems of the family amicably.

*Fr Guna SJ*

## A COMPREHENSIVE DATA OF THE RELIEF WORK DONE BY THE JESUIT CHENNAI PROVINCE ( CEN )



Total Amount Spent

**1,70,82,920**



No of beneficiaries

**1,93,360**



Volunteers

**453**



Dry Ration Kits

**19,766**



Counselling

**1,20,000**



Medical Aid

**13,147**



Financial Aid

**297**



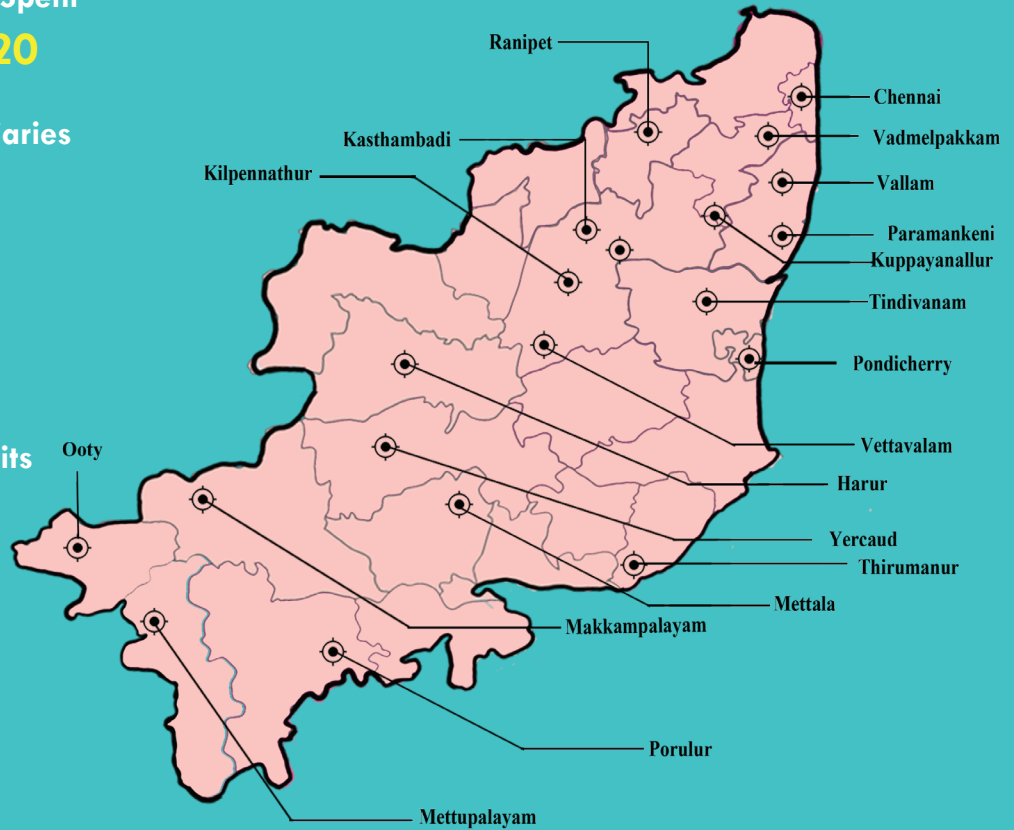
Accommodation at Loyola  
Schelter Homes

**300**



Awareness Programme

**27**



COVID-19 quarantine Centre

**2,000**



Nutritious food to Children

**530**



Rescue Work

**40**



Help Desk

**1,000**

## SUCCESS STORIES



My name is Periyannayaki. I have been living in Aanandhangal for more than ten years since the loss of my husband. My right leg was paralyzed a year ago. Therefore, I was not able to go out for work. My sons live in Chennai. Due to lockdown, I found it very difficult to get food every day. When the AHAL center came to know of my situation, they reached out to help me with the needed food materials through which I was able to manage for some days. I am grateful to AHAL center who render their service to the needy.

I am Annamal. I live in Keezhkachirappattu. I am a widow and I do not have any children. Since I am too old, I am not able to go for work. I was helped by my relatives and neighbours before the lockdown. Due to the Corona pandemic, they stopped giving me food and needed materials. I found it very difficult to live. I went without food for many days. I was helpless, but the Fathers from the AHAL center extended their helping hands and supported me in all the ways possible. I am very grateful to them.



I am Baigam Ansari from Jharkhand. I have been working as a painter in Chennai for the last 6 years. Due to lockdown, my family found it very difficult to meet their everyday needs. We did not have money to buy food materials. Loyola Helping Hands team helped us a lot in this time of Corona pandemic. We got sufficient food materials from them. They were ever ready to help us. Jesuit Migrant Service helped so many migrants to get back to their native places. We are very grateful for the service done by JMS.

Faculty members and volunteers from Loyola College, Chennai offered tele-counselling for the quarantined people in collaboration with the Greater Chennai Corporation Authorities. 1,20,000 people contacted over the phone and got benefitted. The issues raised by the needy were fulfilled within three to six hours. Many people who were under stress and depression called over the phone and got counselling from the team of experts. There was a lady who was rejected by her family members on her birthday, she reached out to the team, expressed her sadness of not having celebrated her birthday at home, therefore the whole team got up and wished her with a song over the phone call. She was satisfied and felt very happy.



On 16 April 2020, a team from JESIM took a risk to save the life of 40 Irulars brick kiln chamber contract workers from Padapai, Kanchipuram district. As the unforeseen lockdown came into effect due to COVID-19, the condition of the contract workers became worse without basic needs. Fearing death and the danger of contracting Corona, the stranded people cried out for help to reach their homes. The JESIM team with the nod of the director hastened to arrange a vehicle to take them safely to their respective villages. While talking to the

media, a lady worker said that they suffered more mental agony than being without shelter, food, and water on the way. She said that it was unbelievable that they reached home quickly and with no troubles because of the generous help, care, and concern of the JESIM. She also expressed her gratitude on behalf of everyone to one of the known VAOs in our work areas. JESIM team was very keen to address the pain of our target groups immediately without having alternative thoughts about anything else and provided them with basic needs and sufficient accompaniment.



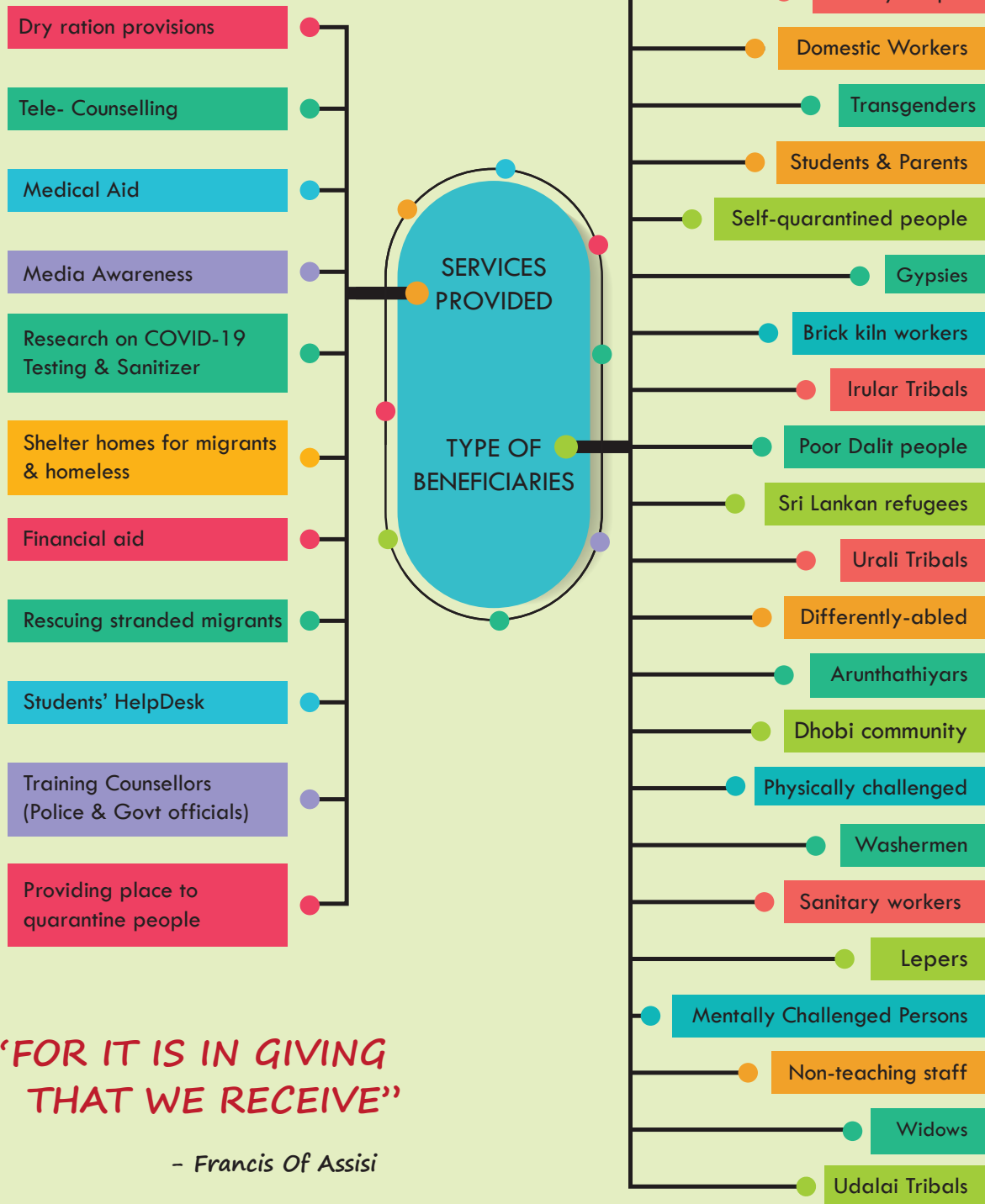


**CEN  
COVID-19**

Initiatives of Jesuit Chennai Province (CEN)



**RAPID  
RESPONSE**



**"FOR IT IS IN GIVING  
THAT WE RECEIVE"**

- Francis Of Assisi

## OUR BENEFACTORS



Jesuitenmission, Nurnberg, Germany  
Jesuiten Weltweit, Zurich, Switzerland  
La Fondation OMCFAA, Paris, France  
NANDRI GROUP, Switzerland  
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Inchara Foundation, India  
Alumni Association of Loyola College, Chennai  
Alumni Association of LIBA  
Alumni Association of XLRI  
World Vision India  
ActionAid India  
Dr Renuka David (Radiant Foundation), Chennai  
Evangelical Church of Methodists, Chennai  
Mother Theresa Trust  
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Sisters of St Joseph of Lyons  
St Dominic's School, St Thomas Mount  
Diocese of Chengalpet  
Diocese of Dharmapuri  
Jeyachandran Textiles - Chennai  
Srinivasa Sweets - Perambur  
Anthoni Ammal Community College, Thiruvaiyaru

“ We thank all our benefactors and donors for their contributions for the relief work of COVID-19 ”

**And all our individual benefactors and donors of various institutions,  
Parishes and social action centres**

## OUR PLANS FOR FUTURE

Medical camps for homeless migrants and migrants at the shelter homes.



To provide medical care to the rural people.

Educational help to children to pursue their school education.



To support sanitary workers who faced starvation and hazardous conditions during the coronavirus outbreak.

Skill training to youth who have lost their job during the lockdown to find a job.



Establishing counseling centers in our institutions and social action centers to accompany the COVID-19 affected people.

Training people to prepare indigenous medicinal and organic food preparations to keep them healthy.

*You are most welcome to support our initiatives*



Our Life Spreads Light when it is given in Service.  
The secret of joy is living to Serve.

*-Pope Francis*

**JESUIT CHENNAI PROVINCE**

truly appreciates and thanks  
the Province Men, Donors,  
Alumni, Staff, Students,  
Collaborators, Co-workers and  
Volunteers for their efforts and  
contribution to respond rapidly  
to COVID-19

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