

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2021



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
AND SEE US ON YOU TUBE



18 months Later, thousands of people have been helped and we are still going strong, thanks to your generosity.

This is an update on what's happening on the ground in Darjeeling and district, India.

All of our children's homes are in the Covid emergency network. With other groups working in Darjeeling, the towns slums were divided out so there would be no duplicating with our relief and to ensure that as many poor families as possible got food/health care parcels. No running water, no electricity in most, no daily wages due to lockdown, so no food.

I think we all agree that the past 18 months of horror, deaths, fear and uncertainty, will go down as one of the darkest periods in world history. A small initial outbreak of a disease in China wiped out the lives of 4.5 million people and we are still counting because it has NOT gone away!



Anuja and the team would NOT be standing at this door giving food and medical items without the amazing donations from the public and a company. We can never thank you enough.

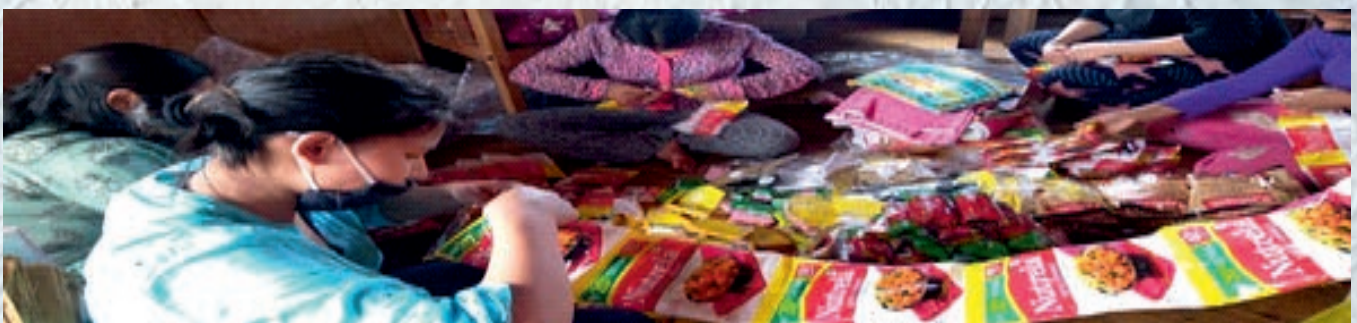
Mick Ryan, a Limerick man and Director of World Health Organisation (WHO)



**R.I.P
Ruma Calcutta**

Emergencies, said "its not over until its Over" we are NOT rid of Covid until every person has had a chance and the offer of a vaccine, so true. In the middle of Covid we have had, cyclones, earthquakes, floods, fires and the tragedy of Afghanistan. The world has taken a major hammering and it all just seems too much to take in but we literally must take one day at a time and work on that. We in EWSCFI picked our catchment areas in Darjeeling and made sure that along with our homes and children, 3,000 people from the most terrible slums, survived, and we only did this with your help and an amazing team of dedicated staff in India. The relief areas were: 1) at the Foundation itself; 2) Singamari; 3) Jawahar Busty; 4) Toon Song Busty; 5) Singamari area; 6) ex children's families and the Hermitage area 7) Railway station and Kak Jhora and 8) The Truck stand for taxi drivers and their families who were very badly affected.

**IN ALL JUST OVER 3,000 PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE
TEAM.**



WE CAN DO SOMETHING !

Both our children's homes have remained as they are. The staff were all trained in Covid care, there was strict security on the gate and Covid restrictions put in place. Isolation rooms were prepared for any child/staff that became unwell and all new children admitted were isolated for 14 days and tested. Not one child or staff got Covid, a testimony to the amazing care team we have. The horror of all emergencies is that abuse cases/trafficked children goes higher. In every emergency I have seen this, be it an earthquake/floods/drought and it was no different this time. Every NGO will tell you that the big problem post Covid, in developing and under developed countries are Covid orphans. The amount of children left is very high making them very high risk and vulnerable. During our relief work it has become apparent that there are HUGE numbers of school drop outs, the teenage boys have been roped into drug pushing and many of the girls into becoming flying sex workers. When a family has no income from regular work due to lockdown, the offers from the pimps is too hard to resist. The work we do in the slum areas will continue BUT there will be much more emphasis on the REHABILITATION of these children. In that regard, a new full time community outreach programme has been set up because if we don't act now too many children will slip through the cracks.

Our older boys and girls in our homes became very creative, helping out with posters for outreach work as well as designing and making masks etc. We are going to buy some new sewing machines and set up cottage industries. The masks are here to stay so this will become a nice little earner for our outreach children also, and give them an alternative income as they can continue their schooling.

The other thing that became apparent was the drop out rate due to distance to the town and secondary school. Some children would have to walk for hours to get to a secondary school and home again in the evenings so



we are looking at starting a 5 day stay programme, using our offices/drop in centres etc in the evenings for these kids to stay in and therefore be able to continue with their schooling.

None of the work would have been done except for the amazing support of people at home. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you. We have a lot of work to do but we can help all these children with your support. We have received funding to expand our boys home from a wonderful donor. Another donor is going to contribute a jeep to get this work on its way because the jeep we have is 17 years old and falling apart. Every single penny gift counts. Thank you for your amazing support during this terrible time, with love from Edith, Anuja Namrata and all the team and children at EDITH WILKINS STREET CHILDREN FOUNDATION INDIA. (IBAN: IE48 AIBK 9343 4821 4390 06 BIC: AIB KIE 2D Account number: 21439006, Office - Unit 4, Drake centre, Carrigaline, Co Cork)

