



Paper Boat
1 & 3 Kings Meadow
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0DP

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is an emergency appeal to provide 600 children in Tamil Nadu with a COVID-19 relief pack and community healthcare support.

As this terrible second wave of coronavirus in India continues to devastate lives, with our local partner CEDAR in Tamil Nadu, we urgently need to help these most-affected children, who have remained locked out of schooling for over a year and are now trying to cope with hunger, bereavement and mental health trauma.

Chinnaraj Thangaraj at CEDAR emailed with this heart-breaking update, *"Unlike the first wave, the second wave has in no time brought in children a deep sense of hopelessness and fear. As more and more near and dear ones get infected, they hear the footsteps of death. The extended closure of schools has serious implications for the psychological wellbeing of the children... The right to food and nourishment, the right to be protected from disease, the right to health including psychological wellbeing, the right to education and finally, the very right to parental care and support have come under threat."*

With my colleague, Jo and trustees at Paper Boat, I have been listening to the concerns of parents and children in the communities we support, and we are committed to doing all we can, with our local partners, to ensure that these children do not become victims of the education crisis, mental health crisis, or hunger crisis as a result of the pandemic. Please help us, if you are able.



We are appealing to raise £6,000 by the end of July, to provide 600 children with an emergency relief pack of learning resources and food, and help fund a community healthcare helpdesk.

If you are unable to donate but would like to support in some other way, please contact Jo Bowen by email at jo@paperboatcharity.org.uk. If we raise more than needed for this appeal, all funds will support our continued work helping some of the most disadvantaged children in Tamil Nadu.

During the first wave of the pandemic in March last year, we were able to deliver emergency relief packs to children through our Hubs in Kovilpatti and Madurai. Through the impact surveys of this relief, we were informed that during the previous lockdown, 60% of the children had no exposure to the government classes available online or on cable television. A shocking one fifth of children took on waged work during school closures to help their families cope with the financial hardship caused by the pandemic; with most of those children reporting exhaustion, sleep disturbance or injury as a result. **Every single one of the children who received a relief kit during the first wave used the home-learning resource for at least one month.**

Anu Sri, an 8-year-old girl from the rural Kovilpatti region of Tamil Nadu, told us, "To go without school and studies, and to go without anything even to eat was a big distress. That was very difficult for me. At the same time, CEDAR resource centre standing by us and giving us relief kit brought happiness... Not only [support for] studies, but also drawing and colouring, art training etc. we received. We did not do anything during [the initial] lockdown. Only after CEDAR centre started functioning did we begin"

We are truly grateful for any additional support you are able to give at this time.



Kemal Shaheen
Director

TO DONATE, EITHER:



Scan the QR code to donate online by credit or debit card,
or visit: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13605>

OR

To donate by cheque, complete the form below and enclose with your cheque made payable to Paper Boat, and send to: Emergency Appeal, Paper Boat; 1 & 3 Kings Meadow; Osney Mead; Oxford; OX2 0DP

*£36 could buy one oximeter and one thermometer for early detection of coronavirus in the community.

*£65 can provide 10 children with an emergency relief pack, containing resources to enjoy learning creatively at home and nutritional supplements to reduce hunger.

* £500 can provide 75 children with these vital health and wellbeing resources to reduce the long-term impact of COVID.

Name:

Phone:

Address:

Email:

I would like to donate: £36 £65 £500 my amount: _____

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By ticking this box, Paper Boat can reclaim the tax on your donation, boosting it by 25p of Gift Aid for every pound you donate.

I am happy to hear from Paper Boat about the impact of my support & other ways I can get involved, by:

Post Yes No

Email Yes No

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You can update the way you hear from us at any time by contacting us at jo@paperboatcharity.org.uk

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