

Aid for India

May 2021

The Corona situation in India continues to worsen dramatically. In May the country registered a global peak in new infections of more than 400,000 cases per day was registered for the second consecutive time. The health system is completely overburdened. Hospitals lack intensive care beds and medical oxygen.

In addition, there is a shortage of nurses and vaccines. After reaching a rate of around four million vaccinations daily, this has now dropped to 2.5 million. Consequently, it will take more than a year until the entire population has been vaccinated twice.

Maher Ashram, which is supported by the Suppiah Charity Association, is also dearly affected by this situation. We spoke to the organisation's staff on the phone in Pune to get an impression of the current situation in India. They are in great despair. The virus is spreading with such force that they hear of the death of a friend, family member or work colleague practically every day. In their words, "We are scared. Scared to look at our phones and find out who died today".

Despite this despair, the staff around Lucy Kurien, the founder of Maher, have started various programmes to help as many people as possible in this pandemic.

- **Food and hygiene kits for migrant workers:** the harsh lockdowns have left migrant workers stranded on the streets, without work or the possibility of finding food. Maher tries to save as many as possible from starvation with food kits.

- **Temporary accommodation for children:** Children whose parents or caregivers suffer from Covid-19 are provided with temporary accommodation at Maher free of charge.

- **Temporary Shelter for Adults:** Adults whose family members are suffering from Covid-19 and thus should not be in the same household, can find free temporary shelter at Maher.

- **Free quarantine centre:** Temporary accommodation for ill people who have been discharged from hospital but still need to be isolated or under quarantine.

- **Free medical transport:** Organised transport for people who are suffering from Covid-19.

We are looking for financial assistance to support these efforts of humanity.

About Maher Ashram in India

Maher Ashram means "House of the Mother". The organisation was founded in 1997 and is dedicated to providing medical care, education and rehabilitation of abused women and their children as well as development aid and support of all homeless or destitute people in the Indian villages and slums near the Maher homes, irrespective of gender, caste, ethnicity or religion. There are homes and houses at 29 locations in India with more projects in the pipeline. Maher's running costs are about CHF 30,000/month to provide for the upkeep of

an average of 690 children, 250 women, 30 men, staff costs as well as rent and taxes. Maher is funded entirely by donations from supporters, mainly from abroad.

About Suppiah Charity Association

Suppiah Charity is a Liechtenstein non-profit organisation and supports projects for women and children in need in India. The main goal is to help people to help themselves through education, but this also includes health, accommodation, shelter, food and security. Suppiah Charity was founded on 11 March 2010 in Planken by Yvonne Odoni and is registered in the Liechtenstein Public Register. Members of Suppiah Charity are Gabi Risch-Nägele, Caroline Kaufmann and Nicole Thöny. We have visited to India several times to get an overview of the projects we support. In the past, we have supported the building of three homes in Ratnagiri and three homes in Jharkhand.

