

Today India has announced an extension of Lockdown till May 3rd. It has been a tremendous task to keep 1.3 billion people in lockdown for the past 21 days, but more important was to make sure that people trying to escape corona, don't die of Hunger.

LOCKDOWN

FACING Tough Times

The Corona situation is definitely taking a toll on the economic situation in the country. The suffering group that are affected the most are the Daily Wagers that includes Agricultural labourers, House Maids, Security staff, Sanitary workers, Garbage collectors, Construction and Road workers. The other sectors that suffer for food are migrant workers from other parts of the country.

INDIA COVID-19 TRACKER

LAST UPDATED
ABOUT 1 HOUR AGO
14 APR, 12:42 IST

A CROWDSOURCED INITIATIVE

CONFIRMED ACTIVE RECOVERED DECEASED

[+287]

[+23]

[+2]

10,741 9,160 1,221 360



COMPILED FROM STATE GOVT. NUMBERS KNOW MORE

STATE/UT	CNFMD	ACTV	RCVRD	DC
MAHARASHTRA	↑121 2,455	2,066	229	1
DELHI	1,510	1,451	31	
TAMIL NADU	1,173	1,104	58	
RAJASTHAN	↑48 945	813	121	
GUJARAT	↑45 617	536	↑1 55	
MADHYA PRADESH	614	513	51	

14th APRIL 2020
NEWSLETTER

Pastors...Coping during Corona Times...

What do we do for the next meal?

"Just when we are building a church and striving to take the membership from 50 to about 70, this new corona situation has emerged and has prevented us from meeting together as a church. No house visiting, No gospel preachings and No offerings!! It is a terrible situation that we are facing.

Feeding a family with 3 daughters seems like a big task. It always keeps me wondering, What will we do for the next meal??

Shortage of food material, Church Rent, House Rent and financial crunch are some of the little giants that we are facing right now.

The help that has been given is helping us to buy some food and basic necessities. Thanks to everyone who helped. God has been faithful in providing the Next meal through Samaritans like you".

PASTOR BN JOSHUA, JHARKAND, NORTH INDIA



Miraculously received money
for food.

This family of 5 did not have food to eat. It has been 3 weeks of lockdown already and no church services and hence no offering. Pastors have no where to look to other than Jesus. An embarrassed father, unable to provide food for his family with 3 children, knelt in God's presence to ask for food. The phone rang and a pastor on the other end, asked if they had food to eat and he confessed that they did not have anything. So he gave a small amount of money, that helped them to satisfy their hunger need. This miracle story has come from Pastor Etwar Masih in the Himachal Pradesh in North India.

PASTOR ETWAR MASI, HIMACHAL, NORTH INDIA





How do I run my family?

Since March 22, the lock down has prevented us from going from house to house and praying and receiving an offering, the Sunday service where tithes and offerings are given in a church of 70 people. The terrible financial crisis has seen this family eating just plain rice with onions, even for which they are grateful. "How do I run my family without any finances? How can I buy vegetables without money?" But one thing we do everyday is to gather together and clap hands, and with the tambourine sing and pray. As we worship God, He alone provides for our family.

PASTOR GAYANAND, NORTH INDIA



LOCKDOWN MEMES

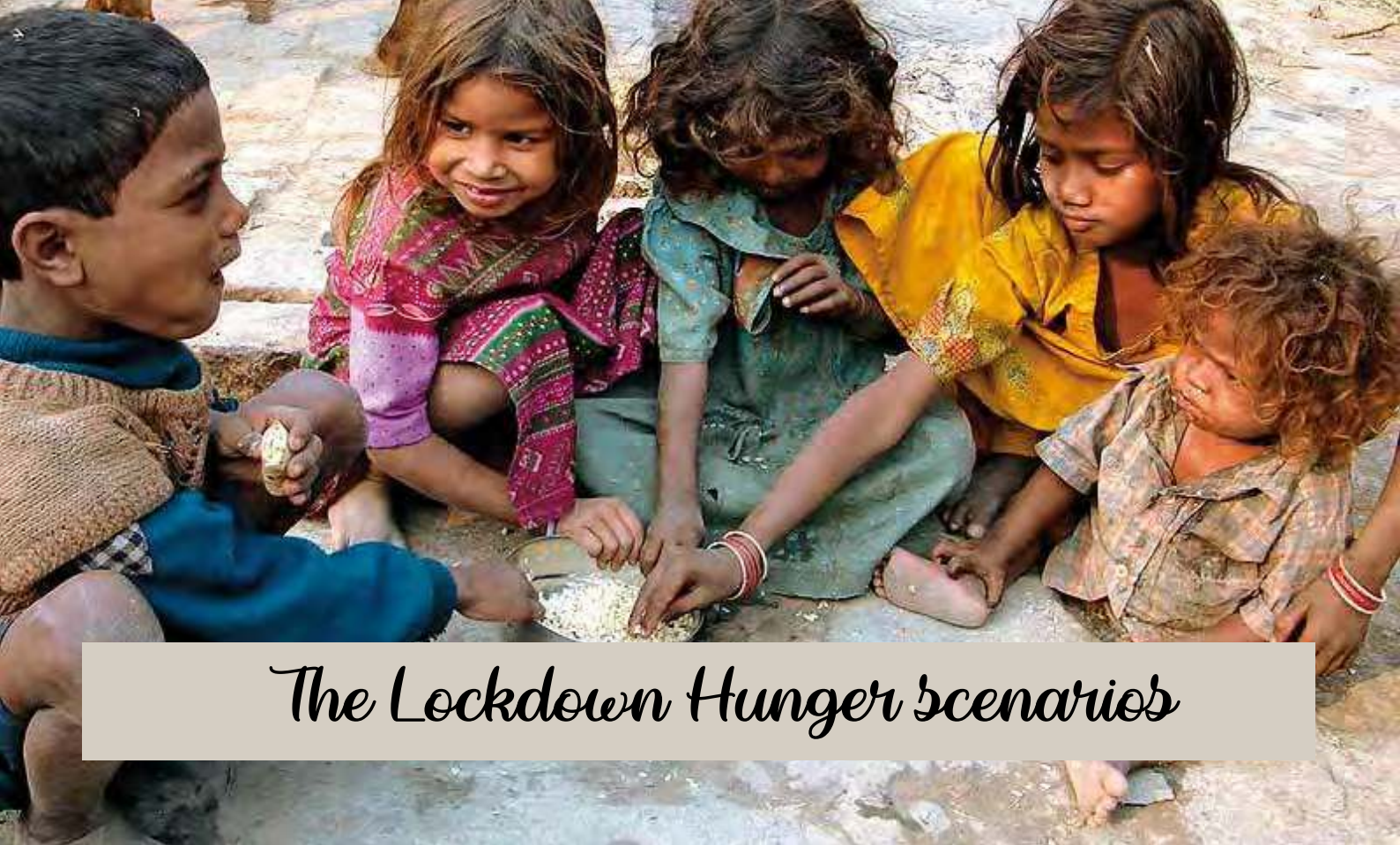
BUT ONE THING WE DO EVERYDAY IS TO GATHER TOGETHER AND CLAP HANDS, AND WITH THE TAMBOURINE SING AND PRAY. AS WE WORSHIP GOD, HE ALONE PROVIDES FOR OUR FAMILY.

Miracle Bag of Vegetables

During the beginning of lockdown, we did not have any food at home and we were wondering how we were going to make it through. Our house is an loosely stacked structure of bricks and my wife and my daughter and I have been living here and coping with it. But one pastor suddenly called and helped us to buy a bag of vegetables and ration for the family, because of which we are eating and alive today.

PASTOR NIRMAL MASI, NORTH INDIA





The Lockdown Hunger scenarios

Eating Water and Bananas

HUNGER RESCUE: BUT FOR HOW LONG?

Hunger is the invisible enemy that people in India are fighting today. Many Rag pickers and sanitary workers because of lock down are starving for food and are living on bananas and water.

"I used to work from 7 am to 2 pm earlier and earn a side income by cleaning septic tanks in my neighbourhood. Now I work full time from 7 am to 6 pm. Even in my dreams, I am spraying disinfectant," says Manav (name changed), 26-year-old a sanitation worker with the Chennai Corporation.

Some of these people, do not have ration cards. The government gives them food only if they have ration cards. These are the vulnerable section of the society who have hunger crisis.

Hunger ☒ The invisible enemy of the Blind ☒ the Handicapped

The blind and the Handicapped people used to beg in the trains by singing and displaying their damaged body parts, and out of the money earned through begging, used to buy food and beat the enemy called Hunger. This was their lifestyle. Today there is no one to listen to their songs. They can't hear the sound of coins dropping into their collection vessels. Someone is telling them, "Get back into wherever you live. There is a new enemy who is ready to kill you, called the corona". Hunger is the arch enemy that they have always known and wants to kill them. They don't care about the new enemy right now.

The final Walk - Hunger strikes dead the 22 year old man

Little did he know that it was going to be the last walk of his life. As the 22-year-old was returning home to Tamil Nadu from another state far away, he died mid way in Hyderabad after walking for around 450 km. He was using available mode of transport, hitchhiking in trucks carrying essential goods. He was walking for nearly ten days and wanted to desperately return home due to national lockdown. They didn't have much money. He and his friends lived on limited resources of food and water. Finally his body could take it no longer and he fell unconscious and died.

How we operate & Help...

LAYERED HELP...

Since we are unable to go outside during lockdown, we simplify this process as much as possible. We transfer the money to the nearest central pastor or leader who then distributes it to the people in his area, one at a time. Since we are not allowed to gather and expected to maintain social distancing. We co-ordinate Action teams in different states across the country who sometimes buy groceries like Rice, Dhal, Flour, Oil, Soaps and Vegetables in bulk and distribute them but if it is a remote part we do bank transfer.

The difference it makes...



