

Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service



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COVID-19 Crisis

Urgent Appeal – April 2020

The Government lockdown in India, aimed at mitigating the spread of coronavirus, will have a devastating effect on those living in poverty in Kolkata's slums and the surrounding rural districts. Most people live from hand to mouth, earning meagre incomes by doing menial jobs or running small businesses such as tea stands. With these sources of income removed, whole families who are already living below the poverty line and in dire need, will be left without any livelihood, and the means to fend for themselves. In such circumstances, it is particularly the women and children in the communities who are most at risk.

CRS is working with the Diocese on a plan for the distribution of basic aid to those most in need in the 12 city slum areas in which CRS is engaged, and in the 36 Diocesan pastorates (parishes). The intention is to bring relief to 1,600 families (about 8,000 people in all) by distributing basic medical supplies and staple foods (such as rice, lentils, sugar, milk, and oil).

CRS will use their own vehicles to distribute in the slum area, and distribution in the pastorates will be undertaken from the churches by the clergy and pastorate communities.

While it will not be possible to implement the aid programme until the government lockdown ends, CRS and the Diocese urgently need to raise funds now to be ready to move when able to do so. The budget for the programme is approximately £11,500.

Can you support this appeal?

For different ways to donate from the UK via the Friends of CRS please visit <http://www.cathedralreliefservice.net/donate/uk/>

Thank you very much for your support.

Right Reverend Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta
Mr Rig David, Director of the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service
The Trustees of the UK Friends of CRS

Enquiries to: secretary@friendsofcrs.co.uk