



Newsletter July 2020

COVID edition

Dear friend of Betula,

Hope you are all safe and sound. This newsletter we wish to dedicate to our Covid 19 support activities. The deadly virus has a huge impact on the lives of people all over the world. Because of the lockdowns for months in a row so many jobs got lost. Families lacking income, no food on the table. Many countries still without any social security or food banks present.



We tried to help where and how we could, as we as well were under lockdown. Luckily we could rely on the support of our local partners and volunteers. They assisted to help to provide food and other means of support. Through our swift action we have been able to donate almost 1000 food packages in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand over the last 3 months.

Herewith a special thanks to all who helped to make this happen and to the WP Schmitz Stiftung from Germany who almost completely financially supported this important action.

Helping those living with and affected by HIV



The Covid 19 pandemic has been causing a major effect on the lives of children living with HIV/ affected by HIV and their families. Since the beginning of February children infected/affected by HIV have not gone to school and their caregivers have lost their jobs as well.

In cooperation with our local partner VNHIP and the Danang and Quang Nam Centers for Disease Control, BAAF was able to support households directly. We provided needed things for them such as rice, cooking oil, instant noodle and fish sauce. The emergency support that has reached over 40 families helped them to overcome the difficulties of the moment.



Blue Dragon Children Foundation (BDCF) in Hanoi

Our partner for almost 15 years. BDCF is running 4 residences for street children and youth. During lock down none of the residents could go out to work or study. Moreover, more than usual kids come to the shelters as nobody was allowed to be in the streets. So there were so many more mouths to feed. We were able to help provide food for 1 residence for 1 month.

Then there was an urgent medical need. Trang is a tertiary student from Hue city supported by BDCF to be able to stay in school. Her father passed away. An uncle who normally supports the family has just lost his job because of the pandemic. The girl's mother has a heart condition and needed surgery. We supported cost for the operation and daily life.

One of BDCF main activities is the rescuing of victims of human trafficking. Because of the lockdown the rescue missions were put on hold. Another problem rising was that many girls who had been starting the transition to independence, suddenly needed help again as they lost the jobs they just started. We helped to support the livelihood of 7 young women for 3 months. There's one family that has had their house destroyed in a recent violent hailstorms we helped to fix the roof, so they are safe.

Nam Dinh province in Northern Vietnam



In this rural province in Northern Vietnam located 70 km from Hanoi COVID19 has a big impact on the daily lives of people. The disadvantaged people in rural areas already faced a lot of struggle to find food and facilities for their basic needs.

In March and April when the Vietnam government put the country on lock down to prevent the virus from spreading, the impact on the life of the poor was big. Direct and concrete support was needed. With the help of a local assistant we were able to select and help about 50 families. We provided rice, noodles, oil, sugar and fish to put back some smiles on people's faces.



Minorities in Gia Lai



Through our local and engaged volunteer we were fortunate to help in the very rural and distant areas in Gia Lai province. The living conditions of the minority people there are very harsh. Especially during the Covid lock down people lacked any source of income. People working in the cities were not able to send money back home to support their families. Work in these areas is already very scares and was almost none during lock down.

In total we were able to provide 25kg of rice, the staple food for Asian families, cooking oil, seasoning and noodles for about 20 families. Main focus was on 4 orphan children living alone. The roof of the home of the 12 year old orphan boy was leaking. We helped to provide a new roof over the boys head. We will continue to support the 4 children. More on the construction of a new home for one of them in the next newsletter.



Hope Box

Our new partner Hope Box recently opened a small restaurant and planned to open some stalls at several venues to sell food. Because of the lock down there was hardly any income. Even takeaway or deliver was not allowed for many weeks. Having no income meant no sources to help the target group: abused women. Moreover staff was without income. Without support the NGO had hardly any chance to survive. We were happy to help with rental payments for 2 months, meals for 3 staff members for 1 month and health insurances for them as well.

Support for Hue and Quang Tri



In Hue we were lucky to be able to work with 4 local partners. In total we distributed 150 food packages through 2 pagodas and 50 food packages through a local volunteer. Moreover we organized a lunch and cooked meals for over 50 blind people in their centre in the neighbouring province of Quang Tri. For our partner Tam Binh, centre for children living with disabilities we donated food and blankets.



Support for almost 400 families in Thailand

In Thailand as well the impact of Covid is huge. An almost 2 month lock down in a country that heavily depends on tourism. People working in Bangkok could no longer provide for their families living in the provinces. We were able to help through a temple in Roi Et province, a 4 hour drive from Bangkok. The pagoda does a lot of outreach work for the poor. At their request we donated only rice and eggs. Food they consider the basics for a meal. That way we could keep the cost low and reach over 350 people. In Bangkok with the help of local assistance we could bring food packages to 50 people living in poverty. Moreover we donated rice to a "meal kitchen" providing meals to the poor on a daily basis.

Help for 50 families in Cambodia



The support in Cambodia went to the poor and needy people in the region of Tboung Khmum. The region is located about 150 km North East of Phnom Penh. To prepare for the support action, a selection of poorest people in the area was done. The support mainly went to single elderly women who normally depend on the help of neighbours and relatives.



Among the people receiving support were also people with disabilities. In a Muslim village several families received support as well. The people we helped are from very poor backgrounds where the lockdown made things worse. Many people here lost their jobs in garment factories and therefore unable to support their families. People received their food packages in the pagodas and mosques or were visited at home.

Apart from the above we supported almost 15 people with small financial contributions so they were able to buy their medicine or other necessities for their daily life.

Why would you support us? Betula works at grass root level and direct. Your donations are completely used to help the beneficiaries. For more information about the programs and projects please visit our website:

www.betula-asianaid.org

Your support is needed and appreciated.

My thoughts are with those who are sick from Covid 19 or affected in any other way.

I wish you all good health and stay safe!

Kees