

# Brighter Future International Trust

## COVID-19 Update

Registered Charity 110823

Victor and Mary at the market.



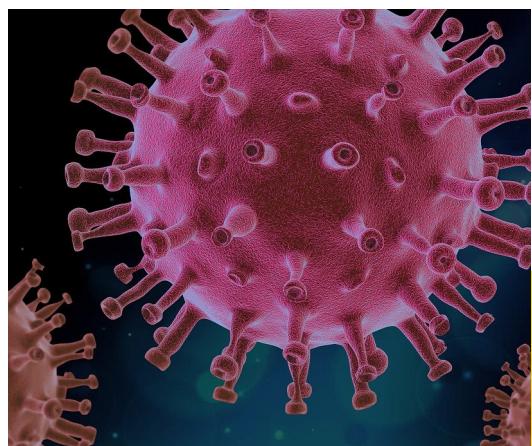
## We're thinking about you

We hope you are continuing to stay safe and well. Every day at 8am and 8pm the children, leprosy colony residents and staff at Brighter Future include you in their prayers. For many this is a very difficult period of isolation from family and friends and of worry for loved ones who are front-line workers. We all have a feeling of helplessness as we cannot control the situation in which we find ourselves. At Brighter Future we are praying for your health and for strength to cope until COVID comes to an end.

## COVID-19 in India

Lockdown has hit India hard. As this is written, official figures state a total of 1,500 cases and 500 deaths. It is hard to believe that these figures are accurate, and experts worry that the real number of infections could be far higher. India has one of the lowest testing rates in the world, although efforts are under way to ramp up capacity.

Although cases have been confirmed in the State of Andhra Pradesh, there have been no cases in the districts of Vizianagaram and Srikakulam which are the main places in which we work. This is astounding considering the population of 4.5 million! There are 15 cases in Godavari districts where we have leprosy colonies, but thankfully there has so far been no sign of the virus in our communities.





Food parcels sent to colonies with children from Rainbow

## How have the people we care for been affected?

### Rainbow Children's Home

Local government has enforced all children at Rainbow with parents to return to their homes in leprosy colonies. This is hard for the children as they are missing their friends and of course their education. We have sent food parcels with enough rice and other essentials for one month, as parents/grandparents will not have enough money to feed everyone.

We have approximately 40 still with us at Rainbow, and although they know we love them, it's a stark reminder that they don't have a family of their own like the others.

Our staff go out daily to queue for vegetables and other food items. Thankfully, there is no shortage of food at the market, so we are able to maintain a balanced diet for the children (fruit, vegetables, milk, meat, eggs, nuts etc).

We have special permission from district authorities to use our 4x4 and motorcycle to collect food supplies and medicines.

### Leprosy Colonies

People affected by leprosy have been hit the hardest with the effects of the lockdown. Elderly, disabled residents with no means of earning an income are unable to go out as usual to beg at the local temples.

### Shanti Nivas Children's Village

We have special permission from local government to keep all children with HIV in our homes. It is vital that they are kept away from the general community as low immune systems make them especially susceptible to Covid.

As in the UK, we are home-schooling as best we can, and the children are surprisingly disciplined with their work. Social distancing is almost impossible though as you can imagine! When the children start playing together, they forget everything we have told them.

They are washing hands regularly and understand the need to use soap and sanitiser.

Food arrives in leprosy colonies



They live a hand-to-mouth existence, with no savings and no-one to help them. No money means no food, and certainly no soap for washing. Poor sanitation and hygiene mean they are a ticking time bomb for Covid-19.

# Food Crisis hits elderly and disabled

The Indian Government has so far provided food rations for literally a few days, but of course this is not enough to prevent starvation.

Thankfully, supporters like you here in the UK have graciously sent donations to feed families living in local leprosy colonies. We cannot say thank you enough for this – you are saving lives!

Food has been distributed across leprosy colonies throughout April, but funds for this additional work are running out quickly.



You can help us to carry out this life-saving work. Just £36 provides a family of four with food for a whole month. Please will you feed vulnerable elderly people in the colonies for the next month? They desperately need your help now. Thank you so much.



**STAY HOME AND MAKE A BANK TRANSFER**

**Brighter Future International Trust**  
**Lloyds TSB Bank**  
**Sort Code: 30 90 28**  
**Account number: 0308 5385**

**We love keeping you updated about the difference you are making! However if for any reason you would prefer not to hear from Brighter Future, please do let us know.**

**Head Office** 1 Charlies Yard, Dyke, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 0GQ  
Telephone: 01778 422701 Email: [info@brighterfutureinternationaltrust.co.uk](mailto:info@brighterfutureinternationaltrust.co.uk)  
[www.brighterfutureinternationaltrust.co.uk](http://www.brighterfutureinternationaltrust.co.uk)

