



FRIENDS OF METTUPALAYAM

July 2020

Hello Friends.

We have prepared a further short newsletter, in view of the extraordinary situation brought about by Covid-19.

Food Aid Programme



A strict lockdown is still in place around our project area and extending to Chennai. As a result, most businesses and markets are closed, travel is strictly limited and almost all local people are without work and income. Locals who work in the large cities have been forced to return to their villages.

Our project has been a genuine lifesaver for those hit hardest by the situation. We are blessed to have someone in Venkat, who has over thirty years of knowledge and contacts in the area, so that we can target our food aid support to those who need it most. Your support has enabled us to provide weekly rice and vegetables to over 700 (yes, seven hundred) families. It is a heroic effort, finding supply and delivery from wholesalers, unloading and arranging vegetables into batches for each family, agreeing collection days for different villages and tribal groups, then managing huge crowds arriving at the

project. Desperate for food, people arrive many hours beforehand and some will then wait up to 4 hours in the heat of the yard to collect their supply. We are so proud of the project team, Venkat, the teachers and others who have stepped forward in this time of extreme need. In turn, they are all incredibly grateful to you, the Friends of Mettupalayam, for your financial support which has made this possible. We have had many generous extra donations which have helped make this possible so far.

As we speak, with no immediate end to the situation, we have agreed to continue the aid programme for the month of July.



Our Website

We are pleased to advise that we have made several improvements to our website at www.irdt.co.uk We encourage you to have a look and to recommend it to your friends and contacts. We now have a simple “Donate Now” button feature and the website features our new look and logo. The logo (see top of page) comes from an original design from two students at Crakehall primary school near Bedale. More of this in our next newsletter. It has been expertly brought to life and gifted by our friend Jordan Took. Jordan visited the project a few years ago and now works as a graphic designer. The website holds lot of information on the project, plus access to newsletters, a link to our regular Facebook updates and much more!

We will give more information in our next newsletter in August. In the meantime, thank you all for your continued support during these difficult times.

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