MEAL DISTRIBUTION DETAILS
26 MARCH-31 MAY 2020

NUMBER OF MEALS DISTRIBUTED: 857,810
1. DELHI 17,695
2. BIHAR 8,295
3. KOLKATA 68,344
4. BHIWANDI & MUMBAI 763,376

NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED: 47,310
WOMEN 6,988
CHILDREN 30,322

NUMBER OF HYGIENE KITS: 50,000

VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES SERVED:
• victims of sex-trafficking
• nomadic groups
• migrant women in trains
• devadasis
• rohingya refugees
• female rag-pickers
• female powerloom workers
• female construction and domestic workers
• WOMEN WALKING ON HIGHWAYS

RATION SERVED
Rice - 800, ton
Dal - 160, ton
Atta - 160 ton
Salt - 160 ton
Sugar - 160, ton
Oil - 80,000 liters
Spices - 12 ton
Nutri nuggets- 40 ton
Onions - 120 ton
Potatoes - 120 ton
Tea - 16 ton

HYGIENE PRODUCTS SERVED
Sanitary Pads 50,000
BATA Slippers 10,000
Jute Bags - 10,000
Detergent
Sanitizer
Liquid Soap
WHY I BEGAN
Ruchira Gupta

A 12-year-old girl, Meena (name changed) sent me a whatsapp message asking for food two days after the lockdown. An NGO that I had started, apne aap, had been sponsoring her in boarding school. Schools were closed due to Covid and she was at home with her mother on the outskirts of Delhi. They lived in a squatter’s colony of nomads, many trapped in inter-generational prostitution. Many in the colony did not have access to government rations and had lost their daily livelihoods of selling toys, marching in wedding processions, showing tricks with animals, selling indigenous medicine or being prostituted. Meena sent me a handwritten list (pictured here) of a few families who were starving.

I put 500 cooked meals in the trunk of a car and with the help of a friend distributed them.

Soon I got similar messages from Kolkata and Bihar. The scale changed from cooked meals to dry ration kits of rice, daal, atta, spices, onions and potatoes with masks and soaps, that would feed a family for a month. This is how the 1 MILLION MEALS project began.
THERE’S A CONSTANT NOISE OUTSIDE NEVER SILENCED AT NIGHT AIN’T NO WAY TO HIDE FROM THE CITY LIFE
**HOW ARE WE DOING IT—WITH OUR BRAVE COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Our unafraid community leaders, overcame their fear of covid & braved the heat to distribute the food, in Bihar, Bengal, Bhiwandi, Kamptipura, Delhi. **Praveen Kumar, Sanju , Shobhni, Shaukt and Madhu** were on the spot, whenever ration had to be distributed with masks and gloved in the poorest parts of India-Araria in Bihar. Praveen could not get out of the house, when some migrant workers contacted him, stranded with no food. Through a human chain, we got a week’s supply of ration to them. An 11-year old child cycled back 600 km with his parents-a blind mother and an injured father from Varanasi to Jokihat in Araria. Praveen and Shaukt jumped on to two motorbikes, and gave him money and food.

In Kolkata, Mumtaz, a former rag-picker, was the centre point of our food distribution, as was the son of a prostituted woman in Sonagacchi. Both divided the ration meant for 200 families to support four hundred. **Mamta** made lists for the government in the hope that they would give food to the nomadic groups and victims of sex-trafficking that we serve in Najafgarh. In the end, the lists helped to get our ration system going. **Riyaz** in the Rohingya refugee community organized a group pf men to help with sanitary pad distribution. **Rachna Nayak** in Kidderpore red light area, sat outside our locked down office for hours to make sure the ration was delivered and then along with Uma and Ruby went home to home. Our food reached the people who needed it the most. In some places in Delhi, they were helped by the National Disaster Relief Fund. In Muzaffarpur railway station it was with volunteers from the Right to Food movement.

**SPECIAL MOMENT FROM THE FIELD**

Eleven-year-old boy, Tabaarak, pedalled a tricycle cart for nine consecutive days to transport his parents from Uttar Pradesh’s Varanasi to their village in Bihar’s Araria, a distance of around 600 kilometres, amidst the lockdown.

Tabaarak’s mother is blind and his father has a fractured leg.

Tabaarak jumped with joy when he gave him money, food supply and books. The gift was from founder Ruchira Gupta and Chef Vikas Khanna. Both will take care of Tabarka’s education, when schools reopen.
The first friend found a restaurant in Delhi, that gave us the cooked meals, the second friend was from Goonj, who messaged me to say they would provide a truckload of ration, the third was from a journalist colleague who helped give ration in the Kolkata red light areas through Kolkata Gives. These were times when getting a truck, buying food, reaching anywhere and finding volunteers was impossible. Everything was closed in the lock down.

The fourth friend was my father, who helped out since banks were also not properly functional.

The fifth was a niece and the sixth was an NCO called Ektara, that helped me reach food to our community mobilizer, Mumtaz, living in a leather workers colony that I could not reach.

Slowly some systems began to function like banks, trucks could be hired and rations could be bought once again. A friend, Brian Storm created a website for us free of charge. A DJ and artist manager, Nick Ratcliffe jumped in after reading about us in the UK Guardian. Scroll, The Telegraph, Anand Bazar Patrika generated a student support.

A contributor from Singapore, Priyanka, found us and made a donation and mobilized her circle of friends. I did a virtual meeting with them. Individuals did what they could - Usha Kejriwal, Mrs Navlakha and Nupur Gupta. Some from survivors of prostitution. Donors from the US, Singapore, Canada, Ireland, South Africa, London and other parts of the world sent cash. Sanjha Chulha in Kolkata gave us chips, juices and biscuits, when we said children in red-light areas were fed up with rice.

Amazon Web Services US made a donation realising the urgency of our appeal. Niine, a sanitary pad manufacturer in Gorakhpur, sent us 50,000 pads. a spice manufacturer, Pushp Spices, from Indore sent us a truckload of turmeric, a Lucknow farmer sent potatoes and onions. A shoemaker from Agra and a slipper supplier from Mukherjee Nagar also sent donations.

Many found us because Michelin Star Chef Vikas Khanna decided to support our 1MillionMeals.org campaign. Hyatt Regency, Kolkata and Mumbai donated a truck of ration, as did CIPLA and we persevered. The National Disaster Relief Fund stepped in with logistics, transporation and help.

Actors Abhay Deol, Rosanna Arquette, Reecha Chaddha and Ashley Judd tweeted and instagrammed, we could continue...
WHAT NEXT?

WORLD'S BIGGEST FOOD DRIVE FOR THE EXCLUDED

MICHELIN STAR CHEF VIKAS KHANNA & EMMY-WINNING JOURNALIST RUCHIRA GUPTA JOIN HANDS

AS THE LOCKDOWN COMES TO A CLOSE WE FOUND THAT THERE ARE SOME LEFT BEHIND COMMUNITIES: DISABLED WOMEN, CANCER PATIENTS, NOMADIC GROUPS, VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, ELDERLY WOMEN IN SLUMS, CHILD LABOUR, MIGRANT WOMEN & THEIR FAMILIES IN CONSTRUCTION, FARMING WOMEN IN SLUM POCKETS, DOMESTIC WORKERS, MANUAL SCAVENGERS, AND LGBTQI GROUPS.

WE HAVE TEAMED UP WITH NATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND TO GIVE 1 MILLION PLUS MEALS TO THESE EXCLUDED COMMUNITIES IN NCR DELHI.

IN THE LARGEST FOOD DRIVE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD, WE ARE COLLECTING RATIONS IN THE NDRF CANTONMENT STADIUM IN GAZIABAD.

WE HAVE MAPPED OUT COMMUNITY LEADERS, WHO WILL RECEIVE THE KITS AND DISTRIBUTE THE 1 MILLION (TEN LAKH) MEAL RATION KITS WITH THE HELP OF NDRF ON ONE SINGLE DAY.

EACH KIT WILL FEED A FAMILY FOR ONE MONTH.

1. Rice
2. Dal
3. Atta
4. Salt
5. Spices
6. Nutri
7. Onions
8. Potatoes
9. Sugar
10. Detergent
11. Sanitizer
12. Liquid Soap
13. Oil
14. Jute Bags
15. Plastic Small Bags
16. Tea
17. Slippers

We need help in cash or kind.

To donate in India:
www.apneaap.org/donate

We are registered as a Charitable Trust in India. Your donation will be tax-exempt

Tax exemption #: E20422-Mumbai

FACEBOOK & TWITTER: @apneaap

To contact us: development@apneaap.org-9811217681

Bank Details: Apne Aap Women Worldwide India Trust
SBI A/C No. 30375120704
IFSC: SBIN0000077
Forbesganj Branch, Bihar

To learn more go to 1MillionMeals.org (EIN: 30-0108263; UK Charity # 1122823)

So far we have distributed more than 8 million meals and half a million sanitary towels already and been tweeted by Ashley Judd, Gloria Steinem, Reecha Chadha, Adil Husian, Abhay Deol, Rosanna Arquette etc. Please read media coverage here in New York Times, The Guardian, UK, The Scroll, The Telegraph, Ananda Bazar Patrika, Hindu, South China Morning Post, Youth Ki Awaaz...