

**About #GiveALittle#EktuDeen**

A group of people in Kolkata, now joined by more and more people around the country and even from abroad, have become “Citizen Innovators” by force of circumstance. It christened itself Give A Little; Ektu Deen.

Without any formal organisation, it has networked, volunteered and joined hands to successfully crowdsource through Facebook:

- Ideas and initiatives - on how best to deliver relief during the corona virus pandemic and its limitations of lockdown and social distancing;
- Funds - to buy provisions, medicines and various essential items needed for the relief work;
- Information - on who needs relief, where are such people located and who are the local actors and agencies who can help and support our efforts;
- Food and essential articles - bringing suppliers and volunteers together in the distribution chain;
- Influencers – to approach the government (Nabanna and the Chief Minister’s Secretariat) to seek help for “red flag” areas in need of urgent relief.



**#GiveALittle#EktuDeen is about Everyone Contributing Just a Little (“Ektu means A Little in Bengali”)**

Our focus areas for Relief Work:

- Lockdown Distress ( From March 2020 onwards);
- Migrant Distress ( From April 2020 onwards)
- Cyclone Amphan Devastation ( From May 22, 2020 onwards)

**#GiveALittle#EktuDeen Mission**

To help people deeply affected by the lockdown driven hardships while protecting themselves against Coronavirus infections. The man on the street, daily wage earners, shop-owners, small business owners, migrant workers; all suddenly without work and

income and now struggling to survive and support their families. Others cut off from the supply chain for food and necessities following shut-down of transport systems.

### How we started

A special thanks to Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, former Mayor of Kolkata and Rajya Sabha Member, who liked our attitude and supported us with seed funds. The Bikash Bhattacharya Helpline has sourced areas of despair for us. Advocates from the Calcutta High Court and members of the press and have spearheaded this relief mission inspired us to start this endeavour and his Helpline, through which so many people have been able to contact us. The relief has been possible courtesy our Friends, Well-wishers, Donors and Volunteers. We could not have achieved anything without you.

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/ektudeen>

### Pages from the #GiveALittle #EktuDeen diary

“A call from Narayani Tola to the Bikash Bhattacharya Helpline got us working in Joynagar. Advocate Samim Ahammed establish contacts in the area, which is two and a



half hours away from Kolkata. We identified Beashish Bhadra who, in turn, helped identify around 146 families who needed urgent help. Funds arrived miraculously from the very generous Pavethra Ponniah, Jayaditya Gupta and Sreeradha. As usual, Indira and Biswajit Kanjilal and

the wonderful Provash Kundu put the packets together while Saurav Mandal singlehandedly managed the distribution. Face masks were distributed along with the food kits. This was a disciplined lot... they kept their distance and picked up their packets.

### Migrant Distress #GiveALittle#EktuDeen Help for the worker April 16, 2020 and May 11, 2020

“Migrants” form India’s vast unorganised and itinerant labour force and move across the country in search of work. As industries closed with the lockdown, they were out of jobs, homes, money and with transport off the roads. Homeless, hungry and stranded, they became desperate to return home, using all their meagre savings. They packed themselves into some kind of good vehicles.

Or just started walking over hundreds of kilometres. Along national highways and along



railway tracks; from one end of India to another; often becoming victims of ghastly accidents.



This was – and continues to be - one of the biggest peacetime human migrations in history. We helped migrants stuck in Kolkata to return home within the state borders.

“The plight of the migrant worker has grabbed media headlines and throughout - we were engaged in helping clusters of workers from Bengal stuck in various parts of the country, arranging food and shelter for them. We also focused on migrant workers in our own state. There are many of them – some, such as the “mutays” (coolies) and rickshaw pullers have managed to find some work but not the cobblers, taxi drivers, auto drivers and handcart pullers. They were supported with rations.



From our pages: “Urgent appeal from Golap Sheikh Phone 7074089531. (Mumbai, Maharashtra) Police Station Dharavi, Nawab Nagar Chawl, Room number C18, Pin: 400017. They are desperate for food. Please organise some help. They got 20 kilos of rice about a week ago for 14 people and are now running out of rations. 1) Golap Sheikh; 2) Mansur Ali; 3) Kalu Sheikh; 4) Rahmat Sheikh; 5) Aynul Haque; 6) Sheikh Swapan; 7) Sheikh Toufik Uddib; 8) Azmal Hussain; 9) Motaher Hossain; 10) Manoj Munsu; 11) Sheikh Aktar Hosen; 12) Sheikh Azibul; 13) Sheikh Saheb; 14) Chowdhury Rizwan”. Support was found for them almost like Magic. Tanmoy Bhaduri connected us with the local authorities and food reached them for the entire duration of their stay.

**Amphan Devastation #GiveALittle#EktuDeen Relief Work, May 23 and May 25, 2020**

The tropical cyclone Amphan hit Bengal on May 21, 2020. It raged from the Bay of Bengal, sweeping in from the coast near Sagar Island and the Sunderbans, lashing over the southern districts of North and South 24 Parganas and East Medinipur and on to the city of Kolkata - had wind-speeds of 120 to 160 kmph. The enormity of the damage has still not been fully calculated. The cost will be in millions of dollars; in terms of human misery, beyond calculation – with homes swept away, crops flattened, fields inundated,



possessions drenched in water, communications and power disrupted and the prospect of hunger and enteric disease looming large, with the fear of a spike of corona virus infections becoming even more menacing.

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/ektudeen>

“Tomorrow (May 24, 2020) we leave to check out the Amphan destruction in the Minakha block and determine how best we can help them. Ground level reports, largely through phone calls to the Bikash Bhattacharya Helpline tell us: Chaital Village



Panchayat is washed away following the collapse of the dam on the Vidyadhari river; A total of 18 Bundhs have collapsed in the region; Mohanpur and Joygram villages under the Mohanpur Village Panchayat have been devastated; The eastern flank of Kumarjole Village is exposed to water; Uchildaha Village under Aatpukur Village Panchayat saw the death of boatman Gobindo Majhi when a tin roof blew off and pierced his chest; Dakshinbarga under Dhuturdaha Village Panchayat saw the death of 12-year old Nurjahan Bhuyian when her house collapsed. Official relief is yet to reach these areas. Your help is needed urgently. Our assessment determines to some extent, what kind of help is needed. Some of you reading the posts are in a position to talk to government officials to urge them to reach help to them urgently”.



**Amphan Devastation 16 Bigha  
#GiveALittle#EktuDeen May 27**

16 Bigha is a story of abject shame, squalor and despair. The area floats in

filth and one can hardly access the interiors.

Team #GiveALittle #EktuDeen along with the intrepid volunteers from Bikash Bhattacharya helpline, led by the amazing Samim Ahammed, Sourav Mandal and our own Asim Datta had prepared a list of 660 families that were the worst off and had packed rations for them.

The two matadors with provisions could not enter the sewage-logged village so they formed a human chain through the filth and carried the food kits to a land that was at a small elevation, across the train track. There was no question of social distancing; no one fears the Corona virus there. They fear death by hunger.

The massive effort that cost upwards of Rs 1,50,000 was financially supported by Samiran Gupta, Siddhartha Ghosh, Julia Raath, Yosha Gupta, Tish Ghosh, Tapashi

Guha, Debi Ghosh, Soma Ghosh, Jayaditya Gupta, Aditi Bakshi, Sreemati Mitter, Susmita Mitter, Sophie Cannivady, Sonali Sen Biswas, Supratik Bhattacharjee, Sagnik Ghosh, Arnab Sengupta, Sumontro Ghosh, Maneesh Gaddam, Souvik Ghosh, Sougata Dutta, Maneesh, Diptendu Chakrabarty, Debasmita Saha, Shalini Sethi Burman, Lata Ramachandran, Dipsikha Mitra, Ranjan Prasad, Jayanta Roy, Sudipto Ghosh, Anindita Basu, Sreeradha Basu and many others.

### **Amphan Devastation ✨ Sarberia #GiveALittle#EktuDeen May 29**

We are on our way to Sarberia on Saturday, May 30 with tarpaulin and food to provide temporary relief there before going to help in Minakha with their community kitchen. Following a recce by team EktuDeenGiveALittle and Bikash Bhattacharjee helpline, the estimated requirements for the inundated Mohanpur, Aatpukur and Chaital villages are:

Rice - 3,000 Kgs  
Dal (Pulses) - 1,000 Kgs  
Soybean - 1000 Kgs  
Mustard Oil -  
Potatoes - 50 sacks  
Tarpauline 1500 pieces (Rs 930 each).

We need your support to help them. Some of you reading the posts are in position to talk to government officials to urge them to reach help to them urgently.

### **Core team**

Dipali Bhattacharya, Samim Ahammed, Gargi Gupta, Indro Dasgupta, Indira Kanjilal, Biswajit Kanjilal, Anuradha Bhattacharjee, Sayantani Banerjee, Shilpasree Nag, Soma Ghosh, Samiran Gupta, Ashim Datta and Aditi Roy Ghatak

### **For contributing:**

Write to [ektudeengivealittle@email.com](mailto:ektudeengivealittle@email.com) or phone 9830022504 to join us in any way you want to. Fund us, collect funds, collect clothes for us or help us organise better.