2020

Yearly Report

JTS America

Join Together Society America

We bring happy news.

Last year, we experienced much difficulty and changes in private lives all around the world. Thanks to our supporters, JTS has conducted emergency assistance programs for COVID-19 as well as our existing programs.

The world focused on fighting COVID-19 in 2020. When we had to give up many things to overcome an unprecedented challenge, JTS also experienced many challenges to conduct planned programs. We, however, added emergency assistance programs to fight against the challenges that COVID-19 has posed.

Through the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) in India, we provided food and personal protective equipment (PPE) to the residents in fifteen towns in Dungeshwari, and also provided food and sanitary goods to 4,000 households in Bangladesh, Myanmar, India, and Nepal. In addition, we provided PPEs to medical professionals.

Our regular programs have gone through difficulties due to the lockdowns and school closings. We completed construction of a new school building for the Sujata Academy and are waiting for the students to return. We provided tents for temporary housing while fixing roofs for societal outcasts, and also provided food for the poor and children who could not go to school. We are constructing a new building in a remote area of the Philippines and also constructed a public water system.

In Korea, we have been looking for regions that were not benefitted from our existing welfare programs. We ran extended programs such as providing a “nutrition package” to the students who could not have a school lunch because schools were closed, donation of socks and essentials for winter to welfare facilities, donation of food and coal briquetts to seniors, helped multicultural households that were victims of flooding, and provided essentials to Russian Korean households.

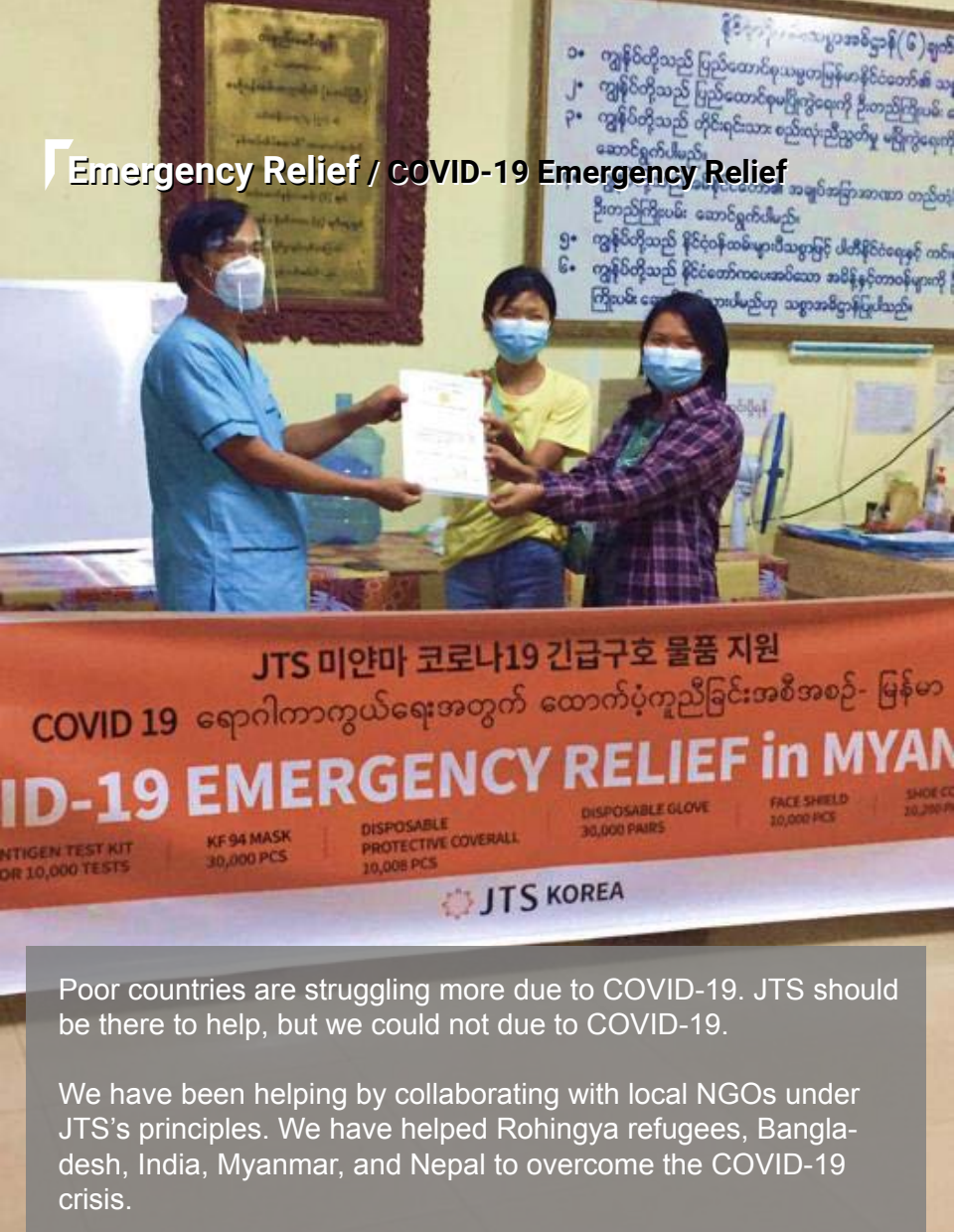
Since last November, we have donated coal briquettes to assure a warm winter for our neighbors in many regions in Korea. Thanks to our supporters’ donations, we were able to continue sharing with our neighbors, who were more severely struggling due to COVID-19. We could not conduct our North Korea program due to the complicated political environment, but we will be able to move quickly when relations between South and North Korea and COVID-19 are improved.

In 2021, JTS plans to continue our support to the disadvantaged in and out of Korea. We will also help the victims of emergent disasters around the world in collaboration with other humanitarian aid organizations.

We will prepare for a variety of programs for our activists and volunteers in online platforms, stabilize the management system of supporters, and put more effort in online promotion.

We deeply hope that we will return to normal. JTS will work for a better world with our supporters. We sincerely hope that all people are happy in the world.

Thank you.



Poor countries are struggling more due to COVID-19. JTS should be there to help, but we could not due to COVID-19.

We have been helping by collaborating with local NGOs under JTS's principles. We have helped Rohingya refugees, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, and Nepal to overcome the COVID-19 crisis.

India

JTS India conducted an emergency relief project with the Manpur Lottery Club in 15 towns in Dungheswari. In the Sujata Academy, 30 JTS activists and the Manpur Lottery Club members provided food to 100 poor households under the supervision of police. The next day, we provided soap and masks to 12,000 people with the help of 30 preschool teachers and community leaders.

Philippines

On April 21, 2020, JTS Philippines provided 400 protection suits, 3000 surgical masks, 200 medical eye goggles, and 300 N95 masks to Northern Mindanao Medical Center (NMMC). For the second round of support, on November 23rd, December 1st and 2nd, 2020, we provided 5,500 protection suits, 39,000 masks, 13,600 N95 masks, and 8,500 face shields to quarantine shelters in 15 community centers and the medical professionals at NMMC.

JTS provided 10,000 protection suits for COVID-19 to Rohingya refugee camp, the largest refugee camp in the world, which is in desperate needs of sanitary and medical support, in collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP).

Rohingya Refugees

Myanmar

We provided 10,000 test kits, 10,000 protection suits, 30,000 KF94 masks, 10,000 shoes covers, 10,000 face shields, and 30,000 pairs of medical gloves to two hospitals for COVID-19 in Yangon.

INEB—Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal

Workers and the poor faced severe challenges due to COVID-19. We donated USD 50,000 to 12 organizations in Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, and Nepal. We provided food and masks to 23,140 people in 4,434 households.

South Korea

We donated to people who were struggling due to COVID-19.

February: 5,000 KF94 masks to the Daegu Medical Association

Mid-April: 356 blankets to disadvantaged children and seniors (donated by In-sung Jo)

April 29th: A package of blankets, food, and sanitary goods to 20 disadvantaged seniors in Jong-no, Seoul

May 5th: A package for tackling COVID-19 to 239 children, in observance of Children's Day.

India / School

COVID-19 cannot stop us building schools

We completed 95% of the school building construction, which began by removing the existing restaurant in May 2019. We expected to complete construction in March 2020, but it was delayed because the government announced a quarantine, workers went back their hometowns, and the school extended the break. The school was still closed as of August, but the workers were still working on construction. When we complete the water tank installation, the school construction will be completed with plastering of bathroom. We hope that our children can use the new building soon after the COVID-19 crisis is over.

India / PreSchool

Maintenance work at the Preschools Dungeshwari

Maintenance repair is being carried out at many of the preschools in Dungeshwari while the children are unable to attend school due to COVID-19. Workers are repairing the aged and damaged parts of the school buildings.

At Rahul Nagal Preschool, a window that was damaged while the children were playing is being fixed. At Bagahi Preschool and Gawal Bigha Preschool, the sunken floors, which used to collect water, are being leveled out. At Swaraj Bigha Preschool, steps are being built to prevent the children from falling.

Storage space for dry food and a water tank are being built at Kanahol Preschool. There are still plenty of things that need to be taken care of at the preschool, such as fixing the ceiling and wind damage, as well as sign board and furniture maintenance.

JTS will continue to make repairs to the school buildings so that the children can study and learn in a more pleasant and safe environment.

Philippines/ Reliefe

We fight against difficulty together

We decided on appropriate medical support in collaboration with headquarters in Korea since medical supplies are most essential to tackle COVID-19 in local communities. We urgently prepared medical supplies, and provided two rounds of support that included 400 gowns, 300 N95 masks, 200 goggles, 3000 surgical masks to the Northern Mindanao Medical Center, that tests and treats COVID-19 patients in Northern Mindanao.

Philippines/ Schools

We move diligently and silently

For a better educational environment in the towns of Midlutong, Macalimban, and Datu Ponso, JTS Philippines has been constructing six classrooms (four rooms divided into six with walls) including bathrooms and a dormitory for teachers in Midlutong.
Since the groundbreaking ceremony last February, we had difficulties due to the COVID-19 quarantine, but we are moving diligently to complete construction in October.

Philippines/ Village Development

Flows of harmony among villages

The villages were uneasy due to the anxiety caused by COVID-19, but JTS Philippines and the residents were busy with the installation of a public water system. We started installing a public water system to assure a steady supply of water for residents. We had a few separate projects previously, and we started this project in 2019. Under previous projects, we installed one water tank for each village, but this project provides water to 620 residents in the three villages of Sarawagon, Trojan, and Kimarayag.

South Korea | Meal and Essentials Packages

Nutrition packages

Nutrition packages to disadvantaged children:
289 children in January, 348 children in August

"JTS Nutrition Package" is the project to provide meal packages to the children who cannot have a meal during summer vacation.

Cheers to Russian Korea Moms

Supporting Russian Korean heads of households, 28 households in September, 37 households in December

We provided packages of rice and essentials to Russian Korean heads of households. These mothers could not receive any government support since they are not Korean citizens, but they were working very hard to feed their children.

Hello seniors, this is JTS

- Helped people bathe and provided side dishes to 20 households in Dubuk Village, Ulju County, Ulsan
- Provided packages to 20 households in April, 49 households in December in Jongno, Seoul.

When we knocked on the door and said "Hello, we brought side dishes," the seniors responded happily. We were happy when we saw their happy faces.

Happy Mungyeong with JTS

Provided coal briquettes in the winter and customized packages to 33 households. Provided instant noodles to 200 households on New Year's Day and Chuseok. Provided dinners for the youth

We provided coal briquettes and customized packages to 33 households as emergency support, provided instant noodles to 200 households on New Year's Day and Chuseok, and provided dinners for the youth.

Supporting the disadvantaged in Suwon

Provided the essentials to the disadvantaged

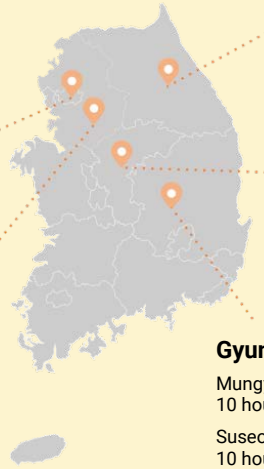
We provided 76,000 socks, 4,034 pairs of shoes, 2,190 children's underwear, and 3,497 winter equipment.

South Korea | Sharing Coral Briquettes

Winter 2020

Warm winter with 연탄나눔 JTS's support of coal briquettes

Total 13 regions,
111 households,
32,800 coal briquettes



Seoul

Jongam-dong,
5 households, 1,400 coal briquettes

Guryong Village, Gangnam,
15 households, 3,000 coal briquettes

Daltuh Village, Gangnam,

7 households, 2,000 coal briquettes

Gyunggi

Unsung,
10 households, 3,000 coal briquettes

Siheung,
4 households, 1,200 coal briquettes

Gangwha,
13 households, 3,500 coal briquettes

Suwon,
12 households, 4,400 coal briquettes

Bucheon,
3 households, 900 coal briquettes

Gangwon

Wonju,
8 households, 2,400 coal briquettes

Wonju (2nd round),
10 households, 3,000 coal briquettes

Chungchung

Chungju,
7 households, 2,100 coal briquettes
Jecheon,

8 households, 2,400 coal briquettes

Gyungbuk

Mungyung,
10 households, 3,000 coal briquettes

Suseong, Daegu,
10 households, 3,000 coal briquettes

Dalsuh, Daegu,
3 households, 800 coal briquettes

Korea | Ansan Multicultural Center

*Daily support

236 rounds, 708 people
Scarves, blankets, masks, hand sanitizer, and other essentials

*Medical, legal support and consultation programs
*Regular support

Identify the disadvantaged and provide food, essentials, accommodations and transportation support in Ansan, Incheon, Paju, Cheonan, and Gwangju.

46 Korean classes
23 community meetings
6 events to share multicultural food
100 people participated in the “Nabi” market.

Customized support for each household

JTS Ansan Multicultural Center supported 20 households every two months with customized essentials. It is not easy to call each household and ask what they need, but we are happy when we imagine the families that will be happy with customized goods. We built trust and friendship through this program between volunteers and the households.
“We felt the importance of Ansan Multicultural Center again”
“I kept thinking about the Russian Korean lady who lost her husband, and I was relieved when I met her and saw her smile.

JTS News

Venerable Pomnyun Sunim, the Chairman of the Board of the Directors in JTS, received the 37th Niwano Peace Prize

The Niwano Peace Foundation announced that “Venerable Pomnyun Sunim has focused on activities to help people of different religions such as Muslims in Mindanao, Philippines, Hindi and other religions in India, and Rohingya people in Myanmar and Bangladesh.” Venerable Pomnyun Sunim gave credit to all the people he worked with. The award money that was donated to JTS will be used for women’s rights projects in Southeast Asia and the fight against COVID-19 through INEB.