

# THE PROVIDER'S HANDS



July and August saw Himachal Pradesh ravaged by a deluge. Landslides, highways turned to rubble, homes and hotels carried away like little playthings by the swelling river and the complete disruption of electricity and water supply. Lady Willingdon Hospital has been trying to do its bit thanks to generous sponsors willing to support our efforts.



Our community outreach department was looking for areas where we could extend a helping hand. Sainj, a small hamlet nearly 100 km from Manali was one such.



With thirty odd families stranded without homes and supplies, the need here was acute. The team from LWH surveyed the area on August 7<sup>th</sup> determine needs and prepare supplies. The needs were mostly clothes, dry ration and kitchen appliances.

A team of fifteen of the LWH staff, left for Sainj on the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> August. The conditions there were heart wrenching. Non-existent roads, rubble and dirty water wherever you looked. Debris from previous landslides strewn around. Children with dirty faces running around with tattered clothes. Adults who had lost everything had eyes glazed over betraying exhaustion. Families who had lost their homes were living with relatives or renting a shack.





The distribution started out in earnest. Needs were being met; faces were lighting up with smiles. A young father stood out from the crowd. His toddler daughters had lost their shoes in the floods. He refused any of the supplies we were distributing. He just wanted a couple of pairs of shoes. The need for keeping his daughter's feet warm over basic necessities such as food and bedding was awe inspiring.

There was sacrifice and kindness as well. An elderly gentleman refused any supplies because he had a home elsewhere which was well stocked. If only all the residents had shared his ethos.



Within a few hours of distributing, murmurs of dissent broke out in the crowd. Many who felt their supplies would run out and wanted to keep extra. There were people who had not registered for the distribution who claimed that they had been overlooked.



The argument started to take on a racial tone. The hospital team tried its best to maintain calm and peace but indeed, people who have seen and been through so much would fight for survival. The updated needs were entrusted to the village officials.

The end of the day brought with it a sweet surprise when the staff was treated with some kheer as a symbol of their gratitude. Having done our bit, we called it a day. Our emotions were on a roller coaster. Gratitude and smiling faces were satisfying, but the needs still to be met left us with a sense of a job unfinished.

We at Lady Willingdon hospital feel nothing but gratitude for an opportunity to be used as instruments of the almighty to carry out his work for the ones in need.

We would also like to thank each and every donor who has reached out to us for their unwavering support. We received many calls, asking for ways they can contribute towards our outreach. Your contribution is what has helped us in numerous ways to extend support to the needy.



"Philippians 4:19 My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus".

