

# OPERATION RESCUE CHILDCARE PROJECTS



## Good News SEPTEMBER 2021

### THEY NEED US AND YOU – MORE THAN EVER NOW



Our community in Kolkata - India

In March 2020 we assumed, because of the pandemic, that the poorest of our families would need extra help for about a year, after which the worst would be over. Now we know better: those in the developing countries need us – need you- more than ever.

What is still causing us most concern is the civil war in Ethiopia. Even when occasional ceasefires are declared our various lines of communication as well as access to the region have been blocked, even for aid. Before the Internet was closed down we heard from Getachew, the Director of our centres in Ethiopia that colleagues were in the middle of distributing 100 tons of donated food.

In Brazil, despite a constantly high infection and death rate, the government is still trying to keep some sense of normality. We are grateful that the children can still come to our project centres and in this newsletter we try to give a glimpse of the challenges faced by mothers – particularly in the pandemic.

In India, after a second lockdown, we were able to reopen the doors of our centre. I myself experienced at first hand the serious effects of this very aggressive mutation. I have been able to recover from my Covid infection, thank God, without being in too much danger. Many families continue to experience an uncertain existence as the example of the Angsuman family shows later in the newsletter.

Thank you for your loyal support of our work. It is urgently needed in all regions.

**Marciano Teixeira**  
Founder and CEO



# Ethiopia

## WE HAVE LOST ALL CONTACT WITH OUR PEOPLE IN TIGRAY

At the end of June electricity and the Internet in Tigray was cut off. The banks are mostly closed, the populace have no cash, and roads and access are blocked. Thank God, about 150 trucks full of relief goods were allowed to pass through in the last few days. However, to avoid a humanitarian crisis in Tigray around 100 lorries with food and other aid are needed per day!

Because of the conflict most of the harvest has been destroyed and in the meantime there is little food available locally. Nothing



Help on the way to Tigray. Image source: UN World Food Programme



Signs of the conflict in Mekelle

can be done – everything is blocked. At the beginning of July I wanted to travel to Tigray from Switzerland with my family, but our flights were cancelled because the airport in Mekelle is pa-

ralysed. Bereket, one of our Ethiopian colleagues with whom we have had sporadic contact, is extremely worried. She has lived, worked and studied in the area for 7 years. She has many friends and acquaintances there. A few months ago when access was opened for a short time she flew to Addis and watched developments from there through local media.

There were attempts to set up peace agreements by the United Nations and other organisations, which unfortunately came to nothing. My hope is that access can be created through the Sudanese border so that food at least can be brought in to the region. It's very important that international governments keep up pressure on Tigray and the Ethiopian government so that a peaceful solution can be found.

**Marciano Teixeira**  
Founder and CEO



Marciano in Ethiopia



# Brazil

## WE'RE SUPPORTING MOTHERS LIKE PATRICIA, AND THROUGH THEM THE CHILDREN

A study from Rio de Janeiro, one of the Brazilian states with the highest proportion of slums, appeared in the annual report of the NGO 'Save the Children'. It shows that neonatal mortality in slums is 50% higher than in the richer areas. The study also brought to light the fact that in the peripheral areas the health of the mothers is worse because pregnant women there have a less comprehensive treatment system. It seems that the capitalist system in developing countries is more focussed on the workers that the survival of the poor.

According to the Brazilian government, teenage mothers usually live in the outskirts of town, have only a few years of education behind them and are darker skinned, a factor which still often leads to discrimination in Brazil. Mothers like these have a hard time accessing birth support as well as care and education provision for the children. In addition, since the start of the pandemic around 9 million women have lost their jobs. Even worse is the situation for single mothers of whom there are around 12 million in Brazil. They alone carry the financial and educational responsibility for their families. So being a mother in Brazil is one of the greatest challenges.

Recognising and knowing all this helps us tackle the problems of mothers as it's only when you know the reality that you gain the ability to really effect change.

Patricia, the 28yr old mother of three of our Operation Rescue children, clarified for us how important it is to understand the reality. She was born on the edge of our province and was married to a mason. Seven years ago she moved to Patos when her first child, Enzo, was born. During the pandemic the family's living conditions worsened because Patricia lost her job in a food store. In addition to that the nursery stopped distributing food parcels and food prices rose. In 2020 her youngest child was born and she had difficulty getting basic medical help. Now everything depended on her hus-

band for the survival of the family.

We soon noticed that the housework and the education of the children were becoming a daily challenge for Patricia, not least because Enzo suffered from ADHD (Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder).

The example of Patricia makes clear how necessary the help of Operation Rescue is for women – particularly mothers – in order to support them on their way towards financial and social equality. Patricia puts the following question to the government: 'How can we stay healthy and protect ourselves from Covid when we can't even shower once a day?' In addition she'd like to remind them of the huge price increases for food and ask that the government support their starving people. The public should be aware of the living conditions of the poorer – and also the larger – part of the population, as many have no basic access to hygiene and health programmes.

Every day we see examples like Patricia and many even worse off because of the pandemic. In Patos we're beginning a program focussed particularly on our young adults and especially single mothers, whereby we find them an apprenticeship so that they can be financially independent in the future. When you support our work, you help to ensure that such stories as Patricia's belong to the past.



Bianca Liège  
Journalist colaborator



Children at music lessons



Programme to empower the mothers of our children



# India

## ANSHUMAN'S FAMILY AND THE PANDEMIC

Anshuman has been attending Operation Rescue since 2018. He's 8 years old, a boy with a lot of potential and good at school.

Anshuman and his parents have met with many challenges during the pandemic, in lockdown and even now. They have a small tea shop which was completely closed down during lockdown. His father has a kidney problem and suffers too with his mental health. The family needs 27 dollars per month for his medication, money which during the pandemic was more difficult to come by than usual.

Anshuman's schooling was also a problem as the school was completely closed for several months. When remote learning was started Anshuman could not take part because he had neither smartphone nor tablet. In the end the boy missed his end of year exams for this reason. In the meantime his parents then found him a second hand smartphone for 11 dollars as they understand how important education is as a way to a better future.

Anshuman's mother, thank God, was able to find a job as a domestic servant.

at the end of 2020. Finally, the family were also able to open their tea shop again, though they had to rebuild their regular clientele. Despite everything this family has survived the pandemic so far. We're grateful that the family did not catch Covid and that they were always able to source donations of food, including from Operation Rescue.

As India has had a very hard lockdown, everything closed and people were not able to leave their home. It has been very difficult

to buy food and other necessities. Our colleagues needed special permission every time they needed to leave their homes.

Since it has again been possible to be out and about, in India we have given each child in our centre, who otherwise would have been unable to learn, a smartphone. Schools too have recently reopened. So that all our children have the opportunity of attending school at this, Operation Rescue has decided to take over all costs pertaining to school, for time example school uniforms and textbooks.



Angusman and his mother with the tea shop



We have the seal from the Ehrenkodex. This seal assures that your finances invested in the projects are used with responsibility.

## Funding

The projects from Operation Rescue are financed through donations and project sponsorship. Each Project sponsorship costs CHF 50 | USD 30 | £ 20 monthly

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[www.operationrescue.ch](http://www.operationrescue.ch)