

Dear friends and interested associates,

16 april 2020

URGENT CALLOUT

The workers of Bangladesh urgently need your support to provide the basic essentials for their families - this is an emergency as many are in desperate need for international support.

THE SITUATION

The Bangladesh Government has implemented a tough lockdown during COVID-19 by shutting down work places. The situation is dire and is not comparable to Western countries with welfare support. The medical system is always over-loaded and "flattening the curve" doesn't apply at such a situation.

As a result of the lockdown, day-labourers have lost their source of income. Potentially over 60 million people are dependent on the day-labourers income. These people are usually landless and have no financial reserves as they live from day to day. Those who did not return to their villages do not receive help from the provincial governments and many are facing hunger.

Those who used to sell their labour for €3 per day on the globalised market have significantly contributed to Western well-being.

NETWORK: SHIP-BREAKING WORKERS

I have an ongoing concern and association with Bangladesh and for the past 2 years I have been working with ship-breaking workers in the Sitakundo area. The ship-breaking industry is one of the most toxic work places in the world. For over a decade the workers (my cooperation partners) have actively supported their colleagues in multiple cases of conflict. We have achieved full trust with each other and they

know many of the 15,000 workers in ship-breaking and associated businesses, as well as numerous invalids and asbestos victims of ship-breaking. The workers have identified 200 families and individuals in most need of urgent action and we will distribute the donations in 5€ weekly portions.

No-one knows what is coming next but we should prepare for repeated action.

If you require more information about the ship-breaking workers, please feel free to contact me.

PLEASE SUPPORT BY DONATION

We will be very happy if you can support the emergency with a donation for the ship-breaking workers. All donations can be made via my Paypal account so it reaches them quickly: sibylle10119@gmail.com

No amount is too small or too large and it will all go towards a good cause.

All donations will be published (by name or anonymously) along with a record of distribution on: <http://buero-schwimmer.de/projekte.html>

If you prefer to deal with a certified organisation I highly recommend the work of NETZ-BANGLADESCH and its solidarity programme. They can be contacted at: <https://bangladesch.org/projekte/katastrophenhilfe.html>

Please share this callout with your friends and associates.

We wish you a strong immunity system and good health in this new situation!

The shipbreaking workers and Sibylle Hofter

