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\*deceased

May 10, 2021 ~ IPM's 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Dear Friends,

In ways perhaps hard to comprehend, I have really struggled with what to share in this mailing. Every time I tried to clear my mind and sit down to write this, another tragedy forced me to re-think what I had planned. From the global pandemic to another mass shooting, from yet another climate crisis to a long overdue racial reckoning...it has been a year almost impossible to bear.

As IPM planned for our 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary virtual celebration last Friday, new variants of disease were wreaking havoc across South Asia, South America, and Sub Saharan Africa. Our Regional Staff and Project Partners share almost unbearable stories of loss. While their courageous response inspires, I spend many nights lying awake wondering what more we can do and when this all might end.

I first wrote you about the potential impact of the Novel Coronavirus and COVID-19 just over a year ago. I had travelled with my family to Dallas for a memorial when the world came to a screeching halt. We, like you, wondered what to do next? Where would we find hand sanitizer and vitamin c? How would we juggle work and younger children at home? What would this mean for our elderly loved ones?

Having been warned of the possibility of such a pandemic for year by international friends (especially the late English Dr. Deryck Jenkins who was one of IPM's first Project Partners in India), we weren't caught completely off guard. We knew that IPM needed to pivot overnight and implement a prolonged, emergency response. The inequalities in education, food sovereignty, and our global health care system that were a significant motivation for IPM's founders and the re-emergence of autocracy in many of the countries where IPM operates would test our resolve in ways that hadn't been seen since the liberation movements of the 1980's and the global spread of HIV/AIDS.

Thankfully, you jumped right in alongside us! An immediate, emergency campaign was seeded by generous gifts from the Estate of longtime IPM volunteer Grace Weber and dear friends across the USA. Hundreds of old friends re-engaged with IPM in response to this special match appeal. Through your collective support and shared sacrifice, we were able to respond immediately and effectively—supporting vulnerable communities and literally saving lives at the same time. As always, **IPM's Project Partners and local Staff shaped and led our Response.**

Just as the USA and much of Europe seem to be emerging from the worst moments of the pandemic, new, and often more virulent strains of disease, and incompetent governmental responses have meant that many of our Project Partner communities are in a more desperate state than at any time during the past year. In reflecting on the new surge in the pandemic that is striking Brasil, Colombia, India, Kenya, and Nepal particularly hard, my colleague Mahesh Upadhyaya reminded me that despite the great challenges confronting us today we must try to live and love in each moment as best we can.



As India reels under the onslaught of the second wave of COVID-19, members of IPM Project Partner Pochabhai Foundation work tirelessly (at great risk to themselves) to conduct awareness campaigns and health checkups in 27 surrounding villages of Golana. Early detection and prevention plays a very important role at a critical time like this when hospital beds and oxygen are difficult to get.

~ continued on back ~

Living in love is not without risk. It is often easier to demonize the other and hoard scarce resources, but time and again this past year we have witnessed the heroism those who continue to love their neighbors just as they love themselves. Reaching across the divisions of caste, culture, faith, and economic circumstance, the IPM Family continues to nurture and proclaim the inherent dignity of all.

The scenes in the media and the exploding numbers of new deaths can be overwhelming. For IPM they are a clear reminder that, as Dorothy Day said: “this is no time to sit down and feel hopeless, there is simply too much work to do”. Gratefully, many of the same supporters who seeded IPM’s special match campaign last year, have stepped up again this year. Through their extraordinary generosity, with this mailing we are asking you to join us in matching their commitments, up to \$100,000, as we coordinate our continued COVID response. ***Please consider how you might join them in this special match campaign by making a gift to IPM at this time!***

For more than a year, we have been locked-down, frightened, and separated from one another but I know that your commitment to IPM is unwavering. In partnership we will continue transforming lives around the world as we live out our love for one another and find joy in the “small” things—a morning cup of tea with our spouse, a walk outdoors to catch our breath, a shared evening meal with loved ones. Such joys are similarly treasured by everyone around the world. They share our hopes, dreams, and aspirations, just as assuredly as the pandemic has robbed them of much of what they love.

All of us yearn for Peace at times of upheaval and change. Peace when we may be feeling anxious & afraid. Peace as we try to do what’s best for ourselves & our households. Peace as we seek to love our neighbors as ourselves—no matter the distance between us. May the Peace that passes all understanding be with you and all those you love.

Peace,



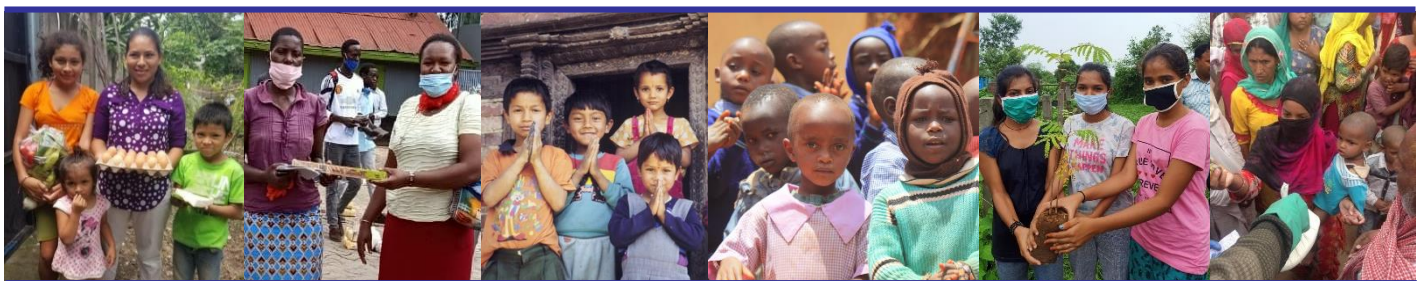
Joseph F. Cistone  
Chief Executive Officer

*“Many thanks on behalf of all our Project Partners and Communities! Many of our team members who have and continue to be at the forefront of COVID relief and assistance are also struggling, having placed themselves at great personal risk as they ventured out to assist others. From food aid to medical aid and counselling, it’s been a nonstop effort to enhance awareness, provide food to the hungry, and try to ensure income levels are sustained at survival levels. The wave has been devastating due to the total absence of both primary care and specialized hospital care. Many of us have lost our family and friends. One has to just stretch one’s hand to reach a COVID affected person in the villages and towns we have been working in. Please hold us in your prayers even as your generosity paves the way for some hope and more than anything else ... that someone cares.”*

**~ Mahesh Upadhyaya, IPM Regional Director, South Asia**



IPM International South Asia Fellow Himat Chauhan (top photo, left) with his colleague IPM India Fellow Bindiya Makwana and their remarkable team at the Pochabhai Foundation continue to be on the frontline of COVID-19 care & prevention; and IPM Junior India Fellow Shahadat Ali (bottom photo) distributing food to children living in the impoverished slums of Jaipur, India remain dedicated to their work to provide COVID-19 emergency relief and life-sustaining assistance during this current second wave of the pandemic that is over-whelming the country’s economic and health care systems.



*Accompaniment*

*Solidarity*

*Trust*





## #IPMResponds in Unprecedented Times

As we commemorate IPM's 47th anniversary and reflect on the extraordinary events and unprecedented challenges faced by IPM and our global community this past year, it is with our deepest gratitude that we wish to acknowledge the vital impact your friendship, support, and consistent generosity has helped make possible in our work and direct response to the still resurging COVID-19 pandemic and other tumult.

Unlike virtually anything IPM has ever experienced, the pandemic produced unimaginable challenges for our Project Partners, Regional Offices & Fellows, and Immersion Experience Programs. But throughout these challenges, we were constantly amazed by the outpouring of global solidarity and generosity of our donors.

Today, as much of the USA and Europe seem to be emerging from the worst moments of the pandemic, it continues to be an especially difficult time for many of our Partners and Staff around the world where the pandemic is having a renewed and even more virulent impact overwhelming their capacity and communities.

With this Spring Appeal, we are humbled to highlight the inspiring work and response of just a few select IPM Project Partners during this first quarter of 2021 who continue to selflessly dedicate themselves (often at great personal risk) to provide emergency relief and life-sustaining assistance, particularly during this second phase of the pandemic where the real pandemic is inequality in health education and access.

In each case listed below (and many others not highlighted herein), IPM continues to provide emotional, financial, material, personal and/or professional support during this ongoing crisis. **Please consider making a gift to our special \$100,000 Matching Gift Challenge to multiply our unrestricted resources and ensure our Project Partners receive the support that their tireless efforts require.**

Together with your support, IPM continues to serve as a sign of hope as we live out our mission of accompaniment, solidarity, and trust ... working across borders of caste, culture, faith, and economic circumstance to bring about lasting change. *Thank you!*

### IPM PROJECT PARTNERS DEMONSTRATE UNPARALLELED RESILIENCE AND SOLIDARITY

- **ACACCPAMU, Armenia, EL SALVADOR:** IPM Regional Staff guided the Cooperative's leadership in culturally sensitive conflict resolution related to community access of ACACCPAMU's longstanding water project that local politicians are attempting to co-opt for their own benefit. IPM also provided a \$1,000 donation and continue to support the Cooperative in exploring solar panels to reduce related electricity costs.
- **ACOMUJERZA, Zaragoza, EL SALVADOR:** IPM Regional Staff were grateful to have their first in-person meeting with the Cooperative in March and assisted with their annual planning to promote the commercialization of their products. Since then, IPM has also made a \$1,000 donation for the Cooperative to use according to their needs and provided a practical workshop on seeking funds from national and international organizations with the hope of securing a cooperative-owned facility.
- **Centro de Formación para la Paz, Ibagué, COLOMBIA** With IPM support, CFP has expanded its beneficiary population in 2020 as they work alongside a new community called La Vereda. Through the able coordination of Martha Cecilia Arroyave, their work has extended to 44 children and more than 20 women in that location focusing on educational support for home-bound children and forming a new women's collective where they plan activities to focus on the empowerment of each woman. During the resurging pandemic, their activities have been related to food sovereignty, family gardens, education, self-care, and entrepreneurship.

### UNITED IN SOLIDARITY



With IPM support, children from *Niños Trabajadores* in Ibagué, COLOMBIA received 100 school kits to stimulate their learning and family time at home during the country's imposed lockdown and current third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.



With IPM support following the devastating challenges caused by COVID-19, members of the *Dandora Women's Forum* in KENYA look forward to their 2021 initiatives focusing on: Handcrafting; Microfinance; Trainings on Entrepreneurship, Health Awareness, Early Pregnancy and Drugs in Youth; and their Feeding Program for the community's 300 Orphans and Vulnerable Children.



IPM Project Coordinator Noorsuba Shaikh of *HUM* (Hindus United with Muslims) in Ahmedabad, INDIA works with her team to conduct preventive health checks to assist in directing high risk individuals to hospitals and health care centers providing the much needed interface for daily wage workers who can't miss any work in these difficult times.



A total of 290 students and 66 vocational trainees were welcomed back to IPM Project Partner *Watoto Wa Lwanga*, Nairobi, KENYA in March, 2021. Primary school students continue to study for their national exams and two new vocational courses on welding and plumbing have been added.

IPM works across borders of culture, faith, and economic circumstance with children, women, and youth to nurture partnerships that build justice, peace, & hope through transformational learning opportunities and programs.

### IPM PROJECT PARTNERS UNPARALLELED RESILIENCE & SOLIDARITY (continued) ...

- **CEPROSI, Nindiri, NICARAGUA:** As the recipient of a new \$7,000 micro-loan from IPM in February, the women are focusing their 2021 activities to support reactivation of their microenterprise initiatives and strengthen their programs.
- **HUM (Hindus United with Muslims), Ahmedabad, INDIA:** In addition to the cooperative's transition to mask-making for their community, IPM Project Coordinator Noorsuba Shaikh and her team conduct preventive health checks to assist in directing high risk individuals to hospitals and health care centers providing the much needed interface for daily wage workers who can't miss any work in these difficult times. With IPM support for rent, teachers salaries and four sewing machines they have also been conducting classes following all COVID protocols and are now seeking resources for starting two new centers.
- **IDES, Zacatecoluca, EL SALVADOR:** Builds bridges with other organizations that are able to provide support to our Partners. Because of strategic alliances, *IDES* received IPM funding support of \$2,000 to repair some of the infrastructure which will ultimately benefit more than 16 communities not only through their after-school program for children and community library, but also by serving as a shelter (with a capacity for more than 1,000) in case of weather emergencies.
- **Kandula Community Project, Mbooni, KENYA:** In the midst of COVID-19 which closed schools and severely hampered work in this rural village, the local population was especially grateful for the continued accessibility of treated ground water made possible by IPM's infrastructure investment within the community and additional funding to finalize the building of the school's eight classrooms, latrines, and related facilities. Approximately 420 youth and 40 nursery school children are currently attending classes. In addition, 23 mothers are participating in the women's groups focused on microenterprise streams through basket weaving and small scale farming for food and coffee as a cash crop.
- **Pochabhai Foundation, Golana, INDIA:** As a member based organization working in more than 27 villages, with over 3,000 women and 7,000 children, the demands on IPM South Asia Regional Fellow Himat Chauhan and new India Fellow Bindiya Makwana, have been tremendous. Their activities span from mobilizing women and accessing government services to providing education to ostracized Dalit children and a space for them to learn and play. With IPM support, the Pochabhai staff supported more than 4,368 families in the past quarter, accessing more than \$32,000 in food and relief supplies. During this devastating second wave of the pandemic, Himat and his team work tirelessly to conduct awareness campaigns and health check-ups while also providing much needed human contact to the aged, the needy, and the sick and frightened.

*"After a year of sickness, loss, discrimination, and injustice, our Project Partners, through their work taught us solidarity is greater than any disaster. From Latin America, to Africa, all the way to South Asia, communities worked together for and with the most vulnerable. Alleviating hunger, disease and suffering. Today, with the pandemic not being over, we must continue learning from them, and let us absorb empathy to demand and work for justice and peace in every corner of the world."*

~ Adela Zayas Hernández, IPM Director of International Partnerships & Programs and Regional Director for Latin America & the Caribbean

Photo to right: Members of IPM Project Partners: *IDES*, *Musas Creativas*, and *Nutravida* in El Salvador gather with the aim of exchanging knowledge & best practices in their work.

### TRANSFORMATIVE TRAVEL FROM HOME!



Participants during IPM's new Virtual Immersion Experience (VIEP) in India, March 2021

In September 2020, IPM was thrilled to debut a brand new Virtual Immersion Experience Program (VIEP) created to supplement and enhance our existing in-person programming that the pandemic has currently placed on hold.

IPM VIEPs allow participants to choose between a Global or a One-Country Immersion. A Global VIEP is structured around an internationally relevant theme, such as Children's & Youth's Rights, Environmental Justice, Ethnic & Racial Justice, Gender Equity & Human Rights for Women & Girls, and Migration & Refugees. With a One-Country VIEP you will dive deep into the lives and work of IPM's Project Partners in one of eleven countries.

To-date, IPM has conducted five VIEPs to the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, India, and Nepal, with our first Global VIEP scheduled for later this month on the thematic topic of Caste (Colonialism, Colorism, Racism, Tribalism...), alongside John Carroll University (OH).

This new, virtual format provides wonderful new possibilities for learning & personal transformation. Just as with our signature Immersion Experience Program, IPM offers VIEPs to build cross-cultural relationships so that participants can gain a greater understanding of the global realities of poverty and injustice. Through this experience they are challenged with a new vision of society grounded in justice and love.

For more information, please visit us at:  
[www.ipmconnect.org](http://www.ipmconnect.org)

### Multi-lateral Project Partner Sharing

