

MILES2SMILE NEWSLETTER



Our Monthly Journey

AUGUST
2023



Our Monthly Journey to Happiness



Our Monthly Journey to Happiness

Dear Supporters and Well-Wishers,

We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits. With immense pride and gratitude, we share the remarkable strides and unwavering commitment of the Miles2Smile Foundation in our ongoing mission to bring positive change to those who need it most.

In this edition, we invite you on a journey through our various initiatives, each designed to illuminate the path toward knowledge, compassion, and endless possibilities. From the “Shagird” Initiative, inspired by the vision of “each one teaches one,” to the transformative “Project Taleem” aimed at uplifting underprivileged children, our dedication to education as a beacon of hope remains unwavering.

We also provide a detailed report on our ongoing relief work in Nuh, Haryana, following unfortunate events that shook the region. Our commitment to aiding individuals and families affected by violence and demolitions stands as a testament to our belief that no one should feel isolated during their times of need.

Moreover, we share the heartwarming stories of individuals like Kallu, Aas Mohammad, Aasiya, Khurshidan, Nijri, Sariyam, and others who have faced adversity with courage and resilience. Through your support, we’ve been able to extend a helping hand and a glimmer of hope to these brave souls.

As you read through the pages of this newsletter, we invite you to join us in celebrating the milestones achieved and the lives transformed. Your continued support, whether through donations or spreading awareness, plays a pivotal role in our journey to rebuild lives, restore hope, and pave the path toward a brighter tomorrow.

Thank you for being the driving force behind the Miles2Smile Foundation’s mission. Together, we can make a profound difference in the lives of those in need.

With heartfelt gratitude,

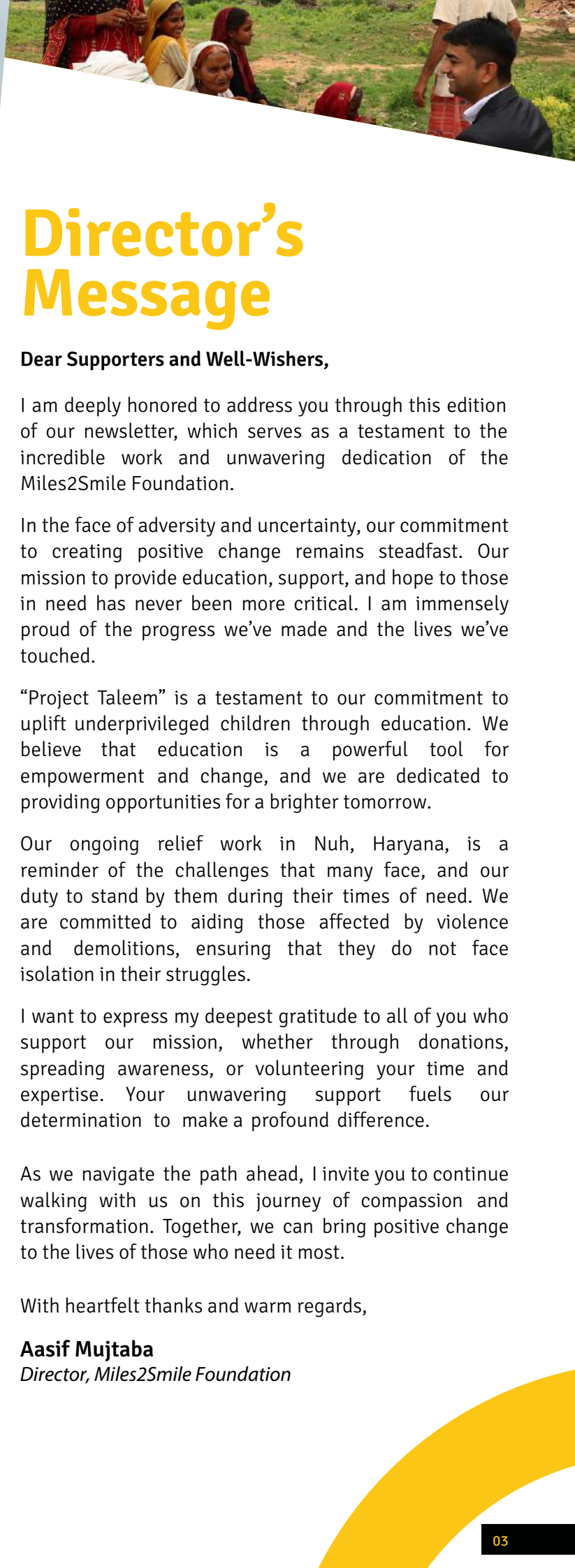
Miles2Smile Foundation

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The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

- Mahatma Gandhi





Director's Message

Dear Supporters and Well-Wishers,

I am deeply honored to address you through this edition of our newsletter, which serves as a testament to the incredible work and unwavering dedication of the Miles2Smile Foundation.

In the face of adversity and uncertainty, our commitment to creating positive change remains steadfast. Our mission to provide education, support, and hope to those in need has never been more critical. I am immensely proud of the progress we've made and the lives we've touched.

"Project Taleem" is a testament to our commitment to uplift underprivileged children through education. We believe that education is a powerful tool for empowerment and change, and we are dedicated to providing opportunities for a brighter tomorrow.

Our ongoing relief work in Nuh, Haryana, is a reminder of the challenges that many face, and our duty to stand by them during their times of need. We are committed to aiding those affected by violence and demolitions, ensuring that they do not face isolation in their struggles.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you who support our mission, whether through donations, spreading awareness, or volunteering your time and expertise. Your unwavering support fuels our determination to make a profound difference.

As we navigate the path ahead, I invite you to continue walking with us on this journey of compassion and transformation. Together, we can bring positive change to the lives of those who need it most.


With heartfelt thanks and warm regards,

Aasif Mujtaba

Director, Miles2Smile Foundation



Education



“Education is the great equalizer.
It provides hope and opportunity for
those who have been left behind”

Shagird Initiative

In the face of hatred, violence, and socioeconomic disparities, children often bear the brunt. Initiatives like “Shagird” are stepping up to make a difference. Inspired by Kulsum Sayani’s vision of “each one teaches one,” Shagird aims to create a million mentors for underprivileged children.

Sunrise Public School in Loni, Ghaziabad, founded by the “Miles2Smile” & “Shagird” Foundation, serves as a sanctuary for disadvantaged students. With over 450 children, the school offers engaging programs that nurture holistic development, establishing itself as a center of excellence.

In Khargone, Madhya Pradesh, “Shaagird” collaborates with Smart India School, providing free education to 30 children affected by communal violence. This partnership fosters empowerment, offering them an opportunity to overcome trauma, embrace hope, and carve out a brighter future.

These initiatives remind us that education can serve as a beacon of hope, transforming young lives and creating a world where every child’s potential shines.



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Hunar Initiative

Over the course of three months,

a total of 36 children from these three Madarsas were enrolled in these computer classes. These classes were designed not only to impart essential computer skills but also to identify and nurture young talents with a knack for analytical thinking, particularly in the domains of programming and software development.

Miles2Smile's Hunar Academy is a transformative initiative that aims to bridge the gap between education and employment, empowering underprivileged communities by nurturing a skilled and future-ready generation of youths. With a focus on cultivating young leaders and changemakers in their communities, the foundation has introduced a comprehensive list of courses designed to offer practical skills and entrepreneurial opportunities.

One of the foundation's achievements is its collaboration with three prominent Madarsas: Madarsa Jamia Zia-ul Huda, Madarsa Jamia Rahma-tul-lil-Alameen, and Madarsa Maahadul Quran. This collaboration marked the introduction of basic computer classes, representing a significant step in equipping children from these Madarsas with practical skills and entrepreneurial opportunities.

After the completion of the course, a rigorous selection process will be undertaken to identify the most promising talents among the students. This process will result in the selection of 7 to 10 children who demonstrate exceptional analytical skills and show the potential to excel in the fields of programming and software development.

The collaboration with the three Madarsas and the introduction of computer classes exemplify the foundation's commitment to providing practical skills and opportunities to underprivileged children, ultimately nurturing them as leaders and changemakers within their communities. The identification and selection of talented individuals for further development in programming and software development are a testament to the academy's dedication to unlocking the potential of these young minds.





Learning Centers

In the heart of the Rohingya Refugee Camps, our portable learning centers are beacons of hope. Situated across Shahpur Nangli, Ferozepur Namak, Chandeni, Saddik Nagar, and Punhana, these centers — Fatima-al-Fihri, Fatima Sheikh, and Kulsum Sayani — provide education and solace to over 300 children.

Focused on English language education, along with Mathematics, General Knowledge, and Science, we embrace play-based learning to nurture young minds. With around 100 Rohingya children already enrolled, we aim to expand and brighten more lives.

As an organization dedicated to transformation, we are committed to unlocking educational opportunities. These centers stand as symbols of resilience, offering a pathway to a brighter future for Rohingya children. Join us in illuminating their journey toward knowledge, compassion, and endless possibilities.



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The gift of education is the greatest gift one can give, for it opens doors to endless possibilities



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Project Taleem

We're thrilled to update you on Project 'Taleem,' our initiative to uplift underprivileged Muslim children through educational transformation.

In Delhi, Madarsa Miftahul Quran, once affected by adversity, now thrives with 60 students. We recognized the challenges faced by the Madarsa and its students. Our intervention included infrastructure improvement and providing crucial resources like clean water and quality educational books. To enhance their living conditions, we ensured comfortable bedding, warm blankets, and organized storage. Sports equipment was provided to encourage physical activity and practical skills.

In Nuh, Haryana, our involvement in Project 'Taleem' is evident at Madarsa Imam-ul-Bukhari. With 30 Rohingya children enrolled, we focus not only on academics but also on sports and recreation, providing badminton sets and cricket gear to foster teamwork and health.

Similarly, Madarsa Taleem-ul-Quran in Chandeni 1 Rohingya settlement serves 60 children. Quranic knowledge is the core focus, with dedicated teachers chosen from within the community, ensuring a strong cultural connection.

Our commitment to educational institutions like the Madarsa Miftahul Quran and the transformative impact on students' lives remains steadfast. We are grateful for your support in making these changes possible.



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Relief Work

Nuh Haryana

In the wake of the unfortunate events that unfolded during the Brij Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra in Nuh District, Haryana, where clashes escalated into chaos. The clash, which took place around 10 minutes after the procession commenced, left the region in turmoil. Policemen who were part of the procession were unable to prevent the violence, and the authorities pleaded for peace.

The exact cause of the violence remains under investigation. Initial reports suggest that the violence was sparked by a video purportedly posted by cow vigilante Mohit Yadav alias Monu Manesar.

It has been reported that several establishments owned by Muslims in Gurugram's Badshahpur, including meat shops, hotels, and junk dealers' shops, were set on fire. This incident highlights another case of collective punishment that targets a specific community in response to religious violence. The right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Haryana took action against Muslim homes and businesses, alleging illegal encroachments. However, these demolitions were halted after the Punjab and Haryana High Court issued a strong order to stop bulldozer operations in Nuh and Gurugram.

The Miles2smile Foundation promptly launched a comprehensive response to aid individuals and families affected by the violence and subsequent demolition of houses. Our team visited Nuh, where many Muslims were compelled to live under the open sky and lost their means of livelihood. While we acknowledge that the government has to provide compensation and rebuild not only the homes of these people but also their businesses, we also recognize that the court bears the responsibility of delivering justice to those whose houses were unlawfully demolished. We initiated these fundraisers with the conviction that individuals who have lost their homes or sources of income should not feel isolated. Our goal is to ensure their sustenance and provide them with a sense of security.

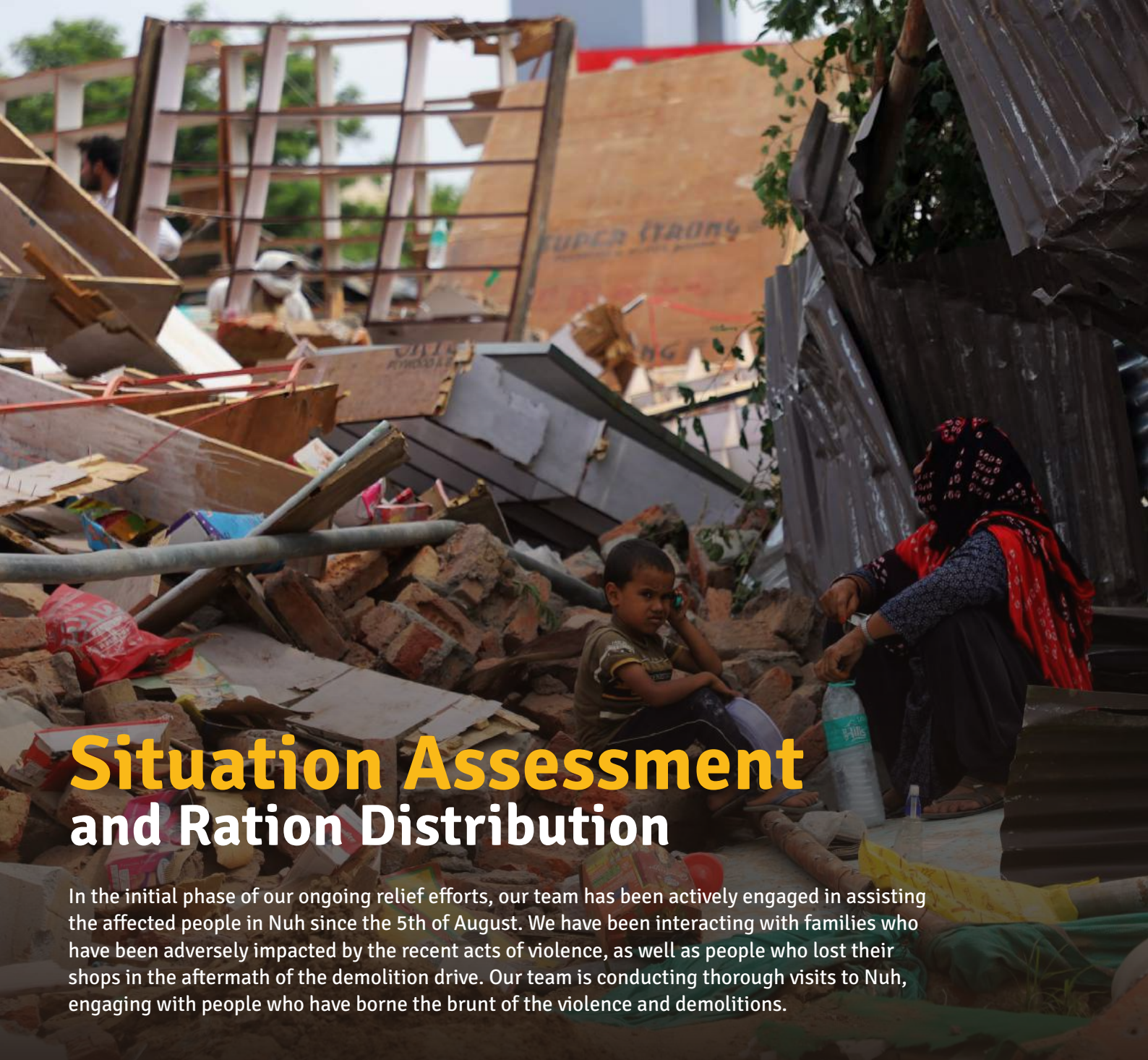


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“The court raised concerns about whether the demolition of buildings belonging to a particular community was being carried out under the pretext of maintaining law and order, and whether the state was engaging in an exercise of ethnic cleansing.

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Situation Assessment and Ration Distribution

In the initial phase of our ongoing relief efforts, our team has been actively engaged in assisting the affected people in Nuh since the 5th of August. We have been interacting with families who have been adversely impacted by the recent acts of violence, as well as people who lost their shops in the aftermath of the demolition drive. Our team is conducting thorough visits to Nuh, engaging with people who have borne the brunt of the violence and demolitions.



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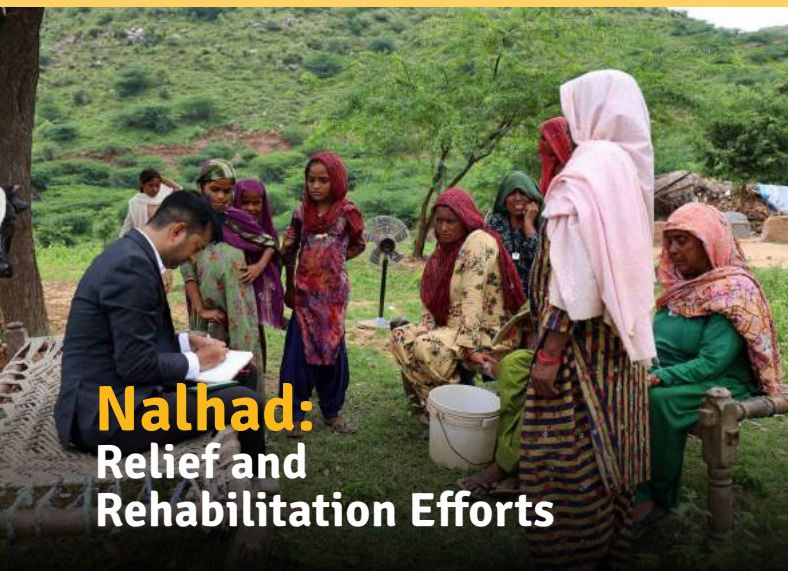


In Gurugram, our team visited a Bengali settlement where residents had faced attacks and threats. Approximately 70 families, mainly from Bengal, lived in fear and were unable to work, often lacking proper meals. Miles2Smile distributed rations, sanitary pads, and essential items to these families, providing much-needed relief. The impact of the violence extended beyond physical injuries, leaving economic scars on many lives.

Among the impacted individuals, Kallu, a 61-year-old vendor, bore the brunt of the violence. Kallu's shop, along with seven other Muslim shops in sector 66, was targeted, looted, and reduced to ashes during the violent events. The Miles2Smile Foundation aimed to rebuild Kallu's shop, empowering him to regain his livelihood and sense of security. Your contributions of 2.64 lakhs played a vital role in helping Kallu start a new.



Gurugram District: Extending Support to the Bengali Settlement

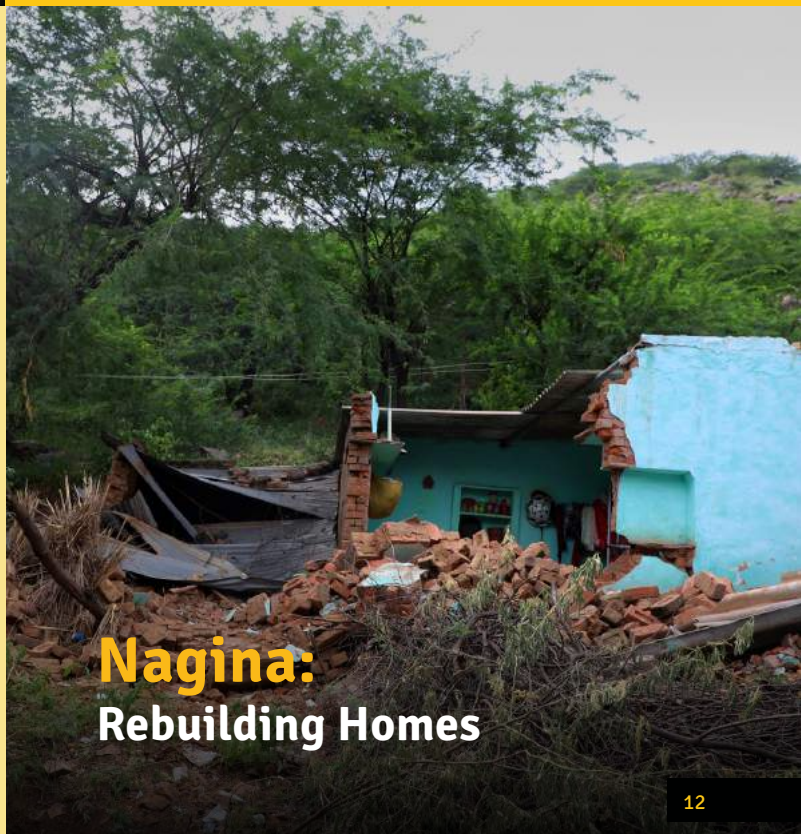


Nalhad: Relief and Rehabilitation Efforts

In Nalhad, the Miles2Smile Foundation, and its team have been deeply involved in relief and rehabilitation efforts to support individuals in Nuh who have suffered from unlawful demolitions. Similar to our efforts in other areas, we have been actively engaged since August 5th, assisting families adversely affected by recent acts of violence and those who have lost their shops due to demolition drives. We provide them with essential supplies such as rations, tents, and assistance with reconstruction.

During our visit to Nagina "Dhobi Ghaat", where 17 houses were demolished, we discovered that 7 families urgently need support for their home reconstruction. The estimated cost for a single house is 40 thousand rupees, and we aim to allocate 2.8 lakhs rupees to aid these families in regaining their living spaces and facilitating their rehabilitation.

We are thrilled to announce that we have successfully raised 3.52 lakhs rupees to provide vital assistance to the families in Nageena. This generous support will go a long way in helping them rebuild their lives and homes.



Nagina: Rebuilding Homes

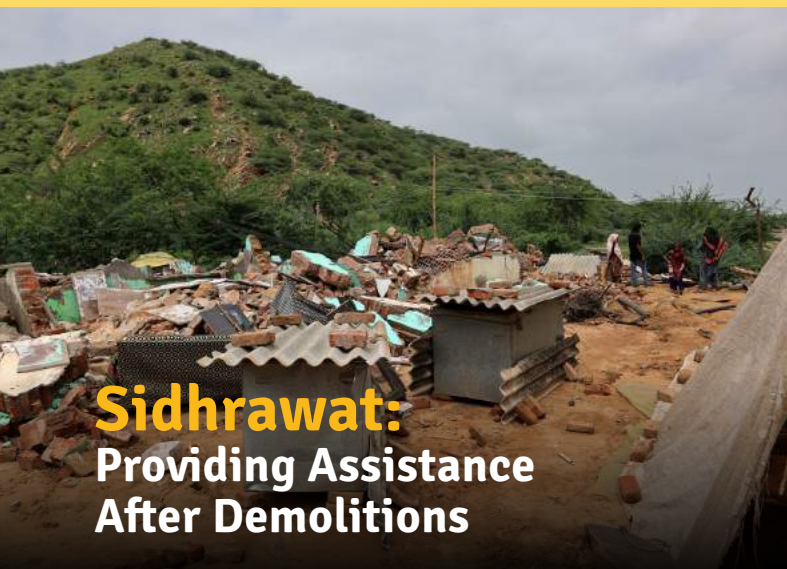
Nangal, located approximately 10 km from Nuh town, witnessed the demolition of 16 houses, all belonging to Muslims, by the administration. Notably, Hindu settlements in the area remained untouched. The local sarpanch has arranged for the relocation of these families, and we provided tents, tarpaulin sheets, ration, and support for reconstruction.

Our relief efforts are specifically directed towards two groups: individuals whose homes were demolished and those whose small shops and businesses were affected. We have personally reached out to these individuals, offering support to help them during these challenging times.

By addressing the immediate needs of those impacted by violence and evictions, our goal is to restore a sense of security and normalcy in their lives. We firmly believe that every contribution, no matter how small, plays a vital role in rebuilding lives, restoring hope, and paving the path toward a better tomorrow.



Nangal: Relief and Support



Sidhrawat: Providing Assistance After Demolitions

During our visit to Sidhrawat, a small village approximately 30 km from Nuh, we observed the aftermath of a recent demolition drive by the state, which resulted in the bulldozing of 16 houses. These families had been living in this area for more than 30 years. Our team is actively working with these families, providing tents, tarpaulin sheets, and ration, and exploring options for relocation and reconstruction.

In Firozpur Jhirka, our team conducted a comprehensive assessment in the Gyasaniyabas and “DoodhGhati” villages, where 106 residential structures were razed to the ground. We identified 15 households in exceptionally vulnerable situations and provided essential supplies like rations to them. To facilitate the rehabilitation of all 15 homes, we estimate a funding requirement of 4.5 lakh rupees.



Firozpur Jhirka: Rebuilding Lives in DoodhGhati



Smile Stories



Kallu

“ The impact of the violence reached beyond physical injuries; it left economic scars on many lives. Kallu, a 61-year-old vendor faced the brunt of the violence. Kallu’s shop, among seven Muslim shops in sector 66, was targeted, looted, and reduced to ashes during the violent events that unfolded.

Kallu’s shop, which sold mattresses and coolers, was not just a business – it was his sole source of income. The loss of his shop left him facing a staggering loss of 3 lakh rupees.

Miles2smile Foundation aimed to rebuild Kallu’s shop and empower him to reclaim his livelihood and sense of security. We were able to raise 2.64 lakhs for Kallu. ”



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“ In response to the distressing demolition drive conducted in Nuh and Gurugram Miles2smile Foundation has started a fundraiser to support Aas Mohammad, a 57-year-old security guard, and his family. Their residence and his sons’ tea shop were razed to the ground, leaving them in a state of shock and upheaval.

Aas Mohammad, after receiving a mere two-day notice from local authorities, witnessed the demolition commence within a few hours of the notice. This sudden upheaval left his family grappling with the loss of their home and livelihood. The weight of this situation is even more profound as he carries the responsibility of a sizable family. Tragically, the aftermath of this demolition event resulted in the hospitalization of Aas Mohammad’s son, who experienced a severe panic attack due to the abrupt loss of their means of earning.

Miles2smile Foundation has stepped in to assist during this trying period. In a gesture of immediate support, we transferred Rs 1.5 lakhs to Aas Mohammed’s bank account for medical expenses and other urgent needs for his family. We have also raised 3 lakhs for him, given that his loss was substantial. ”



Aas Mohammad



Aasiya

“Aasiya, a 74-year-old, and her family having called the Nahar district their home for three decades, faced an unfortunate situation when their home was demolished. This left them without a roof over their heads, forcing them to sleep out in the open.

With a commitment to tangible support, the Miles2smile team visited Aasiya multiple times in the past week. We ensured that essential supplies such as rations and other essentials were provided. Moreover, through a dedicated donation call, we successfully raised a total of 2.56 lakhs for Aasiya. ”

“We have initiated a fundraising campaign to support Nijari and Sariyam. Nijari, who is 56 years old, a widow, and the mother of three children, tragically had her home demolished. This unfortunate turn of events has left her and her family without shelter, forcing them to endure sleeping under the open sky.

Sariyam’s family consists of six children, including four daughters, who have found themselves in a dire situation after their residence was demolished. This incident has deprived them of proper shelter, compelling them to endure the hardships of sleeping under the open skies. The family’s already fragile financial circumstances have been further exacerbated, as their household belongings were also destroyed in the process. We have managed to raise 4 Lakhs for Nijri and Sariyam. ”



Nijri



Sariyam



Khurshidan

“Miles2smile Foundation has taken a proactive stance to support Khursidan and her family of 15. Kursidan’s home was demolished. However, the extent of the tragedy went beyond their home – their possessions, including furniture, ration, and other essentials, were also obliterated in the wake of the demolition.

With a resolute determination to help Khursidan and her family rebuild their lives, the Miles2smile Foundation launched a fundraising campaign and raised 3 lakh rupees for her. The goal was to provide the necessary resources and support to help them regain stability and security in their lives. The outpouring of generosity and compassion from the community has paved the way for Khursidan and her family to embark on their journey toward recovery.”





Thank you
for being the Heart and Soul of the
Miles2Smile Foundation

About the organization:

Miles2Smile was established three years back as a not-for-profit organization, based in Delhi. The organization works primarily in relief activities and brings smiles to the faces of victims looming over penury and distress. Livelihood creation, healthcare and educational empowerment are also some core areas of work by the organization. In the past two years, the organization has made commendable service in delivering solace to the people languishing in the heap of despair. The organization is on an assiduous mission to revive happiness to the people ripped after communal tensions.



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