Bottom-Up Resilience – Civil Society Responses under COVID-19 in Singapore

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COVID-19 TIMELINE

- Feb 7: Dorscon Orange
- Apr 7 to June 1: Circuit Breaker (Partial lockdown)
- June 2: Phase 1 Safe Re-opening
- June 19: Phase 2 Re-opening

- 44,800 cases
  - about 95% from Migrant worker dormitory
- Discharged 40,441
- 26 deaths
COVID-19 Pandemic bring to light the underbelly of society

Homeless
Low income
Elderly and living alone
Migrant workers
720,800 work permit holders
Majority from Bangladesh, India & Myanmar
200,000 in 43 purpose-built dorms
120,000 in factory-converted dormitories
Taking care of Migrant Workers
You’ll never be alone

INDIVIDUALS

NUS students volunteer as translators for migrant workers – request from doctors (Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, Tamil, Telugu, Thai and Bahasa Indonesia)

University dormitory converted into a Community Recovery Facility. NUS students conduct “classes” for migrant workers recovering from Covid-19. Deliver 2,000 T-shirts.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Alliance of Guest Workers Outreach (AGWO) delivers 7,000 meals to migrant workers for Hari Raya Puasa. Crowdfunding

Migrant workers and kids in virtual singalong of If We Hold On Together to raise funds for migrant workers
Homeless

- Religious places offer their venues as shelter
- NGO offer “Home Away from Home” for stranded Malaysians during lock down
- “Mask Sewn with Love” for vulnerable groups – individuals offering to sew masks from home
Low income, Elderly

**Computers Against Covid** - Fixing old laptops for those needy students for their home-based learning.

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has loaned out an estimated 20,000 devices, including laptops and tablets.

**Free food by Raydy Beehoon** - COVID-19 forced his beehoon stall to shut - so NTU undergrad Lee Ray Sheng cooks for hundreds of folks in need

**Keeping Hope Alive (KHA)** 让希望活下去
Volunteers go door to door to check in on rental flat residents and offer essential aid – video call with family, health and medicine check, grocery delivery