



Union Internationale de la Marionnette

Commission pour la **Cooperation**
Commission for **Cooperation**
Comision para la **Cooperación**

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Mid-term report - Emergency Aid Programme (April - August 2020)

In April 2020, the Commission for Cooperation participated in a collective action to support 70 Indian families of puppeteers. At the same time, worrying information was arriving: many families of puppeteers around the world no longer had enough money to feed themselves and their families. The Commission for Cooperation therefore set up an emergency programme in May 2020, which included a charter; the setting up of several fundraising platforms; the launch of a call for donations via national UNIMA centres, and widespread use of UNIMA communication networks: its web page, FB page, Instagram, Twitter and its newsletter.

Between May and July, fundraising efforts brought in €5,700. These funds were donated by a national UNIMA centre, a regional UNIMA branch, 71 people and institutions (theatres and festivals). Among the individual donors, half are known puppeteers or members of UNIMA, and half are unknown. The biggest private donation to date is €400, and many are between €100 and €300. The Commission added an extra €3,000 to the amount raised during these months; these extra funds were those which had previously been received by the Commission. This took the total amount to €8,700.

We have received 137 requests for help. The Commission has in place criteria for choosing and calculating the necessary allowances, and UNIMA has put in place a donation system worldwide. Each member of the Commission has been deeply involved: Kembly Aguilar (CR), Magali Chouinard (CA), Cariad Astles (GB), Simon Wong (CI), Terence Tan (SI), and Pierre-Alain Rolle (ES), in networking, translating, graphic design and telematics, finance and participation. This work continues via meetings held every 2 weeks.

Of the requests received, 31 were refused. We still have 3 collective requests that are in process (involving about 100 families). Between June and July 2020, 75 families of puppeteers received direct financial assistance. Among those in extreme



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difficulty, priority has been given to puppeteers who have dependents, and no obvious immediate support. Including the 140 families who received collective assistance at the beginning, 245 families were supported overall, with amounts ranging from €10 to €100 per family. The most common support offered is between €40 and €65, depending on the cost of food in each country. It represents the cost of food for 15 days.

The Commission for Cooperation worked, wherever possible, in close collaboration with UNIMA national centres to check with them the accuracy of the information received from those requesting aid. We have taken great care to ensure that aid reaches those who genuinely need it. Donations have been sent to the following countries: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Hungary, India, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Uruguay and South Africa. The total amount of donations sent between April and 15th August 2020 is €7,400. The Commission has received many messages of thanks, and 450 photographs of puppets from those receiving aid.

The remaining amount available as of August 15th is €1,300 euros. Open applications, currently being checked, concern communities which represent a total of more than 75 families, in Colombia, Brazil and Niger (about €4'000 in aid). The Commission for Cooperation is coming to the limit of its financial possibilities. This is why we are launching a new appeal to your generosity and your support in sharing this message.

Vilanova, 27 August 2020
Pierre-Alain Rolle
President of UNIMA Cooperation Commission