



# HOPING FOR THE BETTER LIFE

**W**hat a painful realization when READ found a parentless children who were hoping to live a better life with care and protection of their parent but in a fraction of second they lost their parent and become waif. Mrs. Priya Pattika (27) a member of Gender Vigilance Committee (GVC) from Tamiliguda Village under Gulunthi Pancaayt of Ramnaguda Block in Rayagada District along with her husband outside the home near the jungle in search of livelihood have never returned home back while 4 children one son (9yrs) and 3 daughters, 8yrs, 6yrs and 2 yrs were waiting for their father and mother anxiously. All of sudden the information was shared that the father and mother found dead due to stroked by lighting under a big tree nearby jungle of the village. The parent were only the bread earner for the family though there were other members namely grandmother (60) and 2 aunties (sisters of dead father) who were also deponent on the parent. The impact of COVID -19 pandemic also curse of God for the parents because the livelihood and food security was scares due to continuous lockdown and shutdown therefore the parents went to the forest provided continuous heavy rain and lightening.

In this juncture the READ team visited the village and interacted with the family members and 4 children also identified the immediate need of the family for their survival. It was a great handholding from All We Can, Spain that the needs of the children were being considered and supported children with one month ration, nutrition it and cloth materials that brought a smile among the children for HOPING TO LIVE. The READ team not only supported the immediate materials but also met and discussed with concerned department to take care of the children and mitigate the need as per the government provision. The immediate authority namely Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) and Block Development Officer (BDO) have also taken the issues seriously and assured to look after the children towards education and livelihood. As of now the children are at home with the care and protection of their Amities (2 sisters of the dead father). The READ will continue its efforts to bring the children to access their child rights and protection from government of Odisha. READ team especially the MPW who is looking after the village in the READ's programme update the information of the children to the head office as and when required.