

The Influencer Bulletin

VOL III | ISSUE 1 | April 2020



As the country grapples to cope with the COVID-19 crisis and the ongoing lockdown, EdelGive WE portfolio organisations are responding and facilitating immediate relief measures to the communities they are working with.

This issue brings to you updates on the grassroots work for COVID relief initiated by our partner NGOs, ranging from provision of essential supplies (ration, medicine and sanitization kits), mitigation of psychosocial stress through mental health support initiatives along with prudent measures to curb the spread of misinformation as they navigate through a phase of uncertainties.

This work addresses the critical needs of disadvantaged populations who are further marginalised owing to the pandemic; namely migrant workers, daily-wage earners, labourers and low-income families.

Grassroot Leadership

'Voices of the Invisible Citizens'



In a recently published report titled, 'Voices of the Invisible Citizens' our NGO Partner, **Jan Sahas** has brought to light the complex realities of the lockdown faced by migrant workers and labourers in the face of this unprecedented challenge. This rapid assessment was the collective result of a survey of 3196 workers in North and Central India.

Some **key highlights** from the report that have been particularly alarming were:

- 42% of labourers do not have even a day's ration remaining.
- 92.5 % of labourers have already lost work ranging from one week to three weeks.
- 66% of the labourers worry that they will lose control over their household expenses in case the lockdown continued.
- 94% of the workers are not registered with any state building and construction welfare boards which rules out the possibilities of them availing the benefits schemes doled out by the government.

This report concludes with detailed action steps that can be considered for the Government, Industries, and Philanthropies to address this crisis. It has also supported rations as part of its relief and emergency support activities.

Read the full report [here](#)

Flattening the Hunger curve

Millions of Women employed in informal and unskilled jobs have been displaced from employment. With an unanticipated loss of livelihoods and limited savings; these migrant laborers, daily wage workers and low caste minorities have been struggling with their subsistence.

IT for Change assured a meal provision for 2500 wageworkers in Delhi-NCR along with rations to 1200 urban poor households in Bengaluru. It also supported groceries and other essential supplies to 600 households in rural Mysore.

ANANDI team in Gujarat has been in coordination with the local administration, working towards ensuring that the state government relief packages reach the most marginalised segments. This will be followed with relief for those who have been excluded in this process.

Ibtada deployed 160 Adhikar Sakhis, their community cadres to support 1130 families in dire need at Bhilwada, Rajasthan. In addition to providing food relief and conducting home visits to generate awareness on COVID-19, Ibtada has successfully distributed nearly 400 masks among the vulnerable communities to date.



Beyond closed doors

Confined within the boundaries of their homes, women and girls have been at the receiving end of violence and abuse often perpetrated by family members. Violence has long been such normalised in the country that it does not even recognize itself as an issue. The economic and financial strain has intensified this further. Isolated from people and resources that are capable of their aid including shelter options, their vulnerability is further aggravated.

The National Commission of Women (NCW) recently recorded a two-fold increase in gender-based violence complaints since the nationwide lockdown has been imposed. From March 23 to April 1, 2020, Of the 257 complaints in relation to violence against women, 69 were of domestic violence, whereas other included rapes and assaults.

Shaheen, our partner NGO at Hyderabad has been reaching out to these victims of gender violence, counselling through telephonic conversations and providing emotional and mental support.

Gearing up the immunity

Women had their own diligent roles in the lockdown, either respective to managing law enforcement or in form of healthcare staff for containing the pandemic. However, with inadequate PPE they themselves they have been placed at an increased risk of infection. Access to sexual and reproductive health care services, antenatal care testing and abortion has also been severely impacted in the wave of this health crisis. Women have been also more prone to heightened stress, anxiety, depression along with other mental health disorders.

Jan Sahas's relief and emergency support activities has been operational at Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Delhi (NCR). Supplementing the action of public health department, police and district administration, it has distributed 1200 safety kits for frontline staff and 9622 families have been supported with safety kits along with rations.

Milaan Foundation has launched the 'COVID-19 Emergency Support Programme' to tackle the adversities that have emerged with the pandemic at Uttar Pradesh. Through building awareness in the community, supporting local healthcare initiatives and financially supporting field level community workers, majority of whom are women; it has assumed on a responsibility to effectively arise to the situation.

Nishtha has been supporting the community of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal with sanitation kits (soaps, sanitizers, masks etc.) as protection measures to avert the infection.

Our NGO partner **KVMS** has been in solidarity with the local administration in Bhuj, Gujarat for deploying food, medical aid along with cash transfers, essential for sustenance in both the rural and urban pockets of Kutch.

Sanjog has been consistently providing mental health support to alleviate the psychosocial disturbances and trauma amongst the survivors at North & South 24 Parganas.



Tune into the Radio station

Curbing the issue of misinformation and unfounded rumours about COVID-19 that has fuelled public fears, our NGO partner Mann Deshi has been disseminating valid and reliable information through its community radio station.



With an outreach of about 50,000 people across 110 villages in the Mann Taluka, the radio team has been raising awareness by regularly broadcasting interviews of experts, doctors, and official instructions from the government and Municipal Corporation. Campaigns on proper handwashing techniques, practicing **#SocialDistancing** especially while buying essential commodities, as well as time schedules for markets and guidelines for vendors have being relayed through this medium. The Mann Deshi Tarang Vahini 90.4 MHZ is also available as a mobile application.

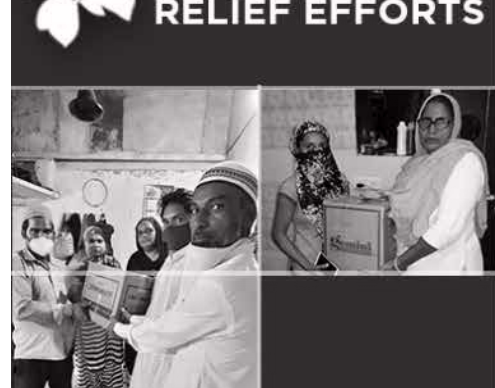
The NGO also worked towards ensuring distribution of food and ration packages that included rice, pulses, biscuits, salt, soap, tea, oil and other essential items to 5000 rural women in Mann taluka, Maharashtra.

Common Charter for Indian Donors and Philanthropic Community

EdelGive Foundation is signatory to the **'Common Charter for Indian Donors and Philanthropic Community'** calling for a platform for collective action towards COVID-19 relief work.

EdelGive's approach is to implement need-based and quick decisions to ensure maximum people can benefit by,

- Ensuring that our grantees spread across 15 states are equipped and staffed to address the situation on the ground.
- Identifying and connecting initiatives that aid poor, displaced and unemployed families to funders.
- Reaching out pro-actively to other funders, providing information and linking them to genuine and authentic avenues for financial support.



Join EdelGive's efforts to support vulnerable communities affected by COVID-19.

[Donate here](#)

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