

The Influencer Bulletin

VOL III | ISSUE 13 | MAY 2021



Your support to the Influencers journey has ensured women and girls' freedom from violence and discrimination, access to legal justice, grassroots leadership, rights and entitlements and freedom from economic dependence. As we bring you this issue, the country finds itself in the throes of another wave of the pandemic. Like during the first wave around this time last year, our partner NGOs are once again at the forefront of relief work. Read on to learn about the needs highlighted by Nishtha, Sanjog, CORO. We also bring you an announcement about The GROW Fund, an initiative designed to enable small and medium grassroots organisations, weakened during the pandemic, to grow stronger, build resilience to be future ready.

Kolkata Sanjog Initiatives, North and South 24 Parganas, West Bengal:

Communities of North and South 24 Parganas (Sanjog's intervention areas) have faced challenges in terms of limited COVID specific resources (scarce testing, beds, and medicines), loss of jobs due to prolonged lockdowns and immense scarcity of basic food essentials for vulnerable populations. Additionally, there has been a sharp increase in anxiety levels of survivors of violence and social workers, which is currently going unnoticed due to struggles for survival. In view of the current situation amid the second wave, Sanjog is seeking support to extend assistance to distressed families in the region through:

- Distribution of immediate ration kits for Survivors of violence
- Extending support for purchase of medicines for COVID and other diseases
- Provision of mental health support interventions through medications and tele-counselling for Survivors and Social Workers
- Supporting need-based livelihoods interventions

Sanjog is also illuminating the damage caused by Cyclone Yaas in its intervention regions [here](#)

Nishtha, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal:

Nishtha is seeking support to extend immediate relief by provision of dry foods, hygiene kits and medical support to over 2500 households across 6 villages in Magrahat - II block of South 24 Parganas which have been rendered penniless in these distressing times. Know more about Nishtha's work and current needs [here](#)

CORO For Literacy, Maharashtra and Rajasthan:

CORO is seeking support to reach 10,000 socially marginalised families in urban and rural Maharashtra and Rajasthan through the following activities:

- Provision of dry food and basic hygiene kits
- Provision of compensation to each family unit that has faced livelihood loss
- Provision of basic medical equipment to equip population at the village/ community level
- Provide assistance in supporting urgent medical treatment costs, COVID medicines and immunity boosting supplements

Know more about CORO's COVID-relief work [here](#)

Ibtada, Alwar, Rajasthan -

In the past few weeks, **Team Ibtada** has taken strenuous efforts to **get as many eligible community members vaccinated as possible**. Ibtada's Adhikar Sakhi and Field Coordinators went door to door in their villages within Alwar, Rajasthan, encouraging the elderly and those above 45 to get vaccinated. While many were hesitant at first, the Ibtada team managed to persuade some. With the help of the local government officials, Ibtada has helped over 4,500 people in 122 villages to get their first shot of the vaccine till now. Read more about Ibtada's COVID relief work [here](#)

Kutch Mahila Vikas Sanghathan (KMVS), Bhuj, Gujarat

In Kutch, the communities are reeling under the complete collapse of an already weak and flimsy medical system. KMVS along with a few other community based organisations have come together and launched the following emergency support services for over 1 lakh families across three Wards of Bhuj Town which covers 42 slum pockets and 25% of the population in Bhuj, 20 Group Gram Panchayats covering 75,000 families, including 3000 craft artisans as well as around 200 female sex workers and transgender populations.

- Tele-medicine and e-consultation support for Covid patients
- Distribution of safety equipment and monitoring devices amongst trained volunteers and community members
- Communication campaign to control the spread of the virus, guide patients to the correct set of resources, as well as help people overcome fears of vaccinations and testing
- Community kitchens and tiffin systems for Covid affected community members
- Establishing quarantine centres for Covid patients in gram panchayats and urban slums
- Dedicated vaccination camps in collaboration with registered medical institutions

The GROW Fund

Through all of the challenges that COVID-19 has brought our way, it has been our grassroots networks on the ground that have been the first to the rescue, quickly adapting their programmes to meet the needs of the communities they serve. However, these organisations have faced challenges in their growth and sustenance through the course of the pandemic. As funders, we have an opportunity and responsibility to rethink and re-strategize our approach.

How can we collectively enable impact for those working with the most vulnerable sections of society - our grassroots NGOs?

In this context, it gives us great pleasure to share that EdelGive has launched GROW, (**The Grassroots Resilience Ownership and Wellness Fund**), a one-of-a-kind collective of philanthropists, to **support and sustain over 100 NGOs post the distress caused by COVID-19**, by addressing their needs and by creating future readiness.

We are very proud and honoured to share that Ashish Kacholia, and the A.T.E Chandra Foundation - both esteemed members of this group - have joined hands with EdelGive alongwith Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Manan Trust, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, and the Edelweiss Group to support this initiative.

GROW is an audacious and innovative attempt by EdelGive to bring collaborative philanthropy to support and strengthen apex structures for NGOs from all parts of India.

We welcome you to learn more about GROW, share our idea within your networks, and encourage you to join us in our ambitious mission. To know more about the GROW fund do visit [The GROW Fund - EdelGive](#).

COVID-19 Relief

The needs on the ground are manifold and changing dynamically real-time. We are collating COVID-response and relief initiatives needing urgent support, [here](#).