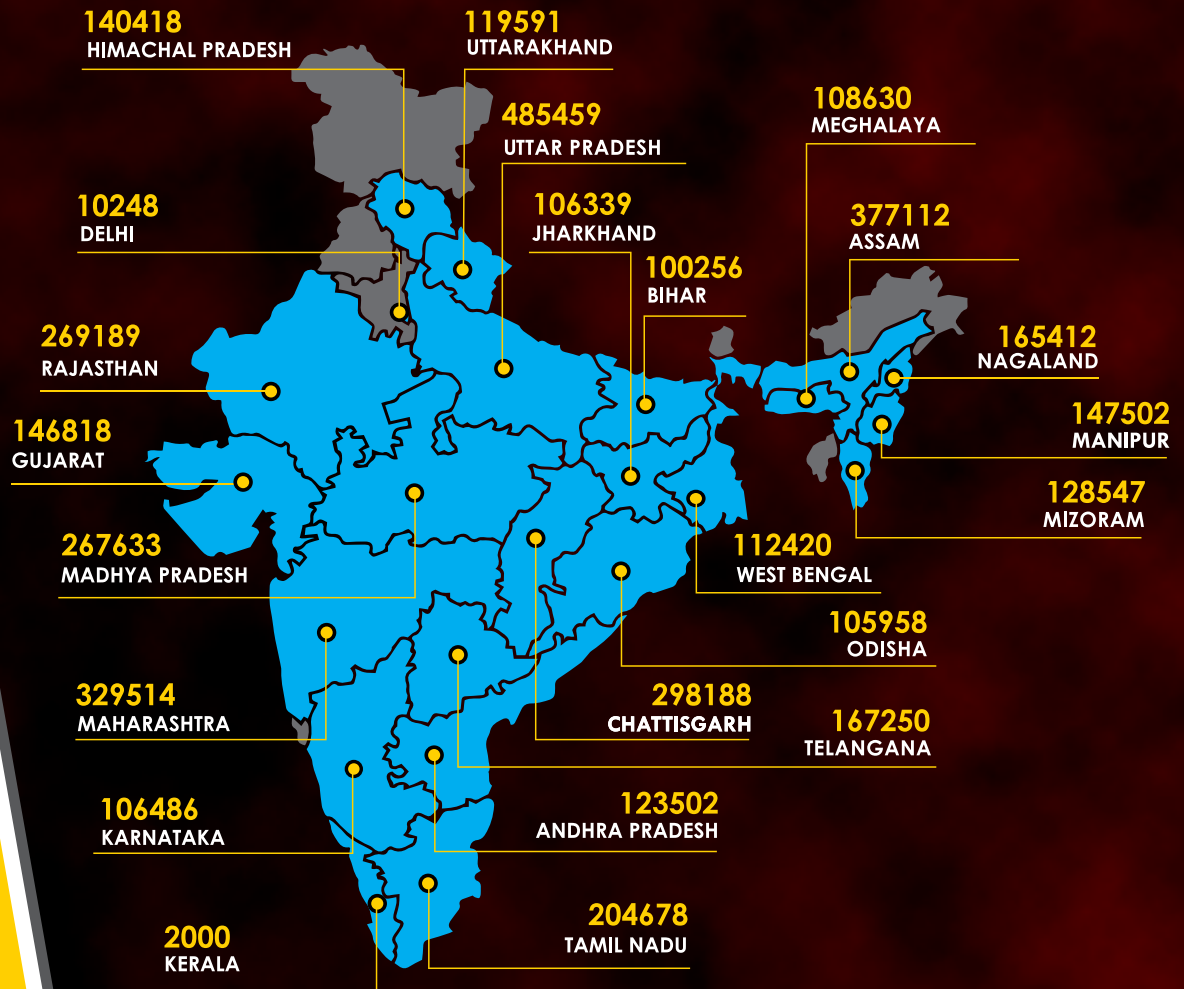


CASA's Response to COVID-19



23 | States Covered

11,133 | No. of villages covered

40,23,150 | No. of People Reached

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CONSOLIDATED OVERALL RESPONSE UPDATE AT A GLANCE AS OF 30TH JUNE



TOTAL REACH OF MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER SUPPORT

Villages Covered: 1946

Families covered: 1,14,045



HYGIENE KIT DISTRIBUTION

Villages Covered

1,481

Families covered

68,836



SPRAYING OF DISINFECTANT

Villages Covered

297

Families covered

36,135



DRY RATION DISTRIBUTION

Villages Covered

877

Families covered

26,388



COOKED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Villages Covered

61

Families covered

13,536



HEALTH CAMP AND INFRASTRUCTURE UTILITY

Villages Covered

7

Families covered

620



AWARENESS

9187

Villages

34,48,409

People

Total Reach of Material distribution/ other Support and Awareness Initiative

23

States
Covered

11,133

No. of villages
covered

40,23,150

No. of people
reached

Summary of Activities as of 31st May

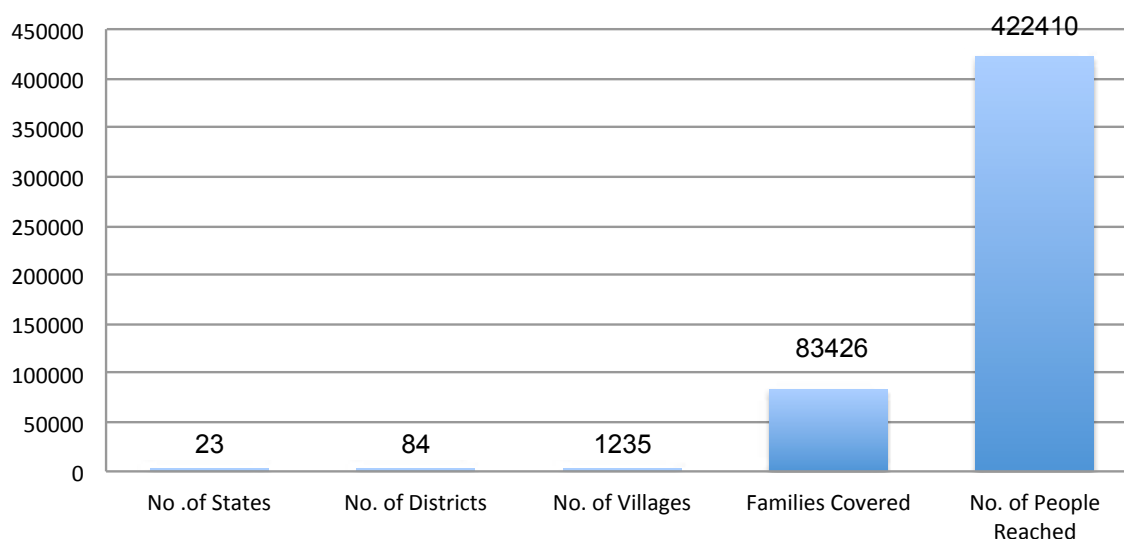
A. CONSOLIDATED OVERALL RESPONSE UPDATE AT A GLANCE

States	No. of Districts	No. of Villages	No. of Families Covered	No. of People Reached
DRY RATION DISTRIBUTION				
Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Bihar, Kerala, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya	35	218	7688	38,440
WASH KIT DISTRIBUTION				
Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka	43	554	40826	204130
Distribution of Cooked Food				
Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh	11	23	681	3553
SPRAYING OF DISINFECTANT				
Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana	13	268	27300	136500
GOVERNMENT IDENTIFIED / USING CASA RESOURCE CENTRES AND OTHER UTILITIES				
Maharashtra, Assam, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand	7	11		415

SUPPORT TO INSTITUTIONS UNDER HUMANITARIAN AID FUND (DKH)

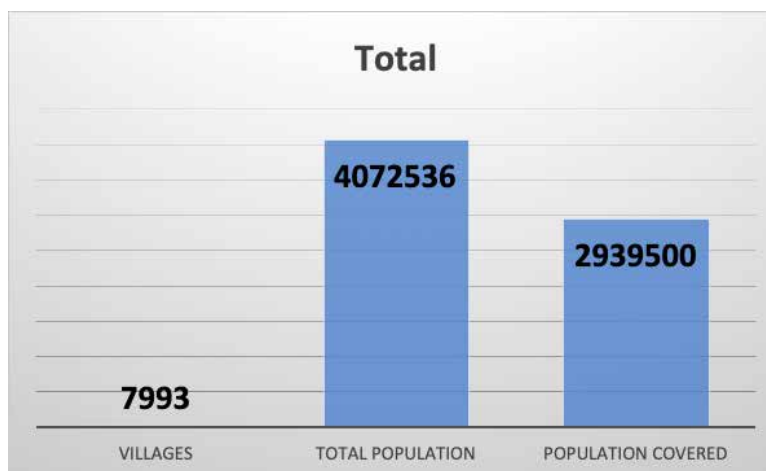
Institutions	No. of Districts	No. of Villages	No. of Families	No. of People Reached
DRY RATION DISTRIBUTION				
Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana	25	359	9444	47220
WASH KIT DISTRIBUTION				
Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka	22	354	10188	50940
HEALTH CAMPS				
Maharashtra	2	2		200
DISTRIBUTION OF COOKED FOOD				
States	Districts	No. of Villages	No. of People Covered	
Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand	7	37	9998	

A. CONSOLIDATED FIGURE OF OVERALL REACH OF MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER SUPPORT





B. OVERALL REACH OF AWARENESS INITIATIVES



C. GRAND TOTAL REACH OF THE RESPONSE

	Village	Total Population	Population Covered
A	1235	-	4,22,410
B	7993	40,72,536	29,39,500
Total	9228	-	33,61,910

Summary of Activities

1st June to 30th June

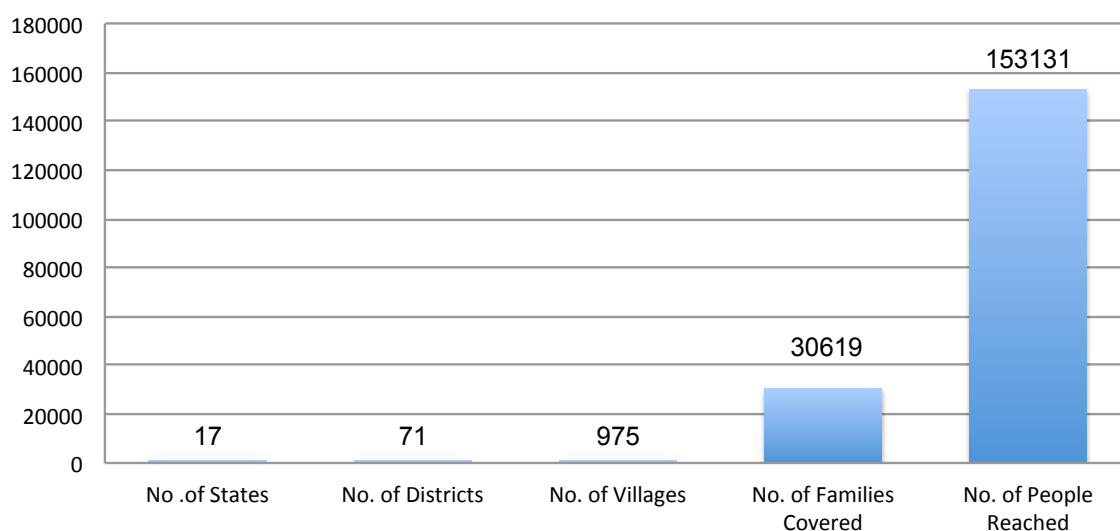
CONSOLIDATED OVERALL RESPONSE UPDATE AT A GLANCE

States	No. of Districts	No. of Villages	No. of Families Covered	No. of People Reached
DRY RATION DISTRIBUTION				
Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh	28	343	8356	41806
WASH KIT DISTRIBUTION				
Andhra Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh	53	742	20105	100525
COOKED FOOD				
Himachal Pradesh	1	1		5
SPRAYING OF DISINFECTANT				
Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana	4	52	8835	44175
CASA RESOURCE / COMMUNITY CENTRES USED BY GOVERNMENT				
Uttarakhand	1	1		5

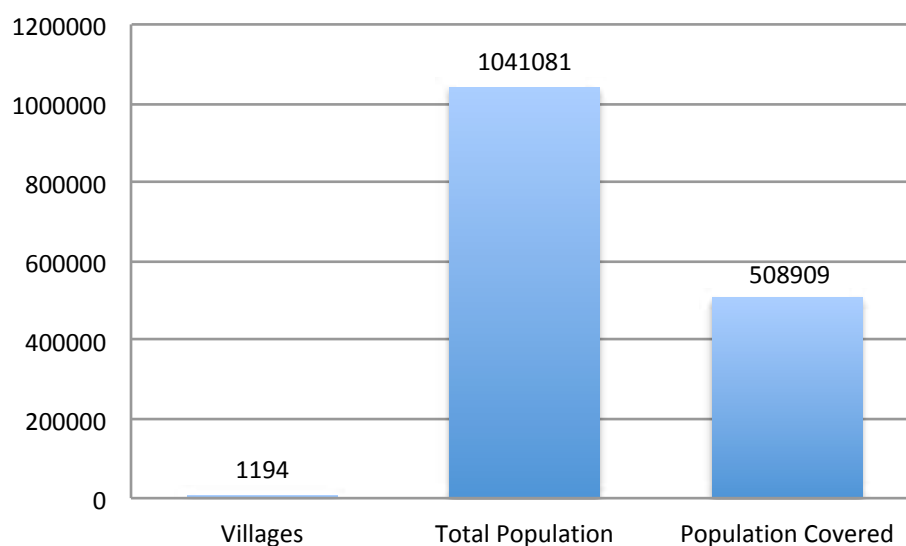
SUPPORT TO INSTITUTIONS UNDER HUMANITARIAN AID FUND (DKH)

Institutions	No. of Districts	No. of Villages	No. of Families	No. of People
DRY RATION DISTRIBUTION				
Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh	5	45	900	4500
WASH KIT DISTRIBUTION				
Tamil Nadu	1	5	100	500

A. CONSOLIDATED FIGURE OF OVERALL REACH OF MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER SUPPORT



B. AWARENESS INITIATIVES 1ST JUNE TO 30TH JUNE



C. GRAND TOTAL OF THE REACH

	Village	Total Population	Population Covered
A	975		153131
B	1195	1041081	508909
Total	2170	-	662040

Summary of Activities

As of 30th June

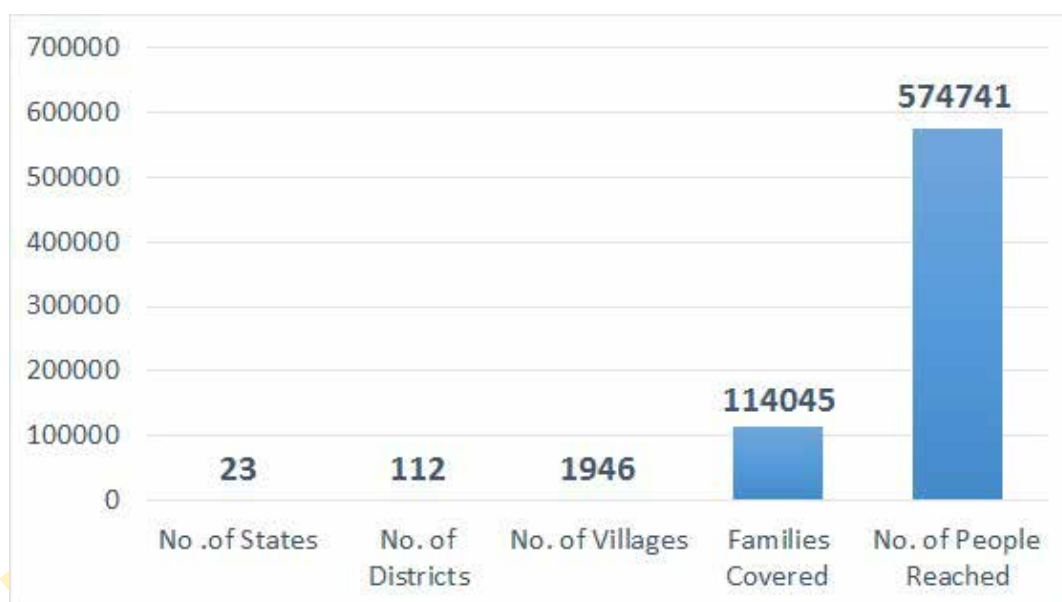
A. CONSOLIDATED OVERALL RESPONSE UPDATE AT A GLANCE

States	No. of Districts	No. of Villages	No. of Families Covered	No. of People Reached
DRY RATION DISTRIBUTION				
Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Bihar, Kerala, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Uttar Pradesh	30	473	16046	80246
WASH KIT DISTRIBUTION				
Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha	66	1122	58646	293130
Distribution of Cooked Food				
Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh	12	24		3558
SPRAYING OF DISINFECTANT				
Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana	8	297	36135	180675
GOVERNMENT IDENTIFIED / USING CASA RESOURCE CENTRES AND OTHER UTILITIES				
Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh	7	1		420

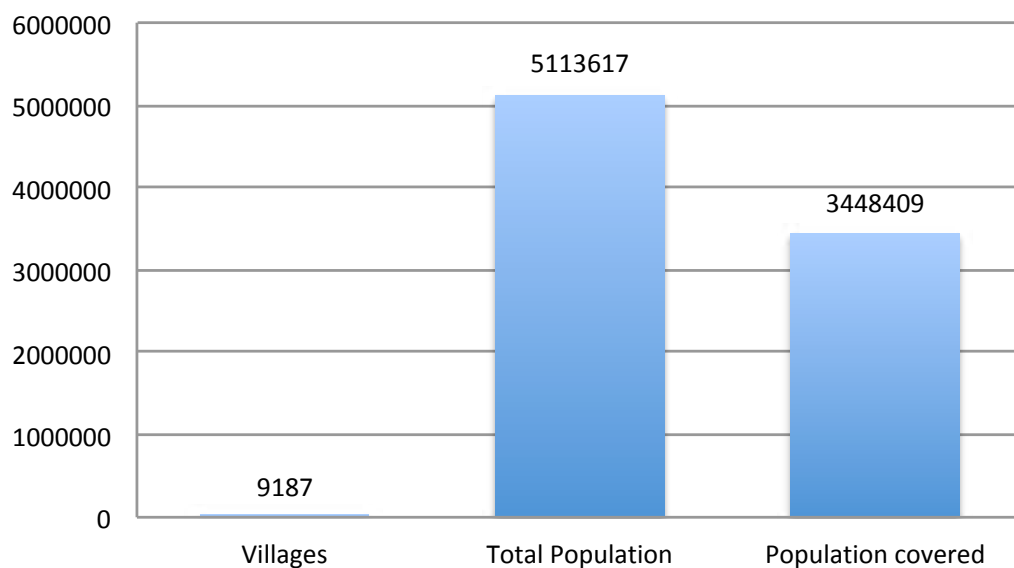
B. SUPPORT TO INSTITUTIONS UNDER HUMANITARIAN AID FUND (DKH)

Institutions	No. of Districts	No. of Villages	No. of Families	No. of People Reached
DRY RATION DISTRIBUTION				
Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana	29	389	10344	51720
WASH KIT DISTRIBUTION				
Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana	23	359	7880	39,400
HEALTH CAMPS				
Maharashtra	2	2		200
DISTRIBUTION OF COOKED FOOD				
States	Districts	No. of Villages	No. of People Covered	
Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand	7	37	9998	

C. CONSOLIDATED FIGURE OF OVERALL REACH OF MATERIAL AND OTHER DISTRIBUTION



D. OVERALL REACH OF AWARENESS INITIATIVES



GRAND TOTAL REACH OF THE RESPONSE

	Village	Total Population	Population Covered
A	1946	-	574741
B	9187	5113617	3448409
Total	11,133	-	4023150





Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic in India is part of the worldwide pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. India currently has the largest number of confirmed cases in Asia and has the third-highest number of confirmed cases in the world after the United States and Brazil. On 24 March 2020, the Government of India ordered a nationwide lockdown for 21 days and was subsequently extended several times, limiting movement of the entire 1.33 billion population of India as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 pandemic in India. The effects of lockdown on the disease cannot – and should not – be looked at in isolation. They are linked with their humanitarian effects, including unemployment, hunger, an unprecedented migration crisis, and widespread loss of access to healthcare.

Stringent restrictions halted most economic activities and caused millions of people, many of them daily wage earners, to lose their jobs and revenue streams. It was evident that it has impacted the entire country and every single citizen. Daily wage workers and those employed by small businesses have taken the worst hit. These include hawkers, roadside vendors, workers employed in the construction industry and many who eke out a living by pushing handcarts and rickshaws. The current situation is grim and the future is uncertain for millions of citizens.

Indian guest workers (migrants) during the COVID-19 pandemic have faced multiple hardships. With factories and workplaces shut down due to the lockdown imposed in the country, millions of guest workers had to deal with the loss of income, food shortages and uncertainty about their future. Following this, many of them and their families went hungry. Thousands of them then began walking back home, with no means of transport due to the lockdown.

Many guest workers also died due to the lockdown, with reasons ranging from starvation, suicides, exhaustion, road and rail accidents, police brutality and denial of timely medical care. The gap between rich and poor has widened because of the pandemic. The marginalised communities of India have paid a heavy price in the fight against coronavirus.

As for the relationship between gender and the nationwide lockdown, the suffering that came as a result of the latter was atrocious and inhuman. Women, children, sexual minorities, disabled persons and the elderly are some of the most vulnerable groups within the migration sector in India, mainly due to lack of social sensitivity and economic backwardness; the lockdown only widened this gap. Imagine women - young and old, pregnant and disabled walking 200 kilometres at a stretch, with limited food and water, no toilet facilities and no privacy for days. Women, children and disabled guest workers had to reverse migrate almost immediately on a day they did not anticipate, the consequences of such acts, both mentally and physically, are colossal.

The accommodation of Transgender persons in case of being tested positive hasn't been addressed by the Indian government, Manipur being the only state in India which has provided separate wards for Transgender persons who are COVID-19 positive. Gender affirmative healthcare and social acceptance go hand in hand; India fails to acknowledge the same as a society.

Furthermore, gender-based violence is only rising in India under the lockdown as the freedom of movement stands restricted all over the country. Women and children are the most vulnerable to domestic violence and they're now compelled to live with their abusers 24x7, instead of having the freedom to temporarily leave that environment under the guise of work, school or merely removing themselves from that situation.



Migration and Livelihood

Migration is a livelihood strategy adopted by millions of people in India. Most of the migration for work and employment is directed towards urban centres. About half of the urban population are guest workers and one-fifth of them are inter-state guest workers.

The spread of COVID 19 across the country and the subsequent lockdown has badly affected the lives of the underprivileged section of our population especially migrants, small and marginalised farmers, landless labourers, unorganised sectors, single women, women-headed household, destitute and aged people with no support.

The fear of loss of livelihood has been witnessed in the large exodus of millions of guest workers returning to their native places. Most of them travel barefoot with their families, bundling up all their belongings: including infants, toddlers, pregnant women, youth, and disabled, elderly, covered hundreds of kilometres without any basic amenities. The current migration has been considered as the largest post-partition migration in the history of India. Marginalised communities with low income are more likely to be affected by coronavirus as they mostly live in small areas and are engaged in informal livelihood avenues and thus the first one to be affected. Their inability to bear the cost of health care services, nutritional food makes the situation worse for them. The uncertain future in front of them, little savings and poor social security net make them more vulnerable and deprived. **Their social and food security safety nets need to be strengthened and advocacy needs to be done at various levels to ensure that the poor and marginalised get their legitimate entitlements.**

From a gender lens, loss of livelihood also applies significantly to sexual minorities, especially Transgender Community, are the most exposed to vulnerabilities during the COVID-19 lockdown as their main sources of livelihood are begging and sex work – both met through social involvement and contacts. Loss of livelihood has also affected millions of domestic helpers, most being women, as physical distancing guidelines have resulted in them staying home and not taking up any work. Similar experiences are now a reality for millions of street vendors with a significant chunk of elderly women or children are now homeless or jobless or both. During this unfortunate time, deep social inequalities have been exposed more sharply than ever. With little to no food, money, no family for support and care, casual workers are paid on a daily basis on the amount of work done and have no buffer, reserves, etc. for emergencies or, medicines and they often live on the edge.

For CASA, urgency lies in the fact that the rural economy needs to be revived as soon as possible. Apart from agriculture and agriculture allied activities, the focus should also be on non-farm sectors like artisans, handloom, handicraft, small cooperatives, processing units etc. The idea of skill-building and setting up small scale industries in rural areas, in addition to prioritising agriculture and the allied sector could be one of the best ways to tackle the current situation. CASA has started collecting data to map the skills available amongst guest workers who have arrived. The skill-related database will enable CASA to design livelihood strategies for the guest workers in the long run. The skill gap assessment and preparing a plan for using skills of returnees for local development, promotion of local enterprises that focuses on non-farm sectors are very critical in the current

context. Policy advocacy interventions can also be planned with an aim to give relief to farmers for loan waiver as the lockdown has jeopardized the agriculture very badly.

Developing a micro plan with panchayat, to raise demand for work at various places in CASA's operational area have been prepared in consultation with the community and as per the need and requirement and submitted to panchayats for MGNREGA work. Special support, especially to communities like physically handicapped have been identified and provided dry ration like rice, pulses etc through community contribution and a request has been put at the panchayat and block level officials for future support.

Linkage and collaboration with government departments like agriculture for supply and support of agricultural inputs: During the lockdown, community consume the paddy/ wheat seeds which are stocked and kept for cultivation. Linkages with departments help them in accessing benefits in terms of seeds/manure/technology etc.

NTFP collection and marketing: Non-Timber Forest Produce is another very vital part of the tribal economy. This became more important during COVID-19 time. Government has allowed collecting NTFP with certain Do's and Don'ts. CASA has encouraged forest dwellers in our operational areas to collect NTFP and sell it at the local market though nationwide lockdown has cast a shadow on the trade of NTFP as weekly markets are not functioning and traders are not allowed to move freely in nearby towns.

This is also the time to think about the social security slabs, fixed income, special packages, housing, health care, cash transfers and other social measures so that the guest workers don't have to go through such difficulty, depending on others.

The sudden emergence of the crisis of guest workers as a result of COVID-19 lockdown has flagged the issue of re-strategizing our approach while integrating concerns of guest workers with development interventions. Issues related to Hunger, Food Security, Livelihood and Health issues will emerge with more intensity in the near future and affecting a larger population, where our priorities need to be focussed on the identification of most needy and vulnerable people. For this purpose, we need to develop sharp criterion for the inclusion of people in future programme interventions so that our resources reach to most needy and disadvantaged people in the post-COVID-19 scenario.

Contextual understanding of the whole scenario with a Disaster Risk Reduction perspective and its integration to our development interventions are very much required as this has become more challenging than any other Disaster we have faced till date, where our physical presence is restricted not only because of the fear of infection but this is the technical requirement as well to deal with the pandemic with different capacities and skills along with a variety of preparedness available at various levels e.g. at CASA level, Partners level and community level etc.



Standing by the Guest Worker



"I was shattered after returning from Delhi...." says Barman.

Barman Murmu is a resident of the Khairwa village under the Bori block of Sahibganj district in Jharkhand, India. The village dwellers primarily belong to the Santhal Tribe and earn their livelihood through agricultural activities. During the lean period, they migrate to Delhi, Kolkata and Kerala for six months to earn against the unavailability of local employment. The scenario is similar for Barman, who survived similarly with his wife, a daughter and two sons.

For the past five years, the family has migrated to Delhi and earns their living for six months. Barman and his wife, Manjali Baski, work in a sugarcane field in Delhi. Their twelve years old daughter Chhita stays home to look after her two brothers Kishun and Sagen, who are six and four years old respectively. The regular gaps of six months each, severely hinder the educational career of the children while the family keeps migrating and returning to meet daily expenses.

"Working in the sugarcane fields, we both earn Rs.12,000 collectively every month. Under these circumstances, it is challenging to survive in another state. We scarcely manage to meet our additional expenses, like medicines and the rent for accommodation. Our earning is not sufficient for the family."

Barman was in Delhi when the COVID-19 pandemic was announced by the WHO (World Health Organization) and a nationwide lockdown imposed on 24th March 2020. "My co-workers started to depart from the place. All the workers were in a state of shock and the dilemma of what to do next prevailed. So I immediately planned my way back home. I boarded a bus with my family and returned to my village Khairwa, Jharkhand from Delhi on 29th March 2020."

"We went through a medical check-up after arriving at the village and were asked to stay in Home Quarantine for 14 days. While we couldn't go out to work or earn, we were provided with dry ration kits that comprised 20kgs of Rice, 2kgs of pulses and 2 ltrs of Mustard oil. This has been of great help to us." But the troubles didn't end there. The returnee

guest workers were in need of a secured means of livelihood to sustain them during the pandemic lockdown.

On 22nd April 2020, the coordinator of CASA Boro unit attended a meeting of Governmental organisations and NGOs presided by the district collector of Sahibganj. The main purpose of the meeting was to provide jobs to the returned guest workers under the MGNREGA scheme. Following the necessary measures, the members of CASA visited the villages to spread awareness among the guest workers. The returnees were advised to apply for the Job Cards under MGNREGA.

Barman had no job card under MGNREGA. The village youth cadre Suresh Murmu helped Barman to apply for the job card on 14th May'2020 after being approached by Mina Madeen, a volunteer of CASA. Barman received his job card on 22nd of May, 2020. He got employed in a land levelling work for 21 days. Barman earned Rs 200/- per working day and made a total of Rs. 8400/- from his work in June.

"I was shattered after returning back from Delhi. During the quarantine period, I was worried about how I should take care of my family. But I'm thankful to the CASA team members for guiding and helping me through this time. Their support has got me a job card and I am grateful for it.", says Barman.

CASA aims to reach the people in desperate need of assistance and help to reshape their lives during these extraordinary times.

The COVID-19 crisis has forced India to finally acknowledge the Guest Worker.

For decades, millions of workers have moved from state to state and some to shores abroad, looking for opportunities and livelihoods. The international scope of this pandemic has ensured that no section of people is left unaffected. Images of millions of guest workers trudging across hundreds of kilometres - some even losing their lives in the attempt - have brought forth the severity of the ruthless lockdown. In a sense, this is a refugee crisis now and not merely a migrant crisis.

With the adverse outcomes of the pandemic, the plight of the guest workers and their livelihood has come to a dire situation. Host community's implication and the implication that could happen in the places from where the guest workers returned leads to questions on the uncertainties and the possible certainties that could emerge. The Humanitarian sector needs to ponder upon the thought, whether this possibility could emerge or should it emerge? These guest workers also deserve a **Life with Dignity**.

CASA'S Response

CASA's response has been in a sustained manner ensuring the reach is increased and the marginalised and vulnerable groups' needs are addressed. Since the lockdown, CASA has been addressing the issues of Reverse Migration and most of the COVID-19 specific programmes address the issues of migration. As of 30th June, CASA's reach through material distribution/other support has crossed 1 lakh families and reached more than 5 lakhs people. This was accomplished because of the commitment of staff and the community-based mechanism which CASA has developed. Fig 1 gives a quick analysis of CASA's response so far. As of 30th June, the reach in terms of material distribution/other support in terms of the spread of various sectors.

Material Distribution/Other Support Spread fig. 1.

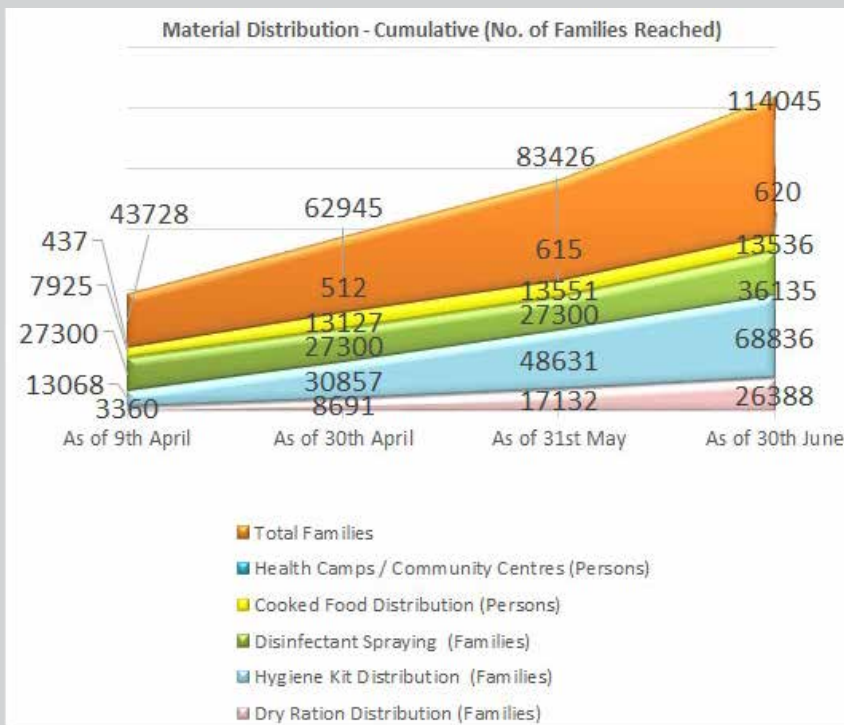
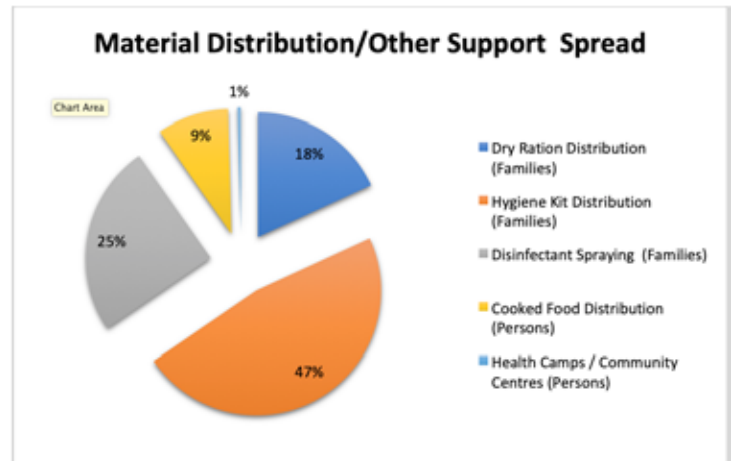
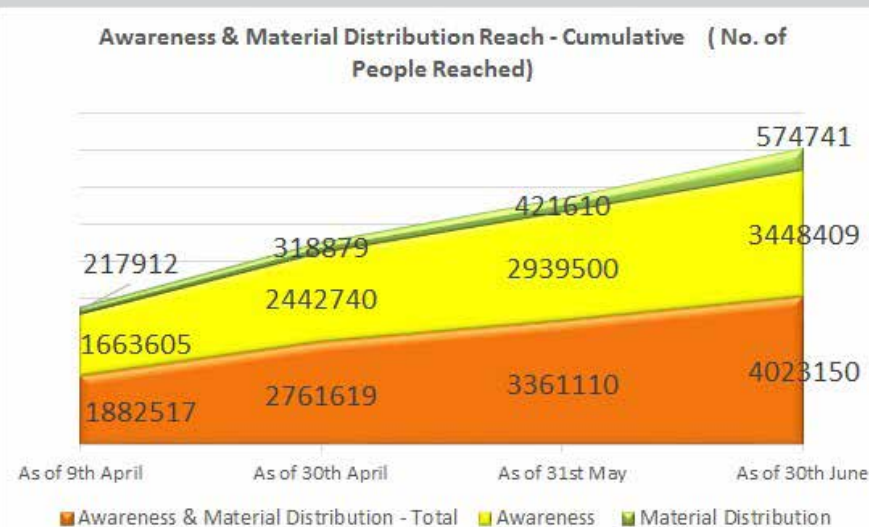


Fig. 2 and fig. 3 shows the progression of our work which started in March 2020. The analysis gives the picture since the beginning of the response activities; there has been consistency in spreading awareness among the communities.

CASA feels that this is a crucial part of the programmes as trends show that the spread can be contained only through physical distancing and good hygienic practices. It is essential that awareness activities are continued and more importantly the community should take a lead alongside the Federations and the Community Based Organisations developed by CASA which have been playing a key role in the COVID 19 Response.

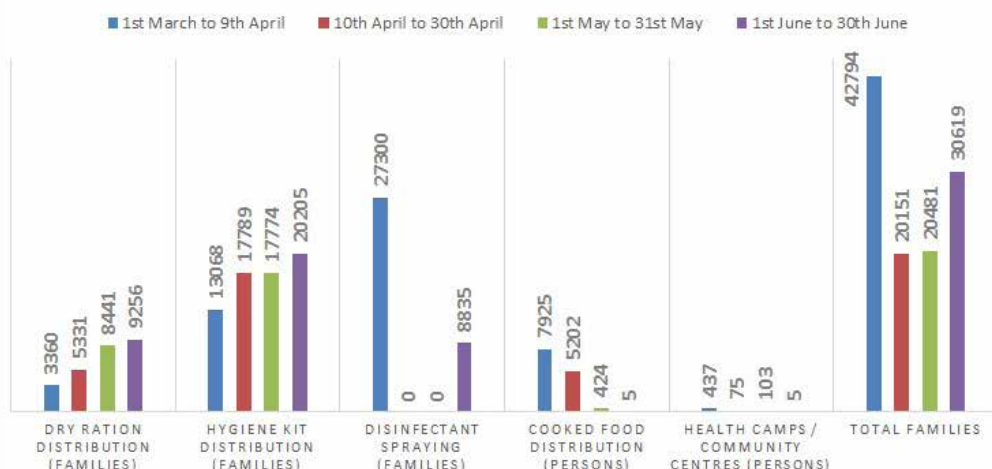
CASA's response has been consistent regardless of the changing trends in the community, where Awareness Initiatives continue to be one of the focused interventions with the involvement of the communities. Reaching 40 Lakhs plus (4 million-plus) people, CASA believes that communities have a major role and they should internalize.



(above) Material Distribution - Cumulative (No. of Families Reached) fig. 2.

(below) Awareness & Material Distribution Reach - Cumulative (No. of People Reached) fig. 3.

MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION : MONTH-WISE, SITREP PERIOD (NO. OF FAMILIES REACHED)



AWARENESS & MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION REACH - MONTH - WISE, SITREP PERIOD (NO. OF PEOPLE REACHED)

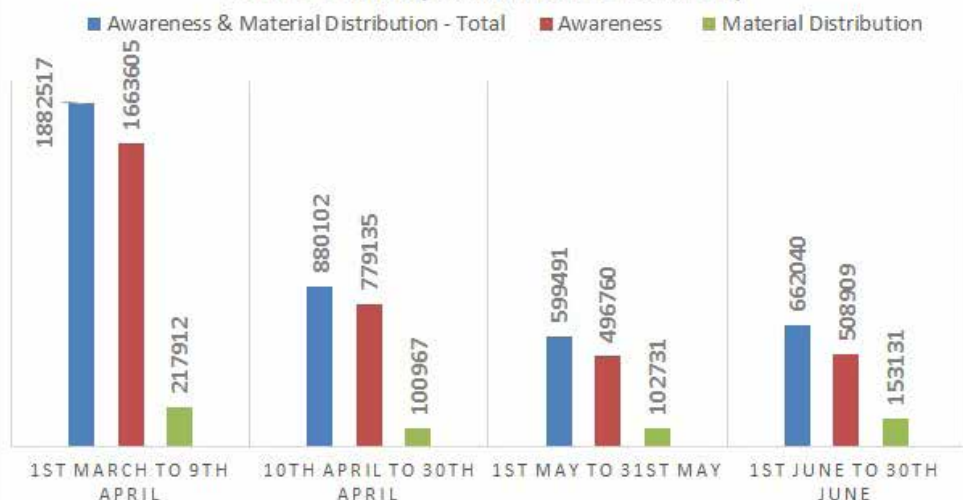


Fig 4 and fig.5 gives the picture of the activities CASA is proactively engaging since the commencement of COVID 19 response, given periods relating to every SITREPS. During April / May, more stress was given for prevention and hygienic practices where the support for the affected communities due to the lockdown, also started.

As early as March from the beginning of the lockdown, CASA initiated support of providing Dry Ration to the guest workers which continued in April and increased in the month of May and June. With a focus on the guest workers, support was also rendered to the vulnerable communities and the unreached communities.

Through the response till now, CASA has been consistent in its support and as seen awareness also forms a crucial part of CASA's response and every month significant numbers of people are reached since the response started.

(above) Material Distribution: Month-Wise, SITREP Period (No. of Families Reached) fig. 4.

(below) Awareness & Material Distribution Reach - Month - Wise, SITREP Period (No. of People Reached) fig. 5

MGNREGA is the need of the hour as millions of guest workers have come back to their villages with no livelihood options. As a result, there has been a surge in demand for work under MGNREGA in the past few weeks. MGNREGA is primarily for unskilled work. Masons are getting work under MGNREGA but the scheme has its own limitations for other skilled workers. This is an area of concern. CASA has taken this opportunity by facilitating the process of demanding jobs and those who have no job cards to provide cards with the help of sarpanch and panchayat secretary. Efforts have been taken to include most of the cardholders for MGNREGA work and the work has been started in most of our operational areas.

As agriculture session is coming and people have no money to hire labour in this condition, CASA has encouraged our leaders to motivate the community to work collectively from each other in which time and money will be saved. Our existing strength of people's organization, youth leaders, platforms, networks, CBOs will have to be reoriented because of existing coronavirus crisis and possible ways to deal with the situation.



Awareness- The Harbinger of Change

"I was in a dilemma of whether I will get a job in my area or not."- Rajendra

"Those days in quarantine were the toughest of times as I was not allowed to go out in my village. I was in a dilemma of whether I will get a job in my area or not."- Rajendra

Rajendra, age 42 is a resident of TaragutuAmbatoli, a small hamlet in the Gumla district of Jharkhand. The village, encircled by hills and green forests, remains untouched by development. The villagers mostly belong to the Oraon tribe whose chief occupation is agriculture. Within the periphery of this agro-based village, Rajendra heads a family of 5 including him, his wife, and three children.

Due to the lack of irrigation facilities, the farmers depend on rain and their agricultural period spans from June to January. For the remainder of the year, most of the youths migrate to Uttar Pradesh to earn at the Brick Kilns.

For the past 4 years, Rajendra has been migrating to Uttar Pradesh for a span of six months to work in the brick kilns. "We workers reside near the brick factory. Hearing about the pandemic, we took it very casually like other diseases. While watching the television we heard the news about the nationwide lockdown and we were new to such a situation. All of us were in tremendous pressure that everything would be closed from 24th March 2020."

The UP government arranged a vehicle for the guest workers to revert to Jharkhand but when Rajendra arrived at his village, his life took an unpredictable turn. "After all the medical checkups in the village, I was in home quarantine

for 14 days. Those days in quarantine were the toughest of times as I was not allowed to go out in my village. I was in a dilemma of whether I will get a job in my area or not."

"While I was in-home quarantine, the Team of CASA visited our village to make the people aware of the COVID-19 pandemic and informed us about the safety measures from washing hands to practice physical distancing and also using the masks."

During the awareness program, Bilash Oraon, a volunteer of CASA, communicated about how MGNREGA job cards can help them get employment. Rajendra continues, "Due to the Nationwide lockdown, I thought that even if I have the job card, it will not help me in finding work. I have the MGNREGA card so it came as good news for me."

"When the quarantine period was over, I got employed for 20 days at a plantation and land development work site, near my village. I received Rs 194/- per working day. In the field, we use masks and follow physical distancing. We practice the regular washing of hands at home. I thank team CASA for sharing the dos and don'ts of COVID-19 and also making us aware of the job card facilities."

CASA looks forward to helping more individuals and families to survive through these unpredictable times with social security and adequate help.



DIRECT DISTRIBUTION AND IN COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL SUPPORT

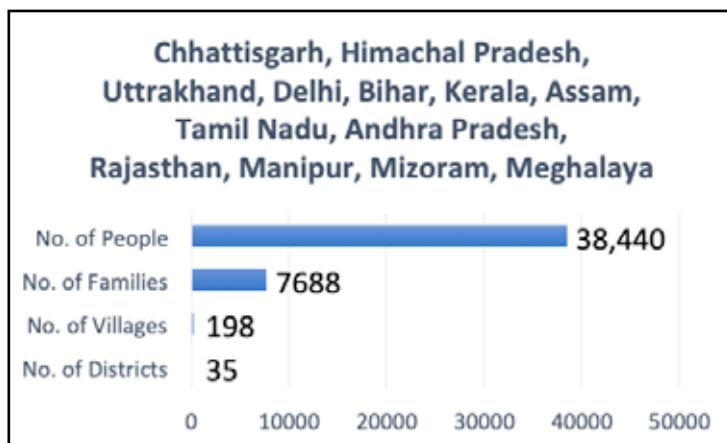
DRY RATION

Amid the on-going pandemic, physical distancing is a luxury that India's informal workforce of 450 million cannot afford. With the government lockdown order and inadequate state provisions for food distribution, several families are sleeping hungry in their homes, stranded at railway stations or state borders and other locations.

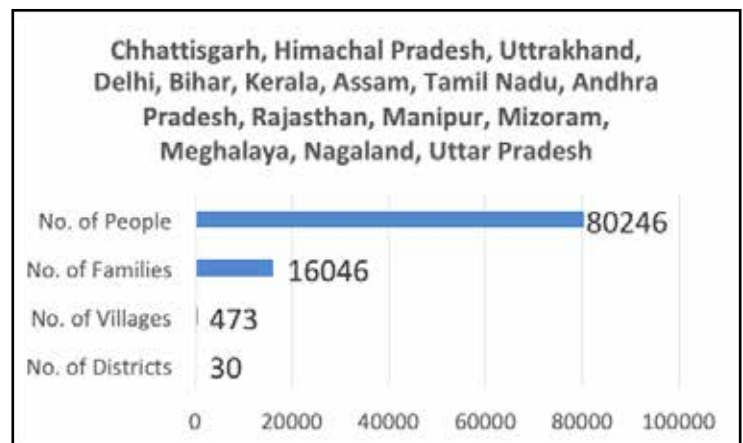
At this great hour of need, CASA in close coordination with State Governments & District Administrations has stepped in to provide relief by distributing DRY ration to thousands of people across the country especially to the marginalised and the low-income segment of the society comprising of daily wage workers, labourers, construction site workers, and needy people at old age homes and night shelters by adhering to all safety and hygiene measures.

DISTRIBUTION OF DRY RATION

AS OF 31ST MAY



AS OF 30TH JUNE





1ST JUNE TO 30TH JUNE

Sl.No	State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	Others	Total People
1	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	1	84	420
2	Assam	Goalpara, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong	43	1574	7870
3	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla, Betul	22	128 (26 persons)	536
4	Uttarakhand	Dehradun, Bageshwar Uttarkashi	11	554	2770
5	Rajasthan	Udaipur	53	120	600
6	Chattishgarh	Gariyaband	21	88	440
7	Nagaland	Tuensang, Peren	29	615	3075
8	Manipur	Ukhrul, Tengnoupal, Senapati, Thoubal, Wangjing, Imphal West	86	2122	10610
9	Mizoram	Serchhip, Aizawl, Champhai, Kolasib, Lawngtlai, Bungtlang, South, Lunglei	66	1780	8900
10	Meghalaya	East Jaintia Hills	4	1067	5335
11	Uttar Pradesh	Gazipur	7	250	1250
	11	28	343	8356	41806

Far from Home, Near to Starvation

40-year-old Babli Tulsiram of Ambada, Madhya Pradesh, has a family of seven to look after. With the nationwide lockdown, the rate of unemployment has increased unprecedentedly, with Babli being no exception to this suffering.

Each year, her family migrates seasonally. This year, during the Kharif season, which is the most productive time for cultivation for farmers to maximise their output, she was compelled to undertake seasonal distress migration to the neighbouring district of Khargone, which is known for its extensive chilli cultivation.

Babli was working in the chilly fields when the lockdown was announced due to COVID-19.

"I no longer have a job at the chilly plantation. Far from home, we were worried and unable to provide food for our children."

They waited anxiously to return to their native village. With the end of the lockdown nowhere to be seen, the District Administration arranged a vehicle for them to return, but they had no money left to serve their basic needs.

"Essential foods and household items are either in short supply or charged at exorbitant rates. This adds to our burden of failing to maintain food security for our family, with the government support of 35 kilograms of rice not being enough."

On discovering Babli's dire conditions, CASA, in collaboration with partner organisation Spandan, provided dry ration and hygiene kits to Babli's family. "We could not have made it to the end of the lockdown if it wasn't for the support we received."

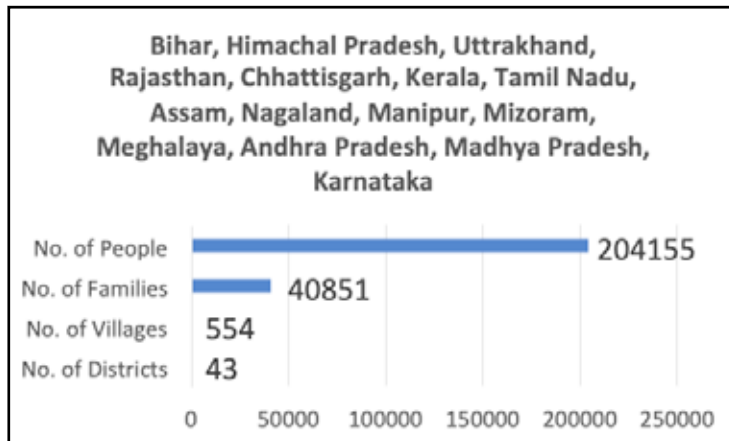
6.1.3. Distribution of Hygiene Kits

CASA is distributing hygiene kits from among the items such as soaps, sanitizers, face Masks, liquid Dettol, toothpaste, towels and sanitary pads, etc. to the communities. It is important to ensure that the communities who have been affected by the lockdown are made aware of the hygienic practices. The poor and the guest workers are exposed to higher risk and it is important to prevent them from being affected by COVID-19. In some places, the distribution of these items has been done alongside awareness programmes. This is crucial as more and more guest workers are returning to their respective village which enhances the vulnerability of the host communities as well.

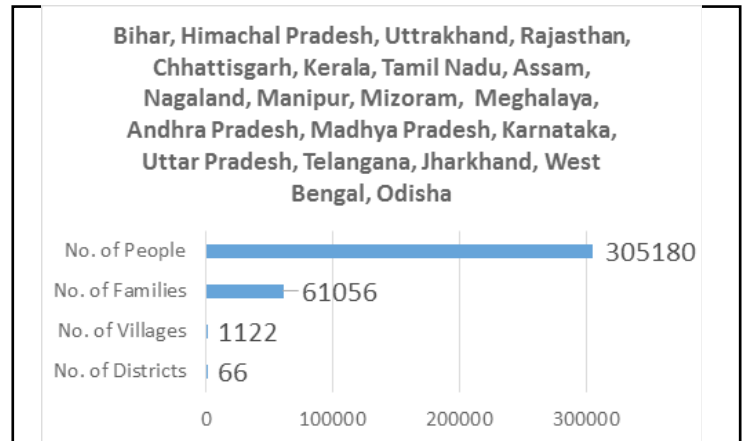


DISTRIBUTION OF HYGIENE KITS

AS OF 31ST MAY



AS OF 30TH JUNE



FROM 1ST JUNE TO 30TH JUNE

Sl. No	State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	Total Families	Total People
1	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	20	420	2100
2	Assam	Goalpara, Golaghat	28	1291	6459
3	West Bengal	Alipurduar	16	300	1500
4	Odisha	Keonjhar	30	500	2500
5	Jharkhand	Gumla, Sahibgunj	12	1258	6290
6	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul	12	650	3250
7	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla, Sagar, Sehore, Dhar, Betul	150	2410	7500
8	Himachal Pradesh	Kullu	4	130	650
9	Uttarakhand	Dehradun, Bageshwar, Uttarkashi	11	1039	5195
10	Rajasthan	Udaipur, Sirohi, Banswara	113	2680	10900
11	Chattishgarh	Gariyaband, Kanker, Koriya, Korba, Bilaspur, Rajnangaon, Jajgir and Champa, Balrampur, Bastar, Sarguja	106	2704	9020
12	Nagaland	Tuensang, Peren	29	117	585
13	Manipur	Ukhrul, Senapati, Thoubal, Kakching, Imphal West	86	2122	10610
14	Mizoram	Serchhip, Aizawl, Champhai, Lawngtlai, Lunglei	59	1750	8750
15	Meghalaya	East Jaintia Hills, West Garo Hills	10	1134	5670
16	Telangana	Suryapet, Khammam	8	150	750
17	Uttar Pradesh	Gazipur, Banda, Jalaun, Jhansi	48	1450	7250
	17	53	742	20105	100525

Helping People Who Help Themselves



Sharda Rakesh is a 44-year-old guest worker from Chouki, Uttar Pradesh. Her family migrated to Indore, Madhya Pradesh in search of work, as they did not have enough land to cultivate in their village, to earn a livelihood. There, her family of four were working as daily wage workers in an industrial area, earning 13000 per month which was enough to make ends meet.

Such interstate migrations are a common phenomenon in India. Rural-urban wage disparity and the emergence of new industries have resulted in better prospects like better job facilities, higher income, and other benefits to propel people to migrate

Uttar Pradesh is the leading state, contributing 25% to the internal migrants' population of the country.

However, it was due to the lockdown imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic that their lives came to a standstill. The industries soon began shutting down one by one, resulting in the loss of livelihood. Helpless, Sharda's family was forced to return to their village. They were among the 4.5 lakh migrants who returned to Uttar Pradesh amidst the lockdown after overcoming many odds.

The journey to reach home was extremely exhaustive. While they covered most of the distance by foot, they occasionally took the assistance of local people who were travelling to nearby places. With their savings running out, even bare necessities like food were getting out of their reach.

CASA, along with partner organization- SSMSS, surveyed Dhakrai as a part of their COVID-19 Response programme and came across the family's dire conditions. Since the time they had returned, they had not received any assistance from other organisations. After the survey, dry ration and hygiene kits were provided to the family to help them meet their needs. "I am grateful to the help I received when I needed it the most".

Opportunities for employment now exist in the agricultural fields of Sharda's native village itself. The family members go to work in the fields to earn a living and become self-sustainable.

6.1.4. Spraying of Disinfectant

Transmission of coronavirus occurs much more commonly through respiratory droplets than through objects and surfaces, like doorknobs, countertops, keyboards, toys, etc. Current evidence suggests that SARS-CoV-2 may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is the best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in households and community settings.

For controlling the spread of COVID-19, CASA has been actively working on spraying disinfectants at the community level. It is aimed at limiting the survival of the virus in the environments.

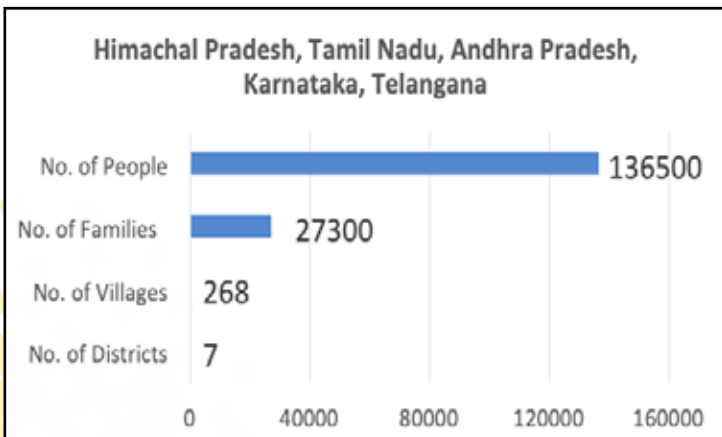
- **Cleaning** refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. It does not kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.
- **Disinfecting** refers to using chemicals, for example, EPA-registered disinfectants, to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.



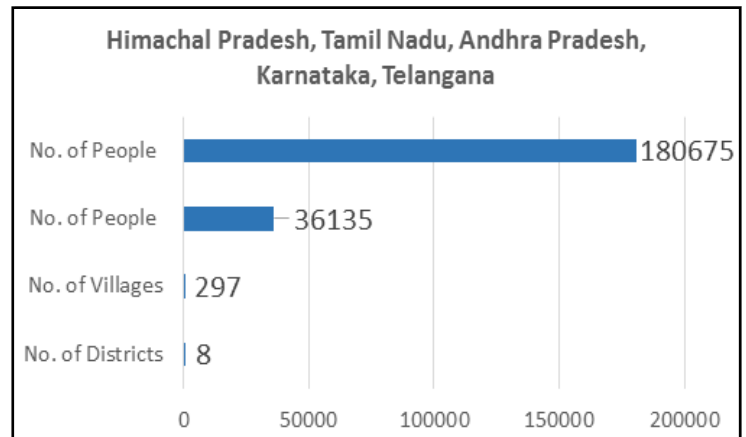
Interestingly as a part of Disinfectant Spraying, a foot-operated sanitiser dispenser based on locally available resources was established in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh under COVID-19 response program to mitigate the threats of coronavirus. This sanitiser dispenser was set up in Osan village of Diyar Panchayat of Kullu block in collaboration with Chetna Samiti Kullu. This is an initiative in collaboration with Chetna Samiti Kullu to design and install foot-operated sanitizer dispenser using local resources available. Setting up of sanitiser Dispenser work was done by the volunteers of the Chetna Samiti Kullu.

SPRAYING OF DISINFECTANT

AS OF 31ST MAY



AS OF 30TH JUNE

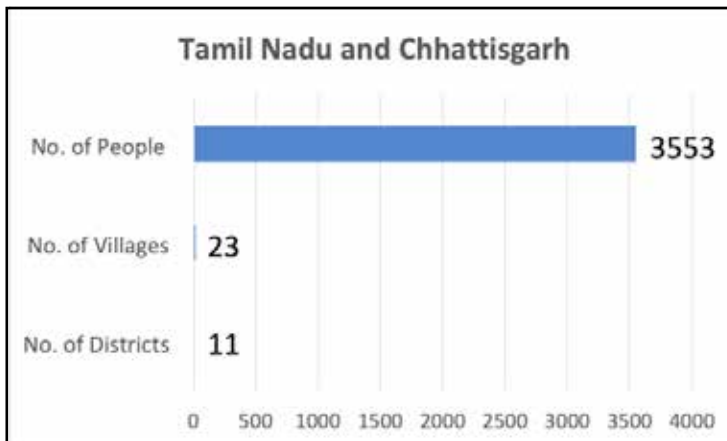


FROM 1ST JUNE TO 30TH JUNE

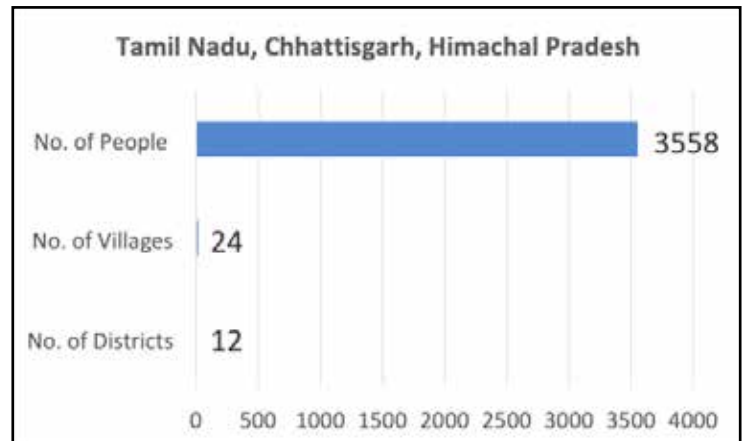
Sl.No	State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	No. of Families	No. of People
1	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	17	810	4050
2	Himachal Pradesh	Kullu	1	25	125
3	Telangana	Suryapet, Khammam	34	8000	40000
	3	4	52	8835	44175

DISTRIBUTION OF COOKED FOOD

AS OF 31ST MAY



AS OF 30TH JUNE



1ST JUNE TO 30TH JUNE

Sl.No	State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	No. of People
1	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	1	5
	1	1	1	5

CASA RESOURCE / COMMUNITY CENTRES IDENTIFIED / USED FOR COVID-19 BY GOVERNMENT

AS OF 31ST MAY

State	No. of Districts	No. of Villages	Capacity / Reach	Facility
Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Chattishgarh	7	7	415	Centre Identified for Quarantine and used by Guest Workers

1ST JUNE TO 30TH JUNE

Sl.No	State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	Capacity / Reach	Facilities Provided
1	Uttarakhand	Bageshwar	1	5	Mask, Sanitizers, Beds

AS OF 30TH JUNE

State	No. of Districts	No. of Villages	Capacity / Reach	Facility
Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Chattishgarh	7	7	420	Centre Identified for Quarantine and used by Guest Workers



Response under PMC II

CASA and Bread for the World (BftW) have a long-standing partnership, due to a common understanding of the prevailing socio-economic and political context.

The partnership brought into focus, groups of development organisations for interventions around critical issues affecting the poor. The aim is to build a collective understanding on issues and create action plans (of different stakeholders) for different levels. This process of partnership is based on enabling the agencies to sustain with the needed support and accompaniment. The partners who are supported are also provided accompaniment in **Planning, Monitoring and Coordination (PMC)**. CASA is partnering with 45 Local NGOs under this programme in COVID-19 response.

Under PMC-II program, the focus of the partnership is to Transfer Power and functions from BftW to CASA, in the quest for the same to be gradually transferred to the people's organizations through their networks and forums. Thus, the partnership has a very strong value base, which relies on the principles of equity, equality, participation, ownership, transparency, transfer of power, authority and decision making to the grassroot levels.

The PMC-II Forum and Network Support programme are planned to facilitate overall goals of the partnership. Visualizing the pandemic situation worldwide of which India is no exception, CASA requested BftW for allocating funds from the regular development programmes for support in battling COVID- 19. The community at large and the daily earners, in particular, were in distress due to the severe and acute health emergency and humanitarian crisis caused by the coronavirus outbreak. The fund allocations were made in the ongoing programme area, particularly in 9 states viz. Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

The purpose of this programme, under COVID-19 response, is to increase awareness on preventive measures, develop linkages with service providers, building of village institutions and support relief measures to needy and vulnerable communities.

Activities Done Under PMC II



DRY RATION

4 States
6 Districts
85 Villages
969 (+26 persons) Families
4866 People



HYGIENE KITS

5 States
13 Districts
205 Villages
5,999 Families
29,995 People



DISINFECTANT

1 State
1 District
1 Village
25 Families
125 People



COOKED FOOD

1 State
1 District
1 Village
5 People

Response Programme in Kolkata Metropolitan - Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative

Almost the entire population of the Kolkata Metropolitan Slum Area consists of wage earners involved in the informal sector.

Indian cities have about 10 million street vendors and this adds up for 15 per cent of the urban workforce. Adding up to the extended family and supply chain, street vending is second only to the agricultural sector as per sociologist Rita Jyothi. Women, children, the disabled, and the elderly with chronic health conditions are the worst hit by COVID-19. Most of the women who work as domestic helpers have become redundant now. Apart from this, the needs of disabled individuals have gone unnoticed. The proposed COVID-19 response is directed towards the slum dwellers (100%) who are jobless and stranded because of the lockdown, and the daily wage earners (100%) who do not have work at present. The programme is inclusive in its approach and emphasizes on women, girls, children, Transgenders, and elderly people having a chronic illness, who are the most vulnerable to the impact of the pandemic.

The operational area of the programme is as follows :

Kobikhet, Hossain Shah, EJC Junction, Mahadeb Talab, Brace Bridge, Khalbari, Goragacha (Unauthorised Slums), Tiljala, Darapara, Auddy Bagan, Delhi Serampur Road, Park Circus Railway Line squatter settlements, Topsia, GJ Khan Road, Tiljala Lane, Tiljala Masjid Bari, Canal Side Squatter Settlement, Darga Road, Tiljala Road, Bright Street, Kasia Bagan, Karaya Road, Meher Ali Road, Durga Charan Banerjee Street, Modonmohon tola, SovabazarTarikhana, Nimtala, Garhpar, Bhangamath, Dhakuria, Panchanantala

The work has been initiated and the distribution will be done in July, where the team is expecting to reach 5120 families.





University of Texas Students Provided Dry Ration and Wash Kit to Sirupudi Village

Students of the University of Texas (UT), Austin, USA conduct various projects as part of their curriculum.

Projects for Underserved Communities (PUC-UT) are innovative projects, designed to provide UT students with the opportunity to collaborate with communities in foreign countries and apply their knowledge to solve real-world problems. CASA is collaborating with UT from 2015 to facilitate the students of UT every year for various development projects, aimed at eradicating poverty and injustice.

This year, they planned to construct a Community Learning Centre at Sirupudi village, Nagaram Mandal, Andhra Pradesh. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students were not able to visit India. Hence, the student's team of PUC 2020 has mobilized some funds by themselves to support the SC and ST community in Sirupudi village. With the support of the student's team, CASA provided Dry Ration and Wash Kit along with creating awareness amongst 84 families in Sirupudi village.

Sirupudi is a remote village in Nagaram Mandal in Andhra Pradesh, inhabited by 84 SC (Schedule Caste) and ST (Schedule Tribe) families. Residing on a small plot of land, these SC and ST families who live in thatched houses work as agriculture coolies. Apart from this they also in the field of pisciculture; collecting snails, shells and catching fish in small ponds.

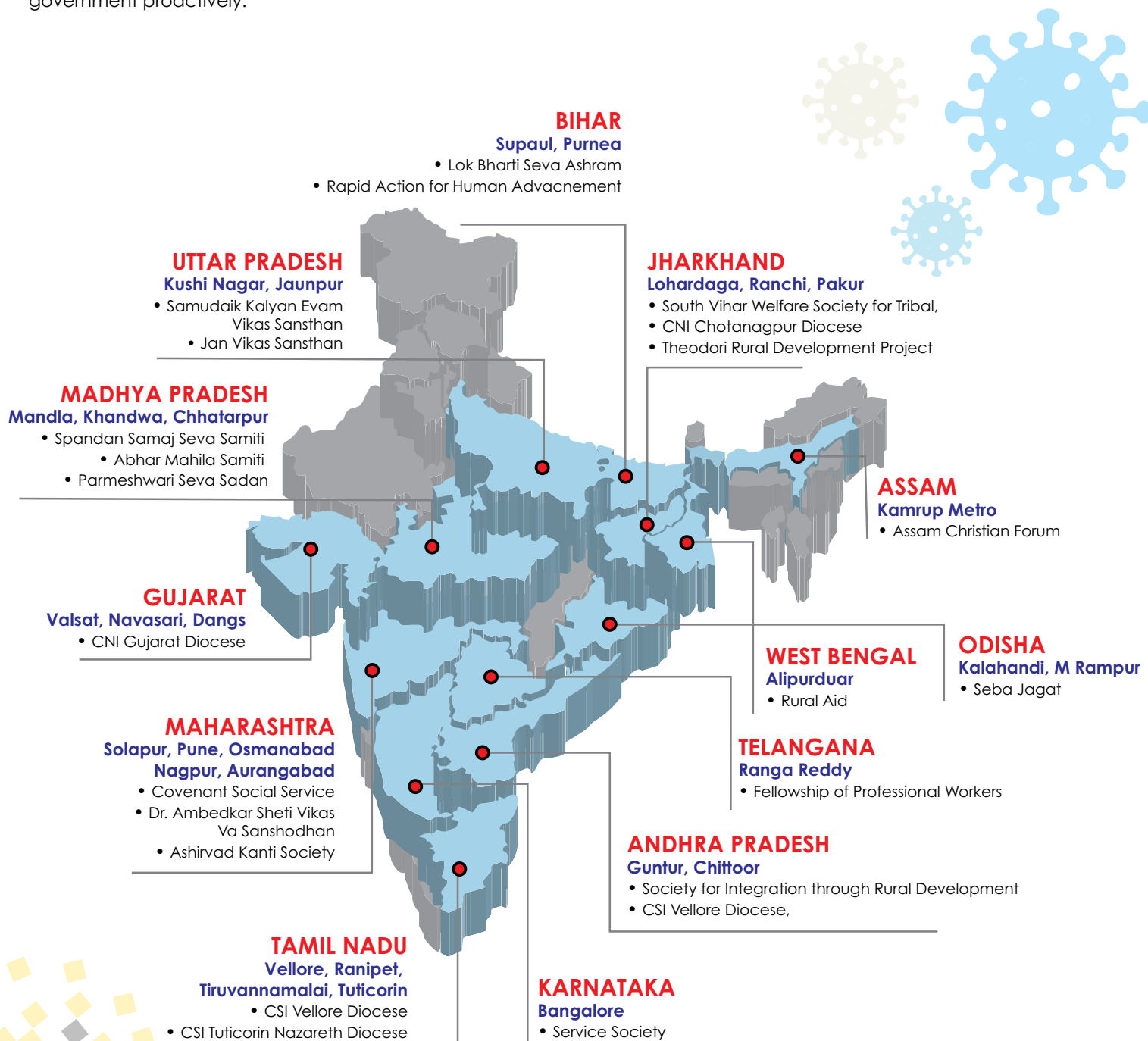
The field of manual work provides employment for some villagers, who are engaged in garbage cleaning and digging pits. The women of the village do domestic work, cleaning nearby villages. While working as a domestic help, they are sometimes served food, which is usually the previous day's leftovers.

This community comes under a primitive tribal community.



RESPONSE THROUGH PARTNERS UNDER HUMANITARIAN AID FUND – DKH MECHANISM

CASA through the support of DKH under its humanitarian response on COVID – 19, has now reached more than 10,000 families, where the most vulnerable communities have been supported with Dry Ration or both Dry Ration and Hygiene kits. This support has been immensely useful to vulnerable groups. As the programme was done through the local agencies/institutions, it gained momentum and helped CASA to reach the unreached through these local agencies/institutions. It is well known that in COVID 19 response, the local agencies have played a crucial role and it was significant to note that 22 agencies/institutions who received support under this mechanism, have been able to target the neediest including the guest workers. This support was useful for the local agencies/institutions also to strategise their response and engage with the government proactively.



Voicing Empathetic Solidarity with the Most Subjugated Community in India



A caste-based hereditary profession that is passed down from generations, with a tainted legacy is Manual Scavenging. The community of manual scavengers, caught in the shackles of age-old oppression and casteism, remains untouched by technological advancements. Not only have they been doubly marginalised of social inequality and injustice, but also have been cruelly exploited to unparalleled lengths in human history.

The types of sanitation work vary significantly over the type of employment: governmental, contractual or daily wage-based for which they receive remuneration. There is no standard average wage. Despite the stringent laws framed

to safeguard the community, weaker implementation of the laws has kept the practice prevalent all across the nation. The discontinued manual scavengers work as municipality sweepers or contractual labourers in the urban colonies. They work under unhealthy conditions, without safety gears and numerous deaths have been reported while cleaning the septic tanks.

There are around 80 families from the sweeper community in the Machhlisahar block of Jaunpur District in Uttar Pradesh. They earn their livelihood as contractual municipality labourers or daily-wagers. While the pandemic has led to an imposition of the nationwide lockdown, it has consequently made the sweeper community more vulnerable. The concerns raised by them encompasses the lack of residential space to practice physical distancing, with loss of income, which no matter how insignificant, used to get them a loaf of bread.

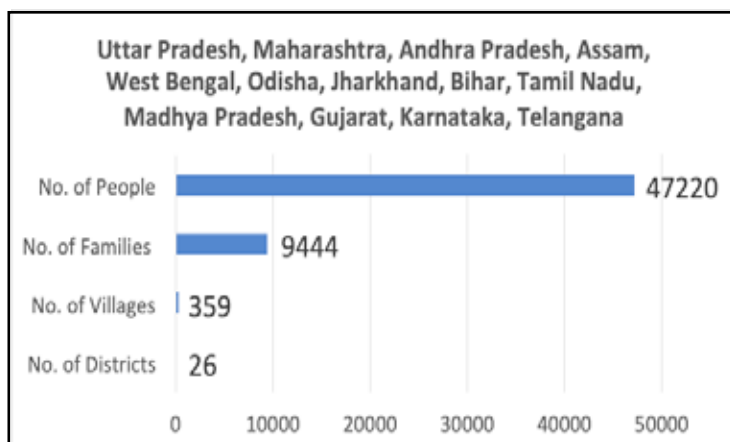
The Story of Mehrun Nisha, a member of the community, revolves around these critical issues. "I have five daughters and two sons. My eldest son and I work as municipality sweepers. My wife is also a sweeper in the residential area. We used to earn Rs. 3000 and Rs. 5000 respectively. However, due to the lockdown, we are left without a source of income."

Mehrun Nisha has no confidence in the government initiatives and expects no support. Social discrimination, layered with failures of schemes and initiatives, poor enforcement of laws, corruption, casteism, and repugnant ignorance has exploited them brutally. Other families also share their painful narrative on discrimination in legal redressal for claiming entitlements, fair-wages, decision-making processes, education, health facilities, mainstream provisions, and welfare programs.

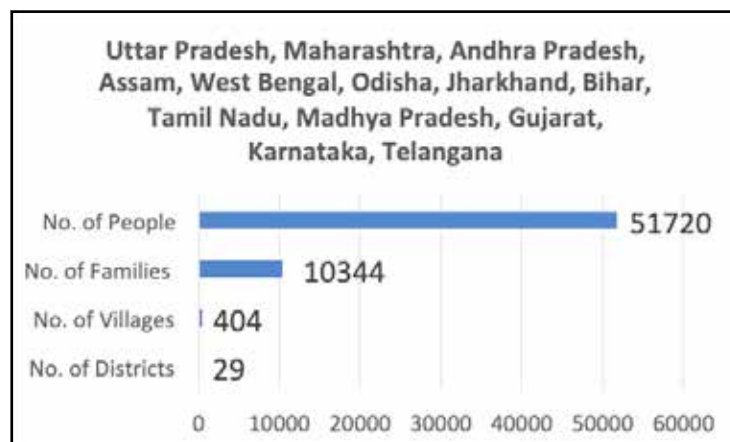
CASA extended a helping hand in providing dry ration kits and wash kits to a total of 46 families who are facing such adversities. The ration would suffice for a month and has saved them from borrowing loans from the moneylenders. Though the world would hopefully recover from the pandemic, we are yet unsure if our society would recover from unjust prejudices anytime sooner.

DISTRIBUTION OF DRY RATION

AS OF 31ST MAY



AS OF 30TH JUNE



1ST JUNE TO 30TH JUNE

Sl.No	State	Districts	No. of Villages	No. of Families	No. of People
1	Tamil Nadu	Tuticorin, Tirupattur Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram	25	500	2500
2	Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	20	400	2000
	2	5	45	900	4500





Enduring the Apathy of a Prejudiced Society- The Transgender Community in the Lockdown

The Transgender Community has been stigmatised in relation to social prejudices since generation. The current COVID-19 lockdown has further derogated their predicament under sheer insensitivity and lack of consideration. The members of the Transgender Community earn on a daily basis from their interaction with people. They have lost their livelihood in the purview of social distancing. With the lack of housing facilities, the community resides in the overcrowded places that are prone to faster transmission of COVID-19. A number of adult Transgenders also suffer through the chronic condition of diabetes, arthritis or asthma. But the authorities have turned a blind eye to their plight.

Viji is an active Transgender, living in Thalamuthunagar, Thoothukudi. She lives with 13 members under the same roof. Her vocalisation of the grievances of the community addresses, "we are more vulnerable to infections due to weaker immune systems. Transgenders are at a greater risk of COVID-19 infection. The lack of food and nutritional security, housing, steady income and sanitation facilities have rendered the community completely insecure during the lockdown."

According to Viji, "The sudden lockdown announced by the government on 24th March rendered all helpless and desperate to meet our daily requirements. We were in

absolute poverty and now we're struggling in isolation. The government is providing funds to the daily wage labourers who are affected in the lockdown, but our community hasn't been taken into consideration, who are also daily wagers."

During this time, the Social Welfare Department of the CSI Thoothukudi - Nazareth Diocese with the support of CASA extended relief to a total of 200 Transgender persons from various places in Thoothukudi District. All the social distancing measures being followed, the listed members were supplied with 10 Kg Rice, sanitary items, and Groceries Kit by Rt. Rev. Dr. S.E.C. Devasahayam, the Bishop of Thoothukudi – Nazareth Diocese, under the supervision of Mr. Rajkumar, Tahsildar.

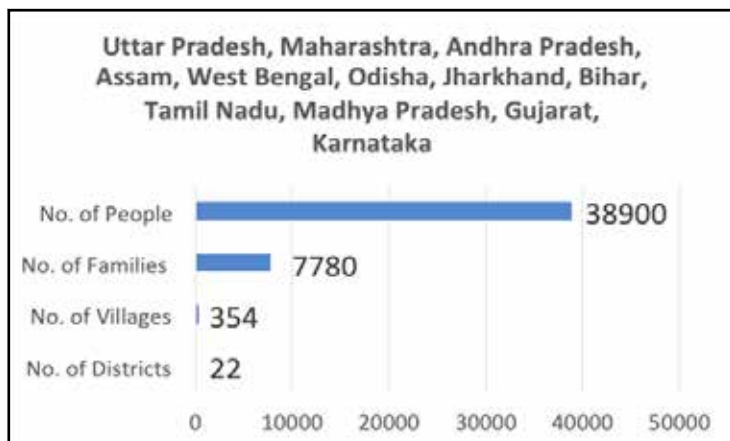
"I thank CASA and Social Welfare Department of CSI Thoothukudi – Nazareth Diocese for helping us meet our basic needs in these desperate times"

CASA aims to bear an active and empathetic role in improving the lives of all the marginalised individuals, irrespective of his/her gender identity and sexual orientation. We are dedicated to ensuring social equity and dignity to the subjugated section of society.

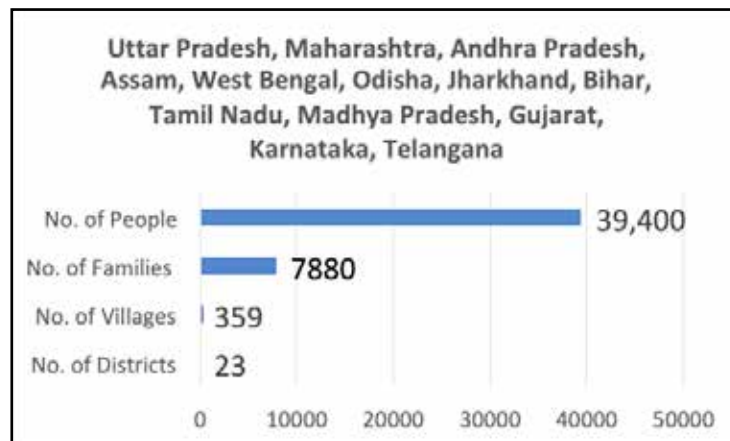


DISTRIBUTION OF HYGIENE KITS

AS OF 31ST MAY



AS OF 30TH JUNE



1ST JUNE TO 30TH JUNE

Sl.No	State	No. of Districts	No. of Villages	No. of Families	No. of People
1	Tamil Nadu	Tuticorin	5	100	500
	1	1	5	100	500



Brawling for a Dignified Life



Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India. Half of the population here is dependent on agricultural and allied activities or work as daily wage earners. Most of the daily wage earners migrate interstate as well as intrastate. It is also found that a lot of guest workers from the adjoining state like Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal come to work at brick kilns. Every year the labourers, with their families, migrate to the brick kilns of Uttar Pradesh. These labourers migrate under semi-bonded conditions due to acute shortage of sustainable livelihood options available at their native place. Another emerging phenomenon is that hiring migrant workers can be easily controlled and exploited, as they do not speak the same language as the local workers and hence remain divided. Currently, workers are stuck in brick kilns due to the nationwide lockdown, along with their families. Being seasonal workers and domicile of different states, they do not have a legal identity and therefore are not able to avail the benefits of the government schemes.

They work for 8- 10 months in brick kilns, at the most. After completing their work obligations and when the work is stopped at brick kilns during the rainy season, they go back to their home, taking an advance from their owners, which is adjusted when they return to work.

Workers are controlled and exploited by their contractors in lieu of delayed payment or non-payment of advance taken, with restriction on freedom of mobility. Advances are given with the condition that the labourers fulfil their obligation with the contractor. Needless to say, basic sanitation is absent at the worksite.

The one affected the most are children, for whom there is neither any amusement nor any form of recreation. The children of these labourers are not enrolled in any schools and they work along with their parents at brick kilns.

Children are a bonus to the contractors and brick kiln owners, as they can be employed to work at low wages and children help their parents to meet the daily targets. It is needless to say that the guest workers at brick kilns live a pathetic life with non-availability of health services, lack of

education and meagre income to meet both ends. One of the guest worker, Raju Mallah working at a brick kiln at Dudahi block in Kushinagar district, narrated his story. "Lives of guest workers are full of troubles and struggles."

His native place is in Ranchi of Jharkhand. Raju Mallahs shared that in 2018, he came in search of work with his wife and 3 children to Kushinagar district. Since October 2018, he and his wife, both are working in the brick kiln.

His wife shared that, due to lack of resources and money, they are not able to enrol their children in schools and in the area where they work, there are no schools for children to attend.

She said, "It seems that our children will also work as labourers."

Raju Mallah said that his wife also works in a brick kiln for extra money and the meagre wages only covers the expenses of food and other small necessities. They don't get sufficient money to save for future use. He expressed that their situation was never viable but by working on a daily basis, they could at least feed their children. Due to the outbreak of the pandemic and nationwide lockdown, their life has become miserable.

Adding to their burden of being stuck in the brick kiln with no transportation facilities, their families are not eligible for free food, dry ration and other benefits of government package, as they are not natives of the state of Uttar Pradesh.

As per Raju Mallah, this lockdown has compelled him to borrow Rs. 1,500 from the brick kiln owner for the sake of their family. He shared that his wife understands their situation but children are very young to understand this perilous situation of uncertainty, fear and insecurity.

Rs 1,500/- which he has borrowed from his owner will be compensated by deducting it from his wages. He shared that in this miserable situation, his family and other 500 guest workers families, working in nearby brick kilns have lost their hope.

According to Raju Mallah " Guest workers are fighting their battle not only against infectious diseases but also on various other grounds. One is coronavirus attacking our immune system and others are hunger, safety, basic needs of their family, women facing issues of feminine hygiene, hollowing us internally". Raju Mallah and his wife shared that when his family lost all hopes to get any kind of help, the relief material from CASA has emerged as a ray of hope, reviving our faith in humanity.

Around 454 families from 5 villages at brick kilns are being supported with dry ration kits and wash kits. CASA organization has not only provided dry ration but also kept in mind the feminine needs of women, by providing dignity kits. Due to this help, guest workers are no longer borrowing money and ration. This dry ration has proved to be sufficient for their family and it has provided them relief for more than one month.

Humanitarian Aid Fund - DKH: Special Programme

CASA through the support of DKH under its humanitarian response in COVID-19 proposes to cover 900 migrant families from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Guest workers during COVID-19 Pandemic have faced multiple hardships. Factories and workplaces shutdown due to the lockdown imposed in the country. Millions of guest workers and daily wage workers had to deal with the loss of income, food shortage and uncertainty about their future. Many of them and their families went hungry, thousands of them walked on the foot to back home with no means of transportation due to lockdown. Many guest workers also died due to the

lockdown with reasons ranging from starvation, suicides, exhaustion, road and rail accidents, police brutality and denial of timely medical care. Upon their return to their hometowns and villages they were ill-treated and faced discrimination. They were feared to be carrying coronavirus from the urban areas where they had been working. They faced assault and harassment from the people of their hometowns. Many of them belonged to the lower castes they had to face caste slurs as well.

The operational areas that are being planned to response under this programme are follows

State	Location	Implementation
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	CASA
	Rahatgarh	In Association with Shram shakti Mahila Seva Sansthan
	Astha	In Association with Nav Ankur Manav Kalyan Santha
	Nalchha	In Association with Vasudha Vikas Sansthan
Rajasthan	Bhindar and Vallabh Nagar blocks Udaipur district	In Association with Jagaran Jan Vikas Samiti
	Kuarabar block Udaipur district	In Association with Prayatna Samiti
	Jallara and Girva blocks Udaipur district	In Association with Apna Sansthan
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	CASA
	Kullu	In Association with Chetna Samiti Kullu
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	CASA
	Chakrata	In Association with Himalayan Jyoti Samiti
	Khari	In Association with Uttarakhand Jan Jagriti Santhan
	Kedarnath Valley , Rudrapur district	With the help of volunteer

Under this program there are two components.

- One is support of dry ration so that the immediate food security need is ensured among the most vulnerable 900 guest worker's families belonging to Schedule castes, women, single headed women, Transgenders, Nepali guest workers and persons with disability in the four states of India.

- Second component is Rs. 1000 cash transfer to the same families in their respective bank accounts so that these guest workers can meet their other essential needs such as medicine and non-food essentials.

The spadework for the programme has been initiated in this month, the distribution is expected to be completed in July 2020.

Livelihood Support to Guest Workers in Uttar Pradesh – Christian Aid Supported



Amidst the pandemic, the harrowing plight of Indian guest workers has shaken the conscience of our nation. Starvation, uncertainty, and the woe of the dispossessed families have revealed the bitter reality of our society. The guest workers contribute towards the growth of the nation's informal economic sector through agriculture, construction and other unorganized works. The extended lockdown has economically devastated the migrant force of the unorganized sector, leaving labourers with neither income and food, nor shelter.

In Uttar Pradesh, the members of marginalised families migrate to other cities and states in search of work to sustain their families. Their socio-economic condition was no better before the lockdown, yet they survived with a meagre income. But currently, their condition has worsened over an insecure and uncertain future.

CASA always strives to make sure that the most vulnerable sections of our society are provided with the right assistance, during this difficult time CASA has initiated support to 2000 guest workers in 60 gram panchayats of 8 districts of Uttar Pradesh mainly Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Jaunpur, Banda, Chitrakoot, Lalitpur, Ambedkarnagar and Bahraich through resource support of Christian Aid.

Besides declaring specific measures to provide the needy with relief, The Uttar Pradesh government has taken prominent action in issuing ration/job cards and employing under the MGNREGA scheme. The vastness of population and area size limits the Government's effectiveness since several labourers have returned to their villages- unchecked and untracked. With a halt in agriculture, there is a lack of local employment. At the available work, the contractors may not pay the usual wage under their affected capacity during the lockdown. The lives of old aged, single-women, vulnerable groups and destitute are at stake.

Reportedly, many guest workers lack a proper id (Aadhar card/voter id), ration card and job card. Therefore, they are

unable to access the entitlements meant for them. Hence listing and survey of guest workers, filing their application for id card, ration card, job card and registering at the labour department will be crucial to access entitlements. The village-level Labour committees will monitor their access to rights and entitlements, engage dialogue, submit a memorandum for any discrepancy or the betterment of migrant labourers.

Besides the loss of income, returnee guest workers are suffering from food insecurity and health hazards of COVID-19. Work has started to provide dry ration for a minimum of 15 days along with protective gears. Some of them have either own agricultural lands or have taken them on lease. Providing them with millets, staple foods and vegetable seeds would secure sustenance at a household level. This intervention is planned for 2000 guest workers in 60 Gram Panchayats of 8 districts of Uttar Pradesh mainly Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Jaunpur, Banda, Chitrakoot, Lalitpur, Ambedkarnagar and Bahraich.

The Activities:

1. Advocacy for access to entitlements and other provisions.
2. Necessary Livelihood support through seeds or dry ration
3. The distribution of masks, soaps, sanitizers, gloves and sanitary napkins.

The progress made till 30th June 2020 are as:

1. Planning meeting with volunteers on the project, orientation on survey process, awareness programme, developing system and processes of dry ration and seed distribution has been done
2. Listing and survey of guest workers families in relation to their demographic details, means of livelihood and sources of income, reasons for migration, skill mapping, land holding, availability of id cards, ration cards, job cards and their future plans have been completed. This survey will be helpful in developing applications for access to entitlements and identification of families for support of seeds.

Episcopal Relief and Development supported programme in Maharashtra



In the State of Maharashtra, COVID-19 cases are near the 1,75,000 mark and death toll is at 7,855. CASA's West Zone staffs have been actively trying to create awareness within the communities about our programme areas in the state. CASA's network mechanisms are smooth in the region, due to the presence of multiple programmes, and have successfully organized COVID-19 response awareness programs that resonated within the communities. Activities like wall painting, pamphlet distribution, public announcements, and demonstrations of hygienic practices were undertaken in all CASA West Zone programme areas, whilst maintaining physical distance and following government directives.

CASA also helped in the identification of beneficiaries within the communities who were eligible to procure government entitlements under specific schemes, as ensured by the Indian government. As daily wage earners and poor guest workers were the most affected ones due to the sudden nationwide lockdown, our staffs have been actively trying to track such persons who may have migrated to/from our communities and otherwise.

Thus, CASA's proactive presence stretching to the community groups has proved to be a great measure to ensure that our population is safe and healthy. This brings us to Arni, Yavatmal in Maharashtra. CASA always strives to make sure that the most vulnerable sections of our society are provided with the right assistance. The presence of such groups in our project area in Arni, Yavatmal and their

socio-economic difficulties during this difficult time has only motivated us to provide support through resource support of Episcopal Relief and Development programme.

As the demographics exhibit, all 12 villages identified are home to some of the most marginalized communities in Maharashtra. Due to CASA's long presence in these villages, their socio-economic development and capacities have only elevated. Unfortunately, due to the nationwide lockdown and other necessary/compulsory restrictions that have been put forth by the government in order to contain COVID-19, many vulnerable households' regular basic needs have been cut short, as the service sector has taken a hit and processes have been slowed down immensely. It is imperative for CASA to provide support to such vulnerable sections within the communities in every way possible.

The COVID-19 Aid and Response in Arni, Yavatmal will focus on supporting and aiding 450 of the most vulnerable households within the 12 identified villages. Our priority population for this emergency response are single women headed families, returnee guest workers, physically challenged persons, landless families, SC/ST/OBC households, severely ill persons, etc. These 450 families will be supported with dry food rations of essential supplies, hygiene kits and 100 families with a cash transfer of Rs. 1,000/- each. As of 30 June, The beneficiary identification process and procurement processes have started.

Awareness on COVID-19



The government has now begun to lift travel restrictions which were imposed on 25th March, affecting all 1.33 billion Indian citizens. Millions of jobless guest workers are now making their way back from cities to their rural hometowns. The lifting of restrictions promises a new surge because many of those now returning to their hometown in rural parts may be infected. The awareness and prevention efforts among the rural communities are an important step to break the chain and further spread of the novel coronavirus in the current scenario.

CASA volunteers are dedicatedly working to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 infections across 23 states of India.

The following activities were done to disseminate awareness on COVID-19

- Public Announcements
- Wall Paintings
- Pamphlet distribution
- Proper hand wash demonstration
- Awareness on government schemes for livelihood

Our staffs have also collaborated with government officials to help them establish quarantine facilities in village schools and elsewhere in order to accommodate returnee guest workers and symptomatic patients if any. The following details shows the reach of our awareness initiatives since the beginning of our response in March 2020

AWARENESS No. of People	VILLAGE No. of villages
	
16,63,605 As of 9th April	5,213 As of 9th April
24,42,740 As of 30th April	6,714 As of 30th April
29,39,500 As of 31st May	7,993 As of 31st May
34,48,409 As of 30th June	9,187 As of 30th June

In late March, when India had only 600 confirmed cases, all transportation in the country were stopped within 4 hours after the lockdown was announced; few guest workers were able to return to home. But they were many who were stranded for almost 2 months exposed to the threat of the pandemic in the cities, where the guest workers live in vulnerable conditions. Now in a situation of increasing positive cases, they are returning to reach their hometown which may further have implications in the host communities, if substantial preparedness mechanisms are not in place. In reality, most of the guest workers are returning/want to return which is their right. In the light of these turnarounds of events which are leading to uncertainties of impact of COVID-19 and the lockdown, CASA feels that awareness is important and is thus, proactively engaging in enabling behaviour change among the communities, where interestingly the community groups are actively engaged to understand the implications.

It is also important to continuously make the communities understand the paramount need for hygienic practices to prevent the pandemic. CASA has taken every possible step to help returning guest workers to understand the importance of hygiene and self-protection to limit the spread of the pandemic. SHG members and volunteers have taken the initiative to ensure that their villages are safe. Numerous awareness videos, printed posters, personal visits with physical distancing, etc. developed by the government were distributed as a means of raising awareness amongst people in order to keep them safe.

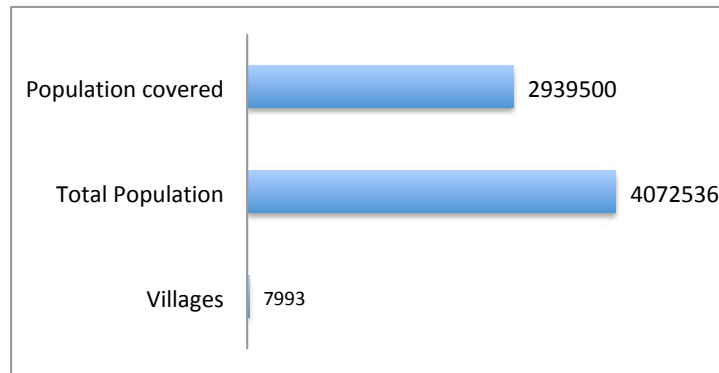
Guest Workers are facing multiple hardships. Millions of guest workers have come back to their villages with no means of livelihood, limited or no options of reviving it. As a result, there has been a surge in demand for work under MGNREGA in the past few weeks. CASA has been creating awareness among these guest workers to help them get linked with government schemes for livelihood and food security. CASA is also facilitating the process of enabling the guest workers who have no job cards for MGNREGA to get with the help of sarpanch and panchayat secretary. Efforts have been taken to include most of the cardholders for MGNREGA work and this has been started in most of our operational area.

As a part of initiating awareness campaigns, CASA has also taken a step to identify gaps between the government schemes and the vulnerable communities as well as conducting baseline surveys for COVID-19 symptoms. Our volunteers are actively working on the frontline, in the remote regions across India to prevent community spread amid the uncertainties brought in by the pandemic. Every effort has the power to combat the effects of the virus.

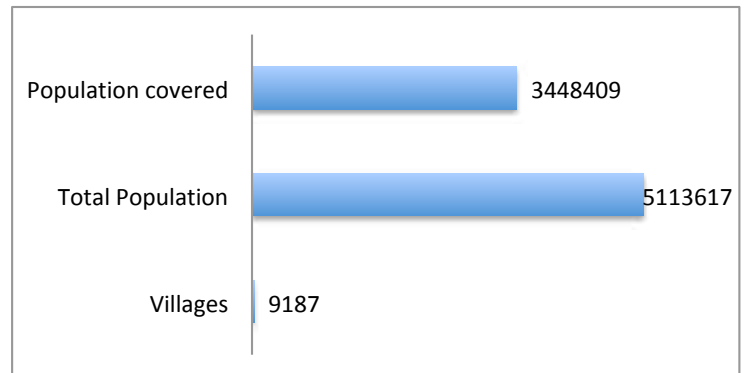
Acknowledging the Unacknowledged

It must also be highlighted that although the government is providing for the needy, especially in rural India, such government sponsored donations (especially under PDS) are helping those who're in need but they also have to be registered and have identification cards to be eligible to acquire anything under government schemes. There are millions of destitute and homeless persons throughout the country who have no documentation of any kind, let alone government related documentation. CASA does not discriminate between any such documentation and is working sincerely to be of help to the most vulnerable and exposed during this strange and troubling time.

AS OF 31ST MAY



AS OF 30TH JUNE



1ST JUNE TO 30TH JUNE

Zone	Villages	Total Population	Population Covered
East Zone	96	30819	8346
West Zone	105	154629	100449
North East India	198	172222	42114
North Zone	697	641616	334988
South Zone	98	41795	23012
Total	1194	1041081	508909





CONCLUSION

Millions of guest workers lost all their hope in a way they have been treated during lockdown within their own country. Projections were made all over the world that India is going to be, five trillion economy by 2024-25, but pandemic caused due to COVID-19 has put a question mark on our assumptions and our policies to take care of our citizens. The gap between rich and poor has always been a concern in India, which is never acknowledged and addressed in a way it should be addressed. With the Pandemic widening the gap between the rich and poor, the Humanitarian Sector needs to build in systems and mechanism to ensure the vulnerable and the marginalised groups are protected and have the access to resources and livelihood. With the prevailing context of Reverse Migration, the challenges are more. However, opportunities could also emerge as migration has picked up the attention of many. Gender inequality is another concern and it should also be ensured the pandemic and the lockdown should not spoil the efforts of the Civil Society in trying to bring gender-equitable societies, where civil societies need to get united to build back better.



CASA is registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, and with the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India under the Foreign Contributions Regulation act. Donations to church's auxiliary for social action are exempted from Income Tax under Section 80-G.

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