

46,50,233

No. of
People Reached

23

States
Covered

SITREP-VI
As of 31st July

SITREP

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RESPONSE AT A GLANCE

AS OF 31st JULY



TOTAL MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION AND

OTHER SUPPORT: 138597 FAMILIES

People : 697501

Villages : 2403



DRY RATION DISTRIBUTION

Villages Covered
1,101

Families Covered
39,964

People Reached
1,99,820



HYGIENE KIT DISTRIBUTION

Villages Covered
1,874

Families Covered
89,841

People Reached
4,49,205



COOKED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Villages Covered
61

People Reached
13,556



SPRAYING OF DISINFECTANT

Villages Covered
297

Families Covered
36,135

People Reached
1,80,675



CASH SUPPORT

Villages Covered
28

Families Covered
400

People Reached
2,000



LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

Villages Covered
79

Families Covered
953

People Reached
4,765



AWARENESS

10,497

Villages

39,52,732

People



HEALTH CAMP AND INFRASTRUCTURE UTILITY

Villages Covered
13

People Reached
620

Total Reach of Material Distribution/ and Other Support

23
States
Covered

12,900
No. of villages
covered

46,50,233
No. of people
reached

Summary of Activities as of 30th June

A

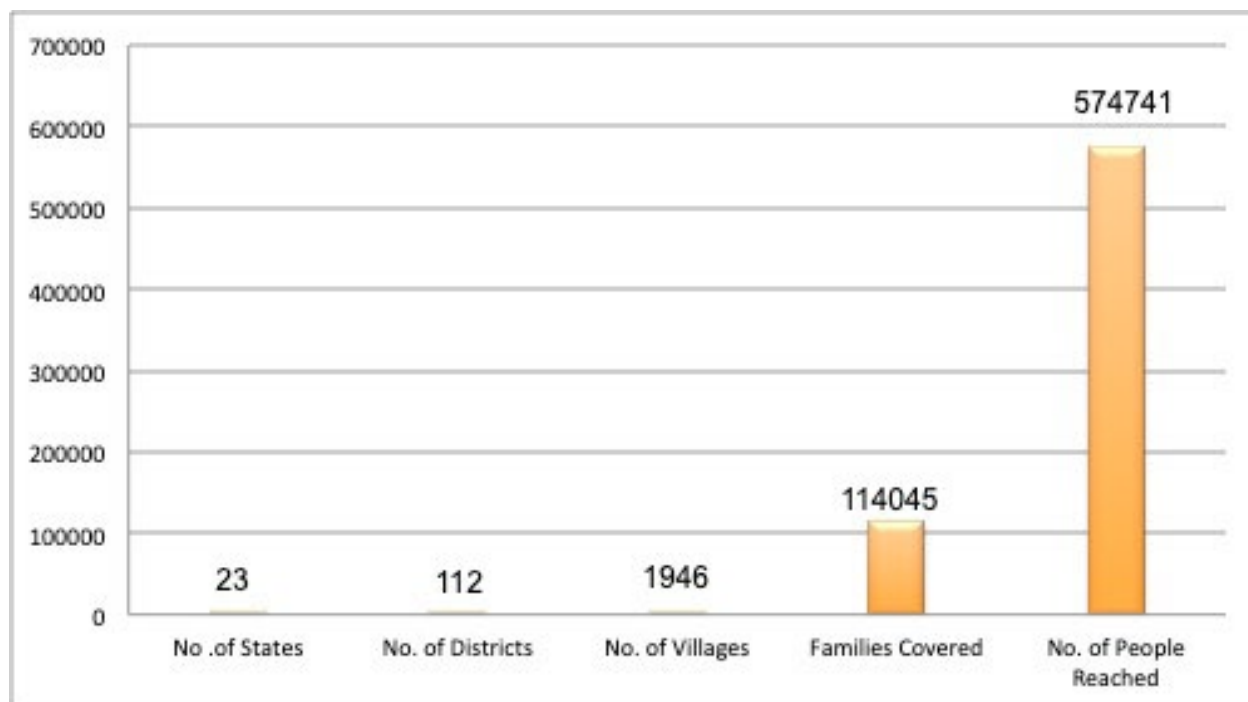
CONSOLIDATED OVERALL RESPONSE UPDATE AT A GLANCE

(Both the general distribution and HAF added)

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, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana	59	877	26388	131940
HYGIENE 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, Maharashtra, Gujarat	89	1481	68836	344180
DISTRIBUTION OF COOKED FOOD				
Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand	19	61		13556
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	11		420
HEALTH CAMPS				
Maharashtra	2	2		200

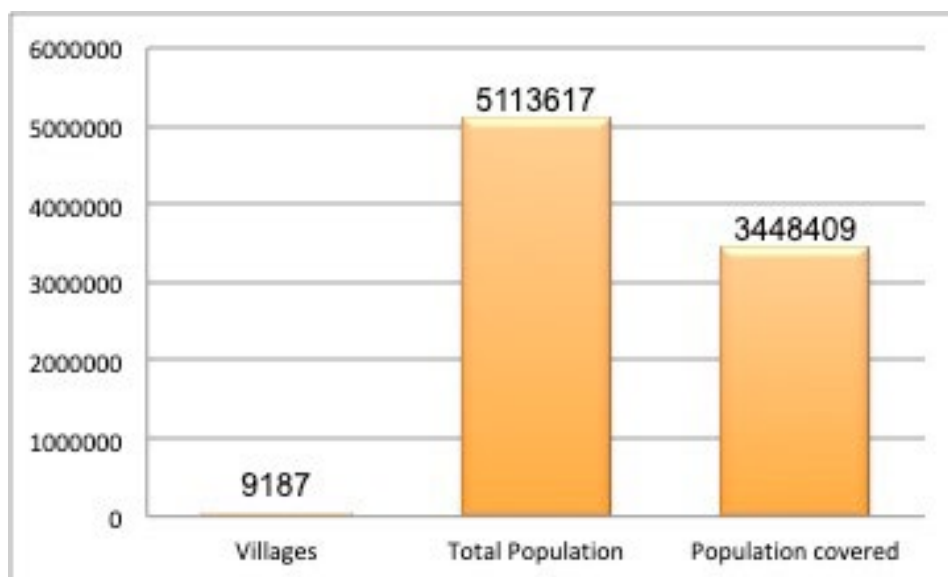
B

CONSOLIDATED FIGURE OF OVERALL REACH OF MATERIAL AND OTHER DISTRIBUTION



C

OVERALL REACH OF AWARENESS INITIATIVES



D

GRAND TOTAL REACH OF THE RESPONSE

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

Summary of Activities

from 1st July to 31st July

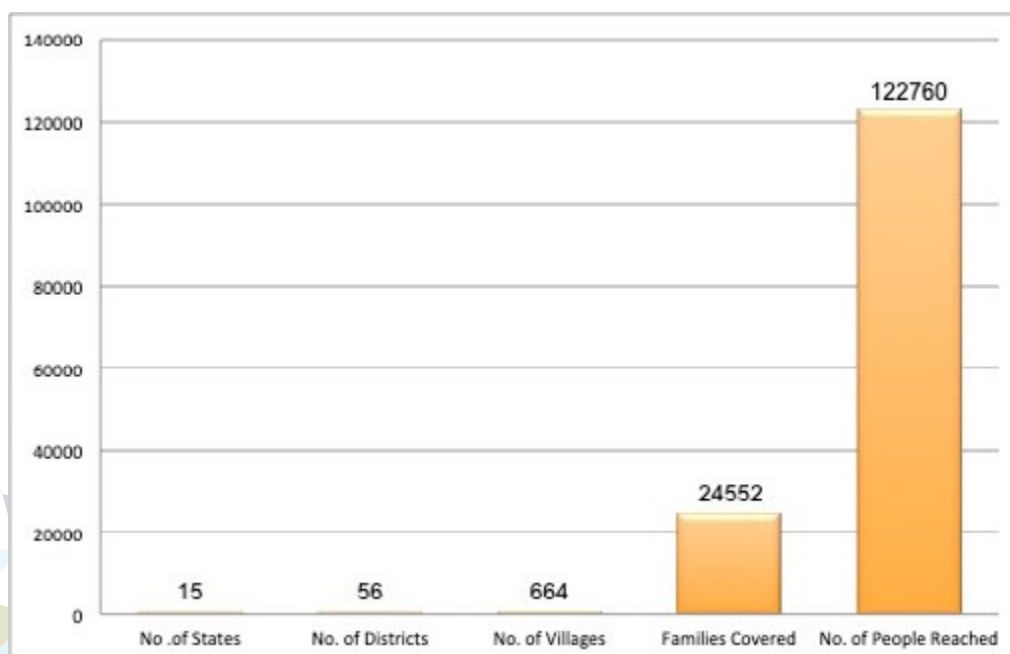
A

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				
Maharashtra, Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Meghalaya	43	478	13576	67880
HYGIENE KIT DISTRIBUTION				
Maharashtra, Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh	54	607	21005	105025
CASH SUPPORT				
Maharashtra, Himachal, Uttarakhand	10	28	400	2000
LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT				
Uttar Pradesh	13	113	953	4465

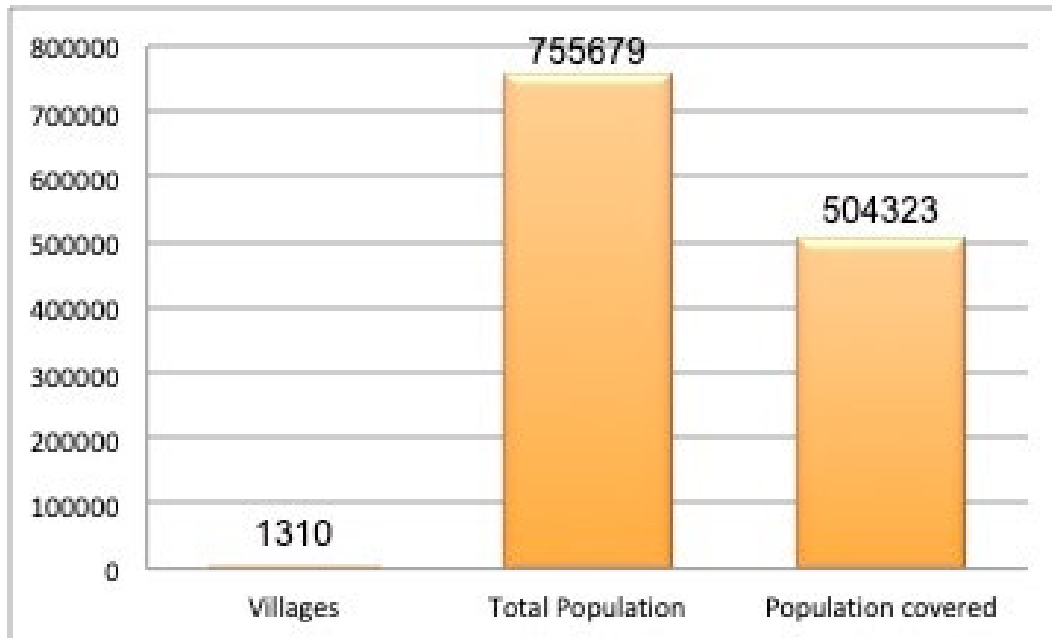
B

CONSOLIDATED FIGURE OF OVERALL REACH OF MATERIAL AND OTHER DISTRIBUTION



C

OVERALL REACH OF AWARENESS INITIATIVES



D

GRAND TOTAL REACH OF THE RESPONSE

	Village	Total Population	Population Covered
B	664		122760
C	1310	755679	504323
Total	1974		627083



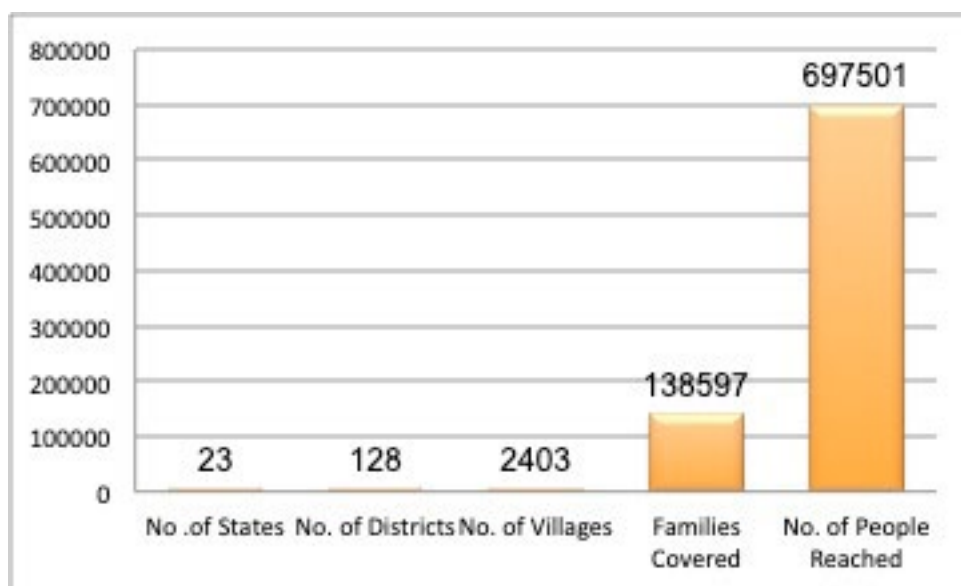
Summary of Activities

As of 31st July

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, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana	65	1101	39964	199820
HYGIENE 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, Maharashtra, , Gujarat	102	1874	89841	449205
DISTRIBUTION OF COOKED FOOD				
Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand	19	61		13556
SPRAYING OF DISINFECTANT				
Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana	8	297	36135	180675
CASH SUPPORT				
Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand	10	28	400	2000
LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT				
Uttar Pradesh	13	79	953	4765
GOVERNMENT IDENTIFIED / USING CASA RESOURCE CENTRES AND OTHER UTILITIES				
Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh	7	11		420
HEALTH CAMPS				
Maharashtra	2	2		200

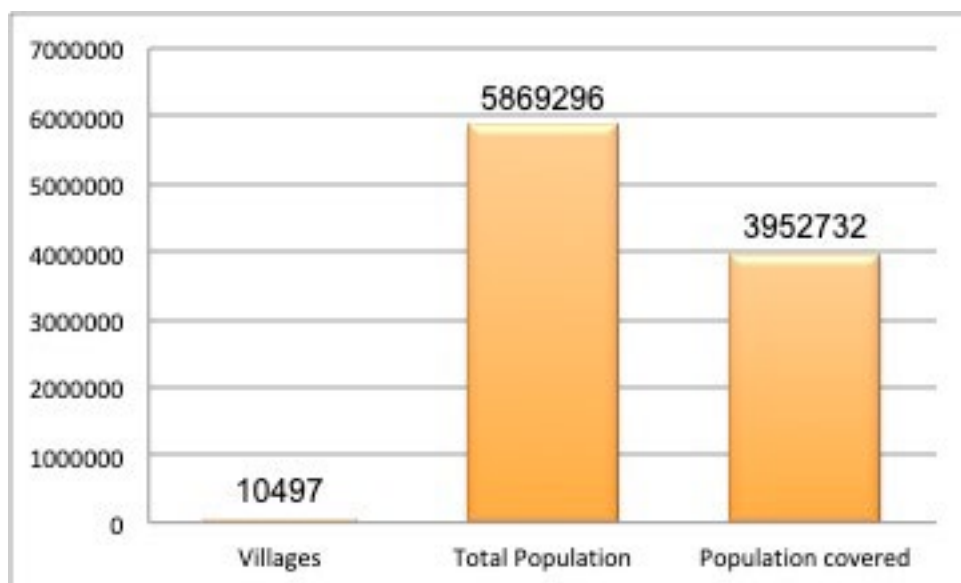
B

CONSOLIDATED FIGURE OF OVERALL REACH OF MATERIAL AND OTHER DISTRIBUTION



C

OVERALL REACH OF AWARENESS INITIATIVES



D

GRAND TOTAL REACH OF THE RESPONSE

	Village	Total Population	Population Covered
B	2403		697501
C	10497	5869296	3952732
Total	12900		4650233

Introduction



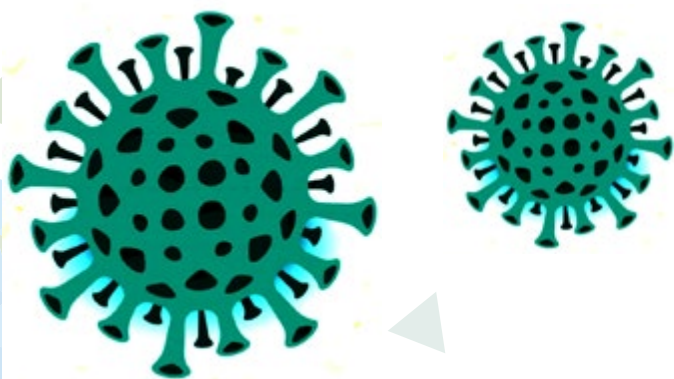
The current trends of the ongoing pandemic depict the situation as unpredictable as there has been an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases across many states in the country, where states which were considered to be effective in containing COVID-19 are witnessing significant increase. Although, the recovery rate has crossed 70%, India still stands third in the world for holding the largest number of COVID-19 cases and this impact with different scenarios in states is expected to continue further, where post 2020 also seems gloom. The impacts of the lockdown imposed due to the pandemic have gravely threatened the vulnerable and marginalised communities of India. The process of unlocking is inevitable but it is also important to closely assess the impact of unlocking and the trends associated with it. As inter-state travel has resumed, there could be more challenges in containing COVID-19, which demands a more systematic approach. Reverse migration is taking place in many districts, where the guest workers (migrants), who had once gone out in search of employment have returned to their native villages, this also implies to the host communities in terms of prevention of COVID-19 and livelihood. The lockdown has had a significant impact on the livelihood of the communities as there has been a significant loss of employment.

The lockdown in India has exposed the loopholes that already existed, as the internal guest workers (migrants) are the ones that have borne the consequences. Disruptions in economic activities in the urban areas have pushed the guest workers back to their native villages. The major issue at the moment, is faced by the daily wage labourers from rural India, who are coming back in droves from the cities due to stoppage of work, and if farm fields in their native villages don't absorb them it could lead to a sharp jump in rural unemployment and crisis. The poor sections of the society are

always the hardest hit in any disastrous or pandemic situation. The objective at the moment is to bring attention to the fact that two-thirds of the population in India, mostly belongs to the rural areas and the quality of healthcare available to them is staggeringly poor.

The only option left for the guest workers and the daily wagers is to find employment opportunities under MGNREGA. A number of Gram Panchayats in rural areas have either exhausted their funds for the scheme or the families have completed their allotted 100 days of work. The young guest workers who have returned to their native places haven't shown much of interest for working under MGNREGA as the wages under the scheme are lower than the minimum wages for agricultural workers. Despite lower wages, workers had applied for work but most of them remain unemployed. Some individuals who were thriving on agricultural or allied activities earlier, mostly after losing their income from informal employment during this lockdown period have involved themselves in agriculture again. These workers who are mostly marginal farmers as well as the landless labourers have started practicing farming for their sustenance during the present crisis situation, in their marginal land holdings or on land brought on lease.

Education of the guest workers' children is a big matter of concern as presently all the schools are closed and no new admission have started yet. The communities in rural areas already suffer from a severe shortage of basic healthcare facilities and healthcare professionals. So providing testing facilities in tribal and interior areas is a major challenge. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and lack of transport facility, the small vendors are facing problem leading to selling their products in cheap price at the local area.





CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES

The societal disparities in the rural and urban communities have forced the marginalised to move to urban areas and more industrialised, developed states for employment. With their income dried up, most of them can barely afford rent or even food in the cities, therefore, they were left with little choice but to attempt a journey home by any means possible. Thousands of guest workers have walked hundreds of kilometres to reach home and few have even died enroute. The scenario is scrambling due the lack of availability of healthcare, sustenance of livelihood and employment, as the individuals have returned back to their native villages. Many rural areas in the country which had less COVID-19 cases, are presently showing signs of significant increase in the number of cases, which is a major concern and challenge.

The most important concern in this situation is the mind-set of people. People are frightened and concerned about the situation of the pandemic. Seeing the increasing numbers of people affected by COVID-19, people are losing hope. Despite less hope in the systems and mechanism that could ensure a protective habitat and life for the poor, the mind set also tends to change with the implication on the livelihood, where the vulnerable groups are forced to look out for jobs. In a given situation like this the mind set of people takes shape of an attitude which undermines the risks. This is a serious threat which could implicate severely in the community spread.

Another immediate concern in the rural sector has to do with the livelihood opportunities, as the scope of employment in cities have significantly declined now. While many may have acquired skills during their stay in cities, those particular set of skills may not be useful in rural areas. For sustenance during this current situation which may prolong, the only option left for the labourers at rural setting is either MNREGA or farming practices. Therefore, there is a necessity to raise demands for increasing the number of days per household from 100 to 200 days and having regular payments for the works performed. It is unclear for how long the safety nets could sustain the guest workers. In the peak of kharif season

when monsoon is also alarming, it is necessary for the small and marginal farmers to have crop insurance, else they may incur loss if severe rains affects the crops which could further aggravate the existing problems. There are implementation problems with the government's food allowance system for the poor, with ration cards being inactive in some cases or being held by money lenders. Due to absence of livelihood opportunities at local level borrowing from money lenders have increased.

Education is another major concern, with the schools being closed the children are stuck in their respective houses and communities which, in certain cases, are abusive. The prolonged closure of the schools and the uncertainty involved in the reopening of schools poses a major threat to the development of children. Unlike the urban and elite schools, the government schools where most of this children study are not competent in technological advancement in terms of infrastructure for teaching subjects online. These children are left on the mercy of the parents with less exploration and explanations on life-oriented subjects and learnings, relating with their fellow friends, engaging in sports and other activities. This could significantly enhance the stress level of children and lead to psychological issues. There are instances where children are forced to take up odd jobs given the enhanced poor economic situation of families in the prevailing scenario.

With the southwest monsoon spreading over most of the parts of India, the challenges have increased plentiful. The trouble started even before the monsoon, when Cyclone Amphan devastated some parts of West Bengal. At the moment, the monsoon has drastically flooded the states of Assam, Bihar, Kerala as well as many other neighbouring regions. This brought in multiple challenges amidst the pandemic. With two more months for the southwest monsoon to go, the risk of floods in the coming days is still prevalent. The northeast monsoon, that takes place from October to December, also brings in many risk factors like floods and cyclones amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The programmatic dimension of the Response

CASA's strategic approach has been to continue in engaging with the awareness initiative, where substantial stress is given on prevention mechanism which includes handwash demonstration, physical distancing, etc. This is becoming a pertinent need as the increase in the number of COVID 19 are significant, rural India needs to be enabled to develop its mechanism of prevention and protection, where awareness initiative needs to continue. Substantial training and inputs are being given to the CBOs and the volunteers, where learning from their response and approach is also taken into consideration.

It is a well-known fact that the lockdown has impacted the lives of the poor who are mostly daily wage earners. The phenomenal return of the guest workers to their native villages has triggered substantial livelihood issues adding on to the stress that rural India has been witnessing since before the lockdown. However, when such situations are encountered, CASA has always taken prompt actions by effectively motivating the community groups to enable linkages with government schemes. MGNREGA is one such scheme for the rural as well as for the guest workers who have returned. CASA has taken this opportunity to facilitate the process by providing cards with the help of the Sarpanch and Panchayat secretaries and identifying the gap of demanding jobs and those who have no job cards. Efforts have been made to include most of the cardholders of MGNREGA, in our operational areas, with employment opportunities. Apart from this, it is also essential to respond with livelihood activities. Cash transfer and as well as agricultural/animal husbandry support among the daily wage earners and returned guest workers are emphasized. This helps the households under the programme willing to practice farming, kitchen gardens and animal husbandry.

The process of identifying the returned guest worker families in our programme villages is taking place at the moment. The process of collecting data to identify the skills among returned guest workers is currently taking place in regions where there is a higher number of returnees in our operational areas, to look for alternate livelihood options. This will lead to skill gap assessment and enable new avenues of livelihood locally, which could also help in policy advocacy.

Support such as the distribution of dry ration and wash items, spraying disinfectant also forms a formidable part

of the programmatic approach as communities' are still in hunger with no livelihood and employment, where access to food and prevention/protection becomes a challenge. The support of dry ration which consist of rice, dal, spices, sugar, salt, edible oil, etc helps the family to reduce their state of food insecurity for at least two weeks and focus on looking out for a job or get engaged in MGNREGA. The support of Hygiene Kit consisting mask, sanitizer, bathing soap, washing soaps, sanitary napkin, etc are aimed at bringing in more awareness also on prevention among the communities alongside bringing in the element of prevention and protection as their poor and vulnerable background of the communities should not lead to lack of good hygienic practices and prevention mechanism.

The COVID 19 and the Lockdown exposed the plight of the informal sector which has suffered miserably, with no sight of recovery in the immediate future. The 'unskilled' labourers and most live one day at a time with minimum cash transactions - most of such people being women. It is important to focus on issues of women, where it is also being reported that domestic violence against women is on the rise. Keeping in the safety of women and children who are currently either quarantined or stuck in their home with abusive partners and parents, women are being enabled to engage in community activities and build in the community mechanism to strengthen the space for women in the system and decision making. Responses are also targeted towards, single-headed women, widows, transgender community, etc.

Risk Reduction is crucial not only in terms for reduction of risk on COVID 19 , but also in the context of natural disaster happening while the pandemic of COVID-19 is in full spree, Some of the disaster vulnerable areas where disasters have occurred, elements of integrating the risk with COVID-19 is also carried out. It is also important to do the other way around in COVID-19 response, where elements of risk reduction of natural disaster need to be integrated alongside the COVID-19 response programme. Natural disaster vulnerable areas and its integration to our development interventions is very much required as this has become more challenging particularly in time when epidemic or pandemic impacts are there. COVID-19 has exposed the harsh realities which needs to be taken as learnings'



FOOD SECURITY-

A story of survival of the returning Guest workers

In times of need, CASA is always prompt to address the community. In the context of the current crisis, the CASA team of Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh has been working hard with youth volunteers to respond relentlessly. For returning-guest workers, CASA intervened to help them and secure their livelihood whether it is with linkage with the government schemes or by providing support to them. CASA has never left any people in need, regardless of any circumstances as we believe in **people helping people**. Wherever possible, we intervene to help and provide urgent monetary support, dry ration support and help in accessing relevant government social-security schemes.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CASA's initiative is to give support to the returning guest workers, assuring their livelihood and food security by forming linkage with the government for preparing their ration cards, as well as to ensure their MGNREGA job cards. In response to the current situation, the government ensures the people to get free ration from their ration cards which includes 35 kg of rice, 1 kg of sugar, 1 Kg of Pulses, 2 packets Salt but in some villages, people were only getting 5 kg of rice at different level, CASA started awareness activities to ensure that people are aware of the government's support under distribution of ration with exact quantity they are entitled to. CASA conducted different level meetings and linkage with the community, Sarpanch, Block development officer and Food Inspector of the area. After which, the people started getting what they are entitled from their ration cards to ensure their food security.

During this trying time, most of the families lost their jobs and they have no livelihood support left due to the lockdown imposed. Under the MGNREGA scheme, people of the village get the employment for at least 100 days. CASA initiative was to make sure that the people of the village have their Job card registered under the MGNREGA

scheme so that they get employment in their village. CASA is working with the people to link them with the government to get the benefits under different schemes and to ensure their livelihood support.

Before CASA took the initiation to link the people under Narva, Garwa, Ghurwa and Bari Schemes, the rural economy was in crisis. Three villages were involved to get the people employed for the construction of Gothani in Banabel, Sarismar, Amamuda, Bharijhurki under MGNREGA.

Chhattisgarh government recently launched a scheme named Narva, Garwa, Ghurwa and Bari. Four symbols of Chhattisgarh are Narva means (Nala), Garwa means (Animals and gothan), Ghurwa (Bio Fertilizers), and Bari (Garden). The State government believes, through these schemes, ground water will replenish, irrigation and organic farming will help the farmer to take double crops, ensures proper care of animals, traditional kitchen gardens and rural economy will be strengthened and nutrition level will improve.

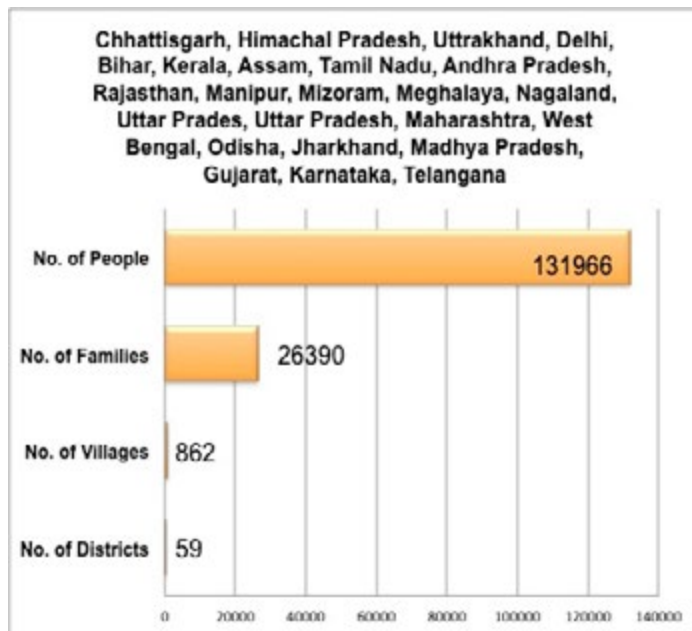
Particulars	Village	Beneficiaries number	Remark
PDS	Koilary, Dhopghat, Chanwaripara	50 family	
MGNREGA	Parsapani, Jharna, Kupabandha, Umeria	250	Under Pond construction
MGNREGA	Banabel, Amamuda, Sarismar and Bharijhurki	176	Under Narva, Gurwa, Ghurwa and Bari Scheme

ACTIVITY WISE RESPONSE

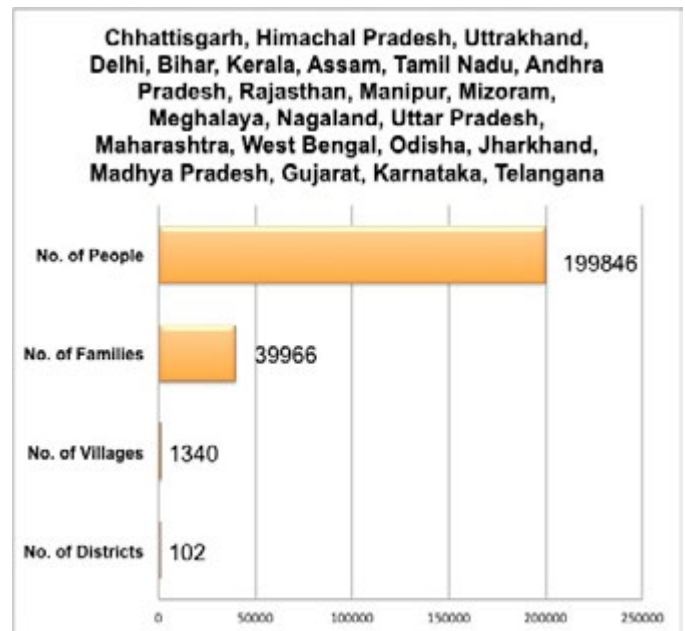
DRY RATION DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of dry ration for the vulnerable groups was done during this month. Support was rendered to many guest workers as well as vulnerable groups who struggle to earn and are in distress given the lockdown. Around 14000 families have been supported by providing dry ration which gives them ample time to look out for jobs setting aside the stress and trauma for food security concerns for at least 2 weeks, as the dry ration provided by CASA would be useful for them for 2 weeks.

As of 30th June



As of 31st July



1st July to 31st July

State Name	District Name	No. of Villages & Ward	No. of Families	No. of People
Maharashtra	Latur, Yawatmal	19	450	2250
Assam	Golaghat, Golpara, Sonitpur	45	1491	7455
West Bengal	Alipur, Jalpaiguri, Kolkata Metropolitan	47	5970	29850
Jharkhand	Pakur, Gumla, Sahibganj	45	410	2050
Tamil Nadu	Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Tirupur, Chengalpat	20	600	3000
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal, Sagar, Dhar, Sehore, Betul, Mandla	100	620	3100
Himachal Pradesh	Kullu, Shimla, Solan,	5	100	500
Uttarakhand	Dehradun, Bageshwar, Uttarkashi, Rudrapur, Tehri Garhwal	13	754	3770
Rajasthan	Udaipur, Bansara, Chittorgarh	116	639	3195
Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur, Korba, Kanker	13	774	3870
Mizoram	Aizawl, Champhai, Lawngtlai, Lunglei	53	1765	8825
Meghalaya	South West Garo Hills, West Garo Hills	2	3	15
12	43	478	13576	67880



Photo credit: Sahiba Chawdhary



QUEST TO REDEFINE MY IDENTITY

21-year old Vimla Devi is a migrant worker from Nepal. She migrated to India with her family in search of better livelihood alternatives. However, her husband abandoned her, making her the sole caregiver of their children.

Patriarchy is a deeply engrained and highly normalised norm of our society. Women have often defined themselves with regards to men, living under their shadow when they were unable to fend for themselves.

However, Vimla Devi was committed to not fall into the malicious trap of the male dominant social strata that surrounded her. Her resolution to redefine herself by moulding her identity to her unique individuality helped her overcome the challenges that lay in front of her.

Things took a turn for the worst when the lockdown was imposed. The informal workforce of India, leading a hand to mouth existence, has been acutely affected by loss of jobs.

"I had faith in myself. I needed to provide for my family and I was determined to pave my path by myself."

Vimla Devi resides in the remote village of Bosari, in Rohru region of Himachal Pradesh. She got connected with CASA's ground partner Education Society for Information Technology (ESIT) that provided her daily wage work of

digging and clearing roads in nearby remote villages.

CASA has come to the forefront by providing assistance to several migrants in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, by linking them with the Municipal Corporation of Shimla, paving their way towards permanent jobs and providing them with assured monetary security.

Many women have been provided with the opportunity to stand on their feet and ensure sustenance for their families.

In these staggering times, migrant labourers have come forward, voluntarily, and taken up responsibilities of manual work, such as repairing unmetalled roads to mending rain water drainage systems, in exchange of dry ration and a monetary benefit of 1,000 rupees (given through bank transfer) provided by CASA, to serve their essential needs.

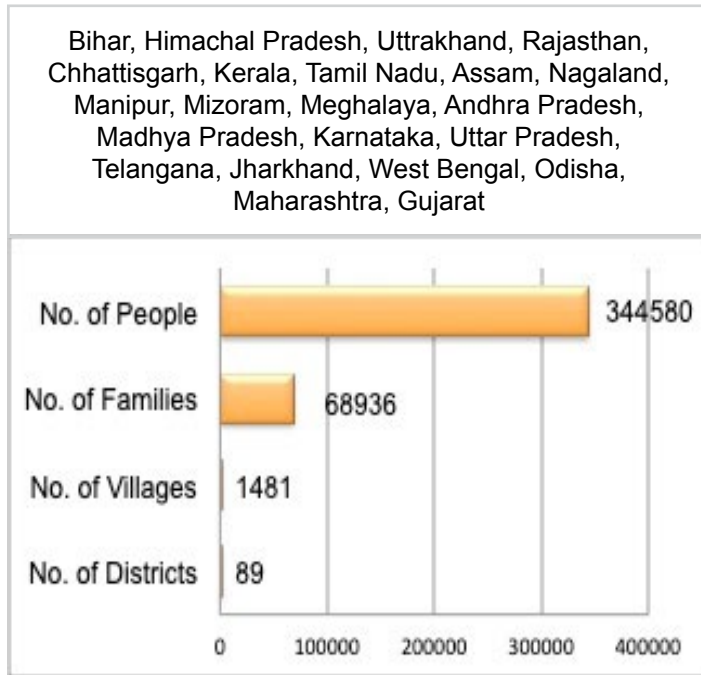
The dry ration and monetary help, along with government supported work, will give them food security and alleviate their situation in these staggering and difficult times.

CASA is relentlessly striving to not only provide for the unmet needs of the vulnerable communities but also to empower women to stand with conviction, independent and confident, for their families.

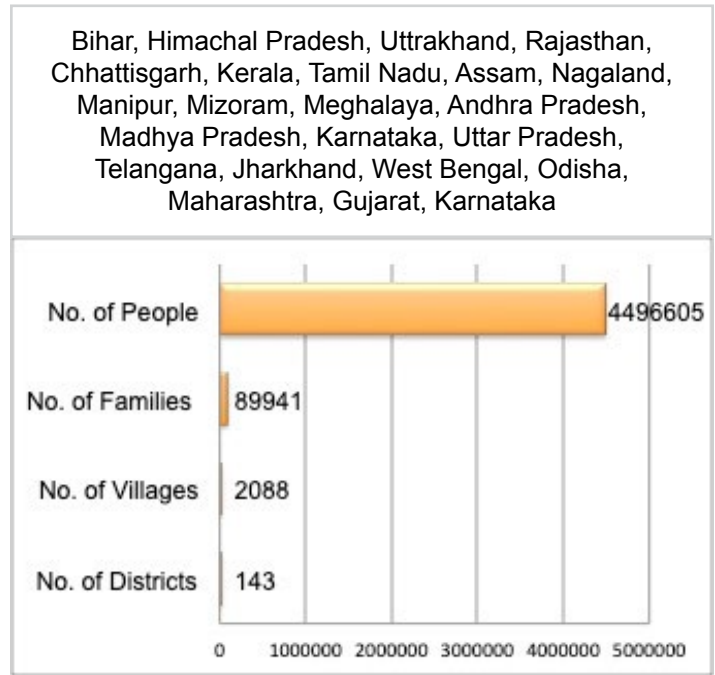
HYGIENE KIT DISTRIBUTION

As more and more guest workers are returning to their native village and the COVID 19 positive cases are on the rise in many states, where states which have the spread under control are also facing significant rise now, prevention and protection become key aspects. Considering these impacts for the guest workers and host communities, support on providing hygiene kit is being continued, where this month around 22,000 families have been supported with prevention items.

As of 30th June



As of 31st July



1st July to 31st July

State Name	District Name	No. of Villages & Ward	No. of Families	No. of People
Maharashtra	Latur, Yawatmal	19	555	2775
Assam	Golaghat, Golpara, Sonitpur	45	1491	7455
West Bengal	Alipur, Jalpaiguri, Kolkata Metropolitan	47	5308	26540
Odisha	Keonjhar	11	381	1905
Jharkhand	Pakur, Gumla, Sahibganj	45	879	4395
Tamil Nadu	Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Tirupur, Chengalpat	20	600	3000
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal, Sagar, Dhar, Sehore, Betul, Mandla	100	3669	18345
Himachal Pradesh	Kullu, Shimla, Solan, Bilaspur	9	187	935
Uttarakhand	Dehradun, Bageshwar, Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Tehri Garhwal	11	1039	5195
Rajasthan	Udaipur, Bansara, Chittorgarh	116	609	3045
Manipur	Ukhrul, Tengnoupal, Senapati, Imphal West	71	3493	17465
Uttar Pradesh	Jhansi, Jalaun, Banda, Maharajganj, Ambedkar Nagar, Chitrakoot, Lalitpur, Jaunpur, Kushinagar, Bahraich, Hamirpur, Jhansi, Bethel, Maharajganj	113	2794	13970
14	54	607	21005	105025



HYGIENIC WORKPLACE TP TAP METHOD

In wake of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, we all have learned the importance of hand-wash and sanitization. The nation was under lockdown to contain the spread of the virus, everyone were urged to keep their hands sanitized and wear masks for safety. But in some interior districts of Rajasthan not much effects of the disease were witnessed, in such districts the work of MGNREGA was initiated during the lockdown. Keeping safety measures in mind, each worker was given masks at the MGNREGA work site in the Gram Panchayat Chandela but while distributing masks, we learned that there is no special facility for the workers to wash their hands with soap, which is more likely to spread the pandemic, so we decided to establish TP tap method water dispenser and install it in the work site. After taking the due consent of the village development officer and Sarpanch, the TP Tap were installed. The items used to make it include wood, a five-liter empty box, soap for washing hands and some rope. This method is installed in each MGNREGA site, as soon as the workers come to the workplace, they wash their hands with soap also before and after consuming their food to maintain hygiene in their workplace.



CASH SUPPORT

Major impacts of the COVID 19 was the turnaround of events because of the lockdown which put many with unemployment, leading to a situation where people did not have any saving or earning left with them. Though support to the people has been provided in terms of food and hygiene, the affected people yet remain intimidated with the prevailing times where the effective rebuilding of life in the current scenario becomes a key factor. In tune with the same, Cash Support have been given to the affected people, where mostly guest workers have been targeted. This cash support will help them to opt for their need which may be livelihood, shelter, food item, non-food item, etc. The process for cash transfer is done in a systematic way which also helps the communities to gain a good understanding on vulnerabilities linkages with the government or other stakeholders, which will help the vulnerable communities to plan for rebuilding their lives and access/ bargaining for their entitlements and needs.



1st July to 31st July

State Name	District Name	No. of Villages & Ward	No. of Families	No. of People
Maharashtra	Latur, Yawatmal	19	100	500
Himachal Pradesh	Kullu, Shimla, Solan, Bilaspur	4	100	500
Uttarakhand	Dehradun, Bageshwar, Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Tehri Garhwal	5	200	1000
3	10	28	400	2000



IN THE PURSUIT OF ACCEPTANCE

"Sometimes I feel being a transgender is a curse. There is no-one to turn to for support and guidance. Our lives are rife with unseen difficulties."

Living on the fringes of the society but constantly the centre of discrimination and injustice, the transgender community of our country has seen history and the present riddled with unimaginable adversities.

Komal (name changed) is a 25-year-old transgender woman from Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Being the youngest amongst four siblings, she was constantly subjected to derision and disdain by her family, with everyone telling her to 'be like a boy, not like a girl.' Her attempts to share her concerns and troubles with her family members failed numerous times. People just weren't willing to listen and understand her.

Nevertheless, she worked hard and pursued her B.Tech degree, after which she got employed in a factory. But the feeling of alienation from the colleagues was evident. "It was difficult to convince my colleagues about my feelings as a girl. They were uncomfortable in sharing gender-specific areas, such as toilets, with me."

Komal faced harassment and apathy from her colleagues. Thus, even after being a competent person, she was compelled to leave the job. This was when she decided to openly come out as a transgender. But to her dismay, employment opportunities ceased to exist after her declaration. "The society is still not ready to accept me as a transgender. Standard tasks are a challenge for me; I constantly face an identity crisis in a society where everything warrants gender identification including toilet, Ration Card, Account Check-in, Driving License, PAN etc."

There are over 4.88 lakh identified transgenders living in India, according to the Census 2011. The third gender was recognized in 2019 in India. However, the living conditions and treatment towards transgenders in our country is abysmal. The people are highly deprived of the right to participate in any form of economic activity regardless of one's qualification and competency. This compels many to resort to begging or choose sex work to sustain them. Access to basic healthcare infrastructure is minimal and sometimes denied.

The Covid-19 pandemic has aggravated the problem. A majority of the transgender community are daily wage earners and thus social distancing measures and the lockdown have affected them a lot. Many of them don't have access to basic documentation like Aadhar Card, Ration card etc., and thus non-availability of suitable ID

cards impedes the process of getting benefits from the government. They are also left out from the several assistance programmes launched by the government, which promise to provide assistance to other vulnerable sections of the society.

The stigma attached to them runs deeper. During the pandemic, there have been increased incidences wherein people are avoiding communication with the transgender people, fearing that they would contract the virus. Posters have been posted in some areas warning people about the same. The transgender community has been bearing the brunt of discrimination and stereotypes ever since.

Many people are undergoing treatment and are under medication. Regular clinic checkups are required in some of the treatments, which have been disrupted due to the pandemic. The prevalence of HIV among transgender is 3.1% as compared to the 0.26% among all adults. This raises concerns over the increased susceptibility of the affected towards Covid-19, as their immune system is already compromised. There are also concerns among them about the availability and supply of their medications, as many feel that the chemists wouldn't stock up enough supply due to the pandemic.

Komal, an HIV-positive patient herself, felt extremely anxious when she got the news. ***"My world came crashing down when I came to know that I was infected with HIV. Now, I have to take care of my health even more."***

She was working for a while to bear the expenses of her treatment and medicines. But the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a loss of livelihood, leaving her jobless, anxious and devoid of any support.

In this hour of crisis, CASA approached her to provide her aid. Under the Covid-19 Response Programme, she was provided with a monetary sum of thousand rupees along with dry ration supplies. "I am highly obliged to CASA for helping me when no-one else did."

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the normal day-to-day lives of thousands of people across the country, coming from all walks of life and various communities. CASA is striving to widen its outreach and provide support to many other vulnerable people, in an attempt to help them improve their lives.



LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

Livelihood is a major concern, as the COVID 19 and the lockdown has witnessed a significant level of loss of employment especially for guest workers and daily wage labourers. This issue is pertinent in the urban as well as the rural areas. The lockdown and the loss of employment in urban areas saw the returning of guest workers in multitude.

The process does have multiple impacts, as the local communities lack in employment opportunities and are dependent on the MGNREGA. Though MGNREGA is the much-talked-about livelihood option presently to what extent can the MGNREGA accommodate all in the community is a big question. Added to this are the other concerns in terms of what skill sets the guest workers have? All these concerns lead to multiple options of livelihoods which needs to be explored based on the skills the returned guest workers have. In sync with these concerns and understanding livelihood support have been initiated, where support has been given or livestock, fish culture, vermi compost pits and seed distribution.

1st July to 31st July

State Name	District Name	No. of Villages & Ward	Type of Support Provided (No. of Families)				No. of Families	No. of People
			Livestock	Vermi pits	Fish farming	Seed Distribution		
Uttar Pradesh	Jhansi, Jalaun, Banda, Maharajganj, Ambedkar Nagar, Chitrakoot, Lalitpur, Jaunpur, Kushinagar, Bahraich Hamirpur, Jhansi, Bethel, Maharajganj	79	20	5	34	894	953	4765
1	13	79	20	5	34	894	953	4765

LOCALISATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Viraj Nandini - Secretary of ESIT



The pandemic has led to a multi-dimensional impact on the people as well as the economy, where there is a significant need for the Humanitarian agencies in responding to the multi-dimensional impact caused by COVID 19. However the present disaster restricts the movement of the people, where the humanitarian aid workers also have their restriction on mobility to the affected or worst affected area. Amidst these challenges the process saw an overwhelming response from the local NGOs, though the support mechanism from the international arena was less/limited. These local NGOs have been able to access resources or enable linkages with the government systems to serve the affected and the needy. This also leads to the debate on Localisation which was formulated in the World Humanitarian Summit in 2017 of which localisation is on among the nine workstreams in Gran Bargain – “More Support and Funding tools to Local and National Responders”. Despite the process being there since 2017, there has been a lack of significant progress in it. The reports tend to give a picture of some progress; in reality, the programmes are not substantial. The very approach in localisation where the local agencies are not aware of localisation by itself is a significant failure. This apparently could be a systemic process-oriented failure. However, in reality, as the international humanitarian aid agencies have mostly led the localisation process, the perspective of localisation tends to move away from the perspective of local and national agencies.

Since its inception in 1947 as a homegrown organisation, CASA has pioneered disaster response over the years and has been instrumental in developing contextual-based approaches for disaster responses, where community organisation is one of the key components and forte of CASA. This has helped to build responses and programmes with processes driven by the community. Inbuilt in the system, CASA has the advantage of working directly and with partners in 20+ states across India. This has given an edge to CASA for understanding the local and global scenarios. CASA has a deep-rooted mechanism of localisation approach in its works for years which has helped to evolve systems of localisation. Partnering/accompanying with around 300 homegrown organisations, CASA has helped to sustain the capacities of them and alongside with the same, the access to larger NGOs has helped to take up the concerns of the grassroots agencies in having an equitable approach to work in safeguarding their contextual approaches which are at the grass-root level.

In COVID 19 response, CASA has partnered and collaborated with 119 partners spread across the country with the significant aspect decentralised approach and independent pattern of engagement, where the local agencies are involved in finalising the need based on their discussions with the community. The process also builds in a factor of accompaniment, where a support mechanism is also ensured to the partner, which enhances their confidence level. CASA's association and involvement with many networks have strategically helps to voice the concerns of local agencies to strengthen their role in the broader humanitarian space of coordination and response. This adds

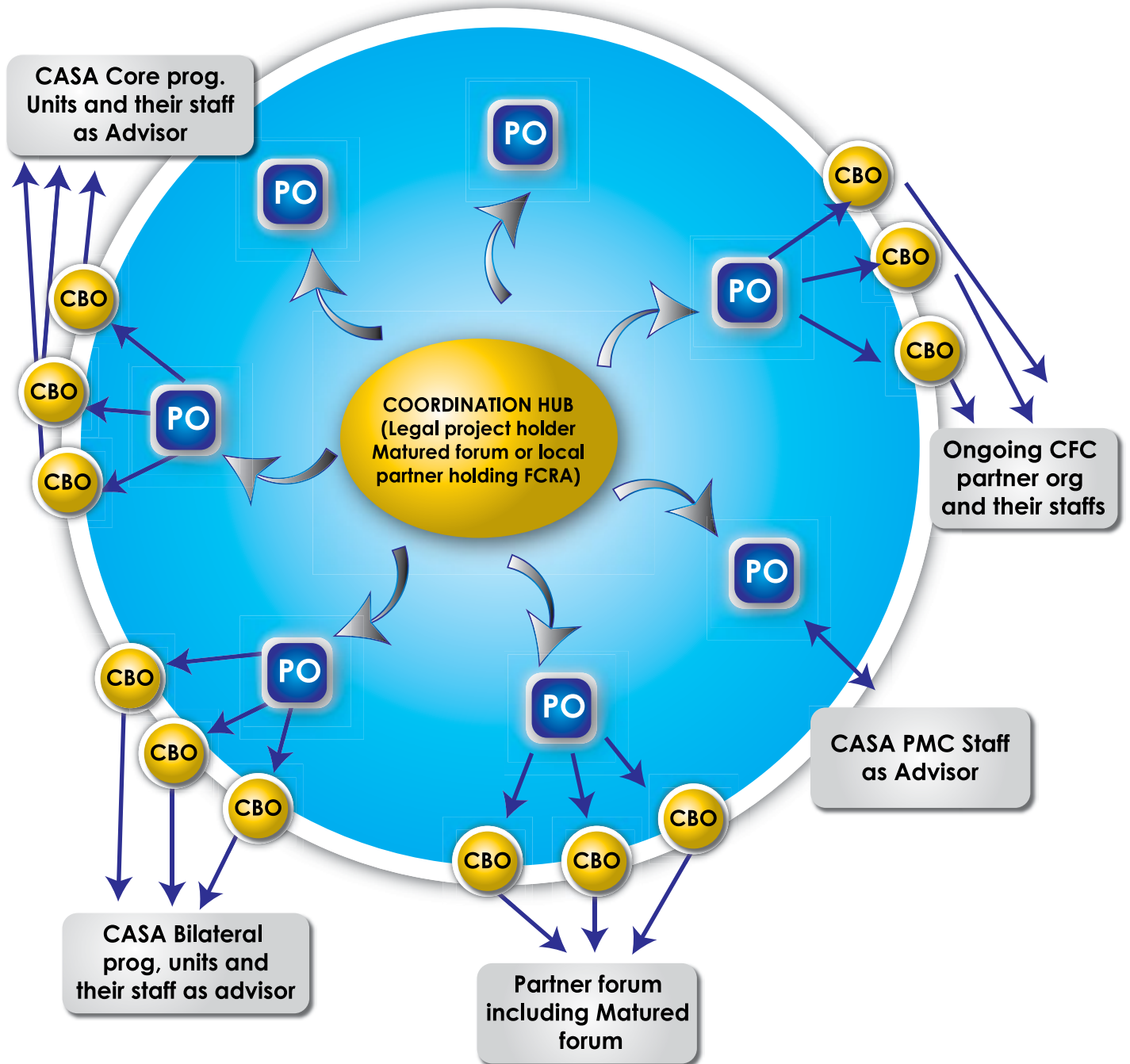
value in the context of the humanitarian systems which are driven by the funding-based mechanism, and are tuned to funding requirements in the international humanitarian architecture. The Grand bargain was expected to change these equations tilting the power structure and enable the Local and National NGOs to have larger access to the funding directly from the donor. At the end, in 2020, the last year of Grand bargain, the goal of “More support and funding tools to local and national responders” is still a distant dream.

Irrespective of these challenges, CASA's inherent system of localisation and partnership in emergency response and development of programmes tailored to enhance local partnerships in reaching the remote area of need through the local agencies, have evolved significant approaches of localisation in one of the development programmes namely the PMC. The Coordination Hub is one such Hub where the power will be transferred to the local stakeholders. It is a platform collectivising and synergising all POs, primarily emerging from CASA-related processes, and stakeholders at state level i.e. the State ecosystem. The Hub shall be held together with a legal/central project holder, i.e. the Forum which has emerged or anyone partner which has the infrastructure and capacity or an existing forum.

The overall governance of Hub shall be done by a Governing Board (a coordination committee and not a constitutional structure) consisting of the representatives of the legal project holder, Forum, other stakeholders in the CFC ecosystems and representative of the peoples' organisation. 60% representation in the Governing Board shall be from the People's Organization (PO) decided through a transparent and representative mechanism to be established. In order to qualify as legal project holders for a hub, potential project holders have to go through a thorough process of pre-funding assessment to be initiated by the resource partner, namely Bread for the World. Only those organisations who qualify shall become project holders. CASA will play an essential role in strengthening and sharing of capacities. A diagram depicting a tailor-made hub within a State Ecosystem is provided below. CASA staff shall have the role of supporting Legal Project Holders in meeting compliance requirements and performing perspective and capacity-building roles.

The focus of the activities in Hub in the second level would be on institution building of POs, leadership building and strengthening local resource mobilisation. Additionally, collective concept building around development, social transformation and around their social and economic issues will be undertaken. PO shall also develop and pursue their individual and collective strategies. Furthermore, focus shall be on collective POs conceptual building, skill-building, and knowledge building around common issues. The idea is to help the state Hub, through the state ecosystem, manage independently after CASA withdrawal. This shall represent genuine transfer and devolution of power.

Functioning of the Coordination Hub



At times of disasters, CASA has proactively used one of its programmes, namely the Humanitarian Aid Fund supported by DKH, to support homegrown agencies and ensure the need of the affected areas is met. The agencies in these kinds of isolated pockets are not receiving funds from others. They have access to resources for response through this support, which ultimately sustains their capacity. CASA's capacity being built upon contextual approaches enables an ecosystem to enhance the participation of local agencies in the humanitarian response. CASA has the edge as an organisation with a diversified reach cutting across many states and many agencies locally, nationally and globally. This paves the way for CASA for bringing in the effective mix to enhance the reach of localisation in India to be a significant nexus between the localisation and local

agencies. CASA is continuing to spread the understanding of localisation in the context of local agencies, enabling more space for the local stakeholders. CASA also continues to be part of various networks to enhance participation of localisation and is also actively participating in national and global networks to bring a contextual understanding of localisation. Currently, CASA is actively involved in the NEAR NGO advocacy on localisation in the global scenario and is engaged in the formation of India Humanitarian Hub which intends to promote the process of localisation with the involvement of local agencies. CASA also plays an active role in the ACT India Forum on the "Forum Led Alliance" process of ACT Alliance.

PARTNERS IN COVID-19 RESPONSE

UTTAR PRADESH

• Jan Gramin Vikas Sansthan • Margshree Chairitable Trust • Gramin Shodh Sansthan • Sarv Hitkari Sewa Ashram • Aparajita Samajik Samiti • Samadhan Manav Seva Sansthan • Samudayik Kalyan evam Vikas Sansthan • Jan Kalyan Gramodyog Sewa Ashram • Gautam Budhh Jagriti Samiti • Gramin Viaks Evam Jan Jagran Sewa Samiti • Gramin Vikas Samiti • Jan Vikas Sansthan • St.Paul Chairitable Education Society • Param Lal Sewa Samiti • Abhiyan • Prabhat Samiti • Grameen Parampara Vikassansthan • Society for Pragati Bharat • Lok Jagriti Sansthan • Amkit Anusuchit Samaj Kalyan Technical Nari Utthanevum Shikshan Sansthan • Bethel Social Welfare Society

UTTARAKHAND

• Action for Women and Rural Development Society • Association for Peoples Advancement And Acton Research • Danpur Himalayan Rural and Agricultural Society • Society for Environment and Development • Himalaya Paryavara Jadi-Booti Agro Sansthan • Uttarakhand Jan Jagriti Sanshtan • Himalayan Jyoti Sansthan

HIMACHAL PRADESH

• Chetna Samiti • Himalayan Productive Society Social Work Welfare • Education Society For Information Technology • Association for Rural Entrepreneurship Development • Nature and Life Savers Association

RAJASTHAN

• Alert Sansthan • Apna Sansthan • Jagran • Praytna • Navachar • Gandhi Manav Kalyan Society • Jan Chetna Sansthan

GUJARAT

• CNI Gujarat Diocese

MADHYA PRADESH

• Shram Shakti Mahila Seva Sansthan • Parmeshwari Seva Sadan • Abhar Mahila Samiti • Spandan Samaj Seva Samiti • Vasudha Vikas Sansthan • Nav Ankur Manav Kalyan Sansthan • Samarpan Mahila Vikas Kendra

MAHARASHTRA

• Covenant Social Service • Dr. Ambedkar Sheti Vikas Va Sanshodhan Sanstha • Ashirvad Kanti

KARNATAKA

• Service Society

KERALA

• YMCA Aluva Project • The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

BIHAR

• Rapid Action For Human Advancement Tradition • Lok Bharti Seva Ashram • Manav Vikas Sansthan

JHARKHAND

• CNI Chota Nagpur Diocese • South Vihar Welfare Society for Tribal

MEGHALAYA

• Khasi Jainta Presbyterian Synod • Garo Baptist Convention • Impulse NGO Network • Grassroot

ASSAM

• Sonitpur Baptist Christian Association • Karbi Anglong Baptist Convention • Assam Christian Forum • Council of Baptist church's in North East India • Assam Baptist Association • Social Action for Appropriate Transformation and Advancement in Rural Area • Mahila Shakti Kendra • Rural Volunteer centre • Assam Baptist Convention • North East Research and Social Work Networking

NAGALAND

• Pochury Baptist Church Council • Phom Baptist Christian Association • Nagaland Development Outreach • Pro Rural

MANIPUR

• Zeliangrong Baptist Association • Manipur Baptist Convention (Tanrui Baptist Church / Tangkhul Baptist Christian Association) • Integrated Rural Development Services Organisation • Action of Women in Development • Weaker Section's Development Council • New Era progressive centre

MIZORAM

• Relief & Dev. Baptist Church of Mizoram • Lairam Social Mission (Lairam Jesus Christ Baptist Church) • Centre for Community Development • Centre for Peace and Development • Presbyterian church of Mizoram (Synod Social front)

WEST BENGAL

• Centre for Development of Human Initiative • Rural Aid

ODISHA

• SEBA JAGAT

CHATTISGARH

• Samta Jan Kalyan Samiti • Shikhar Yuva Manch • Lok Astha Seva Samiti • Nivedita Foundation • Nishakt Jan Kalyan Seva Samiti • Dharohar • Sahabhagi Samaj Sevi Sanstha • Jan Vikas Parishad Evam Anusandhan Sansthan • CHAUPAL • Khoj Evam Jan Jagriti Samiti • Jan Kalyan Samajik Sansthan • Navrachna • Regional Institute of Development • Kshitij Samaj Sevi Sanstha • Rachna Manch • Parivartan

TELANGANA

• Mennonite Brethren Church of India • Professional Workers' Fellowship

ANDHRA PRADESH

• Society For Integrated Rural Development • Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church • CSI Vellore Diocese • Tamilnad Christian Council

TAMILNADU

• CSI Vellore Diocese • CSI Thoothukudi Nazareth Diocese • CSI Madurai Ramnad Diocese • Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church • YMCA Martandam Project • Arcot Lutheran Church

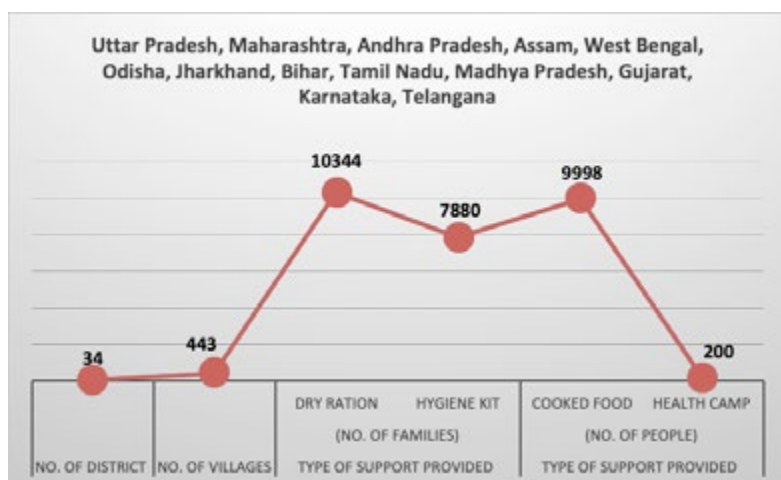
PROGRAMME WISE RESPONSE

HUMANITARIAN AID FUND – DKH

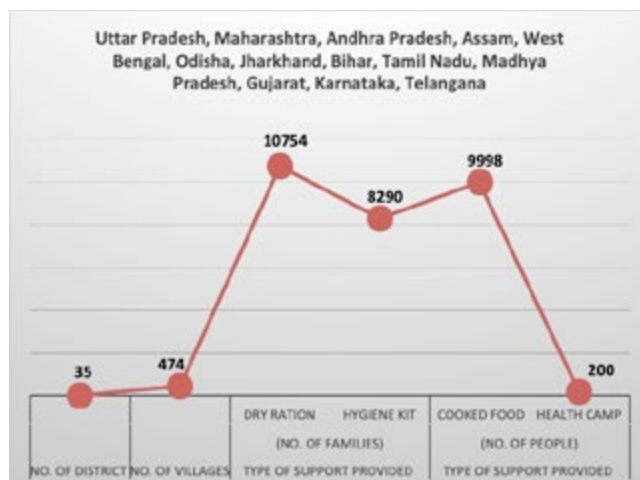


CASA through the support of DKH under its humanitarian response on COVID19, continued the activity in this reporting period also, where the response was done in Jharkhand. The support under this programme helped CASA to work with partners since March enabling a timely response when the lockdown and reverse migration was at its peak. The support under this programme has helped the local NGOs to response based on their contextual needs on time. The approach also enables the capacity enhancement of the agencies involved in the response, where the reach of the programmes was significant. Many marginalised communities were supported which includes geographically remote areas also.

As of 30th June



As of 31st July



1st July to 31st July

State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	Type of Support Provided (No. of Families)		Total Families Supported in the Village	Total Migrant Family Supported
			Dry Ration	Hygiene Kit		
Jharkhand	Pakur	31	410	410	410	410







SPECIAL COVID-19 SUPPORT - DKH

With the Special COVID-19 Support, CASA is continuing its response for the affected, where the programme has 3 components namely provision of Dry Ration kits, Hygiene kits and Cash Support. The need for Cash Support is based on the contextual need. These programmes have been implemented directly by CASA in 5 States this month.

1st July to 31st July

State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	Type of Support Provided (No. of Families)			Total Families Supported in the Village	Total Migrant Family Supported
			Dry Ration	Hygiene Kit	Cash		
Tamil Nadu	Virudhunagar	2	200	200	-	200	200
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal, Sagar, Dhar, Sehore	24	300	300	-	300	300
Himachal Pradesh	Kullu, Shimla, Solan, bilaspur	4	100	50	100	100	-
Uttarakhand	Dehradun, Bageshwar, Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Tehri Garhwal	5	200	-	200	200	-
Rajasthan	Udaipur	40	279	279		279	279
5	14	75	1079	829	300	1079	779

STRIVING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



Tarabai Bansal is a widow migrant labourer having two sons and one daughter. She lives in a small jhuggi (slum hut) near Akriti Eco City main road, Sallaiya, Bhopal. She migrated to Bhopal from Bina five years ago, in search of livelihood as she doesn't have adequate land to produce enough crop to fulfill her family's daily food and monetary need. She used to work as a labourer at construction sites but because of her health condition, she has stopped working. Both her sons also use to work as labor and daughter-in-law as domestic worker to earn livelihood for their family. Altogether they were managing to earn 12 thousand per month.

The lockdown imposed by government on 24th March, 2020, has affected the migrant labourers and their family Tarabai's elder son Ravi and daughter-in-law Sarda also lost employment due to lockdown. Her younger son Ranjan was the only one in the family who managed to work during lockdown as domestic help in his employer's house. Tarabai Bansal borrowed ration from nearby shop from the earning of her younger son and hardly managed to provide 2 meals to her family in a day. In the month of April and June, Tarabai Bansal hardly managed to pay half of the ration cost due to which they are in debt for ration. On 10th May, 2020 her elder son faced an accident and his right toe was broken. For the treatment of her son, she took a loan of Rs.3000 from her nephew who is an ASHA worker. As she is suffering from high blood pressure so she regularly takes medicines which cost Rs. 500 per month.

During this lockdown period her daughter-in-law was suffering from swelling of stomach and for the treatment of her daughter-in-law they have spent Rs 1000. Tarabai Bansal has gone through very difficult time during the lockdown as their earning capacity has decreased drastically. On 3rd July, 2020 CASA Bhopal distributed dry ration to 50 families. Tarabai was one of them who got dry ration support through CASA. This has helped her to pay off the debts which they have taken for purchase of ration during lockdown as she need not to spend money on ration for 10 days and from that saving she managed to pay the debt of ration. She will also use the monetary help of Rs 1000 given by CASA, for further treatment of her sons. This small help can't be enough for solving all her issues but can surely provide relief for few days and encourage her to keep on struggling for solving all her issues.

CORE PROGRAMME

Core Programme is CASA's regular programme which is spread across many states in the country and is implemented directly. One of the fundamental approaches of this programme is to strengthen the people's organisation, where they are enabled to link with the government systems at various levels be it the Panchayats, Block Development Officer, the District Administration and various other departments at the district. COVID 19 response has been happening in these operational areas since March in different aspects. During this month distribution of Dry Ration / Hygiene kit has been done as per the needs based on the context.



1st July to 31st July

State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	Type of Support Provided (No. of Families)		Total Families Supported in the Village	Total Migrant Family Supported
			Dry Ration	Hygiene Kit		
Maharashtra	Latur	7	-	105	105	-
West Bengal	Alipurduar	11	-	188	188	-
Odisha	Keonjhar	11	-	381	381	-
Jharkhand	Gumla, Sahibganj	14	-	469	469	84
Madhya Pradesh	Betul	30	320	320	320	-
Rajasthan	Bansara	30	300	300	300	210
6	7	103	620	1763	1763	294

PMC 2



Planning, Monitoring and Coordination is a regular programme in CASA with focus on context-specific themes, where the process of implementation is done through partners, and the focus of this 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. Under PMC-2 programme, 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 grass-root levels. 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.

1st July to 31st July

State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	Type of Support Provided (No. of Families)		Total Families Supported in the Village	Total Migrant Family Supported
			Dry Ration	Hygiene Kit		
West Bengal	Jalpaiguri	5	850	-	850	130
Madhya Pradesh	Dhar, Sagar, Mandla, Sehore	46	-	3049	3049	1007
Himachal Pradesh	Kullu, Shimla	4	0	137	137	137
Uttarakhand	Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar	11	554	1039	1039	554
Rajasthan	Chittorgarh, Banswara	46	60	30	60	28
Chhattisgarh	Korba, Bilaspur, Kanker	13	774	-	774	94
Uttar Pradesh	Jhansi, Jalaun, Banda	34	-	1200	1200	-
7	15	144	2238	5455	7109	1950



EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORTED PROGRAMME

The Episcopal Relief and Development support programmes in Maharashtra target both the vulnerable groups and the returned guest workers who have been affected by the COVID 19 impact and the lockdown associated with it. The twelve villages identified are home to some of the most marginalised communities, where CASA's long presence in these villages had helped to enhance their socio-economic development and capacities. COVID 19 and the lockdown imposed has shaken them and reduced their socioeconomic conditions. The priority population for this emergency response were single women headed families, returnee guest workers, physically challenged persons, landless families, SC/ST/OBC households, severely ill persons, etc., were supported with dry ration kits, hygiene kits and cash support.



1st July to 31st July

State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	Type of Support Provided (No. of Families)			Total Families Supported in the Village	Total Migrant Family Supported
			Dry Ration	Hygiene Kit	Cash		
Maharashtra	Yawatmal	12	450	450	100	450	100



CHRISTIAN AID SUPPORTED PROGRAMME

The Christian Aid supported programme in Uttar Pradesh focuses only on the returned guest workers. Though the guest workers contribute a lot 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 nor food and shelter losing their dignity. A significant number of families from Uttar Pradesh migrate to other states for employment; their return to their native villages led to a significant level of concerns and challenges in villages and communities. The programmes support immediate food needs, prevention and protective support, cash transfers, livelihood support and linkages in Uttar Pradesh

1st July to 31st July

State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	Type of Support Provided (No. of Families)			Total Families Supported in the Village	Total Migrant Family Supported
			Dry Ration	Hygiene Kit	Seed		
Uttar Pradesh	Banda, Maharjganj, Ambedkar Nagar, Chitrakoot, Lalitpur, Jaunpur, Kushinagar, Bahraich	54	-	1594	634	1680	1680

SPECIAL PROGRAMME IN UTTAR PRADESH DONE THROUGH REGULAR PROGRAMME

1st July to 31st July

State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	Livelihood support(No. of families)				Total Families Supported in the Village	Total Migrant Family Supported
			Seed	Livestock	Vermi pits	Fish farming		
Uttar Pradesh	Hamirpur, Jhansi, Bethel, Maharaiganj	25	260	20	5	34	319	280



STUCK BETWEEN HUNGER AND THE LOCKDOWN

Kanchana Vijay Dethe is living in Karegaon, ArniBlock, YavatmalDistrict, Maharashtra. Karegaon is one of the 12 villages of Comprehensive Food Security Project supported by Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD). During the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, ERD supported resources to provide relief to 450 marginalised families with dry ration, hygiene kits as well as direct cash transfer of Rs. 1000/- each to 100 families.

Kanchana is one among the families who received the dry ration, WASH kits and cash support. Kanchana has two children and both are taking the primary education. She is the only breadwinner of her family. The sudden imposition of lockdown by the government in the entire country to prevent the outbreak of COVID-19, has affected every sector. Everyone was forced to stay home during this time and they had no support for their livelihood. Kanchana is also one of them. She was facing food scarcity as her economic situation worsened. CASA's timely distribution of dry ration, WASH kit and cash transfer has immensely helped Kanchana to meet the food and hygiene needs of her family. She is thankful to CASA for supporting her family during this distress time.



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SUPPORTED PROGRAMME

The United Church of Christian supported programmes in Tamil Nadu aims to support guest workers with Dry Ration and hygiene kits to enable them to sustain their lives during the lockdown period and enhance their food security and reduce risk to COVID 19. The programme has been implemented in Tamil Nadu in places where the returned guest workers are without any employment. Most of the beneficiaries have returned from the neighboring states like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. With the continuous increase in the cases of COVID19 the situation in South India has become very uncertain for these returned guest workers.

1st July to 31st July

State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	Type of Support Provided (No. of Families)		Total Families Supported in the Village	Total Migrant Family Supported in the village
			Dry Ration	Hygiene Kit		
Tamil Nadu	Dindigul, Tirupur, Chengalpat	18	400	400	400	400



NORTHEAST INDIA SPECIAL PROGRAMME

North East States of India are no exception in suffering economical losses due to the Lockdown imposed because of COVID 19. North Eastern Region (NER) has several serious problems ranging from social, underdevelopment, economic to political. The economies of NER are very poor with weak industrial sectors and inflated service sectors. Moreover, industrialization has failed to take off in the region. Many from the region migrate to other states and cities in India and the lockdown has also forced them to return. The lockdown has aggravated the problems in the regions and off late the trends show that the cases of COVID 19 are increasing. CASA along with its partner organisations has been working in North East India to help communities especially affected by the impact of COVID 19, at various levels. The purpose of these programmes is to increase awareness of preventive measures and to support communities severely affected due to pandemic, with no livelihood support.

1st July to 31st July

State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	Type of Support Provided (No. of Families)		Total Families Supported in the Village
			Dry Ration	Hygiene Kit	
Assam	Golaghat, Golpara, Sonitpur	45	1491	1491	1491
Mizoram	Aizawl, Champhai, Lawngtlai, Lunglei	53	1765	-	1765
Manipur	Ukhrul, Tengnoupal, Senapati, Imphal West	71	-	3493	3493
Meghalaya	South West Garo Hills	1	2	-	2
	West Garo Hills	1	1	-	1
4	13	171	3259	4984	6752



AZIM PREMJI PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVE IN KOLKATTA

The Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative supported programme was implemented in Kolkatta, West Bengal State. The programmes were completely targeted towards the slum dwellers in Kolkatta, who have lost employment during the lockdown. Almost the entire population of the Kolkata Metropolitan Slum Area consists of wage earners involved in the informal sector. 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 this pandemic. The slums in India are more vulnerable to COVID19 as they live in close-knit habitation which by itself reduces the scope for physical distancing.

Moreover, the lack of employment poses a major threat to their survival as their livelihood is from the informal sector.



1st July to 31st July

State Name	District Name	No. of Villages	Type of Support Provided (No. of Families)		Total Families Supported in the Village
			Dry Ration	Hygiene Kit	
West Bengal	Kolkata Metropolitan	31 Wards	5120	5120	5120

A TIMELY HELP...

Govind Kumar (name changed) hails from Topsia, Kolkata. He stays with his wife, old mother and an 11 years old boy. His occupation is ironing clothes at a very small scale which is not enough to meet his family's basic needs. He is the breadwinner of the family, apart from this he has no other financial support. With his income he and his family are living only hand to mouth. In the recent scenario of COVID-19 lockdown he is going through severe financial crisis as he is not getting work. In this dire situation he was given Dry ration kit and hygiene kits for his family by a NGO named 'Focus' in collaboration with CASA funded by WIPRO. Apart from this he is getting rice from Public distribution system (PDS) with ration card. Though he is very thankful to the NGO and government, he has to fight very hard to survive every day in this situation. He admitted if this situation prevails his family's fight for survival would be more severe. He urges that government should take adequate step and some NGOs like CASA & Focus support's people like him so they can win the battle of survival in the moment of global crisis.



LET ALONE TO FIGHT...

Mousumi Saha (name changed) hails from Khidirpur dock area. She lives with her husband who is terminally ill and unable to do any work. They have no financial support and are dependent on their only daughter who is married. Before the lockdown, her daughter provided them food and monthly 500 rupees but during this lockdown period, she is unable to provide even the basic items she used to give to her parents. Although, Mousumi is suffering from many health conditions, she can't undergo any proper medication and no proper nutrition because of her economic situation. It was during this situation, an organisation named 'Right Track' came to support in collaboration with CASA and funded by WIPRO. She was thankful to the organisation for their support but she is doubtful about her survival in the future if this pandemic persists.



CHANGES WITNESSED SO FAR

The response to the pandemic has witnessed an enhanced role of women and youth, which also seems to build their confidence level. They have actively engaged in developing campaign materials like handmade posters, wall paintings, etc. with the minimal resources available. They are also providing training on WASH to the communities. Since most of the youths have functional linkages with the local Panchayat, they have been able to collect IEC material from panchayat to distribute it in the villages.

The process has paved way for new leaders who are coming forward to advocate on their community's issues they are suffering. They have been actively involved in linkages with the government programmes also. All these, with the engagement of communities has also led to behavioural change among them that communities can be seen as they are performing preventive measures for COVID -19 seriously

With livelihood becoming a major concern coupled along with the return of the guest workers, the host community also had to look at alternate options in livelihood. This involved looking at the available resources, where it has been noticed the local communities and the returned guest workers have inclined more on the agriculture and farming activities. These activities were not much sought after options

earlier which prompted communities to leave their villages in search of livelihood options in other states and cities.

People have also realised the importance of farming as during this critical period, farming has become the only hope for the stability of their family. Guest workers are identifying the resources available at local areas for livelihood generation, and this is the sign which needs close monitoring with the accompaniment process.

Communities are getting well informed or sensitised regarding the moral responsibility that by doing "Shramdaan" they can rejuvenate the water bodies and the farmlands of their neighbourhood. The local NGOs have stood up well in the fight against the corona virus and proved that their closeness to the communities matters a lot. The pandemic and restriction have also enabled the local NGOs to develop an alternative system to ensure that a response mechanism is in place amidst the systems.





DEFENDING LAND RIGHTS: KHANKI BAI DEFENDS WOMEN RIGHTS

The women's leader did not only guide women to secure workdays but also protected many women from violence and exploitation.

During the time of COVID-19 pandemic, while millions of labour jobs perished, Kanki Bai from Samarjharp was on the way to create employment opportunities for the women of her village.

After the imposition of nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of COVID19, many women employed in the unorganised sectors lost their source of income. In this hour of need, the women's leader from Jan Jati AdhikarManch (JJAM) did not only guide women to secure work days but also protected many from violence and exploitation during the work hours.

Khanki Bai is only women National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) mate in her Gram Panchayat. Interested in leading women rights, she had expressed her enthusiasm to get associated with Prayatna Samiti for voluntary support in the village and area around. In the association of 30 years, she received the training on Rights arranged by the organisation and has guided women to the front. In the past, she has proved her capability in conserving traditional seeds, defending forest rights, ensuring access to social service schemes –MGNREGA, PDS and ICDS, and curbing women violence.

Khanki Bai narrates her experience during the COVID-19 pandemic as, "In the month of May 2020, I, as the women MGNREGA mate, registered 85 women from Samarjharp village for securing 13 days of MGNREGA job at a site in the village. The site was a common pasture where plantation work was about to happen. The group of 85 women started working at the site."

But During 11th day of work, something unusual happened. No-one could have imagined the gravity of gender inequality that was about to challenge Khanki Bai and the women. "One of the NREGA mates from another worksite from the village poked his nose unnecessarily during the work hours. He started insulting the women by commenting that this site has been illegally allocated to them and how could women work in the village. He made a complaint to the forester of the area to stop women working at the site and terminate the work."

But Khanki Bai was unwavering in her motivation to fight for what was right. "The Forester approached me. Taking the issue on serious note, I talked to the mate and forester. I told them that the site is allocated to the workers by Gram Panchayat. Forest department has no right to talk to her on the matter and should report to the Gram Panchayat officials instead".

She knew that the case had nothing factual in it. The MGNREGA mate and forester had nothing to do in the matter. "I also warned them that if they further humiliate women workers at the worksite then she will drag them to the labour court. The case got resolved at the worksite itself. Each woman earned 200 INR per day for 13 days from the job." says Khanki Bai.

The incident exemplifies the role of leadership in securing women jobs and combating injustice inflicted upon them at the cost of dignity. "Such types of violence can occur at any work site. Leadership need to be emerged to balance gender equity and equality", adds Khanki Bai.



MOLLIFYING THE SEVERE REPERCUSSIONS OF THE COVID 19 LOCKDOWN

"The nationwide lockdown was imposed when I arrived in Shimla ... No one has been employing domestic help or labour ... How should I feed and sustain myself without work? Moreover, I have a 12 years old daughter. How should I bring her up?" Shares Gyanti Devi, a 38-year-old guest worker and an extremely strong woman.

Troubles never come alone, nor do they have a preface to their approach. A calamity always spares the survivor with an invisible wound. The survivor alone perceives whether the scars heal with time or not. Yet, their stories become an exemplar of inspiration for many propelling against the vicissitudes of destiny. Gyanti hails from Chapra district of Bihar. Despite trying her best to meet the medical expenses of her husband's treatment, she lost him to cancer in 2015. Depleted of property and savings, she shifted to her maternal place with her eight years old daughter and a seven years old son. Yet the misfortune was merely the tip of an iceberg.

In 2016 her son developed mild fever and was carried to the village hospital. After the constant change in referrals from the village hospital to the district hospital and finally, to Patna, what happened next was heartbreaking. "We travelled to Patna overnight by bus. My son got treated, but soon he lost his voice. The doctors told us that they are trying their best to treat him, but whether he would survive or not is up to fate." Gyanti broke into tears while narrating the events of that day, "My child died after six days."

Gyanti was too devastated to sense what followed next. All that she remembers was her brother buried her son, and she couldn't see her child again. Gyanti fainted in shock and was carried back home. Consoled by her sister-in-law, Gyanti was convinced to join them in Shimla to work, earn and live together. "I started working as a Household help in Shimla. My daughter was enrolled in a school"

We wish it was the end to her misery and her story could have taken an easy route in progression. But fate had another set of the tide against Gyanti to face. "In January 2020, I went to my hometown and came back in the first week of March. The nationwide lockdown was imposed when I arrived at Shimla. We have been sitting idle at home since the lockdown. No one has been employing domestic help or labour. We were worried about sustaining ourselves. I shared my worries with a (CASA) volunteer and conveyed all I had been through. How should I feed and sustain myself without work? Moreover, I have a 12 years old daughter with me. How should I bring her up?"

CASA assured Gyanti to provide all possible help and support. "The (CASA) community members have indeed helped me a lot. The CASA volunteer (addressed as CASA Didi by Gyanti) assisted me." Gyanti was employed and was supplied with a monetary amount of 1000 rupees along with a month's ration. Encouraged to reshape her life, Gyanti works with dedication to sustain her daughter and herself. No one can ever compensate for her loss or perceive the pain in her emotional wounds. But the strength that she harboured through those struggles, makes her worthy of a dignified life ahead. CASA intends to support more brave individuals like Gyanti whose predicaments have been worsened in these unprecedented times of the Covid-19 pandemic.





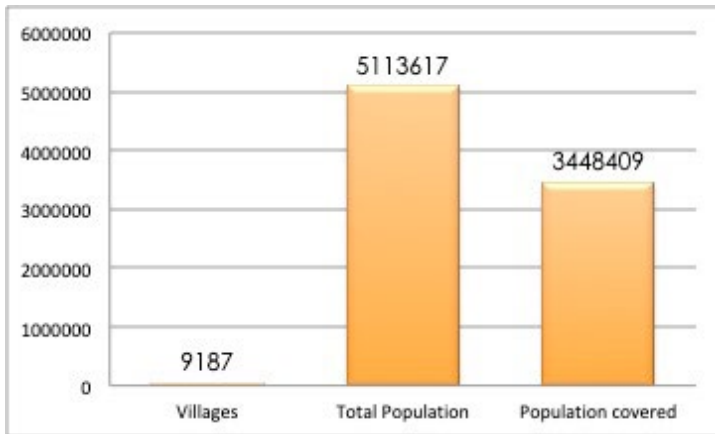
AWARENESS INITIATIVES

Awareness initiatives still play a crucial role, particularly as the spread is increasing. It is important to continuously make the communities understand the hygienic practices to prevent the pandemic COVID 19, as the situation is worsening now. With many states becoming more vulnerable to COVID 19, CASA is ensuring to involve more and more local youth and women enabling them to take lead and enhance their leadership capacity. The process has now witnessed certain community-led campaigns also...

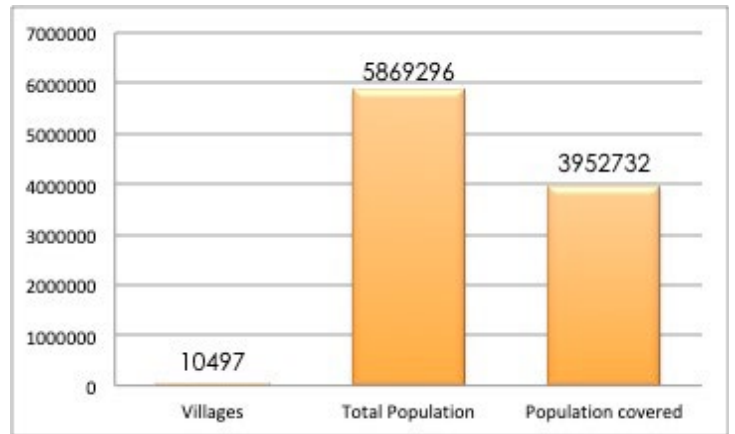
Many government programmes and schemes mentioned both for the returned migrants and host communities especially MGNREGA for income, and it was ensured that people received it within our communities, where new job cards were also accessed. Village animators, community leaders, volunteers' and women took leading roles in creating awareness about washing hands, use of mask and physical distancing. They are also actively involved in various aspect of awareness spreading like...

- COVID-19:-Mask, Social Distance, Hand Wash, PPE kit, Sanitization.
- Health: - Hygiene, Hand Wash, Water Purification, Nutrition, Diarrhoea, ORS, Vaccination.
- Education:-Online Reading, Drop out.
- Agriculture:-Nutrition garden, Vermi Compost, Azola, Sake Farming, AI-farming, Indigenous seed.
- Govt. Scheme:-Old age pension, Widow pension, MGNREGA, Kanya Shree, Rupa Shree, SabujSathi, Scholarship

As of 30th June



As of 31st July



1st July to 31st July

Zone	Total Villages	Total Population	Total Population Reached
East Zone	318	273193	89281
West Zone	85	86314	51418
South Zone	62	42708	22518
North Zone	845	353464	341106
Total	1310	755679	504323



Children make for the promising future of our country. The curiosity of their age encourages them to learn about various elements. Such a zeal makes them the most suitable group to be imparted with useful knowledge. When a child gets exposure to healthy habits and awareness, he/she tends to convey the same to their elders in the family too. The emotional and behavioral belongingness of the child to the family acts as a vehicle to propagate healthy practices and knowledge. To substantiate this role of children in helping the people around them, here is the story of Lokesh.

One day Lokesh returned home and started to look for a soap. Lokesh's mother, Meena, wondered what her son was trying to do since he had gone to play with his friends sometime ago and seemed to return with a plan in mind. Lokesh Kumar, an eighth standard student, lives in the Kadma village of Jhalara block in Udaipur, Rajasthan. While he was playing with his friends in Baroliya village, he was attracted by the awareness camp on COVID-19 do's and don'ts organised by PrayatnaSamiti with support of CASA and the IEC material arranged by the side.

Sitting beneath a tree, he carefully paid attention to the practical knowledge on handwashing as demonstrated in the camp. Lokesh rushed back home and managed to arrange a piece of soap from the bathroom to place it in front of the veranda. Soon after that, he was in motion to demonstrate personal hygiene practice to avoid any viral infection.

Lokesh says, "The five steps of handwashing was a new practice for me. I had never come across those steps recommended by UNICEF even in my textbooks. After the camp was over, I immediately thought to arrange a soap and planned a suitable place to keep it".

Lokesh educated his family members on the habit of washing hand with soap after coming from outdoors as well as before and after eating. "The awareness camp informed how the cleansing action of soap removes the microbes from the hands when washed for 20 seconds. Lokesh communicated to his family members and friends about the five steps of washing hands with soap which cleanses the microbes hiding in skin folds and around fingers. This stops germs from entering the body, along with food.

- Five steps of hand wash:
- Rub hands to lather
- Rub the back of each hand with opposite palm
- Rub palms with fingers interlaced
- Rub each thumb clasped in the opposite palm
- Rub finger tip in the opposite palm



HAND WASH, MOST ACCEPTABLE TO ALL

"Earlier I skipped washing my hands before and after eating. The soap was rarely used while washing hands. Now we have realised the importance of maintaining hygiene by washing hands with soap, and in 5 steps", says Lokesh's mother. Lokesh's family members have made hand wash a habit. A new soap has also been placed. Lokesh is happy to promote the message to keep the microbes away.

CASA has always valued the concept of educating mass regarding the best practices. The awareness camp on COVID19, conducted in various villages across the country, has helped awaken many people, including women and children. The communication of awareness tips and precautionary measures can help control the spread of COVID19 besides ensuring excellent health. Good habits are always rewarding in the long run and to make communities aware of it is the chief objective of CASA.



NO ONE SLEEP IN HUNGER



The nationwide lockdown imposed by the Government to contain the spread of COVID19 coronavirus has led to various other repercussions, the Jan Chetna Sansthan with support from CASA started a campaign named, "No One Sleep in Hunger". This campaign was implemented in village Munghthala of Rajasthan, as the pandemic led to closure of MGNREGA work in Munghthala village, the workers and wagers of the village became desperate and worried as this situation was affecting their livelihood. Prabhuram, who is one of the workers in MGNREGA, He is physically challenged but was earning enough to sustain himself through MGNREGA work, this flipped as the work came to halt in this lockdown. He was dismayed and hopeless about his survival and food. His delicate situation was recognised and was given dry rations, he was thankful for this gesture. The MGNREGA application was made in Gram Panchayat and pressure was given to the Sarpanch and administration to start MGNREGA work so the workers can resume their livelihood routine.

CYCLONE AMPHAN RESPONSE, WEST BENGAL



Cyclone Amphan hit the coastline of West Bengal of India on 20th May, 2020. It gravely affected parts of Odisha and West Bengal, including the city of Kolkata. The eye of this deadly cyclonic storm was about 30 kilometres in diameter, which triggered landfall with gusting winds of up to 185 kmph. The cyclone caused landfall in the areas of Digha, on the coastal belt of West Bengal, and completely disrupted essential services and livelihoods across the southern part of West Bengal. Certain northern districts of the state were also affected. The cyclonic storm accompanied with heavy rain, coincided with the astronomical tide, resulting in the storm surges with high waves of up to 15 feet. The state was left behind by a trail of destruction, with 5 lakh uprooted trees and electric posts. There has been a destruction of thousands of houses and swamping of low-lying areas. The plight of 28.56 lakh individuals, who have lost their dwelling houses, has been made worse in a situation when the COVID-19 pandemic is raging across the country. There has been severe damage to education-related infrastructure. Approximately 12,678 Integrated Child Development Centres (ICDS) were damaged, which has hampered the education of children. The sustenance and the sources of livelihood of people were seriously affected in the stricken area. Loss of around 17 lakh hectares of agriculture land crops (including paddy and vegetables and betel vine) were reported from various districts offices. Around 21.22 lakhs animals died because of the cyclone.

The fishing community has lost their fishing boats and nets. Resources of water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in the affected areas are at their worst, which imposes a higher risk on human life. Existing deep tube wells of 800 to 1,200 feet are contaminated and have become unhealthy for consumption as drinking water. There are 102 islands in the Indian Sundarbans, of which 48 are present the forests and the rest 54 are in Sundarbans. Due to the limitations on transport and movement, the island-based communities have not been able to access the relief aided either by the government or any non-governmental agencies.

CASA began its response within 48 hours of the disaster in the affected regions. The relief aid was provided through our local partners under the Humanitarian Aid Fund supported by DKH. Alongside the response getting kick-started, CASA also conducted a rapid assessment to formulate an in-depth understanding of the impact of the cyclone. The rapid assessment was done individually on CASA's front and also along with the Inter-Agency Group (IAG), as a part of the Coordination Mechanism in West Bengal, where CASA is also the Convening Agency of the IAG. The assessment was crucial as this cyclone led to another severe impact amidst COVID-19, with the guest workers yet returning to their native villages. Such circumstances increased the vulnerabilities in many aspects.



members in the family consisting of an average of five to six members is becoming a challenge for the bread-earners.

In light of these situations, CASA has been responding to the disasters with the following programmatic dimensions:

- Immediate response
- Need assessment
- Mid-term livelihood support

Under immediate responses, CASA has provided support with an objective to supply the food and non-food items to 800 cyclone affected families in 10 villages of Mathurapur-II block of South 24 Parganas district and five villages of Hasnabad Block of the North 24 Parganas district in West Bengal. The following food and non-food items were distributed through the DKH-HAF mechanism.

Dry Raton :	
Rice (10 kgs), Lentil (1 Kgs), Turmeric Powder (200 gm), Chilly Powder (200 Gram), Soya bean Bari (500 gram), TATA Salt (1 Kg), Potato (5 Kg)	800 Families
Non Food Items :	
Mask, Dettol Liquid, Dettol Soap 4pcs	800 Families

Pertaining to the massive destruction of residential shelters, the families had to live in Multi-Purpose Cyclone Shelters (MPCS) for many days. Besides the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown period extending beyond 120 days, the issue of reverse migration made the condition worse in terms of livelihood opportunities. While the labourers had just returned after many hurdles with no time to recover from the current crisis, the cyclone devastated them completely. Quarantine centres were utilised as cyclone shelters to accommodate maximum people since their numbers were surpassing the capacity of the MPCS, where again, maintaining physical-distancing was a great challenge. Thus, the entire section of the affected population in the shelters were exposed to COVID-19 contamination.

AMPHAN has drawn a critical scenario over the livelihood and food security of people in the most affected blocks. According to field observation as well as Government information, it has been found that more than 17 Lakhs hectares of crops were devastated by the storm. People of those affected blocks are dependent on agriculture and agriculture-allied activities like animal husbandry & pisciculture. Approximately 25% of the people have lost their summer crop and the opportunity to reap monsoon crops. During the field observation, it was also noted that 100% of the affected families significantly decreased food intake due to the unavailability of food and income. Our assessment team has observed that a majority of children and mothers are suffering from the food crisis in the most vulnerable regions. Under these uncertain situations, the issue of trafficking has come to the fore. The situation has problematically increased cases of early marriage as the families are unable to sustain the loss of the cyclone coupled with the livelihood loss of COVID 19 and the lockdown, where feeding the



Under the devastating situation, individuals residing in the districts of South and North 24 Parganas have become homeless with enormous damage incurred to their land and livelihood. The minimum belongings they could secure have been completely divested. There was a need for food items, non-food items and hygiene kits. With the help of UMCOR solidarity grant, ERD and FLC, CASA has provided food and non-food items to 1000 most vulnerable families in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. Following is the account to it:

Dry Ration Kit:	
Rice (10 kgs), Lentil (1 Kgs), Edible Oil (Mustard Oil - 1 Litre), Turmeric Powder (200 gm), Chilly Powder (200 Gram), Soya bean Bari (500 gram), TATA Salt (1 Kg), Potato (5 Kg)	1000 families
Non Food Items :	
Mask, Bath Towel, Dettol Soap 4pcs	1000 Families

CASA responded in the North 24 Parganas district with the help of ECHO, through Christian Aid in 15 villages of the 3 GPs. The project is reaching out to around 51,680 people. The Rapid Assessment conducted post cyclone, identified the following priority humanitarian needs within the following sectors :

1. Food security
2. Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
3. Shelter and NFI

The IREACH action is supporting the target communities with :

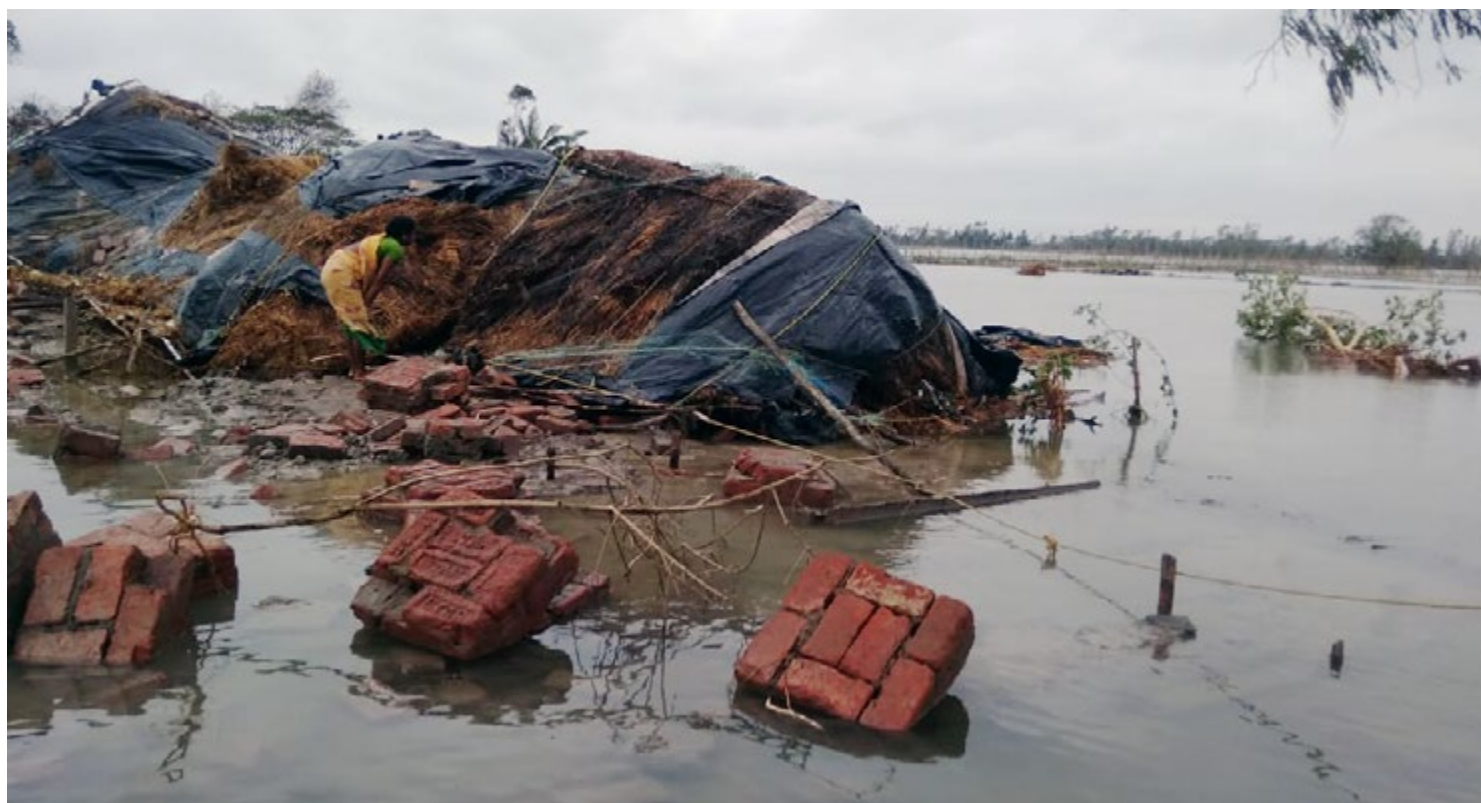
1. Unconditional cash transfers to contribute to food security.
2. Different activities to ensure access to safe drinking water at HH level and at the community/evacuation shelters, improved sanitation facilities, increased awareness on hygiene and sanitation practices as well as necessary hygiene items at household level.
3. Conditional cash transfer for shelter repair combined with NFI.

The programme delivery is adapted in line with Covid-19 protocols and best safety practices.

Inclusive programming: IREACH project is targeting the most vulnerable and marginalised communities in North 24 Parganas district, mainly from Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe, women-led single-headed households (including widows and female victims of trafficking returning back to their villages), internally displaced people and daily wage workers impacted. Details of status as follows:

IREACH - Inclusive Rapid Emergency Humanitarian Assistance to Communities in West Bengal affected by Cyclone Amphan			
Activity	Planned	Accomplished	Remarks
Unconditional Cash Transfer @ 10,000 per family	811	752	
Conditional cash Transfer @ 8,000	500	448	
Hygiene Kits	1642	1632	
Cleaning of pond & chlorination	15	15	
Repair of Toilets	100		In progress
Repair of Tube well	30		In progress

“YOU WON’T UNDERSTAND”



Hundreds of trees uprooted, electric poles uprooted and overhead wires snapped across different areas of Kakdwip Island, which cut off the island from other parts of the state. However, the most far-reaching consequence is the saltwater from the Bay of Bengal that entered in the village, is likely to increase in salinity and reducing yields significantly for the next few years.

“May 20th, 2020 turned me into a beggar now. All I had a small mud house, God snatched even that from me,” 43-year-old Shyamali Munda of Kasiabad Mundapara village in the South 24 Parganas, Sundarbans said. In the last 20 years, Shyamali and her family lost ancestral land as the Gobodia River engulfed parts of the delta. Pointing to the waters, Shyamali said, “This River took almost everything we had. Now, this storm has just finished us. After Cyclone Amphan, the Sundarbans have become unrecognisable.”

Authorities have devoted their best to evacuate low lying areas from safer shelters available within and nearby buildings. Shyamali Munda and her 4 family members took shelter for more than 15 days in Mundapara Primary school with 3 other families who have also lost their shelters. The family stuck inside the primary school for 5 days in water logged condition. Shyamali told our Partner Organization, named, Sonartari Woman and Child Welfare Institution (SWCWI) that the first time they received a cooked meal six days after the cyclone hit; “We were getting dry food from the community kitchen.”

AMPHAN is the first major cyclone to make a landfall in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic in a densely populated region, which raises many questions about the impacts. The families have no choice but to stay at the primary school with many without maintaining social distancing and personal hygiene. The family lost their shelter, only livelihood like fisheries as the saline water infiltrated into the pond water and fishes died due to increase of salinity leading to economic & social insecurity also. The members of family returned to their respective home for repairing their broken mud houses. But the 17 years old young daughter of Shayamli stay alone during the day in the school in a situation where she can neither go back to a broke home nor feel secure with other unknown persons throughout the days.

She managed to hang one long piece of cloth to maintain social distancing from others during this emergency situation. Faced lack of sufficient facilities like separate toilet and washroom facilities (which is particularly a problem for menstruating girl) and there were no private spaces. Those nights were nightmare for her life.

Till now the family is unable to fully rebuild their home, using tarpaulin sheet on the roof supported by CASA through SWCWI and sarees for guarding wall, to make a temporary makeshift. CASA through SWCWI could support them immediate relief to minimize their miseries by providing Dry Rations, Hygiene Kit, mosquito net and other non-food items including utensils to cook. “We are so poor that it is impossible for us to build our house again. I am begging from the government and CASA through SWCWI to help us or else we all will die,” said Shyamali.

CONCLUSION

The concerns of the pandemic, where protection and prevention is the only hope as of now, leads to challenges on one side and learnings' on the other side. As days and months pass by the challenges and learnings' should lead to a better way of life filled with dignity. The learnings should not be confined to survival alone, rather it should get into the issues of the power structure and the vulnerabilities concerned with the pandemic which thrown away people out of the mainstream of life. It is important to engage with the community and learning their aspirations and effectively moving out the barriers of the same for them. This demands a significant level of perspective and understanding from the grass-root among the Humanitarian Sector to evolve an equitable structure and a system. The structure and the system also should enable strengthening the local capacities with the local agencies as the pivot.



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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