COVID 19 RESPONSE

BY

IGSSS and its Partners

6th Report (6th May 2020)
Present Scenario – Macro Level

Macro-Level Picture: As India records the biggest single-day jump in numbers for both COVID 19 cases and deaths, the overall mortality rate (death per 100 cases) has surged to 3.38 percent, the highest since April 13 (3.46 percent) when 51 deaths were recorded (as per the data shared by the Union Health Ministry). The economic activity has been suspended since mid-March after the announcement of lockdown to counter the spread of COVID 19 pandemics. This has led India’s unemployment rate surged to 27.11 percent for the week ended May 3 from the level of 6.74 percent in the week ended March 15, the data from the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy (CIME) showed. The rate of unemployment was the highest in urban areas which include the majority in the red zones at 29.22 percent as against 26.16 percent for rural areas. Employment in MSMEs and unorganized sector is expected to be hit sharply. According to data provided by the National Health Authority (NHA), the number of treatments for 825 types of unique critical non-COVID procedures by both private and government facilities across the country dropped over 20 percent between Feb and April.

Way Forward: It is now utmost necessary for the rural and urban Indian governance to come together and make a robust integrated plan. Planning for withstanding the entrance of COVID 19 requires the full deployment of the mechanism for district planning envisaged in Article 243 ZD involving all three tiers of the panchayats and the municipalities brought together in the district planning committee.

Silver Lining: In Srinagar, after the death of two pregnant women in Anantnag, Kashmir Divisional Commissioner P K Pole had directed the district authorities to draw up birth plans for pregnant women so that they can be screened for COVID in advance. Hence Srinagar District Project Officer Zeenat Ara has been using her network of Anganwadi workers and ASHA workers to ensure no expectant mother or the newborn falls off their radar. With travel restricted, doctors and clinics hard to get through to, and stores and markets closed, Anganwadi workers who have been reaching out to pregnant women amidst the nationwide lockdown. Each ANGANWADI worker offers a pack to all pregnant woman which has two packets. One, for the expectant mother, which carries a hot water bag, towels, a set of comfortable nightwear and slippers. The other is for the baby — a soft, furry pink blanket, wipes, diapers, clothes, soap, and a few other essentials1.

IGSSS and its Partner NGOs’ response:

1 https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-lockdown-srinagar-plan-for-every-pregnant-woman-6395939/
**Immediate Relief work:** IGSSS and its Partners through relief work to date reached out to **14,629 families across 13 states** of India covering both rural and urban communities. IGSSS is directly coordinating the relief work in Delhi but in all other states, we are coordinating with the network of **24 partner NGOs**. Last week we extended our support to our partner NGO named Right Track in Kolkata so that they can support around **1200 Domestic workers and 800 Street vendors** with Dry food and sanitation kits.

**Mobilization through Crowdfunding:** IGSSS had organized the crowdfunding campaign through an online platform named Impact Guru. We could raise around **8,42,657 INR** to date. Through this amount, we could support around **735 families** in the cities of Chennai, Mumbai, and Delhi.

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**IGSSS EXTENDS ITS GRATITUDE AND A WARM THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS. IT IS THROUGH YOUR CONTRIBUTION WE COULD REACH OUT TO THE POOR AND NEEDY. THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT**

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### Table 1

Relief Support with the help of Crowdfunding Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Priority Groups</th>
<th>Families Supported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tamilnadu, Chennai</td>
<td>Migrant families - Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Manipur</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homeless families</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trans persons</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resettlement sites – elders and persons with disabilities</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elders and women-headed households</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>Construction Workers</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HIV Infected persons</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra, Mumbai</td>
<td>Stranded People, Urban Homeless</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>735 HHs</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: Dry Ration and Sanitation Kit Distributed to Families

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Presently IGSSS and its NGO partners are reaching out to **16,946 Households.**

Urban Household -12,629  Rural Household– 4,317
Food Distribution to the People by IGSSS and its NGO partners

Dry ration kit distributed to the 38 marginalized families who have no ration card, Janata Basti, Jamshedpur by Partner ASES in support with IGSSS COVID relief grant

Dry ration kits served to the transgender persons HarijanBasti, Jamshedpur by partner ASES in support with IGSSS COVID relief grant

SEDP mobilized dry ration support from Dream India Foundation and distributed to 150 most needy families in Suposhan project area

SEDP with IGSSS support distributed hygiene kit to 200 most marginalized families in Suposhan project area
Hygiene kit distribution with support from IGSSS

Dry Ration Kit Distribution 150 families at Gokhulpuri on 5,6,7 May-2020

Pre Identification of Families for Relief Distribution

Physical Distancing while the distribution of relief material to the identified families.
IGSSS could mobilize community-based volunteers, who are mostly from different locations - from different districts within the region. IGSSS is connected with them through the community WhatsApp group to spread the verified information and advisories. For the last 2 weeks, we have started a training course for volunteers through the virtual platform. We have used the existing module of COVID19 Book of Five and COVID warrior training manual by the Ministry of Health n Family Welfare with tweaking it as required to meet the specific needs and with additional inputs from the COVID academy courses. **We have started the virtual training in 3 states, Assam, Delhi, and Odisha, ranging between two to six sessions. We were able to cover 38 villages and around 14 slums in 3 states. Almost 189 people attended the training course until now.**

**Virtual Volunteer Training in Kashmir**

- **Utilization of Virtual Space For Planning and Engagement:** On 19th April 2020 a Capacity Building Group and Covid-19 Crisis was created in collaboration with Centre for Law and Development, comprising of 16 members (10 active youth group representatives, three advocates, Greater Kashmir editor & two staff members of IGSSS) to utilize virtual space for dialogue on conflict transformation and community engagement during COVID-19 crisis in rural areas. On 28th April 2020, the first round of virtual engagement meeting was conducted on WhatsApp on Disasters and Peace Building Opportunities and Organizational Capacity Development

- **Psychosocial Care Warriors of IGSSS/Community Support Group** was formed. It consists of 19 active volunteers from IGSSS project intervention areas with this aim to reach out to the people who are in dire need of psychosocial care and support due to the COVID-19 crisis. The first round of the WhatsApp group meeting was conducted on 30th April 2020 in which 14 volunteers actively participated. The objective behind the meeting was to understand the role of a psycho caregiver and how to deal with victims during emergencies.

- **Brief of online training organized for youth under peace project:** On 4th May 2020 at 2:00 pm an Online training cum interaction was organized for a group of 20 youth on the theme “Recognizing true leadership roles amidst the pandemic.” This training was facilitated by Omar Hafiz, a renowned development practitioner based in Kashmir.

**Virtual Volunteer Training in Assam (North-East)**

- IGSSS staff identified community leaders from different villages in Chirang and Barpeta districts in Assam and provided them proper orientation on how to connect through ZOOM during this lockdown. **On May 4, 2020, a ZOOM meet was organized to disseminate information on COVID-19 and discuss Community Surveillance and Stigma wherein 29 participants were present altogether.** An external resource person named Mr. Rafiqul Islam who is associated with the development sector for many years now and currently working as Coordinator in a local NGO, Anchalik Gram Unnayan Parishad was invited to take the session on Community Surveillance that made it very lively and participants look forward to more of such sessions.

**Training of IGSSS Finance Team**

- 6 finance managers/officers of IGSSS were trained virtually on the financial management of relief work to maintain accountability and transparency.
- 6 finance managers/officers further trained finance officers/accountants of 26 NGO partners on financial management.
IGSSS conducted a sectoral research study to understand the impact of COVID 19 outbreak followed by lockdown on the lives and livelihood of small and marginal farmers, urban unorganized sector workers like street vendors. The rapid research was taken with the sole intention of understanding the ground realities witnessed by the community where we have access to without being physically present. For this IGSSS relied on its staff base located at a different location and that of the NGO partners to garner responses through telephonic interviews with key contact persons from the community.

IGSSS will soon publish this sectoral research study through the webinar.

**Conclusion**

The biggest learning that IGSSS had while administering the relief response is that if we strengthen community and community institutions and build up their capacity then their vulnerability gets reduced and they can face as well as support any kind of disaster. The seed bank that we promoted today is providing seeds to the farmers at no cost, the nutrition garden that we promoted is providing food to the people, Community Based Organizations that we facilitated are supporting poor and needy in the community, community members whom we trained on different aspects in our project area have come forward as volunteers to support their community. There are many such anecdotes and best practices that are helping the community to cope up in this distress situation.