IGSSS RESPONSE FOR 2ND WAVE OF COVID

2nd Update Report
17th - 27th May, 2021
Google mobility trends show public movements in India were largely limited to visits to grocery stores and pharmacies through most of April and May 2021. Officially, India didn’t announce a national lockdown as the second wave roared in rural and urban India. Still, the citizenry appears to have delivered remarkable compliance with the stay-at-home guidance when almost 98 per cent of the country embraced some sort of restrictions in the face of the deadly second wave. With people mostly preferred to stay indoors, and extensive work by health professionals, a steady decline in new Covid-19 cases has been recorded in India. For the last 20 days, with 24 states witnessing a dip in active cases the Union health ministry said on Thursday (27th May 2021) that Covid-19 second wave on downswing in India.

1 Mobility data reveal India chose ‘jaan’ over ‘jahaan’ during second wave - DIU News (indiatoday.in)
2 Covid-19 second wave on downswing in India: Govt | Latest News India - Hindustan Times

In INDIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total deaths</th>
<th>318,895</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total recoveries</td>
<td>24,893,410</td>
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Coronavirus cases 27,555,457

In this edition

17th - 27th May, 2021

I. Covid situation

II. IGSSS overview

III. Ground report: Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, North East, Kashmir, Odisha, Delhi, Jharkhand, Maharashtra

IV. Livelihood Thematic

V. Urban Poverty Reduction Thematic
The impact of the COVID-19 second wave on the Indian economy is not as bad as the first wave, but the surrounding uncertainties remain, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its annual report on Thursday (27th May 2021). One of India’s top bankers Uday Kotak has recommended a government expenditure of up to 1 per cent of the GDP for direct transfers to the poor. This would amount to between Rs 1 lakh crore and Rs 2 lakh crore. Consumption at the bottom of the pyramid would also be strengthened this way, said the banker.

Vaccination: After a decent April, the pace of Covid-19 vaccination in India was expected to go up in May. It did not though, as data show an unfortunate drop in the inoculation process. As against the daily average of 29 lakh doses administered in April, the number fell to 19 lakh a day a month later. This happened even as the people queued up across the country for the jabs. Misinformation fuels fear of Covid vaccine in rural India. An analysis of data available on the CoWin app shows that vaccination in the rural belts of most states is lagging behind urban centres.

NGO and CSO Support: From oxygen to emotional support, NGOs are breathing life into India’s Covid fight. As cases were rising, more and more people were banking on the NGOs to provide them assistance. From non-stop SOS calls to ambulance services, the need for critical care has risen exponentially. NGOs have reached out with the support to government health services and facilities in rural and urban areas, beside providing dry ration and sanitation kits to the most vulnerable people.

CEO of Janpath Panchayat of Ranapur Block, Jhabua District launched the IGSSS awareness drive in the block.

IGSSS in the field have started awareness drive to make people aware of COVID appropriate behaviour and motivate people for vaccination. Our awareness vehicle is moving around in rural and urban areas with a sole moto to make people connect with right information.

CEO of Janpath Panchayat of Ranapur Block, Jhabua District launched the IGSSS awareness drive in the block.

IGSSS Volunteers are getting ready with safety kits prior to the relief work – distribution of Dry Ration kit and Sanitation Kit.

Awareness Vehicle moving around the urban bastis of Gorakhpur city in Uttar Pradesh.
IGSSS (for last 15 days) were working in Kawakool and ROH Block, of Nawada District, Tankuppa Block of Gaya District, Bihar as well as in Patna city.

In all the above-mentioned rural areas, IGSSS team is finalizing the beneficiary lists for distribution of relief items – dry ration kits and sanitation kits, interacting with frontline workers and visiting door-to-door to make the targeted families aware about COVID appropriate behaviour and motivating for vaccination. The volunteers and staff of IGSSS are also planning of seeds distribution of SAM/MAM families who have been listed in last financial year for our developmental project named – SuPoshan. Capacity building of volunteers on COVID appropriate behaviour, IEC collection and development, strategizing and planning on distribution of dry ration are going on. Beside that our team is also assessing the situation where in they found that health facilities at village are not able to provide testing facilities to all and vaccination drive is also going very slow.

Coordination work with stakeholders – IGSSS staff are coordinating with multiple stakeholders like CSO’s, NGO’s, urban and rural local bodies, and government departments on regular basis. We are also taking lead in coordination with Bihar inter-agency group and SDMA networking. There are 41 youths who have been mobilised as volunteers and 53 CSO’s leaders till date in Patna city for coordinating and supporting IGSSS in COVID response work.

Our team in the Patna city were able to coordinate with urban local bodies and NGOs to ensure cooked food supplies to few basti people who were otherwise not able to access the support provided by Government. One of the team members provided telephonic support and motivated a family for vaccination (who were scared of getting vaccine) for the member who was above 45 years. IGSSS team members are making brief videos that helped in training youth on relief work.

Immunity is one of the important things that is highlighted during this pandemic. Since IGSSS work on nutrition so during this COVID situation our team was continuously following up with the families having Severely Acute Malnourished children and motivate their parents to visit Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) for proper care. In Siddarthnagar our IGSSS team were able to admit a SAM child of Nibuiyan village finally to the NRC Siddharth nagar.

IGSSS team have identified 750 most vulnerable families from each of the present developmental project location (Gorakhpur, Siddarthnagar, Mahragans) for dry ration kit and WASH kit. Relief distribution will be complete by second week of June. COVID-19 Vaccination awareness campaign have started in Gorakhpur city and very soon we will start in rural areas of UP also. The IGSSS urban team conducted this awareness camp in collaboration of ward council and PNC of the area. Several IEC materials also prepared by team for using during the awareness camp.

Recently our UP IGSSS team had meeting with District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and other government officials as well as UP alliance group of CSOs and NGOs for getting permission for relief work and awareness campaign, planning of vaccination awareness campaign, updating on the village situation and IGSSS initiative at village level to fight against COVID 19.

IGSSS team members are constantly interacting with village frontline health workers to update them and get update from them in COVID situation in the villages where IGSSS implements it developmental project related to Nutrition. In UP, we have enrolled around 10 Nutrition Volunteers who will do the tele counselling to the families affected form Malnutrition & COVID. In urban, we have 2 volunteers who will also do the tele counselling to the targeted basti people who need any kind of help in this pandemic situation. IGSSS team could mobilise around 40 Youth Volunteers who will help in relief work. Beside that we have 10 volunteers for sanitation Drive, 10 Volunteers to facilitate accessing PDS support to people, 10 volunteers are already helping in beneficiary’s selection for relief distribution.
Madhya Pradesh

Relief work is yet to start in the IGSSS project area of urban (Indore, Jabalpur, and Bhopal city) and rural (Jhabua, Alirajpur and Dhar district) of MP by first week of June.

In all the three cities (mentioned above) of MP, IGSSS team have finalised the list of beneficiaries with a prime motto of “Leaving No One Behind”. The list is ready and almost verified by local volunteers and team. The urban team has also finalised the broad strategy to organise awareness drive in three cities.

In Jabalpur, the awareness campaign will be implemented in collaboration with two other Organisations namely, Action Aid and PAIRIVI. With their support we will not only be able to reach out to more communities, but extent the duration of the campaign. In Bhopal one session Psychosocial care has also been finalised the same will be conducted with the city teams and the volunteers during next week.

Our theme of awareness programme will be prevention and mitigation from COVID 19 as well as motivating people to go for their vaccination. To ensure that the relief work is done smoothly from first week of June, the team has started identifying and orienting the volunteers and team. The urban team is ready and almost verified by local government in all three cities are happening along with local governance in all three cities.

In Jabalpur, the awareness campaign will be started from 1st week of June. District Level Meeting with NGO/CSOs in rural target area of IGSSS and District Administration to align the support and relief work in Alirajpur and Jhabua. Planning for cash for work support to 254 families focusing on Natural Resource Management in the 06 target villages of Rama and Jhabua Block is in the final stage.

Distanced meeting with NGO/CSOs in rural target area of IGSSS and District Administration for coordinating the relief work of COVID 19.

Important impact story from field

Madi Bhuriya, lives in Piplipada village of Jhabua Block in Jhabua district, having 03 children - 02 son (Age – 08 Years, 05 Years) and 01 daughter (Age -3 Years) along with his husband and mother-in-law. Altogether they are 06 person in family. She was one of those who participated in the Positive Deviance Camp organised in our Nutrition Project in past.

Since her daughter was screened under-weight during the positive deviance camp, Madi was involved in the 05 days Nutrition Camp and has undergone through orientation on different measures to increase the nutrition among the members of the household. With her proactiveness and zeal to learn new things she has been involved in development of homestead nutrition garden where she learned best ways to grow vegetables and fruits in her own homestead land.

During the upsurge in the COVID cases the whole district faced the issues of regular availability of vegetables, while Madi found herself self-sufficient in terms of availability of fresh vegetables. Similarly around 439 families in the 110 target villages of Dhar, Jhabua and Alirajpur have been involved in the development of Nutrition garden and are able to access fresh vegetables during the pandemic.
Meetings attended in Rural Area by the IGSSS Staff for coordinating the relief work of COVID 19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Session</th>
<th>Type of Participants</th>
<th>Output</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Orientation on AEPDS and MNREGA for increasing awareness on PDS distribution and accessibility</td>
<td>1. 24 Volunteers trained on PDS ticketing system. 2. 29 Migrant Families have been supported in availing ration from PDS.</td>
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</tbody>
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Some of the important Coordination Meeting - SnapShot

- Rama Bai in Khandlai Village showing her homestead garden.
- Meeting with CSOs and NGOs working in Jhabua District.
- Volunteers Supporting in Screening Drive.
- Volunteer's orientation on AEPDS and Importance of MNREGA and SHGs.
- Meeting with District Collector Jhabua for Joint Coordination.

Major work done by IGSSS team of Chhattisgarh:

- IGSSS is planning for
- Relief distribution (dry ration and sanitation kits) to 1000 HH havingSAM and MAM children in the SuPoshan project area of Pali as well as 1500 HH in urban slums of Durg and Raipur who are extremely vulnerable to livelihood opportunities during lockdown.
- Relief materials consisting of dry ration and sanitation kits are expected to reach the SuPoshan Project area in Pali and Urban Project areas in Raipur and Durg by June first week.
- The team has also connected with Chhattisgarh Inter Agency Group (IAG) and have started regular communication with IAG convenor. Attended a meeting with all the NGO regarding preventing third wave.

IGSSS is planning for

- IGSSS State Coordinators in Chhattisgarh, has been in coordination with District Collectors and SDMs to assess the need and analyse the gap during the situation.
- Actively participated in the NGO network meetings and interacted on current situation and relief measures with the 25-member NGOs.

Some of the important Coordination Meeting - SnapShot

- Meeting with CSOs and NGOs working in Jhabua District.
- Volunteers Supporting in Screening Drive.
- Volunteer’s orientation on AEPDS and Importance of MNREGA and SHGs.
- Meeting with District Collector Jhabua for Joint Coordination.

In North-East, we are working Assam and Manipur. In Assam, the districts which we are planning to cover are – Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Kokrajhar, Chirang, Dhubri, Golpara, Karbi Anglong, and Barpeta. In Manipur we are covering two districts – Churachandpur and Ukhrul.

Around 31 volunteers are mobilised by IGSSS team of NE, for managing the relief work. These volunteers are oriented on humanitarian relief work and planning for relief work in all the districts. Along with these volunteers, IGSSS staff are identifying beneficiaries from vulnerable families for relief work.

In Dhemaji and Lakhimpur district of Assam, IGSSS team have started coordinating with District Health Officer for requirement of emergency medical kits for covid response. District health Officer has suggested some medical emergency equipments like – Oxygen concentrator, Sanitizers, Mask and gloves etc. for the health workers and patients.
Community To Community Support Aimed Covid-19 Pandemic Crises (Second Wave)

- Formation of Whatsapp Groups
  Two district level whatsapp groups for active DRR youth members were formed (each group consists of more than 40 members) during the week for virtually engaging them with their respective communities for their guidance, support and counselling. These groups will be also trained in crisis management in coming fifteen days. However, the overall goal of these two groups is to create the space for youth to develop their understanding & importance on local humanitarian leadership and its sustainable impact in long run.

- Follow up with DDMA/SDRF Bandipora
  Follow up meeting was conducted with DDMA/SDRF Bandipora cell with regard to the status of youth registration for civil defense team at district level. As per the latest report by PA section of DC Bandipora all the 40 youth members have been registered as “Registered Volunteers of Bandipora”, furthermore the administration also informed that anytime the youth will be called for support to district administration and will be provided Special Curfew Passes as well.

- Mobilization of Resources by DRR Groups
  DRR group Janwanipora facilitated the distribution of eight food kits among the marginalized and deserving families in their respective village. The group has mobilized the resources from their concerned village and also collected the donations in their neighboring villages for the support of these families. However, these families have been supported with flour, mustered oil, soap, Lepton tea, Kashmiri Tea, Turmeric, Salt & sugar worth 24000 INR (each kit costs 3000 rupees).
  Parvaz DRR group Zalpora identified 16 marginalized families in Nowgam village of Bandipora district, mobilized funds and collected dry ration, prepared 16 food kits worth 24000 INR (each kits costs 1500) and supported to these families.

- Submission of Marginalized and Vulnerable Families List
  A list of 252 marginalized, deserving & resource poor families from 6 villages of two blocks of Bandipora district were compiled & prepared by Project officer & has been submitted to Raina & Raina’s health and hygiene Pvt. Ltd. Bandipora for providing emergency relief to these families. However, the organization has accepted the list, so far supported 37 families with 7,400 INR (200 each family) cash and food kits worth 37,000 INR (each food kit costs 1000 INR).

- Distribution of Food Kits
  T39 resource poor and economically backward families has been supported with nutrition food kits facilitated by IGSSS supported by religious organization Aunjman Share Shian-Budgam and local communities.
  However, the families have been supported with flour, mustered oil, soap, Daal, Hygiene Kits & sugar worth 12000 INR (each kit costs 600 rupees).
  Furthermore, 5 families have been supported by the community volunteers in Mahrajpora, Nehalpora and Gund Khaja Qasim villages of Baramulla district.
For immediate relief response among the covid19 affected and impacted families IGSSS has started identifying beneficiaries from its project areas and 1000 most vulnerable families were being identified with the support of Village Development Committee (VDC) members and volunteers.

10 Nutrition volunteers have been taken on board in Koraput and Kalahandi district as part time volunteers to carry out covid19 relief response on the field.

IGSSS project team started coordinating with district GO-NGO coordination cell for covid19 response in Kalahandi, Koraput, Ganjam and Khurda district. Project team received approval from Koraput and Kalahandi district for carrying out COVID 19 response in our project villages.

IGSSS project team members are part of GO-NGO WhatsApp groups and participating in GO-NGO discussion regularly. On 11th May district level GO-NGO coordination meeting at Koraput district was attended by IGSSS project team and given the responsibility of deploying volunteers in two nationalised banks at Dasamantpur to aware covid19 appropriate behaviour. Basis the decision IGSSS’s volunteers started making aware and making social distancing mark in two nationalised banks.

VDC WhatsApp groups created and disseminating all covid19 appropriate behaviour, government toll free numbers, various schemes, vaccination registration time to time using WhatsApp.

On 11th May virtual orientation on COVID 19 relief response was conducted with all concerned staffs of East zone (Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand) with the support of DRR thematic lead.

On 19th May virtual orientation on COVID 19 relief response using mobile app and OAS was conducted for all project staff and volunteers of Odisha.

As decided IGSSS volunteers marking social distancing circle in 2 of the nationalised bank and helping block administration in covid19 management

Covid-19 awareness campaign

A tele counselling team has been formed by block level federation. Every day this team counselling to village leaders on COVID-19 symptoms, precautionary measures, taking protein-rich and nutritious food with Vitamins and taught on right technique to use face masks and handwashing.

In this week VDC leaders with the help of ANM and Anganwadi members prepared circles in every tube well and small shops of 20 project villages.

Youth volunteers from Bhubaneswar project areas making their community aware on handwashing practices and mask wearing practices in their respective community.

Dry ration support:
The Delhi team has managed to raise the dry ration kits through its network partners for about 1070 families (families without ration card) which will be distributed at the end of this week. Also started identifying another 1000 families from various exclusion backgrounds.

Vaccination support:
Private hospital in Delhi has approached our Delhi team for vaccinating people under the category of digital divide. For which the team has identified and referred 600 such category of people along with our TF members. The vaccination to happen soon.

Advocacy and Network:
Through CSO network the issues (housing and vaccination and dry ration through PDS) of migrant labourers (becoming homeless due to non-payment of rents, poor accommodation provided in night shelters) have been addressed through SC intervention.
Guidance. A help desk at the slum be started regarding vaccination level mobile campaign will also on ground from next week. Basti designed and is planned to start beneficiaries. Awareness campaign planning to reach out around 2600 verification. Altogether we are team is in process of beneficiary identification done and now week of June and so far beneficiary Relief distribution will start by 1st week in Jamshedpur cities in Jharkhand. IGSSS team in Jharkhand conducted telephonic orientation of Relief Distribution processes for both Ranchi and Jamshedpur Task Force Teams (TFT). 38 Task force Team (TFT) member received orientation in 7 batches. (It was telephonic. So, no photographs available).

Relief Materials (Dry Ration and Sanitation Kits) are expected to reach the IGSSS Project areas by May end.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, all relief distribution will be completed by 1st week of June 2021. 1000 poor families in 120 villages of Sahibganj and Khunti Districts and 1300 poor families in 20 Slums of Ranchi and Jamshedpur cities in Jharkhand will be covered.

Meeting with District Collectors of Sahibganj, Khunti and Seraikela Kharwlan districts. Meeting was coordinated by Governor House Jharkhand. The DCs called IGSSS Team regarding IGSSS’s presence and Relief process in the proposed districts. They also issued separate letters for IGSSS copying all the related Block departments and Police stations for smooth relief distribution process. Verbal communications with District Collectors of Ranchi, Khunti and Sahibganj, and SDO Seraikela and East Singhbhum for IGSSS Relief operations in Jharkhand.

Meeting with Secretary, Governor of Jharkhand regarding various COVID19 Guidelines in Jharkhand. Based on the above meeting, was able to connect with Dr. Amitabh Kaushal, deputed Nodal Officer for Disaster Management in Jharkhand.

Meeting with District Planning and Coordination Department of Kalahandi for incorporation of village development action plan in district development plan: Facilitated a learning and sharing meeting of Odisha staffs with DPC, Kalahandi for development of village development action plan. Mrs. Kumudini Mishra, DPMU had participated in this meeting and shared different schemes and programmes related to Covid19 and livelihoods for rural poor’s. A brief action plan format has been developed and shared with community leaders of Kalahandi and M. Rampur. 4 nos action plans have been developed by Odisha staffs and shared with DPMU, Kalahandi for incorporation in District Plan.

Discussion with CSOs on the issue of NTFP procurement: Impostion of Restriction due to pandemic has severely affected thousands of forest dependent families in Odisha and other States as well. More than 39892 lakhs of rupees are lying with 18 State Governments released by the Government of India under the Minimum Support Price mechanism scheme for Minor Forest Products.

Participation in community led health assessment campaign webinar organised by PLD India Network: Participated as a speaker and shared process of community led campaign on monitoring of food, social security, and health related facilities to PLD India Partners. Due to consecutive lockdown peoples have no food and investment capacity for revival of their business. The situation is so compelling that they have used their seeds as a food. Govt of Odisha and India also provide various support to farmers and poorest poor for their food and livelihood security. But due to lack of awareness and proper information they don’t get these facilities. PLD India partners have been planned to monitor the schemes and facilities through coordination effort with frontline workers.

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Relief distribution will start by 1st week of June and so far beneficiary identification done and new team is in process of beneficiary verification. Altogether we are planning to reach out around 2600 beneficiaries. Awareness campaign designed and is planned to start on ground from next week. Basti level mobile campaign will also be started regarding vaccination guidance. A help desk at the slum level will also be functional in Nagpur.

IGSSS team has connected with a doctor, Dr Subhanji Deshmene, who have agreed to virtually guide and counsel field volunteers and grassroot level workers twice a week. Volunteers for IGSSS rural projects and NGO network volunteers will also join. We are having weekly meetings with CSOs to understand the overall situation and different requirement. IGSSS Team is meeting with different Government agencies and NGOs and farmers to understand the need in the area. We are in touch with Collector of Amarpalli for providing support to their rural hospitals at block level. 17 volunteers are supporting in beneficiary identification and awareness related to COVID 19.
Two days (20.05.2021 and 25.01.2021), the third and fourth NDMA meeting were conducted in which IGSSS participated and represented the issues from the CSO networks and partner friends. We shared our updates from the states and shared the hiccups we are facing and how NDMA can help to assist the same. Aside from the 11 states where nodal officers have been appointed, details of 16 states will be shared by NDMA for NGO coordination. Demands and suggestions for plan of action and collaboration with local SDMAs have been submitted by 16 states. Other demands like volunteer IDs and vaccination, state wise meetings at NDMA level, SoPs and simplified IECs were also placed. NDMA accepted our suggestion for a small - readable SoP for Psycho-social counselling as many NGOs want to / have started establishing helplines. Training support for NGOs and volunteers also has been agreed by Ripples of Change, who along with NIMHANS training support can help NGOs in different states for such trainings.

The UPR Team collected and compiled a list of over 100 IEC materials on COVID 2nd wave pandemic. The IEC materials included:

- State and central guidelines on COVID appropriate behaviour
- Psycho-social counselling guidelines
- First Aid medical guidelines for COVID relief workers
- Home care guidelines in case of COVID and recovery (English and Hindi)
- Awareness about 2nd wave of COVID - dispelling myths and facts
- Vaccination booklets and associated guidelines
- Collation of schemes and government relief measures for the urban poor offered by different states.

These IEC materials were collected and central compiled by the help of our state teams, DRR thematic and the UPR team. These guidelines and materials are already being
WE WANT TO THANK OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT