

APRIL
2020

COVID-19 RELIEF WORK IN VARANASI

UTTAR PRADESH - INDIA



COVID-19 IN INDIA

The whole world is battling the pandemic of Covid-19. All developed and developing countries are trying to avoid this pandemic with their strategies but these efforts have still not proved to be very effective. Till now, lockdown is being considered as the most effective or only means to prevent the spread of this disease.

But for a developing country with a large population like India, it has become a another problem. Because even today, more than half of the people here are able to feed themselves through daily wages, small shops and labour works.

WHO WE ARE?

Muheem and Lok Samiti organization have been working with these sections of the village for the past several years. So in these times of pandemic, these two institutions have jointly started this relief work to save the deprived and needy sections of the rural areas from hunger. These institutions are constantly getting support from Asha Trust, Chances 4 Children India and group of Ngo's Sajha Sanskriti Manch.

WHY RELIEF WORK IS NEEDED IN RURAL ARAES?

It is noteworthy that even today, the condition of people on the basis of caste, religion and income is not the same in Indian society. We can see this clearly in rural areas, in which the people of lower or Dalit caste still do not have their own land or own source of income, but they do their daily wages and feed themselves.

Relief work till now - At A Glance

So far, relief material has been delivered to the people of the most affected rural and urban slum areas due to lockdown through Muheem and Lok Samiti organization. It is worth mentioning that these people were selected through the survey, in which poverty, availability of ration card, poor Dalit and Muslim community, sick and handicapped and women self-help group of Lok Samiti and Muheem was on priority.

Thus, in the first phase of the Corona relief program, relief material has been delivered to about 1500 families so far and it has been targeted to reach 2000 families till lockdown in India that is 3 May 2020.



THE FOOD KIT & BENEFICIARIES TILL NOW

The contents of the distributed food kit - flour, rice, dal, soyabean, oil, salt, biscuits, soap, potatoes and onions, were priced at around Rs 600. Relief food kit has been delivered to around 1500 families, ie about 8340 people, in more than forty villages and five slum areas of the city till now.

WHERE DID WE GET FINANCIAL SUPPORT TILL YET?

The entire relief work that has been carried out till now has been done through crowdfunding, in which the locals people have donated the money from their capacity. No help of any institution or other individual (any political figure) has been taken so far in this entire program.



SECOND PHASE OF COVID-19 RELIEF WORK

At present, the lockdown in India is about ten days away, in which we are going to start the second phase of relief work. In the early phase of the lockdown, when no systematic relief work was started from the government, there was an urgent need for relief material in rural areas. But in the survey of relief work done so far, we found that there are some such families in rural areas who need special relief material these are -

1. Disabled
2. Pregnant Women
3. Poor Muslim
4. Old age alone people
5. Young widow
6. Sick people (head of the family)
7. Women undergoing recent delivery
8. Families without ration card

WHY THESE CATEGORY?

After looking at these sections, you may think that why they have been selected, so its details are as follows -

- 1- Disabled** - Lockdown has a direct impact on the means of livelihood of people with disabilities in rural areas, due to which it is a big challenge to arrange food for them.
- 2- Pregnant women or women who have recently undergone childbirth** - It has been found in the dalit and muslim community of the village that nutrition has become a big challenge for these families due to poverty and day to day unemployment, in such a situation. The health of pregnant women is directly affected. Similarly, in recent (one month) women who have gone through childbirth also need nutritious food which is very difficult to find in poor families, this has a direct impact not only on the health of the woman but her newborn.
- 3- Poor Muslim** - In the current political system of India, the Muslim class is facing a double and a poor Muslim triple problem. In this time of crisis, they has suffered from discrimination and violence due to their religion. This scene is emerging more clearly in the village at the present time, when they are neither getting any government facility nor other people's help. Meanwhile, in the month of Ramadan, the families of poor Muslims are battling the food war with the pandemic.
- 4- Old age people who are separated from children** - There are many elders in the village whose children have separated them from themselves and in the normal days they used to feed themselves with small work. But at present, food has become a big challenge for them due to the closure of all work.
- 5- Young widow Women** - It is seen in the village that there are some widowed women who are between thirty or thirty five years old and have small children and they do not have the benefit of government services even if they do not have enough government papers.
- 6- Sick people** - If the head of the family (female or male) is ill at this time, they are facing double problem in lockdown, because it is difficult to get treatment in poor families, especially when they are weavers or daily laborers. When the head of the family are sick, the whole house system gets messed up.
- 7- Families without ration cards** - In the village, it has been seen that many families of Dalit community (especially Mushars, Harijans and Rajbhars) do not have ration cards, due to which they are being deprived of government ration facilities.

WHAT WILL BE IN RELEIF FOOD KIT FOR THESE PEOPLE

These sections are divided into three categories from the point of view of relief material, which are as follows -

- 1. General Relief Kit** - This includes widows, disabled, elderly, families without ration cards.
- 2. Special nutritional relief kit** - This includes pregnant or recently undergoing women.
- 3. Ramadan special kit** - It includes poor Muslim families.





WHAT WILL BE THE CONTENT AND COST OF THESE RELIEF FOOD KIT?

1-General Relief Kit - This includes flour, dal , rice, potatoes, onions, salt, oil, soybeans, soap and biscuits. It costs 600 rupees.

2- Special nutritional relief kit - This will include general relief ingredients as well as more soybeans, chickpea, gud (sweet source of iron), glucose, peanuts and women's health drink and chowanprash if appropriate financial support is provided. It costs 900 rupees.

3- Ramadan special kit - This includes sugar, tea powder, chips, dates and gram flour along with general relief material keeping in mind Roza in Ramadan. It costs 800 rupees.

Compulsory sanitation kit - The second phase of the relief work will also include a mandatory sanitation kit, which will include - mask, dettol, handwash, surf and sanitary pads, which will be given to all classes. It will cost 100 rupees.

NUMBER OF THE TARGETED FAMILIES

Relief material will be delivered to a total of 800 families by the end of lockdown i.e. 3 May, which will include 400 poor Muslims and 400 families of other category. And these number will be excluded from the our first target number of 2000.

CALL FOR FINANCIAL HELP !

So far, we have been able to reach about 1500 families with the amount received from crowdfunding. But now we do not have the economic budget to move forward. Therefore, we again appeal to all of you for help, so that we can help the needy people of the village in this hour of crisis.

You can help us personally or institutionally. It is noteworthy that our organisation does not have FCRA, due to which we are unable to take any help from the outside of the country. But partners from outside India can send us their help via personal means.

BANK DETAILS FOR YOUR FINANCIAL HELP

FOR INDIAN BANK TRANSFER

MUHEEM Ek Sarthak Prayas Welfare Society
A/C - 701710210000017
IFSC -BKID0007017
BANK OF INDIA

FOR FOREIGN BANK TRANSFER CONTACT US AT

Website : www.muheem.org
E-mail : muheem.esp@gmail.com
Mobile : +91-9415101185 / +91- 9415300520



At that time when no one wants to get out of their house, 50 volunteers are engaged in this relief work day and night.