

# GRAM SEWA SANGH-JAFS RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN



NAGPUR, INDIA



## AUGUST MONTH REPORT - 2021



### THE DISASTROUS SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

It is August 2021, and COVID-19 has been with us for about 2 year now. As sea waves diminish while touching the shore, the second wave comes much stronger. Similarly, the second wave of COVID-19 came back stronger, impacting lakhs of people worldwide. The lockdown had a severe negative impact on the lives of the small vendors, daily wage earners, migrant workers, contract laborer's, unorganized sector workers, etc. It robbed them of their earnings and savings.



## **GRAM SEWA SANGH-JAFS RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN NAGPUR, INDIA**

**GRAM SEWA SANGH-JAFS** in Nagpur, India is extending a helping hand to these sections of people and supporting the families with humanitarian aid. From identification of right beneficiaries to collaborating with district administration to the distribution of relief items adhered to COVID appropriate behavior was on top. Till 27th November 2021, **GRAM SEWA SANGH-JAFS** in Nagpur will support 150 families with



grocery kits and hygiene kits to the slum/village in Nagpur, India. These responses were made with the support of Japan Platform Government, Japan Asian Association and Asian Friendship Society (JAFS).



## **IDENTIFYING THE TARGET FAMILIES**

The bigger question before the emergency response was the identification of most marginalized families out of a huge population. Criteria were set for identification of the most affected daily wage earners, pregnant women, PWD, families having SAM children, domestic workers, and small vendors. The process of identification of the beneficiaries was made through Village Headmen, Community Resource Persons and Village Development Committees and cross-checked at various levels by GRAM SEWA SANGH-JAFS staff. The support was accordingly made to the families meeting the criteria.

Another concern for the team was effective and COVID appropriate behavior at the relief distribution site. Effective coordination was made from the field team with the District Administration for the permission of relief distribution during the lockdown days. The district administration permitted vehicles despite the restrictions on mobility and allocated timelines for distributing the relief materials with a necessary submission of distribution report post-distribution.



## **COUNSELLING SUPPORT AND VACCINATION AWARENESS**

GSS-JAFS is always trying to bring innovation in immediate emergency response and preventive actions. For awareness and vaccination registration short video clips were made in different languages and shared in WhatsApp's groups and other social media. Live video conferences were arranged between community and medical doctors to get direct information on COVID-19 and vaccinations. Counsellors are arranged for Psycho-social support where communities and staffs are accessing counselling services. In all the efforts to support the COVID-19 affected communities, GRAM SEWA SANGH-JAFS is putting the best efforts to provide as much relief as possible to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities.









The NGOs in India are engaged in COVID Relief. Implementing a relief program at a big scale entails systematic and coordinated efforts. More so, because of the type of pandemic dealing with. The need of the hour is to reach out to most needy people urgently, but with absolute safety and protection to avoid the spread of infection during relief.



**Q. How do we prepare for relief distribution?**

- GRAM SEWA SANGH/JAFS is extending relief to many families in the slums and villages of Nagpur, Maharashtra, India. The relief operations are carefully planned and implemented by the trained team of staff and volunteers.



### Q. Identification of most needy



-Finite resources should reach the neediest first. Reaching the unreached is the approach. Since GRAM SEWA SANGH/JAFS staff and volunteers are familiar with field, they identify the neediest. The list is then vetted by community leaders.

For example, in slum or village we decided to distribute grocery kits to the families who are struggling to survive day by day. Similarly, priority is given to daily wage labourers, single women, elderlies, small farmers, street vendors, domestic helper, migrants and the homeless.



### Q. Content of Grocery Kit-



The Grocery kits contains things as per the local choice and preferences. The choice of the community is given due consideration and accordingly, the material is decided.



#### Q. Coordination with the district/village administration-



At every step of the relief operation we work closely with the local administration. All required permission are being procured. Many a time, the administration themselves become part of the relief distribution work. We also take their suggestions to make our operations more effective.

**STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS OF GRAM SEWA SANGH NAGPUR/JAFS**







-The staff and volunteers of Gram Sewa Sangh/JAFS have been working for the needy people since the pandemic has begun. They are involved in the organization of Covid-19 Relief Program. Staff and volunteers are oriented before every operation. On how to select distribution point, manage distribution and resolve the conflicts happening at the site. More corrections will be implemented in the next month program to make sure that all the protocols are followed properly.



#### **Q. Arrangements at the distribution site**

-Finally, on the day of distribution the staff and volunteers ensure safety protocols. Social distancing, marking and less/no contact precautions are followed diligently. People are informed in advance and coupons are issued to them. Their Id proof as recorded earlier are matched to ensure that relief is received by the bonafied person.



#### **Q. Accountability and Transparency**

-This is a very important part of our distribution. The resources are for the community and they have a right to know about the relief kit and also the process of selection. On the distribution sites, a complain number is displayed for the community to share their grievance and suggestions. The complaint number is handled by a staff who is not a part of relief operation and is neutral. All complains are recorded and resolved.

#### **OUR SUPPORTER FOR THE COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAM**

We thank **Japanese Platform** for their generous help in the time of need. Through your help we have been able to accomplish and continue working towards helping the poor and needy people. You truly make the difference for us and we are extremely grateful.

Special thanks to Rev. Dr. Kimihiko Murakami Sensei, Founder and Executive Director of Japan Asian Association and Asian Friendship Society, Ms. Noriko Atsuta, Manager of Emergency Humanitarian Aid and JPF Project- Deputy Executive Director of JAFS, Ms. Yu Sakaguchi – JAFS Staff, all the staff and board members of JAFS for their great initiative for providing support through Japanese Platform to help the poor and needy people of slum/village of Nagpur, India to survive in this Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you

Your Sincerely

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