

Response to COVID-19- A Report

Development Agency for Poor & Tribal Awakening (DAPTA), Kalahandi

Period- 10th April 2020 to 30th May 2020

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 as a Pandemic. The entire country is under lockdown, to prevent and minimise the risk of COVID-19 by breaking the chain. The outbreak has not only caused a health and humanitarian crisis but also has challenged the way of life. The nationwide lockdown is considered a timely, comprehensive and robust response to break the transmission chain but that has affected all sections of the society in their normal day to day life.. This lockdown has adversely affected everybody. The biggest fallout of corona are the daily wage earner, Small vendors, petty traders and moreover the tribal people those who depend upon collection and selling of Minor forest produce to lead their life. The source of livelihood has been squeezed to a greater extent and the life has become miserable.

Witnessing the situation, DAPTA started moving to its working villages and interacted with the community regarding the difficulties during the lockdown. It came out in the discussion that, due to the Nationwide lockdown their income has drastically gone down and they do not have any saved amount of money left and they are struggling to arrange food as well as other essentials. The agriculture work, collection and selling of MFP have been jeopardised. The income has been drastically reduced. Seeing the gravity of the situation Govt. also started trying to render all kind of support to the people to reduce the risk and challenges emerged because of COVID-19 and the lockdown. PDS rice was given 3 months in advance to each ration card holders and also Rs. 1000/- as an ex-gratia.

Visualising the difficulties faced by the community, DAPTA approached its donor partners to support the community in the crisis to reduce the emerged negative impact/ risks of the lockdown and to ensure food availability in all vulnerable households in the community DAPTA works with. Two of our donors promptly responded to our request. **Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative (APPI)** agreed to support 3000 families and **Smile Foundation India** for 500 families. It was mutually agreed by DAPTA and APPI to support the community with a survival and hygiene kit containing dry ration (except rice, since Govt. provided rice), soaps and masks. **It was decided the survival & hygiene kit would have Arhar Dal-1kg, Moong dal-1kg, Kala Chana-1kg, Mustard oil-1ltr, Sugar-1kg, Flattened rice-2kg, Soyabin(meal maker)-1kg, Potato-3kg, Onion-1kg, Salt-1kg, Biscuits-5 packets, Turmeric powder-100 gms, Chilly powder-100 gms, Curry powder- 100 gms, Soaps-5pieces and Double layered cotton cloth masks- 5 pieces.**

Similarly Smile Foundation offered the survival & hygiene which contains **Rice-10kg, Wheat flour-10kg, Potato-3kg, Onion-3kg, Edible oil-1 liter, Chilly powder -100gm, Turmeric powder-100gm, Chick peas-2kg, Dal- 1kg, Dalia-1kg, Sugar-1kg, Salt- 1kg, Soap-4 pieces, Sanitary napkins – 1 pkt and Cotton cloth double layered Masks- 5 pieces.** It was also decided to adhere a standard distribution protocol to ensure and follow Govt. guidelines of social distancing and hand hygiene.

Before the procurement of relief materials, DAPTA duly informed the district and block administration regarding the relief operation. DAPTA procured the relief materials following its procurement policy. We also mobilized 2 of our SHGs to produce cotton cloth masks in a massive scale and assured them that DAPTA to procure all their produce. Finally the 1st phase relief operation started on date 15/04/2020 and was finished on 10/05/2020. DAPTA with the support of



APPI & Smile foundation through relief work to date reached out 3500 families in the tribal and remote pocket of Lanjigarh Block with few vulnerable households in Bhawanipatna including people from transgender community , maid servants(women), rickshaw pullers .

Activities Carried Out:

- **Health education and sensitization** at Community level to prevent Covid-19 (Most common symptoms, how it spreads, the prevention techniques of frequent hand washing, social distancing, use of masks, staying at home and registration and quarantine of reverse migrants at GP level).
- **Dry Ration** Distribution
- Distribution of **Masks**
- Distribution of **soaps** and **hand washing demonstration**.
- Dissemination of important **information to PRI members through mass messaging**.
- Support to vulnerable children and their families with dry ration hygiene kit (Soap, Mask and sanitary napkins) by **CHILDLINE Kalahandi** (DAPTA is the district collab agency of CHILDLINE INDIA FOUNDATION).
- Generating **Job demand** & mobilizing job card holders to gear up the approved work plan under MGNREGA.

Output:

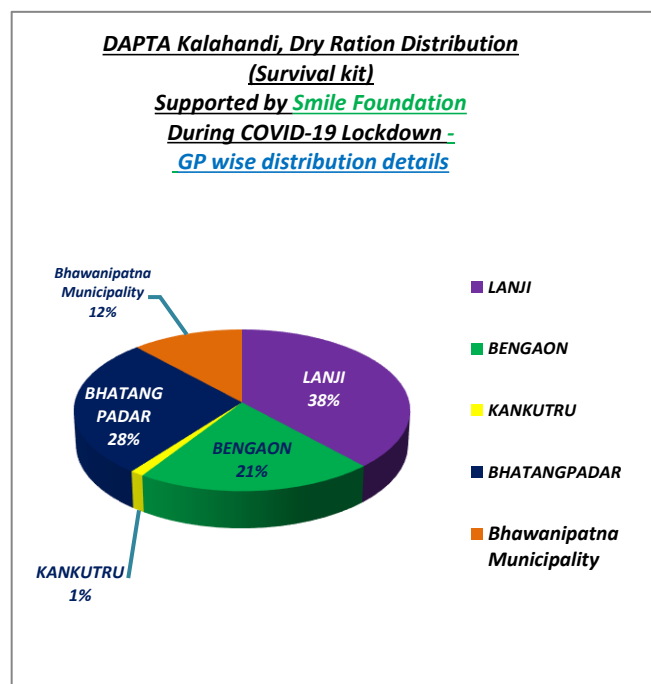
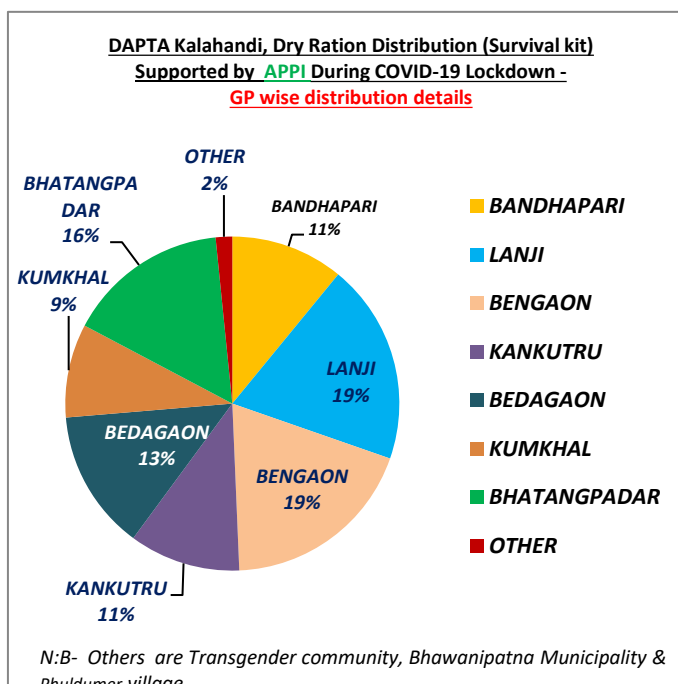
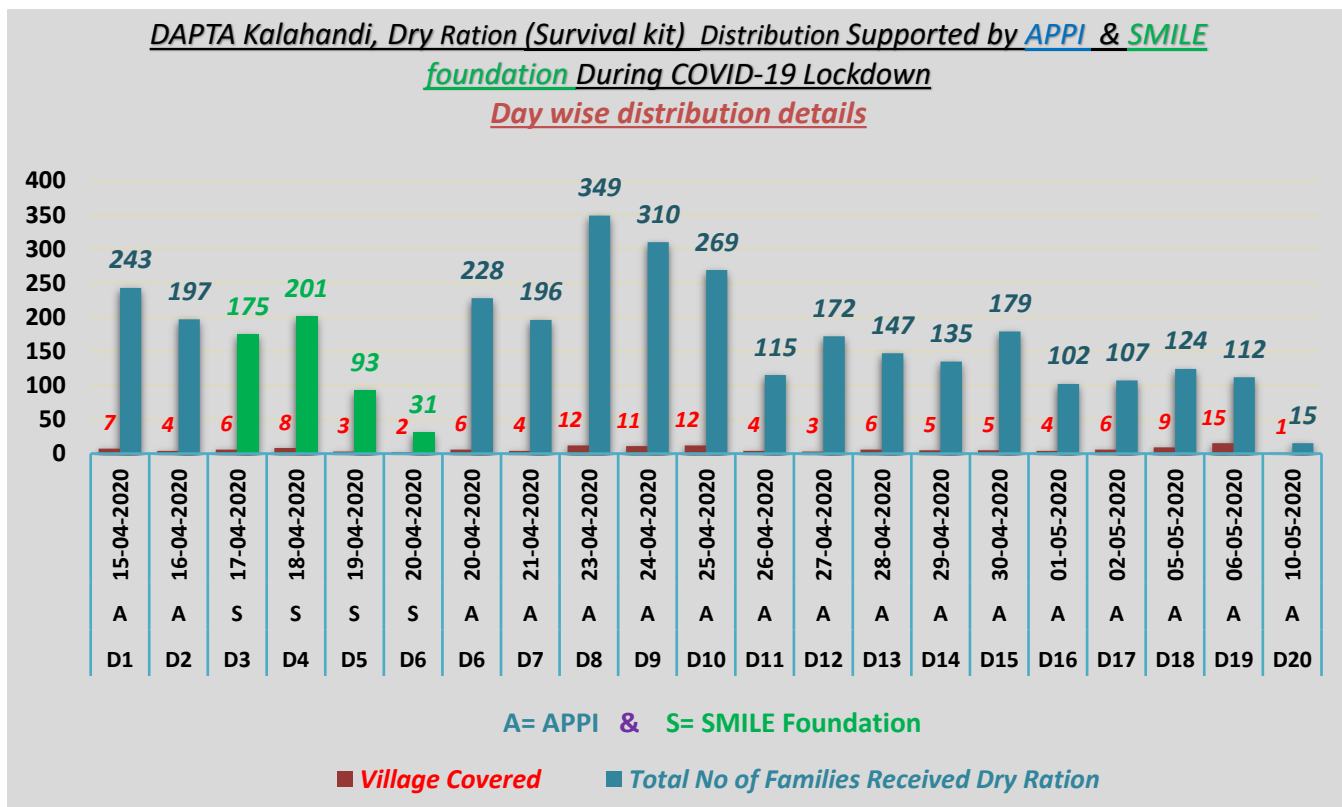
- Dry Ration distributed to 3500 families, out of which 3408 no. of families are from 124 villages of **Lanjigarh Block** and **92 vulnerable families from Bhawanipatna** including 19 persons from the transgender community.
- 17335 no. of Cotton cloth double layered masks given to 3500 no. of families in 124 villages of Lanjigarh block including 33 no of vulnerable families in Bhawanipatna.
- 17000 pieces of Soaps given to above mentioned 3500 families.
- Hand hygiene education and demonstration conducted in 124 no. of villages in Lanjigarh Block.
- Health education conducted on importance of Mask use and social distancing.
- Awareness and sensitization on the importance of registration and quarantine of reverse migrant at GP level was conducted in 124 villages.
- Created 5 nos. of Block wise Whatsapp group of women PRI members in 5 Blocks of Kalahandi (Bhawanipatna, Junagarh, Karlamunda, Koksara & Lanjigarh).
- Reached out 43 Sarpanch, 45 Naib Sarpanch and 471 ward members with Covid-19 related appropriate information.
- Reached out 106 most vulnerable children and their families (Rag pickers, Bricks kiln, etc) with dry ration and hygiene kit through DAPTA run CHILDLINE.

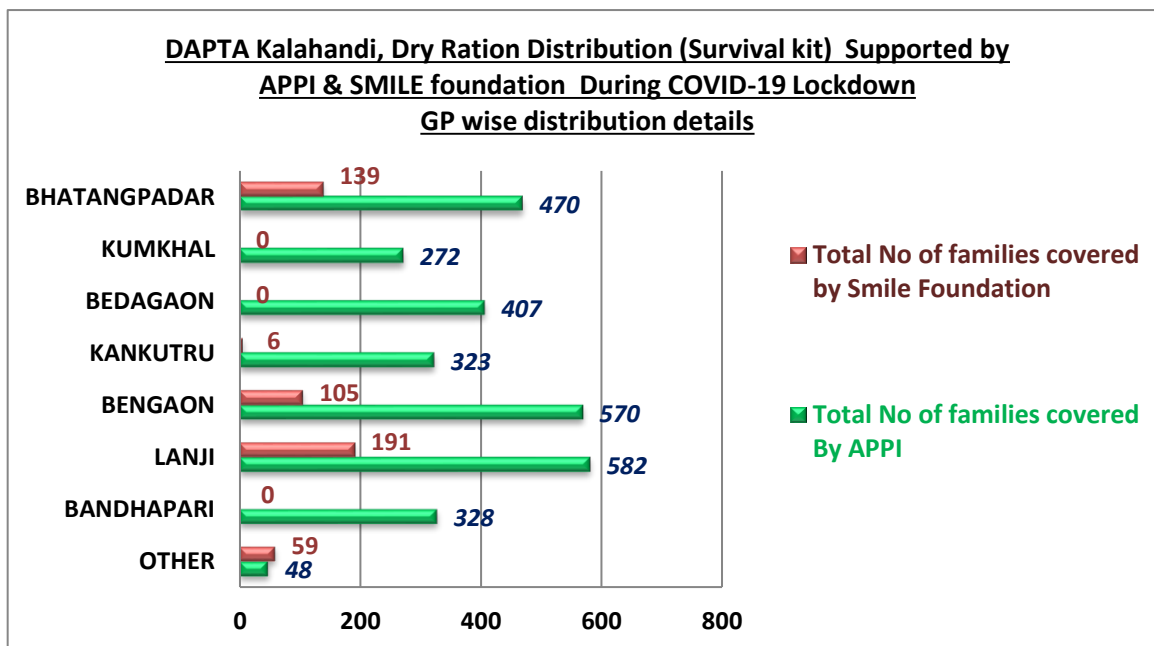
Out Come

- Reduced food security gap during the emerged crisis.
- Increased community resilience to prevent covid-19.
- Increased personal protection level and the family as well.
- Increased online registration of migrant workers at GP level.
- Increased knowledge on importance of hand hygiene, social distance & mask use.
- Increased use of mask.
- Reduced stigma and myth regarding Corona pandemic.

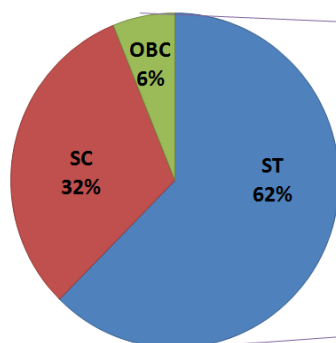
- Women PRI members took lead role and facilitated realization of social benefit schemes and provident (Cooked food for vulnerable families, advance PDS and Pension, ex-gratia for ration card holders, online registration of migrant workers)

Graphical Chart

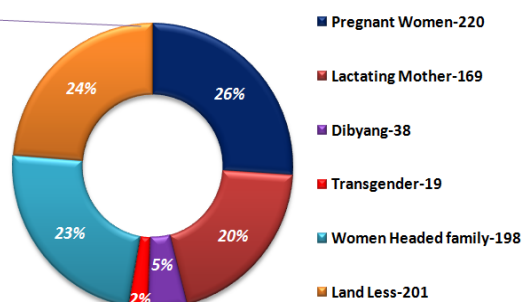




DAPTA Kalahandi, Dry Ration Distribution (Survival kit)
Supported by APPI During COVID-19 Lockdown -
Caste wise Composition in LANJIGARH block



DAPTA KALAHANDI, DRY RATION DISTRIBUTION (SURVIVAL KIT) SUPPORTED BY APPI DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN -
Total No of most Vulnerable people covered



Distribution of Family Essential Kits (FEK) to the migrant worker families

The staggering distress caused by the CORONA virus is unfolding on a continuous basis. The CORONA virus induced nationwide lockdown has brought turmoil in to the lives and the livelihoods of the migrant workers and their families. DAPTA is continuously trying to ease the pain and plight of the vulnerable migrant workers families. With the support of Habitat for Humanity India we provided Family Essential Kits (FEK) to 1240 nos. of migrant workers families (**apart from 3500 families of mentioned above**) in 16 Gram Panchayats of Bhawanipatna Block in Kalahandi district. Each FEK contains :- **Liquid hand wash-250ml, Floor Disinfectant concentrate (which can give 5 ltrs)-1 piece, Bathing soap-Pack of 4 , Handkerchiefs Big size/ Face masks- Pack of 5, Clothes washing detergent 500gms, Utensils bar soap 500gms, Wheat flour 10KG, Rice 10KG, Salt 1KG, Sugar 1 KG, Tur Dal**



1KG, Moong Dal-1 KG, Tea powder-500 Grms, Edible oil-2 liters, Sanitary Napkin (1 pack of 20 pcs) 1 pack.

Way Forward:

DAPTA believes that this present crisis is going to be a long haul. Therefore survival and revival has to go hand in hand. We are in a planning process to shift from relief to rehab mode. DAPTA would focus on creating employment opportunity of the reverse migrants and other vulnerable families by assessing their acquired skill and opportunity and also the scope for skill building. DAPTA through its **Swavalamban Connect Kendra (Joint Initiative of DAPTA, Lets Endorse and SIDBI)** would put its effort to link the unemployed youths with banks and other financial institutions to start their own enterprise at their own locality. This apart DAPTA would focus leveraging and converging with the line departments and Odisha Livelihood Mission to generate more employment opportunity, in the community it works with.

DAPTA would continue the **health education programme** to increase community resilience through increased knowledge and skill. DAPTA would put its effort to spread and propagate the appropriate key messages to dispel the stigma, discrimination, rumours and myths connected to corona virus.

End Note

Govt. of India and also the state Government has announced stimulus packages for different section of people and there are announcements for the small & marginal farmers, daily wage workers and the workers engaged in informal economy but it requires meticulous planning with skill, scale & speed to reach the targeted people and to bring the desired result. The major challenge is to make ensure the provisions reach the vulnerable people at the last mile. Therefore DAPTA has decided to actively facilitate the realization of entitlements for the vulnerable households.

DAPTA believes that, the need is immense. It needs more support to offer more need driven intervention to the vulnerable population including the returnee migrant families to survive this pandemic with dignity. DAPTA would put its best foot forward with all sincerity and dedication to serve the community it works with.

We convey our heartfelt thankfulness to the **District administration** for rendering their support & co-operation to carry out the activities without any hassle.

We are grateful to the **Lanjigarh and Bhawanipatna Block administration** and more particularly to the BDO of Lanjigarh Sri Jeetendra Mishra for his continued support and cooperation and accompanying us to one of the remotest village Phuldumer of Trilochanpur GP, even on Sunday.

We do acknowledge the kind support and cooperation extended by the PRI members (sarapanch, ward members, Block chairman) SHG leaders and moreover the villagers in ration distribution and awareness campaign.

We acknowledge our deepest gratitude to **Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative (APPI)**, **SMILE Foundation India** and **Habitat For Humanity India** for keeping trust on us and making the things happen through their generous and benevolent support.

Programme at a Glance (Photographs)

Packaging of Dry Ration in Progress:



Distribution of Dry Ration in Villages:



**On their way back receiving ration
Maintaining social distance**



**BDO Lanjigarh with our team in village
Phuldumer providing new dresses for the kids**



CHILDLINE team in action responding to Lockdown:



The EWRs (Elected Women Representatives) promoting hand hygiene, creative engagement with children and actively participating in quarantine home management:


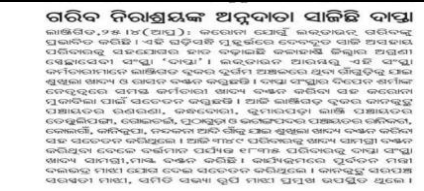






Family Essential Kit (FEK) Distribution to migrant worker families:



Media Coverage:

SL No	Name of the Publisher (Media)	Date of Publication	Supporting link/ Documents
1	The Samaja (Odia daily News paper)	26/04/2020	
2	The Parmeya (Odia daily News Paper)	25/04/2020	
3	Odisha Times	03/05/2020	https://youtu.be/EPLaNdv1IQ
4	Regional Out reach Bureau, BBSR (Twitter Handle Ministry of information & broad casting, Govt. of India)	13/05/2020	
5	Door Darshan Kendra, Bhawanipatna (Panel discussion on COVID-19 organized by DDK, Panelists are Dr. Panda, In charge, COVID centre, Kalahandi, Mr. S.K. Nanda, IIC, Town PS, Bhawanipatna & Mr. Dipan Sharma, DAPTA, Kalahandi)	11/05/2020 (Telecasted at 9:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M.)	

*Reported by – Development Agency for Poor and Tribal Awakening (DAPTA)
Bhawanipatna, Kalahandi, 766001.*



Secretary
DAPTA
Near Old Cinema Hall
Bhawanipatna, Kalahandi
Odisha, India