

COVID-19 Relief, 2021

Progress report from GRAVIS

For the support received from PPI



The Background

India faced a ferocious second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, which saw an unprecedented increase in COVID-19 cases and deaths. Till July 2021, India had reported over [30 million cases](#) till date and over 424,000 deaths since the pandemic broke out a year ago. According to the WHO, India accounted for about half of the new daily COVID infections in the world for several weeks. The situation was dire in India and there was a need for coordinated relief efforts.

In Rajasthan, the impact of the pandemic was particularly dire accounting over 950,000 cases and over 9,000 deaths as of August this year while Jodhpur where GRAVIS is based has reported nearly 110,000 cases (12% of the State). 5 Districts covered by GRAVIS under COVID relief (Jodhpur, Bikaner, Pali, Jaisalmer and Badmer) have reported over 200,000 cases.

In Western Rajasthan, the Thar Desert, the number of new cases per day rose to about 7,000 to 9,000 per in the month of May, a rapid increase from 118 new cases per day as of 1st March. While both urban areas and rural areas underwent a ravaging second wave with large number of cases and deaths, the invisible sections of rural India was hit more badly as evident from [an article](#) of a reputed newspaper. Disease and death among younger people is also being noticed frequently as a new trend. The oxygen arrangements have improved somewhat in cities because of improved supplies and slightly reduced demand. Despite of some relief on the numbers, there are still many challenges faced by local communities. The economic crisis and food shortages are likely to linger on for a longer period.

Since the very beginning and during this crisis, GRAVIS was very active in reaching out to the communities in need and focused its efforts in the Thar Desert region of India within Rajasthan, and has also supported some relief in the States of Haryana, Uttarakhand and U. P. All activities carried out during the response work strictly abided by the [COVID 19 guidelines issued by the Government of India](#) and [WHO](#).

Support received and utilized

GRAVIS gratefully received a kind support US \$ 2,500 from PPI in 2021. The received funds were utilized on ensuring food security and hygiene through providing food and hygiene supplies kits to poor and needy families in the Thar Desert.

Distributing food and hygiene kits

Food and hygiene supply kits were provided to needy families. Those with no access to the Public Distribution System (PDS) or with no money to purchase food and hygiene items since lockdown were focused, received food and hygiene supplies kits. Food items included wheat flour, pulses, edible oil and spices, and for hygiene - masks and soap were given. The food supplies distributed were sufficient to meet the food needs of a family of about 8 people for about a month to 6 weeks. 180 such kits were distributed benefitting 180 families and their 1,441 members from the support received.

The Implementation process

- GRAVIS head office in Jodhpur coordinated all relief activities.
- Food and hygiene supplies were procured from centralized markets and were packed in kits.
- Food and hygiene kits were then transported to GRAVIS centres in rural areas.
- GRAVIS team along with local CBO members identified the needy families and made distribution lists.
- Kits were then delivered to identified families at their homes in villages.
- While distributing, all COVID guidelines including social distancing and use of masks were fully followed.







Impact

The food kits distributed during the project contributed significantly towards addressing the immediate food needs and hygiene of the rural community affected by the raging second wave of the pandemic. Food and hygiene supplies amid lockdown and with no incomes were great help to 180 families.

GRAVIS team expresses its deep gratitude to PPI for this kind support which was of great help to 1,441 people in the Thar Desert with enhanced food security and with improved hygiene.
