

Covid -19 Relief activity supported by People for Progress in India

1. Program Overview

After spread of Covid – 19 in India, the country is in complete lock down from 22nd March. All kind of income generation activities have been stopped. Migrants are forced to leave their jobs and are returning back to their villages. Rajasthan has great number of miners those are working in stone mine. They have also lost their work in mine are jobless. There is great need to provide them some relief in this testing time. GRAVIS is helping local villagers, mineworkers and migrants by distributing dry ration kits worth INR 950 to support a family of 6 to 7 people for 20 days. With the support of PPI, GRAVIS has supported 150 families of mineworkers living in outskirts area of Jodhpur district mainly in Osian and Mondore blocks.

2. Activity Implementation Process

The activity was implemented with families living in Osian and Mandore blocks (Jodhpur). 70 relief kits have been distributed in Gagadi village of Osian block and 80 kits have been distributed in Soorsagar mines of Mondaore block. In relief activity, it is mandatory to take govt approval on same. Following this, prior approval was taken from SDMs¹ of Osian and Mandore before distribution and the lists of families were also provided to them to avoid any chance of repetition and to maintain transparency in implementation. 150 kits have been handed over to 150 families. These families are mainly daily wage earners, stone mine workers, families with disabled and women headed households. All families are very happy to receive kits and feeling relaxed in this difficult time.

3. Stakeholder`s Participation and Cooperation

Involvement of local village development committees (VDCs) was insured at each step of project execution. Members of VDCs prepared list of families, discussed with Gram Panchayat members to avoid any repetition, coordinated with GRAVIS staff and local administration in distribution of kits. Local police and SDM have been informed before distribution. Govt. officials randomly verify the implementation. As schools are closed therefore GRAVIS School teachers also participated in project is distribution of kits and generating awareness among community on pandemic.

4. Lessons Learned

As the COVID- 19 situation is getting more serious day by day it has become mandatory to maintain social distancing and take the necessary preventive measures. Therefore, it is very important to remind communities about social/ physical distancing and maintaining personal hygiene. Local nurses (ANMs²) have been involved in orienting families on identification of symptomatic cases and maintaining personal hygiene. Many women in villages made washable mask and are using them at home. The pandemic has increased physical distances but same time has increased emotional bondages among communities.

¹Sub-divisional magistrate

²Auxiliary Nurse Midwife

Testimonials

Nemaram s/o Prataparam

Mineworker Nemaram of Soorsagar village is very happy to receive relief kits. He lives near stone mine at outskirts of Jodhpur. His hamlet is called Bheelbasti. He is a wage earner and his livelihood is completely dependent upon mining activities. After lockdown he is jobless from two months. Sometimes neighbors helped him but they are also facing same situation. On receiving of kits, Nemaram expressed his gratitude and said "From last one month there was no money to buy any grocery. My life was dependent on others but now I am happy to receive this kit. My burden is reduced for couple of weeks. I hope soon I will get my work back. We are thankful to this generous donation".

Pappu Devi w/o late Pancha Ram

Pappu Devi a widow and mother of four children live in Sodoki Dhani village of Jodhpur district. She is the only bread earner for family but after spread of Covid-19 she lost her work and the family became dependent on their relatives. They are also wage earner have limited source of income and in lockdown they were also facing the same situation as of Pappu Devi. In this testing time the relief kits has proved great help to family. She with teary eyes expressed her gratitude and said "This help has saved the lives of her family and children. Now I am relaxed for two weeks. I wish all happiness for donor".

Bidu Devi w/o late Pukhraj

Bidu Devi, the mother of five children lives in Sodoki Dhani village of Jodhpur district has no words to tell her thankfulness to donor. Her husband was a miner but she lost him because of Silicosis, a hazardous disease found in sand stone mines. She is the only bread earner for family but after spread of Covid-19 she lost her work and is staying at home. The family utilized whatever saving they have but after that there was no money to buy grocery. Their neighbors are also poor and can't help them. They were almost at the edge of acute poverty. On receiving kits she said, "My family was suffering with starvation like situation. Whatever little we have is already eaten. This kit is precious gift to us. My family is praying for donor for his generous support."

Photographs



Pic 1: Family kit of relief material distributed at Gagadi (Osian block)



Pic 2: Family kits collected for distribution



Pic 3: Family kits distributed to mineworkers in Soorsagar (Mondore Block)



Pic 4: Coordination with Local administration in distribution



Pic 5: Transportation of kits to rural area