

COVID 19 OUR RESPONSE



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COVID 19 posed a severe problem for the lesser known and nutritionally vulnerable Korku tribe community of Khalwa Block in Khandwa district of MP in India. On one hand the household food crisis was deepening, the labors had reverse migrated and supply chain was disrupted making essential commodities inaccessible. Anganwadis, the child care centers were shut down. The challenge was to reach mothers and children with nutritious food. find gainful employment and livelihood. Above all this remote dwelling community was to be made aware of the dangers of pandemic and precautions they should be taking. Our efforts had been directed to these factors .

DRY RATION SUPPORT

Our key emphasis had been to outreach the malnourished children and pregnant women who suffered the most as they had little or no nutrition in their plates. Hence 2000 malnourished tribal children and pregnant women were targeted to be reached out with dry ration. The dry ration pack included - pulse, rice, edible oil and soaps.

Till now 2500 children and mothers have been reached and second round of distribution is ongoing.

200 SAM children have been identified and they are being provided a pack of edible oil, jaggery, sugar, porridge, peanuts, biscuits and soaps.

100 High risk pregnant women were also provided pre cooked meals mixture.

120 villages across two blocks have been covered.



SUPPORT TO MIGRANT WORKERS

100 Migrant workers either in reverse migration or prone to migration were identified across 8 Korku tribe dominated villages. They were extended a packet of dry ration that included - Wheat flour, Rice, Pulses, Oil, Sugar, Tea leaves, salt, condiments , soaps for body and cloth washing and masks. It also included potatoes and onions. It was adequate for a month for an average family.

It was a significant support when food crisis gripped them during COVID 19 lockdowns.

FOOD FOR WORK



COVID 19 support also included - Food for work initiatives. The community identifies neighborhood land and water resources that can be created or repaired to help them have more crops and irrigation or drinking water. The works were done voluntarily and the wage earners were incentivized through provision of food articles. The works included : Land boundaries, desilting of neighboring river, deepening of wells and farm trenches. All together 09 such initiatives were undertaken through voluntary labor contribution of 950 man-days. The wage earners received 950 kilograms of rice, 470 liters of oil and 470 kilograms of pulses.



BACKYARD NUTRITION GARDNES

An earnest effort was directed to help Korku tribe families facing Food & Nutrition Crisis to help them access added nutrition and so diversify their diets. Since malnutrition is rampant hence its important to have variety of food in their neighborhood itself. So Backyard Nutrition Gardens were promoted among the vulnerable families : ones with malnourished kids, ones landless and ones having single or widowed women. The families were assisted to identify a space in their backyard and seeds were provided- gourds, green leafy vegetables, chilies and tomatoes. 400 families have been supported during COVID 19 and the number will increase in winter months. This has enabled marginalized families have vegetables in their diets and so a supply of essential micronutrients.



COVID 19 - LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVES

COVID 19 crisis compelled us to consider livelihood support to marginalized families especially girls and vulnerable women like widows and single and physically challenged.

They were identified on pre-determined criteria by frontline workers.

The identified women beneficiaries were discussed with and options were explored.

They were extended materials support to start their Nano enterprises. It includes : running grocery shops, repairing of motorcycles , selling locally popular artificial jewelry, cosmetics and bangles, running poultry and egg stalls, selling paani-puri and salted mixtures and so on.

Each of these enterprise has made a successful start and are able to earn at least what they could have being in migration elsewhere. As there are practically no local wage earning options available, it has made them contented and self confident. Many have started building upon the one time support that was extended to them.

The plans are to scale and replicate this initiative and mobilize more resources. The effort has been strengthening the local tribal economy intangibly.



COVID 19 RESPONSE IN PICTURES



