

# ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2020-21

*“We intend to create a Food Secure environment wherein most marginalized families can access adequate food and nutrition in their neighborhood itself”*



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## PREFACE

The reported year was catastrophic. COVID 19 pandemic brought life to near halt. The fear of death hung over and services and supplies came to grinding halt due to lock downs and restriction of movement. The marginalized Kokru tribe with their remote habitations in and around Satpura mountain ranges of Khandwa district in Madhya Pradesh were at the worst receiving end. They were devoid of many essential goods and services. Then there were many who were reverting back to their own villages in panic from places near and far they had migrated. This posed added burden to the village already reeling under pressure of food and employment. The families in reverse migration were at cross roads wondering what next? As they needed employment and food. They had been off but now an uncertain future lay ahead. The problems and hardships they faced to get back home would not be forgotten soon.

Our Key focus during 2020 was relieving the sufferings of marginalized families faced with the challenges of COVID. The relief operations are being undertaken and needy families are outreached with dry rations and Food baskets. The focus also has been on assisting women and girls who had returned from migration or many who were migration prone as eking out livelihood locally was very hard. Dozens of them were assisted to set up nano enterprises. Some enterprises were the ones usually considered to be in male domain.

The efforts continued at educating and sensitizing the target community on perils of COVID and adopting the COVID appropriate behavior and getting vaccinated.

COVID 19 threat has continued and so the restriction like Angawadi centers remain closed and U5 children face a tough time and wage earners are at dilemma at whether to migrate or not.

But we are determined to stand with marginalized Korku tribe community in this time of need.

I thank all my team members and donors and supporters who have encouraged and helped us in this tough times.

*Seema*

**Seema Prakash**  
**Founder -Director**



*“Relief took precedence as COVID 19 accentuated household hunger and inaccessibility to essentials”*

## COMMUNITY RELIEF OPERATIONS

### Food relief

With childcare services like Anganwadis having shut down the food and nutrition gaps emerged among most vulnerable Kokru tribe mothers and children. To offset that we organized a sustained Relief operations for 900 severe and moderate malnourished children and high-risk pregnant women. The support has continued even after 06 months. They were provided Food Baskets that included – cereals, pulses, edible oil, sugar, groundnuts, porridge, biscuits and so on. Alongside relief in from of dry ration to 90 terminally ill individuals. One month’s ration was also extended to 100 wage earning families in reverse migration.



### Follow up Care

700 SAM/MAM children continued to be followed -up despite COVID 19 restrictions. Each child was followed up individually and the mothers were counselled on dangers of the pandemic, need for adhering to COVID 19 protocols and taking better care of malnourished children especially through exclusive breastfeeding and supplementary feeding. Similarly High-risk pregnant women were reached with doorstep counselling and motivation to complete antenatal checks and vaccination. 1528 home visits were done and nearly 450 eligible pregnant mothers underwent respective trimester wise antenatal checks. 113 high risk pregnant women also received the vitamin supplements. Within the project geography nearly 600 women could have safe delivery.



More than 5000 women and girls in menstruating age were provide sanitary pads as they were hard to get in COVID times.



## **Towards Food security**

COVID 19 increased the household food crisis especially among the remote dwelling and already marginalized Korcu tribe families. There were issues of accessibility the essential commodities due to lock downs and wage-earning options became lean.

## **Backyard Nutrition Gardens**

During rainy (Kharif) and winter (Rabi) seasons the 3000 identified food insecure families were extended seed support to grow Backyard Nutrition Gardens. Some grew it in their backyard, and some used a part of their farms to grow them. Thus, they had vegetables of at least 10 varieties of vegetables for ta least half of the year. 817 families had surplus to sell as well.



## **Revival of Cultural food**

The process initiated some years back has been on its forward march with more farmers reverting and revving them in their fields and setting up Millet seed Banks. This year the number of farmers undertaking the Millet revival grew to nearly 5000 across 100 village. The Millet seeds Bank reached out to 174 more families. The variety of millets grown includes- Kutki, Sawriya, Jowar and Kaldhana and so on. The significant production of Millet has reduced the food crisis times and has provided the essential nutrition.

## **Land & Water conservation**

As the area has significant number of children being stunted – an indication of chronic hunger the increase in acreage yield is implied. A distinct focus has been directed to develop the neighborhood land and water resources. The communities are being sensitized to contribute their labor as volunteers to develop their own livelihood assets. Women have been far ahead of menfolk and have accomplished incredible land & water conservation works. In all 533 wage earners provided voluntary labor (shrmadaan) for 133 days. Thus, they contributed 8419-man days that in terms of minimum wages would have costed 16,83, 800 rupees.

sl	Nature of work	Wage earners Volunteered	No of days	Total man-days
1	Defunct Well Deepening (4)	52	31	1612
2	Land Bunding (7)	108	50	5400
3	Stream de-silting	11	8	88
4	Sack bag check dam (2)	102	2	154
5	Riverbed de-silting	13	10	104
6	Contour pits	12	7	84

7	Loose Boulder check dams	59	3	155
8	Farm Bunds	24	2	56
9	Gully Plugs	6	4	26
10	Water conservation tanks	78	5	374
11	Desilting existing check dams	34	5	151
12	Water conservation structures	34	6	215
		533	133	8419

The wage earners were incentivized for their voluntary labor contribution through handful of grains, lentils, and oil. As most of the workers were women this help was well accepted as it kept their stoves going in tough times and not allowing their husbands to mock them.

### **Women Entrepreneurship Program**

During COVID 19 the added attention was paid to enhance the livelihood especially of distress migrate prone women and teenage girls. They were provided meagre support to set up an enterprise of their choice. 100 women and girls were supported, and these included running small grocery shops, vending artificial jewelry and cosmetics, selling paani pooris and snacks, selling pooja items in front of temples, selling footwear and so on. The most encouraging enterprise was of three girls from a very remote villages decided to run a motorcycle repairing shop near the main road. More demands have been pouring.



### **Conservation of Korku language & culture**

Korku being an endangered dialect, the efforts have been directed to preserve it along with the aboriginal culture. The proactive research and documentation are under process to preserve a body of valuable knowledge and information that can be transferred inter- generationally. The inputs are also used to develop culturally relevant Teaching Learning materials, Behavior Change communication materials, Lexicons, and compilation of folk culture and so on.



## Looking Ahead

The fear and restriction of COVID 19 persists. But with graph falling and vaccination drives beginning we hope that pandemic will not be severe in days to come. But the rural economy will have been greatly disabled. The losses incurred will not be restored soon. So, we will move forward with a renewed Mission to *rehab and rebuild* and indulge in facilitating a process that will boost Food & Nutrition Security, reinforce local wage earning and entrepreneurial opportunities and build resilient communities that can face challenges and move towards self-reliance.

