MAHASHAKTI FOUNDATIONS’ RESPONSE TO COVID-19

A Brief Report as on 30th June 2020

Supported by

Implemented by

MAHASHAKTI FOUNDATION

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**Backdrop**

The Covid-19 outbreak reached pandemic proportion so quickly and explosively that the health and hospital sectors in the world were unprepared. Initially there was an acute shortage of masks & hand sanitizers. In India, the novel corona virus started spreading in the early March. Odisha got its first case on 15 March 2020 from a person who had a travel history from Italy. On 21 March 2020, Odisha Govt. announced the single largest lockdown for Health reasons in Independent India. On 24 March 2020, when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the nation, he announced for India under complete lockdown for the next 21 days. Situation is still out of control and we all witnessed the situation till this unlock 2.0.

During this time, the major challenge was to reach the villages and sensitize each and every citizen of the country regarding the horrifying consequences this virus can cause and how to prevent it from getting spread and causing destruction.

Mahashakti Foundation (MSF) - a Charitable Trust who has always worked for the destitute & deprived section of the society for last 16 years came forward to show humanity and save the human race in association with its’ funding partners. We are operational in 13 districts of Odisha with 1 lakh households. We are taking a greater role in providing emergency support to the people of the community with the esteem support of Govt of Odisha, Vedanta Limited Lanjigarh, ACC TRUST-Bargarh, GOONJ, New Delhi, Milaap Bangalore, Habitat for Humanity New Delhi and Local Individual Donors. MSF is taking extensive measures to check the spread of COVID-19 across its’ operational areas.

By surveillance and proper studies on the community and the people, we found that there’s n number of problems that needs to be addressed if we want to curve the spread of the pandemic. The lack of awareness on the novel corona virus was a challenge. The major issues that these people faced were low or no income, unemployment and shortage of food. Therefore, Mahashakti Foundation prepared a route map on how to provide support to the community and save lives. With the esteem support of its existing partners, MSF started providing relief & response to the disadvantaged and poverty stricken people.

**MSF’s Areas of Operation under COVID-19 Response :**

| A: Total District Coverage | 5 (Kalahandi, Rayagada, Bolangir, Khurdha and Bargarh) |
| B: Total Block Coverage | 10 (Lanjigarh, M. Rampur, Karlamunda, Ambabhona, Bijepur, Bargarh, Khurdha, Muniguda, Bissam Cuttack) |
| C: Total GP Coverage | 40 |
| D: Total Village Coverage | 126 |
| E: Total HHs Supported | 55,400 |
Following are the activities taken up in response to Covid-19 in our operational areas:

- Distribution of Masks
- Distribution of dry food packets/ration
- Disinfection sprays in Households
- Distribution of anti-bacterial soaps
- Conducted Awareness Programme on prevention COVID-19
- Cooked meal distribution to people by SHGs
- Demonstration on Hand wash & preventive measures on Corona
- Awareness on social distancing at different rural and urban areas
- Usage of Banners, Stickers & Slogans in public places for the mass awareness.
- Linking migrant workers to different employment opportunities.

Making & Distribution of Masks:
The shortage of face masks was a clear trouble from the beginning. But panic buying of the masks made the situation even worse. Amid all these, the SHG women started making masks so that each and every citizen of Odisha will have an access to face masks as government made it compulsory to use while stepping out of the house. Our Team members started distribution of these masks in different villages & slums to check the spread of the virus.

Awareness Programmes:
Lack of Awareness about the Pandemic may result otherwise. So, Team MSF decided to go to each and every villages & slums in its operational areas and educate the people on how to fight the deadly virus. They explained the people about the importance of Social Distancing and also demonstrated on the usage of face masks & 20 sec hand washing with soap and water. They also instructed the people to avoid touching their faces as it increases the chance of getting infected.
**Cooked Meals and Dry Food Distribution:**

The basic need of human is food. During this pandemic, when he has no income, no opportunity to work and earn, it becomes difficult for him to feed himself & his family. Then he’s left with two options: either to starve or to break the lockdown rules set by the government, which will in return increase the chances of spreading of the deadly virus in the community. To avoid any such chaos, Mahashakti Foundation with the esteem support of its partners came with a humanitarian idea & started distributing cooked foods & dry foods to the deprived section of the society in its operational areas.

**Activities Undertaken:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI</th>
<th>Type of Activities /Interventions</th>
<th>No HHs /Persons Benefited</th>
<th>Supported by</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>Distribution of Masks</td>
<td>1,56,000 Persons</td>
<td>ACC TRUST, Bargarh (CSR) Vedanta Limited Lanjigarh (CSR) Bargarh, Municipality, Bargarh, Odisha SIDBI PSIG, BBSR</td>
<td>1,56,000 masks has been stitched and distributed to the community through the Women Federations i.e Shaktimayee Foundation, Kalapunaruthan Producer Company and Pratignya Trust at Kalahandi Bargarh and Khurda districts of Odisha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>Distribution of Essential Family Kit (Dry Ration)</td>
<td>5,500 HHS</td>
<td>Individual Donors ACC TRUST, Bargarh, Municipality, Bargarh GOONJ, New Delhi Habitat For Humanity Milaap Social Ventures</td>
<td>5,500 Dry food and Sanitation Kits (Rice, Dal, Sugar, Suji, Atta, Tea, Turmeric Packets, Soya Badi, Biscuits, Salt, Chuda, Oil, Onion, Potato, Bath Soaps, Washing Powder, Sanitiser, Napkin. Vegetable Seeds, Masks etc.) has been distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>Disinfection sprays in Households</td>
<td>35,400 HHS</td>
<td>ACC TRUST, Bargarh, Municipality, Bargarh,</td>
<td>Village Sanitization and spray of disinfection with bleaching has been done in different areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>Cooked meal distribution to people by SHGS</td>
<td>4,000 HHS</td>
<td>Municipality, Bargarh, Women SHG</td>
<td>Till date, 18,200 cooked meal packets has been provided to the needy and also to the people who are completely dependent on outside food courts and hotels. The SHG women took the lead with the support of Municipality.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Awareness on social distancing, Hand hygiene at different rural and urban areas 10,000 HHs Mahashakti Foundation & Community

Awareness on Social distancing and COVID -19 programmes were held to educate the farmers, PRI members through FGD and information banners.

Village Cleanliness drive 5000 HHs Mahashakti Foundation & Community

Project staff members and women SHGs are directly involved in the village cleanliness drive.

Mobilization of Local resources and skill towards the income generation 1556 HHS Existing Donors of Mahashakti

More than 1556 skilled women from rom different project areas of Kalahandi, Khurdha and Bargarh are trained and started different livelihood activities after linking them with Banks, Financial Institutions. Also they prepared Masks and supplied to different agencies.

Apart from above our team helped Government Departments, CSR houses to deliver different emergency services with community. We also sensitised community to access different facilities being declared by both State and Central Government.

Way Forward :

- Identification vulnerable households affected by this pandemic and continuation of required support services.
- Enabling migrant workers to start different livelihood activities to manage their livelihoods leveraging different schemes declared by government and financial institutions.
- Referral and family counselling those who are returning to their family as per the guidelines of Govt.
- Linkage and leverage with different agencies for the enhancement of the livelihood of affected households.
- Coordination with Government and related stake holders for accessibility of different services for the needy.
- Planning for a long term strategic plan for the affected households to recover their livelihoods.

Stand with Us:

Mahashakti Foundation seek your support to procure dry ration, masks, food etc related materials to distribute among the needy being affected by this pandemic. There is an urgent need of creating different livelihood opportunities, family counselling, Healthcare and awareness for the country’s poorest and most vulnerable communities.

Donate for COVID 19 Response*

Please visit our home page – https://mahashaktifoundation.in/ to donate for COVID-19 Response.

* All the donations are exempted under section 80G of Income Tax Act
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Photographs of different activities undertaken in last 3 months in different locations of Odisha:

Distribution of Kits by Tahasildar, M Rampur,
Sensitization Program on Safe Hand Wash
Distribution of Cooked Foods at Bargarh Dist.
Distribution of Essential Family Kits.
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Distribution of Household Kits to Migrant Workers

Distribution of Household Kits by BDO, M Rampur.

Support against Dignity for Work in Rayagada Dist.

Dignity for Work Program in Rayagada Dist.

Dignity for Work Program in Kalahandi Dist.

Dignity for Work Program in Rayagada Dist.

Safe Hand Wash Practices at the tribal villages of Kalahandi, Odisha
Highlights in leading Print Media

(The Sambad -Odia and The Samaj-Odia Daily)
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