

In these time of crisis,
ActionAiders across India are
working tirelessly on the ground
to bring succour to daily wagers,
low income families and migrant workers,
hoping to release the burden they face
due to loss of income and livelihoods,
a result of the necessary lockdown.



TOGETHER AGAINST COVID

An update on humanitarian response across India

act:onaid

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An unprecedented crisis

COVID -19, declared a pandemic in late January 2020 by the World Health Organisation, has transformed into the 'biggest crisis ever since World War 2'. The virus has precipitated a humanitarian crisis alongside the public health crisis, caused by the necessary lockdowns and restrictions on work and movement to stop the spread of the infection.

In terms of casualties caused and the social and economic loss left in its wake, the crisis is escalating and its impact is here to stay, at least for the next 3 to 6 months. As on 2nd June, India had 97,581 active cases and 5,598 deaths. The infection has also exposed the challenges of liveable space, food availability and job and income security and the danger of indebtedness. With a huge informal sector, employing more than 85% of the workforce, 139 million people who migrate in search of work and nine million annual inter-state migrants, the state prescriptions of lock-down, social distancing and 'stay at home' to contain the coronavirus have affected migrant workers, daily wage labourers and low income households the most.

Our colleagues and the grassroots based civil society organisations we work with are tirelessly trying to provide relief and succour to individuals and families in need from vulnerable sections of society across India. As of 19th May 2020 we have been able to provide relief to 32.85 lakh people across 203 districts in 23 States and one Union Territory.

Our response has been at three levels. We have provided grounded inputs from the perspective of workers and vulnerable communities to Union and State Government policy and programme processes. We have spread awareness on sanitation and protection to communities and staff and volunteers who are responding. And finally we brought immediate relief and succour through cooked food, dry rations, sanitation materials and counselling support. ActionAid Association (AAA) has striven to reach out to migrant workers and families of people dependent on the informal economy, who are most-affected by the lockdown and most at risk if the infection spreads.

AAA reached out to the Covid-19 Economic Response Task Force led by the Finance Minister, with suggestions and have offered all support to the High-Level Committee for Engagement of Private Sector, International Organisations, CSOs/NGOs and other Development Partners constituted by the Government of India, under the Chairmanship of the Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog. Our suggestions have also been well-received by State Governments, and we continue engaging with Government and statutory bodies, including the National Commission for Women, to ensure policies which place marginalised communities and the women and children amongst them at the core of all interventions.

AAA has created a series of publications on the theme "Isolate, Don't Abandon" to capture the needs and vulnerabilities of people in the informal economy, marginalised communities, women and children, make popular progressive agendas.

Our teams, which include district co-ordinator teams across more than 100 districts, our volunteer teams and staff of our civil society organisations we work with, have collaborated with State Governments and local administration to spread awareness among marginalised communities on the need to maintain lock down and hygiene practices to stop the spread of the disease. We have secured support from a large number of donors, individual, corporate and institutional, and worked with community-based financial supporters, the local administration and drawn on the limited resources available with us to provide immediate supplies of dry ration, cooked food and sanitation material. Our supply of support materials have been focused on the households dependent on the informal economy, who are at most risk as social distancing is an almost insurmountable challenge for them, and the lock down has led to an immediate stop to work and income, and they have little if any resources to cope with the lockdown.

As per our approach in all humanitarian responses to emergency situations, our efforts have been to reach out to the aged, children, disabled, single women, amongst vulnerable communities and marginalized groups, as they are especially at risk in these extra-ordinary times. We have also reached out to refugees, riot affected families

and nomadic communities as they are particularly disadvantaged in the present context. In all our efforts, we are taking utmost care to ensure protection for both our staff and volunteers and the communities we are working with.

As migrant workers returned to their villages, our grassroots-based allied organisations, working with local administration helped counsel the returning workers on the need to maintain quarantine, helped set up community-based quarantine facilities and ensured supply of cooked food as they maintained quarantine.

Working directly and with grassroots based civil society organisations, social movements and local administrations we have been able to create a network of more than 50 Relief-In-Transit Hubs on highways and roads across Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Through these hubs, teams are distributing cooked food packets, snacks, fruits, water, vitamins and supplements, soap, sanitizers and footwear to migrant workers on their way home.

All this was made possible by the generous solidarity support we received from many individual, institutional and corporate donors. We are grateful for their help and feel truly gratified in the confidence they have reposed in us. A lot has been done, but much more is needed to be done currently and in the months to come.

The Cyclone Ampham hit coastal regions of West Bengal and Odisha, serving populations there with a double whammy, the ongoing threat of COVID-19 infection and coping with the lockdown, coupled with the impact of the deadliest storm India has faced this century. We need to help them cope with the impact of the twin disasters.

Across the country individuals and families will continue to need food and cash support, as the lock down eases we need to build livelihood options so large sections of the population who are without income are able to rebuild their lives. To ensure that the most vulnerable people are safeguarded from the spread of infection we need to build community-based health resources.

We share what has been done across India in this public document as a means of ensuring transparency and accountability of the trust our supporters have placed on us.







All India efforts

AS OF MAY 19, 2020

WE ARE RESPONDING IN



23 STATES 1 UNION TERRITORY



204
DISTRICTS

OUR IMPACT



1,38,626
FAMILIES PROVIDED WITH DRY RATION



4,71,360
INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED WITH COOKED MEALS



14,88,280
INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED DIRECT SUPPORT BY ACTIONAID ASSOCIATION

(Assuming 5 members per family and discounting overlap)



96,653

FAMILIES PROVIDED WITH SANITATION AND DIGNITY KITS



26,13,750
INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED AWARENESS ON COVID-19



17,94,673

INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

As mentioned above as on the 19th of May we have been able to reach 32.84,953 individuals in 204 districts across 24 states. These include 14,88,277 individuals supported directly and 17,94,673 individuals supported through local administration. These figures have been compiled with the assumption that there are 5 members per family and discounting overlap.

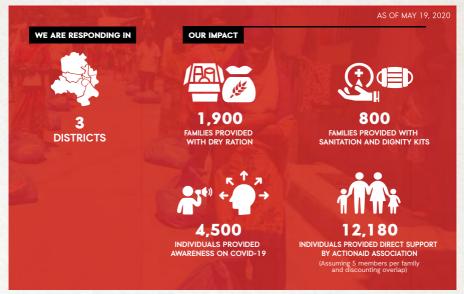
In an initiative that has started more recently we have provided 6,511 individuals with psycho-social support and 2,850 individuals with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) distributed. In addition to the distribution of relief material and awareness generation, the teams at the state level have undertaken numerous initiatives based on the diversity of needs of the states in their collaborations with various stakeholders including local governments and partner organisations.



This was with the support of Zomato Feeding India.



Andhra Pradesh



We have been distributing pamphlets and posting awareness posters on the walls at prominent places. We are putting up the IEC materials like banners and posters in prominent locations of railway stations and open marketplaces. Another 3,000 pamphlets were printed and distributed in Visakhapatnam district. 1,500 pamphlets were arranged in Vizag for awareness building.



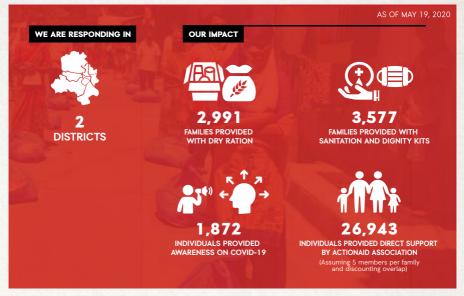
Ration Kits distribution in Andhra Pradesh with Give India and Helo support. Distributed 3600 kits.



Ration Kits distribution in Andhra Pradesh with Give India and Helo support. Distributed 3600 kits.



Assam



In Kamrup, we have coordinated with the Labour Department on access to social security benefits by unorganized workers in Guwahati. In collective collaboration with Inter-Agency Group, Assam we are having regular coordination and discussion with the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) on sharing information and exchanging of collaboration support to the government executive decisions.

ActionAid in collaboration with allies have contacted stranded migrants from Jharkhand in eight districts of Assam. Some of them have been connected to the district administration, and others were provided food rations by ActionAid's partners.



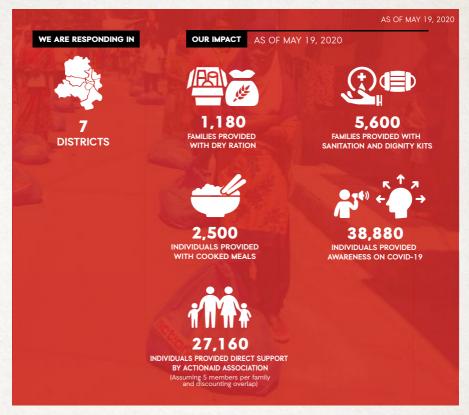
Registration for ration kit in Assam. ActionAid provided ration kits with Helo support.



Ration kit distribution in Assam with Helo India support.



Bihar



Through engagements with the Worker Facilitation Centre, Gaya we have been supporting migrants returning to the state. The Centre is also running a Relief-In-Transit Hub in Gaya, serving migrant workers as they journey back home. We also supported the administration in operating the isolation centre where the migrant workers from other States are staying. Colleagues are also engaged in collecting the details of the migrants in coordination with the Labour Department. We have also been supporting district administration in Gaya and Patna and facilitating fair distribution of PDS for needy people with proper safety measures.



Distribution of dry ration kits to 30 families in Nalanda district, Bihar.





Chhatisgarh

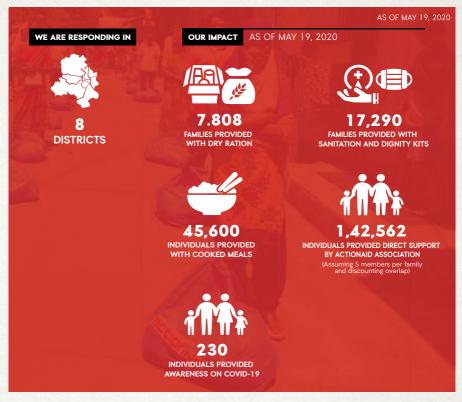


The volunteers of Sajhi Pahal, a network of activists and civil society organisations that ActionAid Association helped set up co-ordinated with Panchayati Raj Institution members to secure entitlements of families left out of social security net, but having the vulnerabilities sought to alleviate. Sajhi Pahal distributed relief materials to migrant workers in Raipur city, through solidarity support raised from local trusts.





Delhi



We are closely working with Delhi Minority Commission on relief distribution. A total of 76 informal workers have been supported with a direct cash transfer of Rs.7000/- in their bank account. 350 migrant workers who belong to Bihar have been supported to apply for financial support from Bihar govenrment under Direct Benefit Transfer system. We are running seven Relief-In-Transit Hubs in the Delhi NCR, to serve migrants who are returning home with cooked food.



Relief-In-Transit: Biscuits, snacks and fruits distributed in Delhi to migrant workers heading back home.



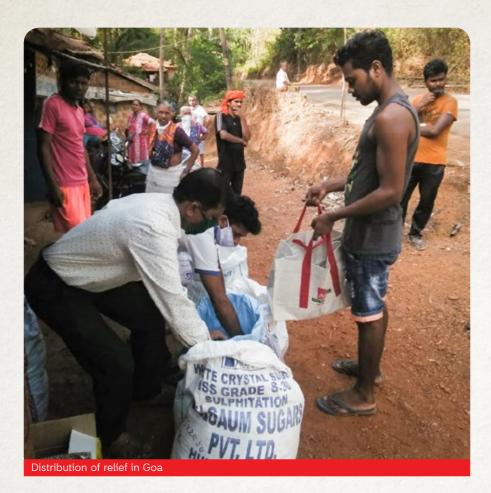
Distribution of dry rations and sanitation material to households in need in Delhi.



Goa



Working with grassroots based civil society organisations we facilitated the return of migrant workers and ensured payment of their pending wages.





Distribution of relief in Goa



Gujarat



12,276 families were provided dry ration kits through the support of local administration. 3,023 people's access to pension and other social security schemes was facilitated.



Distribution of relief kits to single women and domestic workers in Gujarat.



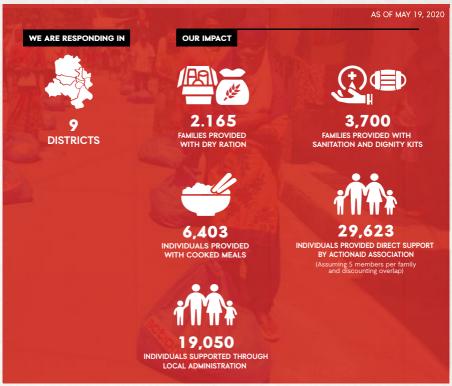
Distribution of relief kits to the homeless in Gujarat.



Distribution of relief kits to daily wage labourers in Gujarat.



Haryana



3,500 families were provided with dry ration kits with the support of local administration, and 1,400 families facilitated to access employment under MGNREGA. We wrote to the Government of Haryana to increase the days of MGNREGA work and requesting the ensuring of timely payment. Due to our intense follow up and monitoring, MGNREGA has been started in 27 villages. The Haryana State Women Commission has written to the district administration in Nuh, Sonipat, Panipat, Kaithal, Fatehabad and Hisar requesting that they provide permission to ActionAid's team for relief

distribution. We are also part of the District Action team created by six district administrations. Working directly and with grassroots based civil society organisations we are running a network of seven Relief-In-Transit Hubs to provide food and water to migrants on highways returning home.



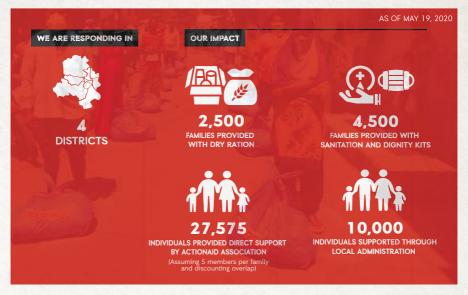
Distribution of dry ration and sanitation materials to vulnerable households in Fatehpur village, Pundri block, Kaithal district, Haryana.



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Himachal Pradesh



2,000 families provided with dry ration kits with the support of local administration and access to work under MGNREGA for 700 families was facilitated across three districts. ActionAid is part of the main relief distribution team of the district administration and is also part of the District Action team created by District Magistrate. We have written to the Government of Himachal Pradesh asking for the increase in the number of available work days under MGNREGA and to ensure timely payment. Due to our intense follow up and monitoring, MGNREGA has been started in 12 villages. We have facilitated the running of a Relief-In-Transit Hub at Baddi, to provide food and water to migrants returning home.



Distribution of dry rations to migrants in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh.



Distribution of dry rations to migrants in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh.



Jharkhand



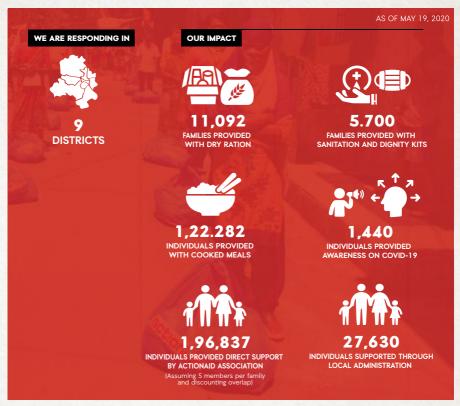
ActionAid Association has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Jharkhand on the issue of migrants and we have an active collaboration with the district administration in the District Quarantine information management cell in Godda. Working with Samvad we are running a Relief-In-Transit Hub for migrant workers returning home at Madhupur in Deoghar district.







Karnataka



Supported by local administration, we have been able to provide cooked meals to 1,22,282 individuals for over 57 days. With the support of district administrations a total of 2,000 masks were provided to individuals and over 1,000 families have been supported in accessing work through MGNREGA.



Relief materials being distributed to families in need in Bullandur, South-East Bengaluru, Karnataka.



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Jammu & Kashmir (Union Territory)



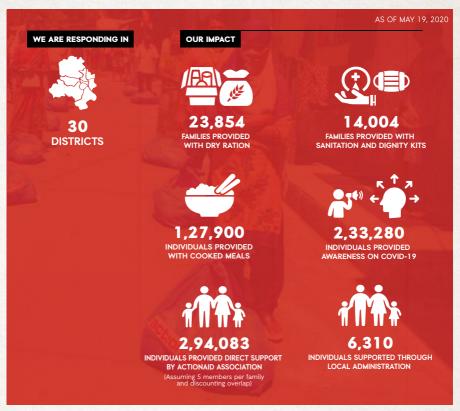
The Community School of Young Urban Women were able to make three thousand masks. Rural Development Directorate then promised to help the group financially by setting the price of each mask at 6 rupees per piece thereby helping the group financially during the tough times.

In Habbak Shanpora, there is a huge water crisis, when the women raised this issue with ActionAid. And with the efforts of the community and ActionAid, the area was able to get a water tanker daily through PHE department.





Madhya Pradesh



A unique intervention in Madhya Pradesh is the COVID-19 helpline we have set up and used to proactively call quarantined people for psychosocial support, along with National Health Mission, Bhopal. We also created a network of 14 Relief-In-Transit Hubs in the state to to facilitate incoming migrants by providing health check-ups, food and ensuring safe passage for onward journey to their respective towns and villages. Thousands of migrants have been screened every day and given food, shoes/slippers and medicine.



Relief-In-Transit: Cooked food being distributed among migrant workers leaving for their homes, Habibganj railway station in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh



We have also sent our COVID-19 Response Recommendations to the offices of the Chief Minister and to 51 District Magistrates of Madhya Pradesh. Another set of recommendations on the issues faced by migrant workers and women workers during this crisis has been sent to the Chief Minister for his cognizance and action along with engaging with the government authorities on various levels including District Collectors of respective districts, Municipal Committees and Corporations in towns and cities, and police officials. We are also engaged with frontline government staff for distribution of dry food packets through Anganwadi and Mid-Day Meal schemes that reached 1,276 children and facilitated the process to ensure pension to 469 people in Satna, Panna and Rewa districts. PDS was facilitated and ensured to 1,262 families in the same districts. Around 800 families were benefitted by cash transfer scheme run by the state for migrant workers during COVID-19 lockdown.

ActionAid has a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the Police Department of Madhya Pradesh, for strengthening the systems and outreach activities in the locality of concerned Urgent Relief and Just Action (URJA) helpdesk set up in police stations to support women and girls against violence. In the 12 different districts where URJA Desk has been implemented we are in touch with 120 police stations through our network partners where our volunteers and staff of allies and partners distribute the cooked food packet arranged by the government in a collaborative manner.

Thermal sensors were provided to 35 volunteers to monitor the temperature of vulnerable people as and when they went to distribute food kits or cooked food. Around 200 Personal Protective Equipment kits were distributed. ActionAid also has collaboration with the Department of Health in providing support to monitor cases.

We have received support from Central Industrial Security Force for food and Central Reserve Police Force for tents. We have been able to ensure food to vulnerable families in Bhopal as cooked meals are being provided through 12 community kitchens, daily, for past one and a half month. Over and above this, 2,500 people have been provided cooked meals with funds raised by ActionAid partners themselves and continued to provide cooked meals to vulnerable workers.



Relief-In-Transit: Relief being distributed among migrants on the move in Madhya Pradesh.



Relief-In-Transit: An ActionAider helping a father sanitise the hands of his little one in a railway station in Madhya Pradesh.



Maharashtra



With the support of district administrations we have been able to reach to more than 14,190 individuals through engaging with the Government of Maharashtra regarding direct cash transfer into accounts of the workers. We have supported migrant workers from West Bengal and Jharkhand stuck in Mumbai on the request of West Bengal government. We have also provided Personal Protective Equipment, provided through Cipla Foundation, to 2,500 doctors in government hospitals.



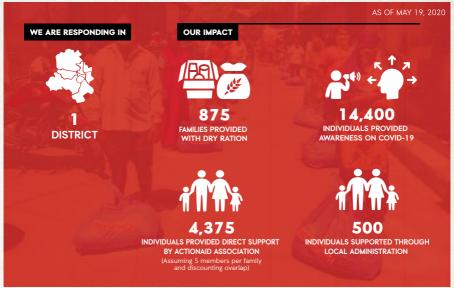
Reaching out with ration support to sugarcane migrant workers in Beed district, Maharashtra.



Dry ration and sanitation kits being distributed among the daily wagers and migrant workers in Matunga labour Camp, Dharavi, Mumbai



Manipur



We are closely working with the Deputy Commissioner and Chief Medical Officer and are involved in Distribution of Information, Education, Communication materials in six villages with the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme. We are also conducting awareness campaigns in 12 villages in Bishnupur district and disinfection in 5 villages. People's Resource Development Association (PRDA), the grassroots based civil society organisation we work with in the region, is a member of The District Surveillance Unit for COVID- 19.

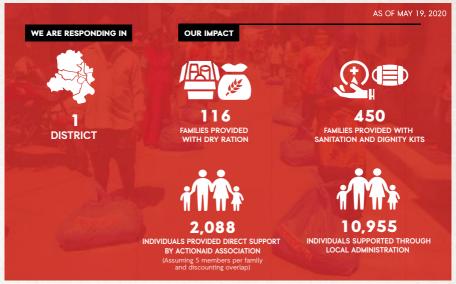


Dry ration for distribution in Tamenglong and Noney districts in Manipur.





Nagaland



1,525 people were provided ration kits with the support of local administration. Sisterhood Network, the grassroots based civil society organisation we work with in the region is involved in assessment meetings with the district administration in the process of reaching out to people in need.



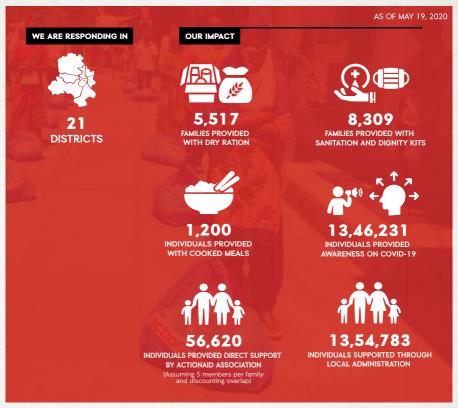
Relief distribution in Jalukiram village, Pereb district, Nagaland.



Relief distribution in Jalukiram village, Pereb district, Nagaland.



Odisha



Cyclone Amphan has affected Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Mayurbhanj and Puri districts. Tidal wave broke embankments and saline water has entered farms and many thousands of hectares of crops and farm land have been damaged. The grassroots based organisations working in these areas have helped the state government in the evacuation process, and are working with our colleagues in Odisha to assess the damaging and identify families in needs amongst the vulnerable communities.



Relief-In-Transit: Fontline volunteers providing relief to migrant workers on the move, NH-16, Odisha.



Relief distribution in Ambapal village, Kishorenagar block, Anugul district, Odisha. This was with the support of Zomato Feeding India.

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With regards the COVID-19 response we have been able to ensure dry ration kit to 2,12,833 vulnerable families and cooked food to 2,90,618 individuals in collaboration with district administration facilitating the process by identifying and distributing to the most vulnerable families and individuals across various states.

Working with grassroots based civil society organisations we have created a network of five Relief-In-Transit Hubs across the state, serving migrants on the road back home with cooked food, snacks and water.

Different types of work under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has begun across the state while following norms of social distancing and ActionAid has been facilitating applications for demands of work.

ActionAid Association's District Coordinator of Subarnapur has been assigned as Nodal Person on behalf of the administration to facilitate smooth transportation of the migrants. 450 migrants from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have safely returned to the district in this process. The coordinators have been provided with an orientation and would be selected as trainer, to providing psychosocial support to children during COVID-19. With a focus on providing awareness on COVID-19, Integrated Child Development Services to adolescents, youth and children. 3536 children in 101 Child Care Institutions were facilitated with psychosocial counselling, information on COVID-19, creative engagement and physical exercise.

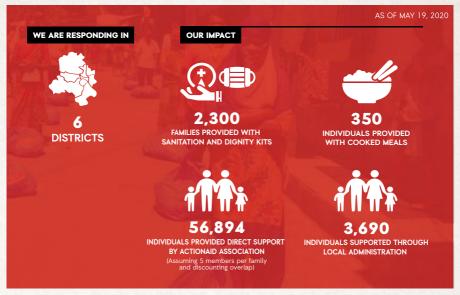
As a result of our engagement with Orissa State Commission on Protection of Child Rights, the body issued letter to the Special Relief Commissioner for creating child friendly spaces and shared a guide on engagement with children developed by Patang LRP in Sambalpur district and ActionAid. The body has also taken measure to put up posters and made an appeal to report any cases of violence, abuse and issues related to child protection during the stay in Temporary Migration Centres. The poster includes the three toll-free numbers, Child Line, OSCPCR and Police.



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Punjab



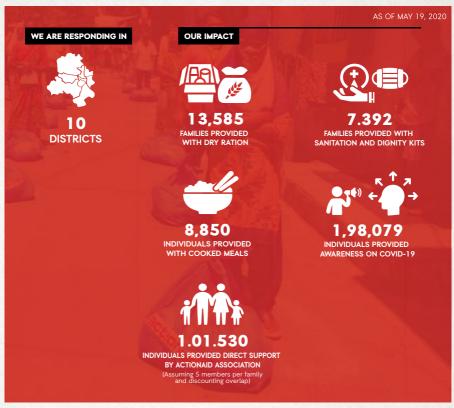
738 families provided were with dry ration kits with the support of the government and 700 cooked meals were distributed. Access to employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was facilitated to 1,700 families in six districts. Due to our intense follow up and monitoring, MGNREGA has been started in 55 villages.



Relief-In-Transit: Food, biscuits and tea being distributed on GT Road in Jalandhar district, Punjab, to migrant workers heading home.



Rajasthan



In the month of March we proposed recommendations to the Government of Rajasthan in a meeting organized by the Chief Minister. Working directly and with volunteers of associated networks we have created three Relief-In-Transit hubs to deliver cooked food, water, nutritional supplements and medical help to migrants returning home.



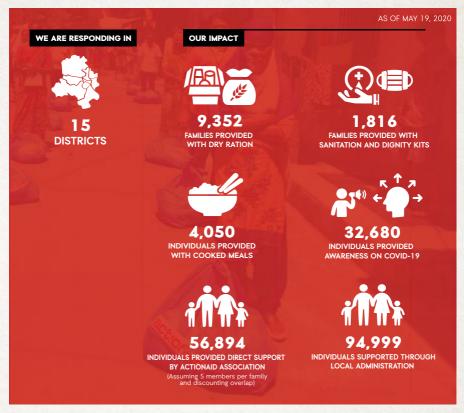
Relief materials being ditributed among unorganised sector workers with support from LIC Housing Finance Ltd in Bharatpur district, Rajasthan.



Relief Materials acquired with support from Zomato Feeding India being prepared for distribution in Rajasthan.



Tamil Nadu



We have been working with district administrations, helping them in identifying the most vulnerable families and individuals. With support from the administration we have also been able to provide cooked meals to 292 individuals and distribute relief materials to 150 persons with disabilities through parent support groups.



Dry ration kits were distributed in Semmencherry, Chennai, Tamil Nadu with support from LIC Housing Finance Ltd.



Relief materials were distributed in Tuticorin district, Tamil Nadu with support from Zomato Feeding India.



Telangana



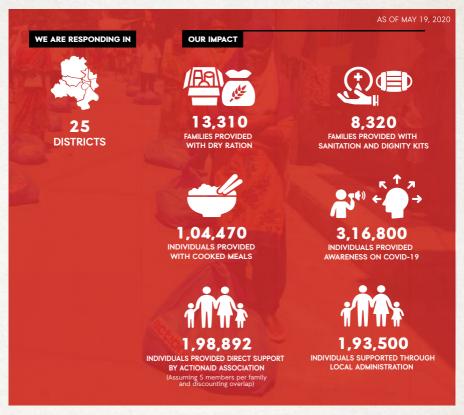
5000 pamphlets spreading awareness on COVID-19 have been printed and distributed to around 35 partners in Telangana and other NGOs for dissemination. ActionAid has collaborated with District Medical and Health Department in Hyderabad to spread awareness on COVID-19 in low income neighbourhoods. In Nalgonda district a mobile van with vegetables and other provisions were started. This is an initiative by Yadigiri Farmers Producer Company, set up with ActionAid Association support . They are going from village to village to sell the vegetables.

We collaborated with Association of Health Psychologists, UNICEF, Dr. Reddy Foundation-School Education Programme, Rythu Swarjya Vedika, APTS Social Service Forum set-up a 24X7 helpline "Support for Emotional Rehabilitation of Corona Virus Victims" in which around 50 qualified and experienced psychologists and another 100 volunteers joined together to provide tele-counselling for the victims of corona virus.





Uttar Pradesh



An app has been developed to gather information of all migrant workers who are returning to Uttar Pradesh. A detailed data base is being prepared of migrant workers. Based on their skills and need employment opportunity will be generated at the village, block and district level. Working directly and with grassroots based civil society organisations we have created a network of seven Relief-In-Transit hubs, five of which are around Lucknow. These are proving migrants returning home with cooked food.

We are regularly engaging with the district and state administration to provide recommendations and insight on policy agendas and gaps in the implementation in the government schemes on packages to be given to daily wage labourers and for the free food grains and cash assistance for migrant workers. We have also successfully advocated for the universalization of PDS in Uttar Pradesh. Those without Ration Cards, Aadhar cards and migrant labourers will also be getting food grains from Public Distribution System in Uttar Pradesh.

Regular coordination with the Additional Chief Secretary Revenue and Disaster Relief Management and State Relief Commissioner and submitted the specific recommendations for the most marginalized communities, Musahars, Saharias, Vantangias, De-Notified Tribes and Ghumantu communities for their short, medium and long term needs.



Relief-In-Transit: Snacks, fruits and water distributed on the Faizabad highway in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, to migrant workers on their way home.



Uttarakhand



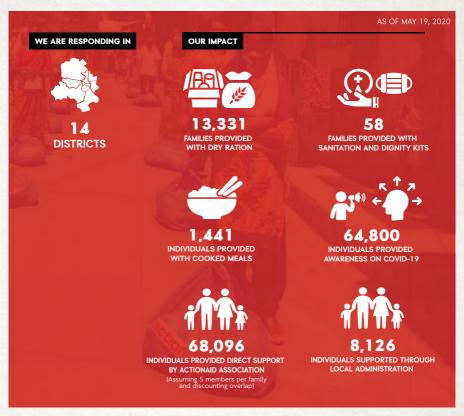
1,200 families were supported in accessing the food grains from PDS and other government schemes announced by the Government of Uttarakhand.



Dry rations were provided to families in need in Dharchula, Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand.



West Bengal



Cyclone Amphan has affected East Medinipur, South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas and Kolkata districts in West Bengal. Reports say that 72 people have died, houses have been destroyed and crops and farmland have been damaged due to ingress of sea water and flooding. Fisherfolk communities have suffered great loss – their nets, boats and homes have been damaged. The civil society organisations we work with and our colleagues are tirelessly working to identify families in need amongst vulnerable communities in both rural and urban areas.

With regards the COVID-19 response we have been able to ensure food to vulnerable families in collaboration with district administration by helping 700 individuals access PDS for dry ration.

We have also been working closely with the Chief Secretary to inform the administration of the condition of the migrant workers from other states staying in West Bengal shared with the Chief Secretary and the district magistrate, a comprehensive list of stranded workers. We have also interacted with the State Committee on Protection of Child Rights and shared our recommendations on collaborative actions to ensure protection of children during this critical period.



Solidarity for the most affected by COVID-19

The ongoing relief being provided by ActionAid Association has been made possible by the solidarity support provided by many individual donors, corporate bodies and institutions.

We gratefully acknowledge the help provided by all. As the need will continue and expand into new dimensions, including setting up community-based health infrastructure and building livelihood opportunities, we look forward to your continued support.





























































