A report on
HPPI’s relief efforts
during COVID-19 pandemic
As part of HPPI’s relief efforts, 25 migrant families from New Colony and Ambedkar Colony in Neemrana were provided with groceries and safe drinking water in the Community Development Project Neemrana, Rajasthan.
680,000* individuals provided with COVID-19-related information and guidelines

63,071* individuals provided with protective material like gloves and masks

80,403* vulnerable families provided with dry ration and essential item kits

90,182* individuals provided with hot meals

*All data as on July 11, 2020
ABOUT

HUMANA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE INDIA

Humana People to People India (HPPI) is a Not-for-Profit Organisation registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. Since its inception in 1998, HPPI has implemented over 160 projects all over the country, wherein, we have worked shoulder to shoulder with the poorest farmers, women, urban slum dwellers, homeless people and children to help them improve their quality of life. HPPI works in the thematic intervention areas of livelihood & community development, environmental sustainability, education, and health in partnership with the government, foundations and corporates, both Indian and international.

OUR APPROACH - FOR THE PEOPLE AND WITH THE PEOPLE

HPPI believes in working together with the people to bring sustainable change and development. People have the power to change their lives and together with the support of our partners, volunteers and the Government, HPPI in its projects brings people together to identify the problems in their community, find sustainable solutions and implement them to improve their lives and of those in their community.

HPPI’S RELIEF EFFORTS

As the country was put into lockdown on March 25, 2020, to control the spread of Coronavirus, several people, mostly migrant labourers and their families, were left stranded, unable to return to their home towns in time. A lockdown for the poor and vulnerable communities meant no work and no income, which eventually meant no food.

While the world kept spreading the message to wash hands as frequently as one could, there were many families who did not have access to even soap or water.

Under the motto of ‘Stay Safe, Stay Connected’, HPPI expanded its efforts above and beyond the core programmatic areas to ensure that the communities we work with continue to grow in a safe and healthy manner. One of the first tasks was to organise our relief actions and start crowdfunding for our relief
efforts. HPPI project team leaders and the management team came together and started to contact the team members and beneficiaries to ensure their safety and then enlisted areas that required urgent attention. Once the key areas of relief work were decided—ensuring people received food and essentials, protective gear and information—project team members with support from our partners and donors implemented the initiatives with speed and agility. All project team members wore protective gear during the relief efforts and practiced precautionary measures.

FOOD AND ESSENTIALS DISTRIBUTION DRIVES

With the support of our partners and several individual donors, HPPI conducted several food and essentials distribution drives every week in the urban slums and rural areas across multiple states of India where the poor and migrant families did not have money to buy food.

In HPPI’s Action Against Child Labour Project, implemented in Panipat, Haryana, team members counselled the beneficiary families to not panic and leave the town or city during the lockdown period. Members of the Child Rights Protection Force (CRPF)—a collective of community members and the project team members...
— informed the migrant families how staying at home was the only way to stop spreading of the infection. HPPI’s team assured they would support them and provide them with food and basic essentials.

Similarly, across several of our Community Development Projects in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka and West Bengal, dry ration kits containing rice, flour, sugar, salt, pulses and cooking oil were provided to the poorest families and migrant workers who were away from their hometowns. In the Tejaswini Project, implemented in Jharkhand, hot cooked meals were also distributed to the migrant families stuck in quarantine or in transit. Close to 80,000 hot meals have been distributed in 13 states of India as of June 20, 2020.

Other than migrant labourers and their families, several students from HPPI’s Kadam Step-Up Programme did not have access to the mid-day meal facility as schools were closed. At a time when children had to build their immunity, they were not getting enough food, let alone a balanced diet. HPPI staff and Kadam teachers ensured that students received a nutritious meal and arranged dry ration kits for the students through the lockdown period.
In spite of the lockdown implemented across the country, community-level health workers in our Community Development Project in Ranga Reddy, Telangana, continued to counsel and treat patients, provided information about the virus, its symptoms, testing and treatment. Staff members went door-to-door to meet expecting mothers and informed them about the importance of nutrition, immunisation and practice of precautionary measures. The Project Health Clinics were kept open for patients, making sure all staff are wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), temperature of each patient coming to the clinic is checked and social distancing is maintained. In villages where mobiles clinics are not being allowed, doctors are offering tele-consultation services via phones.

Based on one of our surveys, it was found that district hospitals in Rewari (Haryana), Bhiwandi (Maharashtra) and Ramanagara (Karnataka) needed PPE kits for their hospital staff where tests for COVID19 are ongoing. HPPI with support from its partner, distributed 50 PPE kits to hospitals in Ramanagara, 50 kits to hospitals in Bhiwandi and 48 kits to hospitals in Rewari.

Across various projects of HPPI, awareness posters have also been created and distributed digitally both in English and Hindi to maximise their reach. Handmade posters on self-protection and prevention rules have been put up in village common areas and local schools in a few projects. Alongside digital awareness, staff members and facilitators in projects ensure regular contact with the beneficiaries and inform them about precautionary measures and factual updates on the national lockdown and the virus via phones.
MANUFACTURING MASKS FOR THE MASS

One of the basic preventive measures during this pandemic is to wear a mask and keep oneself safe. However, there are many people who do not wear a mask, simply because they cannot afford one or do not have access to one since the shops are closed. Under HPPI’s entrepreneurship and skills training programmes, Jeevika and Nipun, beneficiaries are making masks to be used as protective gear during the pandemic. This is not only giving them an opportunity to practice their skills and help those in need but is also allowing several entrepreneurs to diversify their source of livelihood. Members of women groups, self-help groups and student-teachers from HPPI’s NeTT Programme are also producing masks in huge numbers and are distributing them for free amongst community members and those in need.

You can watch Hrishikesh, Project Leader in HPPI’s Nipun Skill Development Programme in Gurugram, Haryana, explain the initiatives being undertaken by his team during the ongoing COVID19 crisis here.

Ms. Romio Kujur, Cluster Coordinator, Latehar District in Tejaswini Project, Jharkhand made 500 masks to distribute to the needy people in her area.

A staff member from the Total Control of Epidemic Project in Narela, New Delhi making masks at home for community distribution.

Students from HPPI’s Nipun Skills Development Programme in Gurugram made 25,000 non-woven triple-layer masks on a special order placed by a local manufacturer.

More than 100 masks were made at home and distributed in the local community by staff members and students of the skills-training programme under Academy for Working Children Jagatpura, Jaipur.
With an aim to continue imparting quality education, several projects under HPPI’s education initiative such as the Kadam Step-Up Programme for out-of-school children and the Necessary Teacher Training Programme incorporated the use of technology and internet to continue learning and completing their tasks. Teachers gave tasks via WhatsApp and took online classes on platforms such as Google Meet and evaluated the progress digitally.

Students actively participated in the digital classes and for students who did not have a smartphone, teachers gave lessons through phone calls. In communities where students did not have mobile phones at all, older students from the Samarth Programme stepped in to help teach the Kadam students in smaller groups and ensured their education was not at halt.

You can read eight-year old Sangharsh Kumar’s story who was completing his homework while onboard a train taking him back to his hometown here.
जरुरतमंडल को मिलेगा मुफ्त में रश्मि विभिन्न संस्थाओं के बना काउंटएस ग्रुप
WAY FORWARD

As the world continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic with extended lockdowns, it also means that millions of jobs will continue to be lost, jobs that belong to daily labourers, migrant workers and informal sector workers. As a way forward, HPPI aims to continue providing information and awareness to each and every member in need in the communities and in our projects. Through our various projects, we aim to connect the beneficiaries to social security schemes and liaison with the local people and Government to achieve food security, employment opportunities and access to good health and nutrition in the present times as well as prepare for a post-covid world. Our fight to combat COVID-19 is not nearly over and we need your support to continue our work. To know more about how you can help and contribute to HPPI’s COVID-19 initiatives, please visit https://www.humana-india.org/get-involved/donate.

14kgs of ration was provided twice in 15 days to 3,000 families across project location villages in Masheswari, Haryana; SolGohalia, West Bengal and Karanjoti, Maharashtra. Seen above is a HPPI staff member delivering ration kits to a family in SolGohalia, West Bengal.
Forty-two-year-old Arti Omprakash Verma is a resident of Malad West, Mumbai since the past 15 years. She lives with her husband who works as a tempo driver and her three children. Arti is a part of the HPPI’s Women Health club and has also participated in the literacy programme. Before the lockdown, Arti and her husband worked hard to run the house but due to lockdown, their family’s condition had become worse. Arti says, “After surviving the first 30 days of lockdown, we had nothing to eat in the house. We tried to sell the television to buy food material but that did not solve our problems. It was only with HPPI’s help, that my family was able to have food on our plates. We were provided with grocery kits twice during the lockdown and we are extremely grateful for this.”

Eight-year-old Ayaan is a student of HPPI’s Kadam Programme, studying in Class 3 in Government Primary School Salarganj, Uttar Pradesh. Before this, Ayaan did not go to school and instead tagged along with his mother from one house to another where she worked as a housekeeper. But since he was enrolled in the Kadam Programme, aimed at bridging the learning gaps among children, he has been an active learner who simply loves to study.

Unfortunately, with the ongoing pandemic and the ensuing lockdown, Ayaan’s learning came to a halt and his mother too lost her job. They were struggling as a family for basic essentials such as food until one day his mother met one of Ayaan’s Kadam teachers while on her way to try and get support from the government authorities. The Kadam teacher handed his mother a book for Ayaan to continue his studies and also arranged for a relief package for the family. Now, Ayaan is back to being an eager learner who studies regularly and cannot wait to return to school.

Asha Santosh Nikalje is a 33-year-old woman who lives in New Bhabrekar Nagar, Malad Mumbai with her two children and her parents-in-law. She is a widow and depends on her monthly income for a housekeeping job at a shopping mall to sustain her family. Originally from Aurangabad district in Maharashtra, Asha stopped receiving her salary during the lockdown and was stuck in Malad with her whole family. Asha contacted HPPI’s Integrated Slum Development Project team members and requested for help. With donations received through Give India, HPPI acted swiftly and provided Asha and her family with dry ration kits.
THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS

HPPI is grateful for the timely support given by our established partners with whose support we could reach out to more than 600,000 people with the right information, and provided dry ration kits, cooked meals and essentials packages for their sustenance during this global crisis.

We would also like to thank our donors and volunteers who graciously contributed to our relief campaigns on GiveIndia and our website. The funds raised were used to provide food packages to more 50,000 people and close to 60,000 people were provided with hot meals.
13 States where HPPI is currently running its COVID-19 relief initiatives across 55 districts

To stay updated on our relief initiatives, follow us on our social media platforms and support our relief campaigns.

To know more, visit www.humana-india.org/get-involved/donate

To contribute, scan the UPI code below.