

FIGHT COVID 19-SAVE LIVES!

Background of the Project

The COVID-19 pandemic was first confirmed in the Indian state of West Bengal on 17 March 2020 in Kolkata. (*India Times*. 18 March 2020.) Since then the Health and Family Welfare department of Government of West Bengal has confirmed a total of 9,93,159 COVID-19 positive cases, including 1,26,027 active cases, 12,327 deaths and 8,54,805 recoveries, as of 9 May 2021. (wbhealth.gov.in. Retrieved 10 May 2021).

In 2020 after the aftermath of Amphan in the middle of Covid, INSPIRATION stepped in and provided support to the tribal families of Ghoshpur and Adibashipara in Chhatra Gram Panchayat of Baduria Block and families of the children in Kamarhati area – who were the worst hit among all other Project areas.

The support not only covered nutrition in the form of food baskets for the victims. There was also an effort to concentrate on the importance of maintaining Covid protocols for which hand sanitisers were distributed. Sanitary napkins were handed out as a means to sustain proper hygiene and WASH facilities which would eventually ensure adherence to better health and hygiene practices within the Community. Hijli INSPIRATION in collaboration with Asha for Education has been implementing the “Bridging the Divide” Project for over 10 years in Kamarhati area. Asha for Education contributed significantly towards the Amphan and Covid Relief Operations in 2020. This year, too, strategies to provide nutritional support to the malnourished children in particular of the Kamarhati area are in process. This would be an attempt to combat the onset of the much-dreaded impending 3rd wave. However, while Kamarhati children and families lack basic amenities and living conditions are deplorable – their urban location is still advantageous in the face of Covid 19 crisis. At least doctors, medical facilities and hospitals are accessible. Their rural counterparts and urban outskirts friends are more vulnerable and their situation is undoubtedly precarious.

While West Bengal has been trying combat the twin damages of the 1st wave and the Amphan, the 2nd wave has struck with greater momentum. It has been merciless and ravaged lives, livelihoods as well as destroyed and torn apart families – sparing no one. The urban population in Kolkata with its exposure and comparative upward economic mobility has access to medical facilities – but the rural-urban fringe remains in a vulnerable condition – with barely any financial means and even lesser access to medical facilities.

Following is an excerpt from Hindustan Times, dated May 07, 2021: *West Bengal is equipping Block-level primary health Centres and hospitals with isolation beds, medical oxygen and ambulances as Covid-19 cases have surged in rural areas of the state. Officials said patients with Covid-19 symptoms and severe respiratory illnesses have been pouring into health centres in rural Bengal. “...a large number of patients are coming with Covid-19 symptoms and severe acute respiratory illness. These cases need proper diagnosis and management to check the virus from spreading further,” said a State Health Department official. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has warned the situation could worsen over the next two weeks as she has allowed hospitals and nursing homes across the state to augment their bed capacity by 40%. “The [health centres] and rural hospitals have been directed to keep at least 5-10 isolation beds ready, arrange oxygen and basic medicines at least one or two ambulances on standby,” said the official.*

FIGHT COVID 19-SAVE LIVES!

Barely 11 days later, the online version of The Telegraph on May 18, 2021:

“The Bengal government has decided to include isolation beds in all block primary health centres, rural hospitals and primary health centres with basic facilities after a sudden spike in Covid-19 cases in rural areas.....According to sources, coronavirus cases has reached an alarming level in the remote corners of the state. Hundreds of suspected Covid-19 patients are visiting hospitals located in rural areas daily.As health infrastructure in the rural areas is not capable enough to treat serious Covid cases, the state government has decided to develop existing primary health centres into facilities where initial treatment could be provided to stabilize Covid patients.”

Concept –

Based on such reports and statistics & on field experiences, Hijli INSPIRATION intends to provide and form **Community Resource Centres** in identified urban outskirts and semi-rural belt within West Bengal so as to provide support to the ‘medical-aid deprived un-served’ masses at large.

Having worked closely with the local Community in Chatra Gram Panchayat (Baduria Block) since 2018 on various verticals including education, safe drinking water, women empowerment and livelihood, INSPIRATION had already contributed towards relief operations last year (2020) after the fierce Amphan had struck and ravaged its inhabitants. This year (2021) first-hand knowledge and findings indicate that there is a necessity to step in and facilitate medical (life support) aid to Covid patients on immediate basis. Similarly INSPIRATION has been involved in charity work for over a decade at Duttapukur I Gram Panchayat (Barasat I Block) and discussions with local Community representatives seem to suggest lack of basic medical support facilities (with particular focus on Covid) within the area – opening up a void which needs to be addressed promptly.

Consequently, Hijli INSPIRATION would consider these two locations and would be facilitating with the local clubs so as to reach out to maximum patients requiring assistance and support.

The following would be the main objectives:

- To provide oxygen support for patients in need
- To check and monitor oxygen levels and pulse rates
- To identify patients who would require further assistance in terms of medical support – advice their family members on transporting patients with the help of the oxygen cylinders (transport will be arranged by family)
- To nurture patients and bring them back to health
- To decrease death rates

The Community Resource Centres would have facilities of masks, sanitisers, thermometers, oximeters and oxygen cylinders predominantly. Assisting home based oxygen supported Covid patients to move to medical centers (transport to be arranged by family members). Beyond these all Covid safety and precautionary protocols will be maintained at all times.

INSPIRATION’s local field staff, Club volunteers, Panchayat members, Asha workers and Local Doctors will be involved to monitor the services provided to patients in distress. There would also be efforts to spread awareness about the dreaded disease with an appropriate list of dos and don’ts. Simultaneously efforts to squash myths/superstitions/misconception would also be on – thereby somewhat focusing on Behavior Change Communication.

FIGHT COVID 19-SAVE LIVES!

Each Community Resource Centre will be equipped with:

- 2 Oxygen cylinders with masks (Total 4)
- 2 Oximeters (Total 4)
- 2 Thermometers (Total 4)
- 10 Ltrs. Sanitizer(Total 20litres)
- 2 Spray Containers in each Centre (Total 4)
- 500 3 layers Mask (1000 total)

Additional Costs

- Awareness generation through
- Monitoring and transport costs

Projected Cost : Rs. 1,00,000.00 (Rs50000/- per Centre)

Focused area :

District	Block / Corporation	Gram Panchayat / Ward	Link up with Local Authority
North 24 Parganas	Baduria	Chatra Gram Panchayat	Gram Panchayat
North 24 Parganas	Barasat I	Duttapukur I Gram Panchayat	Local Club

Oxygen Cylinder specification -

- B-Type (10 Litres) Medical Oxygen Gas. Working Pressure: 150 kgf/cm² • ₹ 13,800/ Piece
- Product Specification

Water Capacity (Litres) B-Type (10 Litre)

Working Pressure	150 kgf/cm ²
Type of Cylinder	Filled
Certification	ISO
Usage	Medical
Country of Origin	Made in India

Oximeter Specification

- Indian Fingertip Pulse Oximeter
- ₹ 1,300
- Parameter Measures: SpO₂ + Pulse Rate + NIBP
- Brand: Indian
- Display Mode: 4 Display Modes
- Display Type: Single Color LED

Thermometer Specification

- Plastic DIGITAL THERMOMETER CE 310
- ₹ 1,553 [Get Latest Price](#)
- Type: Digital Thermometer
- Brand: CIE
- Temperature Range: -50 to +150 degree C
- Model: CIE 310
- Model Name/Number: CIE 310
- Material: Plastic

Per Center, breakdown of Costs

Items	Unit cost	No. Of Units	Total
Oxygen cylinders with masks	13800	2	27600
Oximeters	1300	2	2600
Digital/ IR Thermometers	1550	2	3100
10 Liters Sanitizer	1200	1	1200
Spray Containers	150	2	300
3 layers Mask	5	500	2500
Awareness Campaign, Monitoring, Transportation Costs			12700
Grand Total			50000

(Unit costs are approximate considering the fluctuation of market prices, as of May 18, 2021)