COVID Relief Note

COVID relief efforts towards tackling the second wave by Gram Vikas Trust, Bharuch

When COVID-19 Second wave Pandemic set its feet in our country, there were several Challenges to surmount. Due to the second wave of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic that has disrupted life across the globe, livelihood of millions of people has been affected. GVT has set out to ensure that they provide support to as many people as possible. In the villages that GVT operates in, most of families are daily wage labourers, Old aged people, Migrate workers, slum area residents and live hand to mouth. Savings and emergency funds are alien concepts and are in dire need of funds to support themselves for necessities such as food and health care.

Considering the enormity and emergency of the situation, Gram Vikas Trust, Bharuch, with the support of its Staff & Volunteers as per the directions of the Govt. undertook various initiatives such as encouraging people to wear Masks, Maintaining Social Distancing, Hand Wash and Personal Cleanliness, supporting district Administration in facilitating relief operations, reaching out to poor and elderly people and host of other measures which were required for the welfare of the people.

Considering the second wave of covid-19, Gram Vikas Trust, Bharuch has initiated following activities in the Bharuch district project area:

➢ Sustainable Livelihood Opportunity:

The objective of this is to enhancing Employability by providing a platform to the rural women who are already trained in sewing to make two layered pleat mask and earn.

In Bharuch Districts there are 250-300 tribal women from different villages who were trained by Gram Vikas Trust in Tailoring and sewing in past years, now taking a step ahead we would want to provide them livelihood opportunity in the pandemic period as they are not able to earn anything in this situation. These women are initially supported for training of making two fold cloth mask as they are well worse in stitching. It is seen that every women are earning around 5 rupees from each mask that she will stitch and making an average of 200-300 rupees
as per her skills and willingness. This indeed will help them to learn new livelihood pattern and have sustainable income generate opportunities.

The prepared cloth mask will be distribute in rural community free of cost by the Gram Vikas Trust, Bharuch.

Village level Volunteers raised awareness on Home Made Mask making and also informed the youth about its need and importance in prevention of COVID-19. Local youth and people from all walks of life were distributed Face Masks and told to wear it and how to sanitize it after use. Volunteers also created awareness on Social Distancing, Hand Wash and cleanliness and maintenance of personal hygiene in preventing corona virus infection.

➢ **Covid-19 Awareness:**

Through the discussion both field team and management headed by executive director have seen the needs to start awareness programme in all the 35 villages where we have community facilitator at village level and group of volunteers and decided to prints IEC materials with local language with steps of COVID-19 prevention mechanism

Enhance the awareness on spread of COVID-19 in these villages and what are the measures to prevent them, so that the communities stay safe and are healthy.

➢ **Sanitary Napkin Distribution – Period Don’t Stop in Covid-19 :**

Life is everyone’s priority now but we all know that due to the Covid-19 second wave in all over India daily wages workers, unorganized labours, hawkers are going through a crucial situation of financial loss and unemployment which leads them to face a difficult situation to fulfill basic needs and safety hygiene measures.

With the support of team members, volunteers, partner organizations, health workers and government channels Gram Vikas Trust, Bharuch has started a campaign ‘Periods Don’t Stop in Covid-19. Through this campaign Gram Vikas trust is providing ‘Packet of 8 Ultrathin Sanitary Pads’ to the home quarantines, daily wages workers, unorganized labours, homeless people , Women in Rural area, who are unable to maintain their menstrual hygiene because of financial reasons and limited access to the sanitary pads. The organization has already distributed to 5000 adolescent and women in last six month.
➢ Distribution of N95 Mask to Frontline Workers:

It has been decided that N95 Mask will be provided to all the frontline workers in Bharuch city which include police department, Health department, Nagarpalika workers, hospitals staff & other Government offices etc. We have distributed 4000 N95 Mask in 1st Covid-19 wave during the lockdown and 3000 N95 Mask were distributed in second wave.

➢ Age Care Project - Catalyzing COVID-19 Free Communities of Older People

The world is grappling with the Coronavirus outbreak. The impact of the pandemic is severe universally however, the worst affected are the poor older persons. Older people are at maximum risk of COVID-19 since they have more chronic ailments than younger people and their ageing immune system makes it harder to fight diseases, infections and viruses. Recoveries are usually slower and more complicated.

In India 80% of the people who died due to COVID-19 were above 65 years of age. More than 17% of people affected by the deadly virus are senior citizens above the age of 60 years.

We need to have an integrated strategy to support the abandoned and deprived elderly, who are often seen as the ‘last’ and the “lost” during disaster relief and rehabilitation efforts. Gram Vikas Trust, Bharuch recognizes the need to reach out to 450 vulnerable elderly population and make sure they survive and thrive. Since the covid-19 first wave Gram Vikas Trust supporting these older people through ration kits regularly every month at their door step.

➢ Support to Malnourished Children:

During the second wave of Covid -19, Gram Vikas Trust, Bharuch has identified and distributed Nutrition Ration Kits to 88 malnourished children in 15 villages in association with concern Aganwadi worker. The nutrition kits contain quantity upto 3 month duration and GVT will regular monitor the progress of each child still they come in green zone.
➢ **Covid -19 Urgent Relief Food Kits & Hygiene Kits**

Gram Vikas Trust, Bharuch has already identified the beneficiaries who have either lost any loved once who was also the earning member of the family in this trying times or has lost the capacity to earn by sudden loss of job. During the Covid-19 second wave, we have distributed more than 4000 ration kits in slum area of Bharuch and rural villages.

The GVT team will also deliver to the beneficiaries the key information such as what the food kit contains, and how the hygiene kit will beneficial to the HH,

➢ **Help low-income families bereaved by COVID overcome their loss:**

Each death to COVID is a tragedy that could have been avoided. With the vicious second wave of coronavirus wreaking havoc across India, the daily recorded fatality number has peaked and crossed 4,000.

For many heartbroken families, these numbers represent important, able, working members whose departure will also leave them financially bereft - especially so for those already struggling to make ends meet.

As they adjust to their new reality - to try and ease the pain for the first few weeks – Gram Vikas Trust, Bharuch in association with Give India support 23 such families so that Give India will be initiating direct bank transfers to families of the deceased through us. Each bereaved family will receive a one-time humanitarian cash support of ₹30,000 to help with living expenses.

➢ **Medical Equipment’s Support :**

- Provided 100 oxygen concentrators through Safe life Foundation to GOA which use oxygen from the air and convert it to medical grade oxygen. A patient in need of a concentrator needs to be on it for 5-7 days.
- Purchase order for providing 6 Ventilators to Rhythm Heart Institute Baroda and Sardar Patel Heart Institute, Ankleshwar.
- Purchase order for establishment of Oxygen Concentrator plant at Shreemati Jayaben Modi Hospital, Ankleshwar has been issued.
- Provide Support for establishing 8 MICU beds facilities at Sreemati Jayaben Modi Hospital Ankleshwar is in propose and in progress.