Covid-19 Relief activity supported by Asha for Education

1. Program Overview

After spread to Covid – 19 in India, the country is in complete lock down from 22nd March. All kind of income generation activities have been stopped. Migrants are forced to leave their jobs and are returning back to their villages. There is great need to provide them some relief in this testing time. GRAVIS is helping the local villagers and migrant workers by distributing dry ration kits worth INR 950 to support a family of 6 to 7 people for 20 days. With the support of Asha for Education, GRAVIS has supported 200 families living in rural area of Osian block of Jodhpur district.

2. Activity Implementation Process

The activity was implemented in Osian block and project villages of Asha supported project were given preference. With the support of Village Development Committee the list of poor and needy families has been prepared. Prior approval was taken from SDM1 of Osian before distribution and the list was also provided to SDM to reduce any chance of duplicacy and to maintain transparency in implementation. 200 hundreds kits have been handed over to 200 families, mainly daily wage earners, stone mine workers, low income groups like small scale farmers, elderly, disabled and women headed households. All families are very happy to receive kits and feeling relaxed in this difficult time.

3. Stakeholder`s Participation and Cooperation

Involvement of local village development committees (VDCs) was insured at each step of project execution. Members of VDCs prepared list of families, discussed with Gram Panchayat members to avoid any repetition, coordinated with GRAVIS staff in distribution of kits. Local police and SDM have been informed before distribution. A written approval from SDM is must before distribution. Govt. officials randomly verify the implementation. Govt. teachers also participated in project is spreading awareness on Covid-19. Local nurse (ANM) was involved in identification of symptomatic cases.

4. Lessons Learned

As the COVID-19 situation is getting more serious day by day it has become mandatory to maintain social distancing and take the necessary preventive measures. Therefore, it is very important to remind communities about social/physical distancing and maintaining personal hygiene. GRAVIS with the support of Asha for Education have organized trainings on health and hygiene for school kids and utility of these trainings have been observed in current scenario. Schools will be closed for couple of more months but children are using learning in their daily lives. Many women in villages made washable mask and are using them at home. The pandemic has increased physical distances but same time has increased emotional bondages as people have come forward to help each other.

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1 Sub-divisional magistrate
Methi bai of Minno ki Dhani village of Osian block is leading a family of 8 members. The family owns *kaccha* house made of mud and local materials. But unfortunately they are not registered in govt below poverty line list therefore in lock down suffering with financial insecurity and food crisis. Her husband works in sand stone mine which is very hazardous place to work. In lock down there was no work to do and no food to eat. Her husband is the only bread earner in the house but now there is no income in house. Sometime he feels unwell because of hard work and stays at home but in lock down there is no money for the health treatment. It becomes very difficult for Methi Bai to handle everything from taking care of her husband and children to managing household.

She came to know about GRAVIS that they are providing relief materials in pandemic. She approached Village Development Committee of her village and a list of poor families has been generated by VDC and was given to GRAVIS field office Gagadi. Methi bai received wheat flour, cooking oil, pulses, spices, salt and soaps. She is very happy to have these materials and paid thanks to donor for it. She said, “From last one month there was no money to buy any grocery. My life was dependent on others but they were also suffering with similar situation. I am happy to receive this kit. My burden is reduced for couple of weeks. My husband will also get some nutrition now. I thank to Asha for this generous help.”
Photographs

Pic 1: Family kit of relief material

Pic 2: Families received relief materials
Pic 3 & 4: Relief materials transported to rural area
Pic 5: A family with relief kit