

## **Voluntary Organisations Providing Covid-19 Relief in Jharkhand**

The Covid-19 pandemic brought with it not just a health catastrophe but a socio-economic crisis as well. It has aggravated the disparities that already existed in Indian society and has disproportionately affected the marginalised communities in their access to food, shelter, healthcare, livelihood, among others. The scale and diversity of its impact are unprecedented in the chapters of independent India. The central and various state governments have mobilised their resources and energy to tackle the challenges that the pandemic has brought forth. However, it is now apparent that the impact of these measures has faced limitations in providing relief to the intended beneficiaries. It is here that civil society and voluntary organisations have stepped up their engagement in taking on the challenge of the pandemic. They have been working selflessly and tirelessly throughout the pandemic to provide relief to all those who need it and those who have been left out from the government's welfare measures. Here at Voluntary Action Network of India (VANI), we are committed to recognising and documenting the work of such unsung heroes and providing a platform to support their work further. Following are some of the countless endeavours that active citizens have undertaken in the state of Jharkhand to mitigate the challenges of the pandemic and help those who need it the most.



*Empowering People*

### **Life Education and Development Support**

A group of rural development professionals joined their hands to establish an organisation, which can professionally respond to issues which are affecting lives of poor and marginalised people of Jharkhand. As an outcome “Life Education and Development Support” (LEADS) came into existence on 14th Dec 2005. LEADS is a not for profit, development organisation registered under Trust Act (1882) on 14th Dec 2005 at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

LEADS with the support of its trusted agencies/ organisations extended their support to more than 2 lakh people in 24 districts of Jharkhand. In order to respond to the COVID pandemic, LEADS has distributed dry ration to more than 4276 beneficiaries. It has also distributed protective medical kits (PPE kits, oximeters, thermometers, masks, sanitizers, medicines) to 70,000 beneficiaries. From the very beginning of COVID crisis, LEADS has been actively campaigning on COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and mitigation measures using IEC materials, benefitting 1,94,274 people. LEADS was also engaged in counselling and quarantining 2492 migrant workers to quarantine centres. LEADS aided quarantine centres, vaccination camps, health centres, schools, Anganwadi centres and other frontline workers contributing to fight against the pandemic. Experience on 5-WASH components with its 39 indicators on which LEADS has been working much before pandemic was used to provide awareness to students and teachers of more than 2700 schools. Apart from schools, 700 AWCs of 7 districts were also provided assistance with this intervention. LEADS has also helped linking 15,000 migrant labours to MGNREGA; promoting more than 1000 kitchen gardens; introducing lease farming to 60 migrant workers and establishing 30 Food Grain Banks and 1 mask production centre run on solar power.

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***Network for Enterprise Enhancement and Development Support***

Established in late 1998 as trust, NEEDS have started intervention in selected poverty-stricken pockets of Bihar and Jharkhand. From our Trust, we brought about a significant change in the lives of women and children in terms of food security, livelihood, Reproductive health and hygiene and child development and protection outcome besides the constitution and strengthening various institutional arrangements for sustainability.

During COVID-19 mitigation, NEEDS has reached out to 55,000 poorest of the poor rural households in remotest tribal villages of Deoghar, West Singhbhum and Khunti in Jharkhand. Capacity building of 530 health frontline workers on preventing unwanted pregnancy, domestic violence, sexual harassment, human trafficking, and child marriages was done. 6 child marriages were prevented during the lockdown. They built the capacities of 22 other grassroots NGOs and CBOs to extend COVID-19 relief work. 40-ton watermelon in the local market from 19 panchayats of Palojori block was sold providing direct linkage to the market. 605 pregnant women have been provided with safety and hygiene kits, PPE and nutritional supplements. 480 rural households have been provided with one-month food package

(ration). 600 community kitchens run by the local women SHGs have been supported for food distribution (cooled meal) to 24,000 households. Menstrual Health awareness sessions with 5600 girls were conducted and pad distribution to 300 girls. Awareness through IEC materials and ITC technologies and training of extension workers through video clipping, Zoom, Skype, 388 IVRS messages, videos and voice messages were created.

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Together Building Healthier Communities

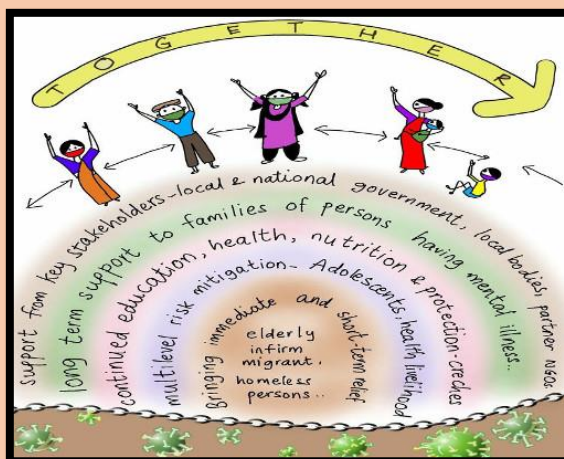
Ekjut is a non-profit organization working with indigenous and other underserved and marginalized communities on issues related to maternal and child health and nutrition. The organization uses Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) approach which focuses on developing community-based solutions to health and nutrition. Through PLA approach, Ekjut works towards empowerment of the community to identify the problems and their causes as well as build potential and feasible solutions and their implementation.

Ekjut is working in coordination with development partners and local and national government to strengthen the COVID 19 response initiatives with an aim to reach out to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities in Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh. Bringing immediate and short-term relief, food security at the start of the lockdown, by providing groceries for over 16000 hot cooked meals for elderly, infirm, from very poor families, daily wage earners, by supporting the West Singhbhum District Administration's hot cooked meals program 'Meals on Wheels'. Dry ration and hygiene kit distributed to more than 2000 families in villages and 200 Oximeters to District Administration of West Singhbhum; 7460 meals to vulnerable families of rickshaw pullers, beggars, daily wages earners, vegetable vendors, people residing in the leprosy colony; and dry rations to 170 families residing in slums of Ranchi; and dry Ration to around 50 families in 9 villages of Udaipur, Rajasthan. Multilevel risk mitigation was done while working with adolescents through support to sustain livelihoods by providing paddy seeds to 400 farmers in 34 villages of Khuntpani block, West Singhbhum district, Jharkhand, 25 percent of whom were migrant returnees, 10000 vegetables saplings distributed to young adults and farmers.

Engaging adolescents in creative activities, like drawing, art, and crafts, continued education through online support groups and around 6000 nutrition gardens. The Youth Volunteers mobilized around 8000 people for COVID- 19 vaccination from 50 villages. Enabling continued education, health & nutrition, and protection to children by providing monthly dry ration to more than 1400 children enrolled in more than 80 crèches in Odisha and Jharkhand, at their home. Ensuring long-term support to families with persons with mental health concerns. Since April 2020, 85 such families have been receiving regular, continued treatment support in the community.

Ekjut has supported 4 blocks (2 in Jharkhand and 2 in Odisha) in COVID vaccination drive in vaccinating more than 100,000 people. It has worked with Jharkhand Government – National Health Mission to undertake evidence-based action through data digitisation, analysis and sharing of quarantine data, developed and initiated App based reporting of Essential Health Service. Active involvement requested and ensured in the task force for state-wide COVID 19 vaccines roll out.

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## SRIJAN FOUNDATION

Creating a better world for women and children

Srijan Foundation has established its identity and credentials as a support agency for small grass root agencies engaged in the processes of community empowerment & development, particularly with women and children. SF carries out its activities around its thematic areas- Women Empowerment & Gender Justice, Child Rights and Protection, Women, Adolescent & Child Health, Sustainable Agriculture & Livelihood Promotion and Capacity Building, Networking & Advocacy. To combat the harsh effects of COVID-19, SF actively responded in seven of its intervention districts (Garhwa, Gumla, Hazaribag, Pakur, Ranchi, Ramgarh & West Singhbhum). More than 15,000 kgs of dry ration was supplied to more than 4500 vulnerable families directly. 40,000 face masks were produced through 10 Village Organisations initiatives in Hazaribag, and 2838 safety hygiene kits were distributed. Livelihood Support was provided to 1000 migrants and their families and sanitary kit to more than 5000 adolescent girls and young women.

**Reach at-** Srijan Foundation, 106, Bijoy Enclave, Heerabag Chowk, Matwari, Hazaribag – 825301|Call Us: 9431141106 / 9431141046 |Email Us: srijanfoundationjkd@gmail.com



Inspired by the Gandhian Philosophy of Gram Swaraj (Village Self-Rule), PRAVAH implements programs focussing on sustainable livelihood, women empowerment, education, health and nutrition and watershed development.

As a saviour for the vulnerable, with financial support from Tech Mahindra Foundation, Pravah ensured access to one month's dry ration and personal hygiene kit for 1000 tribal households to help them attain food security. Pravah in association with BDO, took the charge to create awareness against COVID-19 through "JagrukhtaRath". The rath moved around the block in 196 villages creating awareness through IEC, display board and announcements in every corner of the village. The "JagrukhtaRath" was a huge success for the block as it explained the importance of vaccines to the community and encouraged them to get vaccinated. Pravah managed a vaccination centre and managed to get 811 beneficiaries vaccinated with the first dose, including all our project staff and volunteers.

PRAVAH extended its services and immediate relief by supporting 3.2k frontline workers through PPE kits, distributing 16 oxygen cylinders, distributing 2000 Pulse Oximeters, 560 migrant workers were facilitated for safe transportation, 1.5 lakh people were reached out through awareness campaigns about COVID-19 safety guidelines, 11,375 hygiene kits were distributed, including more than 39,000 masks and 98,000 soaps. 9,870 food kits were distributed. They were able to support 25 people with cash grants and 850 people were assisted in COVID-19 vaccination. Apart from these efforts, the team also counselled many young girls and their families to go back to schools as and when they reopen, and in the meantime continue with group studies.

The COVID-19 response by Pravah reflects their commitment, to prioritize the activities related to immediate life-saving assistance for the most vulnerable people. This relief response covered emergency response for both migrant workers, helpless daily wage earners, as well as other most vulnerable community members, with special emphasis to households comprising of elders, children, pregnant & lactating women, the long-term displaced and affected people.

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**Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra**

NBJK is an organisation in Jharkhand, working on the principle of “Putting the last First”. Their vision is to establish a progressive, peaceful and a just society based on the values of equality, fraternity, and mutual help. Their mission is to educate, organise and empower the rural poor by promoting development as a liberating force for achieving social justice, economic growth and self- reliance and their goal is to establish a “just” society, in which everyone has access to required food, clothes, shelter, health care, education without any discrimination and exploitation. In its continuous efforts to mitigate effects of COVID-19, NBJK converted a 30 bedded eye hospital into a COVID Care Centre at Choparan. They supported about 2000 people with dry ration support. Around 10, 000 people were reached out with hygiene kits and snacks. Potato seeds were distributed amongst 5000 farmers and fruit saplings amongst 1800 villagers. 40, 000 migrant labourers were provided with *sattu*. Health service providers were supplied with 300 PPE kits, oximeters, etc. In 2020, Rs.27,06,000 worth of cash support was provided to 232 families, with the help of GiveIndia. In 2021, they were able to provide Rs.4,80,000 worth of cash support to 16 families who had lost their soul bread winner to COVID-19. 13 health camps were organized where 20000 patients were screened and medicines were provided free of cost. 139 smart phones were provided to the children for attending online classes at Chouparan, Bodhgaya & Churchu.

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## Let's Document

Currently in India, many NGOs are involved in combating the COVID-19 crisis. A lot of on-ground activities are being done by organizations in every part of this country. VANI has taken an initiative to document these interventions so that the sector's work gets more visibility, engagement, and outreach. Kindly reach out to us at [info@vaniindia.org](mailto:info@vaniindia.org). We appreciate your time and effort.

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### **About Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)**

VANI is a national network of Indian Voluntary Development Organisations (VDOs). Currently VANI has 624 members with an outreach to around 10,000 VDOs across India. The membership of VANI ranges from grass roots to the national organizations. The members work on a range of priority development issues of the government including education, health, nutrition, integrated child development, livelihood, skill development, environment, natural resource management, climate change, water and sanitation, emergency response and preparedness, agriculture, poverty and so on, in some of the most remote areas of the country. In the year 2017-18 our network collectively reached out to over 32 million people belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups including children, disabled people, women, elderly, farmers, Dalit, tribals, disaster survivors, unemployed, youth, LGBT, sex workers etc. VANI through its efforts and strategies aims to build a strong civil society sector not only at national but regional and local level as well.

VANI was set up with the mission to promote voluntarism, create space for the sector by fostering value based voluntary action. VANI's interventions are focused to strengthen the external and internal enabling environment. To ensure the external enabling environment, VANI conducts evidence-based advocacy which includes regulatory frameworks and resource generation. In order to achieve this VANI works with the government, private sector, bilateral, multilaterals and other stakeholders. For strengthening the internal enabling environment, VANI works towards building resilience and promoting accountability, transparency, and compliance through the interactive educational events and information dissemination. VANI strives to become a resource centre by conducting evidence-based research; publishing studies, articles and reports not only at state level but national and global level as well.



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