

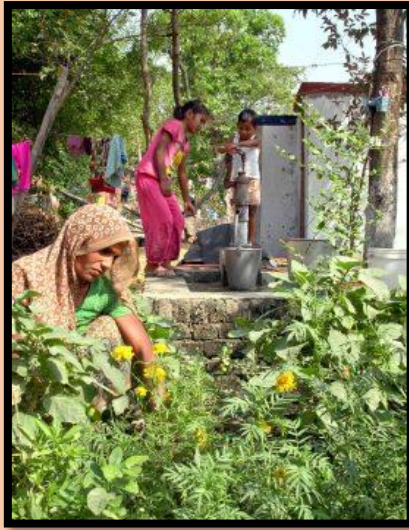
Voluntary Organisations Providing Covid-19 Relief in Uttar Pradesh

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 Uttar Pradesh to mitigate the challenges of the pandemic and help those who need it the most.

shramik bharti

Based in Kanpur, Shramik Bharti has been working towards food security for disadvantaged rural communities by enabling them to set up Community Grain Banks. They have grown to build a network of 200 such Grain banks in six districts of Uttar Pradesh, catering for the needs of more than 6,000 small and marginal farming families and agricultural labourers. During the pandemic, these banks helped mitigate hunger for the member families by providing grains to the needy. The organisation also encouraged and mobilised member families to cultivate vegetables using organic practices. The organisation conducted awareness and training sessions and on-job demonstrations. These efforts have led to about 3000 rural families having multi-layered organic kitchen gardens. This has also become a source of livelihood as surplus vegetables are either sold to the neighbours or in the marketplace, thus, earning them some extra income in these challenging times. The organisation also distributed dry ration kits to 1300 migrants, urban poor, and rural families in the first and 2228 in the second wave and 1090 medical kits. Unconditional cash relief was given to 200 migrant families, widows, and single women whose livelihood was adversely affected. Awareness campaigns regarding Covid-appropriate behaviour were taken through community radio, Waqt ki Awaaz. The organisation also worked towards ensuring girl education through the Khilti Kaliyan initiative. Orientation sessions were conducted for leaders of SHGs, and volunteers were trained in organising regular SHGs meetings to take Covid preventive measures. The organisation worked with village panchayat to make adequate arrangements for the returning migrants, such as well-equipped quarantine facilities, sensitisation of village members regarding their behaviour towards migrants, documenting and skill mapping of the returning migrants.

Reach at - Shramik Bharti, 392, Lakhanpur, Khyora, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh 208024 | Email – shramikbhartikanpur@gmail.com.



IGSSS has been relentlessly working with the marginalized and unreached over 60 years, having presence in 22 states of the country. 14224 households in 3 districts, 63 Gram Panchayats and 78 villages and 25 informal settlements of UP were reached out for COVID response. Few worth mentioning efforts were distribution of Dry Ration-3385, Sanitation Kit – 3385, Agri Seed Support – 1500, Conditional Cash Support towards livelihood to 87 people, Unconditional Cash Transfer to 100 people, Livelihood Direct support to 225 people, public health awareness to 31,736 beneficiaries. Apart from this, other efforts were nutritious food kits for children, happiness kits for children, mobility services to the community to reach to the vaccination centers, psychosocial counseling through trained and experienced experts. Along with these the organization managed to get 13758 people registered for vaccination and ensured vaccination of 12162. The entire effort was successfully possible with the unselfish support of the community nominated volunteers who dared to reach the unreached and most affected without compromising on safety of self and that of community in undertaking sanitation-awareness drives, distribution of materials. The reach was possible due to usage of digital platforms and tools as well as engagement of frontline workers through effective dialogue and support with protection kits, equipping of health centers with necessary critical medical supplies and equipment required during COVID Pandemic. IGSSS also facilitated Temporary Ration Card access to 212 HHs, Health Card access to 320 HHs, CM Baal Seva Sahayata to two beneficiaries and Cash Support of 1000 rupees to 75 street vendors.

Reach at -28, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 | Mail- info@igsss.net | Contact – 011-45705000



**Vishwa Jyoti
Communications**

Based in Varanasi, Vishwa Jyoti Jansanchar Samiti is a centre for the cause of social development and socio-cultural transformation through art, culture and media and is dedicated to the promotion of human rights, primary education, community capacity building and development, and communal harmony.

The organisation has been continuously working towards networking with various grassroots civil society organisations engaged in COVID-19 relief work and health support to the vulnerable during the pandemic. During the first wave of Covid-19 in 2020, they distributed 500 to 650 packets of dry ration per day to rikshaw pullers, daily labourers, nomads and weavers and slum dwellers in the city as well as Musahars, Nats and other Dalit communities in the rural areas, for 67 days. In addition, they also supported Muslim communities with fasting kits during Ramazan. 14654 families and 96,780 people including the migrants on highways were provided with food kits, bottled water and other necessities.

In the second wave, from May to July in 2021, VJJS set up six temporary health centres and two mobile clinics which went to 52 villages treating people with COVID symptoms. They also distributed nutrition items to 600 pregnant women, children, daily wagers, and people

of nomadic tribes. 2,480 adolescent girls were provided with sanitary pads. They designed, produced, and distributed pamphlets containing home remedies, ayurvedic, allopathic and homoeopathic medicines, methods of maintaining healthy oxygen levels, COVID-protocols, and helpline numbers. They also distributed masks, sanitisers, eucalyptus oil, and lent oximeters, nebulisers, and other medical devices to the affected for a few days free of cost to monitor their health conditions.

Reach at- S 20/51-7, Nepali Kothi, Varuna Pul, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. 221002 | Contact - +91 9598604926 | Mail – vishwajyoticommu@gmail.com or anandinmiso@gmail.com



Founded in 1992 in Alomar, with the commitment of involving the disadvantaged groups of our society such as Dalits, rural and poor women, non-literates, and minorities in the decisions that impact their lives, Sahayog has been working in promoting sustainable participatory rural development. After the imposition of nation-wide lockdown, the staff from Sahayog held constant interactions with local community partners in Lucknow, Jaulan, Kushinagar, Ambedkar Nagar, Barabanki, Gorakhpur, Muzaffarnagar, Lalitpur, Bareilly, Faizabad, Varanasi and Sitapur to gather grass-root information on the impact of the pandemic and the lockdown. The organisation has been working to meet the needs of women and girl survivors and those vulnerable to violence during the pandemic. To mitigate the risk of COVID the organization responded by spreading awareness on COVID along with its core issues of reproductive health and rights. Help desks were set up in villages to disseminate the information and services at the doorsteps. During the lockdown, when the physical meeting was not possible, audio capsules were shared to facilitate community meetings in small groups by maintaining COVID appropriate behaviour. Sahayog set up a free of cost crisis helpline called, Sakhi Saheli for easy accessibility to information, registering complaints and following up on these issues with relevant local authorities. The organisation also organised an emergency fund to provide food relief to over 2175 families.

Reach at – A-420, Indira Nagar, Lucknow, India- 226 016 |Email- sahayog@sahayogindia.org | Contact - +91 522-2310747.



Founded in 1978 and based in the Chitrakoot district, ABSSS strives to secure dignified and better lives for the Dalit and tribal communities. The organisation's focus areas are livelihood, cultural education, primary healthcare, gender equity, and environmental sustenance.

To mitigate the brunt of the pandemic on the most vulnerable of our society, ABSSS took various initiatives. These include distribution of ration kits to bonded and migrant labours in Banda, Chitrakoot, Kausambi and Satna district in close collaboration with the International Justice Mission and Jai Bhim Vikas Shikshan Sansthan. The organisation identified the most vulnerable families in its focus areas of Manikpur and Bargarh to help meet their basic necessities. The identified beneficiaries included 690 families and 100 children. Each family received a food kit worth Rs. 872.00, hygiene kit worth Rs. 200 and the children received intergeneration coping and learning kit. ABSSS provided Kharif crop seed support to 180 farmers of Bargarh region and 538 farmers of Manikpur. They provided kitchen garden seed support to 176 HHs of Bargarh and 600 HHs of Manikpur. Under the intergeneration coping and learning programme they covered 944 children in Manikpur and 321 in Bargarh location through library books, 236 children of Manikpur and 108 children of Bargarh through TLM, 400 children of Manikpur and 350 children of Bargarh through home-based activity kit and 1192 children through home visit in both the locations. Apart from this, they are helping families with barren land (total of 2-acre land) to convert it into fertile land through horticulture and herbal plantation. They also worked with farmers on natural farming and helped link vulnerable people to government schemes.

During the second phase of the pandemic, they conducted a Vaccination Awareness Campaign through wall paintings & IEC Van, distributed 40- oximeters, 20- thermometers, 3- thermal guns, 50- PPE kits, 2000- surgical masks, 50- hand gloves to Dr. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Medical Superintendent at Community Health Center, Manikpur, to ensure safety of the frontline health workers, implemented 4 Community Based COVID-19 Care Centers, provided 5 oxygen concentrators to District Administration, created awareness about COVID vaccination and

COVID appropriate behaviour through Street Magic Show, and provided orientation on making *kadha* using herbals availed in the local communities.

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Also known as the centre for participatory learning, SSK is based in Lucknow and was founded in 1990 with the goal of promoting and strengthening the civil society organisations of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand. It believes in a people-centric approach for all its welfare and development initiatives. It aims to build a society built on equity and justice that sustains itself through democracy and self-governance by directly collaborating with grassroots organisations, PRIs and local communities. In collaboration with UNICEF, SSK carried out an assessment for Covid preventive preparedness of eight aspirational districts and 2 Panchayats from a non-aspirational district of UP. The organisation mobilised PRI members in these districts and held orientation sessions to apprise them of the planning and execution of Covid mitigation strategies. The strategy included enforcing social distancing norms, awareness campaigns to promote testing and vaccination, regular sanitary work and disinfecting streets with community participation. The organisation supported 1011 migrant families with dry ration kits, strengthened three community hospitals and protective medical kits were distributed to 395 health workers.



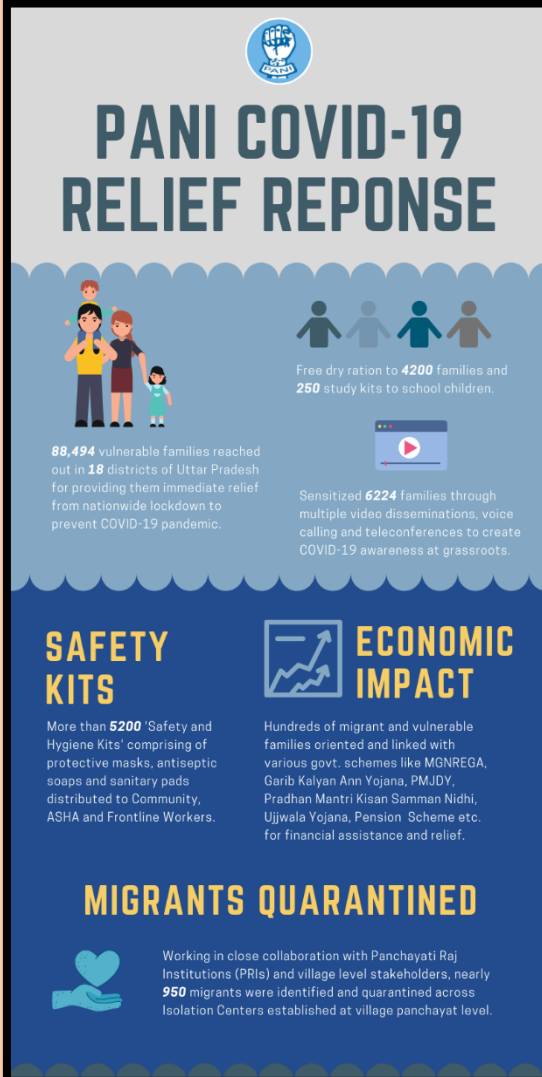
Reach at- Sitapur Road, Chatta Meel, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. **Contact-** 9935302536, 8090109505, **Mail-** info@sahbhagi.org



Envisioned as a social development organisation to empower the people of the most underdeveloped regions of UP to live a life with dignity and prosperity, PANI has been working continuously for the past 32 years to bring about a progressive and sustainable change in the lives of the communities suffering multidimensional poverty and inequality. Founded in 1989, the organisation is strongly committed to the Gandhian vision of Gram-swaraj for rural development and empowerment. To realise its mission, it has initiated several programmes in the area of Child Development, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Sustainable Livelihoods, Gender and Governance, Natural Resource Management and Climate Change. It believes in integrating community participation at all levels of planning and implementation. During the first wave of the pandemic, PANI rolled out the Migrant Workers Connect Initiative, wherein 52,000 migrant workers and their families in ten districts including Ayodhya, Ambedkar Nagar, Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, Prayagraj, among others were given psychological counselling

to help them get through mental distress and were connected to various welfare programmes of the government. A similar initiative called Mission Gaurav was launched that enabled 98,231 poor and migrant households to avail their entitlements under various government schemes. During the second wave, the organisations helped some of the poorest families in Ambedkarnagar-Katehari block, Balrampur-Utraula and Gainsari block access the benefits of the government schemes that they were entitled to. In ten blocks of Ayodhya, eight blocks of Ambedkarnagar, two blocks of Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida), and eight blocks of Siddarthanagar, the organisation carried out a public outreach programme for vaccine awareness and livelihood rehabilitation for agricultural labourers and migrant workers.

Reach at- 530, Sai Sadan, Near JB Polytechnic, Faizabad (Ayodhya)-224001, Contact- +91 5278 225175, Mail- contact@paniindia.in



PANI COVID-19 RELIEF REPOSE

Free dry ration to **4200** families and **250** study kits to school children.

88,494 vulnerable families reached out in **18** districts of Uttar Pradesh for providing them immediate relief from nationwide lockdown to prevent COVID-19 pandemic.

Sensitized **6224** families through multiple video disseminations, voice calling and teleconferences to create COVID-19 awareness at grassroots.

SAFETY KITS
More than **5200** 'Safety and Hygiene Kits' comprising of protective masks, antiseptic soaps and sanitary pads distributed to Community, ASHA and Frontline Workers.

ECONOMIC IMPACT
Hundreds of migrant and vulnerable families oriented and linked with various govt. schemes like MGNREGA, Gerib Kalyan Ann Yojana, PMJDY, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Ujjwala Yojana, Pension Scheme etc. for financial assistance and relief.

MIGRANTS QUARANTINED
Working in close collaboration with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and village level stakeholders, nearly **950** migrants were identified and quarantined across Isolation Centers established at village panchayat level.

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. We appreciate your time and effort.

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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