



Emergency Response – COVID 19

Coronavirus started to show its spread in India in mid-March and in order to check the deadly virus from becoming an endemic, the Government of India went for a complete lockdown of three weeks on March 25, 2020. The local administration ordered that everyone must stay inside their homes and need not come out unless there is an urgent need of the same. There was police and volunteers on the roads to ensure that people follow the instructions and do not come out. This decision of the lockdown was taken all of a sudden by the government and people barely got any time to stock up essentials for their consumption. The worst affected group of people due to the lockdown were the daily wage earners and people of the slums. They had no more work; there was no money with them to sustain them for three weeks; and since the lockdown came into force almost towards the end of the month, the ration stock with these families was almost close to minimum. Usually, people buy ration and other essentials when they get salaries in the first week of the month. Hence, the overall situation of the people, especially of those residing in slums, was very vulnerable.

Response from the Government – The local government showed its sensitivity to the situation and organised for supplying cooked meals to the lakhs of such families. The religious bodies and many government departments joined in this drive of collecting and delivering the cooked meals in such places. It's quite challenging to supply the food and ensure that people queue up only in small numbers to collect their portion. Given all the challenges, despite the best of efforts, the local administration is unable to reach out to every slum. And many families are left out.

Response by Concern for Humanity – Concern for Humanity arranged for distribution of dry rations to families of all our centre children of Sanjay Colony. Sanjay colony is located in isolation, very far away from the habitation and has large number of people living in huts and having either limited or no access to the cooked meal service arranged by the local government authorities.

We had closed all our learning centres from March 5, when on March 4, the local government first took the decision to close all primary schools till March 31. And we were in constant touch with all our teachers to take an update of the situation in the slum and of the wellbeing of all our centre children. Ms. Menka, our teacher from Sanjay Colony shared the plight of the people with us. She said that the food delivery van is not able to come everyday and many families get left out and those who get the meal sets, it

is not at all sufficient for the entire family. She informed that many of our centre children are among the sufferers. We immediately worked out with her and decided to give dry rations to all our centre children. We worked out with the local shopkeeper about the cost and supplies of the ration packets. Since there is no way to make payment to the shopkeeper, he has kindly agreed to take part payment and the rest after the lockdown is over and life starts to run normal. We arranged for part advance from our personal account and transferred over to him.

The cost of packet per family would come out a little over Rs.500

Yesterday, we completed the procurement of the dry ration and from today the distribution of packets has begun.

Menka and Chahat, made small packets for each family.

Dry Ration Packs contain the following stuff:

Wheat Flour	-	5 kg
Rice	-	5 Kg
Cooking Oil	-	1 L
Lentil	-	1 Kg
Sugar	-	1 Kg
Salt	-	1 Kg

117 families get dry ration to sustain them through the lockdown period.

Distribution process – Our centre teachers took the mobile numbers of all parents and called them in batches of 2 or 3, to distribute and to avoid any ‘gathering’ or ‘social contact’ of people. The teachers have taken special permission from the Office In-charge Police for doing this distribution.









