



## **GRAM VIKAS COVID-19 RESPONSE**

### **A hat-tip to our partners**

Gram Vikas began its response to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. Over the last 20 weeks, our work in 10 districts of Odisha and one in Jharkhand have supported village community partners with a wide range of services, benefitting 23,459 families in 708 habitations.

It is our partners, who stand by us in these trying times. Gram Vikas is fortunate to have organisations, civil society groups and individuals providing us continued support – moral, technical and financial. This update is a hat-tip to our partners.

# TWO HANDS MEET TO FORM A HEART:

## Institutional partnerships



### **Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development and ESAF Small Finance Bank, Kerala**

The Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development (CMID) supported us in reaching out to the migrant workers from Odisha stranded in Kerala. Together with the ESAF Small Finance Bank, we established the Bandhu Helpline for migrant workers, providing emotional support and connecting stranded workers to food and stay facilities arranged by local governments in Kerala. We acknowledge the contributions of Benoy Peter and Vishnu Narendran of CMID and Mithun Mohan and Emy Paul of ESAF.



charity: water

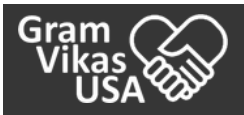
### **charity: water**

Our donor partner for over a decade, charity: water's support helped us fast-track the creation of piped water supply in many villages, enabling them to practice safe sanitation and hygiene at a time when it meant the difference between life and death. The flexibility offered helped us to reschedule the work to suit the immediate circumstances in the field. We acknowledge the support from Stephanie Goetz and Sierra Tobin.



## Gram Vikas USA

Our namesake in the United States is an independent charity that has been a source of sustained support at all times. The support from Gram Vikas USA has continued during the COVID-19 pandemic, by connecting donors in the United States with our funding campaigns. Thank you to Vivek Shankam and Deanna Zanetti.



## HDFC Bank - Parivartan

Our donor partner for more than three years, HDFC Bank Parivartan, the CSR arm of HDFC Bank Ltd., was one of the first donor partners to step up with an offer of support. This helped us reallocate available funds to meet the immediate health and food crises in the villages. The Parivartan team has offered to continue the assistance to expand our COVID-19 response in village level education support. We acknowledge the support from Amit Shekhar and Swaroop Sharma.





## InterGlobe Foundation

For about two years now, InterGlobe Foundation's (IGF) support to Gram Vikas as a donor partner has helped our work in Odisha's Kalahandi. The Thuamul Rampur block in the district, where the partnership is focused on, witnessed the return of a large number of migrant workers to their own villages. There was an immediate need to provide employment opportunities. Rescheduling of the IGF supported programme activities enabled us to take up large-scale wage employment work contributing to land and water development. We acknowledge the support from Priyanka Singh and Shreya Shalini.



## LIC Housing Finance Limited

The support from LIC Housing Finance Limited (LICHFL) was already helping us rebuild several villages affected by Cyclone Fani in May 2019. We could use the project funds to meet the immediate needs of the adivasi communities in villages in the periphery of Bhubaneswar city. The early response assured us of the strength of the partnership and enabled us to get out to work as soon as we could. We acknowledge the support from Ajil Lawrence.

## Rang De

A new partner for us is the social investment aggregator, Rang De. The interest-free loans from Rang De to members of the Prakruti Bandhu Farmer Producer Company, supported by Gram Vikas, helped the farmers find immediate funds to meet their working capital needs for the kharif crop. We acknowledge the support from Swati Dubey and Aseem Khan.



## The Skoll Foundation

The Skoll Foundation partnership with Gram Vikas is over a decade old. The emergency relief support and the targeted emergency financial assistance provided by the Foundation enabled us to strengthen our capacities for the long road ahead. The sensitive and non-intrusive way of support from the Foundation is a great example of how philanthropy needs to operate. We acknowledge the support from Vu Dinh and Jenneke Olson.







## **Thomas Clasen Research Group, Emory Rollins School of Public Health**

The Clasen Research Group and Gram Vikas have partnered for an action-research on child faeces management in the villages of Odisha. The existing research capacities were used to conduct an elaborate study on COVID-19 related knowledge, attitudes and practices, and the impact of the pandemic on hygiene and sanitation behaviour. Thank you to Gloria Sclar and Thomas Clasen.



EMORY

ROLLINS  
SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH



## **UNDP India**

The support from UNDP India to Gram Vikas helped us respond to the post-Cyclone Titli situation in Odisha's Gajapati district, and build long term capabilities in the communities for their water security. Similarly, the COVID-19 support addresses both the short-term needs and long-term capacity building, motivating us to look beyond our comfort zones. We acknowledge the support from Sushil Choudhary and Abha Mishra.

## WIPRO Foundation

WIPRO Foundation's support came just at the right time. We had found out that the adivasi households in the Chandaka area near Bhubaneswar, whose livelihoods were dependent on daily wages from work in the city, were under severe food stress. The foundation's help enabled us to reach out to them with immediate material support. This was also extended to migrant workers stranded in Bhubaneswar and front-line police personnel facilitating the lockdown. We acknowledge the support from Tripta Sharma and Rishabh Lalani.



# THE POWER OF MANY:

## Civil society platforms



### **Rapid Rural Community Response to COVID-19 – RCRC India**

RCRC India is a coalition of more than 100 civil society organisations enabling rural communities to face up to the challenges posed by the pandemic and lockdowns. The coalition enables member organisations to learn from each other's experiences, provide a common platform for policy advocacy with the Government of India, and channels funds from major donors to support grassroots work. The Odisha State Coalition consisting of CYSD, Gram Vikas, Harsha Trust and Srishti collaborates to work on the ground under the RCRC umbrella.



### **Odisha Civil Society Action Group**

Civil society organisations in Odisha have come together in an action group for taking up issues of common interest. It has been at the forefront of taking up issues with the administration and guiding organisations to frame appropriate responses according to the situation.



# ALL FOR ONE:

## Khelo Bandhu volunteers

Gram Vikas took up the Khelo Bandhu initiative, as part of the Bandhu Helpline, to engage the stranded migrant workers with activities and games to overcome the boredom and emotional stress from being locked down without work. Over a period of three months, a national team of 21 volunteers rolled out 13 competitions over WhatsApp and using other digital tools. Working from around the country, this group, with a wide range of talent, thought up and designed games and exercises and made sure they were rolled out in Odia.

Thank you to Gadha Raj, who coordinated the whole effort, and the volunteers:

Aakriti Bisht	Jyoti Raj
Akshay Modi	Kruttika Mohapatra
Anju Jayaprakash	Lincy Paravanethu
Aparna Divakar	Malik Kumar Meena
Chaitra Nagaraju	Omkar Deshpande
Chandan Mohanty	Sanvithi Saya
Debjani Bhattacharya	Prosenajit Purkeyastha
Diptilata Moharana	Satyaki Banerjee
Hitesh Jain	Sreehari E
Ifra Shams Ansari	Vaishnavi Bhaskar



# ALL FOR A CAUSE:

## Individual donors

Many individuals from all over the world gave to our COVID-19 response crowdfunding campaign launched in early April. We are thankful to each one of them.



Aditi Rastogi  
Ambili Jayachandran  
Anindita Chanda  
Ankit Agarwal  
Antony  
Anuradha R V  
Arya A R  
Asheerbad Patra  
Elizabeth Cherian  
Eshaan Patheria  
Francis Anthony  
Gnanabahirathi Perumal  
Gokulnath G L  
Hassan Thiyattil  
Harshwardhan Rathod  
Hrudananda Pattanaik  
Jo Schneider  
Joel JoyKrishna  
Madhurima Das  
Manas Saha  
Manish Ghai  
Manoj Sahu  
Manu Srivastava  
Miguel Silva Marques Gomes  
Murali Manohar  
N Anand Sri Ganesh  
Philip Mathew  
P Vidhyasagar Arya  
Rama Rao  
Rohit Shenoy  
R.S.Vaidyanathan  
Saloni Madan  
Sanjay Kumar  
Sankalp Jain  
Sasha Kiessling  
Satyam Singh  
Sijo John  
Smita Khandai  
Somak Chaudhary  
Varun Rattan Singh

# A SCORE:

## Gram Vikas response so far

### 15,701 households in 368 villages

Mobilised and raised awareness of COVID-19 among rural communities and supported the local administration for effective handling of the pandemic crisis

### 18,676 households in 396 villages

Awareness generation, follow-up and lobbying with the local governments to ensure that people receive their food and employment entitlements

### 4822 households in 129 villages

Direct support for meeting immediate needs for food, essential items and personal protection equipment

### 17,272 households in 863 villages

Reaching out to migrant workers stranded in different locations with physical and emotional support and planning for effective livelihood rehabilitation







### **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**

A total of 6,762 households benefited from the work we facilitated under MGNREGS in 183 habitations in 69 Gram Panchayats in 10 districts of Odisha. They have earned income in excess of ₹ 1.37 crore.



### **Skill-mapping of migrant workers**

The Migration Resource Centre in Kalahandi created a database of skill set and aspirations of 2,500 workers from three districts. It is now working to help connect unemployed migrant workers with prospective employers willing to hire them.



As COVID-19 continues to spread, remote villages in Odisha and Jharkhand are now at the receiving end. Incidences of virus infection have been increasing, over the past month, in areas that were relatively unaffected during the early days of the pandemic. The renewed health concerns are adding to the misery of the people already suffering from the economic fallouts of the widespread lockdowns.

We are determined to help our partner communities tide over this crisis with dignity. Our support, made possible by each of you, reassures them and gives them hope.

The next phase of our campaign is live:

**Support Families to be Hunger Free  
& Children to Continue Learning**

**Please help us spread the word.**

To learn more about our frontline response to the pandemic, visit **Gram Vikas COVID-19 Response Updates**

Follow us on social media for regular updates: **Facebook | LinkedIn**

Reach out to us at  
**c19@gramvikas.org**

*Photographs by Ajaya Behera, Aravind AR,  
Gokul Govind R, Parij Borgohain &  
Rufus Sunny*

