MWS COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE #7 (16.04.2020)

MWS FOOD & HYGIENE KIT DISTRIBUTION IN UTTAR PRADESH

People Reached: 2524
Food Grains (in kilograms): 2720
Packaged Edible Oil (in liters): 12.5
Masks: 7520
Hand Wash Soaps: 2952

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MWS COVID-19 Response: Supporting Daily Wage Earners

a) COVID-19 situation in Azamgarh

- Six COVID-19 positive cases in Azamgarh District on 15th April 2020.
- 8,000 people are under quarantine in different villages/locations in Azamgarh.
- 85 people have been discharged from different quarantine centres
- NGO’s have to work in collaboration with the District Administration. NGO’s are required to inform the district administration before distribution of food material/kits.
- Local government has set the market to buy wheat from farmers

- District administration has issued contact details for home delivery of medicines.
- Government has started a WhatsApp group that include all Village Pradhan’s in Azamgarh district.
- Based on estimation and sampling, more than 25000 daily wage laborers are affected in Azamgarh because of COVID-19 lockdown. They are not being able to earn and hence their survival is at risk.
- There is need for about 350000 masks. This is an initial approximation based on: a) population, b) people from...
vulnerable sections c) our own experience of working in the district d) media reports and mask as one criterion to minimise the risk of spread of COVID-19.

- At the community level there is hardly any understanding of social distancing.
- Government efforts include a) involving asha workers in pre-screening of all villagers b) turning all government schools into quarantine centres c) daily monitoring of lockdown by senior officials and local police c) ensuring essential services are in operation

**b) MWS COVID-19 Response**

Mijwan Welfare Society (MWS) has started responding to COVID-19 from 2nd April 2020 by supporting the daily wage earners through a) Dry Food grain Kit -Includes rice & dal b) Hygiene kit-includes two masks and two soap per person per week. Apart from this MWS has also distributed masks to the general community.


Update of MWS COVID-19 response and distribution (as of 14/04/2020):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support offered and communities reached</th>
<th>1st-2nd Day</th>
<th>3rd-4th Day</th>
<th>5th-6th Day</th>
<th>7th-8th Day</th>
<th>9th-10th Day</th>
<th>11th-12th Day</th>
<th>13th-14th Day</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People reached</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>2524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food grains distributed (in Kgs)-only to those in need or dire need</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>2720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masks distributed</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>2580</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1700</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>7520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soaps distributed</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>1280</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>2952</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MWS distribution list

Gender and age dynamics of food and hygiene kits distribution programme (including masks) by MWS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Food &amp; Hygiene support (including masks)</th>
<th>Masks only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aged (60+)-Female</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged (60+)-Male</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged (20-60)-Female</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged (20-60)-Male</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged below 20 years</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2074</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MWS distribution list

**c) Innovation by MWS team**

- Focus on identifying the most vulnerable people through local staff and avoid duplication through daily updates from local media and newspapers.
- Engaging local people in the production of face masks.
- MWS food support kit includes ration (2kgs of rice, 500gm of pulses/dal, 2 hand wash soap, 2 safety mask). 3 kits are distributed per individual so that it can last them for 3 weeks i.e One person receives 6 kg of Rice, 1.5 kgs of dal, 6 soaps and 6 masks for 3 weeks. 3 separate kits are being distributed
instead of 1 kit per person in order to ensure that there is minimum or no wastage of food during this difficult time when resources are scarce. If there are 4 members in a family, they would receive 12 kits in total.

- Let us understand Mijwan Welfare Society’s system of operation in COMBATING COVID-19 and supporting daily wage earners as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Step (Communication)</th>
<th>Through means of technology (phone), media, government sources and local expertise we identify the most vulnerable areas where food and hygiene kits are urgently needed by the daily wage earners.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Step (Procurement-supply chain)</td>
<td>Procurement process includes local ration shops as well as the local farmers (both female &amp; male) - food grains (raw) are mainly procured from those farmers who have extra and are not being able to sell their produce during the lock down period. This helps the rural economy to keep going (without stepping out of home) and maintains the supply chain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Step (Packaging)</td>
<td>Packaging of food grains and hygiene support kits are undertaken by ensuring all MWS staff involved are well protected i.e. they wear gloves, masks and maintain social distancing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Step (distribution)</td>
<td>MWS uses a small vehicle for the distribution of kits which enables us to reach the remotest areas and help those in dire need. We use the ‘Pick &amp; Go’ method. i.e the food and hygiene kits are kept at one place and people after wearing face masks distributed by MWS come one by one, collect the MWS food and hygiene kit and leave.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• MWS team have distributed 50 masks to Phulpur Kotwali (Police Station) and 100 masks to different media people.
• Two villages named Mijwan and Itkohiya of Phulpur tehsil in Azamgarh are 100% mask equipped. MWS team has distributed masks to everyone in these two villages.
• From 11<sup>th</sup> April 2020 we have included cooking oil (250 grams bottle) in our food kit distribution.
• Cost of production of our mask is INR 3.30 per mask (double layered).

d) Key challenges at community level

• This is the season for crop harvesting, but the farming community is facing an extremely difficult situation because of the unavailability of farm labourers who are refusing to work due to the fear of the spread of the Corona virus
• The daily wage earners are worried about their family members stuck in cities like Delhi, Mumbai etc because of the lockdown.
• They fear for their own survival because of shortage of essential items and poor health care in the villages.
• They are also scared of unemployment even after the lockdown ends.
• It is difficult to maintain social distancing in villages because the houses are extremely small with many residing members.
• Lack of knowledge
• Challenges with local leadership
• Misinformation and spread of rumours

e) Key challenges for MWS team in distribution

• The fear of Corona virus has started impacting the MWS team psychologically. It is also causing an emotional strain as some team members working on ground in Mijwan are away from their families.
• MWS team is trying to instil among the local communities the importance of social distancing and ensures that everyone wears a mask before distribution.
• At present we are the only key NGO working on supporting daily wage earners in remote rural areas of Azamgarh. There are certain organisations and individuals who are also engaged in food and health kit (mainly mask) distribution, but most of them are not registered and they themselves are not following the basic practice of social distancing. This may send a wrong message in the community about social distancing.
• Despite the COVID-19 situation the farmers have no choice but to venture into their fields as it is harvesting season. It is difficult to maintain social distancing there. MWS team has also taken up the initiative of guiding farmers on this.
• On one hand the community wants to be safe but on the other hand they are desperate for the lockdown to end as their livelihoods are at stake.

f) Video links of MWS COVID-19 response

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoL2amO0JnvU0NFYN461v_w
g) 1. Media coverage of MWS COVID-19 response


http://ggsnews24.com/15395/

https://circle.page/post/2469813?utm_source=an&person=Z3cpie

https://circle.page/post/2469813?utm_source=an&person=Z3cpie

https://publicapp.co.in/video/sp_izoth0meseqa


g) 2. Important media coverages on COVID-19 in Azamgarh


h) Pictures from the ground: You can view pictures from the ground on MWS Facebook and twitter page:
https://www.facebook.com/mijwan/

https://twitter.com/MWSYouth

You can donate to the endeavours of MWS to combat COVID-19 at: https://www.mijwan.org/campaigns/covid-19-support-the-daily-wage-earners/

If you want to support through CSR or want MWS to be your partner please write to us at ceo@mijwan.org
koï to suud chukā.e koï to zimma le

us inqalāb kā jo aaj tak udhār sā hai