

Situation & Update Report#8 (18-04-2020)

MWS COVID-19 Response: Supporting Daily Wage Earners



COVID-19 pandemic has brought devastation in its wake but strangely it has united the whole world too. We realise how interdependent we are irrespective of class caste gender or religion.

I'm very proud of the relief measures being provided by the Mijwan Welfare Society team at personal risk to themselves. And I thank all the Organisations and our friends who have risen to pitch in their support.

#Togetherweshallovercome

Shabana Azmi

COVID-19 situation in Azamgarh



6 positive cases of COVID-19



Zero COVID-19 deaths



3 COVID-19 patients recovered. Now only 3 COVID-19 positive cases in Azamgarh



More than 25000 daily wage earners are affected because of COVID-19 lockdown.



There is need of about 350000 masks

- a) Government efforts a) involved *asha* workers in pre-screening of all villagers b) turned all government schools in quarantine canters c) daily monitoring of lockdown by senior officials c) essential services are in operation.
- b) UP Government gave strict directive on 17.04.2020 that nobody in the state, whether in urban or rural areas, should suffer on account of lack of food.

OUR RESPONSE: MWS FOOD & HYGIENE KIT DISTRIBUTION IN UTTAR PRADESH (18.04.2020)



People Reached :3164

Started with distribution of masks and working with local administration: Communicated seriousness of the COVID-19



Food Grains :3135 Kgs

Food grains procurement from local farmers – distribution to local daily wage earners. Distribution method used –pick-up & go: Maintaining Local Supply Chain

MIJWAN MODEL: Local 2 Local (L2L)



Hand Wash Soaps :3272

Demonstrated usage of hand wash soaps: Engaged local communities and *asha* workers for demonstration



Masks:8770

Engaged local communities to make cloth (three layered) masks for local communities: 3 villages are 100% mask-equipped



a) Mijwan Welfare Society COVID-19 Response

Mijwan Welfare Society (MWS) has started responding to COVID-19 from 2nd April 2020 by supporting the daily wage earners through the distribution of a) Dry food grain kit -which includes rice & dal (later edible oil and soya chunks were added) b) Hygiene kit-which includes two masks and two soaps per person per week.



Apart from this MWS has also distributed masks to the general community.

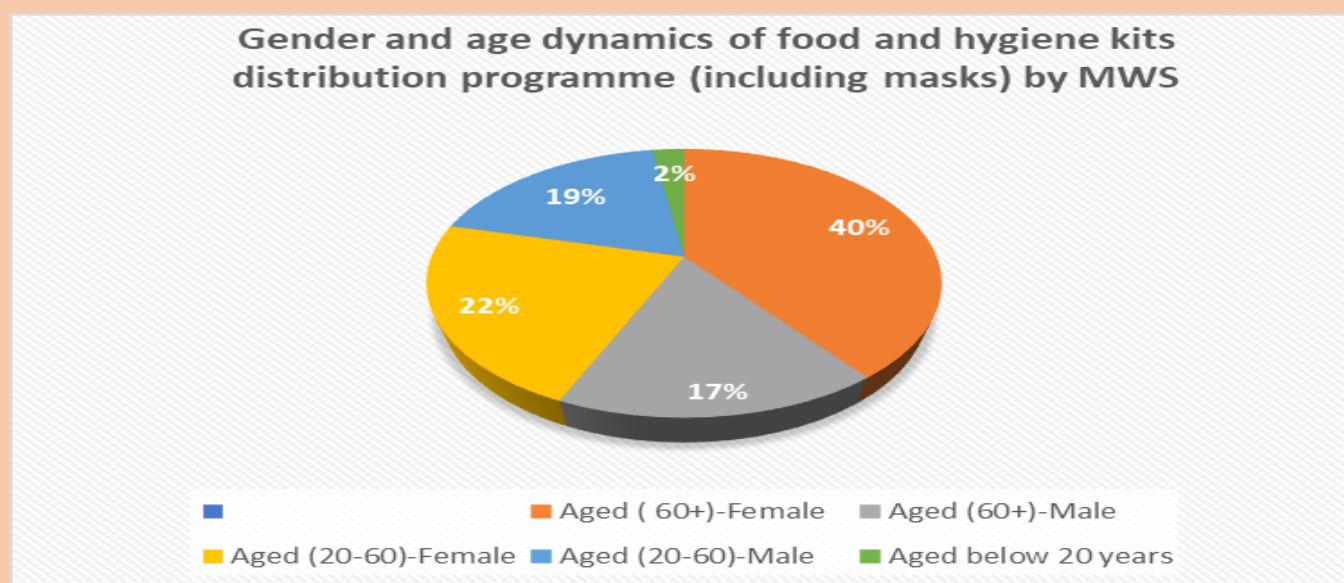
Area of COVID-19 response: Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh.

Update of MWS COVID-19 response and distribution (as of 18/04/2020):

Support offered and communities reached	1st-2nd Day	3rd-4th Day	5th-6th Day	7th-8th Day	9th-10th Day	11th-12th Day	13th-14th Day	15th-16th Day	Total
People reached	240	320	200	700	200	440	424	640	3164
Food grains distributed (in Kgs)-only to those in need or dire need	310	800	720	125	225	275	265	415	3135
Masks distributed	240	2580	700	1000	300	1700	1000	1250	8770
Soaps distributed	240	1280	800	100	100	220	212	320	3272

Source: MWS distribution list

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



Source: MWS distribution list

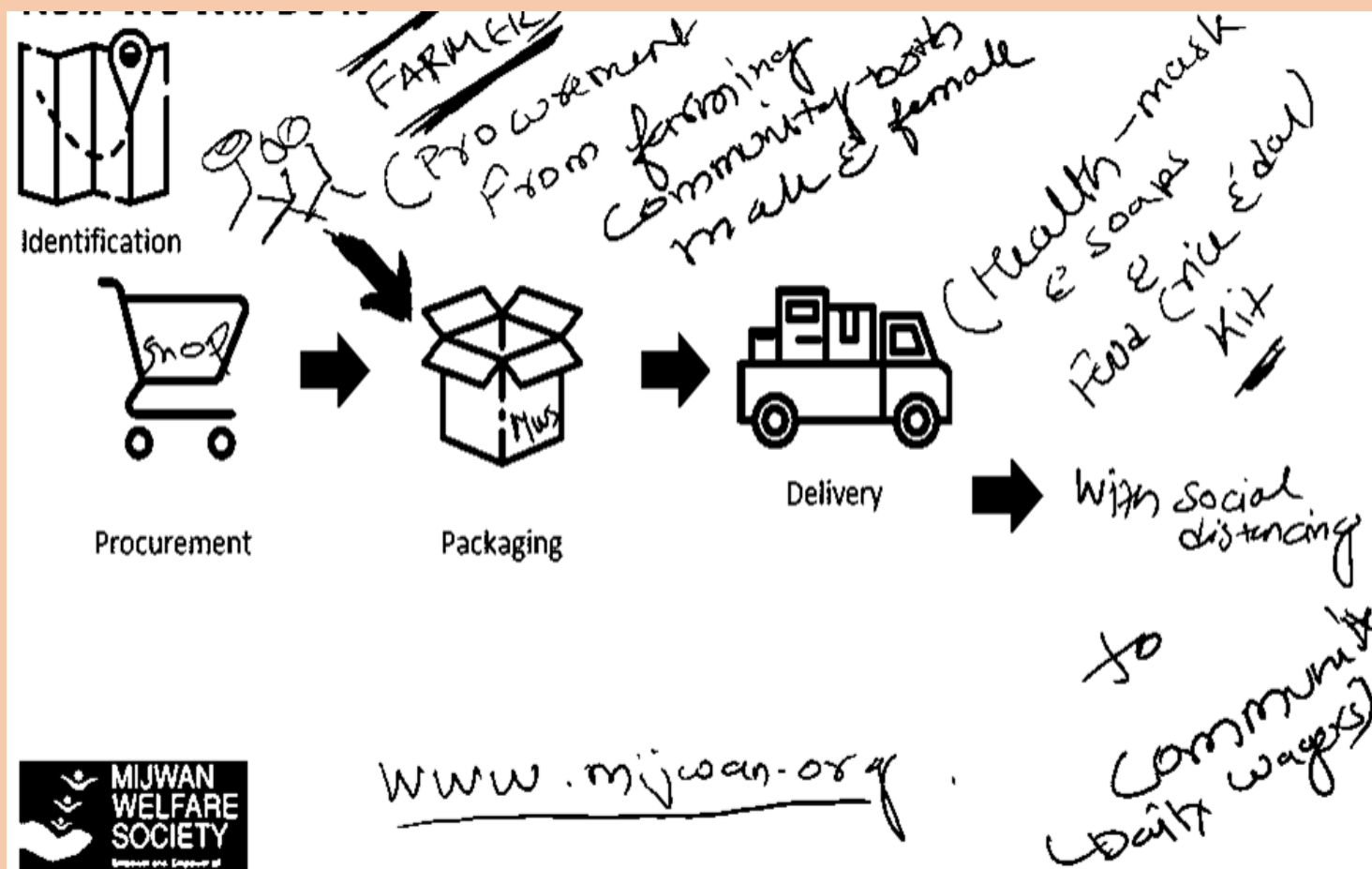
b) Innovation by MWS team

- 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:

First Step (Communication)	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.
Second Step (Procurement-supply chain)	Procurement process includes local ration shops as well as the local farmers (both female & 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.
Third Step (Packaging)	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.
Fourth Step (distribution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 & 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.



- MWS team has distributed 50 masks to Phulpur Kotwali (Police Station) and 100 masks to different media people.
- 2 villages i.e Mijwan and Itkoiya of Phulpur tehsil in Azamgarh are 100% mask equipped by MWS.
- From 11th April 2020 we have included cooking oil (250 grams bottle) in our food kit distribution.
- Cost of production of 1 mask is INR 3.30 (3 layered).

c) 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

d) 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.

e) Video links of MWS COVID-19 response

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoL2amO0JnvU0NFYN461v_w

g) 1. Media coverage of MWS COVID-19 response

https://circle.page/azamgarh/news/mezva-is-becoming-a-mask-under-the-direction-of-film-actress-UP2560739?utm_source=an&person=Z3cpie/

<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_izotht0meseqa

https://circle.page/azamgarh/news/shabana-azmis-call-on-mask-distributed-among-journalists-UP2543868?utm_source=an&person=Z3cpie/

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

<https://www.jagran.com/uttar-pradesh/varanasi-city-two-more-covid-19-positive-patient-find-in-azamgarh-district-20186859.html>

<https://hindi.news18.com/news/uttar-pradesh/azamgarh-azamgarh-coronavirus-positive-tally-reaches-six-two-more-found-positive-upaah-upat-3010102.html>

<https://www.livehindustan.com/uttar-pradesh/story-relief-eastern-up-purvanchal-areas-of-up-covid-19-98-percentage-samples-coronavirus-negative-varanasi-sonbhadra-mirzapur-chandauli-bhadohi-ballia-ghazipur-mau-azamgarh-jaunpur-3145226.html>

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>

Our supporter for COVID-19 Response



Individuals

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/>

For support please write to us at ceo@mijwan.org

A big thanks to MWS team members including Seema, Renu, Sangeeta, Sanyogita Ji, Lallan, Ashutosh, Pratiksha, Rahul, Surender, Meena, Bhagirathi, Prakash, Neelu, Anirudh, Ram Pher ji, Jugun Tara, Sunita for their efforts and work towards vulnerable communities in this difficult time. A big shout for them.

koī to suud chukā.e koī to zimma le

us inqalāb kā jo aaj tak udhār sā hai

