

# Sangat Series | Chapter 2 : Intervention

**I**ntroduction  
**Intervention**  
Impact  
Innovation

The first newsletter in the sangat series provided an introduction to the CBO Relief Fund our communities and our amazing partners who spearheaded the initiative. In this newsletter, we shall delve deeper into the range of interventions supported by Barefoot College International through this initiative.

## INTERVENTIONS

### Distribution of Ration and/or Safety and Sanitation kit

Channelising basic ration items and safety kits to meet survival needs (eerily) was the priority for most of our ground partners given the extreme vulnerability of our communities. Hence, a significant portion of our relief work was geared towards the distribution of ration kits, masks, soaps, and sanitisers (often made by women producer groups and SHGs). The beneficiary identification and distribution were often led by women collectives, SHGs, and our solar mamas and sakhis.



**barefoot college**  
INTERNATIONAL

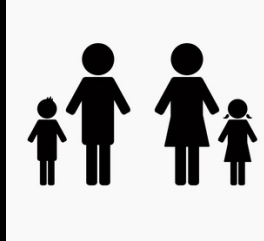


"Our organisation doesn't believe in giving alms and instead focuses on projects in healthcare, education, and livelihoods domain that would improve the well-being of the community in the long-term. However, it is painful that now in 2020 we had to resort to providing food to our communities as a means of survival."

-Teja Ram Ji, coordinator of Manthan (Partner organisation, Rajasthan)



**3,639 food/safety kits**  
distributed



**18195 persons**  
provided  
survival kits



**10 women**  
trained to  
prepare sanitisers

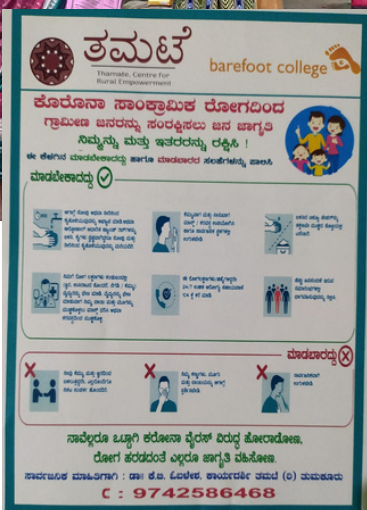


**5+Women clusters**  
supported to  
create masks

## Awareness generation



Our partnering CBOs also worked hard to sensitise the community, provide awareness regarding preventive measures, burst myths and stigmas associated with infected persons, and make the local government machineries accountable.



Left: Pamphlet in  
Kannada prepared  
by Thamate



**9,110 individuals**  
involved in awareness  
generation programs

"Ehi programme heba duara jansadharan upakruta heba sahita ,loke khushi achhanti" ("This program has brought happiness to people and has benefitted them")

- Sapanch of Boirgoan Gram Panchayat (Nuapada Orrisa) on The Ayuaskam's awareness cum sanitation-kit distribution program





## Building Immunity

Strengthening the immunity of the community was now more important than ever and our ground partners found innovative ways to do that.



Take the example of SARC, Sambalpur (left) which utilised 0.5 acres of land provided by the Village Development Committee of Laumal for cluster-wise cultivation of leafy vegetables. This was distributed with the community at large at least twice a week.



SUTRA (HP) distributed boiled eggs, bananas, and Vitamin C tablets to pregnant, lactating women and children. For the latter group, this initiative organically developed as means of engagement through games and other learning-oriented activities.

*Nearly 80% of the household in Laumal village depend on bamboo crafting for their livelihoods. During the lockdown the weekly haats closed, and the farmers could no longer buy raw materials nor sell the finished goods. As their income flow stopped, life became miserable for the community. Hence, we decided to provide at least 250gm of leafy vegetables to every household to ensure food security and to increase the nutritional status of each member*

*-Ashok Kumar Panigrahi, Secretary (SARC)*



**Green and Leafy  
Vegetables**  
provided to  
**200 households**  
**2-3 times/week**  
**for 2 months**



**Bananas, eggs and Vitamin C  
tablets**  
provided to  
**102 children**  
**1 pregnant woman,**  
**and 2 lactating women**  
**for 6 months**



## Livelihood Support

The lockdown drastically increased the dependency of many communities on agriculture with many being stranded at home with no employment opportunities elsewhere. Understanding this, our ground partners supported farmers in their community (many of whom had to take huge debts) by providing them seeds and other inputs for the next harvest season.



**368 farmers**  
provided  
**seed and farming inputs**

*"If the lockdown hadn't happened my daughter and I would have earned Rs8000-10,000 on a monthly basis. However, now there are no jobs in the village. In fact for my harvest this time, I was paid only a fraction of the market price by the contractor. Though the government has provided us 10 Kgs of rice, I still had to borrow Rs10,000 to manage our day to day expenses".-*

*-Bundibhai (farmer), Khakrapada Village, Jhabua (Madhya Pradesh)*

## Other material support

For a few of our partner organisations working in Bihar, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala, the pandemic coincided with floods and cyclones affecting the community. Hence, the relief work was planned in a way that catered to wider disturbances in the region.

Take the example of RASTA (Wayanad) which provided blankets and thermos flasks to the elderly in the community as they couldn't access firewood to keep themselves warm due to the floods as well as disruption of transportation facilities.



**25 flasks & 30 blankets**  
distributed to the  
**elderly**



### SNEAK PEEK: Sangat Series | Chapter 3 : Impact

We hope that by now you have a broad idea about the CBO relief Initiative by Barefoot College International and how it was carried out across different domains and geographies. Next time, we shall be delving deeper into the impact of the initiative through quantitative data (for all of you who love numbers) and through stories from our people (for those with a heart for personal stories). You surely don't want to miss this one!

