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# BRLF RESPONSE TO COVID -19

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## PHASE – II RELIEF AND REHABILITATION MEASURES



BHARAT RURAL LIVELIHOODS FOUNDATION  
C-32, NITI BAGH, NEW DELHI - 49

## 1. Background

Covid-19 is spreading fast in India with total positive cases crossing more than 2 million and the number of deaths going over 42000 as of 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The resultant problems of lockdown in 3 phases are amplified in the Central Indian Tribal Belt, because of the low level of incomes due to limited livelihood opportunities, nutritional and health related vulnerabilities, especially of the tribal population and the constant seasonal migration is critical for gainful employment and survival of tribal families. The lockdown and the fear of contamination have severely impacted livelihoods opportunities for the poorest, pushing them to the brink of starvation. Over 80% of the country's migrant and daily wage population fear they will run out of food before the end of the lockdown or they will not be able to find work once the lockdown ends.

Looking into the grim situation and regular feedback received from the partners, BRLF decided to initiate interim and long- term relief measures for the families residing in Central Indian Tribal Region and are severely affected due to the pandemic. The aim of BRLF's relief measures was to – a) minimize the rapid spread of COVID-19 in the rural areas and b) mitigating the impact of lockdown among the poor and marginalized families, especially in the tribal migrant workers of Central Indian Tribal Region. Looking into the need and field requirements, BRLF planned to implement its relief measures in two phases – first phase of relief work was aimed to provide immediate relief to the migrants and most impacted households, the major focus was to provide dry ration for 20 to 25 days to the most vulnerable households and extend support for gap filling to the village/panchayat level quarantine centers in order to contain the spread of the infection. The narrative report for the first phase is separately documented and shared with all stakeholders.

Snapshot of the first phase relief work:

Outreach	
Partners	14
State	5 (West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh )
District	11
Block	14
Gram Panchayat	188
Village	520
Distributions of dry ration	9081 households
Distribution of face masks	5550 HH
Distribution of towels and other sanitary items	739
Dry ration kits distributed in quarantine centres	300
No. of quarantine centres supported	27 centres
Budget Utilization	Approved budget: 75.78 Lakhs
	Expenditure: 75.71 Lakhs

## 2. Second phase – relief and rehabilitation work

In the second phase, the focus was mainly on restoring the livelihoods of the most marginalized and poor households who were badly affected by the pandemic. Support was provided to the marginal farmers for harvesting of rabi and sowing of kharif crop, besides this migrant and landless families were supported with alternative livelihood options. Strategically, BRLF decided to focus on the few areas like– a) most interior

& unserved b) resource poor c) location having history of high migration d) location having most vulnerable households e) non-CSR areas etc.

BRLF executed the second phase of the relief and rehabilitation work in collaboration with 17 implementation partners possessing strong ground presence and working to improve the livelihoods of tribal and most vulnerable communities. Through this short and long term relief and rehabilitation measures, BRLF has reached to 8346 households from 13 districts of Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Before initiating the relief work BRLF developed a detailed SOP for each interventions and online orientation of all partners was conducted for its implementation. The detailed SOP is attached as annexure – I

### 3. Summary of the major interventions and outputs

Action Objective	Major interventions	Outputs
To ensure and extend the days with availability of food and essential commodities to the most vulnerable families	Distribution of dry ration kits to the families affected by COVID 19	3350 families were supported by distribution of dry ration kits
	Distribution of baby food kits to the families having babies of 0 to 3 years	200 HHs were provided with baby food kits
Controlling the spread of COVID 19 to minimize the infections	Assessing the situation of quarantine centers and provide support to fill the gaps	A total 3 quarantine centers were supported by distributing masks, towels, sanitizers, and other essential items
	Distribution of masks and hygiene kits to the families supported under interim relief	3350 HHs were supported with hygiene kits which essentially contain masks and sanitizer
	Providing PPE kits to the CSO staff engaged in relief work	60 no. of CSO staff was provided with PPE material
Restoring livelihoods of the poor, marginal farmers and migrant households	Providing seeds and other inputs to the marginal farmers having land holding size maximum up to 2 acres	3768 no. of families benefitted with agricultural input support
	Conservation and ensure availability of variety of indigenous seeds in the villages itself by promoting community managed seed banks	Strengthened 60 community seed banks by purchasing new stock of seeds and/or storage equipment
	Providing alternate livelihood options to the landless migrant families recently returned to their villages from cities	Input and asset support to 1028 migrant families for alternative livelihood options- Livestock & NTFP
Ensuring Rights & Entitlements of the community by linking them with various govt. schemes (PDS, MGNREGA etc.)	Linking families with different government schemes like PDS, MGNREGA etc.	11973 HHs linked with different govt. schemes like PDS, MGNREGA etc.
	Providing direct liquidity support of Rs. 25000 to the FPOs to reach out to vulnerable families not getting serviced under govt schemes	3 FPOs provided with direct liquidity support of Rs 25000

#### 4. Outreach at a glance

S.N.	Progress tracking indicators and coverage	Unit	Physical Progress up to 31 <sup>ST</sup> July 2020		
			Target	Achievement	Deficit/Surplus
1	Districts covered	No	16	16	0
2	Block covered	No	17	17	0
3	Gram Panchayat covered	No	262	262	0
4	Village covered	No	619	613	-6
5	Ration kit distributed to Covid -19 affected families/households	No.	3350	3350	0
6	PPE for CSO Staff Members (No. of Staff)	Staff	53	60	7
7	IEC Material (to be included in the kit)	Kit	2850	2850	0
8	Baseline survey conducted in number of villages	Village	309	303	-6
9	No. of vulnerable households identified for all interventions	HH	3381	3447	66
10	Baby food kit distributed to households	No.	200	200	0
11	No. of isolation camps covered by providing input/equipment support for gap filing	Camps	3	3	0
12	Input support to the poor and vulnerable families for next cropping season – seed, fertilizer, water pumps, renting of harvester/thresher and tractor hours for collective tilling	HH	1825	2162	337
13	Strengthening of community based seed bank - purchase on new stock of seed and storage Equipments	Seed Bank	32	60	28
14	Input support for cultivation of short duration food crop like – vegetable, maize and millets	HH	1275	1606	331
15	Direct liquidity support to Kishan club and FPOs for purchase of commodity at village level and selling of inputs for next crop (FPO has to be nurtured by partner)	FPOs	3	3	0
16	Transportation support in case of perishables items – vegetable & fruits for at least two times (Number of farmers covered)	Cluster of 50 famers	6	4	-2
17	Input and asset support to migrant families for alternative livelihoods – livestock and NTFE	HH	640	1028	388
18	Facilitation support to families to avail their entitlement announced by Govt. – organization of camps in the village for all schemes, strengthening of PDS supply system & MGNREGA - monitoring and real time information dissemination - bringing in the notice of the local authority in case of shortage of food	HHs	17553	11973	-5580

## 5. Project location & partners detail

Name of the State	Name of the District	Name of the Partner	Name of the Block	No. of Gram Panchayat	No. of Villages	No. of HHs Covered	
Odisha	Bolangir	JMA, SSS, Vikalpa, BGS	Muribahal, Bongomunda, Khaprakhol, Tureikela	35	122	1380	
	Kalahandi	Janasahajya	Lanjigarh	9	52	500	
Chhattisgarh	Kabeer Dham	Samerth	Bodla	10	24	400	
	Kanker	Sahbhagi	Charama & Durgukondal	50	80	500	
	Dhamtari		Magarlod & Kurud	169	229	900	
West Bengal	Dantewada	Samarthan	Dantewada	14	16	300	
	Sukma	Shamayita Math	Chindgarh	20	30	700	
	Purulia	TSRD	Manbazar –II	7	14	500	
	Jalpaiguri	PRASARI	Nagrakata	2	8	250	
	Damoh	MJVS	Tendukheda	25	50	220	
	Madhya Pradesh	Sidhi	GSS	Kusmi	30	66	580
		Shivpuri	PARHIT	Shivpuri	14	16	236
Sheopur		Niswarth & Dharti	Karahal, Vijaypur	32	50	800	

## 6. Project duration

Soon after the completion of the first phase of relief work BRLF started its second phase from May 2020 to July 2020

## 7. Major activities implemented

### 7.1 Ration kit distribution to Covid -19 affected families/households:

COVID -19 situation and its impact has significantly worsened the life of many poor, small and marginal farmers especially the migrant families, single headed women, unskilled workers etc. Amid this challenging situation, BRLF along with its CSO partners distributed dry ration kits to 3350 most vulnerable households in its operational areas. The kit contains dry ration and other essentials for approx. 20 to 25 days. **Precaution taken while distributing the dry ration kits -**

- Prior permission was sought from block and panchayat level administration by sharing the list of beneficiaries and the name of villages. They provided their full support in this initiative and in the process of distribution of ration kits, CSOs ensured the presence of PRIs and/or village level committee members.
- The number of members to receive the package was planned in advance and the division of responsibilities was clear to avoid any kind of confusion in the field. For instance, everyone was



delegated with specific duties such as supervising, informing the respective PRI or SHGs, photography, unloading the packages etc.

- Each ration kit contained cereals, pulses, sugar/jaggery, oil and some non-perishable vegetables like onion, potato etc.
- In order to maintain proper distancing among the beneficiaries, circles were drawn on the ground at a distance of 1 meter and the beneficiaries were made to sanitize their hands before receiving the packets.
- The ration kit was handed over to any member of the HH holding Aadhaar card at the point of distribution and a picture was taken while handing over the kit to the beneficiaries.
- CSOs maintained the stock register with all details like name of GP/village/HH name/kit ID/Aadhaar no. etc. and collected signatures of the recipient.
- For ensuring safety and precaution, all CSO staff members involved in the process, were made to sanitize their hands from time to time and to wear PPE kit.
- In the entire process, all the government guidelines were strictly followed, and it was ensured that no one creates crowd at one place.
- Masks were distributed freely to the beneficiaries along with the hygiene package.
- Involvement of village level institutions like Producer Groups, SHGs, PRIs, AWW/ASHA workers and block level administration from preparation of beneficiaries list to distribution of kits to the beneficiaries.



## 7.2 Baby food kit distribution:

Looking at the baby food kit demands coming from Jalpaiguri district administration, BRLF sanctioned budget of Rs. 70,000 for procuring 200 baby food kit items which was distributed to the community with the help of our implementation partner PRASARI. These kits were handed over either to the parents of the child or any other family members to ensure that it reaches to the targeted beneficiaries. This support was provided to the migrant, poor families having children of 0 to 3 years.



### 7.3 Support for gap filling in isolation centers:

Three isolation centers (2 in West Bengal: TSRD and 1 in Odisha: Janasahajya) were provided support like bleaching powder, phenyl, surf, bucket, mug, hand gloves, sanitizer, Dettol, hand wash etc. to maintain cleanliness in and around the isolation centers. Before providing support in the centers, partners first assessed the need of the centers and discussed the same with the Sarpanch of the villages. Upon receiving confirmation from block administration and PRI members, they prioritized the items which are essential for the isolation centers and the same was distributed in the presence of block administration/PRI members/village institution etc.



### 7.4 Providing agricultural input support to the poor and vulnerable families:

This support was provided to 2162 beneficiaries including small and marginal farmers from tribal communities having land holding of maximum up to 2 acres. Quality inputs like seeds and fertilizer were procured from the Govt. registered firms dealing with seeds and fertilizers. Inputs distributed through/in the presence of leaders of the village level community-based institutions and PRI representatives. Distribution register was opened and maintained by the CSO partners at village level to maintain the stock. Farmers essentially asked for pulses and paddy seeds and vegetable seeds of Onion, Tomato, Brinjal, Okra, Cowpea etc. so that they can grow vegetables in a synchronized pattern.



In some states like Odisha, while extending the support, focus was given on the cluster -based approach involving Producer Group members and ensuring 100% community nursery concept, quality and timely seeds supply besides proper Package of Practices (PoP). Seasonal Crop Plan /Calendar along with business plan was prepared for each village. Bio-fertiliser such as Vermi Compost, Neem Extract and promotion of NPM preparation and application was adhered during distribution of agri-inputs.

### 7.5 Strengthening community- based seed bank:

The primary objective of supporting community managed seed bank was to preserve and store the indigenous variety of seeds of paddy, vegetables, pulses etc. Through the support of BRLF, CSO partners strengthened 60 seed banks across 4 states to cater the need of indigenous seeds and for supplying necessary timely inputs to the vulnerable migrant families. Predominantly, community have decided to preserve indigenous variety seeds of paddy, maize, grains, millets and vegetables.



These banks are run by the local institutions like Farmers Clubs, Village Organizations, SHGs at different project locations with the facilitation and hand holding support provided by the CSOs' staffs. These institutions arrange indigenous variety of seeds from local farmers of the area and keep it in the locally made bamboo and mud drums. In some locations, as per the requirement of the committee members, partners have provided plastic sheets for performing different activities after harvesting of the produce like cleaning, sorting, grading and packaging and gunny bags for keeping or distributing the agriculture product.

#### **7.6 Input support provided for cultivation of short duration food crop like – vegetable, maize, and millets:**

Introducing cultivation of short duration food crops in the COVID phase II project, was a well thought idea. The main objective behind it, was to ensure food security among villagers especially the families worst hit by this pandemic and also to have some liquidity in the hand. Promotion of indigenous variety of vegetables, pulses, maize, millets etc. were given due focus under this intervention and in some states, CSOs provided handholding support to the farmers for practicing multilayer farming. Quality inputs were procured either from the villages in case of indigenous seeds or from the authorized shopkeepers available in the area.

A total 1606 beneficiaries were benefitted under this intervention with the direct handholding support of partner CSOs.

#### **Some of the Agriculture cultivation done under this project:**



#### **7.7 Support provided to Kishan Club and FPOs:**

During the implementation period, 4 FPOs were supported through this intervention in Chhattisgarh state. CSOs in Chhattisgarh state, are in the process of forming PGs, later PCs/FPOs will be formed to realize better returns to farmers. PGs which have been formed in the state, are mobilizing modern methods of agriculture farming, producing organic fertilizer and pesticides, procuring farm produces, and after cleaning, grading, processing and packaging, the produce is being marketed to other areas. This support has boosted the confidence of farmers who had planned to form the “Model Vegetable Cluster” wherein farmers will only grow vegetables in a synchronizer pattern using the modern technologies.

### 7.8 Support provided to the migrant families for alternate livelihoods – livestock and NTFE:

Post lockdown, there was a huge demand in the field to create alternative livelihood options apart from agriculture for the most vulnerable migrant families. Through this intervention, BRLF tried to support families who do not have land, are migrant labors, recently returned to their villages due to COVID-19 impact and whose major source of income comes from labor. Focus was given to the landless, women-headed, disabled families who are already in an extremely poor state and COVID-19 has majorly hit them.



Realizing the graveness of the situation and to provide an alternative livelihood option to such families, BRLF along with its CSO partners extended backyard poultry rearing support to 1028 HHs who have experience in bird rearing and/or rearing in a very small scale. A one-time support of Rs 5000 was provided to each selected family to buy improved indigenous variety of birds and to take up the activity for high production of both meat and eggs.



To improve the PoP of birds, beneficiaries were trained on feed preparation by using local raw materials besides periodical vaccination and de-worming.

### 7.9 Facilitation support to the families to avail their Rights and Entitlements announced by Govt:

Several campaigns, workshops and announcements were made by partners to aware people about the various schemes available in the states. The major focus was given to aware people about PDS scheme and MGNREGA because these two schemes are the ones safeguarding rural people from pandemic effect. Partners also helped the migrant's households in issuing the new job card and also facilitated them to get employment under MRNREGA.

#### Some of the news clips on COVID Project:



### **Values created within the organization with the support received from BRLF for COVID 19**

- The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has shown us something that most of us have not seen in our lifetime. Large numbers of people are unable to have even two meals a day. The nationwide lockdown has critically affected the migrant population. Due to constraint in transportation, thousands of migrants were forced to walk hundreds of miles back to their native villages. Many daily wage laborers lost their livelihood and have no alternative forms of employment. On the other hand, corona virus positive cases are increasing day by day. In view of this critical situation, Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF) initiated its interim relief work and livelihood security measures by partnering with its existing partners. During this period, CSOs faced a lot of challenges yet they have managed to successfully implement both the phases of relief measures and have been able to create organization values at community, administration and donor level. Despite many restrictions, CSOs have reached to unreached and helped the most vulnerable and deprived people in the community through relief support. Consequently, the relationship between organization and community strengthened and people have full trust in the organization.
- Secondly, the organizations' relationship with the government also strengthened. Many a times, our government does not listen, but the organizations made the government listen through relief work. Amidst many limitations, the block administration gave permission to CSOs to distribute Ration Kits. In most of the locations, the block officials and PRI members rendered their physical presence in the field and assisted CSOs in relief activities. This helped CSOs in strengthening relationship with block administration and PRI members.
- Thirdly, during the current situation, bottom-up accountability approaches are essential in ensuring funds allocated for pandemic responses reach their intended destination. The organizations have been worthy towards good stewardship in this context. The organizations have maintained accountability and transparency in all kinds of purchasing and payments with proper bills. The local PRIs and block administration have also realized that sustainable development is not possible without an accountable organization. There are many areas where the government is now seeking the involvement of CSOs to ensure quality and transparency in the work.
- Lastly, all the organizations have strategically and successfully carried out the relief work and been trustworthy to follow each and every guideline mentioned in SOP.

### **8. Challenges faced during the implementation and adopted of mitigation strategies:**

- Finalization of beneficiaries for relief support: During the second phase of relief work, it was very challenging for the CSOs to finalize beneficiaries for relief support. Because most of the migrant families had already been returned to their villages and it was difficult to select the most vulnerable families out of many. Secondly, villagers were not allowing outsiders to enter their village. Amid all the constraints, CSO teams have worked successfully towards relief support.
- Due to movement limitation during lockdown, it was difficult for the team to obtain vehicle pass from block administration.
- During lockdown, availability of dry ration was not sufficient with shopkeepers as per demand.
- Maintaining social distancing and making others wear masks during the relief work, was quite difficult

- Most of the villages were situated in the cut-off hilly terrains, where the support was delivered by walking, holding items on shoulders etc.
- Expectations of political leaders to deliver the support through their involvement for publicity/popularity/creation of vote bank.

#### 9. Key learning from the project:

- Livestock beneficiaries started contributing for de-worming and vaccination activity as they understood through different trainings about the importance of this activity.
- Multilayer farming is a new concept for the PG members in Odisha state. Through the project intervention, they learned about multilayer farming and the crop combination.
- There are many people deprived from government entitlements in most of the project locations. Because of the involvement of PRI members and block officials during the beneficiary selection process, those people were identified and linked with govt. scheme.
- MGNREGA and PDS emerged as one of the best schemes across country that can safeguard rural population from such epidemic.
- Acquired knowledge on Do's and Don'ts of COVID-19 apart from different guidelines / circulars shared by Government.
- Adoption of new technologies like Zoom/Google Meet etc. to impart trainings and/or conducting review meetings

#### 10. Financial Progress:

S. No.	Progress Indicators	Approved Budget	Budget Utilized	Deficit/Surplus
1	Distribution of ration kits	25,46,000	25,44,080	1,920
2	Packaging material and hygiene kit	1,17,250	1,15,998	1,252
3	PPE for CSO staff	10,600	11,600	-1000
4	IEC Material	42,750	42,432	318
5	Transportation cost	1,09,200	1,14,377	-5177
6	Distribution of baby food kit	70,000	71,862	-1862
7	Input support in isolation camps	30,000	30,000	
8	Input support in agriculture	27,37,500	27,53,621	-16,121
9	Strengthening of community- based seed bank	1,92,000	1,97,519	-5519
10	Input support for cultivation of short duration food crops	22,95,000	22,10,604	84396
11	Liquidity support to Kisan Club and FPOs	75,000	75,000	
12	Input support for livestock	30,50,000	30,77,950	-27950
13	Facilitation support to CSOs	93,500	89,891	3609
	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>1,13,68,800</b>	<b>1,13,34,934</b>	<b>33,866</b>

## Standard Operating Procedure for CSOs for phase - II

### 1. Covid 19 relief measure phase – II

The second phase of relief work will focus on restoring the livelihoods of poor, marginal farmers and migrant families. Apart from the livelihood support BRLF will continue with supply of uncooked ration to most needy families and gap support to the selected quarantine centers as per the demand of the local administration. In the second phase BRLF is targeting to cover approx. 8500 families. Initially, the second phase of relief work would be organized through funding support from Ford Foundation however, in case BRLF receive additional funding from other donors the additional grant would be utilized in the same location with same partners adding more households and other targets.

In the second phase it is proposed to engage 17 partners across 4 States (Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal) covering 13 districts and 19 blocks.

### 2. Standard Operating Procedures

The nature of this disaster is different from other natural calamities therefore, the relief and mitigation works need to be organized very carefully. BRLF urges its partners to rigorously follow the standard operating procedure specified below.

#### 2.1 For Ration Kit distribution work

**A) Selection of beneficiary households:** The partner will select beneficiaries by involving village institutions and PRIs. Focus should be given to most vulnerable families and below criteria to be followed for household selection:

- Landless/women headed/disabled/old age/diseased - who are fully dependent on daily wage earning
- Any family whose members are affected by Corona virus
- Families returned back because of reverse migration and whose family members are quarantined in the village/GP camps
- Families whose members have not returned back to their villages and are stuck in the cities
- Marginal farmers/poor families who supplement their income through seasonal migration or through MGNREGA
- Category - C families identified through wealth ranking or any such participatory process
- Any poor family strongly recommended by SHG/GP/block authorities
- Partner will share the list of the selected beneficiaries mentioning all details and selection criteria to BRLF and local authorities for approval

**B) Coordination with District/Block/Panchayat Administration:** Implementing partner will work in close coordination with district/block administration. Mentioned below are the standard operating procedure to be followed:

- Looking into the lockdown and limited permission of movement, partners will work in close consultation and coordination with the block or district administration
- Partners will register themselves with the local authorities as an organization/volunteer for relief work and will obtain all necessary passes and permissions
- Partner to ensure that only registered persons/volunteer are allowed to engage in the relief work
- Partner to ensure that all approval and permission from the district/block authorities to be taken before commencing the relief work
- Partners will follow all instructions given by Niti Ayog or by the district collector for organizing the relief measures

- Partners will disclose all information about their relief measures like – livelihood support/relief package/contents in the ration kit/relief timeline/route chart to the district/block authorities
- Partner will share the route map with the local authority for distribution of food supply and also obtain any permits for movement if needed
- Partner will share list of the identified households along with procurement and distribution strategy to the district/block administration and seek their consent and necessary permission for kit distribution

**C) Procurement of ration kit:** For procurement of ration, it is specified to follow the below procedures:

- It is preferred that partner should procure all items in ration kit (as specified in the annexure – I) from FCI Godown or Govt. approved local shopkeeper dealing in food supplies
- In case it is not possible to procure items from FCI or Govt. approved shopkeepers then the preference to be given to local shopkeepers/FPO/Kishan club or any community based organization dealing with commodities
- Partner will ensure that the kit are purchased at approved rates and also obtains proper bills for items procured
- Partner will ensure proper monitoring of the quality of the items procured. For ex: the quantity supplied by vendor, photograph of stock at the time of purchase should be taken. Also photographs of the packets should be taken once packed prior to distribution.
- Payment will be made through cheque or bank transfer to the vendor's bank account

**D) Distribution process of ration kit:** Partners will follow the below protocols while distributing the ration kits to the selected households:

- Kit to be handed over to the selected families only in no case the kit is given on behalf to relative/neighbour/GP members
- Partner will designate only registered staff for kit distribution with explaining them protocols and they should be well equipped with PPE gear and hand sanitizer
- Partner will hire vehicle and ensure that distribution of ration kit is made to minimum 50 to 75 HHs in a day following the route map finalised in advance
- It would be better if partner distribute kit at the door step, in case it is distributed in a scheduled location proper social distancing (standing circle with a minimum distance of one metre) to be maintained with one person designated to sanitized the hand of receiver before receiving the kit
- Kit to be distributed under the supervision and in the presence of PRI/village level committee/SHGs
- The ration kit should be handed over to any member of the HH and a picture taken when handing over of the ration kit holding Aadhaar card at the point of distribution (No. of Aadhaar card should be clear in the photograph) in case Aadhaar is not available any other ID to be used
- Partner will maintain the distribution register with all details – name of the GP/village/HH name/kit ID/Aadhaar no.
- A register would be maintained by the CSO for stock in and stock out. A copy of the same should be provided to the local authority after completion of activity and endorsed by the local authority
- Partner will maintain and restrict the number of households assembling to receive the kit crowding should be avoided
- Partners to ensure that suitable media coverage is attempted giving credit to BRLF support and news clips shared with BRLF

## **2.2 For Baby food Kit distribution work:**

All other SOPs are same as given for ration kit distribution work except that:

- A)** Families having child of 0 to up to 3 years, should be supported under this intervention

- B) Preferences should be given to families receiving ration kit support from BRLF because these families would come under the “most vulnerable” category.
- C) It is preferred that partner should procure all items of baby kit from Govt. approved local shopkeeper dealing in baby food supplies. If such shops are not available at local level, then they may approach local shopkeepers and other institutions dealing in the same line.
- D) Baby food kit composition should only have milk, Cerelac and other locally available baby food items and partners must ensure the quality of baby food items.
- E) Before distributing the baby kit in the field, approval of block/district administration must be sought and approval letter must contain the information of each baby food item.

### **2.3 Input support to quarantine centres**

This will include critical support that is required at village/GP level quarantine centres. Migrant workers coming back to their villages and being quarantined at centres, will be the ones availing the benefits of this support. Partners can assess the critical requirement of the centres by:

- A) Personally visiting the centres and assessing the needs or by
- B) Taking suggestions of PRIs, village/GP level community institutions etc. or by
- C) Taking suggestions from block level administration

Partner will first assess the need of the quarantine centres and then share the same with BRLF for approval. After getting BRLF’s approval, they may execute the activities as planned.

### **2.4 Input support to poor and vulnerable HHs for the next cropping season**

Under this activity, support would be extended only for seeds and fertilizer (Rs. 1500/HH) for the coming Kharif crop. Partners may only take food crop (Paddy, Maize, Millets etc.) under this intervention. Further, the selection criteria of the beneficiaries are detailed below for the reference:

- A) Only small and marginal farmers, tribal families and PVTG community having land holding of maximum up to 2 acres, can be supported through this intervention
- B) Preferences should be given to PVTG families, tribal families, migrant families recently returned to their villages, disabled and women headed families.

#### **Procurement of seeds and fertilizer:**

- A) It is preferred that partner procures agriculture input from the Govt. registered shops dealing with seeds and fertilizers
- B) In case it is not possible to procure items from Govt. approved shops then the preference should be given to local shopkeepers/FPO/Kishan club or any community -based organization providing agricultural inputs to the farmers
- C) Partner will ensure that the seeds and fertilizer are purchased at approved rates and obtain proper bills for items procured
- D) Partner will ensure the quality of the items procured.
- E) Payment will be made through cheque or bank transfer to the vendor’s bank account

#### **Distribution of agriculture inputs:**

- A) Distribution of the seeds and fertilizer would only be made through/in the presence of leaders of the village level community- based institutions or PRIs and list prepared along with thumb impression and mobile nos..
- B) A register would be maintained by the CSO at village level for stock in and stock out. A copy of the same should be provided to the local authority after completion of activity
- C) All other procedures are same as explained in the ration kit distribution strategy

### **2.5 Strengthening of community- based seed bank**

BRLF through this initiative, would help partners in preserving the traditional variety of seeds available in their local area. They may preserve different seed varieties of food grains, pulses, vegetables, and oilseeds and later expand their work. Below are the areas where partners can think of intervening under this intervention:

- A) Partners can purchase different variety of seeds available at local level to give diversity to their seed bank
- B) Purchasing of storage equipments and one time purchase of , this would be a one support to the seed bank
- C) Partners can also purchase the seed preserving chemicals/medicines/materials which keep the seed insects away
- D) Partners will maintain a register at village/seed bank level which will record each entry of seed procurement and distribution.
- E) Partners will develop operational and management of the seed bank in consultation with the community, the seed bank operate in a manner that it get self-sufficiency within 6 months

## **2.6 Input support for cultivation of short duration crops**

Partner will follow the same SOP given for Point No. 2.4 i.e. Input support to poor and vulnerable HHs for next cropping season. Only the difference is that this activity is purely designed for short duration high value crops like maize, oilseeds, millet and vegetables, therefore, a little bit variation in the budget may be seen.

## **2.7 Direct liquidity support to Kisan Club and FPOs**

A direct one-time support of Rs. 25000 is kept under this activity for Kisan Clubs and FPOs which may utilize this money for strengthening the market linkages for Rabi crops. Following are the activities that can be performed to strength the market system:

- A) Partner will identify active and functional FPO for this support, this support is only for the FPO who are actively engaged in procurement and input selling
- B) Only those FPO should be supported who have their accounts audited for last three years and all compliances are in place
- C) Direct one time liquidity support is given to the FPO so that they can purchase and procure commodity from the village or from their own share holders
- D) At first, this activity should only be planned in a small scale with well performing village level production groups. Groups that are performing well, can be taken into confidence
- E) Designing route map for marketing and assigning volunteers from each village for collection of produce
- F) Aggregation of produce at FPO/Kisan Club level
- G) Exploring different markets, traders to get a better price of the commodity
- H) The FPO will provide an expenditure report on completion of the activity to the CSO partner.

## **2.8 Transportation support to perishable items like vegetables, fruits etc**

In the remote areas, where villagers are purely dependent either in agriculture or livestock, there are a lot of challenges in providing proper markets to their produces especially in case of perishable items. This support is specially provided for the areas where even traders hesitate to enter. Therefore, CSOs may use this money to provide transportation facility in the area where there is a huge need to enter and intervene. Below are few things to keep in mind while providing transportation support in the area:

- A) This support can be availed immediately for transportation of fruits and vegetables only
- B) A cluster of at least 50 famers or a Producer Group or Kisan Club etc can collectively use this facility to market their produce

- C) A route map should be designed before collecting the produce from farmers
- D) Partner will hire the vehicle and ensure collectivization of produce. A mini pick up (Chhota Hathi) or a pick-up for transporting the items, can only be hired if it carries a load of minimum 15-20 quintals (in case of mini pick up) and 30-35 quintals (in case of pick up) respectively at a time. Therefore, it is advisable to design a route map first, explore market and its players, ensure same time collectivization of produce at ground level, and then only hire vehicle for transportation.
- E) The CSO partner will maintain an activity and expenditure sheet day wise detailing vegetables and fruits transported, where and to details, vehicle no, driver name and mobile no for records and reporting.

## **2.9 Input support to migrant and poor families for alternative livelihood- livestock and NTFE**

Post lockdown, there will be a huge demand in the field to create alternative livelihood options apart from agriculture for the most vulnerable families. Through this intervention, BRLF is trying to support families who do not have land, are migrant labours, recently returned to their villages due to COVID-19 impact and whose major source of income comes from labour. It is advisable to give priority to landless, women-headed, disabled families who are already in an extremely poor state and COVID-19 has majorly hit them. Below are the activities that can be undertaken under the above intervention:

- A) Purchasing of birds (BYP) or goats
- B) Feed support to small and ruminant animals
- C) Preventive care like vaccination and de-worming kits
- D) NTFP collection and marketing

This is to be noted here that the families having shelter facilities (even the low- cost shelter will work), can only be supported through this intervention. They should have their own BYP/goat shelter so as to reduce mortality rate.

## **2.10 Facilitation support to families to avail their entitlement announced by Govt.**

This is purely a facilitation support by CSOs to families in helping them avail different govt schemes, strengthening PDS and MGNREGA system etc. The CSOs are expected to work in the given directions to provide better facilitation support to the families entitled to avail benefits:

- A) Create a database of the families eligible of availing benefits and create a state specific database of the schemes launched by central/state govt during or post lockdown
- B) Providing awareness in the villages about different schemes available in the state and about MGNREGA.
- C) Post lockdown partner can organize village camps
- D) All staff must be provided necessary PPE equipment (masks, gloves, and sanitizer) before campaigning

## Annexure – II

### Case Studies

#### **Case Study 1: Jana Mukti Anushtan (JMA) extended help to the most vulnerable women, a widow in the lockdown**

Mrs. Ashmati Bhoi aged 72, lives in a village called Kandhen Jhula of Lakhna Gram Panchayat which comes under Muribahal Block of Balangir district. She is a widow and lives alone as she does not have any children. She also does not have any agricultural land, therefore her only source of livelihood lies upon the pension that she gets from the different schemes run by central and state government like Antodaya Ration Scheme and Widow Pension Scheme through which she gets 5 kg rice and Rs. 500 per month, respectively. But this support was not sufficient to meet her daily requirements and other essential requirements like medical emergencies, especially during the crucial period of lockdown.



During COVID-19 outbreak, Janamukti Anushtan received financial support from Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation to initiate relief measures for the people severely hit by this pandemic, in its project location. Subsequently, JMA started beneficiary selection process as per the criteria defined in SoP and during the selection process, PG members gave strong recommendation for Mrs. Ashmati as she was considered the most eligible person for relief support by the villagers. One of the members said, “If Ashmati is not eligible to receive the support then none of us in our village is eligible for this”.

After receiving strong recommendation from village community members, JMA added her into their beneficiary list and later provided the support of dry ration kit. She thanked JMA and BRLF for the support provided especially during this critical time.

#### **Case Study 2: Securing livelihood through agriculture intervention**

Padmathopa, a village in Bengaon Gram Panchayat under Lanjigarh block of Kalahandi district, is situated in a medium hilly terrain with total 35 households of SC and ST category. These are basically small & marginal farmers with average land holding of around 1-2 acres. Mostly, people of this village migrate to distant places and even outside the state for daily wages.

### Support received through the project:

Women farmers of this village are organized into a Producer Group (PG) called Maa Mangala Producer Group.

During this situation, support on agricultural inputs basically seed and fertilizer was provided by Janasahajya team to restore the livelihoods of ultra-poor, migrant workers. This support was provided to 25 HHs (out of 35) of the village who were selected as per the criteria mentioned in the SoP and having land holdings of maximum up to 2 acres. Vegetable seeds of Brinjal, Tomato, Okra, Cowpea etc. were provided to the selected farmers along with bio fertilizer-NISM 24 (Neem Urea) & M/s Sakti Bio-fertiliser Prakruti. A total 0.25 acres



(Brinjal: 0.10 acres, Tomato: 0.10 acres, Beans and Cow Pea: 0.05 acres) of area was covered by each farmer under this relief support. Apart from the seeds, 50 kg bio fertiliser was also provided to each farmer so that they can reap maximum benefits through this intervention.

In a PG meeting, all 25 HHs benefitted under the project, decided to raise community nursery and follow proper package of practices (POPs) while the technical support on raising community nursery was provided by Janasahajya team. A total 50 beds of Brinjal and Tomato were raised together to ensure synchronized production and parallelly, preparation for transplanting creepers (Beans and Cowpea) was also going on.



This small help especially during this critical time, brought back hope in their lives.

Crop	Area	Output (In kg)	Selling price	Total Expenditure	Net Profit
Tomato	0.10	4800	38400	15000	23400
Brinjal	0.10	5600	39200	18000	21200
Cow Pea	0.02	600	7200	2700	4500
Beans	0.03	900	36000	13500	22500
Total	0.25	11900	120800	49200	71600

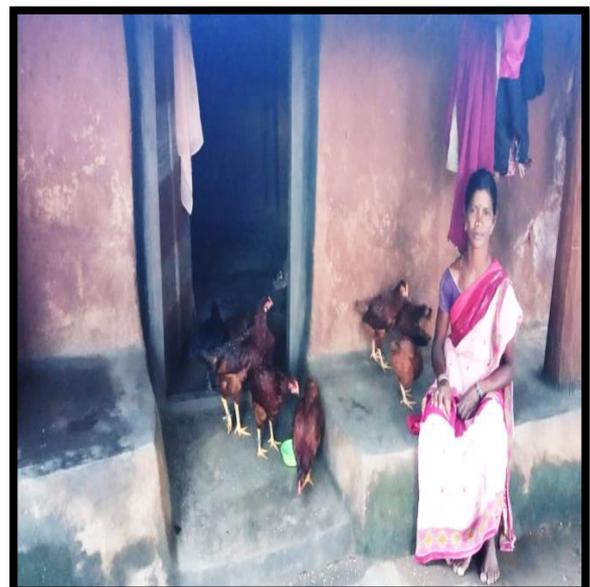
*-: Cost benefit analysis in 0.25 acres of land:-*

When this profit analysis chart was presented before farmers, they realized that there is a huge scope in promoting perishable crops like vegetable etc for these cash crops take lesser time to derive profit. Secondly, they realized the need of having a proper marketing network even at the village level and sought support of the organization in building the same. Thirdly, they recognised how a small help in the agri inputs can give multiplier effect at the time of harvesting, if followed PoP properly.



### **Case Study 3: Livestock: A great source of income**

Sane Majhi a destitute woman, aged 46 years, belongs to a Producer Group called Maa Dharani in Lanjigarh block of Kalahandi district. Her only source of income is livestock as she does not have enough land to cultivate. She earns around Rs. 150 per day as a daily wage labour and works in the agriculture land of other landholders. Before the pandemic, she used to go to the work on regular basis to earn for her family, but this nationwide lockdown had made her condition even more miserable. For many days, she waited for the support from government and tried very hard to get some work but none of her efforts turned out well during that time which made her hopeless.



**Support through the project:**

Under the livelihood restoration support of COVID phase II, BRLF focused on providing quality inputs both in agriculture and livestock and the process of selecting beneficiaries, was clearly defined in the SoP.

Janasahajya with the support of PG members, selected Sane Majhi for the livestock related work. In the support, it was decided that the beneficiary will first construct poultry shed, then only other relief measures like birds and feed will be provided to the families. Prior to the delivery of support, various vendors were explored for procurement of items, delivery/distribution points were identified and also in each village, CRPs were provided with a list of beneficiaries. Sane Majhi was identified as one of the beneficiaries eligible for the support as she has a long experience of rearing poultry birds. She was provided with 25 (20 hen + 5 cock) nos. of improved indigenous variety of poultry birds (Rhode Island Red Chicken) to take up the activity



for high production in both meat and eggs. These birds start laying eggs after 40 days and can provide more than 200-250 eggs in a year. Apart from this, these birds can also be used for meat purpose also.

**Cost Benefit Analysis:** A family was provided with 20 hens and a hen approx. lays around 250 eggs in a year, therefore 20 hens will lay a total  $20 \times 250 = 5000$  eggs in a year. Now, if we calculate the income from this:

Selling price of an egg= @ Rs. 4 per egg

Thus,  $5000 \text{ eggs} \times \text{Rs. } 4 = \text{Rs. } 20,000$

Also, if she sells some hen from the stock, she earns a minimum Rs. 2500 in year.

Total expected income=  $20000+2500 = \text{Rs. } 22500$  per year

As of now, she is taking care of all the birds and they all get timely vaccination and de-worming through the Prani Mitra. She is hopeful to earn a good profit of around Rs. 40,000/- in around 18-20 months and she gives all credit to BRLF and Janasahajya for helping her in these testing times.