



COVID-19 Lockdown Period Activity Report

Under the Ongoing Project – Child Development Programme for Children Belonging to Marginalized Families in New Delhi



Brief Status Update

Efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19 through non-pharmaceutical interventions and preventive measures such as social-distancing and self-isolation have prompted the widespread closure of schools and educational institutions in over 100 countries.

On 24th March, the Prime Minister of the Government of India instituted a nationwide lockdown for 21 days, limiting movement of the population of India as a preventive measure against the 2020 global coronavirus pandemic. The lockdown was put in place after a 14-hour voluntary public curfew on 22nd March, followed by enforcement of a series of regulations in the country's COVID-19 affected regions.

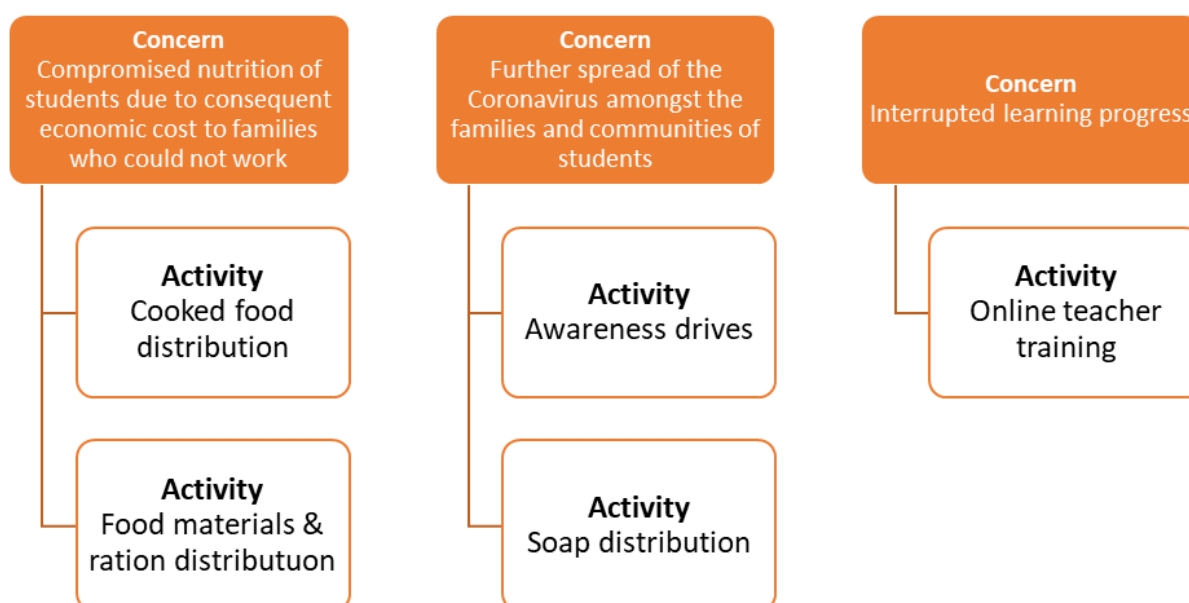
Prior to this, on 6th March, the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi directed the closure of all primary schools in the capital. This was followed on 19th March by the direction to close all educational institutions.

The consequences of these school closures have not only been the interrupted learning of our students, but it also raised concerns regarding their compromised nutrition, the consequent economic cost to families who could not work, spread of the virus due to low awareness, and the continued training of our teaching staff.

This Activity Report will outline the various steps that Sunaayy Foundation has taken to counter these above-mentioned concerns.

Activity Overview

Our concerns which emerged because of the Government imposed national lockdown were addressed through suite of activities.



While the health threat from the global coronavirus outbreak is undeniable, as is our obligation to follow the national lockdown directive, education practitioners and advocates such as Sunaayy Foundation, worry that the crisis will worsen the education gap for low-income and migrant

households from where our students hail. The disrupted classes will be compensated once the lockdown period is lifted, to the furthest extent possible.

Most of our students come from migrant families who have settled in the slums or informal settlements of the Vasant Kunj area in New Delhi (the primary catchment area for our operations). Their parents are mostly employed as daily wage labourers or engaged in the informal/unorganized sector. The lockdown to contain the virus's spread has hit these households the hardest, not only due to the consequent loss of incomes and livelihoods, but also due to the crowded and unhygienic surroundings in which they are forced live, which often have little to no access to municipal facilities such as running water, sufficient toilets, or adequate sewage lines.

Our activities are a step to mitigate some of these grim outcomes of the crisis.

Detailed Activity Update

Cooked food distribution

Initially, when classes were suspended, our teachers went into the field and informed our students and their parents regarding the availability of cooked mid-day meals at each of our centres. Students would come on time to collect their lunches in the lunchboxes provided by the teachers who wore masks and gloves while distributing the food. This was stopped after one week, when we realised the associated risks of congregating the students in this manner.



At a later date, police permission and support was received for the distribution of 350 food boxes comprising cooked rice, cooked rajma and sweets among the families of our students at Dairy Centre, the informal cluster of B-5 and B-6, and Rangpuri Pahari which are the catchment areas of our centres.

The distribution team wore protective masks and gloves, and social distancing was maintained to the furthest extent possible.



Food materials & ration distribution

Realising that it won't be feasible to continue the large-scale distribution of cooked food and that resource-poor households needed to be equipped to prepare their own meals we organized the distribution of dry rations between 3rd-5th April.

A total of 500 bags were distributed, with the active support of local police, in the following locations:

- B5 & B6 slums – Bandhu Camp
- Harijan Basti & Dairy Centre
- Kishangarh
- Rangpuri Pahari
- Jai Hind Camp (Bangali Basti)

Each bag contained the following:

- Flour (Atta) – 5kg
- Rice – 5 kg
- Oil – 1 L
- Salt – 1 kg
- Pulses (Daal) – 1kg
- Onion – 1 kg
- Potato – 1 kg
- Soap – 1 no.
- Washing bar – 1 no.





Awareness workshops and drives

To reduce the risk of the transmission of coronavirus infection, an awareness training workshop was first conducted for our teaching staff in each of our centres, following which they visited the field 16th March with charts and educational material to disseminate information on how the virus spreads, as well as on preventive measures including washing hands frequently, respiratory etiquette such as using cloth/handkerchiefs over the mouth while coughing or sneezing, etc.



Soap distribution

As part of our efforts to spread awareness on hygiene and safety, we distributed soap bars on 18th March amongst our students in the aforementioned catchment areas. This gave us a further opportunity to further educate them about the virus, the do's and don'ts and how best they can protect themselves.



Online teacher training

Due to the unavailability of the appropriate technology, continuing the education of our students is a daunting task. While there will undoubtedly be interruptions, we felt that this period could be effectively utilised to upskill our



teachers through online education to ensure that students continue to receive a quality education once classes resume.

Along with Nextconnect, our partner in online remote classes, we have developed a comprehensive crash course on interactive and communicative English for our teaching staff, through mobiles/laptops/tablets which we have made available. The intention of this English course is to teach the teachers a way in which they can interact with students and make students interact in turn through the medium of the English language. This is to boost the moral and confidence of students and teachers alike and give them another medium to express themselves.

DAYS	BATCHES	TIMING
MON	BATCH-1	9 AM TO 10:30 AM
	BATCH-2	2 PM TO 3:30 PM
TUE	BATCH-3	2 PM TO 3:30 PM
	BATCH-1	6 PM TO 7:30 PM
WED	BATCH-2	9 AM TO 10:30 AM
	BATCH-3	2 PM TO 3:30 PM
THU	BATCH-1	2 PM TO 3:30 PM
	BATCH-2	6 PM TO 7:30 PM
FRI	BATCH-3	9 AM TO 10:30 AM
	BATCH-1	2 PM TO 3:30 PM
SAT	BATCH-2	9 AM TO 10:30 AM
	BATCH-3	2 PM TO 3:30 PM
OBSERVER 1	BATCH 1	SOMYA BHASIN
OBSERVER 2	BATCH 2	BHAWNA BHATT
OBSERVER 3	BATCH 3	MADHAVI BHANDARI

Regular classes with teachers are being held on a daily basis.

Appeal

The pandemic of COVID-19 has engulfed the entire world and has posed serious challenges for the health, economic, and educational security of millions of children worldwide. In India too, the spread of coronavirus has been alarming and is posing severe health and economic ramifications for our country. Distress situations, such as this, demand expeditious and collective action for alleviating the suffering of those affected.

The support of some of our donors has, so far, ensured that we are able to deploy our multi-intervention strategy to improve on our programme quality and outreach in addressing the poor education, health, hygiene and nourishment outcomes of children from underprivileged and marginalized households. Now, as we step into a new decade of operations, we are faced with one of our biggest challenges. We have initiated steps to counter these daunting times. We are hopeful of your continued support to enable us to continue with our efforts.