Covid19 and Grampari

April 21, 2020
In the last 3 weeks the world as we know it changed. On the 19th of March 2020, India declared a ‘lockdown’ with devastating implications for many millions of it’s citizens. Grampari has worked in collaboration with the government to help assuage some of the hardships of people suffering in the region. This report is to document what Grampari has done so far and to express our gratitude to the many who have donated generously to enable to have come this far and to continue this work.

The first page provides you with a snapshot but should you want to read who we’ve impacted and our thinking for the future please do read the full report.

A SNAP SHOT

DONORS

- Donations have come in from 6 countries.
- In 4 weeks we had 52 donors, donating a total of INR13,58,262
- We have had 45 NEW donors support Grampari’s work

![Pie chart showing donation figures]

FOOD DISTRIBUTION FIGURES
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block</th>
<th># of Villages</th>
<th># of Families</th>
<th>~# of Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mahabaleshwar</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wai</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaoli</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>39</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>1316</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GROCERY KIT**

- Grocery Kit for an assumed family of 5
- These groceries will last 15 days and some of these will need to be topped up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat Flour</td>
<td>10 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>5 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>2 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Lentils <em>(Tur Daal)</em></td>
<td>1 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Lentils <em>(Moong Daal)</em></td>
<td>1 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>2 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea Powder</td>
<td>250 gm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath Soap</td>
<td>5 No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washing Powder</td>
<td>500 gm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Chilly Powder</td>
<td>250 gm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semolina <em>(Rawa)</em></td>
<td>1 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flattened rice <em>(Poha)</em></td>
<td>1 kg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With more donations coming in we have increased the nutrition levels of the food provided and have begun to include Peanuts as well as Kala Ghewda (a favourite amongst the villagers) which are both high sources of protein.
DETAILED REPORT

How did it start?

Having watched the breaking news reporting stories of many daily wage earners and migrant workers starving due to a lack of access to food Jayashree’s quiet time was impacted the next morning. Her thought, which was shared by many on the grampari team was to see what could be done. A rotarian had recently donated a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 (Approximately GBP1100) for Grampari’s residential programme and Jayashree’s thought was to call and ask if that money could be repurposed to feeding the people affected adversely by the lockdown. The permission willingly granted Grampari contacted the Block Development Officer, Mr Sanjay Budhe who has since become a close ally of Grampari’s and the work we’re doing. Mr Budhe confirmed that it would take sometime before the government promised rations would arrive. Many are starving and feeding them now would be critical.
The Grampari team was ready to help and so began the first set of due diligence and fact finding.

Mr Budhe put Grampari in touch with many government officials who all confirmed that there were many families starving.

The Grampari team decided to create Food Kits and an appeal was made to the IofC community for support. This support came generously and rapidly.

**Identifying the affected families**

Our friends from villages, village government officials and elected representatives helped us in verifying the affected families as Grampari went ahead with packing grocery kits.

As of 20\textsuperscript{th} April 2020 Grampari has been able to reach out to 300 affected families from 39 villages with these grocery kits.

![Image of people in a village with grocery bags]

**Demographic of those affected:**

Villagers in Mahabaleshwar, Jaoli and Wai practice a range of professions including farming, fishing, horse-riding for tourists, working as a daily wage labourers at local shops and residential schools in Panchgani, dam maintenance activities etc. The lockdown has affected them all.

- **The Fishermen:**
We first encountered 9 Katkari who hadn’t had anything to eat until Grampari reached them. Grampari reacted before the government did anything. However, now working in collaboration Grampari is able to impact many people.

These Katkari families live on the outskirts of these villages and depend on fishing to earn their livelihood. Their means of earning any money ended overnight after the declaration of the lockdown. Food/Groceries in these families are bought daily depending on their earning. They now had not food. These families live in very poor conditions- a small hut hosting family of 4-5, having barely 3-4 plates to eat from and 1-2 vessels to cook in and a tarpaulin sheet as a roof, they have no means to save money. Many of these families don’t have ration cards, government issued cards to access the affordable ration supplies from government through Public Distribution System (PDS). The grocery kits have been their only recourse to food.

- **Construction workers**

  The region is home to many migrant workers who are on contract for a limited period of time for construction activities. Their migrant status means that their ration cards are registered in their home towns in Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, several 100 miles away. They have no access to the PDS system in Maharashtra. The lockdown ended all construction activities and with that these workers sources of daily wage.

- **Horse riders**

  Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani being tourist destinations many families depend on tourism related activities to earn their livelihood which has now stopped. Grampari provided such horse riders with grocery kits and is exploring how horses can be supported with feed in the coming days.
**Elderly**

Some houses in villages have only elders living in them, with younger members having migrated to metro cities for work. The young members support their families in villages by visiting fortnightly or monthly, buying supplies and providing financial resources. Lockdown has brought on some helplessness to few such elderly families in these villages, with their members stuck in cities and unable to send any help to their elderly family members. While it was relatively easier to identify and reach out to affected fishermen and migrant labor families in villages, it was some alert villagers who helped us identify such elders in villages to send the grocery kits to.

Some of the other individuals and families to whom Grampari did deliver grocery kits include single mothers who worked as sanitation workers in boarding schools in Panchgani and individuals who earned livelihood by offering cleaning services in weekly markets in town.

**Stories from the Field**

Whilst distributing food kits, Vishal Bagade had this story about some of the people who have been helped and their situation.

She was old, and a widow having lost her husband to alcohol. Living with her brother, she is reliant on him for food. Both are very poor and don’t have an aadhar card or ration card.

A young girl, barely 12 years old also received the food kit. Her mother was in a mental hospital, her father too has a mental problem but used to work on the fields. Both her and her brother are smart children. They don’t have any money and the Sarpanch of the village asked if Grampari might help support her education.
The heavy summer rains, pelting hail stones down prevented Vijay Bade to do his delivery of food kits. He went the next day to the Katkari families who he had already given some food to 2 weeks ago. He had hoped to replenish their supplies. However, what he saw devastated him. Their homes were effectively pieces of cloth hung against a stick. He is determined to do something for them.

Ashok More, Grampari’s Para-Hydrogeologist who has worked with Grampari for over 7 years shared in his recent conversation with Jayashree ‘I cannot remember a time in my life ever where I had so much time on my hands. I see, in my village, that children are outside playing a lot. This is not how it used to be before. I think it’s because we can’t buy fried KurKure or biscuits and they have to eat home cooked food. It’s giving them more energy. Never since I was born have I had so much rest.’

**Grampari Distribution System:**

The team have been divided into 3 different regions and they use the 2 grampari vehicles and their own vehicles to buy and deliver groceries.

They now have permits from the government allowing them to buy petrol (which is not available otherwise) and to travel around for these deliveries.

All staff have gloves and masks and are under strict instruction not to leave the vehicles. The food is sorted in bags (one per family) and a family member picks it up.

There is minimal contact between the team and the family member.
Once a week the team has a group call. We have 2 people managing the records and fund raising, the rest of the team are distributing goods and or in contact with various communities and government officials to identify needs.

Public Distribution System (PDS)-Government Intervention:
As we share this report with you, the government support through PDS has started coming in. Those with ration cards are getting wheat and rice as per the norms and families marked Below Poverty Line (BPL) are receiving sugar along with wheat and rice. The families with no ration card still have no possibility to access this support through PDS. Importantly, ration card holders are getting only wheat and rice through PDS, but find themselves unable to make any other purchases due to lack of money, and currently need support to access lentils, vegetables, oil and other items in the grocery kit.

Next Steps

- Grampari is receiving more and more requests from other villages where people are running out of groceries.
- All families that received the first Grocery Kit will be given another kit for the following month.
• Grampari is committed to ensuring that all families that have received support from Grampari will continue to be supported even after the lockdown ends.

• We hope to buy groceries locally in order to enable local farmers to make some money.

• We are exploring possibilities to help these farmers sell their produce.

• We are also working on water supply as we head into the summer months and clean drinking water is in short supply.

We really are as overwhelmed by the support we have received as we are devastated about the lives affected by this global crisis. Our gratitude is to all the donors who have made it possible for us to do this work.