

# From Fear to Hope

## MAITRI response to Covid-19 from mid-March till November 2020.

MAITRI began by providing relief to the most marginalised with basic necessities and now, helping self-employed to help themselves.



In brief, during Covid-19 public health and economic disaster,

### MAITRI

- **Raised Rs 6,96,423 from 84 volunteers, friends and donors.**
- **Mobilised nearly 113 person-days of VOLUNTARY WORK FROM 17 dedicated volunteers**
- **Provided 2,28,394 worth of ration and other basic needs material to the most needy,**
- **Distributed sanitisers of Rs. 14,784 worth of sanitizers,**

### AND

- **Invested 3,06,750 Rs for 21 hawkers, traders and businesspeople who lost their livelihoods during pandemic.**

This was a very different disaster for MAITRI and of course was bitter.

Our own experienced volunteers were down with COVID infection, and so it was very difficult to comprehend and assess the situation correctly in the initial days. It was, even, difficult to reach to the affected because we ourselves were affected. Sad, it was.

In the beginning itself MAITRI realised that, this disaster is unheard of and beyond our own capacities and capabilities. Therefore decided to approach local Government and offered our willingness to work with them. That was before, even the first lockdown announced.

Many volunteers responded to MAITRI appeal positively. Then our team connected themselves with many social mobilisation groups such as Blood Banks and with those who are working to organise vegetable distribution etc. Some of our volunteers went to work with shelter camps of migrant workers. That was very timely and very reassuring.

MAITRI identified few very marginalised communities who needed immediate relief and support. These communities were from Sangola, Jat and Hattid near Solapur. In Karmala, MAITRI mobilised immediate support to nomadic tribes people, too.

In Pune, MAITRI volunteers went and provided ration in Tingarenagar, similarly provided 400 bottles of sanitisers to Railway Police who were in dire need of the same. Some volunteers worked closely with people in the community near Tadiwala Road. During this interaction, MAITRI team felt that once the immediate crisis of medical support is over, there will be a long-term need to help people to help themselves in restoring their livelihood systems, as many poor people lost their jobs during this pandemic.

With continuous interaction, several sessions of discussions, group meetings, field visits, MAITRI volunteers realised that a small sum would make long-term impact in the lives of those who suffered the most in the pandemic. It should be noted that

many of our front-line workers, volunteers were affected with Covid during this difficult times as they were constantly exposed to infection in the community work.

After several deliberations, MAITRI devised a program of economic support to small traders which would take the form of self-help groups, once the internal repayment starts. Nearly 20 such people are supported and once more funds are available as well as their internal circulation gets activated, the program could help more people and this will help in creating sustainable livelihoods for the most needy, poor and marginalised in urban areas.

Of course, during the process in the evolution of the economic program, MAITRI volunteers did not lose their focus on public education regarding public health and empowering community level leadership in strengthening their efforts of building sustainable community level structures.

The process has started. The first step of a long daring



exciting journey has begun.

MAITRI is planning several social support initiatives in TADIWALA road community. Once the pandemic is over those social processes will take shape further.

This economic program is a long term social endeavour, a sincere effort of creating livelihoods mechanism, for which we rely on you. Your support, your contribution, your time, your efforts and your will. How can we go ahead without it?

This is a small report of efforts made by MAITRI volunteers during first few months in the deadly pandemic..

We shall, come back again, soon, with more stories on how MAITRI helped people in creating hope in the most difficult times in our recent past.

We remain, with you, always...

**MAITRI Team of Project Hope during Covid-19.**

1st December 2020, Pune.

For further details send WHATSAPP message to: 9309930010

Or email to: [maitri1997@gmail.com](mailto:maitri1997@gmail.com)

You can also send us your donation.

Domestic donations:

MAITRI (Account No 01491450000152 in HDFC bank, Kothrud branch. IFSC Code HDFC0000149.

Foreign donations:

MAITRI (Account No 01491170000017 in HDFC bank, Kothrud branch. IFSC Code HDFC0000149, SWIFT Code HDFCINBB.

THANK YOU!