



### Providing Immediate Relief to Communities Stranded Amidst the Lockdown for COVID-19

Early evidence indicates that the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 are being borne disproportionately by people living in poverty. For instance, homeless people, who may be unable to safely shelter in a place, are highly exposed to the danger of the virus. People without access to proper sanitation, refugees, migrants, or those who are displaced also stand to suffer disproportionately both from the pandemic and its aftermath – whether due to limited movement or fewer employment opportunities. Many communities also do not have the means to feed themselves because of the lockdown in view of COVID-19. Development Alternatives (DA) is reaching out to such vulnerable communities by distributing rations and other essentials as immediate relief. Due to the lockdown many people have been left homeless or have no access to a kitchen or cooked food. Migrant workers also struggle as they do not have ration cards and have been stranded amid the virus spread.

Development Alternatives in association with Maersk is reaching out to such people by distributing cooked meals to individuals and families as a basic means of survival along with taking care of their sanitisation needs. Relief material in the form of ready-to-eat food was served to individuals and families who do not have a ration card and/or access to a kitchen. A total of 10,132 meals were served to 2,205 individuals (including stranded truck drivers) between 1 April and 21 April 2020 in Delhi and Greater Noida. Meals were supplemented by the distribution of puffed rice, jaggery, and black gram. Along with that, 5,000 packets of biscuits were also distributed.

Additionally, all beneficiaries have been made aware of the coronavirus pandemic through awareness drives. In order to better equip beneficiaries to protect themselves from the virus and contribute to breaking the chain of community spread, protective gears like 2000 masks, 20 liters of sanitisers and soaps were also distributed. Beneficiaries have also been trained in proper handwashing techniques through live demonstrations at the site of food distribution. The children of the waste-picker community

were given tablets of Vitamin C to strengthen their immune system. In some cases, volunteers provided first aid support as well.

In another initiative, DA in collaboration with HUL, local CSO partner Janpahal and the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), Government of Delhi is reached out to communities in need, more significantly to waste picker and other daily wage earners in North-East, West and Shahadara Districts in Delhi from 6 April to 4 May 2020.

A proper process of identification of workers in the said locations, bulk procurement of rations, and distribution was followed. Through this initiative, the team reached out to 1400 families. Additionally, norms of social distancing were followed, the volunteers wore the required PPE and all necessary permission for movement within the city were acquired from the concerned government authorities.