



COVID-19 Relief Intervention in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand

National Mission of Himalayan Studies (NMHS) through a notification, granted approval to Development Alternatives to use the allocated funds for relief intervention activities for COVID-19 hit victims. After receiving the notification DA initiated community support programme around its project location in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in the hard-hitting time for India owing to COVID-19 pandemic.

In Himachal Pradesh, more than hundred migrant workers were provided relief material, who had been stranded away from home in Sundernagar. The workers were identified with support from the district administration; they had no source of income during the pandemic. These workers belong to Punjab, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh living in informal settlements with no ration card. Around 33 families (each family comprising of four to five members) were provided with meal kit which included basic food items like wheat flour (5kg), rice (3kg), pulses (2kg), salt (1kg) and cooking oil (500gm). A local vendor was also approached for manufacturing 100 masks to be distributed among the most vulnerable and affected group of people, such as migrant workers; with an intention that they will be resume work after lockdown. These workers play a key role in the developmental work being carried out in the region.

An audio and visual message were also circulated to educate the community members of Thatta, Lagshal, Bhanuthi and Kalang in Mandi. DA team has also been providing the latest updates and are providing personal support to the community.

In another project location in Uttarakhand, the team conducted an awareness campaign along with Gram Panchayat and youth society of Kamad-Thandi to educate the community on social distancing and necessity of good hygiene practices to be followed during pandemic. The villages were also sanitised with disinfectants to create a safe environment for all.