

COVID-19 Rapid Response

Based on data gathered
till June 30

As the whole world stares at an uncertain future, read how WOTR reached out to 124,238 households, in 657 villages of 26 districts in seven states, in just three months.





Distribution of different varieties of seeds for kitchen gardens across six villages of Gunupur cluster, Odisha

Watershed Organisation Trust has been at the forefront, helping vulnerable communities in rural India cope with the aftermath of COVID-19.

As per latest data, at least 24,000 lives have been lost to the COVID-19 pandemic in India, with over 900,000 cases and counting. Globally, there are over 13 million cases and 573,000-odd deaths.

WOTR is building a safety net in seven states, so that the farmers' lifelines remain insulated in the crucial kharif months. The fragile socioeconomic fabric of rural India should be salvaged before it leads to a collapse of disastrous proportions.

As the monsoon advances, every farmer is anxious. He/she needs to ensure the kharif cycle isn't broken — making sure that the fields are sown and planned activities go ahead. WOTR's regional resource centres are working 24/7 along with community-based organisations, gram panchayats, self-help groups and local civic bodies, providing support.

OUTREACH



A community meeting in progress led by WOTR on agro-horticulture plantations in Odisha

*WOTR is supporting communities in its project areas to adapt to the post-COVID-19 scenario. We have reached out to **124,238** households in **657** villages of **26** districts in seven states as per data available on June 30.*

In Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, WOTR staff is working hard to help the rural communities pull through the fallout of the pandemic. With the inflow of migrants to their native villages, the future, however uncertain with mounting challenges, with the help of our friends and donor partners, we are filling in the gaps wherever required, so that rural communities that constitute the lifeline of this nation, weather this catastrophe of unprecedented scale through and through.

COMMUNICATIONS / AWARENESS



Community meeting with 0-5-year-old children's mothers to encourage them for active participation in the Growth Monitoring Programme

2,565 awareness sessions, organised by WOTR, impacted 157,827 individuals, according to data gathered until June 30.

28 training sessions were attended by 1,344 participants of which 681 were women. 216 gram panchayat members, 364 Village Development/Health Committee members, 402 SHG members, 110 community members, 192 Wasundhara Sevikas/Sevaks and 28 government officers attended the training sessions.

Recent advances in communication technology are no doubt pathbreaking. However, if used with malicious intent, it can harm vulnerable communities, especially in the time of a deadly disease we know little about. Increasingly, rumours and quackery gain popularity on online communication platforms that can adversely affect the social fabric of vulnerable communities. WOTR's awareness drives are aimed at making the rural populace understand the dangers posed by such unverified information circulated online regarding COVID-19. It is of utmost importance that through these sessions, the rural folk are provided a better sense of community, resilience and confidence to stay sharp and focused in these tumultuous times.

EMPLOYMENT / LIVELIHOOD



Work on a gabion structure in progress in Karanji cluster, Maharashtra

*WOTR in its capacity, and through MNREGA, generated **338,938** labour days for **20,008** labourers in the last three months. **12,160** families have benefitted from labour since April 1. WOTR-MNREGA spent Rs **7.64** cr, post April 1, in wages.*

By now, millions of migrant families from the cities have arrived in their native villages. Lack of data or not, at the moment, there is no significant rise in the coronavirus cases in rural India. However, it would only be wise to brace for a peak as the majority of those returned to the villages were not screened for infections and probably have not spent time in quarantine after their arrival. Moreover, there is a larger responsibility for the administration, civil society organizations and NGOs to provide adequate support for the returned individuals in terms of livelihood — providing employment opportunities and such. WOTR is creating job opportunities in villages where our projects are underway. We hope, in the near future, we can restore rural life back to normal in our project areas, as it was pre-COVID-19.

PROVIDING JOBS IN A REMOTE TRIBAL VILLAGE



Villagers from Kinteda helping with boulder arrangement

Due to COVID-19, the villagers were deprived of labour for two months. During Unlock 1.0, they were unable to find work.

Kinteda is a small tribal hamlet in the Kulusing gram panchayat of Gunupur block in Rayagada district, Odisha. The last seven kilometres to reach the village is a ghat road meandering to a hilltop which is inaccessible during the monsoon. The village is at a height of 396 m above sea level. There are 56 vulnerable tribal households here. The average agricultural land holding of each household is just 0.4 hectare. The main source of income is labour.



Work in progress near a Loose Boulder Structure

*WOTR provided employment to **56** villagers, with Rs **74,052** distributed among **56** vulnerable households in daily wages.*

WOTR surveyed the site for potential watershed development and drafted a net plan for two patches where the surface water runoff velocity was high. Further on, it was decided to construct nine Continuous Contour Trenches (CCT) along the hillock. During flash floods, eroding soil from the hill gets deposited in the agricultural land, resulting in crop loss. Stone bunds and Loose Boulder Structures (LBS) in the gullies were constructed involving Kinteda villagers, as outlets for the runoff water without affecting the soil. This will conserve 1,345 cubic metre runoff water and obstruct flash floods and erosion of topsoil from the ridge area to the valley where there are paddy fields. The runoff will be caught by the CCT. The paddy fields downstream will have sufficient irrigation through percolation. This is a long term benefit subject to maintenance of the CCT. The work was completed on June 6.

RETURN OF THE MIGRANTS



WOTR staff conducting COVID migration survey at Tikirsing village, Rayagada district, Odisha

*As of June 30, **18,264** returning migrants have arrived in WOTR's project villages of which **3,964** are in quarantine. We have provided support for **962** migrant returnees as of June 30.*

At the moment, the vast majority of the migrants in our cities have arrived in their native villages. So far, reports do not suggest there is a marked rise in coronavirus cases in rural India. Given the poor health infrastructure in these parts, there may, in fact, be a rise in cases going forward. Besides, providing livelihood means to the migrant returnees - assimilating them to work related to kharif agricultural activities, or to work in our own project areas - has been a top priority for WOTR.

CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE



System of Rice Intensification (SRI) transplantation in progress in Anthwar village, Telangana

*As per data gathered up to June 30, we have helped **5775** farmers plant **42,712** trees and issued advisories to **13,457** farmers. **4,469** farmers are registered in the FarmPrecise app — our mobile application dedicated to farmers across rural India.*

WOTR has been working to make communities resilient to the climate crisis in its project areas. Ecosystems-based adaptation is a key component of our work with projects already underway. We have been helping farmers adopt sustainable practices, so that, in time, they become resilient to extreme weather events triggered by the climate crisis — a regular occurrence in recent times.

Here is a list of our pre-kharif activities:

- System of Crop Intensification (SCI) in 2,748 acres of 4,312 farmers
- System of Rice Intensification (SRI) for paddy in 193 acres of 341 farmers
- 9,918 farmers have adopted organic formulations. 1,689 farmers benefitted from composting.
- 1,354 famers adopted green manuring
- 2,649 farmers received seeds
- 1,109 acres under micro irrigation

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



Prevention measures and symptoms of COVID-19 on display in a wall painting

Up to June 30, WOTR distributed medicines to **16,000** individuals across the state of Maharashtra.

WOTR provided Zenplex capsules, Walcium D3 500 (Calcium 500), Ferrous Sulfate and Ivermectin 12 mg — exclusively for those placed in quarantine in Maharashtra. The medicines were prescribed with proper guidance and in consultation with medical practitioners.

DISTRIBUTION OF ESSENTIALS



Distribution of medicines in Akole, Maharashtra

*WOTR is distributing grocery kits, sanitary kits and protective face masks in project villages. **341** tailors made **86,896** face masks. **97,243** individuals received face masks. Till date, WOTR has distributed **8,613** grocery kits, **41,175** sanitary kits and **86,896** face masks across its seven project states apart from facilitating PDS to **6,513** households.*

Gradually, the broken supply chains across the country are being brought back to normal wherever possible sans in the hotspots and containment zones. In rural India, the lives of small traders, smallholder farmers, migrant returnees, daily wagers, their families – children, women and the elderly, depend on the revival of economic activity, for which the supply chains are crucial. In this context, help in interim relief is a primary necessity.

SUSTENANCE SUPPORT



Promotion of organic formulation at a papaya orchard in Asmatapur village, Telangana

*As of June 30, 2020, **24,671** households have benefitted from **14,244** kitchen gardens and **562** multilayer farms. **12,884** quintals of agricultural produce was sold, **1,913** families received Rs **2.28** cr from the sale facilitated by WOTR.*

Multilayer farms and kitchen gardens are two major initiatives of WOTR. This is part of our programme to build resilience among rural communities to the unfolding climate crisis. Though both the activities kickstarted much before the onset of the pandemic, now, multilayer farms and kitchen gardens are proving to be a blessing in disguise in the time of penury.

COMMUNITY MOBILISATION



A women's group meeting in progress in Akole, Maharashtra

*By June 30, 2020, WOTR mobilised **3,265** active personnel on the ground of which **2,003** were women.*

Wasundhara Sevaks/Sevikas, Panlot Sevaks, Jal Sevaks and Mahila Pravartaks, who are our village-level staff, along with Village Development Committees and Self Help Groups (SHGs) are together helping communities to adapt to the post-COVID-19 situation. For many, it is as though life as they knew it has ended. They have to scrape together what they have and start anew. Our ground staff are providing whatever help the communities require to tide over the massive losses suffered by the villagers. They are provided with lifesaving hygiene essentials, critical awareness campaigns, protective face masks and sanitisation kits, besides essential supplies.

ఉపాధి కూలీలకు మాస్కుల పంపిణీ

నారాయణపేట రూరల్ : వాటర్షెడ్ సంస్థ ఆధ్వర్యంలో ఉపాధి హామీ కూలీలకు జిడ్చి సీతావో కాళిందిని బుధవారం మాస్కులు పంపిణీ చేశారు. సింగారం గ్రామంలో కరోనాపై ఉపాధి కూలీలకు జిడ్చి సీతావో అవగాహన కల్పించారు. ప్రతి ఒక్కరూ బోతిక దూరం పాటిస్తూ మాస్కులు ధరించాలి అని సందర్భంగా ముఖ్యమంత్రి నరేంద్ర మోదీల మాస్కులను పంపిణీ చేయనున్నట్లు ఆమె తెలిపారు. అమ్యోరెడ్డిపల్లిలో ఏపీటీ సరళ, శాసనపల్లిలో ఏపీవో జయమణి ఉపాధి హామీ కార్యక్రమం నిర్వహించారు. కార్యక్రమంలో సింగారం సర్పంచ్ జయంతి, వాటర్ షెడ్ సంస్థ సిబ్బంది రవిప్రసాద్, వర్మన్, పంచాయతీ కార్యదర్శులు, ఎఫ్ఏఐలు పాల్గొన్నారు.



సింగారంలో కూలీలకు అవగాహన కల్పిస్తున్న జిడ్చి సీతావో కాళిందిని

ముమ్మారు మండలంలో..
ముమ్మారు : మండలంలోని పల్లిగడ్డకండాలో ఉపాధి

మాస్కులు పంపిణీ చేశారు. లోక లోకాకూ కరోనా వైర ఆధిక్యమవుతుండటంతో ప్రతి ఒక్కరూ బోతిక దూర పాటిస్తూ పనులు చేసుకోవాలని ఆమె సూచించారు. ప్రతి ఒక్కరూ మాస్కులు ధరించి కరోనా వైరస్ నివారణకు సహకరించాలని కోరారు. కార్యక్రమంలో అనిల్ నాయుడు

WOTR's initiatives often appear in the regional media. 30 news articles have appeared in local newspapers and 11 news stories in local television networks as of June 30.

ఉపాధి కూలీలకు మాస్కుల పంపిణీ

సింగారం (నారాయణపేట గ్రామీణం), న్యూనటుడ్ : మండలంలోని సింగారంలో ఉపాధి పనులు చేస్తున్న కూలీలకు బుధవారం జిడ్చి సీతావో కాళిందిని మాస్కులను పంపిణీ చేశారు. కరోనా వైరస్ పై ఉపాధి కూలీలందరికీ వాటర్ షెడ్ సంస్థ ఆధ్వర్యంలో మాస్కుల పంపిణీ కార్యక్రమాన్ని నిర్వహించారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా ఆమె మాట్లాడుతూ, ముఖ్యమంత్రి నరేంద్ర మోదీల మాస్కులను పంపిణీ చేయనున్నట్లు ఆమె తెలిపారు. అమ్యోరెడ్డిపల్లిలో ఏపీటీ సరళ, శాసనపల్లిలో ఏపీవో జయమణి ఉపాధి హామీ కార్యక్రమం నిర్వహించారు. కార్యక్రమంలో సింగారం సర్పంచ్ జయంతి, వాటర్ షెడ్ సంస్థ సిబ్బంది రవిప్రసాద్, వర్మన్, పంచాయతీ కార్యదర్శులు, ఎఫ్ఏఐలు పాల్గొన్నారు.



వరంబి, శాసనసభ సభ్యుల సభ్యులందరికీ దర్శి రామవేంకటేశ్వర్లు ముదనమోహన్ రెడ్డి త్రిలో లోగులకు ఆ ఎంపీ డా.రంజిత్ కుమార్ ఇచ్చారు. పలువురికి మాస్కులు పంపిణీ చేసిన సందర్భంగా, సర్పంచ్ జయంతి, వాటర్ షెడ్ సంస్థ సిబ్బంది రవిప్రసాద్, వర్మన్, పంచాయతీ కార్యదర్శులు, ఎఫ్ఏఐలు పాల్గొన్నారు.

ముమ్మారు మండలంలో..
ముమ్మారు : మండలంలోని పల్లిగడ్డకండాలో ఉపాధి

The screenshot shows the India Waterportal website interface. The main article is titled "Battling Covid-19 in Jharkhand" by Sujaya Dangwar and Shyna Dudge. The article text reads: "While tribals in Jharkhand continue to struggle with the impacts of Covid-19, WOTR has been on the frontlines helping them cope with poverty and hunger." Below the article is a photograph showing a group of people, including children, standing around a table where they are receiving supplies, likely food or medicine, in a rural setting. The website also features a sidebar with "All Articles" and "Related Articles" sections.

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