

# Aavishkaar Foundation's Facility for Humane Action

By



**Grant Facility Report: April – June 2020**

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16 Grantee  
Partners  
Supported



30+ Districts  
Supported in  
10 States of India



# IMPACT GENERATED

Allocation made by the Grant Facility:

INR 2.00 Crore

Duration of the program: 12 weeks



3,71,991  
Meals Provided to  
31,455 Beneficiaries



11 Medical Organizations  
Supported with 4,750 PPE  
Kits, 31,580 Masks & other  
Medical Equipment.

## What got us started

In the past few months, as COVID-19 ravaged the world, governments everywhere instituted lockdown procedures. In India, we experienced one of the strictest lockdowns of any country, which resulted in millions of daily wage workers left jobless and stranded, with little or no access to basic necessities. The situation was particularly acute in States like Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and in urban slums of large metropolitan cities, as these areas represent a high proportion of the migrant workforce and daily wage earners. The other pressing issue we were faced with was the lack of adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for frontline workers, especially those working at low-income and government hospitals.

**Aavishkaar Foundation's Facility for Humane Action** was set up on the 24th of March, 2020 under the aegis of Aavishkaar Foundation just days after the lockdown was announced, in order to meet these urgent needs.

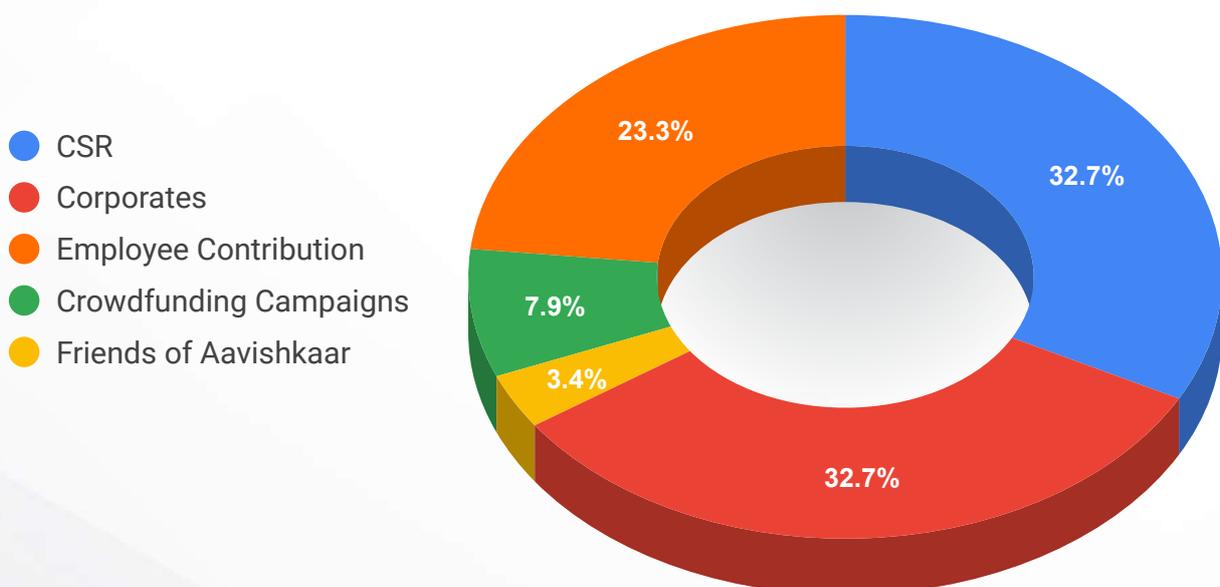
## What was our mandate

Aavishkaar Group, a pioneer in India's impact investing space with over US\$ 1.2 billion of AUM, intends to use the entrepreneurial spirit of all humans to bridge the opportunity gap for the emerging 3 Billion. When faced with the most calamitous challenge the world has seen in recent decades, we felt duty-bound to step forward and tackle some of the most critical issues that the pandemic presented.

Embedded within the fold of the Aavishkaar Foundation, the "Aavishkaar Group Facility for Humane Actions" was Aavishkaar Group's response to COVID-19. The Grant Facility was funded by CSR budgets and funds from the Aavishkaar Group companies, with significant voluntary salary contributions from the companies' employees. This was bolstered by generous donations from friends of Aavishkaar and their networks, and with funds raised through the Facility's month-long matching grant crowdfunding campaign.

Over 3 months, the Facility aggregated a sum of about INR 2.29 Crore (~USD 3,05,000) to support carefully selected NGO delivery partners.

### Source of Funding for Grant Facility (March - June, 2020)



## The grant facility identified five key areas to direct funds to:

1. Equip government doctors of the poorest districts with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
2. Partner with local institutions in low income states for food delivery to fight hunger
3. Align & cooperate with other facilities & fund raised to promote all-round fight with Covid-19
4. Align with government initiatives
5. Support the extremely vulnerable and poor, such as rag pickers, microfinance borrowers, low income farmers, employees of MSME, and those who are employed in the supply chain of our investee companies

## How we identified our grantee-partners

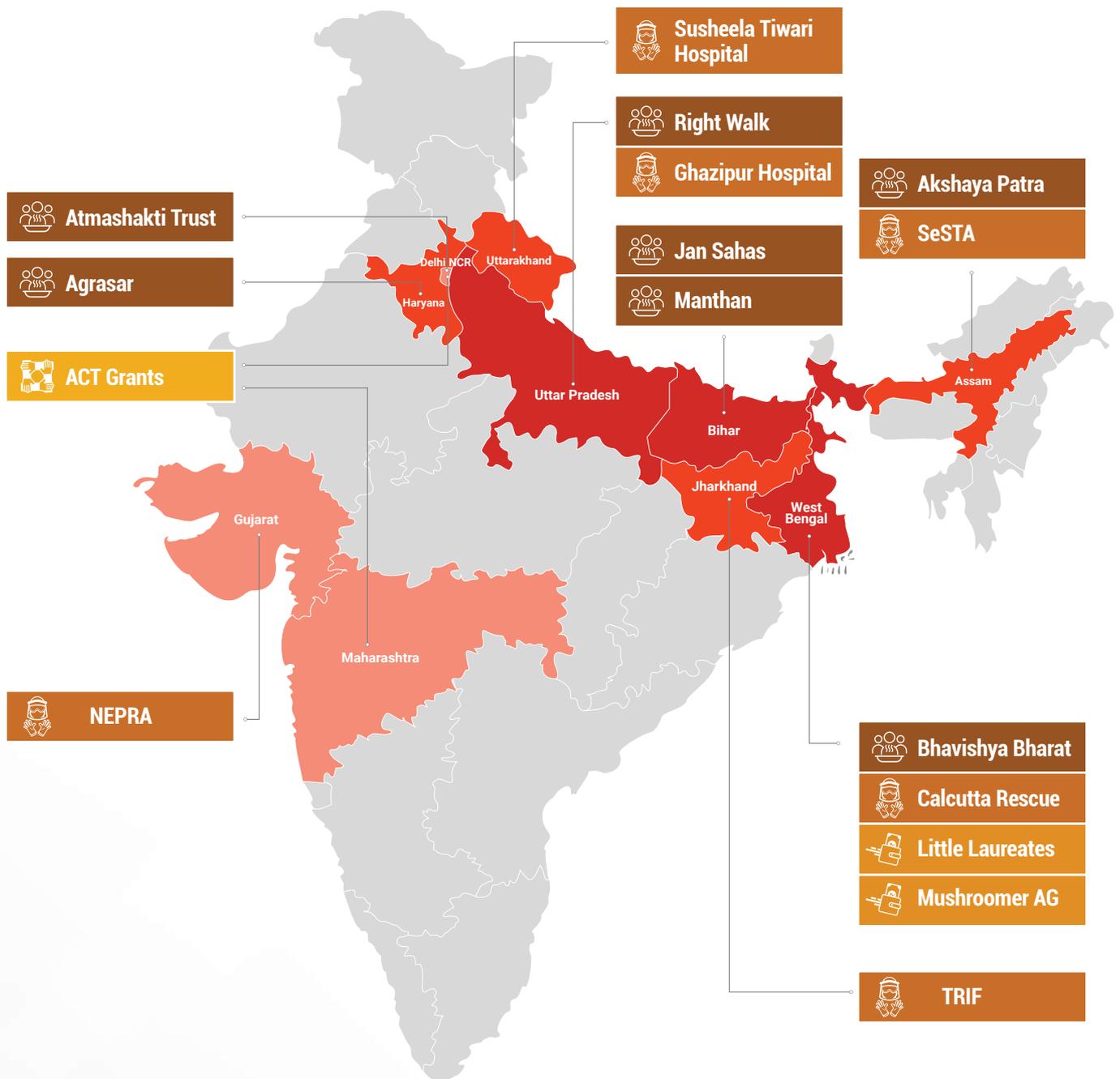
Building an agile and standardised process towards selection and fund utilization allowed us to steadily track all grant requests, and monitor utilization activities reported by the grantees to assess our overall impact. Employees across the Group united their efforts to build an operational team to invite, evaluate, and monitor some of the most impactful aid initiatives across India. We set up a three-step evaluation process that included employee volunteer team assessments and credibility checks, oversight by Aavishkaar’s Group Executive Council (GEC<sup>1</sup>) and final approval by esteemed and well-informed members of the Facility Task Force (FTF<sup>2</sup>).

Once identified, we steadily tracked all grantee-partners and maintained regular communication to assess additional requirements and operational challenges. We also standardized our monitoring process and data systems to keep a close eye on the grant utilization.



<sup>1</sup> Comprising of the Group Chairman and CEO, Group COO and CEOs of all the Aavishkaar Group Companies

<sup>2</sup> Chaired by Mr U. K Sinha (Independent Direct, Aavishkaar Group HoldCo), Ambassador Gurjit Singh (Independent Director, Intelicap), Mr. Sumantra Banerjee (Independent Director, Arohan), Mr. Rakesh Rewari (Independent Director, Intellegrow), Ms. Matangi Gowrishankar (Independent Director, Intelicap/Arohan), Mr. Arun Diaz (Director, Aavishkaar Foundation and Mrs.Swati Rai (Director, Aavishkaar Foundation)



### Areas Of Intervention

 <b>Food Supplies &amp; Ration</b>	 <b>PPE Kits &amp; Medical Supplies</b>
 <b>Direct Benefit Transfer</b>	 <b>Partnership Support</b>

## Whom we partnered with and what they accomplished

Our focus was to ensure that the Facility helped the most socio-economically vulnerable people in the poorest states of India, including Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam and West Bengal. By partnering with select non-profit organisations we focused on directly supporting the most affected populations, including migrant laborers, manual scavengers, daily wage earners, and frontline healthcare workers. We chose to work with smaller nonprofits embedded in historically underserved communities that lack access to large donations, and where grant funds are almost completely directed to beneficiaries.

Our appeal to our external stakeholders and the entire ecosystem at large, was met with an overwhelming response, as we received more than 300 proposals from organizations involved at the ground level in tackling this crisis. We chose 16 organizations based on their track-record in crisis response, access and acceptance in the communities they proposed to serve, capacity to engage with local stakeholders, and effective plans for the delivery of aid. Another important factor we took into consideration was the grantees' emphasis on safety during the distribution process through social distancing and other prescribed guidelines.



## Partner Organizations and their Impact



### ACT Grants

Supported R&D for innovative solutions to tackle coronavirus. Two of Aavishkaar's senior team members offered expertise and bandwidth towards facilitating the implementation of ACT Fund solutions for the Maharashtra and Delhi governments.



### Agrasar

Provided 4,55,850 meals to 5,065 individuals in seven low-income settlements in Gurugram, Haryana, who lost their livelihoods as daily wage and domestic workers.



### Akshaya Patra

Provided 78,204 meals to 1,900 beneficiaries in Amingaon district of Guwahati, Assam through food rations as well as pre-cooked meals for those who did not have access to cooking equipment.

Atmashakti  
Trust

### Atmashakti

Provided 1200 families, mostly migrant labourers, with rations for 135,400 meals in Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida and Loni in Uttar Pradesh and NCR.



### Bhavishya Bharat

Provided 650 families of landless tribal and lower-caste people with rations for 97,500 meals in Itapura and Panchgachiya villages of West Bengal.



### Calcutta Rescue

Provide two months of adequate PPE to its frontline staff - 235 PPE kits, 17,635 disposable aprons, caps, and gloves, and 30 large soaps & sanitizers at four clinics that serve those who cannot afford even basic healthcare in Kolkata.

Ghazipur  
State Hospital

### Ghazipur State Hospital

Provided 15-day supply of PPE for frontline workers when the Ghazipur State Hospital in Uttar Pradesh saw a sudden surge in cases. This included 600 PPE kits, 5850 masks, 500 soaps & sanitizers, and 5000 disposable gloves, caps, and aprons.



### Jan Sahas Social Development Society

Provided 2750 individuals who worked as manual scavengers, or are survivors of sexual violence or former bonded laborers, with rations for a total of 1,03,125 meals in Patna, Rohtas, Jehanabad, and Nalanda districts of Bihar.

## Partner Organizations and their Impact



### Little Laureates

Provided direct cash transfers to 575 low-income early childhood educators and carers, who cumulatively support 1660 dependents in West Bengal.

### Manthan

### Manthan

Provided 1000 Musahar (tribal Dalit) families with rations for 2,10,000 meals in the hard-to-reach blocks of Phulwari Sharif, Danapur, and Bihitta in Patna, Bihar.

### Mushroomer AG

### Mushroomer AG

Provided 30 visually impaired individuals who work as mushroom farmers with livelihood stipends for three months in West Bengal.



### Nepra Resource Management

Provided 750 waste pickers, classified as frontline workers, with PPE kits and soaps & sanitizers in Gujarat.



### RightWalk Foundation

Provided 6,225 individuals (1013 families) whose main breadwinners are daily wage workers with rations for 2,80,125 meals in phase 1, and 3,000 individuals with 90,000 meals in phase 2 to low-income families in districts of Lucknow.



### Seven Sisters Development Assistance

Provided 500 families headed by women or senior citizens in far-out villages with rations for a total of 45,000 meals in the Nalbari district in Assam.



### Susheela Tiwari Hospital

Provided 1000 PPE kits, 1500 masks, and 325 catheters to frontline hospital staff in the Haldwani region of Uttarakhand.



### Transform Rural India Foundation

Provided 1500 PPE kits, 22,500 masks, and 15,000 disposable gloves, caps, and aprons in phase 1 and 165 PPE kits, 1500 masks, and 3000 disposable gloves in phase 2 to government hospitals in five of the poorest districts – Simdega, Garwah, Chatra, Khunti and Ramgarh - of Jharkhand.

## What we learned

By mid-June, we successfully concluded the first phase of the Grant Facility. We are very grateful to all those within the Aavishkaar network who came forward and supported this endeavor with their time, guidance, and resources, especially the Group's Executive Committee and Facility Task Force whose leadership and guidance enabled us to make quick and deliberate decisions. We are equally grateful to our colleagues at the Aavishkaar Group companies who volunteered their time despite all their personal and professional commitments. We are deeply appreciative to our benevolent donors who stepped up in this time of need. Above all, we are thankful and proud of our grantee-partners who led the mission from the front and worked tirelessly to ensure that help was provided to those who needed it the most, in a safe and timely manner.

**In this process, we have learned some important lessons:**

- 1** **The power of communication:** Consistent engagement in the form of bi-weekly or weekly check-ins with our grantee partners helped us assess the evolving situation on the ground, enabling us to effectively support the work of our partners. The Facility's crowdfunding campaign initiative emerged out of these conversations. Within one month, more than 197 Donors engaged with our Crowdfunding platform.
- 2** **The power of networks:** When the crisis began, suppliers for PPE were few and far between, and the price of these items was high. Government hospital's capacity and bandwidth to quickly find solutions was strained. As a result, we utilized our networks to source reliable and affordable PPE supplies to assist our hospital grantees. Similarly, we used our platform to rapidly build and transfer learning and good practices across projects such as sourcing of ration supplies and safe distribution practice in the communities.
- 3** **The power of the collective:** The overall contribution we were able to direct to our Grantees was clearly a result of timely support that we received from multiple stakeholders across geographies and expertise. It has proved to us that coming together in times of need creates a special kind of bond that can change lives and our world at large.

**We hope to continue this inspiring and purpose-driven work through future endeavors of the Aavishkaar Foundation.**

## Annexure : Grantees - Scope and Process of Work



### ACT Grants

The Aavishkaar Grant Facility for Humane Action contributed both funds and expertise to the ACT Fund, a top INR 100CR (\$13M) grant fund created by India's start-up community to give wings to ideas that could combat Covid-19 with immediate impact. Two of Aavishkaar's senior team members are facilitating the implementation of ACT Fund solutions for the Maharashtra state and Delhi governments.

Learn more about ACT Fund at [www.actgrants.in](http://www.actgrants.in)



### Akshaya Patra

Akshaya Patra is a renowned Indian NGO whose mission is to serve over 1.8 million children with mid-day school meals everyday. As hunger was one of the biggest challenges low-income and daily wage-earner populations faced in the midst of the pandemic, Akshaya Patra put all its resources into providing cooked meals and food ration packages to those who needed it the most.

Learn more about Akshaya Patra at [www.akshayapatra.org](http://www.akshayapatra.org)



### Agrasar

Agrasar has been working to improve conditions for low-income migrant-worker families through its Migrant Support Centers since 2013. Over the past few months, they have provided basic necessities to migrants who lost their daily wages due to the pandemic in seven low-income settlements across Gurugram, Haryana. Agrasar ensured that it collaborated with the Gurugram local administration and Municipal Counsellors, and agencies like Red Cross and to ensure the effective and relevant aid delivery.

Learn more about Agrasar at [www.agrasar.org](http://www.agrasar.org)



### Atmashakti Trust

Atmashakti Trust has been working in Odisha and Uttar Pradesh since 2009, with the broad objectives of creating awareness of constitutional rights and entitlements amongst the most marginalized rural, tribal and Dalit communities, as well as urban slum dwellers. The Trust has also provided relief in areas hit hardest by cyclone Fani in 2019 and Cyclone Phailin 2013. Atmashakti joined this Facility's crowdfunding platform to raise funds to support urban slum dwellers in Uttar Pradesh.

Learn more about Atmashakti Trust at [www.atmashaktitrust.com](http://www.atmashaktitrust.com)

## Bhavishya Bharat

Bhavishya Bharat supports health and livelihood initiatives affecting over four lakh individuals across five states of India. The NGO has previously been involved in earthquake relief in Sikkim. Most families Bhavishya Bharat supported during the lockdown are from Scheduled Castes and Tribes and landless wage earners. These beneficiaries live in Itapora and Panchgachiya villages of West Bengal. The NGO also prioritized food distribution to people with disabilities.

Learn more about Bhavishya Bharat at [www.bhavishyabharat.in](http://www.bhavishyabharat.in)



## Ghazipur State Hospital, Uttar Pradesh

The Ghazipur State hospital is a designated COVID-19 hospital that has 200 beds and a 30-bed nursing home. Ghazipur district covers a total population of 37 lakhs and the hospital was testing ~50 people daily at the time of this grant. They were expecting this number significantly to increase due to entry of Tablighi Zamatis and incoming migrant laborers, and requested a 15-day supply of PPE for its staff.



## Calcutta Rescue

Calcutta Rescue (CR) is an NGO that provides free healthcare and education to tens of thousands of people living on the streets and in the slums of Kolkata. The NGO runs four fixed and two mobile medical OPD units. The fixed units serve approximately 130 patients per day with patients coming in from as far as Jharkhand and the Sunderbans. The mobile units serve two slum communities in Kolkata and cater to approximately 70 patients per day. As the corona virus broke out in India, the organization needed higher amounts of PPE to ensure the safety of its staff and patients.

Learn more about Calcutta Rescue at [www.calcuttarescue.org](http://www.calcuttarescue.org)



## Jan Sahas Social Development Society

Jan Sahas has been working in Bihar since 2011 with survivors of sexual violence and bonded labours. The organization joined this Facility's crowdfunding campaign. Jan Sahas provided these ration kits to families whose main breadwinners are migrant labourers, manual scavenging, survivors of sexual violence, and former bonded labours, who all lost their daily wage due to the COVID-19 lockdown. The intervention supported families in Bihar - the state to which the most number of migrant workers returned to because of the lockdown.

Learn more about Jan Sahas at [www.jansahasindia.org](http://www.jansahasindia.org)

### Little Laureates

Little Laureates preschools is an organization that provides high-quality, affordable primary education in West Bengal. The company provides care attendant and educator-level jobs to low-income individuals. As the lockdown began during the yearly enrollment cycle, affecting the organization's primary revenue stream, Little Laureates requested this grant Facility for support with three months of salaries for their low-income staff members.

Learn more about Little Laureates at [www.littlelaureates.com](http://www.littlelaureates.com)



### Mushroomer AG

Mushroomer AG is a social enterprise that works to provide job and livelihood opportunities to low-income visually impaired individuals. Due to the lockdown, they were unable to engage in their revenue generating activities and support their differently abled staff members. Given the extreme vulnerability of these individuals, this Facility provided a monthly stipend to support these individuals.

Learn more about Mushroomer AG at [www.mushroomers.in](http://www.mushroomers.in)



### Manthan - Patna Jesuits Society

Manthan is a 40-year-old voluntary organization that works with the Musahar community in rural Bihar. Mushars are tribal Dalits who have historically been denied access to opportunity and suffer from abject poverty and landlessness. The Musahars Manthan identified for providing support, work as daily wage workers, construction workers, road workers, road cleaners, and rag pickers.

Learn more about Manthan at [www.patnajesuits.org](http://www.patnajesuits.org)



### Nepra Resource Management

Nepra is a dry waste management and recycling company. As part of its operations, Nepra buys dry waste from informal waste pickers. Waste-picking ranks lowest in the hierarchy of urban informal occupations; Illiterate, unskilled persons, migrants, usually those lowest in the caste hierarchy predominantly work as waste pickers. The organization provides these waste pickers with fair prices and immediate cash payments. By creating an organized waste collecting supply chain and eliminating middlemen, Nepra is able to offer stable and higher incomes to this segment. Through a grant from this Facility, Nepra was able to provide waste pickers it works with much needed PPE.

Learn more about Nepra at [www.nepra.co.in](http://www.nepra.co.in)



### RightWalk Foundation

RightWalk has championed the improvement of the Right to Education policy in India. It was during their RTE community outreach that RightWalk was asked for assistance by several families and communities unable to make ends meet due to closures during the lockdown. The families RightWalk provided relief aid to earn less than INR 8,350 per month, and are engaged as daily wage labourers, agricultural labourers, informal shopkeepers, and rickshaw drivers. In addition, they also sensitized these individuals on the need, and ways, to maintain hygiene and social distancing.

Learn more about RightWalk Foundation at [www.rightwalk.org](http://www.rightwalk.org)



### Seven Sisters Development Assistance

Award winning NGO Seven Sisters Development Assistance (SeSTA) works with more than 32,000 families in 470 far flung villages in Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. The organization was nominated by the NITI Ayog for relief measures in the North East of India after the lockdown was announced. To ensure effective delivery of aid, SeSTA identified the most vulnerable families (women led households, landless-

families, senior citizens) within the Nalbari district in Assam.

Learn more about SeSTA at [www.sesta.org](http://www.sesta.org)



### Susheela Tiwari Hospital, Haldwani

Government Medical College and its attached hospital, Susheela Tiwari Hospital is a designated COVID-19 hospital with 650 beds and 55 additional ventilated ICU beds. Despite being a designated COVID Facility the hospital's staff significantly lacked adequate PPE, and so doctors of the hospital reached out to this Facility for support.



### Transform Rural India Foundation

Transform Rural India (TRIF), an initiative of the Tata Trusts is a civil society initiative to bring about a paradigm change in the key indicators of rural life. Through a grant from this Facility, they supported low-income, under-resourced government hospitals in Jharkhand. In addition, TRIF also joined this Facility's crowdfunding campaign to raise a second round of funding.

Learn more about TRIF at [www.trif.in](http://www.trif.in)