

## **NRSP-SUCCESS Response to Coronavirus COVID-19**

As the outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 continues in the country, the National Rural Support Programme in Sindh province is concerned from the beginning about the impact it could have on the most vulnerable and poor rural communities in Sindh province. Drawing from substantial knowledge and lessons learned from past diseases outbreaks, NRSP Hyderabad Region has taken the following measures to protect the health as well as ensure food security of the poor communities.

### **1. Preparation of Facemasks Through TVST Beneficiaries**

Since the outbreak of pandemic coronavirus (COVID-19) in Sindh province, NRSP has mobilised and supported beneficiaries of the TVST component of the SUCCESS Programme in the preparation of facemasks approved and recommended by the local health authorities to ensure supply of the facemasks to meet the increased demand of the communities. As of 06 April 2020, a total 1,513 facemasks have been prepared by the TVST beneficiaries.

### **2. Registration of Poor Households with Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme**

Keeping in view the negative impacts of the COVID-19 on the means of the livelihoods of the people particularly daily wage laborers and poor populations, Government of Pakistan has announced **Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme** which will help 12 million families by providing them financial assistance of Rs. 12,000 per family and the total budget approved for this initiative is Rs. 144 billion. Therefore, NRSP has engaged its staff and Community Resource Persons (CRPs) in registration of poor households with the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme. As of 06 April 2020, a total 6,515 households have been facilitated for registration with the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme.

### **3. Linkages with District Administration and Local Philanthropists for Distribution of Masks, Soaps, Hand Sanitizers and Food Ration**

Benefiting from the already established linkages among community institutions (Cos/VOs/LSOs) fostered under the EU funded SUCCESS Programme and government departments through Joint Development Committees (JDCs), NRSP staff and CRPs have mobilised and facilitated community institutions to get access to government departments for mask, soaps, hand sanitizers and ration. As of 06 April 2020, a total 1,404 facemasks, 10,414 soaps, and 70 hand sanitizers have been received through linkages with government departments by LSOs. Moreover, 23,743 poor and poorest households provided in-kind support i.e. essential food

items, soaps, sanitizers, etc. and 23 poor and poorest households received cash-grants of Rs. 23,000 for emergency use, consumptions and purchase of essential food and non-food items.

#### **4. Community Awareness for Preparedness for COVID-19 outbreak by Community Resource Persons (CRPs)**

NRSP through Community Resource Persons (CRPs) has started awareness and sensitization campaigns on WHO and Government of Sindh approved and recommended messages on novel coronavirus COVID-19 in the programme districts through printing, distribution, and announcements of pamphlets, banners, and audio messages using different platforms and collaboration with the district administration and local government authorities. As of 06 April, 2020, a total 4,165 households provided awareness on COVID-19 outbreak and preventive measures through CRPs, mobile loudspeakers, announcements in local mosques and other local methods and a total 1,165 households provided printed IEC material (pamphlets, brochures, banners and posters) for community awareness raising and community engagement in mitigating the spread of coronavirus.

#### **5. LSOs and Government of Sindh Collaboration for Relief Activities**

Building on the already established collaboration among government departments and community institutions in the SUCCESS Programme districts, On March 26, 2020, Government of Sindh issued notification for constitution of COVID-19 Relief Committees at Union Council level headed by Deputy Commissioner and represented by Chairman Union Council, Chairman Zakat Committee, Notable of Respective UC, Representative of prominent NGO, Prominent Female Social Worker. In response to the notification, NRSP facilitated coordination among community institutions with respective DCs and provided a list of SUCCESS Programme LSOs representatives for nomination to the committee as prominent 'Social Workers'/NGO Representative to identify and ensure the transparent distribution of food item among deserving families. As of 06 April, 2020, in accordance with the notification issued by the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Sindh for constitution of COVID-19 Relief Committee at Union Council level, a total 62 LSOs representatives and 06 NRSP staff members have been included in the COVID-19 Relief Committees. These LSO have been formed under the EU funded SUCCESS programme. These members of the committees will facilitate and support the government of Sindh in relief activities in their respective Union Councils.

#### **6. Community Engagement and Capacity Building**

As of 06 April, 2020, a total 35 of NRSP staff trained by specialised institutions and local authorities through phone and meeting on protocols set for response to COVID-19 situation at local level; a total of 1,422 community volunteers (community leaders, CRPs, etc.), trained on

public awareness campaigns and preventive measures from COVID-19 pandemic; 131 Local Support Organisations (LSOs) and 487 Village Organisations (VOs) engaged to undertake COVID-19 awareness campaigns and response activities.

### **7. IEC Material for Awareness Raising**

To aware communities about pandemic Coronavirus COVID-19, NRSP provided awareness on COVID-19 outbreak and preventive measures using mobile loudspeakers, announcements in local mosques and other local methods and printed IEC material (pamphlets, brochures, banners and posters) for community awareness raising and community engagement in mitigating the spread of coronavirus. As of 06 April, 2020, NRSP has distributed 568 brochures and displayed 80 banners, and disseminated 197 messages through FM Radio and 960 messages through Cable TV Network.

### **8. Capacity Building of NRSP Staff**

As the first and frontline responders to coronavirus COVID-19, NRSP has also ensured the safety of health of its staff while interacting with community members by sensitizing and training them on novel coronavirus COVID-19 precautions and symptoms, and providing them hand sanitizers, gloves and masks. A total of 35 of NRSP staff trained through phone and meeting by specialised institutions and local authorities on protocols set for response to COVID-19 situation at local level.