



# COVID 19 Relief Grampari

## Report 2

### 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020



Initiatives of Change  
India

Building trust across  
the world's divides

*It's been a little over 2 months since our last report to you all. We have had an eventful time at Grampari with deep soul searching, resilience tested, joyful times, a baby born (to Vijay Bade) and a marriage (Sagar Bhilare) but most importantly the team has found strength and inspiration from the people we've met, each other and times of reflection and quiet as we have navigated these uncertain times. Unfortunately no one has been unscathed by this crisis and the Grampari team have had to take pay cuts to their salaries from this month on. The team has been brave and inspiringly generous and resilient.*

*What has kept us buoyant and hopeful has been YOUR donation to COVID 19 relief work, giving us more resolve to serve. For that and your support we are immeasurably grateful.*

### **The report below has been divided as follows:**

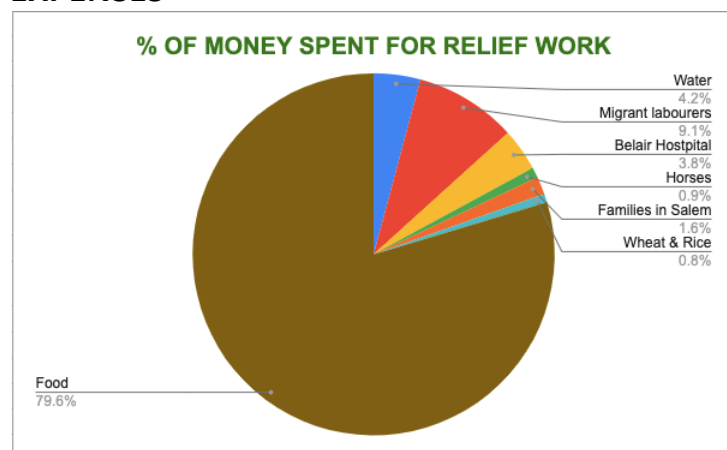
Pages 2-3 a snapshot of donations received and money spent

Pages 4-7 Details of the work and stories from the field

Page 7 Inspiring thoughts of wisdom from the team from their daily quiet time

Page 8 Our plan for the next few months for our community as well as Grampari

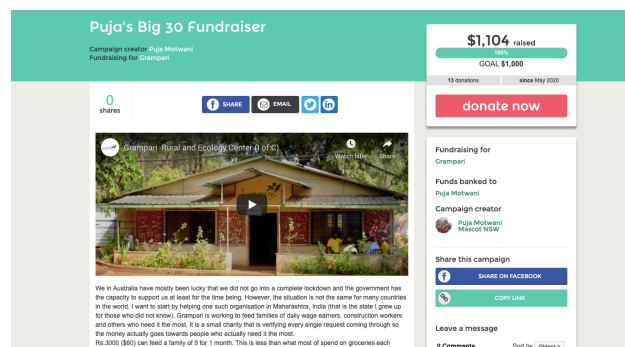
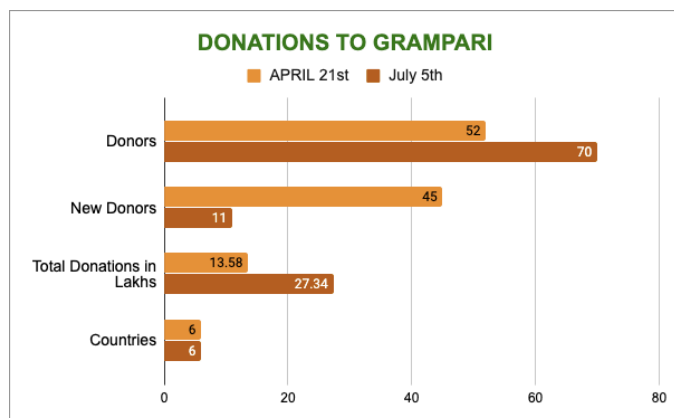
### **A SNAP SHOT EXPENSES**



MONEY SPENT TOWARDS COVID 19 RELIEF WORK	
Water (drinking water to remote villages)	Rs. 55,000
Migrant Labourers walking home	Rs. 1,20,360
Belair Hospital (COVID 19 hospital in Panchgani)	Rs. 50,000
Needy Families in Salem	Rs. 20930
Horses in Panchgani	Rs. 12,000
Wheat, Jaggery and Rice from Villages	Rs. 10100
Grocery kits (Further details below)	Rs.10,49,910
<b>TOTAL SPENT TO DATE</b>	<b>Rs. 13,18,300</b>
<b>BALANCE TO SPEND</b>	<b>Rs. 14,16,531*</b>

*\*This balance money has largely been allocated details below, the constrictions of travel have made it more difficult to do all deliveries*

## DONATIONS



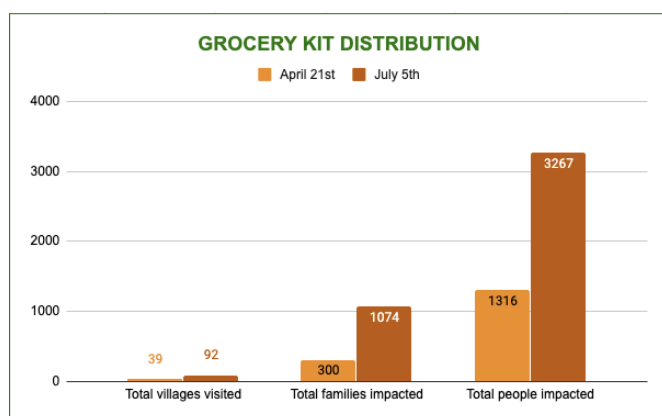
*\*One of our donors requested her friends and family donate money to Grampari for her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday!*

### DONATIONS TO GRAMPARI Data

	April 21 <sup>st</sup>	July 5 <sup>th</sup>
Donors to date	52	70
New Donors	45	11
Donations to date	Rs. 13,58,262	Rs. 27,34,831
Countries	6	6

*Akhegani village donated Rice and Wheat. Each household put in some amount of rice and wheat into sacks that were then distributed amongst the needy.*

### GROCERY KIT DISTRIBUTION-Details



### GROCERY KIT DISTRIBUTION Data

	April 21 <sup>st</sup>	July 5 <sup>th</sup>
Total Villages visited to date	39	92
Total Families impacted to date	300	1074
Total People impacted to date	1316	3267



## DETAILS OF OUR WORK

### MIGRANT WORKERS

Grampari in partnership with **Vardhishnu**, Jalgaon, Maharashtra a not-for-profit organization that during lockdown helped many migrant workers walking 100s of kilometres back to their homes. In collaboration with other local organizations they arranged stalls along the highway which passed through Jalgaon, to provide migrant travellers with nutritious and convenient food packets.



Grampari provided 5000 litres of cold drinking water, 200 kg *rajgira* and peanut *chikki* (peanut brittle) to roughly 1500 migrant travellers. This journey was happening during peak Indian summer when the temperature at Jalgaon was around 47 degree Celsius. Chilled water helped migrants a lot and they could keep the chikki with them which was utilized for their journey ahead.

Whilst there were arrangements made by the government to help migrant labourers get home, people travelling from Maharashtra to the states for West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and Jharkhand were dropped off at the Chhattisgarh border. Grampari worked in partnership with **Yumetta foundation** to help these workers hire private transportation and reach their home. 150 travellers reached home safely.





## **WATER**



At this time, during the summer, springs dry up and clean drinking water is in short supply. During non-covid times, Grampari has a robust spring protection programme. The villages' inability to access water due to the lockdown led us to organise water tankers. In particular the village of Dhangarvasti (Settlements of nomadic tribes) that is situated up a remote hill were particularly desperate. We've provided water for 1 month. It's now monsoon

and the springs will soon be rejuvenated. This was sponsored by the EDDIE DINSHAW FOUNDATION, in honour of the mother of Fram Dinshaw who had a special attachment to the villages around Panchgani. The foundation has also sponsored food kits to 280 families for 1 month.

## **SALEM, HORSES, BELAIR**

A friend of Initiatives of Change, Partibhan based in Salem requested our support in helping families in Salem, Tamil Nadu receive some food kits. He had identified 50 families in dire need. He had managed to raise Rs. 25,000 but requested Grampari's support for the rest.

Grampari provided a months supply of food for 12 horses. These horses are a source of livelihood to many people.

Belair, a private hospital in Panchgani, has been converted into a COVID 19 hospital and after initial easing of the lockdown saw an increase in patients to 75. With no immediate support from the government, Father Tommy reached out to Grampari for support for food. After some due diligence Grampari donated towards the food for the patients.

## **OTHER STORIES/LEARNINGS**

There are thousands of stories that would warm your hearts. We want to give you a snapshot of some stories to convey to you how much your support has made a genuine difference to the lives of people. Widows being helped, pregnant women receiving nutritious food for the first time because of grocery kits, elderly couples who couldn't leave even after the lockdown had been eased because they had injured themselves, remote villages with no transportation to take them to the shops and in numerous others.

Ganesh and Ashok dada recounted this particularly touching story. After a long day of delivering food kits all to various villages, they managed to find the strength to go to the final village that day. On getting to the home of this elderly couple, the lady had tears in her eyes when she saw the grocery kit. They hadn't eaten in days. She asked if it was her son who had told them that they were in need. Ashok Dada and Ganesh didn't have the heart to say no. And merely smiled, left the food kit for them.

You might remember from our previous report we had helped some fisherman families. Vijay returned to help these families and saw their very rudimentary homes had been decimated with the rains. Pained he reached out to 'aunty' Jayashree. Together they decided to rent a room for these families. Rs. 1000 a month provided them with a room and safety against the monsoons.

Enroute to deliver some of the grocery kits, we saw four families on the roadside. We stopped and spoke to them. They had 2 days of food left with them. They were constantly looking for work to get some money for food but were not successful. They were given a months supply of groceries.

Whilst the need is real, Grampari learnt a lot about what it meant to give with dignity. Wearing masks and gloves and handing over food has it's own set of indignities which we had anticipated. In several of the villages we visited, people's names were on the list of needing donations. However, when we went to donate to them, they refused. Grampari realised quickly that they needed food too but had not wanted to show this to others. We managed to get food to them without drawing too much attention. Understanding where there might be need and anticipating it even if not explicit was something that we had to get better at.

Below are translations of a few of the stories from our team. This is just to give you a flavour. Please do reach out to us if you want to know more.

- **Vyahali:** A woman's husband died, leaving her with two young children and an elderly mother-in-law. With no earning members, the family had no income at the time and had no groceries left with them when we reached. Seeing this help, the local rationing officer took the initiative to help them further.
- In **Vayagaon** and **Borgaon** villages pregnant women were unable to access healthy and nutritious food and supplements. Through our grocery kits we could facilitate the specific needs. There were 8 families who didn't have ration cards and hence couldn't access free ration distributed by government.
- In a village a woman and her son were living together. The son used to do menial work but his condition became very bad during this lockdown period. And as it was a reputed family in the village, they were hesitant and were finding it difficult to ask for help. The family did not ask for help till the end. When we came to know about it

and went to them with grocery kit, they accepted the help with wet eyes and heavy heart.

- **Pachwad** - This village is host to many migrant families from States of Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The migrant families and some families from oppressed groups were provided with grocery kits from Grampari a month ago. Seeing the families in need, villagers decided to help these families. In this effort all families in the village collected food grains with voluntary contributions. The total collection turned out to be more than 100 kg. This was later packed and distributed the families in need over the coming weeks.
- **Jambhali** - We came across 5 elderly couples living on their own in this village. They were in need and were not supported by anyone in the village or any of their relatives. They were hopeful that help would arrive from some source but were disappointed. As we were distributing grocery kits to other families in the village alert Grampari team members came across these families and were happy to help them with grocery kits..

## QUIET TIME THOUGHTS

Our team has been sharing their thoughts on *WhatsApp* every morning and here are some that we've all found inspiring.

Shubhangi Autade (30<sup>th</sup> June 2020): there are many moments in the world that are satisfying and provide contentment. I want to awaken these moments in me. Who is big who is small, who is ahead who is behind, who is more important, what do others think of me. I want to stop having these thoughts. There are many things that I need to do and I want to start that soon.

Dipak Jadhav (5<sup>th</sup> July 2020) : During this morning's quiet time my thoughts were all about the villages. I want to find out the new schemes that have been allotted by the government under the 15<sup>th</sup> provision, especially the money. From tomorrow I am going to speak to the people in the villages through a conference call to find out what the present situation is and what is happening to the women and farming.

Kamal More (3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020): *(thoughts shared after the quiet time following the announcement that the entire Grampari team will have to take a reduction in salary)* We must learn to find moments of joy even in these difficult times. We all face difficulties but learning to be happy in these times is important.

Dhananjay Ambrale (3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020) *(thoughts shared after the quiet time following the announcement that the entire Grampari team will have to take a reduction in salary)* We need to remain unemotional and see who in our team are the most poor. We need to help them more and redistribute our money accordingly.



## **FUTURE PLANS**

A brief look at funding we've received from foundations:

### **MARYLAND TRUST Donation: GBP10,000**

- Support to 60 families for 3 months: 60 families have been identified and the first tranche of deliveries will happen as soon as we have clarity on containment zones and villages affected by COVID 19. The team is working hard to get this done
- Support towards seed distribution for farmers: Seed distribution to farmers or subsidizing seeds to enable them to grow food during this time. 10% discount to all farmers, a 50% discount to those who are really in need and a 100% discount to those who are engaged in sustainable farming (approx. 1000 farmers will be impacted).

### **EDDIE DINSHAW FOUNDATION Donation: GBP10,000**

- We've already provided water for 2 villages
- Provided food supplies for 200 families for 1 month

*Lockdown and increasing cases in different villages has interrupted our work but we hope to do the following:*

### **Sanitary Towels**

Earning per towel: Rs. 15

Number of towels a woman can stitch in a day: 15

Monthly income: Approximately Rs. 4000

At this time we're seeing that women have suffered terribly with no access to sanitary pads. Grampari has previously designed (in collaboration with women from the communities) a very cloth sanitary napkin. This napkin looks like a piece of cloth and can be dried openly, it can last up to a year and the women in the village can stitch it.

We aim to give employment to women in villages and then selling/donating the sanitary towels to women throughout the region.

We would like to concentrate our fund raising and proposals on three specific areas:

1. Water-Spring protection, groundwater recharging
2. Waste management in villages
3. Health and Hygiene, Hand wash with soap programme
4. Sustainable Agriculture

In addition to this our proposals will include Grampari staff salary, as they will be working with substantially reduced salaries from July onwards.

**THANK YOU for all your support.**