

VisionSpring Foundation (VSF) Activity Report: 1st July 2020 to 30th September 2020

Mission

To provide eye-screening, primary eye-care services, and eye-health advice to the people at the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid.

Current Scenario

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, more than 700 million people in the developing world struggle with poor life quality due to bad eyesight. It is estimated that uncorrected vision results in \$227 billion in lost productivity to the global economy. 1.1 billion globally need eyeglasses for near vision correction and their vision can be restored with just a simple pair of reading glasses. In India alone, an estimated 550 million (55 Crore) people require eyeglasses for vision correction. Blurry vision compromises one's ability to work effectively, to read and learn in school, and to navigate surroundings with ease and safety. For many living in developing countries suffering from vision loss, a pair of eyeglasses could mean the difference between opportunity and loss of income and quality of life.

Activities

VisionSpring Foundation (VSF) is an NGO (not-for-profit) that does eye-screening for the poor people, provides primary eye-care services, and eye-health advice with FCRA Registration Number: 231661855. VSF also has the facility of providing eyeglasses to those who need them. VSF conducts community outreach activities and free eye-screening camps. The mobile eye-care units (vans) go to the remote interiors and provide last mile vision-care services to the poor. VSF also provides eye-care/eye-health advice centres and refers patients with complex eye diseases (such as cataract, etc.) to the nearest eye hospital. VSF helps change the lives of the poor people in India by aiding in restoring their vision.

VisionSpring Foundation (VSF) received a grant amount of USD **927,910** from 1st January 2020 to 30th September 2020:

Name of Donor	Address of Donor	Country of Donor	Amount Received	Date of Remittance
VisionSpring, Inc.	505, 8 th Avenue Suite, 12A-07, New York-10018	United States of America (USA)	USD 24,982	8 th January 2020

VisionSpring, Inc.	505, 8 th Avenue Suite, 12A-07, New York-10018	United States of America (USA)	USD 499,980	4 th February 2020
VisionSpring, Inc.	505, 8 th Avenue Suite, 12A-07, New York-10018	United States of America (USA)	USD 234,980	26 th June 2020
VisionSpring, Inc.	505, 8 th Avenue Suite, 12A-07, New York-10018	United States of America (USA)	USD 167,968	12 th August 2020
VisionSpring, Inc.	505, 8 th Avenue Suite, 12A-07, New York-10018	United States of America (USA)	USD 293,611	29 th October 2020
VisionSpring, Inc.	505, 8 th Avenue Suite, 12A-07, New York-10018	United States of America (USA)	USD 269,980	29 th January 2021
		Total	USD 1,491,501	

Programs/Projects Undertaken between 1st July 2020 and 30th September 2020

1. COVID-19 Awareness and Hygiene Kit Distribution for Weavers and Artisans

Location: Barmer, Rajasthan, India



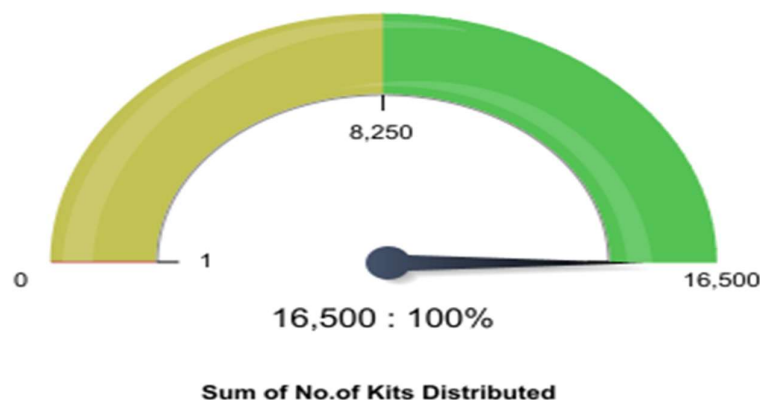
Background and Plan

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the importance of handwashing, respiratory hygiene, and social distancing appeared as a key preventive measure against COVID-19. The populations most at risk are those that depend heavily on the informal economy. VSF created awareness,

provided information, and trained weaver and artisan communities on keeping themselves from the pandemic. VSF also distributed hygiene kits to 16,500 households, which comprised of 88,500 weavers and artisans and their family members. Each kit had cloth masks, soap, detergent, and leaflets on COVID-19 prevention. The mobilisation support was given by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) and the Gramin Vikas Evam Chetna Sansthan (GVECS). The Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) produced the cloth masks that were used in the hygiene kits. Thus, the SEWA members were also empowered as part of this project.

Results

- Total number of hygiene kits distributed: 16,500.
- Total number of household members touched: 88,500.



Post the awareness and sensitization exercise, VSF conducted a survey.

Key Survey Findings

- **Lack of awareness:** People are not aware about the safety measures due to lack of information and existing myths in villages:
Statement by a few beneficiaries:
“We would not get infected because we eat locally grown millet bread and live in hot weather.”
- **Behavioral change on hygiene practices:** Due to constant follow-ups, the people have started practicing hand hygiene and maintaining social distancing.
Statement by a few beneficiaries:
“We do not wash our hands often due to lack of water, but now as we are aware about the Coronavirus and its contagious nature, we will wash hands using soaps and will also keep our households neat and clean.”

- **Financial burden and lack of work:** Weaver and artisan communities are facing problems in feeding their families as they do not have work amidst the pandemic.
- **Lack of basic amenities:** Basic amenities such as water and sanitation facilities are unavailable, and hospitals and healthcare facilities are not easily accessible as they are in the city and people have to travel long distances for the same.
- **Survey Analysis:** It suggests that it is going to be a long and sustained battle against COVID-19 and it can only be controlled through continuous efforts by maintaining social distancing, wearing masks, and following hand hygiene.

Testimonial



Anu Devi, Resident of Jakhado Ki Dhani Village in Barmer District



Cloth Masks Made by Anu Devi

Anu Devi is a weaver from the Jakhado Ki Dhani village in the Barmer District of Rajasthan and had no work during the COVID-19 pandemic. She shared that she gets work on on-demand basis, and as there was no demand, they are struggling to make the ends meet. She also shared that people do not follow the precautionary measures to protect themselves from COVID-19 because they believe that it won't affect people in the villages. Post the awareness activities of VSF in their village, people started wearing masks given by them. Anu Devi also started making cloth masks after VSF staff shared the information leaflet on 'how to make masks'. Within a few days, Anu Devi made 50 cloth masks and gave them to the villagers.

Anu Devi was very grateful to VSF for making her and her family aware about the handwashing and social distancing norms and the usage,

washing, and maintenance of masks. She said that these preventive measures would help her and her family fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photos and Media/Press Coverage of VSF's work in Barmer, Rajasthan



Latitude: 25.415633
Longitude: 71.048912
Elevation: 235.93 m
Accuracy: 2.4 m
Time: 08-17-2020 11:51
Note: EPCH Barmer
Team 1
Village: Jawaharani bhilo ki dhani ka

हस्तशिल्पियों को सेनेटाइजर किट बांटे

बाड़मेर भास्कर 23-08-2020

प्रशिक्षण • बाड़मेर जिले के 70 गांवों की साढ़े 16 हजार महिलाओं को प्रशिक्षण देने का लक्ष्य तय हस्तशिल्पियों को कोविड बचाव का दिया प्रशिक्षण

बाड़मेर संवाददाता • बाड़मेर जिले के 70 गांवों की साढ़े 16 हजार महिलाओं को प्रशिक्षण देने का लक्ष्य तय है। बाड़मेर जिले के 70 गांवों की साढ़े 16 हजार महिलाओं को प्रशिक्षण देने का लक्ष्य तय है। बाड़मेर जिले के 70 गांवों की साढ़े 16 हजार महिलाओं को प्रशिक्षण देने का लक्ष्य तय है।



हस्तशिल्पियों को सेनेटाइजर किट दिए वितरित

बाड़मेर संवाददाता • बाड़मेर जिले के 70 गांवों की साढ़े 16 हजार महिलाओं को प्रशिक्षण देने का लक्ष्य तय है। बाड़मेर जिले के 70 गांवों की साढ़े 16 हजार महिलाओं को प्रशिक्षण देने का लक्ष्य तय है। बाड़मेर जिले के 70 गांवों की साढ़े 16 हजार महिलाओं को प्रशिक्षण देने का लक्ष्य तय है।

2. COVID-19 Awareness and Hygiene Kit Distribution for Weavers and Artisans

Location: Sambalpur and Bargarh, Odisha, India

Program/Project Completed in October 2020

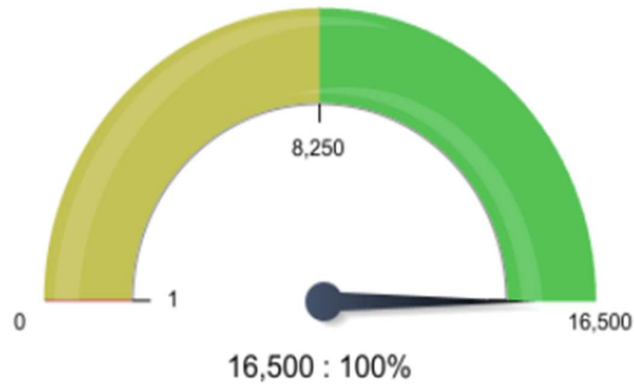


Background and Plan

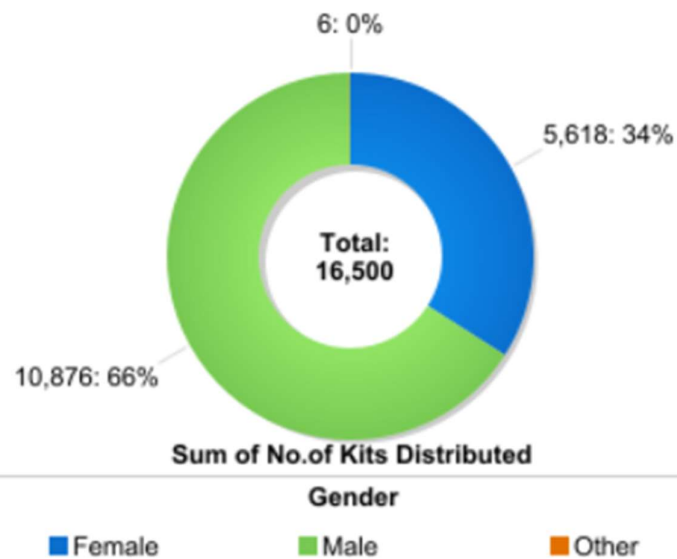
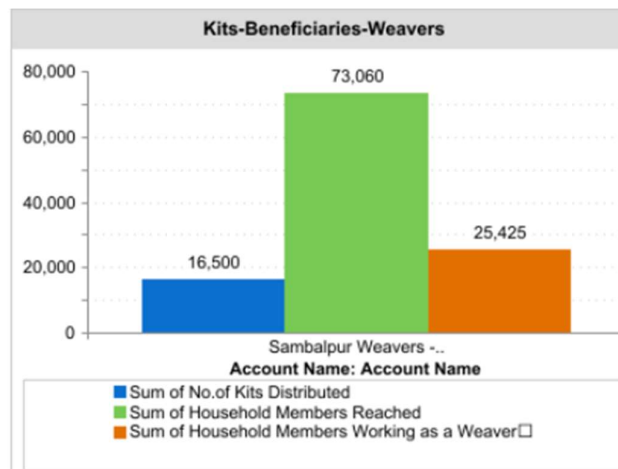
As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the importance of handwashing, respiratory hygiene, and social distancing appeared as a key preventive measure against COVID-19. The populations most at risk are those that depend heavily on the informal economy. VSF created awareness, provided information, and trained weaver communities on keeping themselves from the pandemic. VSF also distributed hygiene kits to 16,500 households. Each kit had cloth masks, soap, detergent, and leaflets on COVID-19 prevention. The mobilisation and distribution support at Sambalpur was given by the Vision India Foundation. 50 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) each were trained on COVID-19 prevention at both Sambalpur and Bargarh. At Sambalpur, the ASHAs also gave mobilisation and distribution support.

Results

- Total number of hygiene kits distributed: 16,500.
- Total number of household members touched: 73,060.
- 50 ASHAs trained on COVID-19 prevention at Sambalpur and Bargarh each.



Sum of No.of Kits Distributed



Testimonial



*Tejram Meher, Resident of Panagaan Village
in Bargarh District*

Tejram Meher (47 years) is a saree weaver from the Panagaan village in the Bargarh District of Odisha. There are 3 weavers in his family and he has been working as a weaver for more than 12 years.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, he faced many problems. There were also floods in his village due to heavy rainfall. All the sarees he weaved got submerged in water and he had to stop weaving.

He was very grateful to VSF for making him aware about the handwashing and social distancing norms and the usage, washing, and maintenance of masks. He said that these preventive measures would help him fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Programme Collaterals and Awareness Leaflets



COVID -19 की रोकथाम

खुद रहें सुरक्षित और दूसरों को भी रखें सुरक्षित

-  अपने हाथों को कम से कम 20 सेकंड के लिए साबुन से धोएं।
-  दूसरों से 2 मीटर की दूरी पर खड़े हों।
-  अपना चेहरा, आंख, नाक, मुंह न छुएं।
-  सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर न थूकें।
-  कोहनी के अन्दर की तरफ या टिशू पेपर में छीकें। उसके बाद टिशू को बंद कूड़ेदान में डाल दें, और फिर हाथ धो लें।
-  यदि आप बीमार महसूस कर रहे हैं तो चिकित्सा सहायता लें। 24/7 हेल्पलाइन पर कॉल करें: 011-23978046 और 1075 विजनस्प्रींग हेल्पलाइन: 1800-1033-555

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अपना मास्क कैसे पहनें और इसकी देखभाल कैसे करें

-  मास्क पहनने से पहले अपने हाथों को साबुन और साफ पानी से कम से कम 20 सेकंड तक धोएं।
-  मास्क की बाहरी परत को अपने चेहरे से दूर रखें, हमेशा उसी परत को बाहर की तरफ रखें।
-  नाक और मुँह को पूरी तरह से ढकते हुए, मास्क को फिर और पहन के पीछे बांधें।
-  अपने मास्क के साथी का ध्यान रखें न कीजें। मास्क को पीछे की तरफ से हटाएं, न कि अपने सिर के ऊपर लें।
-  रोजाना 10 मिनट उबालते हुए पानी या साबुन से मास्क को साफ करें।
-  सैनिटाइज्ड रखने के लिए मास्क को आगे डिब्बे में फोल्ड करके रखें।

अपने हाथ कैसे धोएं

-  अपने हाथों को साफ पानी से नीला कोण हाथों की सभी सतहों को साफ करने के लिए पर्याप्त साबुन लगाएं।
-  अपने हाथों को एक दूसरे के साथ गहरे और सभी सतहों को साफ करें। हाथों के ठोस तरफ झाग बनाएं, अपनी कलाई, उंगलियों के बीच और नाखूनों के अंतर्भाग आदि से साफ करें। कम से कम 20 सेकंड के लिए हाथ धोएं।
-  पानी से हाथ धोएं और हाथ में मुका लें: नाल बंद करने के लिए कोहनी का उपयोग करें। अब आपके हाथ साफ और सुरक्षित हैं।

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HOW TO WEAR AND CARE FOR YOUR MASK

-  Wash hands with soap and clean water for at least 20 seconds before putting on mask.
-  Position outside layer away from your face, always keep same layer out.
-  Tie mask behind head and neck, covering nose and mouth completely.
-  Don't touch the front of your mask. Remove the mask from the back, not over your head.
-  Clean mask with boiling water or soap for 10 minutes daily.
-  Store mask folded in half to keep sanitized.

HOW TO WASH YOUR HANDS

-  Wet hands with clean water. Apply enough soap to cover the surface of your hands.
-  Rub hands together vigorously and scrub all surfaces. Lather both sides of your hands, scrub your wrists, between your fingers and thumbs, and around nails. Wash for minimum 20 seconds.
-  Rinse hands with water and air dry. Use your elbow to turn off the tap. Now your hands are clean and safe.

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HOW TO PREVENT COVID-19

Protect yourself. Protect others.

-  **WASH HANDS** with soap for at least 20 seconds
-  **STAND 2 METERS FROM OTHERS**
-  **DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE** eyes, nose, mouth
-  **DON'T SPIT IN PUBLIC PLACES**
-  **SNEEZE INTO ELBOW OR TISSUE** then dispose and wash hands
-  **SEEK MEDICAL HELP IF YOU FEEL SICK** Call 24/7 helpline: 011-23978046 or 1075 VisionSpring helpline: 1800-1033-555

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Photos of VSF's Work in Sambalpur and Bargarh, Odisha



3. Provision of Children's Eyeglasses

Location: Gujarat and Maharashtra, India



Background and Plan

VSF associated with multiple mission-aligned organizations/bodies across the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra in India to provide eyeglasses to the children who required them. A total of 11,464 children were provided eyeglasses through this initiative. This enabled these children to see clearly and would lead to enhancement of their educational outcomes as 80% of all learning is through vision. This initiative would help them actively participate in school and would contribute in making their future bright. The mobilisation support was provided by the associated organizations/bodies.



Results

A total of 11,464 children were provided eyeglasses through this initiative.

Organization/Body	Number of Children's Eyeglasses Provided
Manavta Foundation Trust, Vadodara, Gujarat	500
Blind People's Association, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	250
National Program for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI), Maharashtra	10,200
Community Eye Care Foundation, Pune, Maharashtra	514
Total Children's Eyeglasses Provided	11,464