

# MOBILE CRECHES COVID-19 2.0 RESPONSE REPORT



*This report presents key highlights of actions undertaken by Mobile Creches from April 2021, in response to the COVID-19 2.0 pandemic situation and its immediate impact on young children, their families, and communities.*



Children will bear the scars of the pandemic for years to come – help to protect them from this catastrophe!

## Mobile Creches COVID Response 2.0

In response to the lethal COVID-19 second wave that hit India in April 2021, Mobile Creches (MC) immediately stepped up its relief and response actions to support more than **10,000 households** across **12 states**. We began by tracking the health of families, including their children, and supporting during medical emergencies for hospitalization, home treatment, diagnostic tests, oxygen cylinders, tele-consultations with doctors, and linkages with local services. Most importantly, we stayed connected with more than 80 families suffering from COVID, on a daily basis, holding each other up during a very scary period.

Since April 2021, our work was dominated by efforts to provide emergency medical help and relief to the poorest children and their families with whom we remained connected. As things begin to open up, we are ensuring maximum vaccination coverage within the communities. We are redesigning childcare support in a way that meets COVID safety protocols while responding to children's growing needs. Working mothers need to get back to work and wages immediately. Their demand to open up full-day crèches is loud and clear across construction sites and urban slums.



# RESPONSE TO HEALTH EMERGENCY & HUNGER



Since April 2021 MC distributed dry rations to all children; identified malnourished children for special support, and mapped the immediate needs of young children and women that could be reached through community linkages.

- The survival kit consists of food and hygiene materials that includes *Rice, Aata, Dal, Salt, Haldi, Cooking Oil, Sugar, Soap, Sanitary Napkins* and ORS.

8624

SURVIVAL KITS

4710

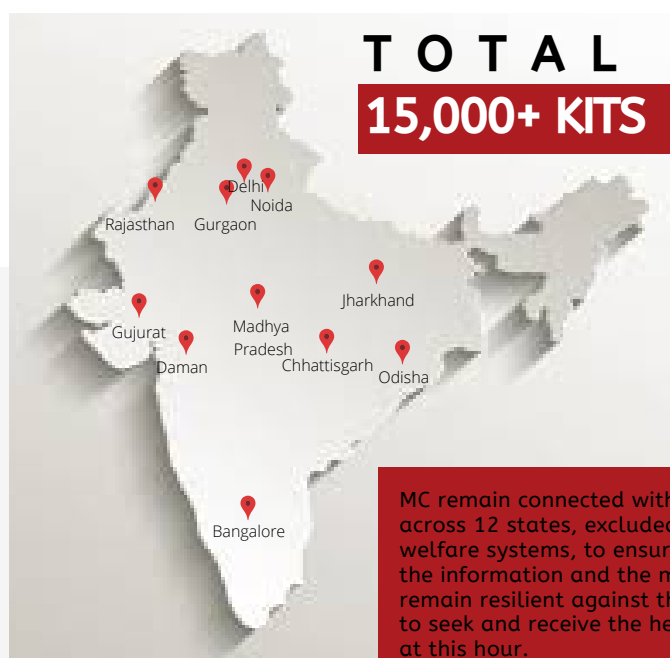
COVID MANAGEMENT  
KITS

- COVID management kits consisting of 10 masks each for adults and children, 5 litres sanitizer, thermometer and oxymeter to families across construction camps and rural and urban poor locations

967

NUTRITION KITS

- Nutrition Kits consists of rice, dal, dalia, suji, sugar, sattu, oil, salt, turmeric, ORS as per dietary requirements for young children under six years, to prevent hunger and malnutrition during these months.



MC remain connected with families across 12 states, excluded from public welfare systems, to ensure they have the information and the means to remain resilient against the infection, to seek and receive the help they need, at this hour.







MC organised group and individual consultations with Developer partners to collaborate for COVID appropriate behaviour, isolation centres, and vaccination awareness and camps. The Developers unanimously supported the initiative to run Child Friendly Spaces within labour camps that will ensure small groups of children are taken care off by trained caregivers, so that their mothers can go back to work and wages immediately.

ATS Homekraft and ATS Dolce converted the crèches into isolation centres for their workers during the peak COVID-19 period. Ajnara, Bestech, Eldeco and many others organised vaccination drives for their construction workers.

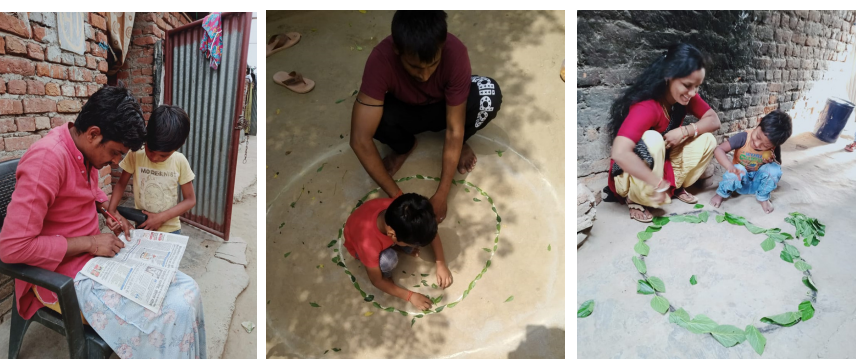


## CARING FOR CHILDREN

After completing six themes of Furthering Parenting Programme to support the early learning needs of preschool children, 325 children were assessed to observe their progress. 65 percent children had completed all themes between May and December 2020. The assessments revealed that:

- **70 percent of children could easily perform motor and logical reasoning activities** compared to activities in language, creativity and socio-emotional domains.
- **60 percent children seek caregiver's help** for performing activities related to language development.
- Most children **faced difficulty in doing creative activities** such as pattern making, imaginary drawing and self-expression.

Rani, 5, and Wahida 3, live with their mother in the Mamura slum of Noida. Rani took keen interest in doing the playful activities and often pulled her younger sister to do these activities with her. Shabnam, their mother who works as a domestic worker would sometimes miss the weekly calls from crèche didi, and this would upset Rani who wants to learn new activities everyday. ***“Dono betiyon ko naaye naaye khel khelte hue dekhkar mujhe bahut khushi hoti hai (I feel happy seeing both my daughters playing in different ways)”*** Shabnam.





# FOCUS ON YOUNG CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND NUTRITION ENTITLEMENTS

The Young Child and Maternal Group was formed as a collaborative effort of the Right to Food (RtF), Delhi Rozi Roti Abhiyan (DRRA) and Neenv Delhi Forces to singularly focus on the health and nutrition entitlements of vulnerable children and pregnant and lactating mothers during this period. As a part of the wider Delhi Coordinated Relief Group, this sub group actively followed up with marginalised communities to ensure their concerns were highlighted to the Women and Child Development department and Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights. After regular coordination with the departments, government announced a set of guidelines for the immediate care and protection of children orphaned due to COVID and launched a 24X7 helpline for information and support.

Through the efforts of this group 10,000 children benefitted from the special nutrition packets comprising of Sattu, Daliya, Channa, biscuits etc.

MC took leadership responsibility on behalf of the group to ensure timely state actions were benefitting the most marginalised children and young mothers.

## Children Orphaned due to COVID

Many children lost one or both parents due to the deadly infection. Neenv Delhi FORCES tracked and supported two such families.

A 37-year-old father of 3 children died on 29th April due to COVID-19, while struggling to get a hospital bed as they mounted debts on privately sourced oxygen cylinders. The two boys and one daughter (aged 16, 14, and 7 years), their 34-year-old mother and a grandmother are left to fend for themselves.

A father of four children (3 girls and 1 boy, between ages 7 to 14 years) succumbed to COVID-19 on 2nd May. He worked as a rickshaw-puller. Although he managed to find a hospital bed after many days of suffering, the medical attention he received was too little, too late. The children and their 37-year-old mother are left struggling to survive in their rented hut.

Both families received food supplies through the Delhi Coordinated Relief Group. Their details were shared with the WCD department to link them with appropriate schemes for their livelihoods and child support. Neenv Delhi FORCES is regularly in touch with the families for their ongoing support needs.



## THANK YOU

We thank all our funding organisations, partners, networks, individual donors, supporters, governing body members, friends, and our own families for your amazing support during these tough times

### FUNDING ORGANISATIONS

Azim Premji Foundation  
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