



LOK SWASTHYA SEWA TRUST



SEWA
COOPERATIVE
FEDERATION
Capacity-building • Business Development • Policy Action

Battling the second wave: addressing emergency health needs; protecting livelihoods

A proposal by SEWA Cooperative Federation and Lok Swasthya SEWA Trust

Background: situation on ground and main challenges

The second wave of COVID-19 has spread quickly and ruthlessly, affecting both urban and rural parts of India. Largely due to an unprepared and overwhelmed health infrastructure, there has been a loss of many lives and livelihoods. The pandemic also continues to generate immense fear in people.

The impact of this crisis has fallen disproportionately on informal women workers. Women are primarily tasked with caring for the sick, as well as responsible for household work. They have lost their source of income, putting them and their households in great distress.

The needs of our members are centred around availability and access to basic medical resources like oximeters, thermometers, along with a basic health kit with sanitisers/soaps, paracetamol, Vitamin D, C, B-complex with zinc, masks. Since many of the members have either tested positive themselves or have at least a family member who is positive, easy access to emergency services like oxygen cans and concentrators is also required.

Finally, the need for awareness and information via various means remains high: testing information, vaccine awareness and precautions on COVID-19 (prone position, breathing techniques). The awareness campaign also needs to re-emphasise the importance of masks, washing hands and social distancing.

Our proposed response

Informal women workers need support in major four areas: Relief resources for their health needs, information and awareness, and livelihood support

Areas of work for relief: Ahmedabad, Tapi, Mehsana, Kheda, Surat, Sabarkantha

Health and relief strategy

Household level: We shall be distributing, through aagewans (grassroots women leaders), a health kit including: 5 masks, 5 units of soap/sanitiser, steamer and immunity supplements. The health kit is aimed at supporting households in taking preventive and primary mitigation measures.

Community level: Ours will be a centre-based approach where **250 aagewans** will be focal points in providing relief and information

1. Capacity-building of 250 aagewans through digital tools:



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- Latest COVID-related information and awareness
 - Promoting prone position and deep breathing to improve oxygen level;
 - Promoting vaccination: dispelling myths and fear, eligibility, registration process;
 - Encouraging home-isolation, and use of oximeter and thermometer;
2. Each aagewan will be provided with emergency relief kit which will include the following:
 - Health kits: oximeter, thermometer, paracetamols and vitamins
 - Oxygen can (six and twelve litres.) as an emergency aid and oxygen concentrator. These will be available as per need, through our health cooperative, Lok Swasthya SEWA, through its low-cost medicine shops in Ahmedabad
 3. Providing audio-video messages with latest information on COVID-19, its prevention, treatment and where to go for referral care.
 4. Helpline number: We will set up a helpline number with a network of doctors, who will be available for consultation to those who are in need.

Livelihood strategy

As our women-owned collective enterprises struggle for survival, there is a high need for working capital so they can be agile and respond quickly to the changing market, securing work and income security for their members. We need a corpus of ₹20,00,000 to support 10 women-owned enterprises in recovering from the economic effects of this crisis. These enterprises are:

1. Megha Mandali, a cooperative of indigenous women farmers
2. Lok Swasthya Mandali, a cooperative of health workers
3. Abodana Mandali, a cooperative of artisans
4. SEWA Homecare, a cooperative of domestic workers
5. SEWA Saundarya, a cooperative of cleaners
6. Trupti Nashta Mandali, a cooperative of food producers
7. Sangini BalSEWA Mandali, a cooperative of childcare workers
8. Surat Credit Cooperative
9. Baroda Credit Cooperative
10. Karnabhumi Farmer Producer Organisation



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Expected impact

Level	Units	Total impact
Household Health Kit	11,000	55,000 individuals
Community outreach	250 aagewans	400 individuals each, per month. Total: 100,000 individuals in one month
Livelihood fund	10 enterprises	5400 informal women workers, on average

Budget

Household Relief Kit	INR	USD ¹
Total cost per household	₹800	\$11
01. Immunity supplements	₹250	\$1
02. Mask, 5 units	₹150	\$2
03. Soaps (6 units) or Sanitisers (5 units)	₹150	\$3
04. Steamer	₹250	\$3

Oxygen			
Options	Units	Cost (INR)	Cost (USD)
01. 6 litres can	1000	₹1,000,000	\$13,333
02. 12 litres with flow meter and cannula	100	₹1,300,000	\$17,333
03. Oxygen concentrators	50	₹2,750,000	\$36,667

¹ Exchange value as per May 1st, 2021 is \$1 = INR 75.



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Community Health Resources			
Options	Units	Cost (INR)	Cost (USD)
01. Oximeters	5	₹10,000	\$133
02. Thermometers	5	₹1,500	\$20
03. Paracetamol and vitamins	1000	₹500	\$7
04. Immunity supplements	10	₹850	\$11
05. Aagewan's Remuneration (for one month 200*30)	1	₹6,000	\$80
Cost for 1 aagewan support		₹18,850	\$251
Cost for 250 aagewans support		₹47,12,500	\$62,833

Helpline Fund	Cost (INR)	Cost (USD)
Total cost for helpline	₹4,20,000	\$5,600
01. Helpline setup and maintenance cost	₹3,00,000	\$4,000
02. Expertise' Consultation Fees (INR 500 per session)	₹1,20,000	\$1,600

Livelihood Restoration Fund	Cost (INR)	Cost (USD)
Working Capital Corpus for 10 enterprises	₹2,00,000	\$26,667

Our experience and impact in 2020

In the first wave, the emerging needs of members were food and health kits. Therefore, our immediate response was distribution of food and health kits to 5,850 households. We used digital tools for health training on COVID-19 do's and don'ts, gender-based violence and psycho-social care, and reached more than 300,000 members in 11 states of India.

At the enterprise level, we documented that the enterprises incurred significant revenue loss which directly affected income of members. Therefore, we supported cooperatives to restructure their businesses, access markets, and access financial resources that would enable them to adapt to the uncertainty induced by pandemic. We also linked enterprises to working capital, negotiated with employers for full payment during lockdown, and provided training on use of digital tools and technology. These trainings aimed to enable both enterprises and members to use digital platforms like Whatsapp, Zoom calls and other tools that would allow them to take their work online.



If you would like to support us, our banking information is as follows:

For donations from India

Bank Account Name	Lok Swasthya SEWA Trust
Bank Name	Bank Of India
Bank Address	Ellisbridge Branch, Ahmedabad, 380006
Bank Account Number	200420110000556
Branch Code	002004
IFSC Code	BKID0002004

You can also use our online payment portal for donations from India:

<https://www.sewafederation.org/contribute-donate>

For donations from overseas

Bank Account Name	Lok Swasthya SEWA Trust
Bank Name	State Bank Of India
Bank Address	FCRA Cell, 4th Floor, State Bank Of India, New Delhi Main Branch, 11 Sansad Marg, New Delhi 110001
Office Address	Lok Swasthya SEWA Trust, Chanda Niwas, 3rd Floor, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad 380006, Gujarat, India
Bank Account Number	40015366358
Branch Code	00691
SWIFT Code	SBININBB104
IFSC Code	SBIN0000691
FCRA Registration Number	041910390