

NEADS Assam-Humanitarian assistance to the communities affected by pandemic COVID-19 in Golaghat, Assam

PROJECT SUMMERY

In 2020, the project '**Humanitarian assistance to the communities affected by pandemic COVID-19 in Golaghat, Assam**' was a vital community-focused relief effort within the floodplain of the Brahmaputra valley in Assam. This initiative, implemented by North East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS), was targeting 20 villages under the Bokakhat development block, directly assisting 950 households with an indirect impact on 2000 families. The primary objectives of this program were to provide immediate humanitarian aid and to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within these communities. NEADS aimed to equip the community to cope with the long-term challenges posed by the pandemic.

During the multiple phases of lockdown, NEADS conducted a rapid needs assessment in collaboration with community-based volunteers and the community organizations. This assessment highlighted several critical issues, including food insecurity, inadequate hygiene practices, challenges faced by vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly, and the struggle to earn a livelihood amid the lockdown restrictions. NEADS has established crucial links with district authorities and stakeholders to address these urgent needs and ensure effective relief and long-term support for the affected communities. Through collaborative efforts and community engagement, NEADS was working towards a sustainable response to the COVID-19 crisis in Golaghat, Assam.

The project 'Humanitarian assistance to the communities affected by pandemic COVID-19 in Golaghat, Assam' has outlined specific objectives aimed at addressing critical needs within the affected population:

1. The project aimed to cater to the specific hygiene and dignity requirements of 950 families within the reproductive age group by providing Non-Food Item (NFI) hygiene and dignity kits. The hygiene materials were tailored to meet the unique needs of women and girls, ensuring their health and well-being during the pandemic.
2. To alleviate food insecurity, the project distributed essential dry rations to 950 families for a period of 45 days. This support was ensuring that families have access to basic nutritional requirements during this challenging time.
3. An extensive awareness and sensitization program were being implemented to educate and empower the targeted populations about effective mitigation and prevention measures against COVID-19. This initiative aimed to promote adherence to safety protocols and build community resilience.
4. The project was engaged in advocacy and mainstreaming activities with the Public Health Engineering Department to establish sustainable mechanisms for safe drinking water in the villages. This effort was focusing on enhancing WASH infrastructure and practices to improve community health and hygiene standards.

The project focuses on critical interventions to support vulnerable families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Golaghat, Assam. Here's an overview of the strategies and objectives:



1. **Support of NFI (Dignity & Hygiene Kit) to Poor and Vulnerable Families:** The project recognized the urgent need for addressing hygiene and dignity issues among impoverished families. In many areas, access to safe drinking water and proper hygiene practices is severely lacking, posing risks of waterborne illnesses and COVID-19 transmission. NEADS had distributed hygiene kits to 950 families, emphasizing personal and community hygiene, handwashing practices, and improved sanitation to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
2. **Distribution of Essential Dry Rations Kit:** The prolonged lockdown and economic disruptions have exacerbated food insecurities among low-income communities. Many families, especially daily wage earners and marginalized groups, are struggling to access basic food supplies. NEADS planned to provide essential dry rations to 950 families for 45 days, ensuring food security during this challenging period.
3. **Awareness and Sensitization Programme on COVID-19 Prevention:** NEADS had conducted comprehensive awareness campaigns and sensitization programs to educate communities about COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategies. This initiative includes organizing awareness camps while adhering to government guidelines on social distancing. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials will be developed and distributed to raise awareness, and public spaces will be sanitized to curb the spread of the virus.

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