

ROW Foundation Support During the COVID-19 Pandemic to India and Philippines (June-July 2021)

Distribution of N-95 Masks and other items

As we continued [our effort in May-June, 2021](#) , (see link) we received more requests from a few other cities and towns where the pandemic was still causing a high number of daily infections, hospitalizations, and deaths. In response, we sent N-95 masks, gloves and PPEs to –

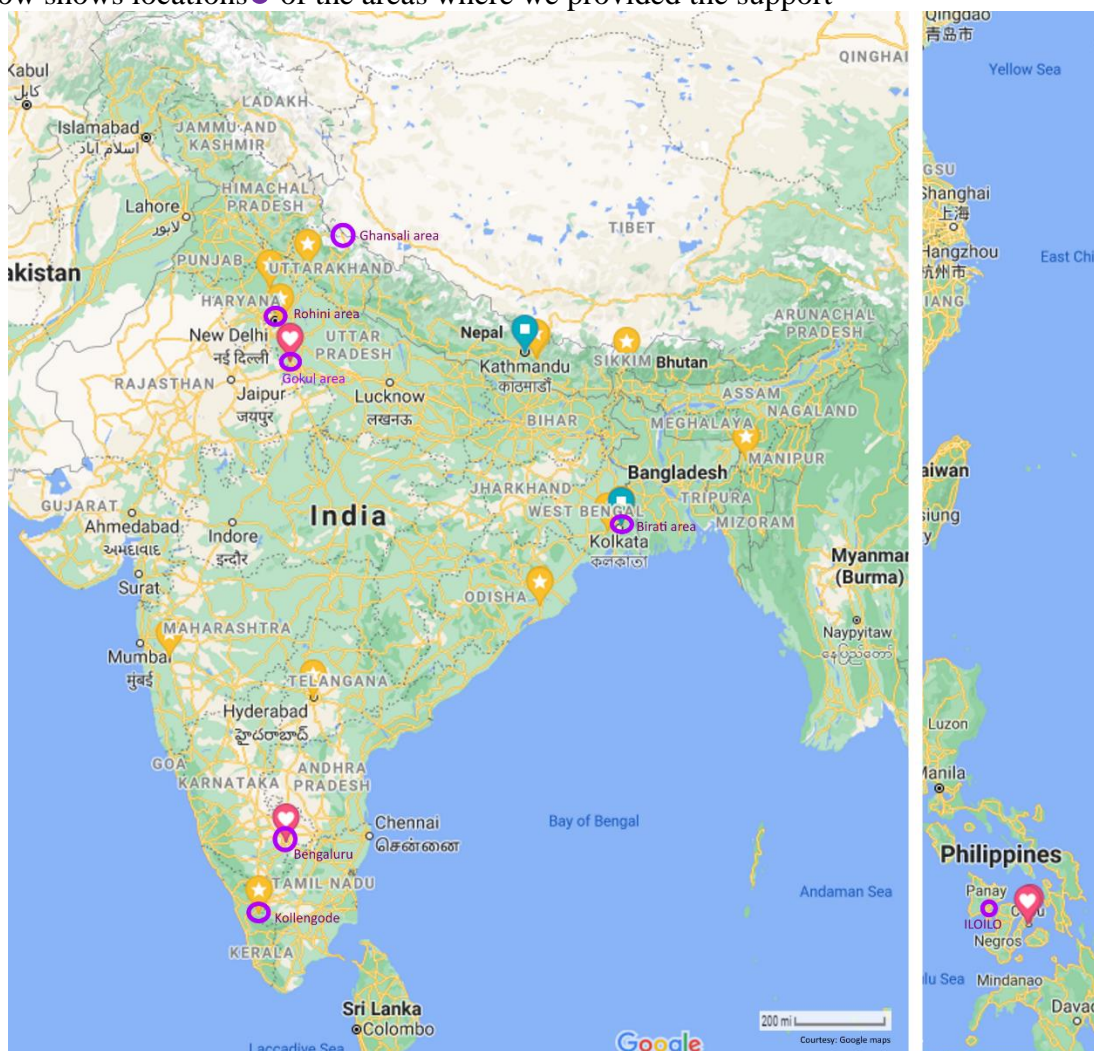
♦ Bengaluru, ♦ Delhi, ♦ Gokul, ♦ Kollengode, Kerala, ♦ Kolkata, ♦ Uttarakhand, India, and ♦ Iloilo, Philippines.

ROW volunteers in those places undertook the efforts quickly and began to distribute the masks and other protective items to protect the daily workers, street vendors and others who make daily living.

We ensured that the ROW team members and their family members used these protective measures first. As a standard safety practice, we conveyed to our team members that ‘safety starts with self’ – protect yourself first to protect many others. We received some pictures and information from those areas. Expecting to receive more information from Iloilo, Philippines later, as they began the program just a couple weeks ago.

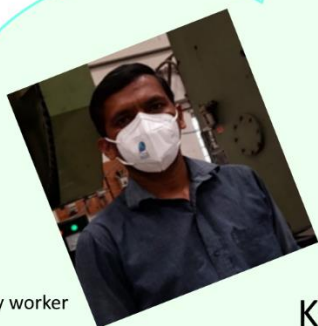
Distribution, Pictures and related information

The map below shows locations of the areas where we provided the support



Bengaluru

Mr. Sharadh Sindhia, ROW team member from Bengaluru arranged to distribute the masks to a number of factory workers and other daily workers by reaching out to them. He also ensured that they wear the N-95 masks properly with nose clips snugly fitted, and explained the benefits/safety it provides to them and others. Some of the pictures and a summary from Sharadh is below:



Mr. Kumar, Factory worker



Retail shop staff



Security personnel

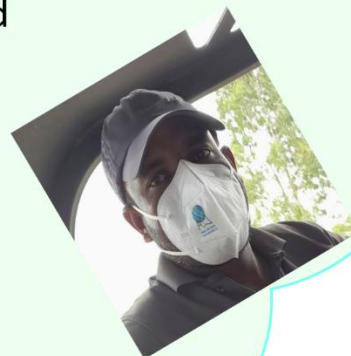
Keep Bengaluru protected



Ideal personnel



Shop Owner - open hours
during Locked down



Factory personnel

ROW associated with Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG) Karnataka to provide safety gear during the second wave of Covid-19. The N95 masks was sent across by ROW members from Delhi. During the month of June 2021 BSG's volunteers distributed these N95 masks to front line workers and daily wagers around different parts of Bangalore. Furthermore, more than 100 N95 masks were distributed with home isolation kits given to Covid positive patients. BSG members are grateful for the timely support given by ROW.

Delhi –

Mr. Suresh Soman, ROW coordinator, Delhi responded effectively with caution at the height of the pandemic cases and oxygen shortages causing many people to die every day. Mr. Soman and his family arranged for oxygen cylinders and generators, at no cost to some of their known people, whose lives were saved. This was a great support and humane action by Mr. Soman and his family.



Phenomenal outreach by Suresh Soman for protecting the daily workers and many other people who come in contact with them to meet their essential service needs.

Suresh has been reaching out early AM to many daily workers at the ground level (e.g. street vendors, hard-working policemen, ragpickers, Dhabawala, plus many others) and providing them with free N-95 masks, gloves and hand sanitizers. He has been explaining to them the way to use them properly and the critical need to protect them and others before the COVID-19 pandemic infection

While going about his daily work, marketing and all other household procurements, he talked to people who are key workers and begin their day to provide service to people and make their living.

In late June when the pandemic was coming down in new cases, he extended his visits to many routine daily workers who are constantly on the job, from car parking lot attendants to Tire repair shops, and all others in between.

ROW team is working with Humanitarian Aid International (HAI) in Delhi to reach out to many others. We provided protective PPEs, masks, and gloves to HAI personnel who are frequently out to visit and help people. Most of the pictures were provided in the report - [our effort in May-June, 2021](#). Some of the recent pictures from Delhi area are grouped together below.



Petrol Pump attendant



Rajesh - Attendant, Car Parking



Rajnish Pal and Komal Singh - Security personnel

Protecting key workers of Delhi



Najyot with HAI team helping settlers in Yamuna River-bank



Omrah - Dry cleaner



Moinuddin shaik- Recycle collector

Amar-
Taxi
owner



Ramu - Tire shop support

Gokul, U.P.

Pawan Sharma is our coordinator in Gokul, U.P., which is a small village with about 8,000 people. It is on the bank of the Yamuna River. Gokul residents have been actively pursuing protection of the Yamuna water and conducting exemplary awareness activities for the past few years with the help of ROW Foundation.

We sent N-95 masks and gloves to Pawan Sharma from Delhi, thanks to Suresh Soman for the arrangements. Although the pandemic is on the decline, we mentioned to Pawan Sharma that the protection needs to be in place and continue to prevent another surge. He assured that he will distribute the masks to daily workers, local ROW volunteers, and some temple priests who are conducting daily worships with a limited number of devotees.

Kolkata (Birati area)

Birati is located in the northeast part of Kolkata, West Bengal. It is close to the NSC Bose International Airport. Most of the ROW team members and student volunteers in Kolkata are from the Birati area.

Mr. Sucharit Dutta, ROW coordinator, visited with some of the daily workers in pharmacies, retail shops, temples, local electric company (WBSEDCL), and other organizations. Some of the most vulnerable people were daily workers who were out every day to provide essential services even during the locked down and their protection was of high importance to keep the coronavirus spread under control. A few pictures sent by Sucharit from Birati, Kolkata are below:



Priest Debu Chakraborty



ROW - student volunteers

Protecting Birati, Kolkata daily workers



Suman
Mondal
Electric Company
Meter data collector



ROW intern
Rudra Saha



Gourav Kar - Shop owner

Uttarakhand (Rishikesh and Ghansali)

Mr. Sudhir Nautiyal, ROW Coordinator, Uttarakhand, made a number of efforts to protect and help the teachers, students and staff of the Himalayan English School (HES) in Ghansali, and local communities in Ghansali area during this pandemic surge. As the Founder of the HES, he provided his School building (under locked down during the pandemic) in Ghansali for use as a quarantine center for the Covid-19-infected people in the village. His teachers were and still are monitoring daily upkeep of the facility. Currently, no one in the village is infected or in quarantine at the school facility. Very strict measures are taken in the village with the help of local authorities, the school teachers, and other local people who are ensuring that essential services are conducted with full safety protocol in place.

Dr. Ajay.K. Gairola, a senior Doctor in Government Hospital, Rishikesh and an advisor to the HES, has been providing a lot of medical guidance and support to the school teachers, staff, students and their parents by providing advice on proper safety protocol, healthy food habits and practices at home to prevent emergence of any infections in this remote village.



Although no regular in-person classes are running at the school since the end of last March, the teachers and school officials are continuing to run virtual, on-line classes in addition to caring for safety and precautions to reduce the spread. A team of teachers along with Manager, Mr. K. N. Gairola and Vice Principal, Mr. Greesh Uniyal are actively covering distribution of ROW N-95 masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers to support staff, and teachers at HES and distributing these items, as needed, to the owners of vegetable shop; shopkeepers of daily needs; women running stitching/ tailoring shops; owners of small book shops; carpentry shop owners; petrol pump attendants; share taxi drivers, grocery shop owners and other daily workers in the Ghansali village area. They also distributed masks among poor people who were seen without masks on the road. The HES team also provided training on proper wearing of the mask for effectively protecting them and others. Mr. D.K. Das, a senior teacher from HES was also active in mask distribution in the market and provided frequent demonstrations causing him to place his own masks in and out at times 😊. However, those unprotective moments were very short.

Our sincere thanks to the HES team including Mr. Sudhir Nautiyal, our coordinator, for their great effort in protecting themselves and many others in the Ghansali, Uttarakhand area.

A few pictures from the mask distribution and safety campaign by the ROW-HES team are below:



Mr. Sudhir Nautiyal, Founder Himalayan Eng. School



Mr. K.N. Gairola, Admin. Manager with support staff at HES

Protecting School staff in Ghansali, Uttarakhand



Support staff with K.N. Gairola



Sunil, Admin Assistant with K.N. Gairola



Grocery shop owner received mask

Protecting Key Workers



Yashvir Dabola giving mask to taxi driver



Bookstore owner received mask



Petrol pump staff with mask



Kollengode, Kerala

Dr. Prabhakar Puth, ROW coordinator in Kerala is Chairman of a social improvement organization, SRI (Society for Rural Improvement) and Director of a School, SRI Vidhyalaya, which he founded about six years ago. Dr. Prabhakar is pursuing various social improvement activities including water quality improvement and other water related activities in Kollengode and other parts of Kerala.



Due to the surge in coronavirus infections beginning from May, 2021 the activities and operations involving SRI and the school came to a locked down status. The village level microfinance program, established by Dr. Prabhakar over two decades ago, came to a halt with no funds coming in to pay the employees of the microfinance organization and the school. In mid-June we got a request that he needed high-quality, N-95, masks and gloves to provide to his microfinance loan collectors so that they could safely visit house to house for repayment collection. That's the main heartline for the survival of people there. In response, we worked with our Delhi coordinator, Suresh Soman and arranged to send 50 ROW masks (N-95) and 15 pairs of gloves by air courier. Dr. Prabhakar received those within the last week of June and promptly distributed them among his microfinance loan collectors, local banking staff, and teachers.

A few pictures sent by Dr. Prabhakar are shown below:



SRI Staff with ROW masks and gloves



SRI Staff Vadakkancherry Branch



SRI Microfinance staff Ms. Sushma (Nenmara Branch) receiving mask



SRI staff receiving mask



Ms. Nisha, Manager with Teachers and SRI Microfinance Staff



Head Office

Iloilo, Philippines

Engr. Noel Hechanova is ROW coordinator in Iloilo. Because of the recent surge in the number of cases there, the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), headed by Noel Hechanova, is facing many challenges to continue maintaining the environmental health and safety in the city. Coming to know about the challenges, we contacted Noel Hechanova and arranged to provide support by sending funds to procure 200 N-95 masks for protecting the daily field workers of CENRO and others.



The city was partially locked down except essential services at the end of June, when Noel Hechanova received the funds and began the mask distribution with the help of local health department. Our ROW team member, Ms. Evelyn Belleza has also been providing great support to us there for the past ten years. We received a message from Evelyn on July 23rd that they have the highest quarantine level right now up to the end of the month. She added “We are one of the 4 cities in the country identified as in critical condition because of the surge of COVID cases in the area.” The surge is mainly due to the cases of Delta variant there. We hope to hear from Engr. Noel Hechanova with more updates soon.

The City ENRO team continued their maintenance work with their masks on in Arevalo Plaza during partial locked down in June due to COVID 19. They were also working on reclamation activities along Iloilo River (Dulonan, Arevalo) area as reported by the Iloilo River Monitoring Team on June 12, 2021 in the CENRO FB page.

Some of the pictures of their May-June 2021 daily activities with protection are shown in pictures below:

Daily
watering-
keeps
green
↑ Oxygen




CENRO, Iloilo City



Cleaning/sanitizing Park benches



CENRO team working on reclamation
activities

Protecting daily workers -
keeping environment clean and safe



CENRO team conducting
daily maintenance

We will provide updates as we get more information from Iloilo city and other cities, towns, and villages where we are involved in providing support and assistance for reducing the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have questions, comments or updates, please send an email to us at rowfoundation@gmail.com.