

# COVID RESPONSE

# THE HEALING FIELDS



## IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

### *Women powering on*

## Overview

Healing Fields Foundation (HFF), for the last 2 decades, has worked on building an eco-system that ensures access to affordable and quality healthcare for all, especially women from rural and resource-poor communities.

It provides training and support for women to work as Community Health Entrepreneurs (CHEs) in their local communities. HFF facilitates technology driven access to health and economic empowerment through health microenterprises for these women health leaders. The confidence gained by women, as leaders in their community earning money for the family, develops newfound independence and agency.

HFF's model helps develop community level health infrastructure and has been implemented in India across Telangana, UP, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, and Jharkhand, as well as in Indonesia.



With Covid all work came to a standstill. However, it was also a time when agency of HFF's community health entrepreneurs gained prominence. The women broke barriers and took the lead on working with their communities on Covid issues. They became the go-to-people for Covid related information in communities.

Through 1200 CHEs, HFF worked on its Covid response in 1200 villages in 5 States. It reached 56,166 people from 10,212 families providing each family 3 ration kits. It also helped 4078 returning migrants with shelter in 103 village level quarantine centres. It arranged 45 buses for 2475 migrants to return to their villages with safety and dignity.

HFF partnered with Gramvaani to provide advice and Covid education to 25,000 people through Gramvaani IVRS. The CHEs helped 8739 people get access to Government entitlements and benefits.

To facilitate local, sustainable structures, HFF helped form Covid management committees in about 415 villages for community level management and prevention of Covid. The community health entrepreneurs are educating the communities and referring them for vaccinations.

## LONG TERM SHIFTS

### *Bridging the health gap*

The pandemic brought to the forefront the challenge of scarce health access to the rural communities. HFF is now focusing on bridging this gap by building resilience in communities.

It will continue to work on tele health models to improve access to quality health care for all. The pandemic experience has also increased HFF's focus on capacity building and data collection through digital methods.



## Conclusion

HFF's experience during the pandemic has reinforced the criticality for civil society organizations to collaborate and work together to deal with crises situations.

It is also important to embed new models of work within the government system and hold them accountable. The community health entrepreneur model of HFF has been adopted by National Health Mission.

