AIF Launches COVID-19 Humanitarian Response

A Message from AIF’s CEO, Nishant Pandey
As the COVID-19 crisis continues, please take good care of yourself and your loved ones.

AIF was founded during a time of crisis – in the wake of the devastating Bhuj Earthquake in 2001. Since then, we have responded to several calamities in India with community rehabilitation efforts. We are already on the ground supporting the very populations that are most vulnerable to this crisis. Please watch the accompanying video for a short message from AIF’s CEO, Nishant Pandey.

COVID-19 knows no borders, and while we practice social distancing at home, we hope you’ll remember the amazing impact you can have on those thousands of miles away. Act now.

Here are some stories from the field. We are stepping up efforts and will continue to share more stories with you. Stay up-to-date on our life-saving work by following us on our Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram pages, and help spread the word by sharing the stories that move and inspire you.

**AIF Partners with Amazon to Provide COVID-19 Relief**

Relief materials containing hygiene kits arrive at Bhora Kalan, in Haryana.

Village Leader demonstrates handwashing at the Anganwadi Center.
The COVID-19 outbreak has had a significant impact on people, including loss of work and lack of food supplies and we have hit the ground to ease out the challenges being faced by struggling families. The American India Foundation (AIF) has partnered with Amazon to address the immediate needs of economically vulnerable communities in Chennai, Manesar, and Ludhiana, including the elderly and children.

We are scaling up our effort to:

- Equip households with hygiene kits that include soap, handwash, wet wipes and face masks.
- Provide vulnerable families across multiple geographic locations with packages of essentials such as rice, tea, wheat flour, as well as sanitary napkins.
- Ensure proper handwashing and sanitation techniques reach children, teachers, and community leaders.
- Support and protect community health workers on the frontline.

The distribution of hygiene kits has begun. You can help in relief efforts by JOINING US NOW.

While Schools Are Shut, Children at Home Enhance Their Reading Skills
As thousands of migrant workers are heading back to their villages, AIF’s Learning and Migration Program (LAMP) has been working in rural communities affected by distress seasonal migration, to ensure children receive quality education and do not drop out of school. Sarita Rana is a student in Class 6. She attends the Pipalchhendi Learning Resource Center (LRC) in Nuapada, Odisha.

Her academic year is currently suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Many students like Sarita, who come from some of the poorest and remotest communities in India, were left wondering what they would do with their schools shut. Thinking ahead, the LAMP team distributed storybooks, so that children can continue to improve their reading skills at home. Children like Sarita Rana, from communities affected by seasonal migration, need your help.

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Using Technology in the Teaching-Learning Process
Teachers covered by AIF’s Digital Equalizer program are trying different ways to ensure their students keep abreast of the syllabus. The closure of schools has disrupted their lesson planning. In Government Boys Secondary School, Kondli Gharoli in New Delhi, teacher Sachin K. Singh decided to make and upload videos for the students, so that students can participate in online tutorials. Teacher-created video lessons can be used to enhance learning and as a way of making abstract or conceptual content more understandable. Research has shown that the use of multimedia in teaching helps students retain new information as well as aids in the comprehension of difficult material.

Sachin K. Singh has created his first video on the Introduction to ICT and uploaded it to YouTube. He hopes that this will increase the students’ passion for learning, and at the same time, keep them occupied while the schools are closed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Sachin says, “We have seen this success
elsewhere in the world, and my wish is that students in India also experience it.” This is inspiring other teachers in the school to also create online videos for their students. 

To support such efforts, ACT NOW.