



# COVID-19 Relief Report



Samerth Charitable Trust

## Director's Message

*“With the lockdown Samerth stood up with the families of daily wagers, migrant workers and others with meagre sources of income and were struggling for survival. In rural /tribal areas of Kutch/Chhattisgarh the farmers were left out with no source of income as the market closed down and they were not able to sell their Kharif crops and the earning members returned from cities and the cash income stopped.*

*Water crisis in summers in the desert of Kutch with no income to buy water for domestic use and drinking purpose made the families resorting to borrowing money on high interest from the money lenders. Many tribal families were without food and many families who got stuck in the cities needed support. Samerth extended helping hand to the migrants, marginalised groups such as elderly, single women, and people who were facing miseries and difficulties.*

*Thanks to friends, family and individuals, corporates and institutional donors for supporting us emotionally and monetarily and Samerth's front line team for all the action.”*

**Gazala Paul**

Director & Managing Trustee  
Samerth Charitable Trust

# About Samerth Charitable Trust

Samerth Charitable Trust works with unreached and marginalised communities by ensuring their entitlements are met through education opportunities, natural resource management and promoting livelihoods. We believe in collaborating with government programmes for wider reach and impact.

## Three Flagship Programmes

### Kutch District

Samerth actively started working in 2001 in Kutch District, Gujarat as a response to the devastating earthquake at that time. The Kutch program has now evolved to work extensively on participatory ground water management, reviving ponds, springs and wells, and rain roof water harvesting structures.



### Ahmedabad

In 2002, we expanded our work in Ahmedabad. The focus once again was on marginalised and vulnerable communities. Today, the Ahmedabad program runs a day care and vocational centre for over 86 children and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, providing them access to daily therapies such as physio, speech and psychotherapy. The team also works with 13 government schools & community centres on enhancing education in the foundation years.



### Chhattisgarh

In 2006, the Samerth team moved its focus to Chhattisgarh and began working with the PVTGs (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) like the Baiga tribal community in Bilaspur district. The program now has spread across 8 other districts and works on education, water management, livelihoods and community empowerment with primitive tribal groups.



# COVID-19 Relief Work

Samerth carried out relief work in the following areas

**KUTCH DISTRICT,  
GUJARAT**

**Rapar Block  
25 villages**

**Bhachau Block,  
Khadir Region  
6 villages**

**AHMEDABAD,  
GUJARAT**

**Juhapura  
8 communities**

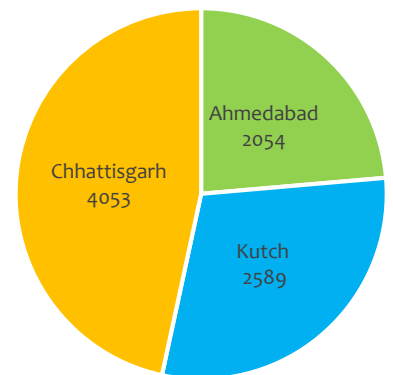
**CHHATTISGARH**

**7 Districts  
12 Blocks**

## Distribution of Ration kits

Samerth Immediately responded to the Covid-19 pandemic and the sudden lockdown by distributing dry ration kits beginning in all its communities

- The contents and cost of these ration kits varied from location to location depending on the local food eating practices and needs. The average cost of one kit was approx Rs 1,400/-
- These kits were made for a family of four member's and supply to last 25-30 days. These Kits contained- rice, wheat, millet , Dal, sugar/jaggery, salt, spices, tea, milk powder, millet, matchsticks, sack of potato & onions and some glucose biscuit packets



## Working with Migrants

During the lockdown our teams worked specifically with Migrant families in Chhattisgarh, Kutch and also in Ahmedabad. Supporting them with access to services by the state government & local bodies. Helping them access to ration & food, running a shelter home for them, supporting them to travel back to their home states. Majority of the work with Migrants was carried out in Chhattisgarh where through intervention and support we were able to work with or support over 30,000 migrants over the course of three months.



## Nutrition and Health

Nutrition kits were provided to 75 children with disabilities in Ahmedabad for the first 4 months to supplement their diet.

Samerth is continuing its work by providing nutrition for the next four months to 300 pregnant women and lactating mothers in Ahmedabad. Samerth shall also support 3 PHCs and 1 hospital with provision of medicines and hygiene kits in the identified communities within Ahmedabad & Sanand areas.

The Chhattisgarh team is also continuing its work by providing implementing support for community awareness on integrated health care with vulnerable communities in Abhanpur, Dharsiwan blocks of Raipur district. For the next three months the team will work on training and orientation of 5 ward health workers (mitanin, aaganwadi worker) on prevention of Covid-19 for in each ward. They will also hold monthly meeting of gram panchayat level health committees and carry out Community awareness program at Village level on prevention of Covid-19.



## Hygiene Kits

Families from within the communities were given masks, a bottle of sanitizer, three bathing soaps, a bottle of liquid hand-wash soap, bar of clothes washing soap & a packet of sanitary napkins.

KUTCH DISTRICT

1593

AHMEDABAD

600

CHHATTISGARH

20365

## Families supported during & post lockdown

KUTCH DISTRICT

2897

AHMEDABAD

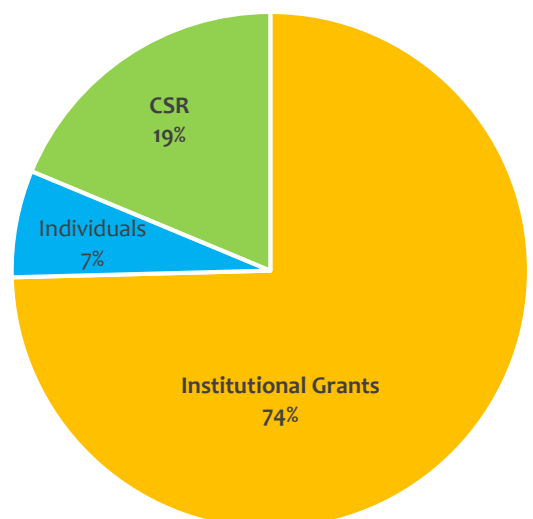
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CHHATTISGARH

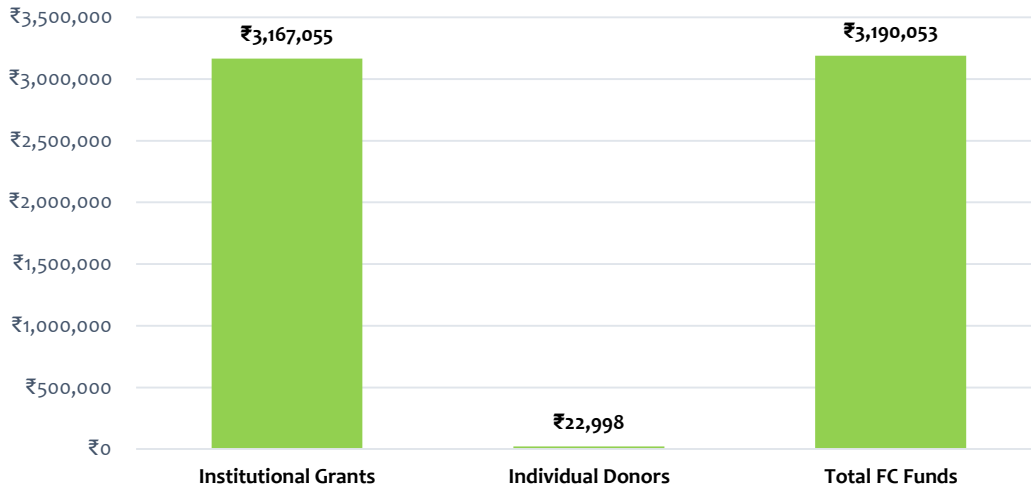
39418

## Total Funds Raised

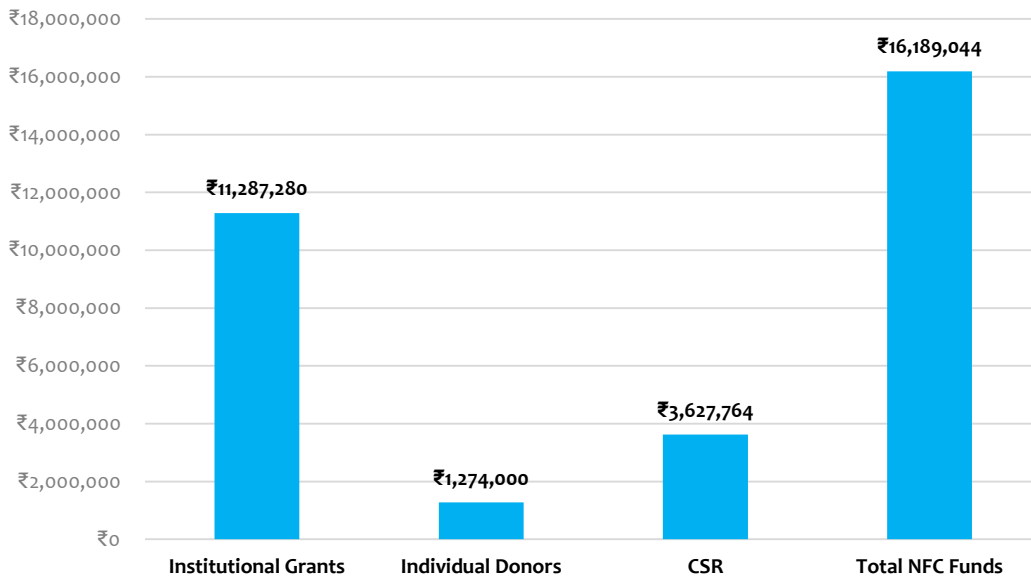
Samerth has raised Rs 1.93Cr towards Covid-19 relief work from 36 Institutional, Corporate & Individual donors. Samerth was able to mobilize funds both within India and from International sources towards carrying out Covid Relief Work through Institutional Grants, CSR funds and Individual donors. 17 individuals from across the world stepped in to support us by making donations varying from Rs.500 to Rs 10 lakh.



## Foreign Funds Raised for Covid-19 Relief Work



## Funds Raised in India for Covid-19 Relief Work



## Major Institutional & Corporate Donors

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| APPI             | Arghyam Trust       |
| PPG Asian Paints | CU Shah Charities   |
| IDRF             | State Bank of India |
| BRLF             | Schweitzer          |
| Mahavir Trust    | Mitra Foundation    |
| Oxfam            |                     |
| Unicef           |                     |

# On the Ground Impact

## Kutch District

We were able to distribute 8,000 litres of drinking water to 96 families staying in Dungrani vandh, Fafravandh and Kharoda near Dholavira village in Khadir region of Kutch district. This area is located near the greater Rann of Kutch and there is no direct water supply chain available.

In this area water supply is only available through tankers, twice a week and even these have a limited capacity, therefore year on year the community has to purchase water from the private borewell owners by paying Rs.700- Rs 800 for 3,500 litre of portable drinking water. During the lockdown, poor families had no access to money to be able to afford to buy water in the months of May & June, the peak summer months. We therefore constructed Rain Roof Water Harvesting Structures in the above part with support from Water Harvest – U.K. based organization and therefore the water storage capacity is available with these families.



## Chhattisgarh

At the beginning of the lockdown we collaborated with District Administration of Raipur, Chhattisgarh in setting up a shelter house for people/families from other states and districts that were stuck in Raipur. It was housed in the Pradhan Manatri Aavas Flats in Labhandi area. At this shelter home various department officials from the Health Department, Raipur Smart City limited, the Police & even the Forest Department came and volunteered their services. We supported the following:

- Arranged for the meals and daily utility items for the migrants.
- Supported the district administration by volunteering in six districts of Chhattisgarh.
- Set up a learning center for children along with offering livelihood training to the resident migrants at the shelter home.



**Deepak**, a 16 year old child with locomotor disability and mental illness, resides with his family in Raita village, Dharsiwan block in Raipur district. Due to his disability he was often socially excluded & ostracized by his own family and community. His family kept him hidden. He was not certified and didn't have 'Disability Ration Card' in his name. Even in the family ration card, his name had not been included. Thus, he was unable to access food grains from the government PDS. The situation was identified by Samerth's volunteers working on relief & support for Corona affected people. Samerth team immediately took action and a monthly ration was provided to Deepak and his family. However, one of the greatest blessings from the crisis was that Deepak's self confidence grew, he no longer looked at his disability as a barrier



The Samerth team was able to show his parents too that his disability was not something to be ashamed of or kept hidden. In fact it was their child with disability that helped them access quality and nutrition supply of ration during the covid-19 lockdown. The Samerth team is now working to ensure that Deepak can avail the government schemes and also help him get his disability certification.

## Ahmedabad

**Shahnawaz** studies in Ravinagar school and has been coming for the last three years to the Ravinagar Community Centre run by Samerth Urban Team. His father is an auto rickshaw driver and mother a housewife. He has a 3 year old younger sister – Saniya who suffers from thalassemia. She needs to undergo blood transfusion every month. Prior to the lockdown his father would earn anywhere between 12,000/- to 14, 000/- a month. This would take care of their daily expenses and Saniya's monthly treatments.

As soon as the lockdown was enforced, the family lost its only source of income. Shahnawaz, as a part of the midday meal program did receive a mere 500 gms of rice and wheat twice during the lockdown, completely inadequate for one person let alone a family of 4. In March the Samerth team went to each child's home in their communities to do look into the needs and crisis situation these children and families were facing. It was immediately assessed that Shahnawaz's family was in a crisis situation and therefore monthly dry ration kits ( 22 Kgs worth of goods) was provided for three months. With the timely intervention of Samerth team, the family was able to save their money for Saniya's treatment.

Today, post lockdown the situation is still grim, Shahnawaz's fathers' earnings have gone down to about Rs. 100/- a day and the family is pulling through in hopes of a better time to come. In his father's words “ We could save our daughter due to support provided by Samerth. At one point we were seriously discussing whether we would be forced to stop Saniya's treatment. It was a gut-wrenching discussion – something we hope we never have to consider again. The support from Samerth saved us!”





# Samerth Supporters

We also have a long list of supporters to thank without whom the work we did during the lockdown would not have been possible.

Government of Gujarat  
Ahmedabad District Administration  
Kutch District Administration  
Taluka Development Officer (TDO), Rapar  
Gujarat State Police  
Sarpanch of Adesar Gram Panchayat  
Sarpanch of Manaba Gram Panchayat

Government of Chhattisgarh  
Raipur District Administration  
Sarpanch of various Gram Panchayats  
Chhattisgarh State Police  
Blind Peoples Association, Ahmedabad  
WRT4U  
Our friends in the Media & Press

## Media Links

Selected media coverage for Samerth's COVID-19 Relief Work

<https://rb.gy/2sz19c>

[https://issuu.com/wiprofoundation/docs/samuhik\\_pahal\\_vol\\_1\\_issue\\_2](https://issuu.com/wiprofoundation/docs/samuhik_pahal_vol_1_issue_2)

<https://bit.ly/3k83wgV>

<https://bit.ly/3k8MJ6z>

<https://bit.ly/2DzatzO>

<https://bit.ly/3osDO8m>

<https://bit.ly/2PoRtqE>

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<https://bit.ly/39Vj9wG>

<https://bit.ly/3fy58X6>

<https://bit.ly/31e6Ask>

<https://bit.ly/33n521M>





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