

LEARNING OF COVID 19 RESPONSE

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In partnership with CBM, DEC Nepal has been implementing an **Inclusive Community for All in Banke** project for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Kohalpur Municipality and Baijnath Rural Municipality, two municipalities of Banke District since March 2019. Our country, Nepal, is also infected by the corona (Covid 19) epidemic, which originated in Wuhan, China. The Covid 19 epidemic was declared nationwide and a nationwide lockdown was announced. The lockdown that started on April 26 has had a big impact on human life. It made it even more difficult for people to earn daily wage by working for their living. It was a very difficult time for person with disabilities, the elderly people and children. The lockdown issued in the country created turmoil in all country. There was no working environment and everyone was worried about it like the food crisis, daily useful materials and for their business. Due to disease and hunger, human life became chaotic. Thus, as all kinds of dangers and difficulties increased, the work stopped and the wage workers started facing food crisis.



The local level decided to distribute relief to those in food crisis. Kohalpur Municipality and Baijnath Rural Municipality of Banke District have prepared their own criteria and identified the people in need of food crisis and prepared to

distribute relief through one-door system. In this context, DEC Nepal handed over the first phase of relief materials to Kohalpur Municipality and Baijnath Rural Municipality under the Inclusive Community for All in Banke Project for the inclusion of persons with severe disabilities and food crisis in both the municipalities. DEC Nepal had handed over 10 kg of rice, 1 kg of salt, 1 liter of oil, 1.5 pulses, 5 soaps, 20 masks, 1 Jeevan Jal and 10 tablets of citamol medicine for each person targeting 112 person with disabilities of both municipalities. The local level started distributing relief by identifying the families and persons with disabilities in the food crisis as per its criteria. The criteria for distribution of relief in Kohalpur Municipality



was 15 kg of rice, 1 liter of oil, 1 packet of salt and 1.5 kg of pulses. Baijanath of salt and 2 liters of oil of distribution started in help Group that the local inclusion of persons with members were mobilized to tives about the inclusion with the ward people's relief distribution, it was d their families as the disabilities in the details ef distribution in the first and lobbied with the local s with disabilities in the disabilities in both the us, it was learned that roviding relief through a er by coordinating with abilities was seen due to

the project's lack of direct involvement in relief distribution to control corona infection. Therefore, now while distributing relief, it should be distributed to the visiting houses of the victims.

The second phase of the relief support provided, in coordination with the municipality, ward and other stakeholders as per the criteria of the relief. Municipality, wards and mobilizing social mobilizers, the members of the self-help group of persons with disabilities, collected data on persons with disabilities in food crisis. Based on the collected data, discussions were held with the local level and ward and the second phase of relief was distributed. We handed over health hygiene kits for the quarantine centers of both the municipalities. Among the health safety items were 34 bottles of sanitizer of 500 ml for 17 quarantine centers of Baijnath rural municipality, 1700 masks, 255 soaps and 28 bottles of sanitizer of 500 ml, 1400 masks, 210 soaps for 14 quarantine centers of Kohalpur municipality. As per the criteria set by the municipality for food items, relief was distributed to 119 persons with disabilities including 60 in Baijnath Rural Municipality and 59 in Kohalpur Municipality with the help of Self-help Group members and ward people's representatives.



Thus, there were many challenges in the distribution of relief in both the

phases, the first phase of the relief distribution process was one-door system and it was difficult to include the persons with disabilities, so it was difficult to get the data of the disabled persons and their families. However, during the distribution of relief in the second phase, food items got wet due to rains and people with disabilities had difficulty in taking food items home. The second phase of relief distribution was effective and smooth. Thus, the project had distributed relief in two phases.

Even in such a difficult situation, the municipalities have always appreciated the support provided by DEC Nepal.