



Enhancing Resilience for Vulnerable Groups in Kerala

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IWWAGE
INITIATIVE FOR WHAT WORKS TO ADVANCE WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE ECONOMY

Successive Disasters for Kerala

Kerala faced two successive floods in 2018 and 2019

- Extensive loss of livelihoods, human lives; set back to the economy

Reported Indian's first COVID+ case on Jan 29, 2020; the curve is flattening

State Response (Floods)

- Floods were perceived as a challenge and an opportunity
- Resilient Kerala Initiative (RKI)
- Rebuild Kerala Development Programme (RKDP)

Changing definition of vulnerable groups

- During COVID for instance, 15 vulnerable groups identified including homeless/destitute; those with co-morbidity conditions; stray animals; artists



Focus on Vulnerable Groups

SCs/ST

Floods

- Extensive damage to road networks in Idukki and Wayanad
- Investments in repairing the road network

COVID-19

- USD 300 million of work to support rural wage labourers under MGNREGA
- Community quarantine centers for those with symptoms; free kits with food and essential supplies; cleaning settlements

Concern: ST settlements: problems in accessing PDS

Migrants

Floods

- Reports of IDs being important to access relief work

COVID-19

- Dashboard of migrants in each district; disaggregation by type
- Free camps with food of their choice; adequate hygiene, sanitation, mobile recharge and entertainment facilities; helplines in their own languages; regular official visits and monitoring
- Cash transfer of Rs. 3,000 for registered construction workers under the Welfare Board; inter-state portability of ration cards
- Exemplary treatment of migrants builds on narrative of 'guest workers'; previous initiatives like Apna Ghar, worker insurance
- **Concern:** Returnee migrants



Focus on Vulnerable Groups (cont.)

Fisherfolk

Floods

- Rescue army; suffered extensive damage to boats/equipment with underlying debris; earlier on account of Cyclone Ockhi

COVID-19 (*Concerns*)

- Have not been able to go out to fish on account of lockdown
- Rising fears that consumption of fish may increase risk to catching the virus; affects demand
- Fisherwomen who go out to sell particularly affected; not connected to aggregators

Elderly

Floods

- A high proportion of elderly living alone; time taken to evacuate

COVID-19

- Survey of elderly
- Door step delivery of grains and medicines; She-Taxi service to visit healthcare facilities; counselling support; distribution of pensions for two months

Persons with Disabilities

Floods

- Flood warnings

COVID-19

- Guidance through BUDS schools



Role of Women/Kudumbashree

Recognition that women can be 'resilience champions'

Floods

- Debris cleaned up in a week

COVID-19

- Cooked meals (free/subsidized): 3 lakh meals delivered daily through community kitchens run by Kudumbashree
- Home delivery of MDM to children <6 years; allocation of surplus milk/curd for guest workers, children, pregnant women
- Aggregation of food stock; vegetable supplies through women's groups; urban farming (Harvest at Home)
- Production of masks, sanitizers; IEC around social distancing

Schemes for women/children

- Nutritious food; counselling support; food and essential supplies for pregnant women; THR for children
- Helpdesk by Kudumbashree for providing counselling and psychological support to women facing gender violence
- Counselling for children to deal with anxieties/edutainment portal
- **Concerns:** micro enterprises run by Kudumbashree

What works

- Women embedded in decentralized structures/local panchayats; a tradition of gender budgeting
- A history of empowering women





Thank You