



NEF

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020-21**

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ABOUT US

Founded in 2017, the Natural Elements Foundation is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by improving academic outcomes for students in marginalized communities and addressing the inequitable distribution of resources. Our mission involves delivering context-specific interventions tailored to each community's unique needs.

Vision:

The Natural Elements Foundation sees a future where education serves as a powerful catalyst for socioeconomic advancement. We envision a society where every individual, regardless of background, has equal opportunities for success.

“ In bridging urban inequity, we deliver dignity, care, and support directly to doorsteps, ensuring no one is left behind in times of need. Together, we aim to build a community where access to essential resources knows no barriers, fostering a more equitable and compassionate urban landscape. ”



COVID RESPONSE

As of May 13, 2020, the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) had spread to over 180 countries, claiming 294,647 lives globally, with 4,312,969 reported infections. In the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, the first case was reported on March 2, 2020, reaching 8,000 cases by May 13, 2020, and resulting in 106 fatalities. The pandemic, along with the subsequent lockdown, has given rise to unprecedented challenges, including:

1. **Unemployment:** Lockdowns led to job losses, hitting daily wage workers and small businesses hard.
2. **Income Inequality:** Disparities widened, affecting marginalized communities disproportionately.
3. **Healthcare Strain:** Surge in cases strained healthcare infrastructure, impacting access to medical services.
4. **Education Disruption:** School closures and online learning posed challenges, especially for those without digital access.
5. **Food Insecurity:** Lockdowns disrupted the supply chain, leading to shortages and difficulties for vulnerable populations.
6. **Migrant Crisis:** Sudden lockdowns prompted a mass exodus of migrant workers.
7. **Psychological Impact:** Uncertainty and isolation took a toll on mental health, increasing stress and anxiety.
8. **Digital Divide:** Remote work and education exposed the existing digital gap, hindering full participation for some.
9. **Domestic Violence:** Confinement increased the risk of domestic violence, with victims facing challenges in seeking help.

Addressing these challenges was paramount to mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the most vulnerable sections of society.

NEF has executed a robust and impactful response to the pandemic by prioritizing grassroots interventions. From community-based awareness programs to the distribution of essential supplies, NEF has addressed the immediate needs of diverse populations with inclusivity and cultural sensitivity.

The organization's commitment to community-driven solutions extends beyond healthcare, encompassing education initiatives to bridge learning gaps exacerbated by the pandemic.

Additionally, NEF has played a crucial role in food delivery programs, ensuring vulnerable communities have access to essential nutrition.

This holistic approach, coupled with a collaborative effort involving partners, donors, volunteers, and the communities we serve, underscores the transformative impact achievable through targeted grassroots initiatives.

PROGRAMMATIC OVERVIEW

SWACHH SANKALP

The "Swachh Sankalp" campaign was curated to disseminate information, raise awareness and break taboos and myths around Covid-19 and vaccination. It focussed on practical, ground-level initiatives to promote cleanliness and safety. The objective was to empower Jhuggi Jhopri clusters with straightforward actions that align with their living conditions.

Focused Activities:

1. Hygiene Kit Distribution Drive:

NEF assembled and distributed "Swachh Sankalp Kits" tailored for slum clusters, including soap, sanitizers, masks, and informative materials on maintaining cleanliness in crowded living spaces.



Contents of every kit were as follows:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Quantity per Kit</i>
<i>Soap</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Sanitizer</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Mask</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Informative Materials and Pamphlets</i>	

2. Empowering Community Champions:

We identified and empowered local champions residing within our target communities who understood specific challenges. These champions guided and supported their neighbours and community members in adopting practical cleanliness measures and acquiring safety equipment.

3. Door-to-Door Sessions:

We trained our field team to conduct door-to-door sessions, providing practical guidance on maintaining cleanliness within the specific context of slum living, including waste management in confined spaces.

4. Localized Digital Awareness:

The use of WhatsApp as a practical information dissemination tool played a central role in our campaign. We mobilized community leaders and volunteers to create groups in each slum cluster, building a local virtual network. This strategic approach recognized the daily practicalities of residents, delivering relevant and readily applicable details on cleanliness, hygiene, and safety in real-time.

Through dedicated WhatsApp groups, we transformed digital spaces into interactive hubs, swiftly distributing actionable steps, including educational videos on effective handwashing and quick tips on waste management. This practical component allowed for personalized interactions, fostering a two-way communication channel to seek clarifications and share experiences.



SUMMARY

The Swachh Sankalp campaign's success is owed to our devoted team working on the frontline, whose passion and determination in executing community-focused efforts, ranging from distributing Hygiene Kits to conducting awareness sessions amidst the pandemic, played a crucial role.

Impact Metrics:

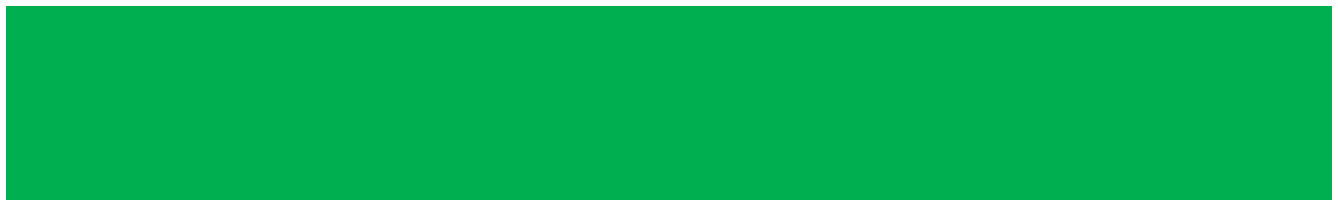
<i>Community Champions Engaged</i>	<i>150</i>
<i>Community Members Assisted/ Grievances Addressed</i>	<i>580</i>
<i>Door-to-Door Awareness Conducted</i>	<i>1650 households</i>
<i>Outreach through WhatsApp Communication</i>	<i>4870</i>

DILLI HUNGER SHIELD 2020

In a strategic partnership with the Government of NCT of Delhi, NEF spearheaded a coordinated effort to ensure the efficient delivery of essential resources to the last mile. This initiative had a significant impact on marginalized and migrant communities in Delhi, which, being under-resourced, lacked access to even basic food amid the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.

Our intervention included providing cooked meals and distributing dry ration kits to families not covered by the existing government support system and to minimize health and travel risks. Several thousand families either awaited e-coupons or lacked Aadhar cards to avail ration benefits under new schemes. Beneficiaries came from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, including slum dwellers, women from minority communities, families of blind individuals, daily wage laborers, those evicted during slum demolitions now living in tents, stranded migrant workers, families in containment zones, street vendors, and rickshaw pullers.

The dedicated COVID-19 response team at NEF streamlined processes and established structures for managing ration donations and deliveries across Delhi. This initiative, known as 'Dilli Hunger Shield,' facilitated last-mile deliveries and optimized resource mapping, under the current national lockdown imposed in response to the pandemic.

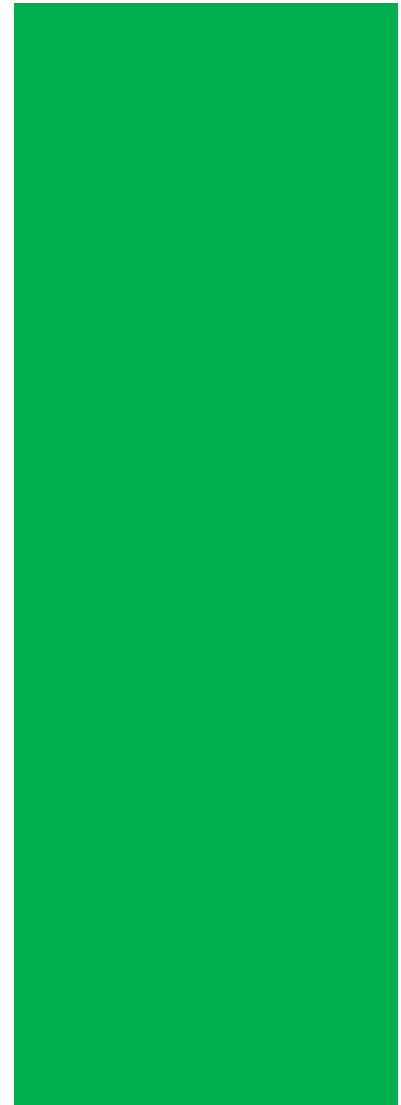


SUMMARY

Under the 'Dilli Hunger Shield' initiative 2020, we handed over 3410 kits to the SOS Hunger Relief Response Team of Delhi Govt under Helpline Program.

Contents of every kit were as follows:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Quantity per Kit</i>	<i>Unit</i>
<i>Rice</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Kg</i>
<i>Ata</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>kg</i>
<i>Dal – Pulses (Chana daal)</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>kg</i>
<i>Oil- 1 ltr/ per pkt</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>packet</i>
<i>Chilli Powder (Mirchi) -100 gm /pkt</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>packet</i>
<i>Haldi Powder 100 gm pack</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>packet</i>
<i>Salt iodized pack</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>packet</i>
<i>Rajma</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>kg</i>
<i>Sugar</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>kg</i>



The kits were distributed to 3410 families in need across 10 districts of Delhi. Our highest number of beneficiaries were from the South-East district.



Dilli Hunger Shield Kit Contents



EDULINK: BRIDGING COVID-19 LEARNING GAPS

EduLink, a targeted initiative, curates remediation programs in foundational courses. It addresses the distinct challenges confronting students in slum areas and low-income communities amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these students, as first-generation learners, confronted obstacles due to limited access to technology and resources. The program aimed to bridge this gap by connecting students with dedicated teachers and facilitators through digital platforms like WhatsApp and Zoom. It provided tailored support, ensuring continued education despite the pandemic's challenges.

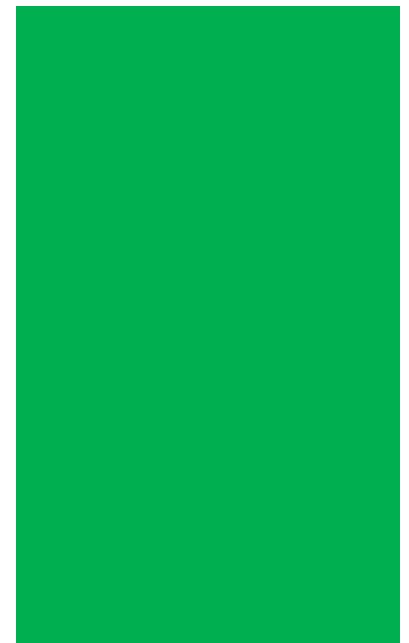
Our team collaborated with local educators, community leaders, and students to understand specific needs. We established a virtual network, connecting students with teachers and facilitators through platforms like WhatsApp and Zoom. Customized learning materials were developed to address diverse learning styles and challenges faced by these students, fostering an inclusive and interactive learning environment. The initiative aimed to create a sense of community and support among students who may have otherwise felt isolated.

To enhance the intervention's effectiveness, we organized virtual workshops and training sessions for both students and educators, covering essential skills such as digital literacy, online collaboration, and effective communication. Facilitators, well-versed in the challenges of first-generation learners, provided personalized guidance and mentorship. Regular check-ins and feedback mechanisms were established to monitor progress and adapt the intervention based on real-time needs.

SUMMARY

Under the 'EduLink' program, we worked with 153 student beneficiaries to provide structured learning support and design remote learning solutions by utilizing distribution channels. Program Details were as follows:

<i>Course/ Subject</i>	<i>Number of Students</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Gender Distribution</i>
<i>English</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>7th to 10th</i>	<i>53% Females 47% Males</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>7th to 10th</i>	<i>53% Females 47% Males</i>
<i>Other Subjects</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>7th to 10th</i>	<i>55% Females 45% Males</i>



TESTIMONIALS: STORIES OF HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION



Lata and Family, Beneficiary - Delhi Hunger Shield

"The NGO was like a hope light in our slum during COVID. The ration kit was a lifeline for our family as we did not have the money to buy food and other resources due to unemployment and construction work being at halt"

Rajesh, Parent of Deepak, Enrolled in EduLink - English Course

"The free classes were a blessing for our family as it helped my child continue learning during tough times. I could not afford to pay for tuition as we were barely managing to run our household"

Priya, Enrolled in Edu Link - Mathematics Course

"I am very thankful to NEF because I could attend online classes during the challenging times of COVID. Initially I was finding topics such as surface area volumes and triangles very difficult, but all teachers were very supportive and gave me additional classes and answered all my doubts. I could not have completed my syllabus without sir and ma'ams help. Their support ensured I continued my education"

PARTNERSHIPS

NEF recognizes the intricate and interconnected nature of developmental issues. Consequently, our approach is centred on establishing connections, fostering collaborations, and forging partnerships across various levels.

In our response to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, various grassroots organizations played a crucial role, drawing on more than a decade of experience to extend our outreach to the most remote areas. We prioritized organizations dedicated to serving migrant workers and marginalized communities, including women, the transgender community, sex workers, HIV+ individuals, differently-abled persons, and senior citizens.

Throughout the pandemic, our partners closely collaborated with our teams, local leaders, and volunteers. They delved deeply into understanding the unique needs and challenges present in each community, enabling localized decision-making to promptly address urgent issues.

Significant Partnerships

NEF partnered with the Govt of NCT of Delhi, corporate institutions and Rotary International district clubs for resource generation, logistics and other support.



A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS TO ALL OUR STAKEHOLDERS

As we conclude another impactful year, we extend heartfelt gratitude to each of you who contributed to our mission.

To our generous donors, dedicated volunteers, valued partners, and the resilient communities we serve — your support, time, and collaboration have been invaluable.

Together, we've achieved milestones, and your belief in our vision propels us forward. Thank you for being an essential part of our shared journey toward a better world.