

BRLF

Bharat Rural Livelihoods
Foundation (BRLF)



BRLF was established through a Union Cabinet decision on 3rd September 2013, as an independent society to upscale civil society action in partnership with Government. In addition to the corpus fund provided by the Government of India, funds are also sourced from concerned State Governments, Banks, Corporate sector, and philanthropic foundations. BRLF has been set up to foster and facilitate civil society action in partnership with government for transforming the livelihoods and lives of people across India. BRLF engages actively with CSOs to reduce the gap between program outlays and outcomes through strengthening of democratic institutions of governance at the grassroots, improved quality of implementation of programmes and scale up of successful models of interventions. BRLF's mandate is all India, though the initial focus of BRLF is on the Central Indian Adivasi belt, centered on blocks/ tehsils/ talukas/ mandals with a >20% Adivasi population in the states of Orissa, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat. BRLF is governed by a General Body and Executive Committee comprising elected, nominated or ex-officio members from the different sectors. BRLF is subject to audit by CAG of India and The Right to Information Act, 2005 applies to the Society.

**[BRLF work towards creating
“Atma Nirbhar Adivasi Bharat”]**





BRLF Covid-19 Response

Working with most deprived Tribal communities

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant nationwide lock down have severely impacted the social and economic fabric of the country. The worst affected are the poor and the vulnerable sections of the society- the informal and unorganised sector, with no social security and women. In response to COVID 19, BRLF decided to initiate its interim relief and long-term livelihood restoration measures. The short-term measures were started from 3rd April 2020 in partnership with the existing 14 CSO partners. The aim of BRLF response was to cover most vulnerable households and contribute in minimizing the new infections of COVID-19 and mitigating the impact of the infection and the resultant lockdown among the poor and marginalized, especially the tribal migrant workers of Central Indian Tribal Region.

Strategically, BRLF focussed on areas like a) most interior & unserved b) resource poor c) location having history of high migration d) location having most vulnerable households e) non-CSR areas etc. Partners ensured all safety measures for their staff engaged in this work was given to all the partner CSOs explaining the SoPs.

Outreach & TG

Partners: 14 CSOs
State: 5
District: 11
Block: 16
GP: 188
Village: 520
No. of Quarantine centres supported: 27 centres
Distribution of towels and other sanitary items: 739
Dry ration kits distributed in quarantine centres: 300
Budget Utilization
Approved Budget: 75.78Lakhs
Expenditure: 75.71 lakhs

AIM

Mitigate the impact of Covid 19 & lockdown in Central Indian Tribal belt

Target most vulnerable Tribal families (interior & unserved)
Mitigate and minimise the impact of the new infection Covid 19)
Migration & Livelihood Challenges – tackle through Restoration & Rehabilitation



Action (2 Phases)

Interim Relief Support

Support for ensuring Livelihood security

First Phase

1. Database of affected families from TG was prepared.
2. Awareness/ sensitization campaign about quarantine rules specially within migrant population.

Second Phase

- Direct inputs support was provided to the poor and vulnerable families for next cropping seasons— seed, fertilizer, water pumps and tractor hours for collective tilling.
- Support was extended for cultivation of short duration food crop like – maize and millets and establishment of nutritional kitchen garden at households' level.
- Direct liquidity support was provided to Kishan club and FPOs for purchase of commodity at village level and selling of inputs for next crop.
- Logistics:Transportation support was extended in case of perishables items – vegetable & fruits.
- Financial assistance was given to migrant families for alternative livelihoods – livestock and NTFP.
- The existing community owned seed banks have been taken to the next level - support was provided to increase the numbers of seed banks and quantity of seed.
- **Strengthening of PDS supply** – monitoring and real time information dissemination was done by the CSO partners- brining to the notice of the local authority in case of shortage of food
- **Strengthening of MGNREGA** – Enabled the poor people to get work, job cards to families, who came back because of reverse migration, advocated for no. of workdays to be increased as per the new guidelines
- Facilitation support was given to families to avail their entitlement announced by Govt. Awareness camps have been organized in the village for all schemes.

SOP and strategies followed during relief work

1

Looking into the lockdown and limited permission of movement, partners have been working in close consultation and coordination with district/block administration. Approval and permission from the district / block / panchayat's authorities have been taken before commencing the COVID-19 relief work.

2

Partners were involved in identification of most vulnerable households in their project location to provide relief support. Families were selected as per the criteria specified in SOP

3

Partner shared a list of the identified households along with procurement and distribution strategy to the block and district administration and obtained their consent and necessary permissions for the distribution work

4

Partners ensured all safety measures for their staff engaged in this work








Snapshot of the relief work - 1st Phase



Partners	14
State	5 West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh
District	11
Block	14
Gram Panchayat	188
Village	520
Distributions of dry ration	9081 households
Distribution of face masks	5550 HH
Distribution of towels and other sanitary items	739
Dry ration kits distributed in quarantine centres	300
No. of quarantine centres supported	27 centres
Budget Utilization	Approved budget: 75.78 Lakhs
	Expenditure: 75.71 Lakhs



Summary of the major interventions and outputs

 Action Objective	 Major interventions	 Outputs
To ensure and extend the days with availability of food and essential commodities to the most vulnerable families	Distribution of dry ration kits to the families affected by COVID-19	3350 families were supported by distribution of dry ration kits
	Distribution of baby food kits to the families having babies of 0 to 3 years	200 HHs were provided with baby food kits
Controlling the spread of COVID-19 to minimize the infections	Assessing the situation of quarantine centers and provide support to fill the gaps	A total 3 quarantine centers were supported by distributing masks, towels, sanitizers, and other essential items
	Distribution of masks and hygiene kits to the families supported under interim relief	3350 HHs were supported with hygiene kits which essentially contain masks and sanitizer
	Providing PPE kits to the CSO staff engaged in relief work	60 no. of CSO staff was provided with PPE material
Restoring livelihoods of the poor, marginal farmers and migrant households	Providing seeds and other inputs to the marginal farmers having land holding size maximum up to 2 acres	3768 no. of families benefitted with agricultural input support
	Conservation and ensure availability of variety of indigenous seeds in the villages itself by promoting community managed seed banks	Strengthened 60 community seed banks by purchasing new stock of seeds and/or storage equipment
	Providing alternate livelihood options to the landless migrant families recently returned to their villages from cities	Input and asset support to 1028 migrant families for alternative livelihood options- Livestock & NTFP
Ensuring Rights & Entitlements of the community by linking them with various govt. schemes (PDS, MGNREGA etc.)	Linking families with different government schemes like PDS, MGNREGA etc.	11973 HHs linked with different govt. schemes like PDS, MGNREGA etc.
	Providing direct liquidity support of Rs. 25000 to the FPOs to reach out to vulnerable families not getting serviced under govt schemes	3 FPOs provided with direct liquidity support of Rs 25000

Key Learnings & Best Practices



- Livestock beneficiaries started contributing for de-worming and vaccination activity as they understood through different trainings about the importance of this activity.
- Multilayer farming is a new concept for the PG members in Odisha state. Through the project intervention, they learned about multilayer farming and the crop combination.
- There are many people deprived from government entitlements in most of the project locations. Because of the involvement of PRI members and block officials during the beneficiary selection process, those people were identified and linked with govt. scheme.
- MGNREGA and PDS emerged as one of the best schemes across country that can safeguard rural population from such epidemic.
- Acquired knowledge on Do's and Don'ts of COVID-19 apart from different guidelines / circulars shared by Government.
- Adoption of new technologies like Zoom/Google Meet etc. to impart trainings and/or conducting review meetings.



Innovations

- All households who availed livestock support, have prepared low cost BYP shed. The initiative not only reduces mortality rate but also motivate other livestock beneficiaries to adopt the same. Apart from this, beneficiaries have started feed preparation which is another area of good practice.
- During selection of beneficiary for relief support, JMA and BGS together identified some people belonging to other states who could not return to their native place due to the lockdown. Those families were supported with Ration Kits and linked them with Gram Panchayats for additional support.
- Distribution of sanitary napkins to the adolescent girls of PVTG tribes since PVTG women are not in habit of using sanitary pads.
- Involvement of local village institutions, PRI members, block administration etc. in distributing relief material
- One COVID Tabloid was designed and decorated with IEC materials which was used for creating COVID related awareness. Sangha leaders took part in setting COVID flexes in most prominent places of Purulia District.
- TSRD highlighted COVID related relief work in their website (www.tsrd.org) along with the appeal for support.
- Registration of reverse-migrant families & planning for alternative livelihoods.
- Purchasing of improved variety indigenous chicks for eggs & meat.

Thematic areas covered

BRLF attempts to support its partner CSOs in projects that primarily focus on building sustainable livelihoods through improved agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and forestry. CSO partners also work on land and water resource development, local community institution building, better implementation of social security schemes, capacity building of panchayati raj institutions and community based organizations for enhanced participation, common property resources, value chain development in agriculture and allied sectors and skill development of rural youth, other government functionaries. Other thematic focal areas of BRLF are integrated habitat improvement, food and nutrition security, capacity building of stakeholders, and knowledge development/research that facilitates and fosters sustainable livelihoods in the Central Indian Tribal belt.



Linkages of thematic areas with SDGs

The Thematic areas have been selected and are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals: 1. No Poverty, 2. Zero Hunger, 5. Gender Equality, 6. Clean Water and Sanitation, 7. Affordable & Clean Energy, 8. Decent Work & Economic Growth, 10. Reduced Inequalities, 12. Responsible Consumption & Production, 13. Climate Action, 16. Peace, Justice and Strong institutions, 17. Partnerships for the Goals.

Sustainability of the social development initiatives

The sustainability of program is ensured by partnership with civil society organisation and mapping of actions with government schemes and programmes in the intervention area. BRLF achieves its key outputs/outcomes through its strategic engagement with CSOs, this reduces the gap between program outlays and outcomes through strengthening of democratic institutions of governance at the grassroots, improved quality of implementation of programmes and scale up of successful models of interventions.

Scalability of the social development initiatives

The Grant support and Capacity Building initiatives of BRLF goes hand in hand, one ensuring scalability of the project/intervention and other integration with larger Government efforts/schemes.



BRLF: The Value Proposition:

Upscaling Civil Society Action in Partnership with Government For self-reliant Adivasi communities

- Supporting PM's initiatives for livelihood security
- Doubling Farmers' Income
- Taking forward NPM Agriculture, a form of Natural farming in line with Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati program
- Participatory Groundwater Management as envisioned in the Atal Bhujal Yojana
- Reforms in government flagship programmes
- Innovations in improving rural livelihoods
- Value chain development for NTFPs and crops
- Working in the most neglected regions and with PVTGs
- Building capacities of rural professionals
- Building capacities of small CBOs
- Providing States, a window for NGO partnership
- Transparency in support to NGOs

Social impact the initiatives have had on the lives of Beneficiaries

- Total Districts covered: 86
- Total Blocks covered: 251
- Total Villages covered: 8480
- Total GPs (Gram Panchayats covered: 1941
- Total Scheduled Tribes HHs covered: 548956
- Total Household coverage: 654088

BRLF Financials:

- Annual turnover of last three years. (in INR Cr. and USD)

Financial Year	Annual Turnover
2017-18	23.02 (\$3.2 million)
2018-19	26.49 (\$3.7 million)
2019-20	32.43 (\$4.4 million)

Mission

BRLF has been set up to foster and facilitate civil society action in partnership with government for transforming the livelihoods and lives of people across India.



BRLF: The Multiplier: Every rupee invested by BRLF mobilizes Rs.4 in co-finance and Rs.11 through leverage or Rs.15 totally..

For more details log on to www.brif.in or mail us at info@brif.in