Rapid Assessment on Disaster and Response Report

Region: Dindigul **State:** Tamil Nadu

DINDIGUL REGION

Dindigul district is having 14 union blocks, wherein DHAN Foundation is working in 11 blocks, with nine federations, covering 49,000 families.

COVID-19 EFFECT

Till 1st April, there are no Covid-19 cases in the district. The number of positive cases suddenly surged up to 43; all these persons were returned from Delhi. Out of 43 cases, 23 cases are from Begambur town of Dindigul. The other cases are recorded in Palani, Oddanchtram, Natham and Nilakottai blocks of the district. Rest of the blocks didn't record any positive cases so far. Around 74 new persons were admitted into hospitals for screening.

Livelihood Assessment in Dindigul region (DHAN member families)

DAIRY

Nearly 20,000 members are having dairy animals. The milk prices went down from Rs. 27 to Rs. 21 due to lockdown, leading to financial crisis for the members

JASMINE MARKETING

Normally, the price of one kg. of Jasmine is around Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. Due to lockdown, farmers are selling the Jasmine for Rs. 80 per kg.

IMPACT ON LIVELIHOOD

Community lost its livelihoods due to lockdown. Nearly 60% of the members in the region work as agriculture laborers; they lost their livelihood due to staying at home for the past 11 days. In the villages most of our members have dairy animals. The reduction in the milk prices affected them financially.

Most of our members are employed in Jasmine cultivation. Lack of transportation facilities and market shutdown put them in financial set back. Beyond this the farmers those who are cultivating jasmine have been greatly affected since all the flower markets are closed and the farmers could not sell their produces. They are selling the jasmine flowers only to the perfume company.

With our members

Regional staff are in constant touch with leaders and members through phone. They've been circulating the authenticated data about the virus spread, creating awareness on fake news, and ensuring usage of masks and sanitizers by the member families.

Apart from agricultural activities, our members are employed as construction workers, daily laborers and mill workers. All of them have lost their livelihood due to lockdown and they are uncertain of their employment post-lockdown.