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### **Isha COVID-19 Relief Efforts Reach Andhra Pradesh And Telangana**

*Isha reached out to local frontline COVID warriors, workers dispensing essential services and people at risk by providing them close to 30,000 refreshment packets and masks.*

**July 2:** The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has already had devastating effects in both urban and rural areas, exacerbating food shortages in many parts of the country. In a matter of days, scores of lives and livelihoods were destroyed, and a fragile healthcare system was strained.

To address the urgent needs of frontline workers and provide food security for vulnerable communities, Isha continued its relief operations by serving close to 30,000 food packets in parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Over the course of nearly a month, Isha volunteers served food packets to healthcare workers, patients, sanitary workers and sewerage workers in Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam.

Isha arranged for 180 four-layered masks for workers at LPG gas companies in Secunderabad's Alwal, as well as Somajiguda and the BHEL townships in

Hyderabad. The staff was in charge of transporting LPG gas cylinders to homes. As many as 220 four-layered masks were also offered to vegetable vendors, security guards and domestic workers in parts of Hyderabad. Orphaned children under the care of the Women Development and Child Welfare Department received 500 masks from the effort. Additionally, police personnel on COVID duty were given 600 masks.

Isha distributed buttermilk and ORS packets to COVID warriors manning the frontline. Isha also served refreshments to frontline workers at government hospitals including the Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS), King Koti District Hospital (Hyderabad), King George Govt. Hospital (Visakhapatnam), Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation and Arilova Covid Care Center (Visakhapatnam).

In the last 50 days, the organization has distributed over 4 lakh food packets to frontline workers and underprivileged communities in Karnataka. Isha distributed ration kits containing essential food items to around 550 nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes in Chikkaballapur and neighbouring taluks. Moreover, over 1,600 ration kits will be distributed to the villages in the Chikkaballapur district.

In Karnataka, Isha also reached out to more than 45 major government hospitals in the districts of Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mandya, Mangaluru, Udupi, Chikmagalur, Chikkaballapur, and Chamrajnagar. Medical equipment and hospital care items, including ECG machines, multi-parameters, and other medical services equipment were supplied to the upcoming Chikkaballapur Hospital.

Last month, 500 oxygen concentrators, 2 vehicles and several hundred PPE kits and masks were among the list of items offered by Isha to the Government of Tamil Nadu. Isha also contributed 500 PPE-kits, 5000 N95

face masks and 500 CPAP machines to the Coimbatore Government Hospital.

Isha volunteers have been working on the ground in numerous areas in Tamil Nadu to alleviate human suffering since the beginning of the outbreak last year. Isha served Nilavembu Kashayam on a daily basis as part of the relief effort. Other on-the-ground activities include providing face masks, sanitizers, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to frontline employees, as well as refreshments and snacks.

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