



**SHARE  
& CARE**  
FOUNDATION

# NEWS

A newsletter for rural India's caring community of supporters. Each issue shares news and real-life stories of empowerment through education, gender equality, healthcare, and village upliftment.

## PANDEMIC RELIEF & RECOVERY FUNDRAISER

"REFLECTIONS OF KUTCHH" PRESENTED BY GUJARATI JALSO

**SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021 AT 8PM EST**

The recent surge in COVID-19 cases has created a crisis across India, with harrowing stories and photos shared across the globe depicting the severity of the situation. With a mission to help society's most marginalized and at-risk communities, we are compelled to do our part — and our Disaster Relief Committee has worked tirelessly to put a plan of action in place to help those in need.

As of April 2021, we undertook a one million dollar pandemic relief package to help various states across India, with immediate assistance going toward:

- Vaccination assistance for more than half a million people
- 12,000 healthcare kits for families and health centers
- Food assistance for 30,000 struggling families

### You Can Help: Send a Gift and Tune in on July 17

We're hosting a virtual event on July 17 to raise funds and awareness to fight this large-scale humanitarian crisis. This fundraiser will feature entertainment by Parthiv Gohil and other top performers, including soulful Gujarati songs and music set against the great white Rann of Kutchh. Let's honor the beauty of India — the people, landscapes, and traditions — while coming together to show our support during this time of need.

**How to Participate:** Those who **donate \$200 or more** to SCF Projects will receive access to this special event. However, various levels of sponsorship are also available (for example, see our "Save a Village" program below). Sponsor benefits may include acknowledgement during the event, recognition by one of the performing artists, and more! Please visit the link below for details about how to watch or become a sponsor.

**Please note: The deadline to sponsor this event is Thursday, July 1. Invitations, with instructions on how to tune in on July 17, will be distributed after July 2nd onwards.**

For full details, visit [shareandcare.org/reflections](https://shareandcare.org/reflections).

### Save a Village

Now is the time to make a difference. With one **\$5,000** gift, you can empower an entire village living below the poverty line by providing vaccination assistance, healthcare resources, and food for struggling families. Your gift will not only equip villages with urgent supplies (like medical equipment needed now to combat COVID-19), but it will also offer educational and livelihood resources for sustainable, long-term empowerment.

Read on to learn more about our various programs in states across India and to see exactly how gifts — from generous donors like you — are making a real, immediate difference for people in need. ●



FEATURING:

**MANASI AND  
PARTHIV GOHIL**

**BHOOMI TRIVEDI**

**OSMAN MIR**

**JAHNVI SHRIMANKAR**

AND MANY MORE!

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**WE VALUE YOUR LOVE AND KINDNESS. THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS CALLS FOR ALL OF US TO UNITE AND BATTLE TOGETHER — AND WE NEED YOUR HELP. PLEASE DONATE GENEROUSLY. ALL DONATIONS ARE VALUABLE, AND NO DONATION IS TOO SMALL. PLEASE BE SAFE AND WELL.**

—SHARAD SHAH  
PRESIDENT, SHARE & CARE FOUNDATION





A woman receives her COVID vaccination during a drive benefiting communities in Buxar and Ghazipur.

## Connecting Communities with Opportunity in Uttar Pradesh's Migrant Belt

Along the eastern region of Uttar Pradesh (and in the bordering district of Buxar) are remote villages that serve as temporary homes to nearly thousands of transient daily wage earners. Typically, these individuals migrate from their villages to cities like Bangalore, Mumbai, and Delhi in search of work — but with partial or full lockdowns back in effect, the workers are returning to their villages, and the population of these areas has risen by 30–40%.

The villagers are now facing a twofold crisis: a lack of livelihood opportunities to sustain their survival, and a wave of increasing COVID cases. As of May 2021, less than one percent of the people in these districts have been vaccinated.

With assistance from Share & Care, our partner NGO Mijwan Welfare Society has committed to helping people in seven districts — which have a total population of more than 40,000 migrants — through their project **Rozgar Dhaba COVID Sanjeevani\***. This information-based project is combating the COVID crisis with a comprehensive vaccination drive and also by connecting communities with local livelihood opportunities.

**\*Sanjeevani:**  
**A magical plant in Hindu mythology, thought to cure ailments in which death is nearly certain.**

### Vaccination Challenges

- Lack of awareness about vaccinations programs
- Rumors about high costs for the vaccine
- Lack of proper documentation (posing problems for vaccine registration)
- Mistrust of the vaccine and/or government systems
- Myths about the vaccine relating to infertility, pregnancy, and/or menstruation

### Livelihood Challenges

- There is little to no land that is suitable for agriculture
- Only one in 10 villagers is aware of COVID-related government support available to them
- Unless they travel, it is nearly impossible for workers to learn about jobs that do become available
- Community members are unclear about changing COVID-19 guidelines

The goals of this project are to create informed communities who not only understand the importance and safety of COVID vaccinations, but also have the ability to get vaccinated; and to equip workers with the tangible resources — such as mandatory documents and bank accounts — that will allow them to access the livelihood opportunities available to them. ●



## BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE

Mritunjay, age 30, is a coordinator supporting this project in the Ghazipur-Buxar and Balia districts. Recently, determined to combat myths about the vaccine, he attempted to share verified information via phone and video calls — but people only wanted to know one thing: “Have *you* been vaccinated?” After realizing the power and influence of speaking from first-hand experience, Mritunjay immediately registered himself on the CO-WIN app for a COVID vaccination. Now he is a motivator to the community and shares his experience — that “all is well after vaccination.” He now helps more than 50 people every day to get vaccinated.

**LEFT:** Mritunjay receiving his first shot of COVID vaccination



## Easing Hardships Below the Poverty Line in Jharkhand

Our partner NGO Pradan operates in Jharkhand, where 37% of citizens live below the poverty line. In rural areas, people struggle to find work — some labor in agriculture (despite poor land conditions), while others find work as wage earners or migrate to cities to work in construction or driving. Food insecurity and gender inequality are both rampant problems, and women are often saddled with the burden of supplementing family income while men are away.

In the wake of a global pandemic, the struggles already facing the people of Jharkhand were multiplied — and the second wave brought yet another set of challenges and threats. To ease these struggles, we are supporting Pradan's efforts to provide short- and medium-term relief for communities across five blocks in three districts. These initiatives will reach 20,000 households and will assist with the following:

- Increasing awareness around COVID-related health and hygiene practices
- Connecting vulnerable households with government welfare programs related to food security and cash
- Ensuring people access to the 100 days of employment guaranteed under MGNREGA, a government program
- Supporting select families in taking up farm-based livelihoods

**TOP:** Beneficiaries practice social distancing at a community kitchen.

**BOTTOM:** With guidance from Pradan, rural villagers learn how to grow crops to sustain their families and communities.

### Cultivating Freedom From Struggle

This year Phul Kumari Tigga, age 29, started her own kitchen garden in a small patch of land beside her house. She didn't know about gardening before receiving training from Pradan, and during the pandemic lockdowns, she struggled to purchase food at local markets due to cash shortages. Now, she is successfully growing many kinds of vegetables, and the garden allows her the freedom to decide what kind of food she serves her family. "During the pandemic and shortage of cash, buying vegetables was a huge burden for us," she says. "We could not buy many vegetables because we couldn't afford them. Now we do not need to go to the market." ●

## RESILIENCE IN JHARKHAND

"We are thankful to Share & Care Foundation for their dedicated support which has helped more than 15,000 rural households — especially women — to come out from economic and social deprivation. The support to combat COVID has not only helped to combat the immediate crisis but also facilitated a more resilient and context-specific strategy to overcome the effects of the pandemic on a sustained basis."

— PRADAN

## A NEW GENERATION OF CARING

Are you a student or a young professional? Join the next generation of Share & Care organizers and volunteers! Our Kids4Kids ([Kids@shareandcare.org](mailto:Kids@shareandcare.org)) program — open to ages 12–18 — and our Young Professionals Committee ([YPC@shareandcare.org](mailto:YPC@shareandcare.org)) are forging paths toward a brighter and more equitable future. Both programs include opportunities for fundraising, advocacy, and fellowship with like-minded people.

Follow us on social media to stay updated:

📷 [@shareandcareorg](https://www.instagram.com/shareandcareorg) or [@SCFkids4kids](https://www.instagram.com/SCFkids4kids)

🎵 [@shareandcareorg](https://www.facebook.com/shareandcareorg)

📌 [@shareandcarefoundation](https://www.facebook.com/shareandcarefoundation)

# Head, Hands, and Heart: A Holistic Approach to Empowerment in Gujarat

Most people in the villages around Ahmedabad, Gujarat work as farmers, laborers, and daily wage earners. With the second wave of COVID, draconian conditions descended upon these already impoverished communities — creating a dire need not only for medical resources, but also for health awareness and education, nutritional sustenance, and vaccination outreach

The Environmental Sanitation Institute (ESI), our partner NGO, works with a holistic mindset to address the socio-economic, environmental, and spiritual needs of the communities they serve. By placing trained Lokmitras (“friends of the people”) in dedicated villages, ESI creates change through grassroots action. Recently these Lokmitras — following a quest to operate with the harmony of head, hands, and heart — have been working to provide groceries for the needy, connect villagers to healthcare and government welfare programs, and spread awareness about the safety and effectiveness of COVID vaccines.

## Investing in “Trust Capital”

With support from Share & Care, ESI has equipped the Lokmitras with funds for community requirements (such as groceries and emergency supplies), to be used and distributed as needed. While all activities are ultimately documented to monitor success and sustainability, we place trust in ESI and their Lokmitras to do what is best for the communities we serve; in turn, the villagers bestow their trust upon the social workers and the entire process. “Trust Capital,” as ESI calls it, multiplies and enhances our impact by encouraging local participation.

## Karuna Care Yatra: A Compassionate Care Journey

To combat the recent wave of coronavirus cases, our on-the-ground partners are providing the following services (and more) for beneficiaries in Gujarat:

- Spreading awareness through pamphlets and banners
- Setting up isolation centers in schools and vacant areas
- Providing medicine and medical equipment to families and health centers (including oximeters, digital thermometers, steam machines, sanitizers, and N95 masks)
- Providing COVID care kits to impacted families
- Distributing grocery kits to needy families

With the help of public health centers and village leaders, ESI is also hosting vaccination drives and incentivizing participation by providing 1kg of lentils to every vaccinated family. These efforts will impact 15 immediate villages and 12 neighboring villages — reaching a total of more than 28,000 people. ●



**TOP:** Masks, along with other medical supplies, are distributed to village families.

**BOTTOM:** A village patient is treated at a health center.

## IN GOOD HANDS WITH A STRONG SUPPORT NETWORK

In the Meghpur village (of Bhuj district), one family — a husband, wife, and two children — depended on income from making leather slippers, but their livelihood was devastated during the lockdowns. Then in May 2021, the wife Sajjan ben showed severe health symptoms, including difficulty breathing. She received a COVID test, which came back negative, so doctors referred her to a nearby hospital for a blood transfusion. After that, her oxygen levels improved. At doctors’ suggestions, a Lokmitra administered medicine to the patient and explained the importance of getting vaccinated to both the husband and wife. The Lokmitra also visited their home, where the children (ages 6 and 8) were alone. He brought them food and a “Karuna Kit” of supplies. The parents felt reassured that their children were in good hands while they were away.

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## To combat this disaster, we have undertaken a one million dollar relief package.

This pandemic relief effort, effective immediately, will provide:

Vaccination assistance for more than half a million people	12,000+ health kits for families and health centers	Food assistance for 30,000+ struggling families
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<b>\$25</b>	<b>Essential healthcare kit for one family</b>
<b>\$50</b>	<b>Food assistance for one month for one migrant family</b>
<b>\$100</b>	<b>Vaccination assistance for 100 people</b>
<b>\$250</b>	<b>Rehabilitation for one person</b>
<b>\$500</b>	<b>One oxygen concentrator for health center</b>
<b>Any Amount</b>	<b>For COVID disaster relief</b>



Our NGO partners in Gujarat pack "Karuna Healthcare Kits" for struggling families.

We request your support for the monumental task of combating this disaster and speeding the recovery in its wake.

**Please note: Due to the urgent nature of this situation, online donations are preferred. Please visit the link below to give: [shareandcare.org/covid-relief](https://shareandcare.org/covid-relief)**

Thank you in advance for your generous support.

**If you prefer to mail your gift, please make checks payable to "Share & Care Foundation."**  
 Mail to: 350 West Passaic St. 2nd Floor, Rochelle Park, NJ 07662

### Save a Village: Support an Entire Village by Donating \$5,000

Assist a community living below the poverty line with the following services:

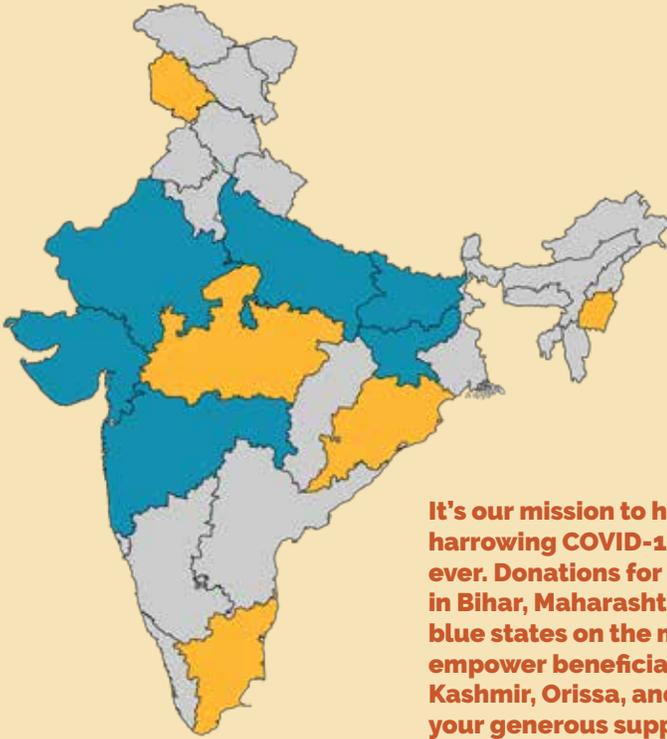
<b>Health Awareness</b>	<b>Distribution of information about sanitation, hygiene, and COVID-19 risks and precautions</b>
<b>Vaccination Assistance</b>	<b>Transportation assistance, vaccination drives, health status follow-ups, and campaigns to combat disinformation</b>
<b>Healthcare Resources</b>	<b>Creation of isolation centers, distribution of COVID Care Kits and other medical needs</b>
<b>Grocery Support</b>	<b>Meals and grocery kits for struggling families and individuals</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>Facilitating entitlements for widows and disabled people, connecting beneficiaries with available government services, and providing other village support as needed</b>

Please note: This project and its duration may vary by village.



**SHARE & CARE FOUNDATION**  
 350 West Passaic St. 2nd Floor,  
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**It's our mission to help the most marginalized members of society, and with the harrowing COVID-19 crisis unfolding in India, our work is now more critical than ever. Donations for disaster relief will make an immediate impact for people in Bihar, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Rajasthan (see blue states on the map). Donations to our Signature Programs will continue to empower beneficiaries in all the above states including Imphal, Tamil Nadu, Kashmir, Orissa, and Madhya Pradesh (see yellow). Thank you in advance for your generous support.**

# Yes! I want to help families in this time of crisis.

I want to join Share & Care Foundation in empowering people in India with **healthcare, education, village upliftment, and gender equality** by making the following donation:

\$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     \$1,000     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I want my gift to be used for COVID-19 Relief & Recovery

My gift is  in memory *or*  in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift will be matched by: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Please help us go paperless by providing your email address (printed clearly) with check contributions.  
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