

# Bengaluru Humanitarian Response

April - July 2021







# Table of Contents

1.	Executive summary	3
2.	Prevailing situation	4
3.	Guiding principles	7
4.	Our partners	8
5.	Communities we served	9
6.	Gram panchayat effort	14
7.	The ration kit	16
8.	The vegetable kit	19
9.	Voices from the field	22
10.	Our work continues	29





# Executive summary

The Bengaluru Humanitarian Response was an effort to support our city's vulnerable communities rendered helpless without livelihood opportunities and adequate institutional support during the lockdown imposed by the Government of Karnataka from April 27, 2021.

In a span of two months, in partnership with 29 civil society organizations, the Foundation provided essential rations to some of the most deprived settlements in the city and adjoining taluks.

Some highlights of our work:

- 800 plus settlements in 156 Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) wards covered
- 29 gram panchayats and urban local bodies covered
- 1.8 lakh plus households supported with ration kits
- 1.5 lakh cooked food packets served
- 8000 plus vegetable kits provided
- Overall ₹ 26+ crores of food aid provided





## Prevailing situation

The first wave of COVID-19 and the ensuing national lockdown had a devastating impact. Reducing livelihood opportunities, increase in loans and mortgages, a surging school dropout rate, and deteriorating social capital added to the growing stress amongst the vulnerable and the marginalised. 2021 looked more hopeful with the promise of a vaccine and reduction in COVID-19 infections. However, as people were returning to a semblance of normalcy, the second wave of the pandemic negated the initial gains.

Faced with an unprecedented healthcare crisis, the Government of Karnataka was forced to resort to a lockdown from 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021. As the lock down continued, the city was reminded of last year's humanitarian crisis. To some extent, the situation was slightly different, people were better prepared and there was no large-scale migration of labour. However, the lockdown resulted in a disruption in livelihoods amongst the poorest in the city, yet again. The hands that work the urban machinery of our city - the domestic workers, construction and daily-wage labourers, street vendors, garment-factory and *agarbatti*-rolling workers, drivers, security guards, sex workers, mechanics, waste segregators, tailors, retail staff etc. were left without work and means to make ends meet.







## Prevailing situation

In August of 2020, the Foundation and Wipro jointly commenced efforts to support the civil society in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in our city - Bengaluru. Our comprehensive response to the pandemic had combined two inextricably tied dimensions of the crisis - healthcare and humanitarian.

While the humanitarian response had come to an end soon after the nationwide lockdown was lifted in 2020, our integrated healthcare response has continued till date working with our partners in vulnerable settlements of Bangalore.

Consequently, when a lockdown was imposed in April 2021, it was decided that in collaboration with our partners, a citywide humanitarian response effort would be undertaken to supply ration kits and ready meals to the most vulnerable in Bengaluru.

## We learnt from our efforts last year and ensured that

- The most vulnerable communities living in the blue-tent and tin-sheet settlements were not overlooked.
- There were no overlap in areas to ensure equitable distribution such that all the areas that we covered received equal support.
- Delivery of food aid was closely monitored and tracked continually.
- Extra food packets were available so that the most vulnerable could be serviced without delays.





# Guiding principles

- **Prioritise** the most vulnerable communities
- Place **human element** at the center of the intervention
- Be effective in **reaching out** to as many as possible
- Serve the community with **speed**
- **Respect** and **support** the partner for effective disbursement
- **Ready meals** to reach the most vulnerable







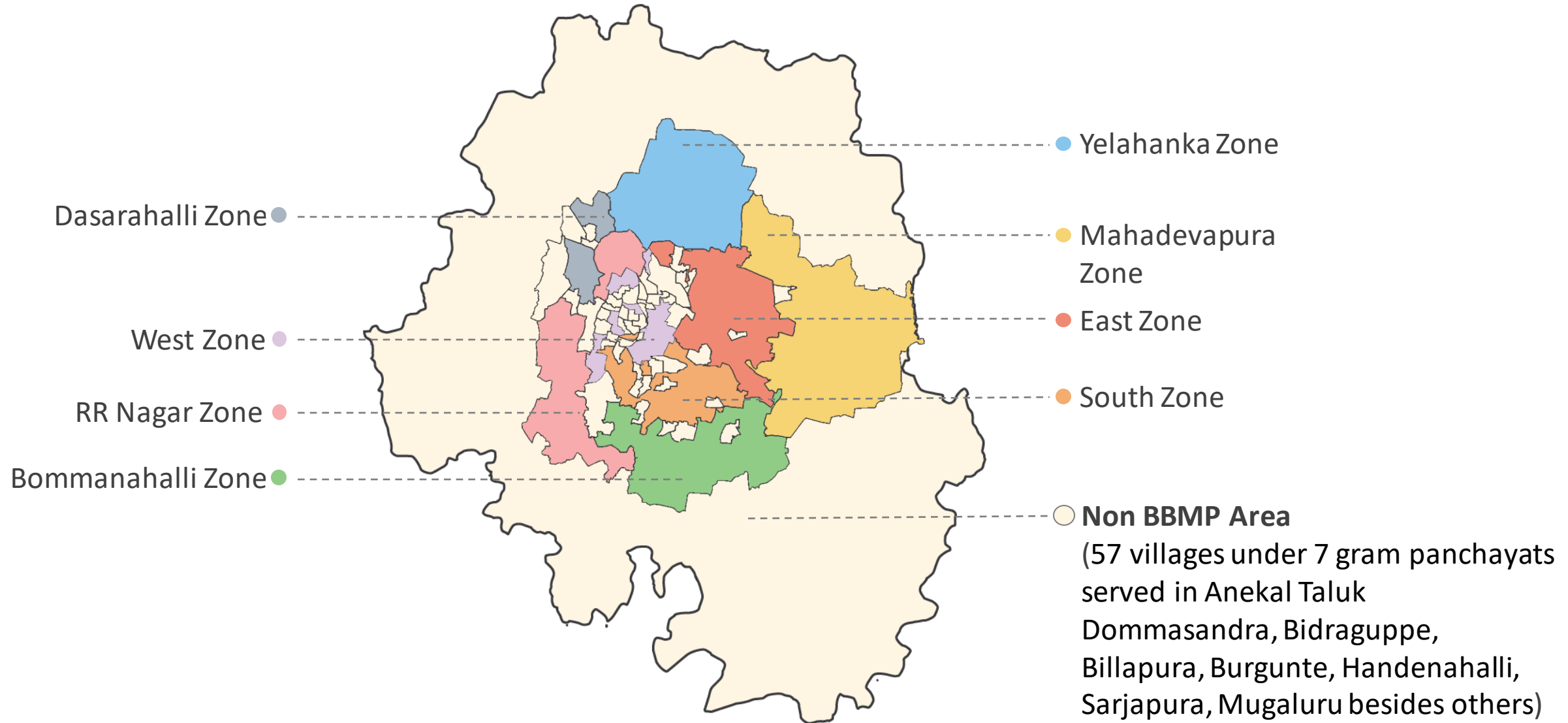
Bidraguppe ration kit distribution

## Our partners

- ActionAid
- APD
- APSA
- CFAR
- Diya Ghar
- Dream India Network
- Gubbachi
- Hasirudala
- Janasahayog
- LBTC
- Maarga
- Makkala Jagriti
- Reaching Hands
- Sama
- Samarthanam
- Sampark
- Sanchaya Nele
- Sangama
- SIEDS
- SOCHARA
- Solidarity Foundation
- Sparsha Trust
- Swabhimaan Trust
- Thamate
- Ugly Indians
- Mercy Mission
- Labournet
- Prajayatna
- Vimochana
- Humanitarian Relief Foundation



# Communities we served



*Areas listed on the maps are indicative of the work - many locations outside the main city limits were also serviced.*



Photos depict areas from Bangalore West, Mahadevpura, and RR Nagar Zone

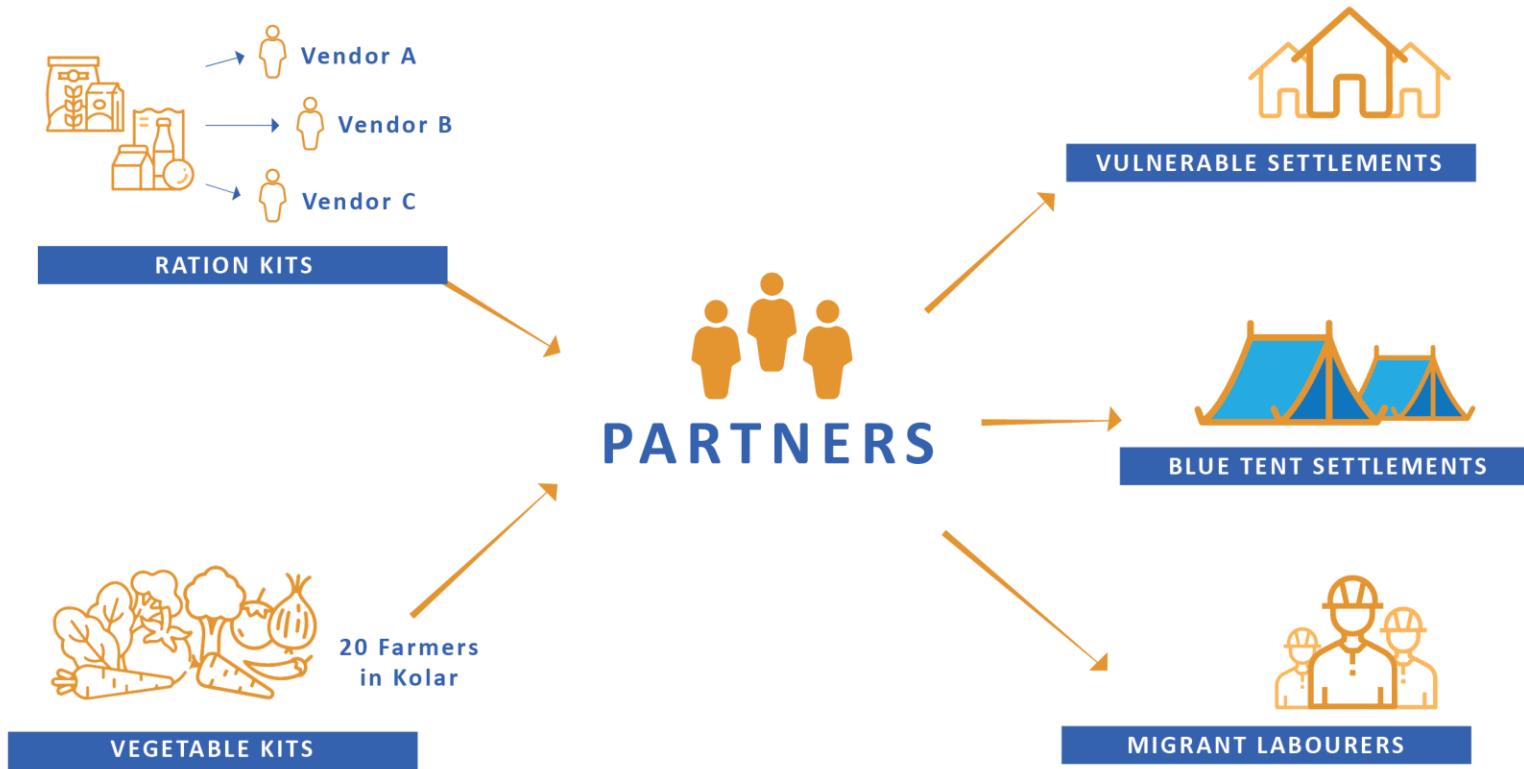
## Communities we served

Bengaluru has many invisible pockets inhabited by people living in poor conditions and earning a meagre income. These communities often do not have adequate access to government's welfare schemes and basic entitlements.





# Humanitarian aid - process flow



## PROCUREMENT

In addition to funding support, and in order to help our partners make informed choices, we identified 3 vendors for the procurement of dry ration kits at a pre-negotiated price. Partners could choose between these vendors or select one of their choice.

## DISTRIBUTION

Lead partner was identified per zone to work with other partners to ensure the delivery of rations to as many households as possible without duplication of efforts.

The distributed ration was documented and mapped to gather ward wise information for targeted delivery.

# Communities we served

As a special focus, along with our partners, we made effort to reach areas that are traditionally underserved and often hidden.

Partners combed through the city to identify and distribute ration kits to blue tent settlements. Often, volunteers had to trek through lake beds or adjoining plantations to reach these sites in order to distribute ration.

These isolated patches of people living in temporary housing remain cutoff from many schemes.





# Communities we served

- Daily wage earners
- Migrant workers
- Domestic Workers
- Homeless
- People with disabilities
- Transgender persons
- Sex workers
- Manual scavengers
- Single women headed households
- Widows
- Vulnerable children

## Being sensitive with the particularly vulnerable

With some communities more vulnerable than others, advice was sought from partners to help identify members, for example from the transgender and sex worker communities in order to ensure that their special needs were met.

Seen here on the right- migrant workers settlement, mostly Bengali origin working as waste pickers, construction workers, domestic workers in Doddanekkundi and Varthur Wards, Mahadevapura Zone





# Gram panchayat effort



The Foundation in collaboration with our field partners launched a humanitarian food relief response to provide food aid to seven neighbouring gram panchayats. 57 villages under the following gram panchayats were served-

- Dommasandra
- Bidraguppe
- Billapura
- Burgunte
- Handenahalli
- Sarjapura
- Mugaluru



# Gram panchayat effort

In collaboration with Mercy Mission, 5500 ration kits were distributed by the Foundation to the vulnerable households in these areas.





# The ration kit



**TYPE A**  
South Karnataka

Rice	10Kg
Wheat Flour	5Kg
Tur Dal	1Kg
Black Chana	1Kg
Ground Nuts	0.5Kg
Salt	1Kg
Sugar	1Kg
Sunflower Oil	1 Ltr
Tea Powder	250Gms
Chilli Powder	300Gms
Dhania Powder	100Gms
Turmeric	100Gms
Sambar Powder	100Gms



**TYPE B**  
North Karnataka

Rice	10Kg
Wheat Flour	5Kg
Tur Dal	1Kg
Black Chana	1Kg
Ground Nuts	0.5Kg
Salt	1Kg
Sugar	1Kg
Sunflower Oil	1 Ltr
Tea Powder	250Gms
Chilli Powder	300Gms
Dhania Powder	100Gms
Turmeric	100Gms
Jeera Powder	100Gms

- One Ration kit for a family of five people for 2 weeks
- Each kit costed around Rs. 1300
- Focus on dal – to ensure higher nutritional value of food intake



# The ration kit



**TYPE C**  
North India

Rice	10Kg
Wheat Flour	5Kg
Masur Dal	1Kg
Black Chana	1Kg
Ground Nuts	0.5Kg
Salt	1Kg
Sugar	1Kg
Sunflower Oil	1 Ltr
Tea Powder	250Gms
Chilli Powder	300Gms
Dhania Powder	100Gms
Turmeric	100Gms
Jeera Powder	100Gms

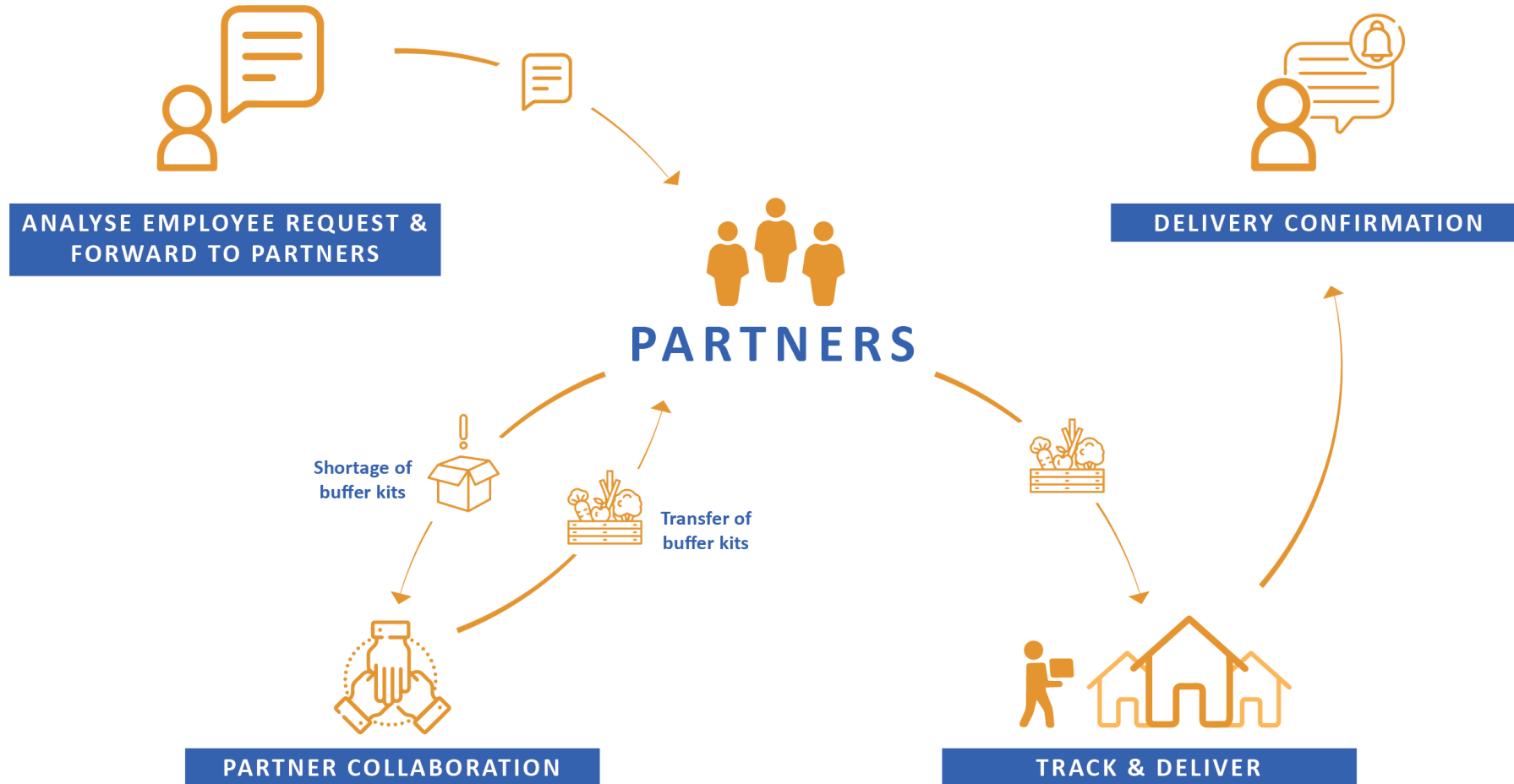


**TYPE D**  
East India

Parboiled Rice (Bengali)	10Kg
Wheat Flour	5Kg
Masur Dal	1Kg
Black Chana	1Kg
Ground Nuts	0.5Kg
Salt	1Kg
Sugar	1Kg
Mustard Oil	1 Ltr
Tea Powder	250Gms
Chilli Powder	300Gms
Dhania Powder	100Gms
Turmeric	100Gms
Jeera Powder	100Gms

- Tea and sugar also provided to help in the lockdown
- Customisations to cater to South Indian, North Indian and East Indian food habits

# Managing internal requests



130 Individual requests received from amongst the staff of the Foundation were actioned and over 14,000 buffer kits were distributed to people living in blue tent, rag pickers, domestic workers, to persons with disability, children, and the elderly in shelter homes.





## The vegetable kit - Kolar

In an effort to help the small and marginal farmers and increase the nutrition diversity of the food kits being provided- vegetables were added with the dry ration kits. The initiative supported not only the affected poor households in the urban area but also some farmers in the rural areas of Kolar district.





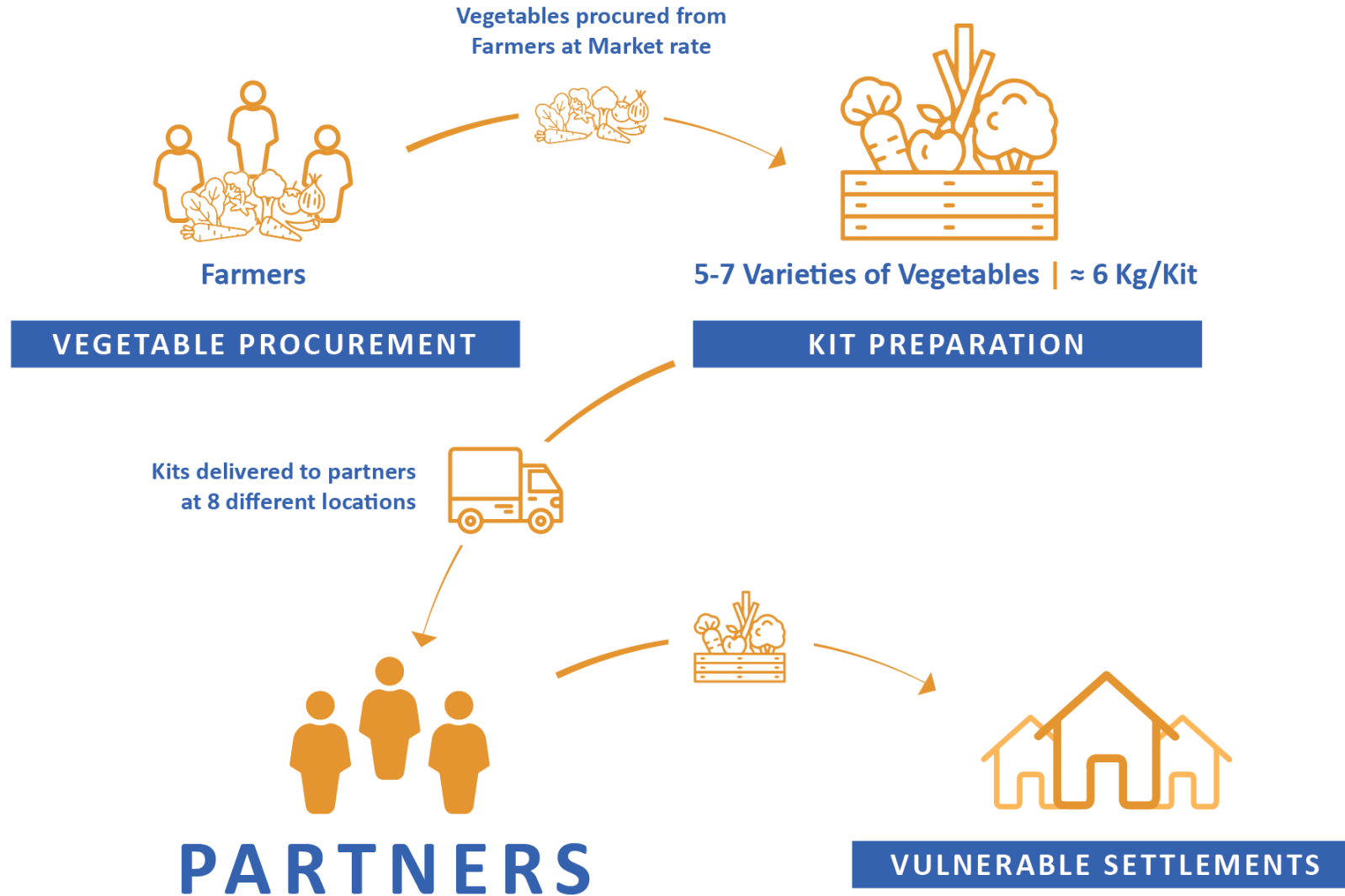
# The vegetable kit - Kolar

- 56,905 kgs of vegetables/fruit were procured from 20 farmers in 7 days
- 8855 vulnerable households in Bangalore city received a vegetable kit along with the ration kit
- Each vegetable kit contained at least 5 varieties of vegetables, weighed around 5-6 kilos, and costed around Rs. 75-100
- 10 partners participated in this intervention





# The vegetable kit - process flow





# Voices from the field







## Voices from the field

*Prema* is a mother of 9 children, she gave birth to twins during the pandemic and one of the twins has a cleft lip. The twins are still getting breastfed.

Her husband tries to find work during the lockdown by going around town, but due to the lack of jobs they are facing a survival issue.

The dry ration kit has been beneficial to them in a dire time of need.

## Voices from the Field

*“We are a family of ragpickers, my mother and elder brother worked as ragpickers and have taken care of the family till now, but now my mother has problems with her vision and health, she suffers a lot. Maarga has helped us with ration kits as we were having severe problems with sustaining ourselves through the pandemic.”*

*Deepanjali, 35 years old.*







## Voices from the field

*Parveen Taj* is a mother of 3 and works as a ragpicker. She lives in a house with no electricity and no water supply. The roof of her house is made of several zinc sheets put together along with a few tarpaulins, it does not give her enough shelter from strong breeze or heavy rain as the sheets fly away.

*Parveen's* husband works as a daily wage worker and the lockdown period has been hard for them all. They have struggled to put enough food on the table as there is no work available. The dry ration kits has tremendously helped them to sustain through the lockdown.



## Voices from the field

*Devamma* is from Gulbarga and lives in the migrant settlement near Janata colony Doddakannali off Sarjapur main road. She is a migrant labour engaged in concrete work and lives with five of her children.

*Devamma* suffered in the lockdown as work reduced to a trickle. The ration she received helped for her family as this time, nobody else has given any ration during the lockdown.

Several beneficiaries received assistance in a time of dire stress





# Voices from the field

*"It is only the volunteers from Gubbachi who have supported us with food items this year."*

Sabbaiyya lives near Kodathi and is from Yadgir. He has been working as a labourer in Bengaluru for more than 10 years now and has a large family to take care of. Last year, during the lockdown, he used to get rations from well-wishers and though things were very bad, he could manage with the help he got. This year, he has no work, and it has been very difficult just to survive.





800+

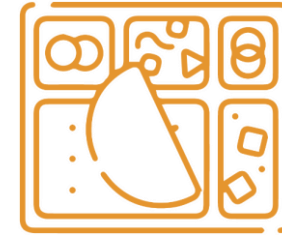
Settlements in

156

BBMP wards covered



1.8 lakh+  
Households  
supported with ration kits



₹26+ cr.  
of food aid provided

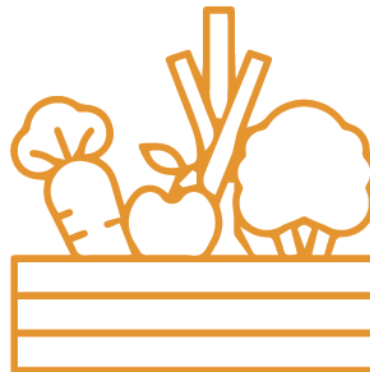


1.5 lakh  
cooked food packets  
served



29

Gram panchayats and Urban  
Local Bodies covered



8000+  
vegetable kits provided



29  
partners



## Our work continues ...

Humanitarian food relief work may be complete, but our integrated health care work continues in our communities in Bengaluru with a special focus on vaccination.

By the end of the year, along with our partners and the public healthcare system, we hope to facilitate universal vaccination in the settlements.

We will largely focus on communication, outreach, and support by providing

- pre-vaccination work that includes addressing vaccine hesitancy,
- support on the day of the vaccination camp (logistics, community involvement, etc.),
- post-vaccination follow-up.

Auto-rickshaw Awareness campaign in Doddabanhalli gram panchayat -6 villages.

