

## Highlights of the report:

NLSIU, Bangalore has conducted a quick assessment on the Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown on Food and Nutrition Security in Rural Karnataka. The assessment is conducted in 5 Districts of Karnataka, 152 respondents were interviewed from 100 villages from 5 districts (Bidar, Koppal, Raichur, Vijapur and Ramanagar). The assessment has highlighted the effectiveness of specific measures announced by the Central and State government in terms of providing rations, food, healthcare for children and women through Anganawadis, schools and public distribution system under ICDS, MDMS and TPDS schemes.

### **Bottle necks Identified:**

#### **ICDS:**

- 4 out of 5 districts have not delivered THR at the doorsteps of the beneficiaries and this resulted in many of them not being able to access this service owing to the travel restrictions.
- The quantity of food grains provided was inadequate for children aged between 6 months to 3 years. Rations for 2 months were distributed only in Raichur and in other districts it was sufficient either for 15 days or 1 month. Eggs were distributed only in two districts (Raichur and Bidar) and the number of eggs distributed was highly insufficient. No amount was given in lieu of eggs.
- Food grains are provided to children aged between 3 and 6 years lasts for one month and the quantity provided is insufficient. Only Koppal and Ramanagara districts have provided food items like groundnuts, semolina, jaggery etc., and the other districts have only provided the beneficiaries with milk powder and rice. Pregnant women & Breast feeding mothers are provided with THR, Rice, milk powder, pulse and jaggery have been distributed. Eggs are distributed in Raichur and Bidar.

**Maternity cash entitlement**, it was reported that the fresh registrations under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and the Mathrushree schemes were temporarily suspended as prominence was given only to distribution of food. Continuation of these schemes would have provided financial assistance to pregnant women and lactating mothers to purchase medicines and the necessary nutritional supplements

**MDM:** THR was home delivered only in Bidar district and beneficiaries of the remaining 4 districts were asked to come and collect the THR from school. Distribution of THR is not equally done in terms of Quantity and the food items. In Vijayapura, food grains were not being distributed in all the schools in equal measurement. In some schools only rice was distributed. In some rice and pulse. Milk powder (as a substitute for milk under Ksheera Bhagya) was not distributed in any of the five districts. The quantity of food grains provided lasts for 1 week in Raichur to 2 months in Vijayapura.

**PDS:** The fair price shops were open for 6 hours during a day in this lockdown period. In Koppal district the FPS owners asked the beneficiaries to get their ration cards compulsorily to avail ration. In Koppal and Bidar, entitlements were denied due to failure to capture biometrics and other technical issues associated with Aadhar. Under TPDS, only rice and wheat were distributed and the beneficiaries required oil, dal, spices, sugar and salt which are basic necessities. With no income at present, they are unable to purchase other essentials like salt, sugar and oil.

**Special benefits announced by central and state government:** under Jan Dhan Rupees 500 was credited to women Account holders for a period of 3 months (April to June 2020). Women in Koppal and

Ramanagara districts did not receive this amount and in other districts they received this amount. Those registered under the Ujjwala scheme were receiving the amount regularly in their accounts.

**Monitoring and Grievance Redressal** : The Monitoring and Grievance Redressal system of NFSA, 2013 is not functional. The State Food Commission is not functioning proactively to monitor service delivery. The toll free number is not functional and the entire system of grievance redressal and monitoring has collapsed at a time when its need is paramount.