

This edition of *Samvaad* is dedicated to all the doctors and healthcare professionals who have tirelessly served the nation during these times of a healthcare crisis.

## KEYNOTE

Dear Friends

Close to the Bangladesh border, in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, is the village of Kumirmari. Even in normal times, life is not easy for the inhabitants of Kumirmari, who toil hard in the fields nearby or in cities far away to earn their meagre livelihoods. With the pandemic, their sustenance has been imperiled like never before, and their hardships have increased manifold. As if this was not enough, the cyclone Yaas that hit the region on 26 May, swept away from the villagers their last vestige of hope.

The months of April & May 2021 will go down in our nation's history as among the worst two months we have ever seen. Scarcely anyone was left unscathed by the wrath of the vile virus, leaving our fragile healthcare system struggling to cope. As the cataclysmic scenes of death and destruction unfolded around us, we at Tech Mahindra Foundation (TMF) decided to respond to the situation in the way we know best: taking the challenge of saving lives head-on.

Within a few days of Yaas hitting the eastern coast, our Kolkata team was in Kumirmari as part of a ration distribution drive – one of many that our teams across locations participated in since the outbreak of COVID-19. As I write this, we have done 380 interventions of ration distribution, benefiting over 8.56 lakhs individuals. In addition, 4.80 lakhs cooked meals have also been distributed. When we see the smiles of gratification on the faces of the beneficiaries of these drives, we know that our efforts have been well worth it.

As part of TMF's Covid-response strategy, we have also leveraged our work in healthcare training to come up with training modules for frontline workers, including ASHA & Aanganwadi workers, sanitation workers, and community volunteers. The *COVID Swayam Suraksha* training – a free training program for NGOs and healthcare agencies – is one such module, in which nearly 1,600 participants have been covered so far. We have also stepped up our efforts in providing hospital equipment such as ventilators, beds, cardiac monitors, BIPAPs, etc. Recently, we have also launched a campaign to instill awareness about getting vaccinated in the communities we work in.

Most significantly, our parent company Tech Mahindra resolved to rise to the occasion with its full might. Following a clarion call given to all the employees by its CEO Mr. CP Gurnani, TechM swung into action to help with the oxygen crisis. The company will be installing 10 oxygen plants and donating 20 fully equipped ambulances to various hospitals around the country. Through a well-timed association with OxygenforIndia, TechM has helped to distribute 5,000 oxygen cylinders and 2,500 concentrators so far.

These are only a few of the several steps taken in the last few months to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, and this edition of *Samvaad* is devoted to those efforts. You will not only get to read about them, but also hear the voices of those who have been benefited through these efforts. We continue to support the ones who are most in need during these perilous times. We know that as long as there are villages such as Kumirmari where humanity continues to languish, our work will not be over.

With best wishes of peace & well-being for each one of us,

**CHETAN KAPOOR**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Tech Mahindra Foundation



VILLAGE OF KUMIRMARI

## THE JOURNEY SO FAR

The second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic struck India like a storm and this time it was evident that the government machinery and resources were not sufficient to fight the onslaught. Common people, government, businesses, CSR, philanthropic institutions came together like never before to tackle a health crisis, the like of which we have never seen earlier.

Contributing its bit in the journey, the Foundation has so far touched over 25,71,339 lives through 533 COVID relief initiatives across 17 states in the country thus living up to the spirit of the Mahindra philosophy *R/SE*.

This time the focus shifted to supporting hospitals and healthcare units with critical medical infrastructure, such as ventilators, hospital beds, cardiac monitors, oxygen concentrators and cylinders. To counter the severe oxygen crisis in the second wave, TMF has partnered with OxygenForIndia, to deploy concentrators and cylinders across hospitals to help the patients in urgent need.

Around 2,100 candidates were trained as allied healthcare professionals and over 1,300 nurses were upskilled through simulation-based training on ventilators. Under *COVID Swayam Suraksha*, TMF has trained many social & NGO workers on the procedure of using personal protection equipment. The Foundation distributed 1,351 Tablets along with data cards to the beneficiaries who were deprived of online learning in the absence of digital support. 500 government school teachers were trained with tools to destress, cope with uncertainties of online teaching and maintaining mental health and well-being during the pandemic. Another 600 teachers were engaged in bringing awareness on issues related to child abuse.



## TOGETHER WE RISE

The nation had barely been able to set itself in motion when the ferocious second wave hit upon us. The Mahindra Group acted with agility to respond to the situation. The Foundation responded with improvised planning as the situation demanded. The organization not only provided relief support to society at large but also stood by its associates in more ways than one.

A spirit of service and untiring efforts round the clock brought forth some of the finest stories of hope, resilience and gratitude. When there was chaos among the people for oxygen, beds, and ventilators a central Covid care team was launched – the *COVID SOS Seva*. A team of 200+ volunteers worked round the clock by sending verifiable, authentic, and timely information to the people in need. Additionally, the office cafeteria at several locations were converted into Covid care facilities. When the death cases rose and people were suffering, the organization initiated *MIND@EASE* to ensure emotional and mental wellness of the employees. The Foundation launched vaccination awareness campaigns and drives across its locations and network hospitals to implement proper and timely vaccinations for its employees and those in their partner ecosystem.

The employees received psychological and emotional support from one another. A deep sense of gratitude for the organization prevailed among all.



COVID CARE FACILITY



VACCINATION DRIVE FOR THE EMPLOYEES

## MILES TO GO

While adapting to the new normal, focus on gratitude and team spirit have helped the organization reaffirm our beliefs in the *R/SE* tent.

The Foundation continues to expand the number of its healthcare academies in different parts of India to prepare a cadre of trained healthcare workers, thereby filling the gap in the healthcare industry that we encountered during the second wave. The Foundation has decided to prioritize mental wellness and include it as a cross-cutting theme across all its programs going forward. Training programs, counselling services for associates and webinars have been planned around it. TMF has also collaborated with UNICEF for their #YoungWarrior movement to spread Covid Safety awareness among the youth.

TMF plans to broaden its scope of relief and support to the farthest corner of the country. Initiatives such as collaboration with OxygenForIndia, *COVID SOS Seva* Service, vaccination drives and awareness campaigns, quarantine support, and Associate Welfare Trust are underway. Tech Mahindra Foundation is gearing to adapt to the new normal in a comprehensive manner.



COVID SWAYAM SURAKSHA SESSION FOR THIRD-PARTY STAFF OF TML AT PUNE



COLLABORATION WITH OxygenForIndia

## VOICES FROM THE GROUND



Given the need for support in the remotest and farthest rural pockets, the Foundation resolved to take the relief to these areas. Dry ration, cooked meals, personal protective gear were donated to the marginalized and disadvantaged communities.

These people may have lost their livelihood and a lot more and this piece is a tribute to some of them whose voices deserve to be heard. Sharing some of these voices from the far-flung communities. Please watch the video.

*Samvaad* is a quarterly e-newsletter. You can participate by writing an article or sharing your project experiences with us. If you have ideas on what you would like to see included in our newsletter, then we are all ears!

Please e-mail us your thoughts and ideas at [samvaad@techmahindrafoundation.org](mailto:samvaad@techmahindrafoundation.org)

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