

Spotlight

Gratitude to frontline workers at the time of coronavirus

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At nearly six months pregnant, Vidyarani learned that her neighborhood Anganwadi Centre (AWC) was closing due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) control measures. She depends on the AWC for a daily hot cooked meal to feed herself and her two-year-old daughter. Adding to her growing concerns, the lockdown caused her husband to lose his job.

has enforced a nation-wide lockdown to contain the disease creating unprecedented challenges for people like Vidyarani and their families. In addition to the closure of primary schools and AWCs, children in rural India are now not attending school and therefore have to do without their guaranteed school meal, potentially worsening an already "severe" malnutrition problem in India. Even though the government has ordered state authorities to ensure provision of Take-Home Rations and cash allowance during the lockdown, efforts to tackle acute malnutrition could still take a hit. It is in



@Department of Women Development & Child Welfare, Government of Telangana.

AWCs, or courtyard shelters, are primary childcare centers providing basic health care activities and nutritious meals for families while also serving as a pre-school for young children. Across all states in India, AWCs serve either hot cooked meals or provide monthly rations that can be cooked at home. The Telangana state government, for instance, serves approximately half a million hot cooked nutritious meals daily to pregnant and lactating women through the AWCs. As a part of this program, all beneficiaries also receive one egg every day. As COVID-19 quickly spreads around the globe, India

times like these that India's frontline workers are making sure that no one in their communities goes hungry. Many AWC teachers are going door to door to deliver their weekly rations of rice, lentils, oil and eggs to beneficiaries.

In this photo, tweeted by the Women and Child Development Ministry of Telangana, an AWC teacher delivers Take-Home Rations including eggs to the homes of lactating mothers in the tribal region of Mulugu district via her scooter. Women like Vidyarani and their families are grateful for these workers delivering essential food items.