

# Country: India

## Relief and Rehabilitation of Covid-19 Widows in Maharashtra



### Main project partner:

Halo Medical Foundation (HMF) in Osmanabad and Apeksha Homeo Society (AHS) in Amaravati

### Brief project description:

The districts of Osmanabad and Amaravati (Maharashtra) are considered as underdeveloped and largely agrarian districts. While Osmanabad was particularly strong affected by Covid - there have been more than 1500 male deaths due to Covid pandemic - Amaravati has become infamous because of farmer suicides. The high number of suicides stems from the fact that many farmers in Amaravati have put everything on one card by growing only rainfed cotton, which is in good years a lucrative cash crop. But when the rains failed, their whole harvest was lost. In both districts the widows face a variety of hardships and have not received their due rights and entitlements. There are many young widows with children studying in schools and where conventional livelihood options are limited. The women have also been suffering from personal health ailments. Only partial support was received from the government agencies. Their main desire was to start a livelihood activity and educate the children. Despite the adversity, their resilience, and the will to live has been laudable. Extending timely support to this section will not only rejuvenate their lives but also demonstrate the utility and significance of international support. Therefore, in Osmanabad district, HMF will be focusing on Covid-widows and extending support in the areas of physical and mental health, entitlements and social security, livelihoods, and income generation. In Amaravati, AHS help will direct its help to destitute, supportless, single women in livelihood an income generation through provision of goats and chickens including trainings how to keep these animals. Furthermore, awareness-raising camps will be organized for securing rights and entitlements, and a cadre of village based social workers will be trained to realize the same.

### Beneficiaries:

903 Covid widows and their children in Osmanabad and 100 single women in Amaravati for livelihood support and 30 inhabitants from 30 villages for awareness-raising.

**For more information contact:** Nicole Stolz, [n.stolz@swissaid.ch](mailto:n.stolz@swissaid.ch)

