



SANGRAM

**Sampada Grameen
Mahila Sanstha**



**COVID - 19
RELIEF WORK
INTERIM REPORT**

- **Introduction:**

With the coronavirus pandemic raging on, the livelihood of those living in red light areas has taken a major hit. The loss of income due to Pandemic has thrust this vulnerable and marginalised community into the depth of uncertainty and deprivation. The community has been ignored and deprived relief in the lockdown. Sex workers live in very small crowded rooms with their extended families as sole bread winners and the lockdown has put a stop to their daily income.

Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha, [SANGRAM] and collectives of sex workers, Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad [VAMP] and Muskan, work with more than 6000 female, male and transgender sex workers in Western Maharashtra and North Karnataka.

This report covers Kolhapur, Ichalkaranji, Satara, Karad and Sangli sites.



- Sangli
- Miraj
- Satara
- Karad
- Kolhapur
- Ichalkaranji

- **Pre-lockdown**



Since February this year, Sangram started public awareness programmes on COVID 19. Small video clips on prevention, uses of masks, hand hygiene was circulated by WhatsApp in all the groups that SANGRAM administers. All the staff were prepared with information pre-lockdown. We also advised them to do two following things.

1) **Storing Ration:** In early march we sent messages about the growing pandemic and possible lockdown, we advised everyone to store rations for one month in advance.

2) **Save money:** Counselling was given to the community to keep aside money in case all their work is shut down by the lockdown.

- **Covid / Coronavirus Awareness among community**



Lockdown started from March 22. In order to give information about Corona to all community members existing whatsapp groups were used. Sangram Sanstha made awareness videos with detailed information about Corona symptoms and prevention hygiene. Outreach workers and peer educators from the targeted intervention programmes of SANGRAM and VAMP were trained to provide information, especially to reach out to community members who do not have smart phones.

● Ration Survey



During the lockdown, it was witnessed that sexworkers had to take care of their children without an active income and no access to government relief schemes. The lockdown left them struggling to make ends meet. While the State government had announced assistance to various skilled labour like drivers and barbers it failed to acknowledge sex workers. VAMP and Muskan did a small survey to know access needs their community members. We triaged people into three categories.

- 1) Those who need cooked food (people who are unwell, live with disability, aged)
- 2) Those who needed rations/grocery?
- 3) Those who did not need cooked food or grocery.

● Ration and Sanitary items Distribution



Everyone has the right to live in a clean environment and have access to nutritious food. It is very important to take care of our immune system. Access to nutritious food and hygiene products play an important role in this pandemic. During this pandemic SANGRAM arranged rations and sanitary items for community members. VAMP and Muskan leaders collected information through surveys, from all the sites and chalked out a plan for distribution. Grocers were contacted site wise and linked to the administration and finance departments of SANGRAM. Using local journalists, permission was obtained from the Municipal Commissioner and the Road Transport Officers of three adjoining districts of Sangli, Satara and Kolhapur, to help the truck carrying grocery reach community members.

● Health Survey

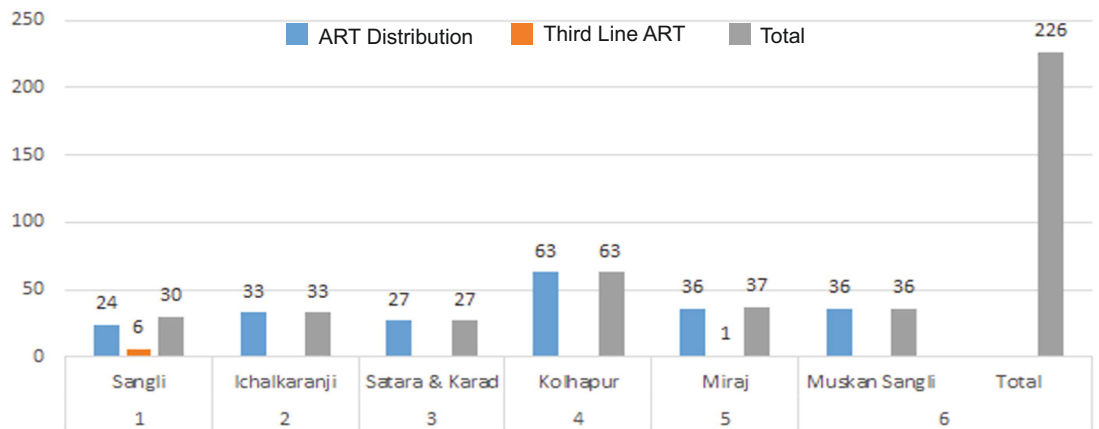


Acknowledging the fact that corona virus affects the body's internal organs, we conducted a community health survey to find out if anyone had BP, diabetes or heart related diseases. In accordance to that we helped them to get medication from a civil or local hospital. The survey has been done in Sangli, Miraj, Karad, Satara, Kolhapur and Ichalkaranji.

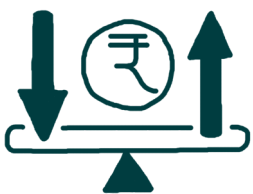
- **ART and Third line medicine at their door step**



It is very important to take ART medication for HIV without missing a single dose and since the local transport system was closed during lockdown, it was very difficult for everyone to get this medicine. In this situation, we provided ART medicines for two months to the end user's door step. We also did advocacy for third line medicine by going to court and with NACO and made it available to people living with HIV in Sangli and Satara districts.



- **Economic survey**



In this lockdown, sex workers have taken loans from brothel owners and other lenders because their business was completely closed and there was no money to cover household and daily expenses. Sangram conducted a financial survey to get a rough estimate of how many people have taken loans during the pandemic. This survey has been done with 900 community members in Sangli, Miraj, Satara, Karad, Ichalkaranji and Kolhapur.

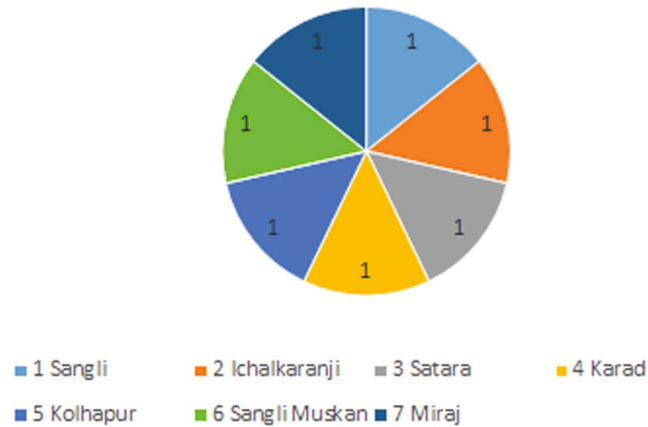


● Oximeter and Vitamins supplement distribution

Sex workers are highly vulnerable and they are always at risk of catching infections as they come in direct contact with customers. For safety measure Sangram Sanstha also distributed one separate Oximeter to all sites. It is used by outreach workers and the Doctor who visits sites for check up. We also distributed Vitamins supplements to our members.

And tab. Vitamin C received from local doners and distributed to **400** community members.

No. Oximeter distribution



● Special Help Received During Lockdown:



- Help from Transport Company: It was a big challenge to distribute ration to our members during the lockdown. Sangli Zilla Transport Association helped us by providing heavy vehicles like trucks to transport essentials like sanitary items and rations at short notice.
- In the Ichalkaranji project, Dr. Bhalchandra Kadam donated Vitamin C- D and Zinc supplements to 120 people. During the lockdown. His help is acknowledged and valued.
- During the lock down local MLA Mr. Prakash Awade distributed hygiene materials in the community. They donated 100 masks and 200 bottles of sanitizers. Mrs. Mousami Awade helped in distribution.

- **Crises management during lockdown:**

- During the lock down, Ichalkaranji project had to face many crises. The situation was deteriorating day by day. The members of the TG community were beaten by the police. In a different incident the traffic police also thrashed our members. We visited the Police station to explain to them our problems and asked for their cooperation. Due to the right approach and tactful dealing with police these issues were resolved. Sameer said “Earlier we did not understand the importance of working together, but in this pandemic we have solved the problems by unity and harmony. We have realized that working together and coordination can solve many problems.
- The ration card of TG community was inactive since many days. They were not getting rations on their card. During the lockdown, we met Mr.Dongre from the supply office and explained to his team the problem of the inactive cards. He asked us to submit the name and details on the card and instructed is staff to activate the cards.
- There was a real challenge to spread awareness about Corona in some communities. Like for example in Ichalkaranji, where most of the target population is home based. It was very difficult to give them information about corona virus as we were not able to connect with them through mobile phones.

- **Corona Awareness**

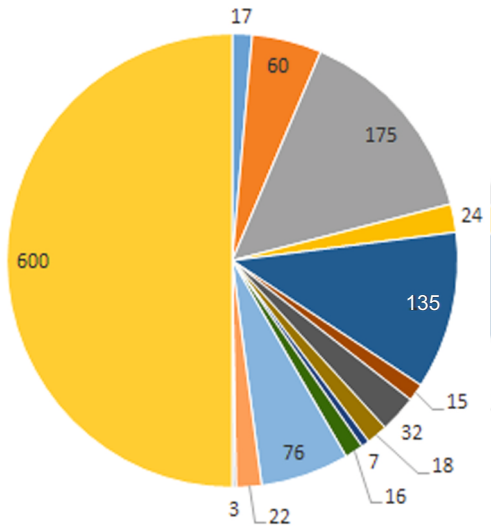
Muskan and VAMP leaders shared awareness tips with community members to keep themselves safe during sexual intercourse.

- 1) Use mask during intercourse.
- 2) Use sanitizer before and after intercourse.
- 3) If possible then tell your customer to wash hands and legs before the activity.
- 4) We also suggested some changes in sex activity and intimacy to keep them safe.
- 5) Sex worker should make sure that there should not be much interaction or time spend with the client during intimacy. The time spent with the client should be as minimal as possible.

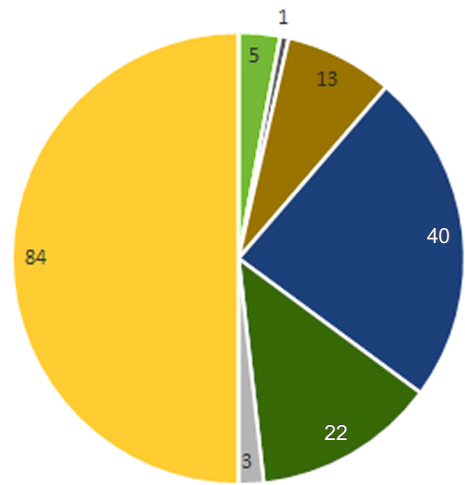
Special help for society from Ichalkaranji Project:

During the lockdown, we saw that police force is working day and night and were deprived from proper food intake. We gave breakfast and tea to the police and home guards. Similarly the poor people were given dinner for 20 days.

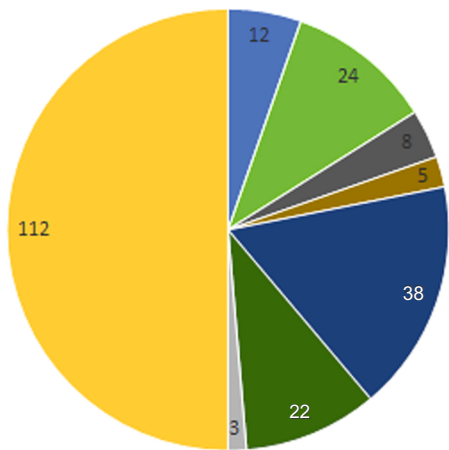
1st Round Grocery Distribution



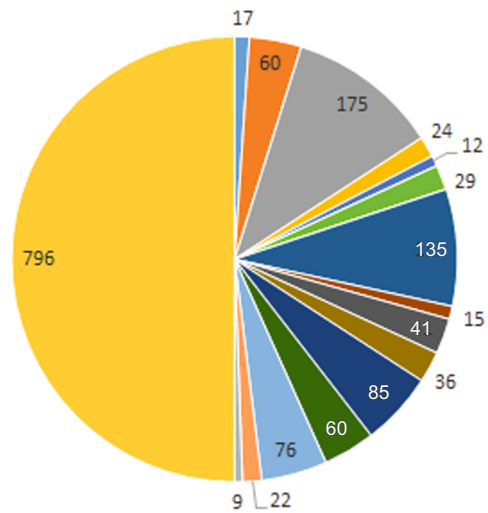
First Round Grocery Details FSW



First Round Grocery Details MSM



First Round Grocery Details TG

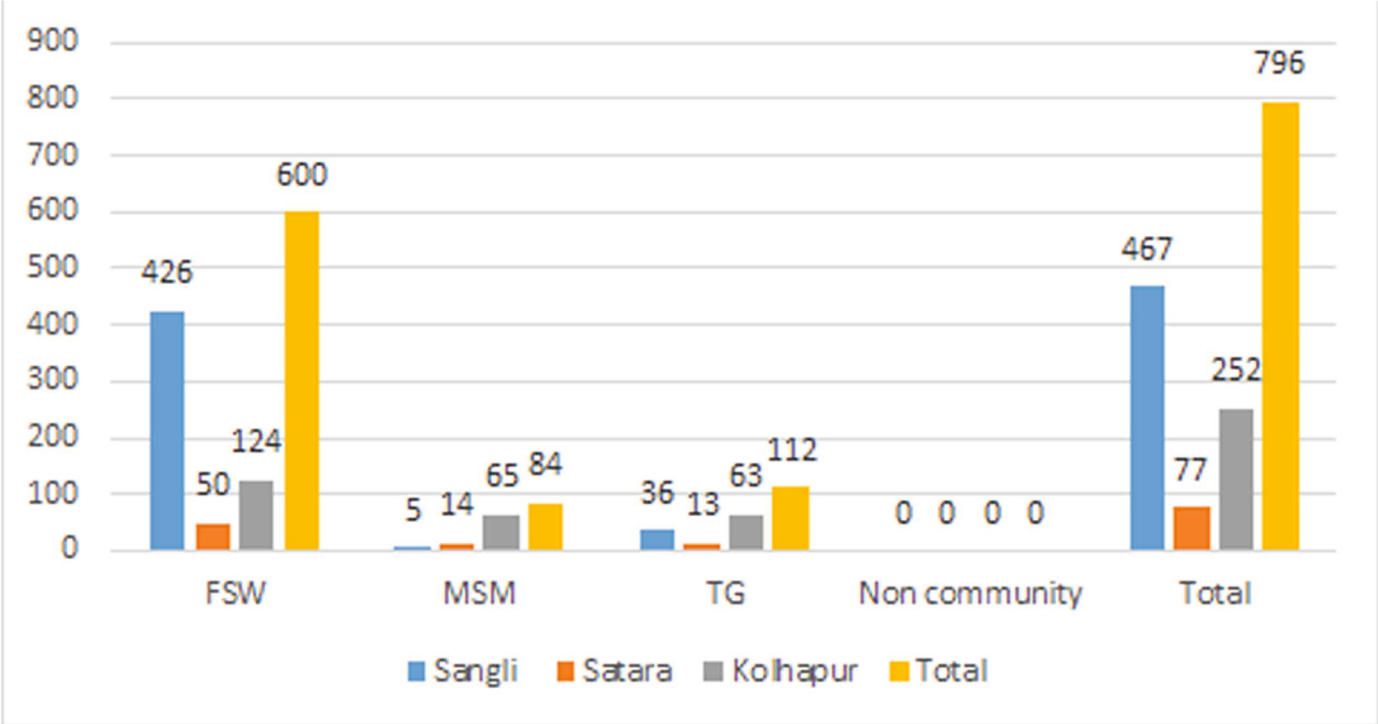


First Round Grocery Details Total

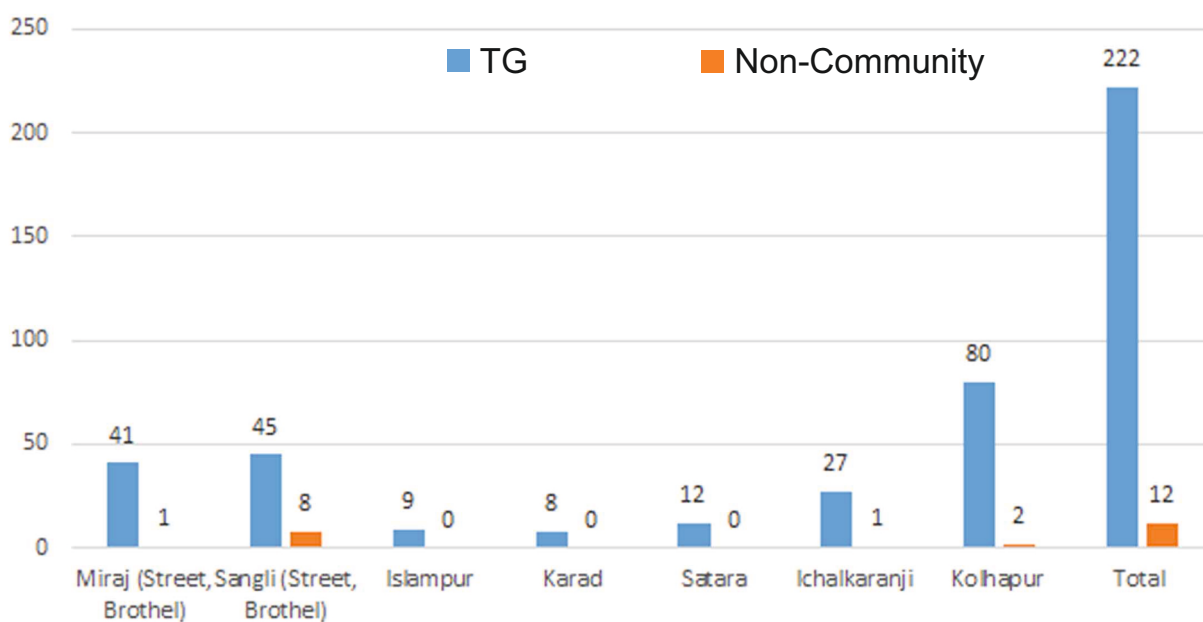
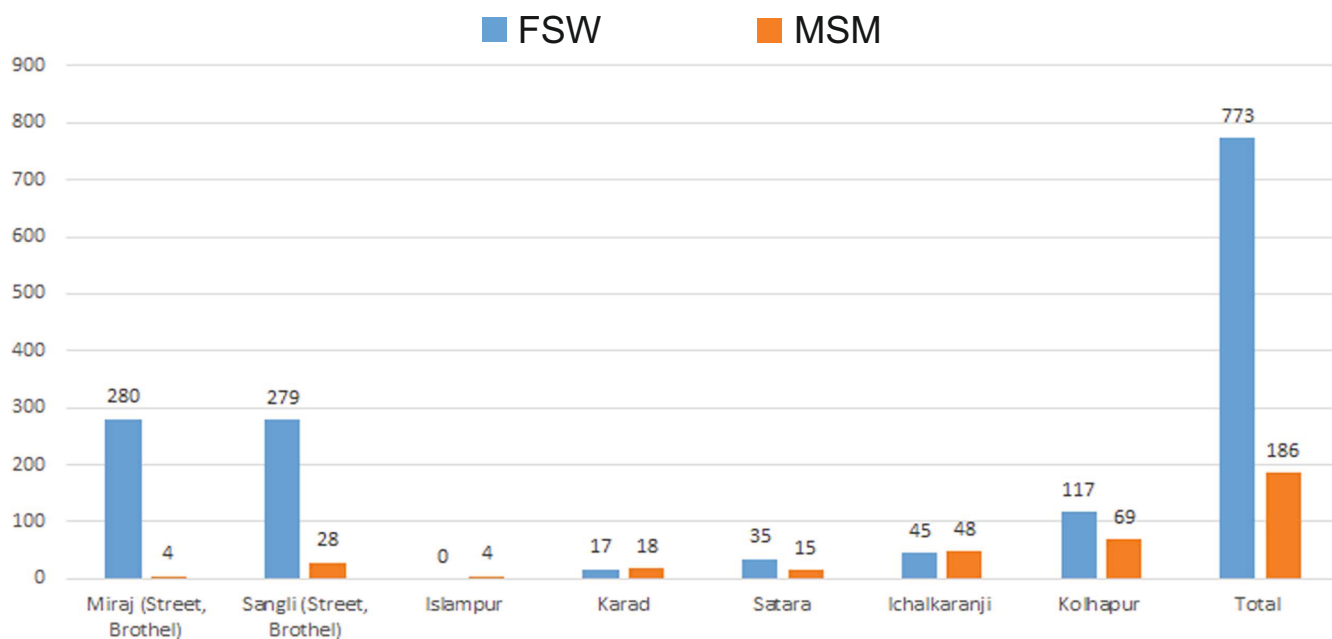
- Rajmane Chal, Sangli
- Swaroop Talkies Area, Sangli
- Uttamnagar, Miraj
- Miraj - Street Based Sex Workers
- Miraj
- Sangli
- Gokulnagar, Sangli
- Sangli - Street Based Sex Workers

- Satara
- karad
- Kolhapur
- Ichalkaranji
- Tamasha Based
- Kolhapur Street Based FSW
- Kolhapur Staff - MSM, TG, FSW sex workers
- Total

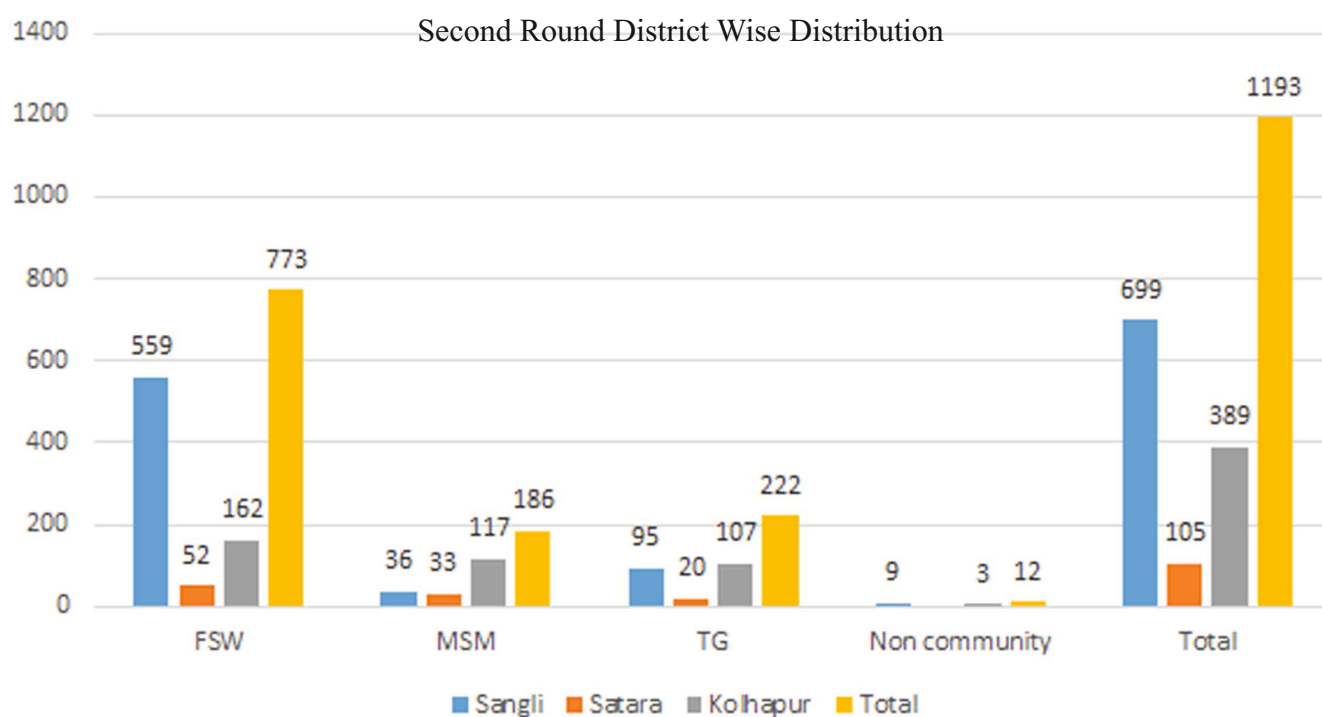
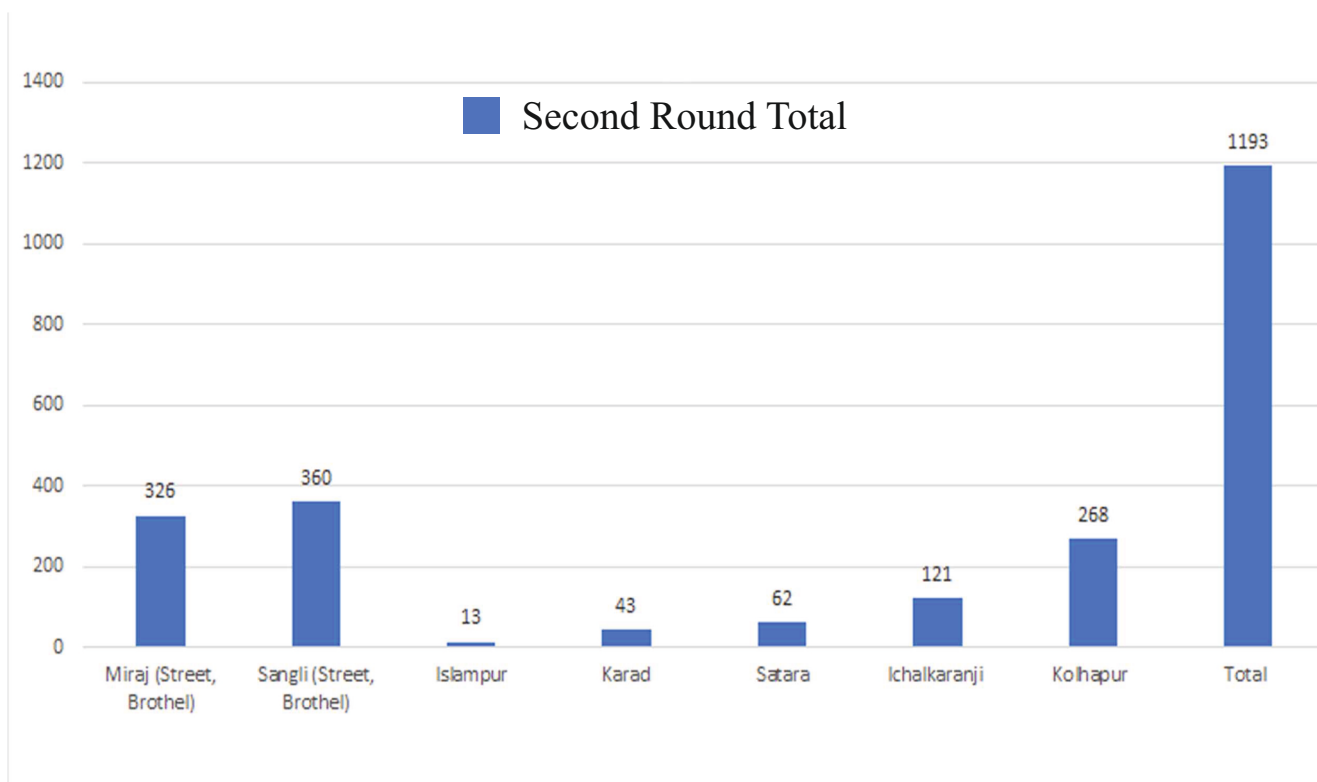
1st Round Grocery Distribution District Wise



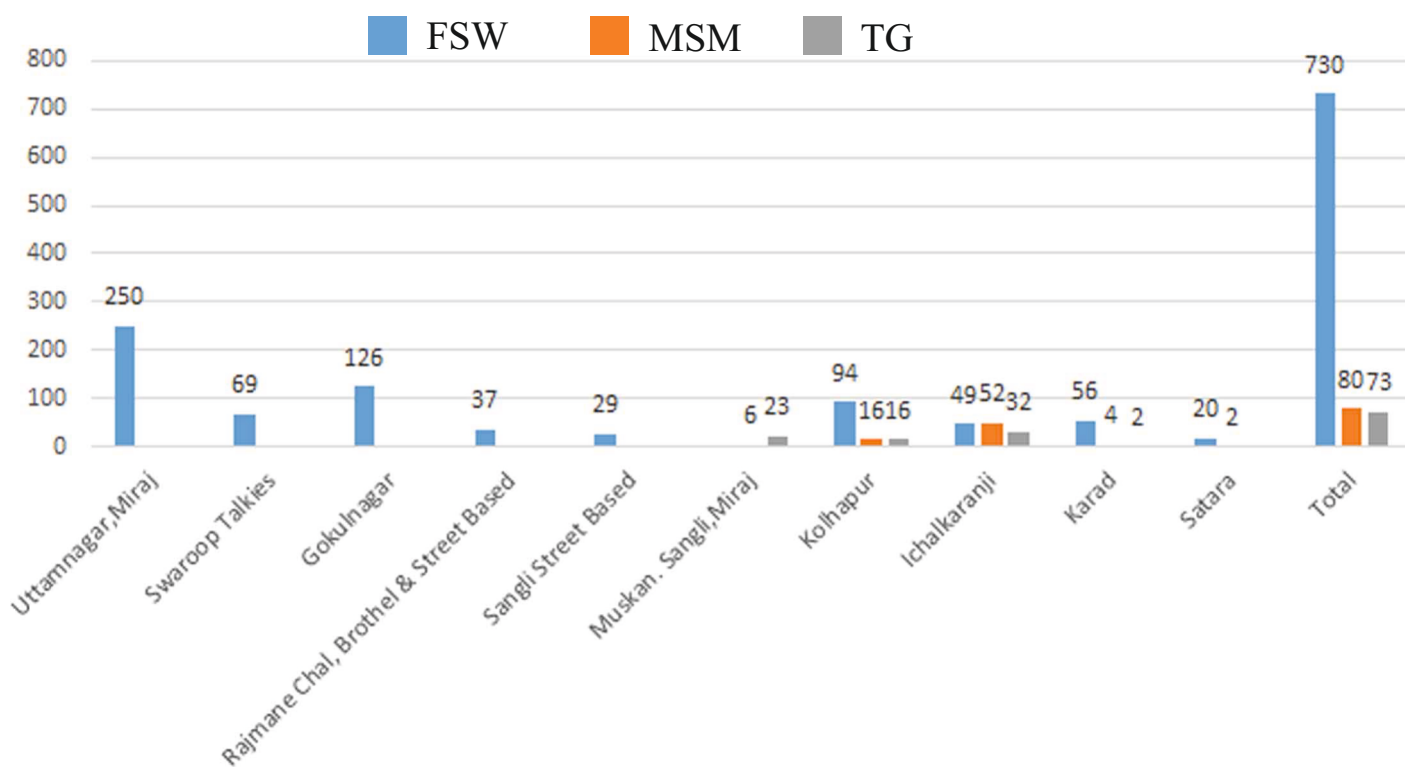
2nd Round Grocery Distribution



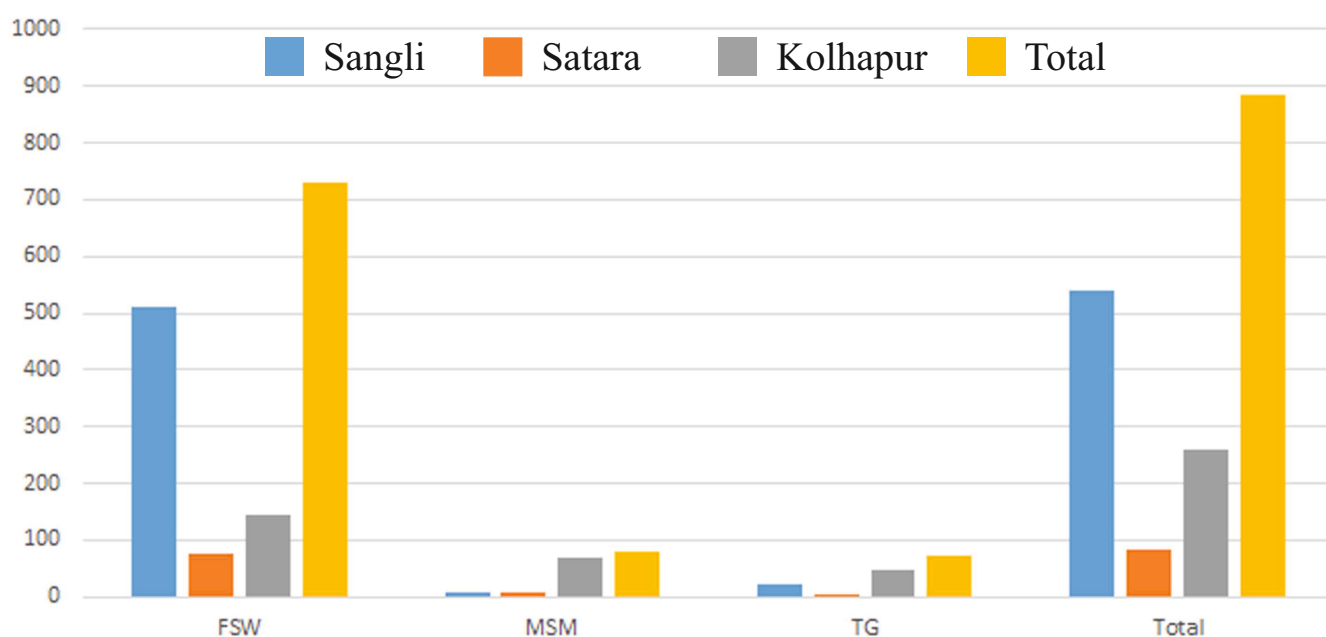
2nd Round Grocery Distribution



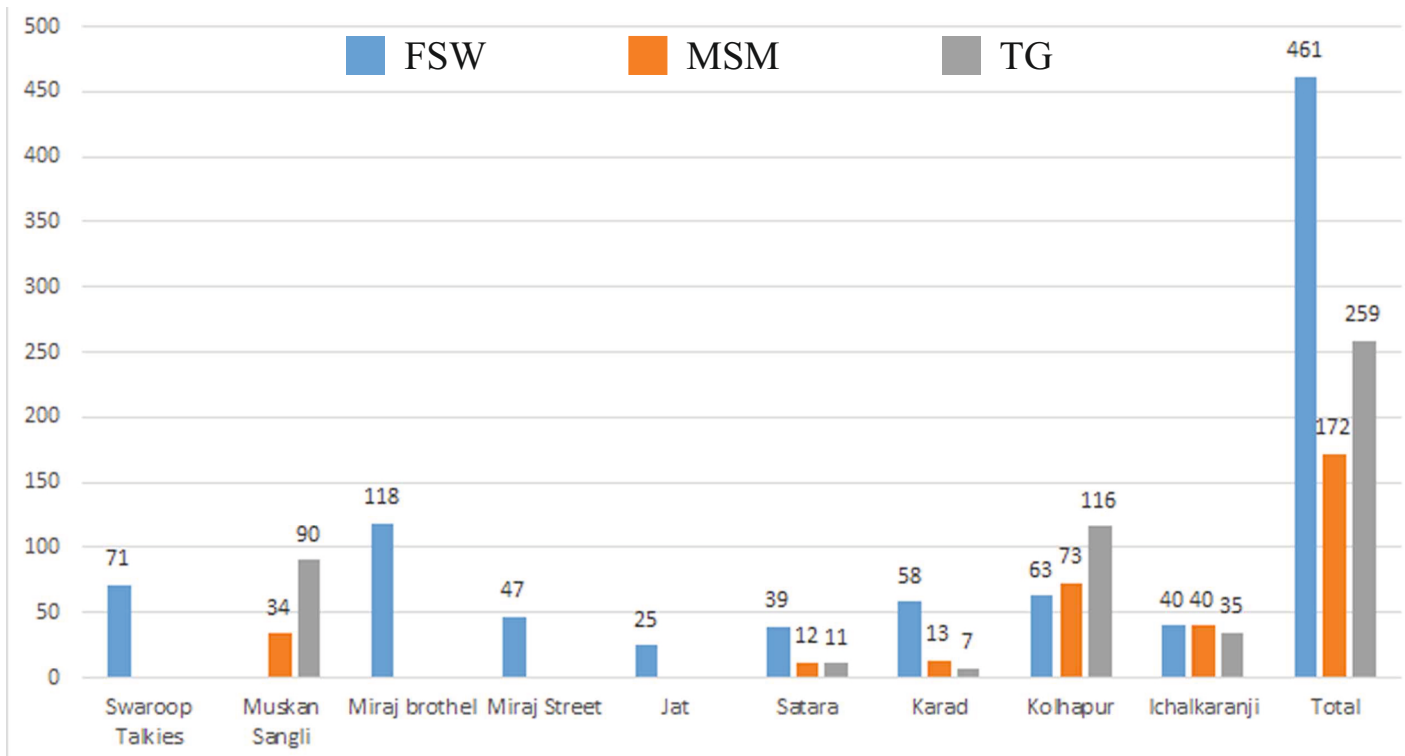
3rd Round Grocery Distribution



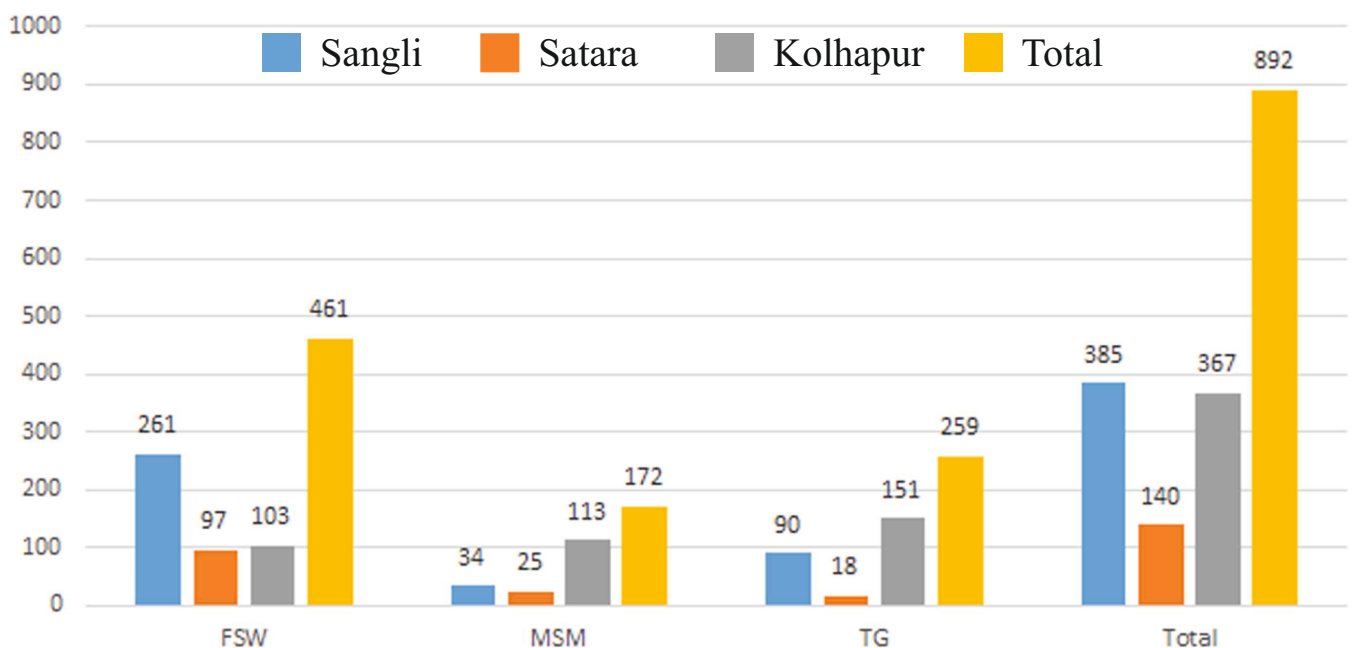
District wise distribution



4th Round Grocery Distribution



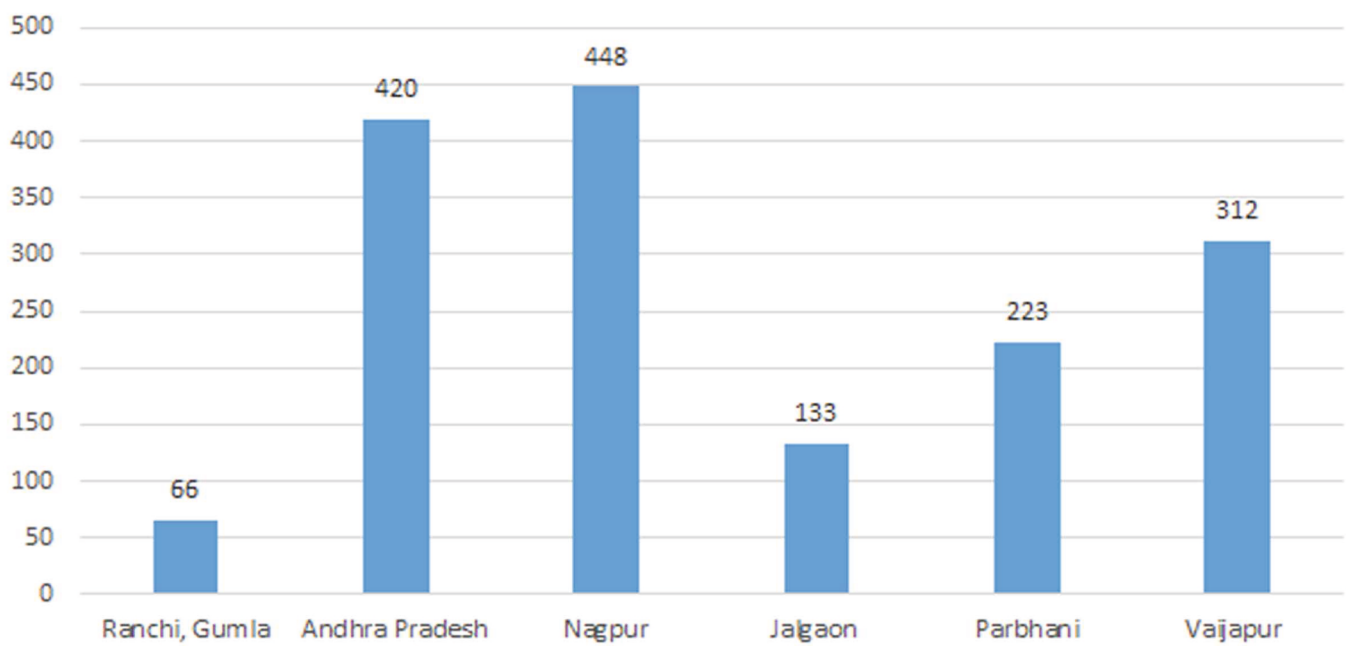
District wise distribution



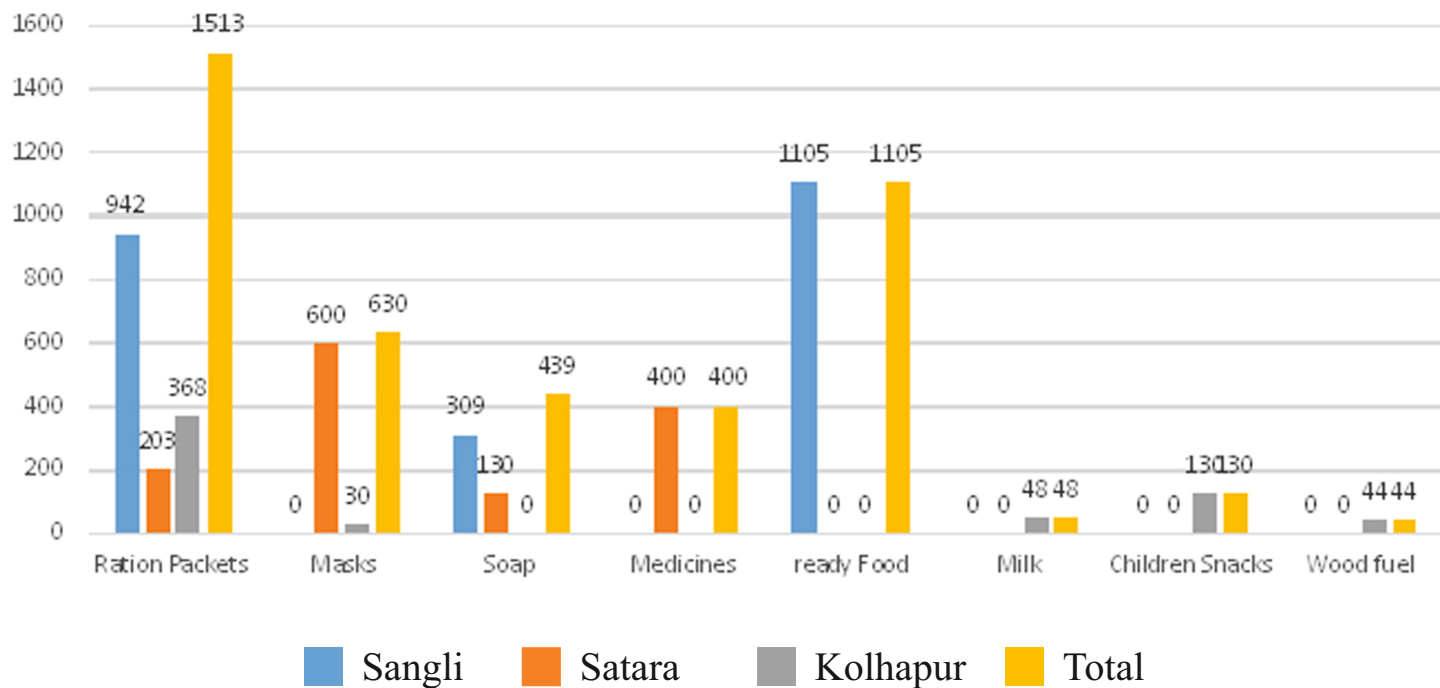
Sangram Supports in other Districts/ States



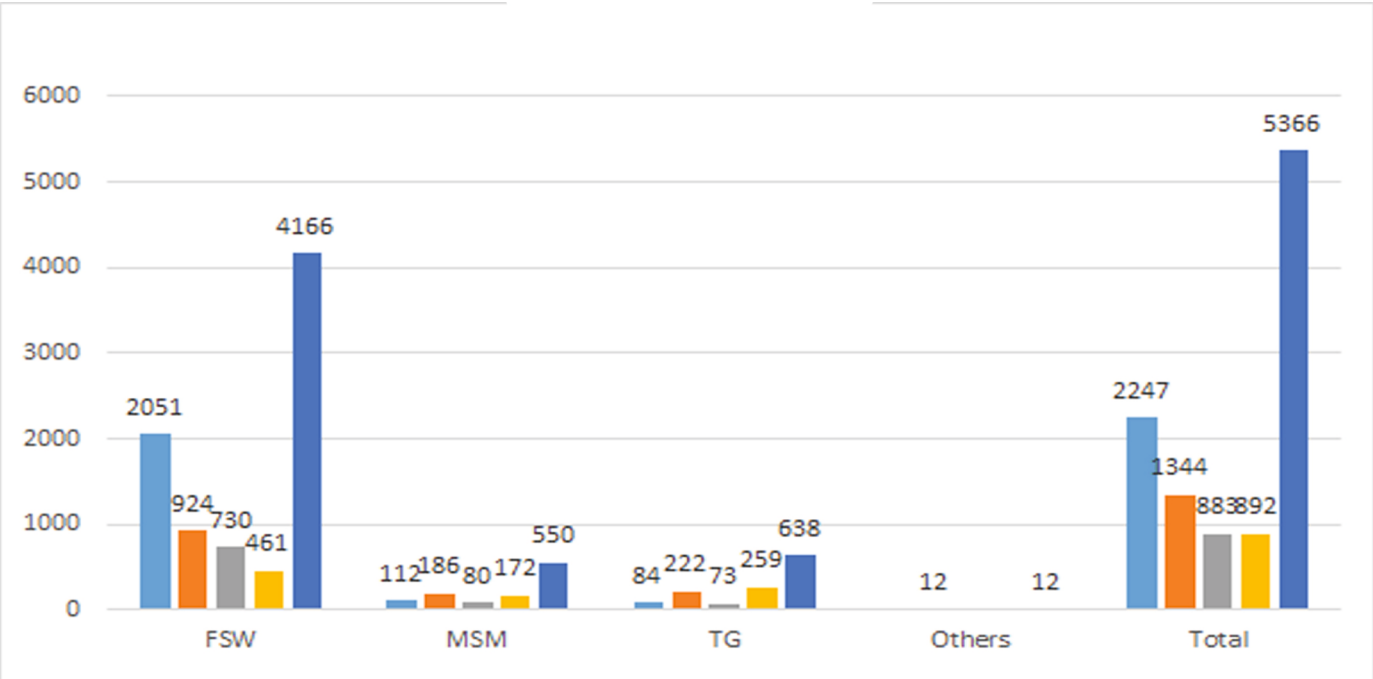
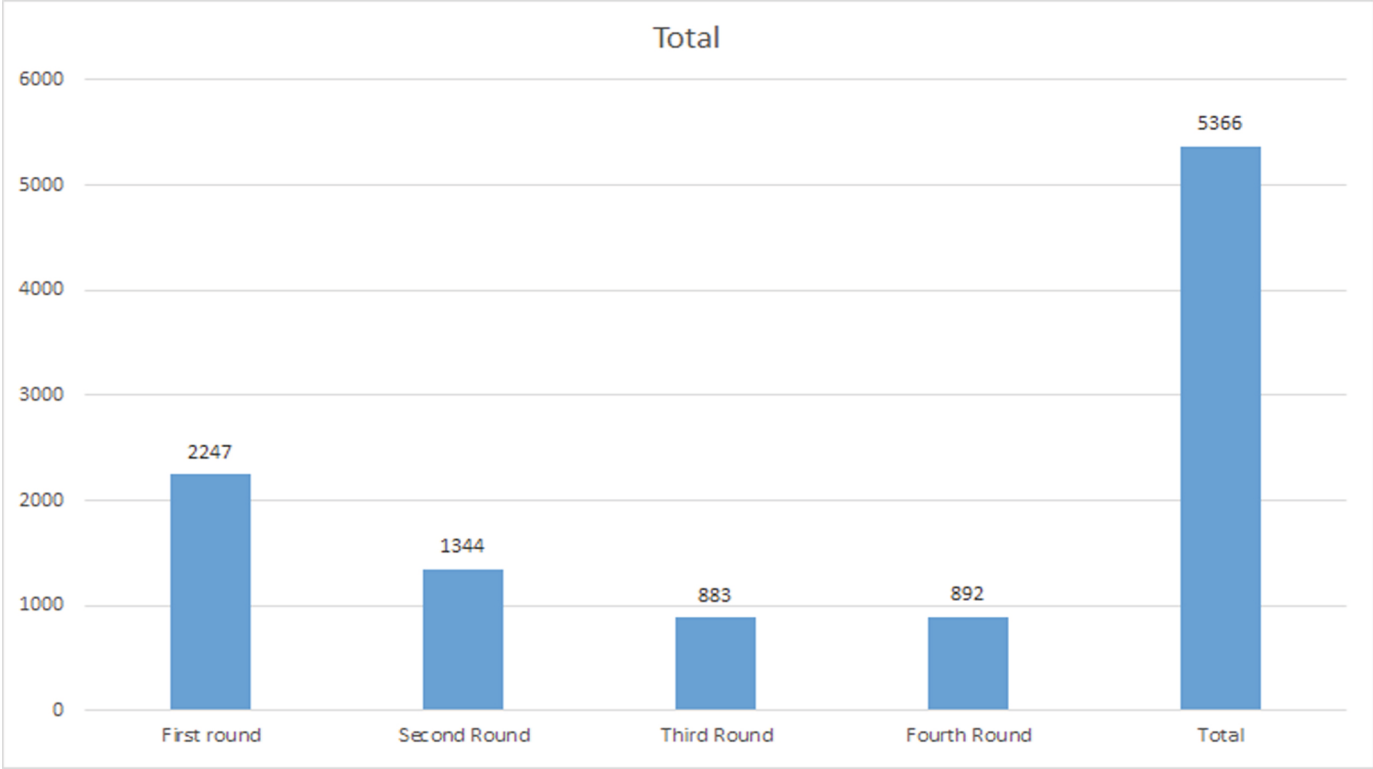
Sangram relief to other districts/states through NNSW partners Ration Packets



Supports from Local donars in Sangli, Satara & Kolhapur District



Round Wise Grocery Distribution



■ First Round
 ■ Second Round
 ■ Third Round
 ■ Fourth Round
 ■ Total