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Leveraging the Power of Collaboratives to Advance Change: Why We Invested in RCRC's Research Initiative

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In 2020, a number of prominent livelihoods focussed Civil-Society Organisations (CSOs) across the country came together to form a National Coalition to enable a Rapid Rural Community or RCRC. Realising the devastating impact of the pandemic very early on, these organizations quickly understood that there was much to do together than they could otherwise do alone.

One of the first tasks the coalition took up was to devise surveys to identify the short, medium and long-term impact of the pandemic on aspects like job loss, income loss, reduced food intake, low nutrition, poor health and education outcomes in rural India. These surveys would also assess the efficacy of community institutions and government programs in addressing distress at scale. The coalition felt that this data would be critical in helping guide future interventions.

The aspects of rural life surveyed were concerns regarding rural poor people that were reflected in the questions- cash, liquidity and indebtedness, hunger, migrants, access to entitlements; agriculture procurement, MSP, credit, etc.

Looking back a year later, [RCRC's surveys](#) have enabled multiple high-impact interventions and organisational pivots. It has also helped member CSOs with advocacy with the government. Below are two illustrative examples of the impact of RCRC's surveys:

- PM Kisan Samman Yojana is a direct cash transfer of INR 6,000 to farmers in three equal instalments during the year. As per one of the surveys, the surveyed households reported eligible for the scheme