



# Creating a wave of change.

“



Good to see well-known technology leaders of India coming together in the fight against #COVID19 by encouraging innovations.

Launch of Action COVID-19 Team(ACT) with a corpus of Rs.100 crore to accelerate efficient and scalable solutions on COVID-19 is indeed commendable.

- **Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad,**  
Honorable Union Minister for Law and Justice,  
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India  
1 April 2020

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*We believe  
everyone  
can be a  
co-founder  
of  
social  
change!*

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We believe anything is possible when founders, investors, venture capitalists and tech entrepreneurs come together for a larger purpose.

We believe the startup ecosystem has the power to solve societal problems at scale.

We believe founders who build successful businesses can also build the foundations for a better world.

Leaders who create great shareholder value also have the empathy to create greater shared value.

We believe in collective action!

Together we are backing India's best social entrepreneurs to combat Covid-19 using inventive startup thinking.

We are supporting ideas that are capital efficient, scale ready and are creating immediate impact.

We started with Covid-19 and health and now are making a difference in environment, education and empowerment of women.

We're finding solutions using innovative technologies, and we are driving it fast.

If you're a venture capitalist or a philanthropist. If you are an entrepreneur or a person with an idea, a tech startup or a social change activist. Or a passionate individual who feels the way we feel ... We believe you have something to give.

Volunteer your time and expertise, or simply join the community and become our ambassador and spread the good word. Your action is our resource.

We believe in the energy of the flow to create a wave of change. We believe transformation is happening and we will see it in our lifetime.

Join the flow, get involved, act now... We believe everyone can be co-founder of social change!





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*Our journey  
so far*

**The COVID-19  
pandemic stressed  
the already  
constrained Indian  
public health  
infrastructure.**

**145<sup>th</sup>**

rank for India out of 195 countries on global  
healthcare access and quality (HAQ) index\*

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

rank for India in the world on total number  
of COVID-19 cases\*\*

**847.3**

times increase in daily new cases since  
March 2020

All numbers upto December 2020

\*<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

\*\*<https://www.firstpost.com/india/world-health-day-2019-access-quality-of-care-ranks-india-among-lowest-globally-4480939.html#:~:text=India-,World%20Health%20Day%202019%3A%20Access%2C%20quality%20of%20care%20ranks%20India,ranks%20lower%20than%20Bangladesh%20%26%20Sudan.>

**In March 2020,  
the Indian startup  
ecosystem came  
together to form  
ACT Grants.**

**₹100cr**  
raised

**100+**  
volunteers

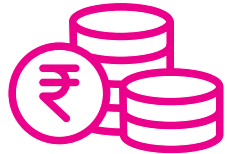
**34**  
founders and  
leaders

**44**  
mainstream  
funds

**37**  
strategic  
partners

## ACT Grants was formed with **three core objectives**.

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**1. To award grants** to tech-driven companies that can scale against COVID-19



**2. To connect companies** to local, state and national governments, and NGOs fighting COVID-19

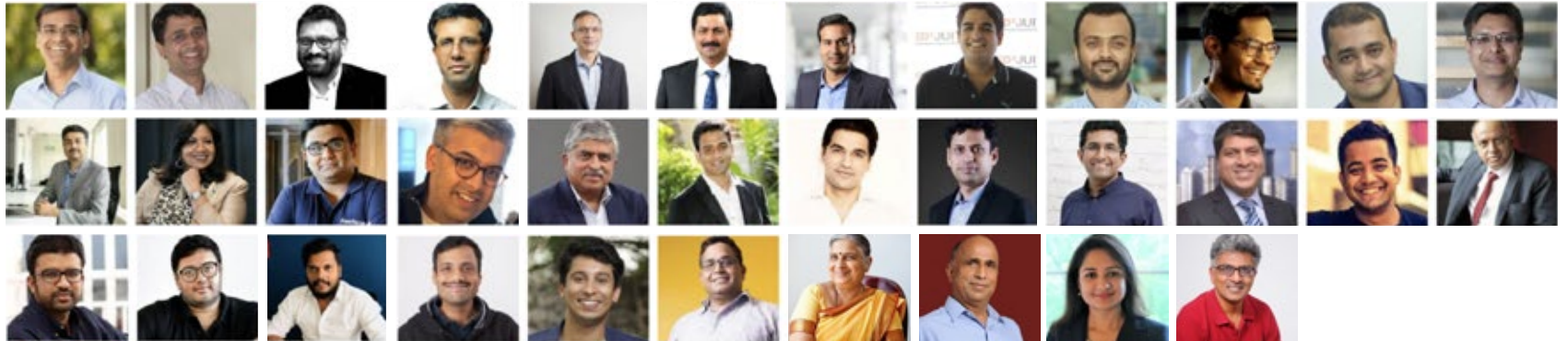


**3. To help companies scale** by bringing together networks, start-ups and additional grants as a force multiplier



# ACT Grants brought together networks of leaders across the Indian startup community to fight against COVID-19.

**34**  
high calibre  
founders and  
corporate  
leaders



**44**  
mainstream  
funds donated  
in their personal  
capacity besides  
unlocking their  
networks



# ACT Grants was able to drive participation from a diverse base of dedicated volunteers.

100+

volunteers from the start-up and impact ecosystem who led substantial efforts in the tough fight

33K+

hours spent in the fight against COVID-19



...and many more.



C-CIDA or the C-CAMP COVID-19 Innovations Deployment Accelerator was born in late March 2020 with the aim to identify, fast-track, fund, and scale up potentially impactful indigenous COVID-19 innovations across India. C-CIDA overwhelmingly received 1100+ applications out of which 30 innovations were selected in critical categories. ACT has funded three of these - Huwel Life Sciences, Coeo Labs and Cardiac Design Labs. Sincere gratitude goes out to ACT. Their generous support helped our efforts towards reaching the scale and geographical footprint they did.

- **Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed** (Director and COO) and **Dr. Niranjan Joshi** (Programme In-charge)

Great experience that drove insights across the nature of the issue, bureaucratic efforts and learnings about all the solutions that are being deployed across the spectrum to tackle COVID.

- **Mr. Anurag Ramadasan**, 3one4 Capital

Through ACT, one got an opportunity to contribute meaningfully during one of the more challenging periods of our time. Contextualising quality solutions who would have struggled to otherwise find a place on the table of important decision makers in government and industry was especially fulfilling.

- **Mr. Tejas Agarwal**, Urban Company

I feel humbled to have been a part of this noble initiative. The battle is still to be won and the road ahead is difficult, but the impact that ACT Grants has been able to create in such a short span has been truly inspiring.

- **Mr. Ankit Agarwal**, Accel

The government and private sector are keen to work collaboratively on tackling large challenges and an enabling platform like ACT can help facilitate that collaboration smoothly and enhance outcomes.

- **Ms. Neha Saraf**, Aavishkaar Capital





ACT is a truly transformational global first initiative launched by the Indian startup ecosystem. I was deeply involved in many aspects of ACT's engagement with the Government of India – centre and several states – and working with the core team to help the funded innovations land in key states. It was amazing to see the speed at which ACT moved and incredible collaboration across members. We are deeply thankful to all the donors who made ACT possible and for the hundred of volunteers and innovators who helped magic happen.

- Mr. Rajan Anandan, Sequoia India

Collaboration is key and people go out of their way to help for a genuine cause.

- Ms. Richa Bajpai, Campus Fund, Goodera

We had launched the United Against Covid-19 Challenge to identify and support Indian Technologies who had solutions for precautionary as well as treatment-related interventions of the pandemic... solutions that were funded by ACT such as MicroGo and Clovia were also supported on an ongoing basis by our team in terms of showcase, customer access, and regulatory support. ACT Grants reflected a concentrated effort by different Indian stakeholders in the Startup Ecosystem to come together and combat Covid-19. We appreciate the entire team behind the ACT Grants for not only coming together to support Innovative startups but also for responding in a timely manner. The ACT grants is definitely a beautiful case study that displays the solidarity and the energy of the Startup Ecosystem in India.

- Ms. Aastha Grover, Head, Startup India Hub, Invest India

It was satisfying to be able to contribute in a small way to help scale Covid-19 testing in the country in the early months of the pandemic. I had a wonderful time working with a cross-industry team as part of ACT.

- Mr. Ashish Agarwal, Sequoia India



ACT Grants collaborated with various impact-focused organisations forming **strategic partnerships** throughout its journey.

37

strategic partners  
whose contribution  
enabled the fund to  
amplify its impact





The combination of urgency/nimbleness and technology can create new disruptive models used to solve social problems in the NGO sector.

With the power of the startup ecosystem – its differentiated approach to innovative problem solving and access to capital can help tackle some of our large intractable societal challenges.

- **Mr. Prashanth Prakash,**  
Founding Partner, Accel



**ACT Grants scaled its  
impact through  
disruptive innovations  
by Indian startups.**

**54**  
grantees

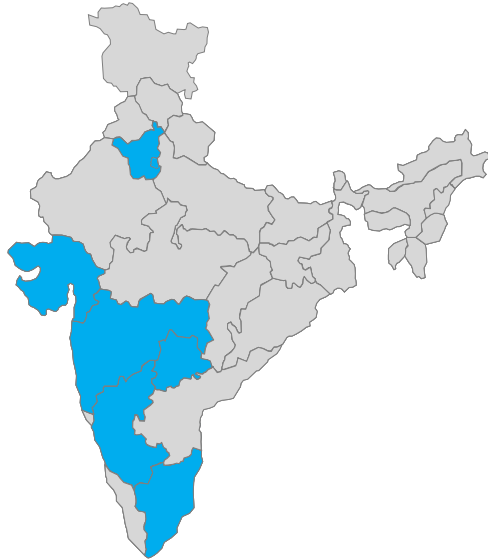
**49mn+**  
lives touched

**10**  
tracks in 9 months

**27**  
states covered

As the disease progressed, ACT Grants expanded from few **priority states** to the **remote corners of the country**.

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April - June

📍 6 States, 1 Union Territory

Maharashtra, Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, Telangana,  
Tamil Nadu, Karnataka



July - December

📍 27 States, 3 Union Territories

Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh,  
Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal  
Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh,  
Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, New Delhi, Goa, Himachal  
Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Gujarat, Maharashtra,  
Telangana, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka



# ACT Grants enabled impact across 10 solution tracks.

## PHASE 1: Prevent the spread of COVID-19



Prevention

**32mn+**

high-risk individuals traced



COVID-19 Testing

**230K+**

tests conducted



PPE Solutions

**₹212mn**

worth PPE kits donated

**8.5mn**

N95 masks commissioned



Telemedicine and Home Quarantine

**5.6mn+**

people supported

## PHASE 2: Fight COVID-19



Hospital Capacity Augmentation

**70K+**

doctors, nurses trained

**85K+**

patient records maintained



Mental Wellness

**180K+**

supported with mental wellness needs

**277K+**

consultations conducted

## PHASE 3: Enable long-term capacity for COVID-19 and beyond



COVID-19 Treatment

**₹17.3mn**

granted for research and development



Remote Monitoring

**739**

ICU beds monitored



Oxygen Therapy

**161**

Oxygen concentrators

**450+**

HFNC devices deployed




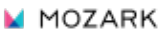







































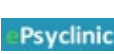













Sustenance

**₹170mn+**

worth of government scheme benefits distributed

ACT Grants enabled **54 Indian companies** to persevere and scale through the pandemic with their innovative impactful solutions.

	Tracks	Grantees with initial support	Grantees with acceleration support	Grantees with Indian manufacturing units
PHASE 1	1. Prevention		   	
	2. COVID-19 Testing		   	   
	3. PPE Solutions		   	     
	4. Telemedicine and Home Quarantine	 	  	
PHASE 2	5. Hospital Capacity Augmentation		      	 
	6. Mental Wellness	  		
PHASE 3	7. COVID -19 Treatment		  	
	8. Remote Monitoring	 		 
	9. Oxygen Therapy	 		 
	10. Sustenance			



*Our impact stories  
from the field*



The innovation of ACT is enabling but no matter how good, would be an empty exercise if it can't reach the people who need it. We are just a group of private citizens who have come together, but it is governments, at various levels, who play an important role in making sure the right solutions are accessed by the people, who need it the most. For ACT's projects to be truly impactful, we need to work in conjunction with government initiatives.

- Ms. Vani Kola,  
Managing Director, Kalaari Capital



## FIELD IMPACT STORY 1 - MAHARASHTRA

ACT Grants supported **2300+ patients** with their critical oxygenation requirements.



🏥 Dr Naidu Hospital Infectious Diseases Hospital 📍 Pune, Maharashtra



### CONTEXT

#### LOCATION

- Located close to Pune railway station
- One of the fastest growing commercial hubs in the country

#### HOSPITAL

- Set up in 1900, one of Maharashtra's first dedicated COVID-19 hospitals and designated isolation facilities

#### NEED

- Highest number of active cases in the entire country
- Shortage of medical oxygen supply in the city
- Overburdening of critical care facilities

### ACT GRANTS SUPPORT

**125**

D-type oxygen cylinders

**17**

HFNC devices

**25**

Oxygen concentrators

**2**

BiPAPs

### IMPACT

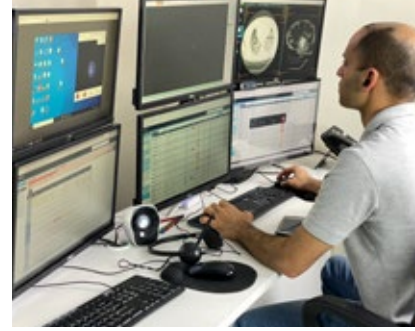
- **300+ patients** received high-flow oxygen therapy
- **2000+ patients** received low-flow oxygen therapy
- Improvement in **long-term oxygenation infrastructure**



“ACT Grants has played a significant role in deploying solutions and providing quality healthcare. It is an extremely efficient effort from the VC partners and the start-up community of the country and the Maharashtra Government is proud to be associated with them to help those in need of such services.”

- Ms. Sujata Saunik, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra

## FIELD IMPACT STORY 2 - KARNATAKA

ACT Grants enabled first-of-its-kind tele-ICU treatment of **1300+ severe risk patients** in several districts of Karnataka.



-  1. Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), Kalaburagi  Karnataka
2. Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences (BRIMS), Bidar
3. COVID-19 Hospital, Ramanagara



### CONTEXT

#### NEED

- Shortage of trained ICU specialists at the bedside
- Rapid increase in patients requiring ICU treatment

### ACT GRANTS SUPPORT

**78**

ICU beds monitored remotely

**20**

HDU beds monitored remotely

### IMPACT

- **1374 patients** monitored across 3 hospitals
- **Decline in mortality rates** despite the increasing severity of patients over 4.5 months

“Just wanted to take a moment to thank Cloudphysician for all their support so far. We really appreciate your services.”

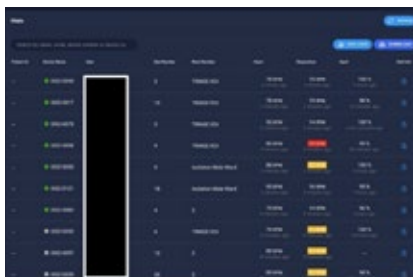
- Mr. Ikram, Zilla Panchayat CEO, Ramanagara

“A pandemic requires decisive and timely action. ACT Grants’ processes were thorough, seamless and most importantly, aligned closely with what we wanted to do. Together, we could act on immediately and effectively saving many lives.”

- Mr. Dileep Raman, Director, Cloudphysician

## FIELD IMPACT STORY 3 - TAMIL NADU

ACT Grants supported **2600+ patients** in this hospital with their **critical care requirements**.



 Chengalpattu Government Medical College  Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu



### CONTEXT

#### LOCATION

- Located 54kms away from Chennai
- Important commercial centre and tourist spot in the state

#### HOSPITAL

- Set up as the district headquarters hospital in 1965
- Only governmental Tertiary Health Centre in the district

#### NEED

- Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in total number of confirmed COVID cases in Tamil Nadu
- Limited availability of oxygenation devices
- Limited staff to monitor the severe patients on a daily basis

### ACT GRANTS SUPPORT

**5**

High-flow CPAP devices

**100**

Remote monitoring devices

### IMPACT

- **150+ patients treated with high flow oxygen therapy**
- **Quality care enabled in the long term**

“We express our gratitude to ACT Grants for supporting Chengalpattu Medical College by providing useful solutions such as HFNC/CPAP and Remote monitoring devices. These devices help us to provide effective oxygen therapy and to monitor critical COVID patients on a real-time basis, thus enabling the doctors to take the swift action to deal with the current pandemic.”

- **Dr. Shantimalar**, Dean, Chengalpattu Medical College

## FIELD IMPACT STORY 4 - NEW DELHI

ACT Grants covered the salaries of all healthcare workers treating **2200+ patients** during the peak of the pandemic.



 CWG Facility  Delhi



### CONTEXT

#### LOCATION

- 500-bed temporary COVID-19 facility for moderately ill patients
- Set up during the first COVID-19 peak by the Delhi government
- Doctors For You (DFY) tasked with onboarding healthcare staff

#### NEED

- Set up on a war footing by the Delhi government
- No immediate sources of funding for salaries of employed healthcare workers

### ACT GRANTS SUPPORT

**62**

Healthcare workers' salaries covered for 4.5 months

**100-250**

beds managed

### IMPACT

**Healthcare staff available 24x7 leading to 25-30% increase in patients treated**

“Originally we were doubtful if we would be able to get support for paying salaries of healthcare workers. However ACT Grants' support came at a very crucial time. ACT Grants was the fuel to the car that DFY and Delhi government had put together which made the entire project possible.”

- **Dr. Ravikant Singh**, Founder, Doctors For You (DFY)

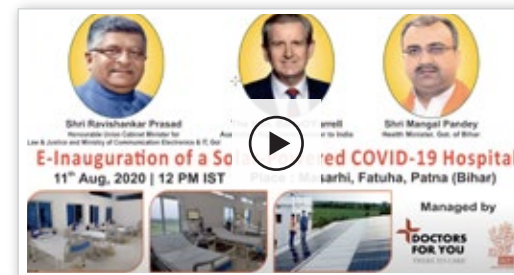
 [LGDelhi](#) appreciates DDMA and DFY for establishing the center in a record time of 6 days.

[Arvind Kejriwal](#) inaugurates the center over video call with Hon. LG Shri. Anil Bajjal.



## FIELD IMPACT STORY 5 - BIHAR

ACT Grants supported in setting up the critical care facility enabling COVID relief support for 100 neighbouring villages in Masarhi, Bihar.



 Vistex Hospital  Masarhi, Bihar

### CONTEXT

#### LOCATION

- Located 40kms away from Patna
- Population of 10,000 engaging primarily in agriculture

#### HOSPITAL

- Good road connectivity leads to high patient inflow
- 50-bed facility converted to a COVID care hospital in August 2020

#### NEED

- Lack of critical care unit in the hospital

### ACT GRANTS SUPPORT

100

D-type oxygen  
cylinders

5

Ventilators

1

Transport  
Ventilator

### IMPACT

Enabled the **setting up of a critical care unit** in the hospital for **long-term treatment** of patients

“ One thing that is unique about ACT Grants is how it understands the need on ground and respond swiftly, which is critical for any disaster management response. Compared to other funding partners, ACT is also willing to support in rural and isolated areas which need quick intervention. ”

- Dr. Ravikant Singh, Founder, Doctors For You (DFY)

[Learn more](#)



*Our impact across  
solution tracks*

COVID-19  
TEST

A hand in a white glove holds a clear plastic vial labeled 'COVID-19 TEST'. Another hand holds a white swab with a blue tip, positioned near the vial. The background is a blurred image of a person's face, overlaid with a blue-to-purple gradient.



What helped us achieve meaningful impact was the single minded focus towards finding and scaling solutions which can curb the spread of the pandemic, and not shying away from doing whatever it takes - be it working with the government, finding partner organizations to multiply our grants, or helping the grantee companies with anything else they needed to succeed.

- **Mr. Abhiraj Singh Bhal,**  
Co-Founder, Urban Company



# PHASE 1: Prevent the spread of COVID-19

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Prevention



COVID-19 Testing



PPE Solutions



Telemedicine and Home Quarantine



## PREVENTION

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As the number of COVID-19 cases were rapidly increasing, it was immensely important to control and prevent the spread of the disease. It was imperative to **trace high-risk individuals**, fill data gaps and enable efficient integration with government services at city, district and state levels.

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### VOICES OF THE VOLUNTEERS

“We funded various technology solutions that helped governments monitor more than 30mn high-risk individuals across multiple states. My biggest learning was that a group of individuals can create a big impact if they are truly committed to the cause. My other learning was that there are a lot of ways that private individuals can make a difference in public machinery without necessarily being career public employees. There is great potential in carrying forward such partnerships even beyond COVID.”

- Mr. Ravijot Chugh, Climb Credit



## PREVENTION - RESULTS



ACT Grants enabled contact tracing and data-based decision making in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

**32mn+** high-risk individuals traced  
**900K+** incidents of COVID regulation violations reported  
**18+** states covered

ACT Grants supported the **prototype development** of 'GOassure', the hand sanitizer product at MicroGo, creating **long-term impact**.



PHASE 1



PREVENTION - GRANTEE IMPACT STORIES



**Drona Maps**

Enabled decision makers with a detailed overview of many aspects of the COVID-19 combat strategy - location of patients, distribution of resources etc.

7 states

**5.3mn+**

high-risk individuals monitored

“ The ACT team helped us expand our services across geographies. It also alleviated a lot of the financial pressure from the initial phase of the pandemic and provided us with relationships we can convert to long-term paying clients as the situation evolved.”

- Mr. Utkarsh Singh, Founder & CEO, Drona Maps

**Intugine**

Provided tracking facility for quarantined individuals and population risk analysis

10 states

**650K+**

people monitored

“ Intugine is directly linked with telecoms, which helps us in convincing the authorities over the effectiveness and viability of the solution. Partnering with ACT Grants has helped in driving mutual cross-sell in each other’s states and districts.”

- Mr. Harshit Shrivastava, Founder, Intugine

**Infinite Analysis**

Enabled authorities to track high-risk individuals based on the users’ historic proximity and time of contact with infected individuals

4 states

**26mn+**

high-risk individuals tracked

“ People appreciate the ability to get to the location detail as well as the resolution and to understand movement of people across districts to understand reverse migration, now that the lockdown is all but over.”

- Mr. Akash Bhatia, Co-founder & CEO, Infinite Analytics

**MicroGo**

IoT based innovative smart hand sanitisation product ‘GOassure’, which assures hand hygiene compliance

18 states

**4mn+**

people impacted

‘GOassure’ placed in the PMO.

“ We were able to teach 40,00,000 hands – how to perform hand hygiene according to good hand hygiene practices – this is a teaching for life and future generations.”

- Dr. Rachna Dave, Founder, MicroGo

PHASE 1



## COVID-19 TESTING

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To help the government enable the public healthcare infrastructure to match the pace of the growth of the disease, it was essential to **increase the production capacity of testing kits and scale sample collection kits** across the country.

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### VOICES OF THE VOLUNTEERS

“ACT Grants taught us how a group of diverse individuals from different organisations can drive real impact if they share the same vision.”

- Mr. Anand Datta, Nexus Venture Partners | Mr. Sudipto Sannigrahi, Matrix Partners





# ACT Grants enabled manufacturing and distribution of testing kits and setting up of testing booths

<b>114K+</b>	<b>25K+</b>	<b>94K+</b>	<b>15+</b>
testing samples collected	scans conducted	testing kits funded	states covered

**PARTNERS:**



### MyLab Discovery Solutions

First ICMR approved indigenous RT-PCR testing solution manufactured domestically with a completely local supply chain.

**22K+**  
testing kits supported

MyLab became India's largest supplier of test kits.

“ We were very thankful to ACT Grants for extending the working capital as during the start of pandemic demand was huge and we were able to fulfil the order with the help of this grant.”

- Mr. Shailendra Kawade, Executive Director, MyLab Discovery Solutions

### Healthians

India's leading health test at home service adapted a three-pronged approach to scale sample collections through at-home testing, drive-through testing, and booth/ kiosk-based testing.

**42K+**  
samples collected

“ When the COVID-19 crisis struck, mass-scale testing became a challenge for India. ACT came in as a brilliant initiative to encourage startups like ours to contribute in a meaningful way.”

- Mr. Deepak Sahni, Founder & CEO, Healthians



## PPE SOLUTIONS

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As more and more front line workers and healthcare professionals started engaging in treating the growing caseload, their safety and protection became a priority. However, **the acute shortage of essential PPE items** such as N95 masks, disposable gloves and face shields **posed a severe challenge** to the continued safety of India's healthcare workers.

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### VOICES OF THE VOLUNTEERS

“It was amazing to see such an organic collaboration between a large and diverse group of people who did not even know each other before, but were united by a common cause. It was really inspiring to see such a talented and committed bunch of fellow volunteers in the PPE solutions track (and beyond) who put in so much time, passion, and energy into the work we did. It felt very meaningful to be able to play a role in our country's fight against the pandemic.”

- Mr. Venu Nair, RMSI Pvt. Ltd. | Mr. Apurv Bansal, Elevation Capital | Mr. Anant Vidur Puri, Bessemer Venture Partners | Mr. Hrishikesh Arjun Nair, Bessemer Venture Partners



## PPE SOLUTIONS - RESULTS + GRANTEE IMPACT STORIES



ACT Grants enabled production capacity and delivery of PPE items across the country with various government officials, healthcare workers and last mile NGO partners.

<b>4.5mn*</b>	<b>₹211.9mn</b>	<b>₹5mn</b>	<b>27</b>
N95 masks delivered	worth PPE kits delivered	worth UV disinfection ovens delivered	states covered



“We directly reached out to healthcare workers in 35 different villages and cities in Tamil Nadu, where frontline workers had low access to N95 masks.”

- A.S.Sankaranarayanan, Managing Trustee, NMCT

PARTNERS:

### Log 9

Manufactures of ‘CoronaOven’ for usage in hospitals and public administration for surface and PPE disinfection.

**3000+**

CoronaOven devices installed

“The timing of ACT Grants was critical and enabled Log9 to capture the market effectively and be the pioneers of a new category in itself. We were able to penetrate into government organisations, hospitals swiftly with the support of ACT team.”

- Mr. Akshay V. Singhal, Founder & CEO, Log9 Materials

[Annapurna Foundation](#) acknowledge N95 masks made by Clovia Fashions

[Howrah Municipal Corporation](#) on the donation of face shields

\*Total number of N95 masks expected to be distributed by March 2021 is 8.5mn



# ACT Grants enabled manufacturing capacity of 3mn N-95 masks per month through a Rs.100mn grant to Arvind Limited.



### Arvind Limited

One of India's largest textile-to-retail conglomerates.

## 4.5mn\*

N95 masks delivered

Partnerships with 29 NGOs to distribute masks to frontline workers

“There was a shared understanding about the significance of this project between Arvind and ACT Grants. That set high expectations and responsibility on delivering quickly. On their part, they transferred the grant at the beginning which supported Arvind’s efforts to fast track the project and begin production of FFP2 / N95 masks in India.”

- Mr. Ashish Kumar, CEO, Arvind Advanced Materials and Arvind Envisol

Ripples Of Change Foundation acknowledge N95 masks made by Arvind

Learn more about Arvind Limited enters into a Rs. 100mn deal with ACT Grants to produce N-95 masks [here](#)

\*Total number of N95 masks expected to be distributed by March 2021 is 8.5mn



## PPE SOLUTIONS - CAMPAIGN EFFORTS

# ACT Grants enabled mask compliance across the country through multiple behaviour change campaigns with EkDesh.



### ApnaDeshApnaMask Campaign

Celebrity-led campaign to prompt people to wear masks



### Corona Soldier Campaign

Encouraging mask compliance overcoming general barriers of inconvenience and discomfort

## 500K+

Corona soldiers recruited



### Project Rekha

Enabling mask compliance through women as community leaders in rural India

## 40K+

people reached



4 states

“ Since April, we have been working around mask awareness and later mask compliance under Ek Desh with support from ACT Grants. Behaviour change is a long term process but with sharp, focussed messaging initially with #ApnaDeshApnaMask and later with #CoronaSoldier we were able to move the needle with significant shift in compliance. Starting with brands masking their logos to influencer efforts and strategic digital interventions led to a distinct behaviour change. Our onground efforts around Project Rekha aimed at driving 100% mask compliance with women as the champions of grassroot change was yet another step in this direction. We believe these small steps will help us win the war against Covid in the long run. We would like to thank ACT Grants for their steadfast belief in our journey and the purpose.”

- Ms. Poonam Kaul & Ms. Ipshta Chowdhury, EkDesh



Learn more about PM Narendra Modi wearing the E-Spin Nanotech Swasa N-95 mask at Ayodhya Bhumi Pujan [here](#)

Learn more about placement of Log9's CoronaOven in the French President Emmanuel Macron's official residence [here](#)

Learn more about ACT Grants joining hands with Goodera to deliver N-95 masks to the Tamil Nadu government [here](#)



## TELEMEDICINE AND HOME QUARANTINE

As more people were home quarantined, it became clear that **home management solutions for early detection and control of the disease** were essential. Thus, timely intervention through daily monitoring of patient vitals and symptoms was important to reduce the existing burden on the public healthcare system.

### VOICES OF THE VOLUNTEERS

“Telemedicine solution has been the front line defence against the COVID-19. The solution has led to triaging and supporting high risk individuals with getting medical support, prescription for testing, home isolation management extended to ambulance support and now vaccination. The solution has touched millions of people in the last year.”

- Dr. Vaibhav Agarwal, Lightspeed | Mr. Ravijot Chugh, Climb Credit | Sattva Consulting | UWB



## TELEMEDICINE AND HOME QUARANTINE - RESULTS



ACT Grants impacted the lives of millions of patients by enabling teleconsultation and home treatment.

**5.6mn+**

lives impacted

**900K+**

teleconsultations arranged

**16+**

states covered



“As part of the ACT Grants core team, we realized early on that we needed a scalable platform to support India in terms of telemedicine and remote support. Thanks to ACT Grants for providing early grants for setting up Swasth, which not only tackled COVID challenges, but took responsibility to build a long-lasting and durable platform that outlasts COVID. Now with Swasth being operational as a non-profit entity and working closely with the Government, we are excited about how we can contribute to the National Health Stack.”

Learn more about StepOne helpline getting 1million calls a month [here](#)

Learn more about Swasth becoming the rallying point for the healthcare sector [here](#)



[Atishi Marlana](#), AAP candidate on Project StepOne

[Arvind Kejriwal](#), Chief Minister of Delhi, on StepOne solutions in Delhi

- Mr. Mukesh Bansal, Co-founder, Cure.fit



“ Swasth is a great initiative and the right direction for the country to move in – we will be supportive and provide all help that is needed.”

- Mr. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of India.

ACT Grants enabled Swasth with a **Rs.100mn grant to build the backbone for digital healthcare delivery** in partnership with National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), India. Swasth aims to reach **1.2 bn Indians** through digital technologies that drive inclusive healthcare and **improve healthcare outcomes** across the country.



Swasth

Holistic health stack that covers a range of services including AI based screening, home-isolation management, integrations with diagnostics, pharma and hospitals, and tele-consultation.

**241K+**  
calls  
triaged

**33K+**  
teleconsultations  
completed

**100+**  
health ecosystem  
partners

 **500+ towns  
and cities**

“Swasth has been able to create large scale impact through ACT Grants and the constant support received from the team made a huge difference. Within a short span of a few months, we have been able to create a globally unique alliance of over a 100+ organisations from across the health sector, committed to building tools for a better health system for India. ACT Grants has also been a strong partner in helping set up robust governance mechanisms for this new organisation, squarely focussed on societal good and with patient centricity at the core.”

- Dr. Ajay Nair, CEO, Swasth





## TELEMEDICINE AND HOME QUARANTINE - GRANTEE IMPACT STORIES

PARTNERS:     

### Project StepOne

Low cost IVR based home-isolation solution to enable daily monitoring of COVID-positive patients and doctor teleconsultation support in case of patient requirement or request.

**5mn+\*** **900K+**

lives touched

teleconsultations completed

 **16 states**

### Portea

Leverages technology and a network of specialised doctors and nurses to provide direct, timely access of healthcare professionals, especially to high-risk patients.

**100K+**

patients remotely monitored

 **27 districts in 5 states**

ACT Grants supported the **technology infrastructure of Project StepOne** enabling 16 states across the country with telemedicine. 

“ACT Grants donated Rs.25 Lakhs to Project StepOne and has helped raise Rs.25 Lakhs each from Omidyar Network and Wadhvani Foundation. The ACT Grants team has helped Project StepOne grow our impact by introductions to governments/other stakeholders and connect us with organisations for raising more grants.”

- Mr. Raghavendra Prasad T S, Founder, Project StepOne

“ACT Grants’ support was critical for us to provide expert medical care remotely to patients across India in the midst of a burgeoning pandemic. We were able to achieve large-scale impact on two fronts - help government agencies manage public health infrastructure by effectively utilising it for the high-risk and dependent patients, and simultaneously help provide medical counselling to patients who can access expert medical advice 24x7 from the comfort of their homes.”

- Ms. Meena Ganesh, MD & CEO, Portea

“



ACT was an unexpected effort triggered by Covid making each of us think of what we could do for our communities. Joining an amazing group, aligned on purpose, quick to act, eager to learn and comfortable with pivoting and being wrong was a ray of delight in a peculiar year. May this tribe grow in terms of realising its power to make a difference.

- Ms. Ireena Vittal

”

## PHASE 2: Fight COVID-19

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 Hospital Capacity Augmentation

 Mental Wellness



## HOSPITAL CAPACITY AUGMENTATION

Since early March, COVID-19 and its response techniques was rapidly evolving. Hospitals lacked the infrastructure and capabilities to meet these requirements. Severe constraints on resources and social distancing norms made it nearly impossible for institutions to regularly impart the latest training to their doctors, nurses and healthcare workers on duty and enhance the infrastructure.

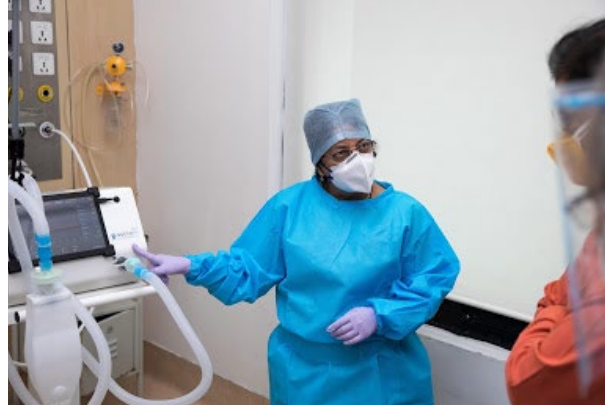
### VOICES OF THE VOLUNTEERS

“It was awesome to see the startup community get together for 1-2 months, ACT Grants became our day job. We had late night syncups, multiple meetings with manufacturers, raw material suppliers and we also made strategy documents on how to find the right people to back. The speed with which it all came together was super.”

- Mr.Hrishikesh Arjun Nair, Bessemer Venture Partners | Mr.Gourav Bhattacharya, Matrix Partners India



## HOSPITAL CAPACITY AUGMENTATION - RESULTS



ACT Grants supported in the infrastructure and capacity enhancement of hospitals.

<b>70K+</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>10K</b>	<b>10+</b>
healthcare workers enrolled for training	ventilators deployed	splitters funded	states covered



ACT Grants provided follow-on grants for raising **National Engineering Leadership Cadre for Public Service**, drawing over 50,000 applications for 24 seats.



ACT Grants enabled the **prototype development of ventilators by Nocca Robotics**, 400+ of which have been deployed across the country.



PHASE 2

“ With the hospital augmentation effort, ACT attempted to fulfill twin purposes. One to augment domestic manufacturing and innovation by identifying life saving equipment imported from outside India and two, to ensure these technologies reached the tier 1, 2, 3 and tribal towns of India.”

- Mr. Abhishek Modi, Sattva Consulting



## HOSPITAL CAPACITY AUGMENTATION - GRANTEE IMPACT STORIES

PARTNERS:         

### Plexus MD

Provided high quality training to medical staff in hospitals regarding SOP for COVID-19 patients.

**16lakh+**

hours of training imparted

**20-30%**

improvement in learning outcomes

An online training program called Certificate Course in Management of Covid-19 (CCMC) launched in association with the Government of Gujarat and subsequently rolled out with Government of Haryana

“ The CCMC course was presented to top decision-makers across multiple states and major hospitals and associations like Medicovert Hospital- Hyderabad, Paramitha Hospital- Hyderabad, Switch India, AHPI India (Association of Healthcare Providers), Rotaract Club of The Caduceus etc. ACT Grant’s support was instrumental in keeping the program active for 4 more months than originally envisaged - July to October. ”

- Mr. Rohan Desai, Co-founder, PlexusMD

### CoronaSafe Network

Open-source disaster management platform in collaboration with Kerala government to tackle the current pandemic and future disasters.

**187**

public and private healthcare facilities registered on the CARE platform

**33K+**

patients supported in shifting between different healthcare facilities in Ernakulam district

CoronaSafe partnered with National Health mission in developing and offering basic training online module on “Healthy Future” to 5000 NSS students so far

“ ACT Grants has laid the framework for a new type of Public Private Partnership model where the best in indian startup industry across many organisations meld together into a single organism with entrepreneurial mission oriented behaviour. This organisation is now capable of chasing large, complex problems by providing guidance to entrepreneurs for tackling extreme levels of uncertainty and back them with the necessary capital to fuel a learning directed operational feedback loop enabling efforts to reach the desired outcomes and end goals. ”

- Mr. Sanjay VijayaKumar, Co-founder of Pupilfirst, Member of CoronaSafe Network’s core team



## HOSPITAL CAPACITY AUGMENTATION - GRANTEE IMPACT STORIES

### Nocca Robotics

Prototype development and clinical validation of turbine-based ventilators that are IEC 60601-1 tested and passed by NABL accredited lab.

400+

ventilators deployed



40+ cities across 10 states

“With the right mentorship and guidance from the taskforce comprising of intensivists, med-tech R&D leaders and CEOs, bio-medical engineers and industry leaders, we have been able to achieve extremely ambitious targets in record time. Despite the challenges faced, we were able to implement the project successfully.”

- Mr. Nikhil Kurele, CEO & Director, Nocca Robotics

### Ethereal Machines

Provided ventilator splitters allowing two patients to share a ventilator simultaneously with varying needs via differential pressure splitting.

200

splitters deployed



3 states

“Medical workers are impressed with the performance of the product and are leaning on Amaya (ventilator splitter) as a last resort solution to fight COVID19 and in emergency situations where there is limited availability of the ventilators.”

- Mr. Kaushik Mudda & Mr. Navin Jain, Founders, Ethereal Machines

### Max Ventilators

Provided critical care ventilators in government and private hospitals across the country.

39

ventilators deployed



7 states



## MENTAL WELLNESS

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The COVID-19 pandemic had a **huge impact on the physical and mental health** of people all around the world. Although the effects of the pandemic on one's physical health are well-documented, the same is **not true for mental health**.

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### VOICES OF THE VOLUNTEERS

“It was amazing to see people from the ecosystem come together and collaborate to move the needle in the fight against Covid-19. I made some strong friendships as part of building the response strategy for mental health, and it was gratifying to see the impact of our work translate into real lives impacted.”

- Mr. Venu Nair, Independent Consultant | Mr. Shrrinesh, Accel





## MENTAL WELLNESS - RESULTS + GRANTEE IMPACT STORIES



# ACT Grants enabled free mental wellbeing counselling support across the country to ease COVID-19 related stress.

**180K+** people served    **277K+** consultations conducted    **7** states

**PARTNERS:**

### Epsyclinic

24\*7 therapy and counselling service on chat and call by qualified trained psychologists on modules specifically designed to lower the mental health burden of COVID-19.

**158K+** sessions conducted    **5 states**

Partnered with key government departments across 10+ districts in 5 states and 3 startups.

“ COVID-19 patients were mentally more taxed and therapy services really helped them feel calmer, be more prepared and positive. ”

- Ms. Shipra Dawar, Founder & CEO, Epsyclinic

### Mindpiper

Mental wellbeing initiative called COVID Response, aimed at providing psychosocial support to distressed individuals and families.

**61K+** calls completed    **7 states**

Trained 150 counsellors from Punjab, Manipur and Puducherry state governments.

“ Steady financial backing and a trusted source to leverage other like-minded organisations allowed the team at COVID Response to expand and create impact stories. ”

- Mr. Siddhant Khurana, Co-founder, Mindpiper

### Dost Education

COVID awareness and mental wellness support provided to low income families across the country through mental health audio resources.

**58K+** households reached    **4 states**

Partnership with UNICEF to increase reach of mental wellness solutions.

“ ACT Grants’ helped us grow and scale even in these unprecedented and difficult months. We were able to remotely reach families and offer crucial mental wellness and COVID awareness support. ”

- Ms. Sneha Sheth, CEO & Co-founder, Dost Education



This is an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and using the Indian startup ecosystem's collective resources to help fight this is essential. The speed and spontaneity with which everyone has come together has been phenomenal and extremely encouraging. Now the team is laser focused on scaling the initiatives under ACT Grants nationally. Every single contribution, of money, time, or idea can be mission critical.

- Mr. Mohit Bhatnagar,  
Managing Director, Sequoia India



# PHASE 3: Enable long-term capacity for COVID-19 and beyond

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COVID-19 Treatment



Remote Monitoring



Oxygen Therapy



Sustenance



## COVID-19 TREATMENT

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At the beginning of the pandemic, ACT Grants was largely geared towards prevention. ACT soon realised the **need to invest in treatment measures** to protect against COVID-19.



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### VOICES OF THE VOLUNTEERS

“It was good to understand how companies were thinking about the need of the hour problems and tackling them with the best available resources. It was also good to work with investors from other VC funds and tap into each other's portfolios to extend support. Needless to say the fact that the entire machinery was working for such a noble cause and that together we made such a huge positive impact on our society was very heartening.”

- Mr.Kartik Agarwal, Accel | Ms.Radhika Ananth, Accel | Ms.Ruchi Chaturvedi, The Rainmaker Group



# ACT Grants supported the R&D efforts towards COVID-19 treatment.

**3**  
viable programmes  
funded

PARTNERS:



## Convalescent Plasma Therapy

Evaluation of safety and efficacy of Convalescent Plasma (CP) in COVID-19 patients by monitoring trial progress and creating SOP.

**1000+**

plasma units used

**60%**

of patients benefited

Plasma bank set up with the aid of Government of Karnataka at HCG hospital.

Timing of Convalescent Plasma therapy and the delivery use of high antibodies in the plasma unit determines the outcome in both moderate and severe infections.

## Remdesivir

Develop a scalable route to the production and reduction of costs of Remdesivir, a drug used for critical COVID-19 patients.

**Initial success achieved and steady progress is being made** in developing the proposed scalable route for the production of Remdesivir.

Scalable production of Remdesivir will be very effective for frontline treatment till herd immunity is developed.

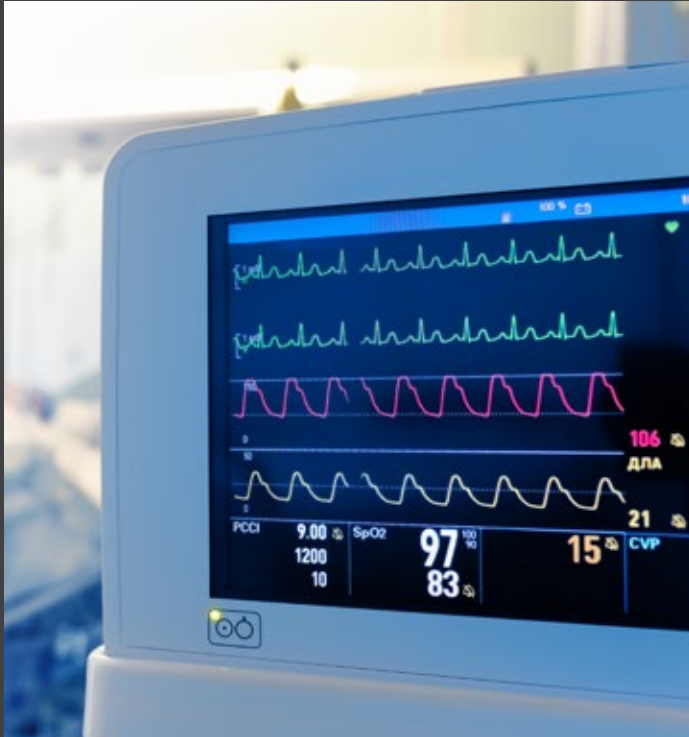
Potential use case of Remdesivir beyond COVID-19 as the first go to molecule against RNA infections.

“At a time when plasma therapy was only considered a potential treatment approach, ACT Grants helped us with the grant that initiated the trials in Bangalore and paved the way for making Plasma Therapy a viable treatment. We are deeply indebted to the entire team of ACT Grants for helping us achieve this milestone.”

- **Dr. (Prof) U S Vishal Rao**, Associate Dean - Centre of Academics & Research , HealthCare Global (HCG) Cancer Centre

“Generous support from ACT Grants has been critical to get this project going. We are thankful for their support.”

- **Mr. Sridhar Rajaram**, Assistant Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru



## REMOTE ICU MONITORING

As the number of high risk patients increased, hospitals faced shortage of experienced ICU medical staff. This necessitated ACT Grants to evaluate and grant **remote ICU management via specialised intensivists in a central location**. Tele-ICU increases the number of ICU beds that an intensivist can reach in a timely, and cost-effective manner.

### VOICES OF THE VOLUNTEERS

“As a country where equipment, ICU specialists are in short supply, the team focused on mobilising innovative startups and solutions to help bridge this gap. As part of the initiative the team identified remote monitoring of ICUs as the key initiative and activated over 750+ remotely monitored ICU beds to augment doctor capacity by 4x in remote locations across the country in partnership with various governments and startups.”

- Ms. Prerna Bagga | Mr. Rachit Parekh, Accel | Mr. Ravijot Chugh, Climb Credit



## REMOTE MONITORING - RESULTS



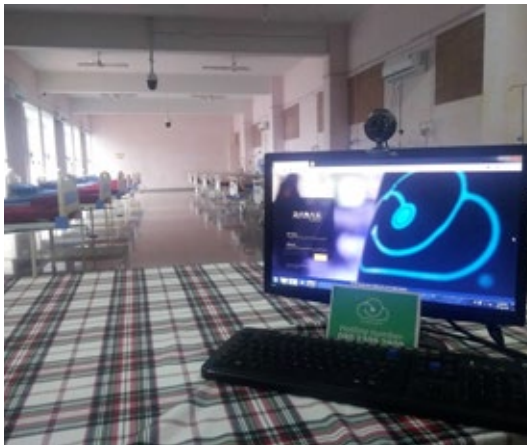
ACT Grants supported in the remote monitoring of ICU patients providing medical expertise in remote locations.

**739** ICU beds monitored    **3800+** patients treated    **7** states covered

ACT Grants supported the **production and deployment of first-of-its-kind remote monitoring technology**, addressing the shortage of ICU specialists.



PHASE 3



“ The idea was to identify high quality ideas to combat COVID-19 and arm the founding teams with resources to take it to fruition. It emanated from the belief that technology could provide a force multiplier to India’s fight against COVID-19. We wanted to enable ideas that are capital-efficient, scale-ready and could have an immediate impact. ”

- Mr. Tejeshwi Sharma, Principal, Sequoia India

 [Dr. Ashwathnarayan C.N.](#), Deputy Chief Minister, Karnataka on Cloudphysician Deployments in GIMS, Kalaburagi

Learn more about How tele-ICU is addressing the shortage of ICU specialists in remote areas through work done by Cloudphysician and Springer Health [here](#).  
Learn more about Critical care for remote COVID patients: a Tele ICU project backed by Wadhvani Foundation and ACT Grants [here](#).



PARTNERS:    **CRITICU**

**Cloudphysician**

Provides ICU expertise to hospitals without 24/7 access to ICU specialist doctors, through its smart platform RADAR.

**266**

beds monitored

**1600+**

patients monitored



**7 districts**

“Cloudphysician makes advanced and high-quality critical care accessible using frugal innovation that drops the barrier to adoption, thereby allowing access to life saving care that is otherwise limited or expensive.”

- **Dr. Dileep Raman**, Co-founder & Director, Cloudphysician

**CRITICU**

24\*7 remote ICU patient monitoring system aided by real-time two ways audio visuals and smart alerts.

**153**

beds monitored

**1600+**

patients monitored



**17 districts**

“Critical care being a super-speciality needs more expertise, more monitoring and specialised training. Our partnership with ACT Grants has brought all of the above to the very doorstep of people who need it the most but cannot afford it or simply because its not available.”

- **Dr. Sandeep Dewan**, Founder of Springer Tele-ICU

**Dozee**

Provides contact-free health monitoring by turning any bed into a step-down ICU bed with remote access.

**450+**

patients monitored



**5 districts**

“Thanks to the ACT Grants for helping us and opening the door for a new category in patient monitoring. Many thanks for helping us create an impact in low resource setting and supporting this crucial step of our startup journey.”

- **Mr. Mudit Dandwate**, CEO & Co-founder, Turtle Shell Technologies Pvt. Ltd.





## OXYGEN THERAPY

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When the number of patients increased, the demand for oxygen infrastructure increased across the country. ACT Grants stepped up in **augmenting the HFNC and concentrator capacity** in the country.

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### VOICES OF THE VOLUNTEERS

“To help as the last line of defence, the team supplied 450+ high flow oxygen machines and over 500 oxygen cylinders in partnership with multiple state governments including Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. None of this would have been possible without the tireless efforts of the startups that we partnered with.”

- Mr. Rachit Parekh, Accel | Mr. Ravijot Chugh, Climb Credit



## OXYGEN THERAPY - RESULTS + GRANTEE IMPACT STORIES



### InnAccel

*InnAccel team talks about their work on treating critical care covid patients in the country today*

**How has InnAccel's work addressed the oxygen requirements of moderate and severely symptomatic covid-19 patients?**

Covid-19 patients require varying levels of respiratory support. Across the world, Non-Invasive Ventilation (NIV) has emerged as a key element in the treatment protocol for mild to moderate Covid-19 patients. NIV options, including CPAP, HFNC, or BiPAP, help reduce the proportion of patients requiring invasive mechanical ventilation where poor clinical outcomes have been observed.

Saans Pro, InnAccel's innovative, portable CPAP and HFNC system, has been developed to meet the requirement for NIV systems. It can be used in patients with worsening hypoxia, patients with mild respiratory distress, or as a backup device in case of ventilator unavailability.



# ACT Grants supported effective COVID-19 treatment by providing oxygen therapy devices in remote corners of the country.

## 450+

HFNCs deployed

## 1200+

patients treated

## 14+

states covered

ACT Grants supported Indian startups in building a MVP during the pandemic through rigorous iterations, by enabling the **scale of innovative low cost HFNCs**, that will continue to meet critical care requirements for many years to come.



**PARTNERS:**

### InnAccel

Developed a non-invasive ventilation system that provides respiratory support to moderately severe hypoxemic COVID-19 patients, before incubating them and starting invasive ventilation.

## 600+

patients treated



**8 states**

### Fisher & Paykel

Airvo 2, is a humidified Nasal High Flow system designed to treat patients across the care continuum with high flow oxygen needs.

## 500+

patients treated



**10+ states**

### Oxygen Concentrator (OC) Deployment Programme:

Deployment of Oxygen Concentrators in remote districts across India.

## 161

Oxygen Concentrators



**10+ states**

“InnAccel is proud to have partnered with ACT Grants to rapidly respond to and contribute to India's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, by locally building a market-appropriate medical technology to save lives.”

- Mr. Siraj Dhanani, CEO & Co-founder, InnAccel Technologies

Learn more about ACT Grants's work in high flow oxygen therapy and how they stepped in to support places with poor health facilities [here](#).



## SUSTENANCE

As the pandemic hit and lockdown was imposed, multiple informal daily wage workers lost their livelihoods. They struggled to make ends meet as the economy contracted and the demand for their services plunged. This created a demand for government support on healthcare and livelihood issues by the most vulnerable sections of our society.

### VOICES OF THE VOLUNTEERS

“With Haqdarshak, we helped unlock total benefits for 20,000 citizens through multiple channels including Haqdarshak citizen app which was launched during the pandemic. It was a great opportunity to understand the work being done by multiple enterprises for blue collared workers across employment opportunities during the pandemic, reskilling, safety and welfare management.”

- Mr.Gourav Bhattacharya, Haqdarshak | Mr.Pranav Dedhia, Avendus Capital



# ACT Grants enabled Haqdarshak in delivering livelihood-related government scheme benefits to the most vulnerable during COVID-19.

₹170mn

worth of benefits distributed

5K+

citizens reached through helpline

20K+

people received scheme benefits

7

states covered through helpline and scheme benefits

Haqdarshak

हकदर्शक  
Haqdarshak

“With the ACT Grants team, Haqdarshak could expedite its tech channel-development by testing and implementing in real time. During the pandemic, this support from ACT Grants was extremely crucial as we saw immense demand from the field and wanted to impact at scale, and fast. We thank ACT Grants for the support and are looking forward to future collaborations leading to more impact.”

- Mr. Aniket Doegar, Founder, Haqdarshak



For Chotu Lal and his wife from Udaipur, since their source of income stopped, purchasing daily essentials was difficult. With the help of Haqdarshak, they were able to get free ration under the **Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana** till November 2020. Also, under the pension scheme, Chotu Lal is now receiving Rs. 750 on a monthly basis which will be extremely beneficial.



Vimla and her husband work as vegetable vendors in Jaipur. The government has recently announced the **PM SVANidhi Scheme** which aims to provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors. Haqdarshak helped Vimla receive a loan of Rs. 10,000.



Jyoti Devi and her husband belonged to Jaipur and were daily wage construction workers who had lost their jobs during the lockdown. They received an immediate cash transfer of Rs.3500 via the **DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) Scheme** for construction workers, with the help of Haqdarshak.



*Stories from our  
Foundation partners*

“



The group brought a clarity of purpose, a collaborative spirit, and a strong base of human capital from their individual firms and other volunteers. This was a powerful combination in quickly sifting through requests for support, identifying strong and capable projects and partners like Step One, Kerala’s CoronaSafe Network, and Cloud Physician, and offering them access to an unparalleled network allowing partnerships to be built in multiple states such as Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Telangana, and even as far away as Leh.

- **Mr. Nachiket Mor,**  
Visiting Scientist, The Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health

”

# Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Co-Grantee Amount: ₹5 Crores

Grants Supported: **Testing, Mental Health, Sustenance, Oxygen Therapy, Remote Monitoring**

Co-Grantees Supported: 



**CRITICU**

qure.ai

हकदर्शक  
Haqdarshak

## CONTEXT

The pandemic pressurised everyone to work in emergency mode. What stood out about ACT Grants was:

- Credibility which ensured execution capability
- Agility to pivot quickly
- Efficiency through low transaction costs
- Strong understanding of the issue at hand and engagement with subject matter experts on the Investment Committee (IC)

## ACT GRANTS' KEY STRENGTHS

- Ability to smoothen the supply chain issues for critical devices essential for adequate response to COVID-19
- Ability to implement technology oriented interventions in partnership with the government
- Long term vision for the public healthcare infrastructure beyond COVID-19

## VISION FOR FUTURE OF ACT GRANTS

The role of ACT Grants vis-a-vis COVID-19 could revolve around two areas: **Masks/Social Distancing and Vaccination**. Potential synergies with ACT Grants can be explored through deeper conversations with the right stakeholders in both the governments and different agencies. ACT Grants can play a role in **setting up supply chains, enabling partnerships with private healthcare facilities**, etc. given the network of healthcare professionals maintained by ACT Grants.

“ACT Grants has provided agility and responsiveness that is needed to tackle a crisis. We have benefitted from and relied on ACT Grants to respond quickly to find a solution, turn around with an implementation plan and execute on it in a compressed timeframe. In addition, the ability to quickly filter through multiple ideas and teams, and quickly narrow down which partner gives us the best outcomes has been another key value addition. Implied in those two is also the ability to tap into the most innovative and creative ideas from entrepreneurs in the country which would have been very difficult for us to tap into. It has also helped us partner with other donors and investors who are engaged on this platform.”

- Mr. Anjani Bansal, Deputy Director, Global Development, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

# CRISIL Foundation

Co-Grantee Amount: ₹50 lakhs      Grants Supported: Oxygen Therapy

Co-Grantees Supported:   and other vendors



## CONTEXT

CRISIL was keen to contribute towards the technology led processes and innovations for tackling the pandemic and ACT Grants was the only community and team of highly professional people at the time of pandemic, which was dedicating itself towards health focused innovations to respond to COVID-19, providing solutions at scale.

## ACT GRANTS' KEY STRENGTHS

- Thorough understanding of the problem
- Effective coordination with the right stakeholders across locations
- Long term use consideration of the donated devices
- Co-funding approach of ACT Grants
- Prior involvement with target hospitals enabled deployment and monitoring

## VISION FOR FUTURE OF ACT GRANTS

ACT Grants could aim to work in the area of **developing preventive/precautionary mechanisms** which can help avoid the mass spread of the pandemic including solutions that can bring in effective behavioural change.

“ It was because of ACT Grants that our COVID response could be extremely sharp and effective and address the most stressing need. CRISIL could leverage its investment in the most effective manner, due to approach and guidance of ACT Grants. It led to maximum impact.”

- Ms. Tania Pal, Associate Director, CRISIL Foundation





# Michael & Susan Dell Foundation



Co-Grantee Amount: ₹11 Crores Grants Supported: **Prevention, Testing, Oxygen Therapy, Remote Monitoring, Telemedicine and Home Quarantine**

Co-Grantees Supported:            

## CONTEXT

The Dell Foundation aimed to provide COVID-19 support in India at a fast pace. The speed with which ACT Grants came together, bringing in high quantum funding along with some of India's sharpest minds aligned with MSDF's intent.

## ACT GRANTS' KEY STRENGTHS

- High levels of responsibility and accountability
- Thoughtful due diligence for grantee selection
- Continuous involvement of the ACT Grants Leadership's (IC members) ensuring alignment
- Dedication to achieve more and deliver high impact

## VISION FOR FUTURE OF ACT GRANTS

ACT Grants could focus more on **deepening their work** versus bringing more players on the platform, whether in **certain geographies or specific problem areas**. The time spent on scouting, can be redirected towards deepening in the specific problem areas.

“ACT Grants helped us provide high-quality solutions for the highest need areas in India for combating COVID. We got a lot of confidence in the technical expertise in the ACT Grants team to make the right decisions in the wake of all the uncertainty that we've seen in the last ten months. The team always acted with a sense of urgency; we are glad we contributed and became a part of the ACT Grants team.”

- Ms. Prachi Windlass, Director, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

# Omidyar Network India

Co-Grantee Amount: ₹1 crore

Grants Supported: Mental Health, Oxygen Therapy, Remote Monitoring

Co-Grantees Supported: StepOne CRITICU Dost INNACCEL



## CONTEXT

Around April 2020, Omidyar Network India launched the Rapid Response Funding Initiative (RRFI) as an immediate response to COVID-19. Over the course of three months, ONI evaluated over 2000 proposals and selected 67 for funding, benefitting 3.3 mn people in 17 states. ACT Grants supported them in this process by sharing proposals of their portfolio and provided recommendations and inputs from the various track leads for further onboarding and selection.

## ACT GRANTS' KEY STRENGTHS

- Tracks covering a gamut of solutions against COVID-19
- Proactive, decisive and accessible ACT Grants team
- Seamless communication with updated information on proposals and own point of view enabled ONI in making quick decisions

## VISION FOR FUTURE OF ACT GRANTS

We see ACT Grants continuing to fund solutions in healthcare while also diversifying the portfolio to education and clean tech, and at the same time replicating the depth of impact witnessed in the healthcare sector through ACT Grants 1.0.

“The pandemic required a response from investors to fund solutions that can assist people and government. While there are a lot of founders providing different solutions to either government or people, the overarching impact we have seen is the coverage of problems addressed. From information to prevention to tracing to augmentation to treatment to post treatment, the entire stack of problems had founders with solutions to tackle them.”


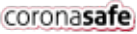



- Mr. Siddharth Nautiyal, Partner, Omidyar Network India



# Wadhvani Foundation



Co-Grantee Amount: ₹2.47 Crores Grants Supported: Remote Monitoring, Telemedicine and Home Quarantine, Hospital Capacity Augmentation

Co-Grantees Supported:     

## CONTEXT

Wadhvani Foundation was keen to fund healthcare innovations which were at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19; and had the potential to transform the mid to long term public healthcare infrastructure in India. They wanted to fund platforms aligned with their vision. ACT Grants met this criteria and was a credible platform backed and led by senior VCs.

## ACT GRANTS' KEY STRENGTHS

- Ability to institutionalise the belief - "together we can" through continuous engagement
- Ability to bring together donors, foundations, companies, government agencies, and volunteers
- Ability to set up rigorous governance systems to meet the foundation's needs

## VISION FOR FUTURE OF ACT GRANTS

ACT Grants should identify ideas that would be relevant to the stage of the pandemic and support them accordingly. ACT Grants should also develop a proper plan for the future of ACT Grants and share with donors.

“Wadhvani Foundation is committed to improving quality of lives; and during a global pandemic we wanted to aid the fractured healthcare ecosystem. Thus, we partnered with a like-minded platform like ACT Grants to amplify impact. This collaboration has enabled us to create and support an ecosystem of philanthropic foundations, individual donors, VCs, government agencies and volunteers, which funds the right companies that are at the forefront of fighting the pandemic...”

- Ms. Ratna Mehta, Executive Vice President, Wadhvani Catalyst Fund



*Learnings and  
way forward*



Rapid learning and actioning with a focus on impact from a team of dedicated individuals was critical in creating the impact ACT Grants did.

- **Mr. Mekin Maheshwari,**  
Founder, Udhya Learning Foundation



**ACT Grants' success** can be attributed to its passionate team, agile and adaptive risk taking and innovative problem solving.

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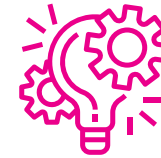
## Passionate team with high value networks

- Impact driven decision making
- Collaboration at an ecosystem level
- Resourceful and skilled volunteers



## Agile and adaptive risk taking

- High speed response
- Quick learning and adaptation
- Scalable and disruptive solutions



## Innovative systems and technology

- Portfolio of innovative technologies
- Efficient backend systems and technology

Thanks to our **core leadership team** that guided us strategically at different stages of the initiative.

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Aarti Mohan  
Sattva  
Consulting



Abhiraj  
Singh Bhal  
Urban Company



Harshal Kamdar  
Sequoia



Hemant  
Mohapatra  
Lightspeed



Ireena Vittal



Karan Mohla  
Chiratae



Mekin  
Maheshwari  
Udhyam



Mohit  
Bhatnagar  
Sequoia



Mukesh Bansal  
Curefit, Mynta



Dr. Nachiket Mor  
The Banyan  
Academy of  
Leadership in  
Mental Health



Prashanth  
Prakash  
Accel



Rahul Guha  
Boston  
Consulting  
Group



GV Ravishankar  
Sequoia



Sandeep  
Singhal  
Nexus Venture  
Partners



Shekhar Kirani  
Accel



Tarun Davda  
Matrix



Tejeshwi  
Sharma  
Sequoia



Vani Kola  
Kalaari

**ACT Grants aims  
to leverage its  
strengths to enable  
further impact.**



HEALTHCARE



EDUCATION



ENVIRONMENT



WOMEN

...AND MORE



FUTURE OF ACT GRANTS

A strong leadership team has emerged at the forefront to lead the efforts for creating long term impact in India.



Amrish Rau  
PineLabs



Anjali Bansal  
Avaana Capital



Aprameya  
TFS



Ashish Dhawan  
Central Square  
Foundation



Ashish  
Hemrajani  
BookMyShow



Girish  
Mathrubootham  
Freshworks



GV Ravishankar  
Sequoia



Loney Antony  
Prizm Payments



Mekin  
Maheshwari  
Udhyam



Mohit  
Bhatnagar  
Sequoia



Mukesh Bansal  
Cure.fit,  
Myntra



Nithin Kamath  
Zerodha



Paula Mariwala  
Stanford Angels



Prashanth  
Prakash  
Accel



Raghunandan G  
TFS



Rahul Garg  
Moglix



Rajesh Patel  
Powerweave



Ravi Machani  
Machani Group



Ravi Mariwala  
Smaart Water



Sandeep Singhal  
Nexus Venture  
Partners



Shailendra Singh  
Sequoia



Shekhar Kirani  
Accel



Subrata Mitra  
Accel



Suman Gopalan  
Freshworks



ACT represents the collective power and resourcefulness of the VC and startup ecosystem. This industry has enormous potential, access to resources and ability to problem solve in a most unique way - what we call the ‘startup way’. This startup way can go a long way in tackling the big social problems in the country.

- **Mr. Mukesh Bansal**,  
Co-founder, Cure.fit





## FUTURE OF ACT GRANTS - HEALTHCARE

ACT Grants will continue to support COVID relief while also expanding to **support healthcare innovations** in the country in a strategic manner.

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### CORE OBJECTIVES:



Ensure **successful adoption of ACT Grants 1.0** in priority solutions and districts by March 2021



Enable **vaccination support** against COVID-19



Identify gaps in public healthcare delivery infrastructure and **innovative technology solutions, volunteers and funding mechanisms**



**Empower existing NGOs** addressing issues in primary healthcare and key therapeutic areas like diabetes, cancer tuberculosis care and mental health



## FUTURE OF ACT GRANTS - EDUCATION

ACT Grants EdTech Ambition Fund will support innovations with two-pronged goals of **reducing learning poverty** and **preparing learners for life**.

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### CORE OBJECTIVES:



**Accelerate tier 1 EdTech companies** (global/domestic) to serve India 3 with a mission-driven approach



**Expand the reach** of high-quality, free/non-profit EdTech products to India 3



**Enable large scale system-led solutions** like DIKSHA to have wider reach and greater impact



**Challenge grants and incubation support** to create the next generation of products focused on learning



## FUTURE OF ACT GRANTS - ENVIRONMENT

ACT Grants aims to **counter immediate environmental risks** and catalyse sustainable models to **systemically reverse environmental degradation** in the areas of Land, Air, Water and Waste.

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### CORE OBJECTIVES:



**Scale impactful technologies** through increased market access



**Replicate community programmes** through technology, partnerships and playbooks for long term impact



**Identify and seed novel ideas** with potential to create big impact

# Thank you

**Thank you to all the volunteers, government officials, investors, foundation partners for supporting us in sourcing, funding and helping grantee companies to scale up, creating impact across the country against COVID.**

.....  
ACT Healthcare Team, led by Sandeep Singhal and Shekhar Kirani  
Supported by Neetha Joy, Karishma Gajaria (BCG), Sattva Consulting and United Way

# CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

<b>Email</b>	core-pm@actgrants.in
<b>Website</b>	www.actgrants.in
<b>Authors</b>	Aaditya Shetty, Shreya Verma, Shreyansh Singhvi, Sneha Banerjee, Varun Paul (Sattva Consulting)
<b>Production</b>	Abhishek Modi, Bhavin Chhaya, Dakshesh Thacker, Granthika Chatterjee, Ojas Malpani, Harsh Bansal (Sattva Consulting)
<b>Project Advisors</b>	Shekhar Kirani (Accel), Sandeep Singhal (Nexus VP), Aarti Mohan (Sattva Consulting)
<b>Editors</b>	Neetha Joy (ACT Grants), Shruti Deora (Sattva Consulting, <a href="http://www.actgrants.in">www.actgrants.in</a> ), Karishma Gajaria (Boston Consulting Group, <a href="http://www.bcg.com">www.bcg.com</a> )
<b>Design</b>	Bhakthi Dakshinamurthy ( <a href="http://www.holydesign.co.in">www.holydesign.co.in</a> , <a href="mailto:create@holydesign.co.in">create@holydesign.co.in</a> )

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**We are grateful to the 60+ startups, foundations, investors and volunteers who generously shared their expertise and insights for this report.**

All figures are based on partner/grantee data and inputs as of December 2020. No responsibility or liability whatsoever is accepted by the authors or their respective affiliates and officers, employees or agents for any errors or omissions in this report.



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