

# HOW FAMILIES OF CHILD VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE ARE COPING WITH THE LOCKDOWN

RAPID ASSESSMENT REPORT

APRIL 2020

MUMBAI



## **A) Introduction:**

Since 2015, in partnership with UNICEF Maharashtra, our project titled “Strengthening Child Protection Systems in Mumbai & Maharashtra” has been working to make the city and the state a safer space for child victims of sexual offences. We are working closely with over 250 families affected by child sexual abuse. We have been supporting them through their journeys towards justice & healing. From its inception onwards, the project has also worked closely with the systems in trying to ensure that every child victim & family has access to a holistic, effective and sensitive response.

Over 5 years, the project has ensured that every child victim of sexual offence in Mumbai is given focused treatment and an individual care plan. The system has reached out to some of the most vulnerable children in society today. We do not just empower the child to secure justice, but we try to ensure that they are not retraumatized by the journey through the courts. We not only ensure that the child heals medically, but also emotionally and socially. Together with the State Government, we have been working to create an ecosystem of care & protection for each & every child victim all across Maharashtra.

## **B) Rapid Assessment of How Families of Child Victims of Sexual Abuse in Mumbai are Coping with the Pandemic:**

By mid-March, we had first initiated the process of reaching out to victims and families to intimate them of the upcoming pandemic, make them aware of prescribed safety measures and verify if they had access to basic resources to sustain themselves in case the situation worsened. We identified 17 families as being unable to access basic instruments of hygiene and made sure that they were equipped. Fortunately, we were able to get the packages across before the lockdown was declared.

As lockdown progressed and based on our continuous communication with the families on ground, there was a felt need for increasing the scope of our interventions to include provision of essential goods to the most vulnerable families. A quick rapid assessment was formulated and conducted telephonically to ascertain the immediate situation w.r.t health, food & accessibility to key Government schemes which were announced.

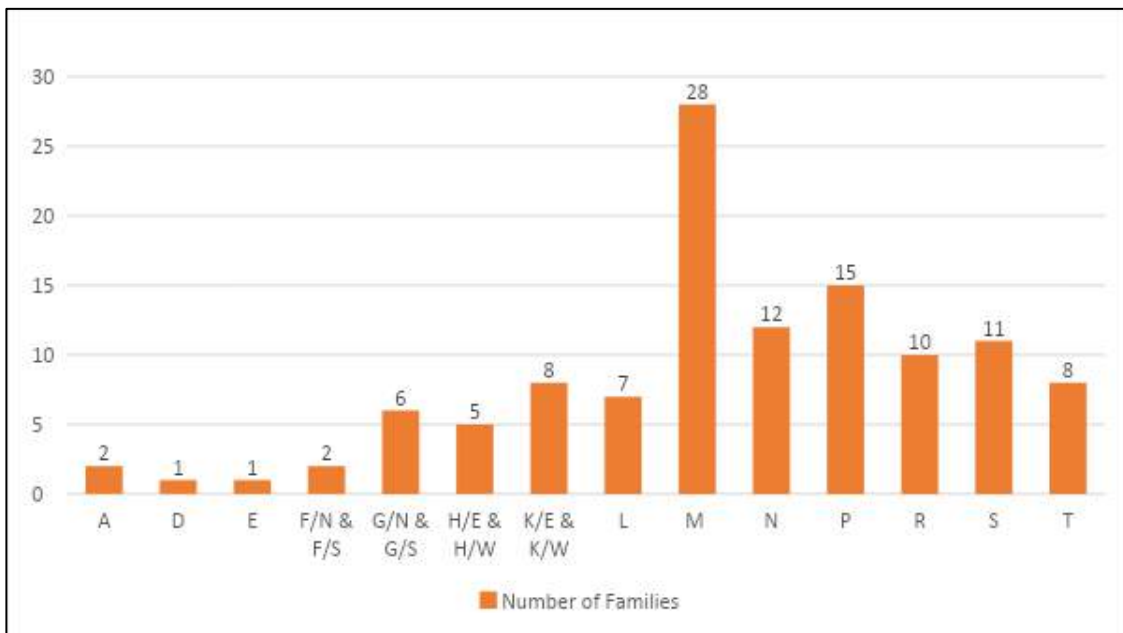
These numbers provide the basis on which the relief will be distributed and donations collected.

**a) Number of families covered: 127**

*Note: Out of the 127, we managed to get responses to all the questions from 124 families. The remaining 3 families did not provide us with responses to all questions, however they did answer a few questions and their responses have been included under those questions.*

**b) Ward wise distribution of the families:**

Out of the 127 families, 116 reside in Mumbai. The ward wise distribution of the families is given below. 11 families have migrated to the adjacent districts of Thane, Raigad & Palghar and Pune.

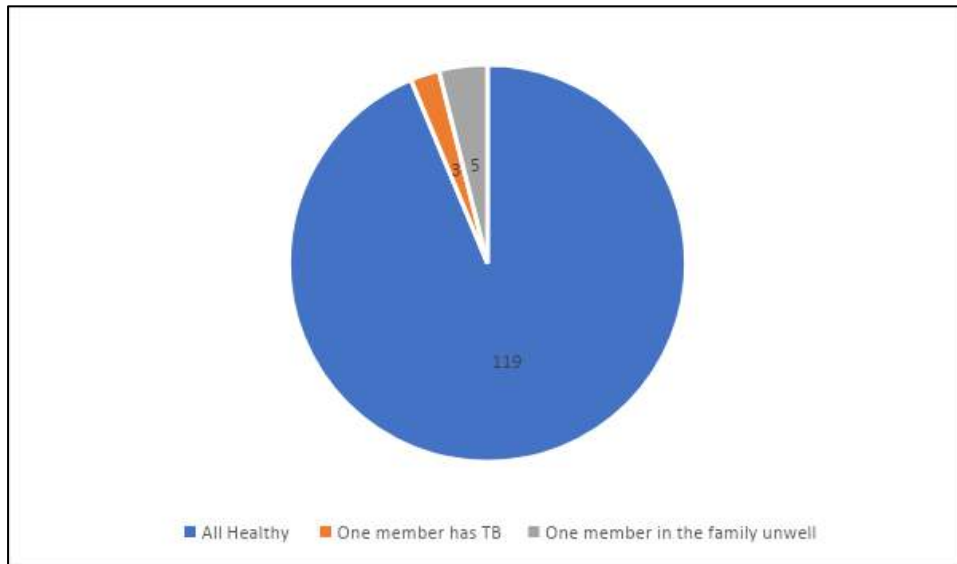


**c) Total Number of individuals (including children) in the families: 684**

**d) Average family size: 6 members per family**

**e) Current Health Status of all the family members:**

119 families (94%) mentioned that everyone was healthy as on date. In 3 families, one of the family member was suffering from tuberculosis and currently under medication. In 5 families, one family member is unwell due to a previously identified disease such as diabetes, paralysis etc. (none of the family members are showing symptoms of COVID).



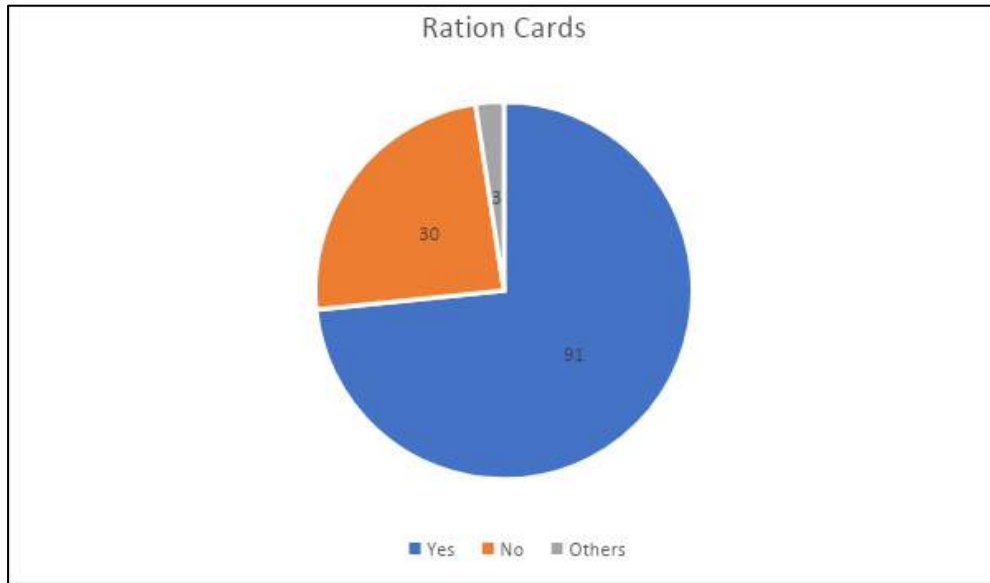
**f) Aadhar Cards:**

121 (95%) families mentioned that at least one person in the family has an Aadhar card as a proof of identification.



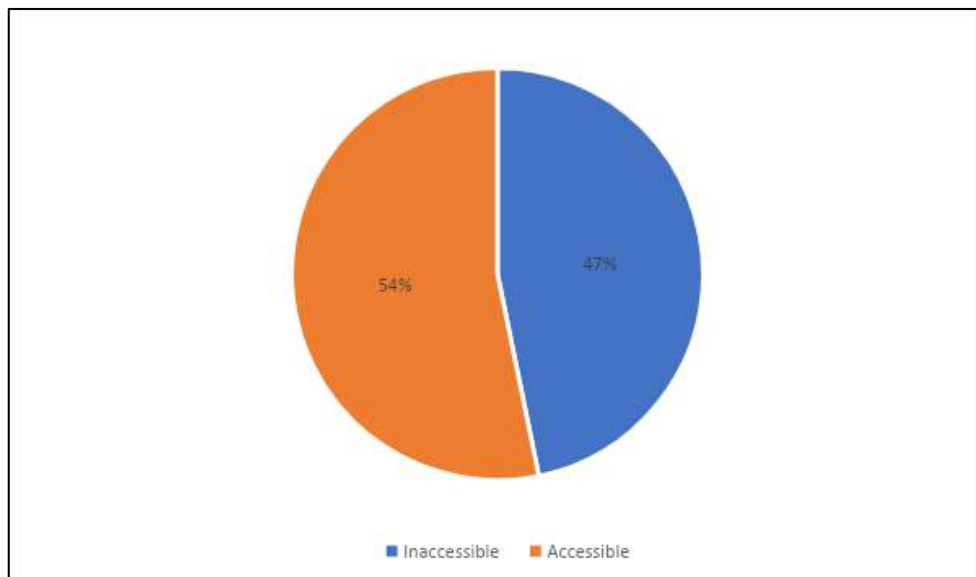
**g) Ration Cards & Accessibility of Ration from the Ration Shops:**

91 families (73%) have a ration card, 30 families (24%) do not have a ration card. 3 families (2%) mentioned that their card had expired or is invalid.



**h) Accessibility of Ration:**

58 (47%) families mentioned that the ration shops were inaccessible or they were unaware of the existence of ration shops in their nearby vicinity. However, 66 families (53%) said that there was a ration shop within their community. It is worth noting that 8 of these families gave us additional information that even though the ration shops are accessible, and they went to the shop there was no stock available at the shop during the time of their visit.

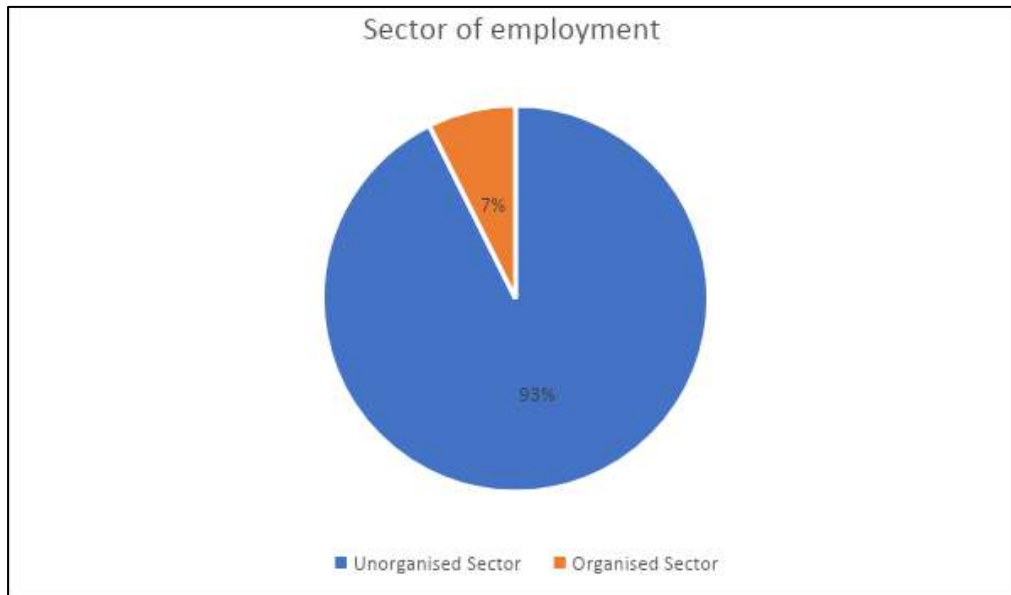


i) **Income Status**

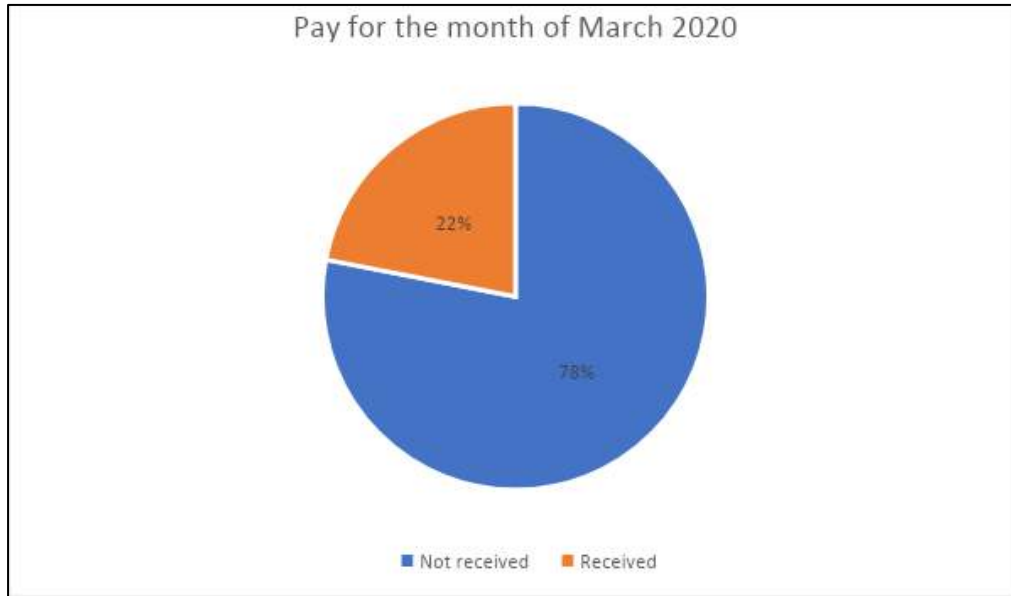
74 families (60%) are single income families. There are two families where no one is employed at present.



93% of the employed members in the families work in unorganized sectors. They work as domestic workers, *masons*, carpenters, plumbers, other contractual workers, construction workers, drivers, prostitutes, shoe makers etc.

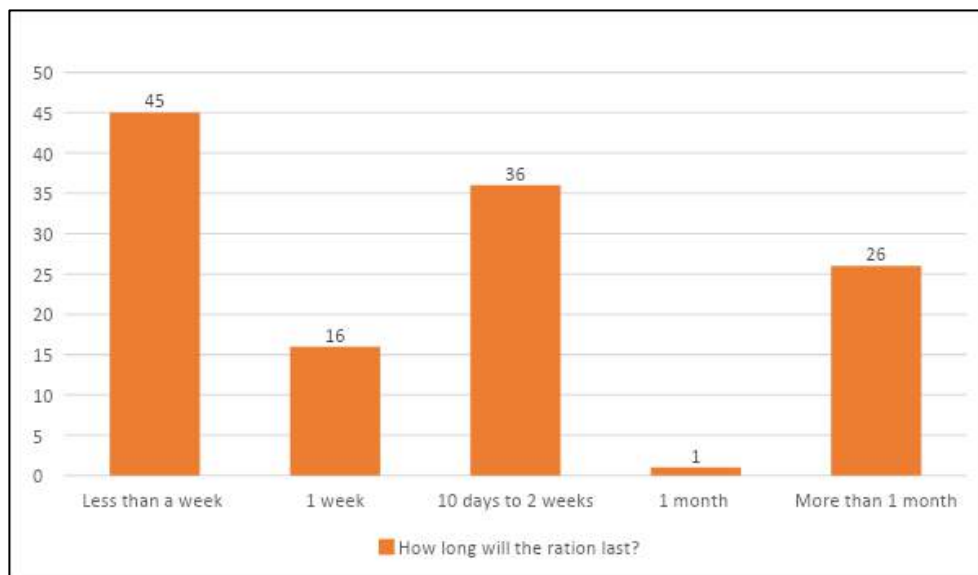


It is important to note that almost 80% of the employed members had not received their payment or wages for the month of March. Many of them expressed concerns and were unsure as to when would they receive the payments.



**j) Is there enough ration to feed everyone in the house?**

83 families (66%) said that as on date they have enough ration in the house. 42 families (34%) mentioned they don't have enough ration. 61 families mentioned that they will run out of ration in a week's time. 27 families mentioned they have enough ration that could last upto a month or more. 36 families mentioned that they could sustain for ten days to two weeks with their current stock.

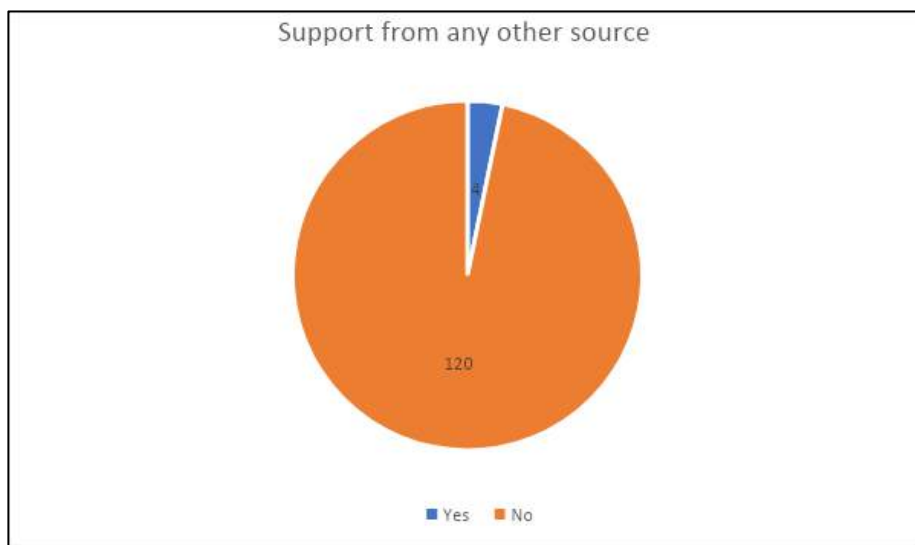


**k) Do you require support for Ration?**

68 families (54%) said they need support for ration. 57(46%) said they don't need ration as on date.

**l) Have you received support from the Government or any other NGO/Institution/Private donor etc.?**

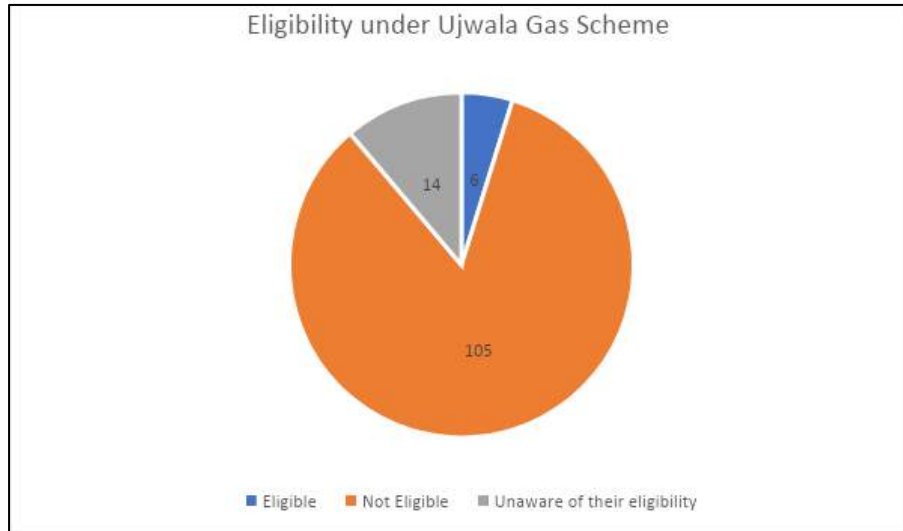
120 families (97%) mentioned that till date they have not received any support from any source Government or private.





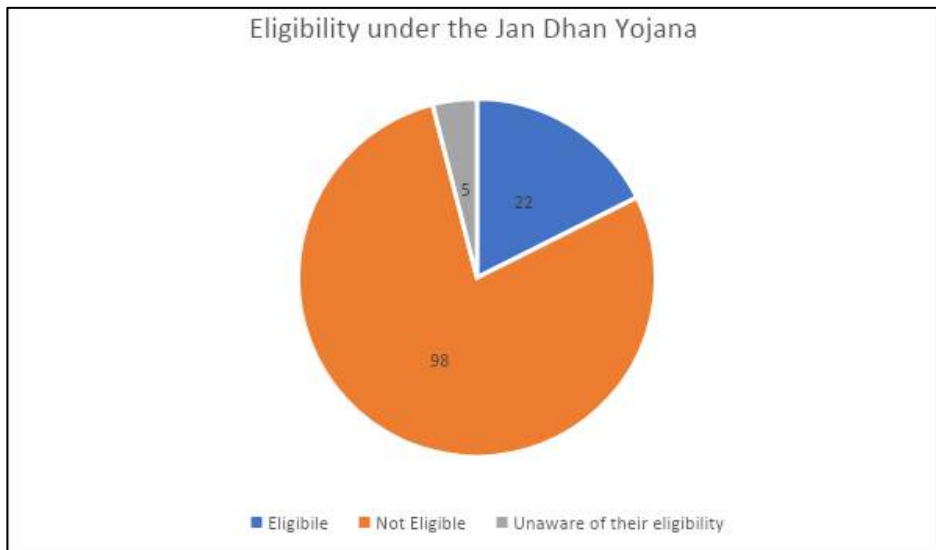
**m) Ujwala Gas Yojana**

105 families (84%) are not eligible to avail of free cooking gas cylinders under the Ujwala Gas Yojana, a Central Government Scheme providing free gas to women beneficiaries. 14 families (11%) were unsure if they were eligible or not for the scheme.



**n) Do the families have bank accounts eligible to receive funds under the Jan Dhan Yojana?**

98 families (78%) are not eligible to receive the payment of Rs 500 to be credited to women Jan Dhan account holders for the next three months, starting from April. 22 families (18%) mentioned that they are eligible to avail of the funds under this scheme. 5 families (4%) were unsure about their eligibility to receive funds under this scheme.



**o) Accessibility to Shiv Bhojan Centers:**

93 families (76%) mentioned that the Shiv Bhojan Centers aimed at providing meals at a subsidized rate of Rs. 10 were not accessible. 13 families (11%) did have access to the centers and had eaten in the centers. 17 families (14%) were unaware of these centers.



In the weeks to come our teams will be closely monitoring the situation of these families to ensure that all of them adequate supplies and are able to access key Government schemes. The results of the assessment will inform our immediate relief work and long term advocacy with the Government to ensure that child victims of sexual offences & their families are not left behind amidst this pandemic.

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