

**ChildFund International
Humanitarian Situation Report Template**

**Humanitarian Situation Report [2]
[Epidemic of COVID 19 Virus] – [Sri Lanka]
[18th March 2020]**

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Part 1: The Overall Situation

Global Situation:

- An outbreak of pneumonia of unknown reason was first reported on 31st December 2019 from Wuhan City in Hubei Province of China. On 7th Jan 2020, it was diagnosed as “Novel Corona Virus”. On 30th Jan 2020, World Health Organization has declared it as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). On 11/02/2020 the WHO has introduced a short form for the diseases as COVID-19 and on 11/03/2020 declared as pandemic.
- As of 18th March 2020, 179 112 persons infected, and more than 8000 persons have died due impact of COVID 19. (Source WHO)
- The center of spreading the virus has moved from China to Europe now

Sri Lanka Situation:

- As of 17th March 2020, total of 52 persons infected by COVID 19 (1 Chinese, 51 Sri Lankans).
- Out of 52 affected 3 people have recovered and rest are under treatment in the government hospitals in Colombo and other areas
- Including 204 suspected persons who are currently under diagnostic investigation, 761 persons have diagnosed for COVID 19 since the beginning.
- 2558 individuals are currently accommodated at 16 quarantine centers.
- On 16th March, government instructed people who have arrived in Sri Lanka from Europe, Iran or South Korea during the period from 1 – 15 March 2020 to register with the Police immediately.
- The government has declared 16th to 19th March as public holidays except for health and essential services. Further, government have urged private sector to consider the decision.
- Government has decided to extend the validity period of all types of Visas issued to all foreigners who are currently residing in Sri Lanka.
- All passenger arrivals suspended from all countries at Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) in Katunayake effect from 18th March until March 31, however, it is reported that cargo, departures and transit are to be continued. The Jaffna International Airport (JIA) is closed for two weeks with effect from 16th March for two weeks. On arrival visa is cancelled for all countries till further notice.
- From 4.30 pm onwards on the 18th of March, Police curfew has been imposed in the district of Puttlam and some parts of Negombo which are the hometowns for majority of the migrant

workers working in Italy. Majority of the positive cases falls into this category and it is suspected that more than 1000 such migrant workers have returned to their home town in within last few weeks and living with their families and relatives without undergoing any quarantine measures

- Health Authorities have taken necessary actions to respond to the COVID 19 outbreak and have established 15 main laboratories for diagnostic investigation. The government has declared 14 days quarantine period for immigrants coming from high risk countries and who seem to be suspected. Accordingly, 13 quarantine centers have established through the support of military services. Over 1000 persons are currently at quarantine centers.
- All schools, universities, religious education and private classes and preschools in the island are closed off from 13th March until further notice.
- The general public is requested to refrain from engaging in pilgrimages, tours, and trips even within the country in the upcoming 2 weeks. The Police has decided to restrict public gathering and functions to the maximum possible extent.
- Government has decided to disinfect buses and trains used for public transportation and the security forces will aid in this regard.
- Individuals who conceal the fact that they have contracted COVID-19 will be sentenced to six months in prison, stated the Police. The police hotline 119/117 is available for the general public to inform in case of suspicion of having contracted the coronavirus.
- As per observation and revealed through media, general public have been panicked and begun swarming supermarkets and bulk buying goods, raising concerns. Endless queues were seen at petrol stations as residence waited in long lines to pump their vehicles with gas, amid fears daily life will be severely disrupted by the spread of coronavirus.
- There is no special security concern been reported and security situation remain normal

Part 2: ChildFund's Response or Plans for Response

Children and communities, local partners and ChildFund Sri Lanka staff members have indirectly impacted due to the above situation. There is no special information received on impacting the situation with any special concern to ChildFund SL community.

ChildFund Sri Lanka NERT met for few times over the period and have taken following actions in responding to the situation.

General

- ChildFund Sri Lanka all staff and local partners have been made aware on the situation and alerted. Staff and LPs are informed take safety measures.
- A list of necessary standby Items has prepared. Necessary sanitary items are stored at office which accessible to staff
- ChildFund Sri Lanka has developed two main scenarios on impact Corona Outbreak and currently in the development of Business Continuity Plan.
- ChildFund Sri Lanka together with partners have decided to halt community and field-based activities effect from 16th March until further notice.
- A WhatsApp group has created among staff and all partners for immediate communication and monitoring the situation.

Operations

- Effective from 17th March, ChildFund Sri Lanka staff will work from home arrangements until March 25. SMT will meet to discuss the situation again on Monday, March 23rd.
- NERT agreed to closely monitor the situation of Corona Virus and provide updates to staff by every week.
- Take all possible efforts to educate staff and communities on risk education.
- Establish facilities to practice recommended hygienic practices at office premises.
- All individuals are informed to take care of self-safety and others. Staff members are recommended to work from home if they feel not well or uncomfortable under the approval of supervisors. Supervisors are informed to set clear deliverables for staff work from home.
- Limit all travel only for essential travel. All supervisors are to cancel all domestic travel. Meetings and conferences will be postponed or conducted virtually.
- Sponsor visits are postponed till further notice. Next sponsor visit scheduled for June.

Program

- Ensure safety of the program participants in connection to the risk of Corona all levels.
- Meetings to be conducted virtually as possible or by phone.
- Ensure facilities for recommended hygienic practices at program premises such like sanitizing, hand washing, serviettes etc.
- Development of supplementary guideline for Child Safety on the risk of Corona virus for conducting programs.
- CVS field implementors to pause for 1 week.