**ChildFund International**

**Humanitarian Situation Report 1**

**COVID19 SECOND WAVE**

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Part 1: The Overall Situation

India’s second covid wave shows no sign of slowing. The country now accounts for some 38% of all confirmed covid19 cases in the word – the highest share reached by an individual country since the early stages of the pandemic. The second wave of the coronavirus pandemic has a brutal impact on most of the States in India. The new surge has nearly crippled the medical infrastructure, unavailability of hospital beds, unavailability of Oxygen, and medical supplies forced to implement weekly lockdowns and nigh curfew in some of the high prevalent states of India such as Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Odisha, etc. As India is witnessing a massive surge of Covid-19 cases, many migrants, fearing a complete lockdown like last year, are returning to their home states in difficult circumstances.

* ***India reports 323,144 new cases, 2771 deaths and 2,51,827 discharges in the last 24 hours, as per Union Health Ministry. J&K records highest daily spike of 3,164 Covid-19 cases, 25 deaths. For the past one week, more than 300,000 new covid 19 have been reported.***
* ***Till 27th April 2021, total COVID19 cases reported stands at 17,997,267 with 201,187 deaths and 14,817,371 recovered from the infection.***
* ***As on date, total vaccination done 14,78,27,367 doses out of them, 12,29,30,008 beneficiaries vaccinated 1st dose and 2,48,97,359 beneficiaries vaccinated 2nd dose.***
* ***Govt of India decided everyone above the age of 18 to be eligible to get vaccine against Covid-19 from 1st May 2021.***

Following is COVID19 impact numbers in ChildFund operated states:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sl.** | **Name of State / UT** | **COVID 19 Cases Confirmed** | **Cured / Discharged / Migrated** | **Deaths** |
| 1 | Jharkhand | 2,13,414 | 1,59,916 | 2,246 |
| 2 | Telangana | 4,19,966 | 3,45,683 | 2,150 |
| 3 | Odisha | 4,20,129 | 3,71,200 | 2,007 |
| 4 | Bihar | 4,28,001 | 3,31,418 | 2,307 |
| 5 | Madhya Pradesh | 5,25,407 | 4,25,812 | 5,319 |
| 6 | Rajasthan | 5,46,964 | 3,87,976 | 3,806 |
| 7 | Chhattisgarh | 6,82,339 | 5,55,489 | 7,782 |
| 8 | West Bengal | 7,76,345 | 6,64,648 | 11,082 |
| 9 | Andhra Pradesh | 10,54,875 | 9,47,629 | 7,800 |
| 10 | Delhi | 10,72,065 | 9,58,792 | 15,009 |
| 11 | Tamil Nadu | 11,13,502 | 9,90,919 | 13,728 |
| 12 | Uttar Pradesh | 11,53,097 | 8,34,961 | 11,678 |
| 13 | Karnataka | 14,00,775 | 10,84,050 | 14,807 |
| 14 | Maharashtra | 44,10,085 | 36,69,548 | 66,179 |
| **Total - 14 Operational States & UTs** | **1,42,16,964** | **1,17,28,041** | **1,65,900** |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Part 2: The Situation in Areas Where ChildFund Works

* **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** is the most populous state of India and we have sponsorship projects in 6 districts and a grant project supported by EU in 10 districts. UP is having third highest covid cases after Maharashtra and Delhi. Below are key updates from the state operations:
* Some of the EU project’s CSO staff have family members with COVID positive.
* Migrant laborers are coming back to villages and no quarantine centers are facilitated in the villages. Hence there is a fear of surge of COVID in the villages.
* Government intervention for free ration or any financial support is not yet started.
* Schools and all educational institutions are closed till end of this month.
* The state is suffering from lack of testing kits/medicines and oxygen in the hospitals.
* Most of the eligible people are not aware about the vaccination process and have lot of myths.
* **Delhi** is the union territory of India and national capital; we have sponsorship program in South Delhi. Delhi is one of the worst affected states by second wave of COVID-19. The positivity rate is over 30% and the current health system has failed to cater to the needs of critical covid patients resulting into deaths. Considering the situation, Govt. has imposed 2 weeks lock down, which has high possibility to extend.
* Delhi is reporting approx. 25,000 new covid positive cases every day. The situation is grim due to lack of hospital beds, oxygen cylinders, covid care facilities, etc.
* High number of populations is still left for vaccination, due to shortage of vaccine, however Govt. has initiated the registration process to get vaccination for each above 18 from 1st May 2021 onwards.
* High numbers of migrations are living on rent in the city. Thousands of migrants in Delhi are moving to their hometowns.
* The government is appealing NGOs/CSOs to support their efforts in fighting the covid situation. It has a plan to mobiliser 100,000 NGOs/CSOs for this cause.
* **Odisha:** We have our sponsorship program in 8 districts of the state. In last few days, particularly 10 western districts of the State noticed rise in the positive cases due to excess surge in our border states Chhattisgarh. Overall, Situation is within control in comparison to other states, but people are facing difficulties for the livelihood. State Government decided to restrict the free movement to check the epidemic imposed night curfew and weekend shutdown in All the Cities, Municipalities and Towns.
* **Jharkhand:**Jharkhand government on Tuesday announced a week-long lockdown, from April 22 to April-29, named Swasthya Suraksha Saptah, in a bid to break the chain of Covid-19 spread in the state. The identified offices of central government, state government and agriculture, industries and mining operations has been exempted from total shutdown while remain are completely shut down.
* **Bihar:** As cases are raising in Bihar, the Govt has imposed curfew from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. across the State and closure of schools, colleges, parks, religious places and swimming pools till May 15. In our Operational area, most of the field staffs (community animators) either themselves or their family members suffering with Covid positive. So, keeping all these into consideration project staffs are not allowed to come to office till further instruction. However, all thematic Coordinators, Project Manager and SRC instructed to work from home and complete their work.
* Field staffs with community animators have motivated to make people aware on vaccination which will start from 1st May 2021 for registration & following COVID-19 guidelines.
* The enrolled children covered under PENCIL Model learning centres are supported with education materials to engage them with education and free from stress at home.
* **West Bengal:** West Bengal has the highest Covid-19 case growth in the country now, as per the data shared by the Union health ministry which has a near explosive growth rate of 9%, And at about 50%, Bengal’s capital Kolkata. Now Covid-19 infection spreads rapidly in West Bengal due to triple mutant strain in India.Like other States, positives cases are rising significantly in WB and it also faced challenges like State Assembly election and identification of 3rd category of Covid mutant (which has capacity to damage the immune system). Due to code of conduct & Covid protocol, staffs restricting their field visit and contacting the community and children through phones.
* **Telangana State:** 72% of COVID positive cases of the state reported in last 24 hrs. in the state are from our 7 LWS districts and two TIs. i.e., 7287 cases have been from our project area out of 10,122 total cases reported in the state. In the 8 urban slums where we are implementing the programs in Hyderabad, nearly 10 enrolled members (3 children and 7 adults) tested positive under the DI - Hyderabad location and except one person others are under home quarantine. One person got admitted and under the treatment. From the project extended the support of food baskets, emergency fund distribution to the family along with the ongoing hygiene kits distribution. Team is contacting virtually for the psychosocial support of the family. And contact the local humanitarian organization and expecting the food material distribution in the community from this week.
* Family members of two consultants under the DI (Direct Implementation) location at Hyderabad have been tested positive and are home quarantined. All the staff under DI - and grants teams from Esaksham project got vaccinated the first dose in collaboration with districts health administration through official letters for obtaining vaccination as part of front line workers.
* Around 6 Link workers across the state have been tested positive and are in home isolation. Rangareddy DRP is also home quarantined in the last 10 days. Consistent recommendations have been made to all LWS districts and two TIs for vaccinating all their staff members.
* Advocacy with TSACS and other District authorities has been made to obtain official letters to enable our staff to get vaccinated at nearby health centers across the state.
* **Andhra Pradesh:** The Andhra Pradesh state health department has released the health bulletin pertaining to the coronavirus cases in the last twenty-four hours as on Sunday morning, according to the bulletin, about 12,634 new positive cases emerged in the last 24 hours taking the total number of cases to 10,33,560 cases.
* In the DI Vijayawada location, the 4 urban operational areas where the ChildFund working - 4 areas are highly effected and in an average 300 to 500 positive cases are there. All the consultants got vaccinated the First dose in the month of April’2021.
* One of the consultants and his son tested positive and are home quarantined now. Collaboration with District authorities has been made to obtain official letters to enable our consultants to get vaccinated at nearby health centers.
* **Karnataka and Tamilnadu:** Karnataka has imposed 14 days lockdown from 27th April 9pm till May 10th, 2021 . COVID 19 positivity rate has been increasing daily in both Karnataka and Tamilnadu states. Day-to-day field level implementation will be hampered because of the lockdown and increased number of covid positive cases. As per the latest information shared by our colleagues during the internal meeting, situation at Mysore and Raichur was not affected severely.
* **Madhya Pradesh**: On 9th April 21, the Government of Madhya Pradesh initiated for weekend lockdown across 52 districts of the State. This included the 3 ChildFund’s operational districts of Dhar, Jhabua and Alirajpur. Due to the upsurging cases the Govt. of MP gave authority to the District Administration on 16th April 21 to take steps to contain the spread of the virus. District Administration enforced corona-curfew in all the operational Districts from 16th April 21 till 26th April,21 initially which has now been extended till 3rd May 21. The educational institutions to be remained closed. The Social, Political and Governmental institutions to function with 10% workforce only.
* Caseloads in the Hospitals is very high with long ques for the outdoor Covid19 patients to be admitted in the hospital.
* Immunization for Covid19 has been promoted for all eligible citizens of the State.
* Reinforcement of the Covid Appropriate Behavior being done by the Governmental Health departments.
* There is panic among the citizen due to increased death and lack of proper health facilities and supplies.
* All the 4 districts (Dhar, Jhabua, Petlawad, Alirajpur) have COVID-19 cases. None of the children in our project area are affected so far.

* **Rajasthan**: The pandemic situation in the state of Rajasthan is turning grim. In the wake of the rising number of coronavirus cases in the state, Rajasthan government had issued advisory and ordered lockdown from April 19 to May 3. All workplaces, businesses, and markets, including general activities will be restricted and closed during the period. Only the essential services are running with window period from 6 am to 11 am in the morning. Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur and Kota have emerged as the major hotspots of Corona infection.
* The Government has started vaccination drive in the state. Rajasthan has administered more than 10 million doses of the vaccine against coronavirus.
* All the five blocks of the three districts (Udaipur, Jaipur and Alwar) where ChildFund India is operational are affected by COVID. Cases are rising every day but there are no cases reported from our sponsored and enrolled children.
* **Maharashtra**: Amid a huge surge in coronavirus cases, the state government imposed partial curbs, along with announcements / guidelines at regular intervals. The curve still is adamant and not flattened. The massively increased caseload has exerted tremendous pressure on the state's health infrastructure, causing shortages of hospital beds, medicines, and life-saving oxygen.

After the onset of the second wave of COVID 19, the state Maharashtra has regularly witnessed about 65,000-70,000 cases regularly. The State has tried several ways in controlling the pandemic by announcing various guidelines and controlling the human mobility. The guidelines have again hit the poor due to loss of livelihood with very minimal government measures. The Chief Minister announced few relief packages, like free Shiv Bhojan to the poor, 3kg wheat and 2 kg rice free of cost for every individual covered under the national food security scheme, Rs. 1,500 to registered construction workers with the welfare board, street vendors and autorickshaw owners as well as assistance to the tribal. He has even allowed street vendors to operate for takeaway parcels.

The current lockdown announced deadline is May 1st, but the situation remains grim and tense, and hence speculation for lockdown extension in some way can be expected.

* Turbhe - Navi Mumbai, our project location there is complete lockdown observed from April 22, 2021. Essential services can operate from morning 7.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. Other than these, rest of all the others small scale factories that operate are all shut completely.
* Most of the people in these informal settlements are daily wage earners who have lost their jobs and earnings. Our community mobilisers / field staff are relentlessly answering calls of our enrolled families who are desperately looking for support, since they received our help last year during the first wave.
* With the rapid increase in the number of cases, even our enrolled families have been infected and are under treatment from our government COVID care centers, and fortunately many of them are in the recovering stage.

Part 3: ChildFund’s Response

* ChildFund India is further assessing the situation to understand critical needs and will share a brief response plan by end of this week. As of now, field teams have emphasized the following interventions on priority basis:
* Spread awareness about COVID-19 Appropriate behaviours.
* Dissemination of knowledge and information to reach to most vulnerable.
* Contribute to Vaccine rollout process.
* Support to most vulnerable for livelihood, FNS, Psychosocial Support, etc.

Below Sections for Internal Use Only

* Staffing and Security

Staff are advised to follow COVID19 guidelines issues by respective local administration and continue to maintain safety precautions. Except field based staff who interact with children and families, all are working from home.

* Sponsorship and Grants

As of now, all our enrolled and sponsored families are safe except families reported above and in the previous sitreps.