



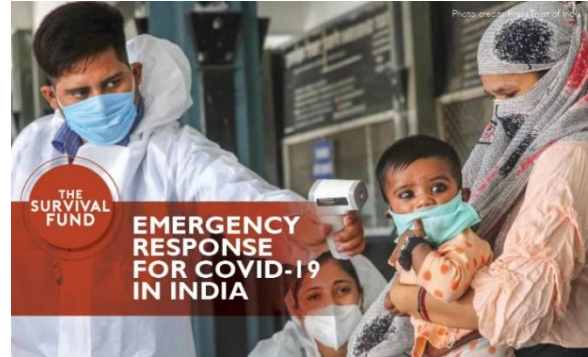
EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR COVID-19 IN INDIA

#7 / Situation Report

OVERVIEW OF DISASTER

India has reported over 31 million cases of COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic last year, with the death toll at 428,309.

In April-2021, India faced one of the biggest health and humanitarian crises in the form of the second wave of COVID-19. Severe shortages of hospital beds and oxygen led to hundreds of people dying without being able to receive the necessary treatment. The second wave also spread to smaller cities and the rural hinterlands of India, crippling the weak health systems and infrastructure in villages.



The Government of India has accelerated the vaccination programme across the country, with the official count of vaccinations at over 528 million. As the cases have begun decreasing in many parts of the country, the lockdown restrictions have been eased gradually.

WORLD VISION'S RELIEF RESPONSE

With the support of international, as well as local donors and supporters, World Vision was able to provide the following support:

- **To strengthen health systems**, the following items have been distributed:



PPE kits - 10396



Oxygen concentrators - 1687



Pulse oximeters - 2508



Beds - 2590



Dry Ration – 8950



Hygiene kits (buckets, soaps, water purification sachets, filter cloth) - 32954



Cash and voucher assistance – 43,225



Masks - 19820



Gloves – 17620



World Vision India distributed over 140 oxygen concentrators and over 950 pulse oximeters to hospitals and health care centres in the states of Rajasthan, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka as part of the COVID-19 response.



COVID-19 2nd wave Response distribution of O2 concentrators, Mumbai.



World Vision India staff in Faridabad (Haryana) hand over material to the Faridabad Chief Medical officer and his medical team.



World Vision staff members from Ballia Area Programme (Uttar Pradesh), hand over relief material to the primary health centre.

- **About 11,700 children across India have been provided with home-based remedial education kits.** The kits contain a story book, stationery items, drawing book, plastic folder to keep worksheets, mask & hand sanitizer, water bottle, hand towel and lunch box.
- **Over 1,500 families of children and people with disabilities have been supported with dry rations.**
- **Over 220,000 children have received and shared messages on COVID-19 prevention behaviour and issues of child protection** through short video and written messages sent to their parents' mobile phone.
- **Over 1 million people have been reached through an awareness campaign on the importance of vaccination** and to address vaccine hesitancy has been launched through social media, floats and radio across India.
 - **More than 100 faith leaders have also been engaged** to raise awareness on COVID prevention and the importance of vaccination against COVID-19.
 - **Over 400 people with disabilities were reached** via webinars on COVID-19 and the importance of vaccinating against it.
- **Over 12,000 people, mostly children, have been provided with psychosocial support** and medical counselling
- **More than 7,000 children have been taught about COVID-19 preventive measures** and their safety is being monitored

IMPACT STORY

“We were afraid of taking the vaccine because the villagers said vaccinated people die in a couple of years,” said Sevaju, a 65-year-old daily wage labourer.

In Dangs, Gujarat, Sevaju, and most of his community members were reluctant to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The government set up a vaccination booth but had only a handful of takers. Sevaju’s son Arvind, 35, and daughter-in-law Parvati, 33, were also sceptical about it.

“We have had a couple of COVID-19 cases in the community. The government set up a vaccination centre but people didn’t want to get the vaccine,” said Jignesh, a World Vision India volunteer in the community.

In this tribal belt, where a majority of the community is illiterate, Jignesh believes the importance of vaccination is easily miscommunicated. People buy into the rumours circulated on social media far too easily.

“A villager died after getting the vaccine. He didn’t die from the vaccine. He had other underlying health problems but rumours spread fast and so people stopped going to the vaccination centre,” said Jignesh. He has attended many COVID -19 awareness training sessions organised by WV India.



Sevaju with his wife, son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren



World Vision India is now working with the local government to raise awareness and shed more light on the myths and rumours surrounding the vaccine. WV India’s volunteers go from house to house to answer the doubts they have regarding COVID-19 vaccination.

“The government shared their vaccination schedule and we try to inform and bring as many people as we can to the vaccination centre,” said Sandip, a WV India staff at Dangs.

Arvind and Parvati are parents to three children, Steven, Preeyanshi and Shivanya, who is a WV India sponsored child. Arvind is a farmer and his wife Parvati is a housewife. Their children attend the local government school and they do not have the facilities to continue their education online.

“I was really afraid of getting the vaccine, but volunteers from WV India came and clarified our doubts. I and my whole family have been vaccinated and now we feel good. Thank you,” said Parvati.

The government of India launched a countrywide vaccination drive on 16, January 2021. As of 6th July, over 357 million doses have been administered. There is still a long way to go, especially in rural India. In many of our communities, WV India’s volunteers are playing a vital role in bridging the gaps between the government and the local population.



MOVING FORWARD

Thank you for your generosity and love for children and their families in their time of greatest need. On behalf of beneficiaries affected by COVID-19 in India who may never have a chance to thank you personally, we would like to extend our appreciation for your gift of hope and help in this emergency.

To make a difference to children affected by COVID-19 in other countries as the pandemic continues to spread around the world, please support The Survival Fund's **GLOBAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR COVID-19**.

To learn more, visit <https://disaster.worldvision.org.sg>.