

EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR COVID-19 IN SOUTH ASIA

#2 / Situation Report

OVERVIEW OF DISASTER

The recent spike in COVID-19 cases in India and Nepal has caused a crippling of already over-burdened health care systems while the long-lasting pandemic has led to a major livelihood crisis across all sections of society.



Children and families in the South Asian communities that World Vision serves have continued to bear COVID-19 related economic, social, physical as well as psychological risks. Children have already been away from school for over a year, and most of them do not have access to alternative learning.

With families losing their livelihood because of the prohibitory orders (lockdown) in many cities, families and children continue to struggle even to manage two meals a day. Moreover, child protection issues are also on the rise, especially among communities rendered vulnerable by the effect of this pandemic, exposing children to the increasing risks of physical and sexual violence within the walls of their house and child marriage.

WORLD VISION'S RELIEF RESPONSE

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

IN INDIA

- **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 (sanitisers and buckets) - 32954



Cash and voucher assistance – 15615 households

- **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 12,000 people, mostly children, will be provided with psychosocial support** and medical counselling
- **Awareness sessions on the harmful effects of child marriage** is being conducted in the face of increasing number of child marriages amidst the pandemic.



World Vision India provided 40 Fowler cots to the COVID care centre and the Rajawadi Hospital in Mumbai.



Oxygen concentrators, beds and PPE kits handed over to the Superintendent, Guwahati Medical College Hospital, Assam.



WV India team handed PPE Kits and corrugated beds over to Hon'ble Minister for Disaster management and revenue, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Mr. K K S S R Ramachandran



WV India has provided educational kits to children to stay connected with their studies

IN NEPAL

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

Oxygen cylinders	1,433	Surgical masks	6,750	Rice (Kilograms)	254,370
Oxygen concentrators	20	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	1,225	Lentils (Kilograms)	25,437
Pulse Oximeters	1,022	Soap (liquid)	129	Sugar (Kilograms)	16,958
Oxygen cylinder nozzle	100	IR Thermometers	1,012	Salt (Kilograms)	16,958
Oxygen cylinder flow meters	555	Hygiene kits	1,723	Cooking Oil (Liters)	16,958
Oxygen masks	500	Sanitisers (Galloons)	53	Soap (bars)	33,916
Respirator masks	756	Hospital beds	50	Self-learning materials	22,340

- 8,479 households have received good consumption support. The food package lasts for almost three weeks for a household of four members



Food supplies being handed over to COVID-19 impacted households in Jumla district.



Locals return home with food supplies received from World Vision in Kailali district.



Preparations being done for the distribution of food supplies to COVID-19 impacted households in Kailali district.



A child receives self-learning materials at Udayapur district

- **Radio shows and public service announcements are being conducted through 300+ radio stations** associated with the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal (ACORAB)
 - ACORAB is the largest network of community radios in Nepal with the capacity to **reach over 15 million people through its 300 + stations across 77 districts of Nepal**
 - 9 episodes of a children’s radio programme has also been conducted to remotely engage and help children continue their learning during the prolonged nationwide lockdown implemented to contain COVID-19.

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 Dang, 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 float campaign on vaccination awareness being flagged off.

“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.

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 Dang.

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 and Nepal 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>.