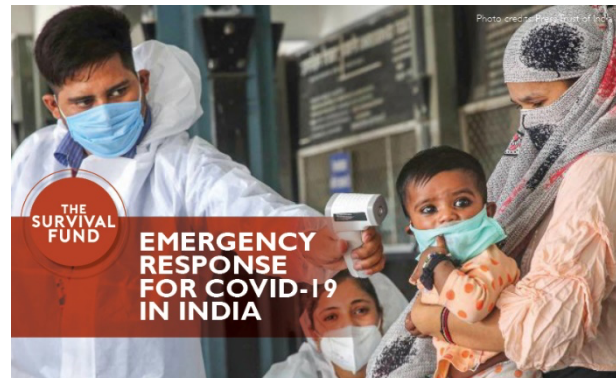


EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR COVID-19 IN INDIA

#1 / Situation Report

OVERVIEW OF DISASTER

India is reeling under the immense surge in the COVID-19 cases over the past two months. The country has reported over 23 million cases since the start of the pandemic, last year. Over 300,000 cases are being recorded every day, over the past weeks, and the total number of deaths so far was 258,351 on 13th May, 2021. The high positivity rate for the COVID-19 virus is a cause for major concern, across India.



The rapid increase in COVID-19 cases is crippling an already over-burdened health care system. Hospitals across the country are running out of beds, oxygen supply in intensive care units and ventilators, leaving many severely ill patients unable to access any form of treatment.

To curb the spread of COVID-19, the state governments have introduced many restrictions and night curfews. This has also led to a major livelihood crisis across all sections of society, with the most vulnerable being severely impacted. The conditions of the urban poor, migrant labourers returning to their villages, small and marginal farmers and small business owners have significantly worsened because of the livelihood crisis and the associated uncertainties affecting the quality of life.

WORLD VISION'S RELIEF RESPONSE

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, World Vision has directly reached over 4.8 million people in India with its COVID-19 Emergency Response (with food supplies, cash & voucher, child protection, education, PPE kits, distribution of hand sanitizers and training for community health workers). This has also indirectly benefitted an additional 1.8 million people.

In light of the current situation, World Vision is in the process of:

Strengthening health care systems

- Supporting hospitals and healthcare centres at 118 locations through the provision of 1,173 oxygen concentrators and upgrading the facilities, especially in rural areas, with needed cots, beds and medical equipment.
- Enhancing capacity of primary healthcare centres by setting up temporary structures / tents to help screen and treat the increasing number of COVID-19 patients.
- Working to equip healthcare facilities with thermometer, pulse oximeters, PPE kits and other essential non-medical supplies immediately.



Providing psycho-social support and building resilience

- Providing children with psycho-social support, virtually, through mental health experts and trained volunteers, to help them deal with the uncertainties caused by the pandemic. The children can access this counselling support through a helpline.
- Regularly monitoring the well-being of the children in our communities. For the families of registered children who are affected by COVID-19, World Vision will provide the necessary essential support, depending on the need and will also assist most vulnerable families who have lost their livelihood due the pandemic.



Vaccine advocacy and access

- Raising awareness on vaccination by working with the district administration to assist them in setting up vaccination centres at the local primary health care facility.
- Engaging with leaders of all faith communities across many states to raise awareness on COVID prevention and the importance of vaccination against COVID-19.



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.

As the pandemic continues to spread across India and its neighbouring countries, World Vision has expanded our response efforts to cover the vulnerable communities across India and Nepal. We are also continuing to monitor the situation in the region and may include other countries like Sri Lanka in the response as the situation progresses.

To make a difference to children affected by other disasters, please support The Survival Fund's **SOUTH ASIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR COVID-19**. To learn more, visit <https://disaster.worldvision.org.sg>.