

Action Plan for a collaborative response to COVID-19 by Development Partners in Uttar Pradesh

During the virtual meeting with Development Partners chaired by Director, Urban Local Bodies, Govt. of U.P. dated 27th April 2020, more than 15 organizations had come together to collaboratively support the DoUD, GoUP in COVID-19 response in the state.

Based on our subsequent discussions with the development partners, we have compiled a list of action taken and way-forward on each of the thematic areas.

1. Assessment of shortage of PPE and Hygiene Equipment for sanitation workers and ensuring regular health check-up

Objective: To get a sense of the shortage in PPE in cities across the state. Ensure good practices related to health and safety of all sanitation workers in cities across the state.

Action taken and way-forward:

1. CSE has supported Bijnor in providing PPEs, hygiene items as well as training to sanitation workers. This would also be extended to other cities in the state.
2. PSI has supported PPE for vacuum tanker operators in Kanpur and Lucknow.
3. Tata Trusts updated a requirement of 1000 PPE kits for sanitation workers in Varanasi where their team is currently working.
4. AILSG through the iGOT platform have developed online courses for sanitation workers. This can be disseminated to the cities.
5. Agha Khan Foundation plans to launch an Urban Response Programme in U.P. which would also look into this issue.
6. A consolidated assessment of shortage of PPEs in cities in the state can help in centralized procurement for these cities. CSRs looking to donate PPE kits can be connected to the identified cities.

2. Support in community engagement, IEC/BCC for COVID-19

Objective: Maximizing effective knowledge dissemination and behaviour change among community especially urban poor, women and other vulnerable groups for good practices related to COVID-19.

Action taken and way-forward:

1. Unicef is working in the rural sector and supporting the health department including capacity building of ASHA and Anganwadis during the COVID-19 crisis.
2. WaterAid is developing SOPs related to best practices in related to WASH in quarantine centres as well as good practices in respect to community toilets.
3. Oxfam has a community engaged programme through its partners in the state. Their focus is on gender and equality issues. Oxfam is doing a need assessment related to gender issues during the COVID-19 relief. They have developed women support centre in cities including Lucknow. One recommendation is to include menstrual hygiene products as part of the relief support.
4. Tata trusts is working in Gorakhpur, Bahraich in IEC as well as capacity building of ASHAs in these districts. Tata Trusts would be working on the following areas to support communities during COVID-19:

- a. COVID-19 Assessment Survey (Household) to understand the COVID-19 related awareness & preparedness levels within the community, and the economic impacts of the pandemic & consequent lockdown including people's awareness of relief measures announced by the government, and their access to them
- b. Survey of Migrants to understand the wages loss and access to relief packages and post COVID -19 migration
- c. Providing community based enterprises model for menstrual hygiene reusable solutions and mask during COVID -19

3. Compilation of best practices in other cities in India and dissemination among the cities in the state

Objective: The local bodies are sensitized and are aware of the best practices related to COVID-19 practices and can implement them in their cities.

Action taken and way-forward:

1. WaterAid and UNICEF has a compilation of SOPs and IEC collaterals developed for the rural sector which can be used in the urban context as well.
2. UNICEF has developed SOPs which would be useful for cities across the state.
3. KPMG is supporting the SBM mission in the state as well as other departments / ministries. The team has shared a presentation on COVID-19 response good practices from Uttar Pradesh.
4. JICA would be sharing some of the best practices for COVID-19 mitigation measures adopted for JICA supported projects.
5. E&Y has developed COVID-19 best practices for District Magistrate, Prayagraj. This can be shared with all the districts and the cities through the Directorate.
6. Agha Khan foundation can share best practices it has done in Bahraich on interventions such as foot operated handwashing station and model quarantine facilities. This can be shared with cities across the state for better dissemination.
7. Best practices based on recommendation of Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) related to WASH in low income settlements (particularly foot operated hand wash basin) has already been shared by the Directorate with cities across the state. More good practices recommended by Development Partners can be shared.

4. Dissemination and timely updating on various advisories and guidelines related to COVID-19

Objective: Need to ensure the updated advisories and guidelines are readily available to all the stakeholders

Action taken and way-forward:

1. CSE has developed a web based repository of Govt. advisories and guidelines relating to COVID-19 which can be shared. Other compilations are available at SCBP – NIUA webpage.
2. Other Development Partners can share respective initiatives in this regards and regularly update information received from various sources through the Whatsapp group created.

5. Issue of mapping migrant labourers and help in training and livelihood generation

Objective: Maximize efforts of development partners in providing relief and livelihood generation to migrant labourers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Action taken and way-forward:

1. UNDP has developed an Economic Recovery Alliance in the state. One of the main areas of work is for livelihood generation for informal sector who have been impacted by the lockdown. A mobile App has been launched to track the migrant labourers and connect them with government schemes and livelihood opportunities.
2. Agha Khan Foundation has supported in setting-up 'Apna Sewa Kendra' in Bihar for supporting the migrant workers in skill mapping.
3. Tata Trusts would be supporting in establishing call centres and voice SMS in selected districts.
4. Ideas from other partners can be taken forward through this initiative.

6. Financial reforms during the COVID-19

Objective: Building capacity of Urban Local Bodies to deal with events like COVID-19

Way-forward:

1. AIILSG to tie up with KfW, NIUA and World Bank. They would be developing a guideline document as well as framework document to assessment the progress of the ULBs with respect to the financial reforms. They would also develop a benchmark for the ULBs through development of indexes. They would be sharing a detailed note on this to the Department. They also proposed a separate Whatsapp group for better coordination where other organization can give suggestion and updates on this.