Minutes of virtual meeting with Development Partners for a Collaborative Response to COVID-19 in Uttar Pradesh held on 27th April 2020

1. Dr. Rohilla from CSE gave a brief introduction on the need for collaboration among the development partners supporting the COVID-19 response in Uttar Pradesh.

2. Dr. Kajal, Director, Directorate of Local Bodies, Uttar Pradesh set the context of the second meeting of ‘Alliance of Urban Transformation’ and called upon all the development partners to collaborate to support in the Uttar Pradesh’s response towards the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. The Development Partners briefed about their initiatives and areas of work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the state. Key points highlighted by Development Partners included:
   a. CSE stressed on the need for protection of all sanitation workers including informal workers and ensure regular health check-up for COVID-19 symptoms in all the cities. CSE to support in PPE for sanitation workers in Bijnor, Chunar and Lucknow and can extend to other cities based on demand.
   b. UNICEF suggested convergence with the Department of Health for leverage of ASHA workers in IEC for COVID-19.
   c. IEC collateral have been development by UNICEF, WaterAid, CSE and other partners which can be disseminated to cities across the state.
   d. Access to handwashing facilities is important in the fight against COVID-19. Foot operated hand washing facilities have been installed by Agha Khan Foundation in Bahraich which can be scaled-up across the state.

The summary of briefings by the Development Partners in the meeting is attached in the Annexure.

4. Shri Pankaj Bhushan, Environment Engineer from Lucknow Nagar Nigam requested for support from CSE on issues related to personal protection equipment and hygiene for sanitation workers in the city.

5. Shri Durgeswar Tripathi, Executive Officer from Bijnor NPP highlighted the need for clarity for city officials on issues related to necessary personal protective equipment needed for sanitation workers while managing different types of waste. For this the updated advisories and guidelines from different central govt. ministries and CPCB should be readily made available to the cities.

6. Dr Kajal concluded the meeting by calling upon the Development Partners to address the following critical issues during the COVID-19 pandemic:
   a. Assess the requirement / shortage of personal protective equipment as well as sanitizing equipment across the cities in the state.
   b. Need to ensure regular health check-up of vulnerable frontline staff like the sanitation workers in cities across the state.
   c. Ensuring the city officials are timely updated about the advisories and guidelines related to COVID-19 issued by the government from time to time.
   d. Organizations like UNDP can support in the issue of mapping migrant labours and help in training and livelihood generation.
   e. Compilation of best practices in other cities in India can be shared with all the cities. Organization such as E&Y, AKF, UNICEF, CSE can support in this.
   g. Organizations like AII/LSG can support in financial reforms during the COVID-19.
   h. Going forward, CSE to reach-out with different partners and develop a Consolidate Action Plan for COVID-19 response based on the strengths of the organization.

Dr Kajal
Director
Urban Local Bodies
Uttar Pradesh
Annexure

Briefing by Development Partners on their initiatives related to COVID-19 response

1. CSE gave a brief background of the COVID-19 pandemic and the response from the state towards the disease. In order to support the COVID-19 response in the state, CSE is committed towards safety and capacity building of the sanitation workers during this pandemic. CSE support in personal protection and hygiene of sanitation workers in Bijnor, Chunar and Lucknow by ensuring they get required PPE and regular health checkup, also would be providing access to safe sanitation and hygiene through handwash stations and communication collaterals on physical distancing to migrants and urban poor in high dense cities through CSTF energized by CSE in cities. CSE plans to support SHG groups, in capacity building for the production of masks etc.

2. UNDP shared that they work in Varanasi and Lucknow, closely with Nagar Nigam, for sanitation workers, migrants and urban poor on hygiene and food relief for them, and providing technical support to government departments. They shared their plans of creating an Uttar Pradesh COVID-19 Economic Recovery Alliance, focusing on revitalizing Livelihoods based on agriculture, services, handloom/handicrafts and promoting entrepreneurship. They shared that the potential areas they can help are leveraging civil society volunteers for IEC dissemination, supporting City Livelihood Centres across Uttar Pradesh for registration of returnee migrants in ULBs and skill mapping of returnee migrants and matching with MSME departments.

3. Aga Khan Foundation shared that they have conducted a rapid needs assessment to cater to COVID-19 response in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Telangana and based on their findings they have stressed on handwashing and social distancing as of utmost importance. In UP they have made provision of PPE Kit for frontline workers in Bahraich and Shravasti districts and members of AKF Vocational Centers and SHGs in Bahraich have made masks for community distribution. AKF shared that they have developed a contact database of over 25,000 community leaders, ASHAs, AWC in Bahraich, Shravasti and Balrampur for Information dissemination on social distancing, health and hygiene and government schemes announced during the lockdown. AKF has also set up a handwashing station in Bahraich and plans to scale this up on other places.

4. Tata Trust shared the they have developed IEC materials in form of short videos which has covered 2.5 lakhs population. They have trained 1500 persons and 234 ASHAs in Gorakhpur and Siddhartnagar. They are also working in Bahraich and Srawasti and apart from IEC and capacity building, they have focused on women’s personal hygiene.

5. UNICEF has developed 120+ IEC materials and its dissemination has covered 5+ million population. They are covering 450 blocks of 60 districts in UP. They have prepared SOPs for Integrated Disaster Command Centre, promoted foot-operated handwashing machines, have developed data entry and dashboard mechanism for migrants. They have trained 150+ ASHAs and Anganvadis. They have developed materials distant learning for children.

6. WaterAid is working in UP and focused on campaign ‘Good Hygiene Practices to Prevent COVID-19’ for which they have developed creatives and reaching out people across 3490 village panchayats and 9 cities across
12 States primarily with critical hygiene messages in 7 languages. They are working on mapping of water stressed areas. They are working closely with BKT for post lockdown scenario and COVID response mapping.

7. EY is closely working in Prayagraj, Varanasi and Noida. They are working with the local authorities for procurement of essential products, supporting the government in implementing E-pass software, logistical planning and temporary accommodation and temporary structures, supply chain tracking of essential services.

8. Oxfam is working in the districts of Bahraich and Gorakhpur. Due to lack of information in community they have recently concluded mobile van campaign for COVID. Worked on computer Based application that helped in information dissemination related to COVID and have trained 600 volunteers. They have also developed IEC materials and have provided training to CBOs. They have initiated a food relief campaign which has benefitted 200 families till now.

9. PSI is basically working in Kanpur and Lucknow and private tanker operators are their focus area. They have activated FSM cell in Jal Sansthan for better coordination of sanitation workers with local administration. They have helped 22 tanker operators in getting emergency passes during COVID and have also communicated with police about working of these operators.

10. AIIILSG is working in 5 states and is focused on training of SHGs, ASHAs on COVID prevention activities and awareness. They are encouraging development of enterpreneurship skills of people involved in production of essential products.

11. Action Aid has developed various IEC materials. They have spread COVID awareness through community radio. They have been involved in distribution of ration and dry ration kits in Varanasi. They have provided 1 lakh cooked food in Lucknow and Varanasi. They are working for betterment of rag picker, sanitation workers and migrants workers.

12. WRG 2030 is working in Bundelkhand and Hindon region. They are working with FPOs for strengthening of food supply. They are also working on reservoir rejuvenation for water security and employment opportunities for migrants. They are also working on improving resilience of sanitation and water infrastructures.

13. Dr Kajal thanked everyone for their work and jotted down few points to be taken up are:

   I. She stressed, CSE for an analysis of standard PPEs required in the state for the sanitation workers, analysis to be done on the basis of the hotspots, quarantine facilities so that what is the need and how we can reach to help sanitary workers and other people on the front

   II. She asked for a Guidelines for the sanitation workers and field functionaries, as well as for Guidelines for sanitizing equipment used in quarantine areas as asked by the field officers.

   III. She said UNDP and UNICEF who are working on tracing migrant workers and mapping their skills with NULM, through volunteer mapping and GEET tool, they could help track these people so that no one is left out, and can get this data shared with the MSMEs and ULB officers to place them in suitable workspaces and an advisories for the same.
IV. She asked for a community engagement plan to be made mainstream and put forward, also to collate and use all the IEC collateral by all the organization and to be pushed through the department to ULBs, particularly in slums and for urban poor.

V. She focused on regular health checkups and assessment is another area of work to be taken up, and asked if PSI could come up with a tool for sanitation workers so that they can reach ULBs when sick with COVID related symptoms.

VI. She asked AIIILSG to work on financial reform in this period when there could be no big events.

VII. Best Practices to be collected across the country by EY which can be applied in UP ULBs.

VIII. She shared that one nodal to be appointed for every task that would be taken up as COVID-19 response in UP.

IX. She asked for updating of all GOs and IEC material on DoUD website and dissemination of latest guidelines to field functionaries as the top priority through a single platform.