



## **Minutes of Meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> State IAG Leaders Working Groups** **31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 at 3pm** (Zoom meeting call)

### **A. Background**

State IAG Leaders working group comprise of Convenors / Chairpersons of all State IAGs and members of Sphere India Inter Agency Coordination Committee. The group will be a learning exchange group on building partnership with respective State Authorities and Health Department, establishing state level communication with community working groups, enabling and coordinating district groups. This group is chaired by Dr. Bhanu Mall (Chair of UP IAG, Vice Chair Sphere India) and Co-Chair Mr. Pankaj Anand (Director Programs Oxfam India and Member Sphere India Executive Committee).

The group will also work as nodal points to enable and coordinate relief measures by CSOs at state and district level with respective State and District Authorities to develop two way communications with communities with “Do not harm” and “Leave No one behind” approached in need of care and support in this crisis. Following advisories on social distancing and other measures being put in to control the spread. So, most efforts will happen using digital technologies and building right capacities.

In this regards, the 3<sup>rd</sup> State IAG Leaders Working Groups was organised on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 with the following agenda:

- Progress update from state IAG on emergency preparedness for COVID 19 response.
- Identify gaps in response and avenues for collaboration with Government
- Way forward

### **B. Key discussions:**

- IAG Andhra Pradesh is more involved into community level participation taking into consideration more intensive lockdown in the state.
- IAG Bihar had two rounds of meeting one convened with UNICEF. They are in regular touch with government in monitoring the health staff and PPE requirements.
- IAG Bihar has started awareness need in response to COVID 19 and is waiting for more active government humanitarian response. Bihar state disaster management authority has geared up and are providing food relief to migrants but it is done at a very small scale.
- Various organisation in Bihar is also providing food packets. Indra Gandhi organisation, UNICEF are all providing food packets through network created by BSDMA.
- IAG Chhattisgarh reported that there are 7 cases and no deaths. The state is witnessing reduced hospital deliveries especially among the poor (JSY beneficiaries) and malnourished ( below 2.5 kg)
- Mitanni (ASHA) structure is functioning in collaboration with IAG Chhattisgarh. Doing wall painting and door to door information dissemination. Videos in Gondi, Halbi, Hindi languages are circulated on hand washing and need for masks.
- IAG Himachal Pradesh is coordinating with Aangawadi workers, Aasha workers and with government in their effort to provide ration to daily wage workers. Also regular visit is being paid to sensitise people of the graveness of the situation.
- In Jharkhand World vision, Plan India and Sewa have taken lead in participating with people. They are developing IEC materials for educating public. World vision has arranged 400 volunteers, Plan India has 350 and few small organisations in Gumla and Palamau have mobilised volunteers and are waiting for training as instructed by NDMA. The IAG is further planning to get movement passes through the government for more active intervention.
- In Karnataka Indian Red CROSS have tied up with DIPR(Department of Information and Public Relation) in volunteer mobilisation and participation. Special helpline is opened up by the department for migrant



labourers. 16,000 application is received under Cornawarrior campaign. District administration has activated BBMP ward room in the state.

- IAG Kerala with assistance of a technology firm has created a Comprehensive Covid 19 management Solution and App for the better and easier surveillance of Corona suspects. This is based on the present strategy implemented by the Govt. of Kerala wherein the health staff at the primary health centre level can easily do the routine daily monitoring by just clicking on the app.
- Community kitchen is set up at the district level to address the hunger needs of the migrants and those who are under quarantine. IAG Kerala has list of all the migrant workers in the state district and taluka wise.
- Tripura is fortunate not to have COVID 19 positive cases so far. Around 600 with travel history are put under home quarantine . Apart from govt and political organisations IAG Tripura with 4 other organisations are planning to take up food distribution shortly. Request for obtaining the permission for the same has already been sent to the govt.
- UNICEF, WHO, Concept society in close collaboration with IAG Madhya Pradesh has skilled many medical professionals in different prisons in the state in prevention and control of COVID 19 and building capacity of medical professionals as well. In Indore, it is reported that community transmission has started to take place. Govt has appointed high level bureaucrats to monitor the situation.
- Maharashtra govt has claimed that they have provided provision for 70,000 migrant workers which is quite short of the total no of migrants living in the state. IAG Maharashtra has activated 3 WhatsApp groups with other organisation and is seeking govt intervention in the same.
- RedR India with support of Unicef Maharashtra, has deployed a team for supporting the district administration, especially the CEO Zila Parishad to develop the COVID 19 preparedness plan for Kolhapur and Sangli. In addition to this, RedR India will be facilitating training for all Front Line Workers (ASHA/ANM/AWW) for enhancing their preparedness, response and containment knowledge and skills keeping in mind their own personal safety. Based on guidelines and SOPs issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW, GoI) and WHO, RedR is adapting and disseminating key messages and protocols through simple yet effective messaging.
- IAG Manipur is coordinating with district administration to voluntarily offer services wherever required. Further, coordination is being done with ration shops for uninterrupted supply of materials.
- IAG Odisha is working in collaboration with 11 IAS officers and health department in countering the cases and spreading awareness. Govt of Odisha is providing cooked food to 80 urban and local bodies covering 90,000 of the population. Shelter camps have already been arranged by the govt for migrant labourers.
- Health district administration and district officer are taking decisions in Sikkim. Sikkim IAG is already making relief contribution in coordination with district administration.
- IAG Telangana had a meeting with principal secretary of the DM to discuss further action and more active participation in COVID 19 response.
- IAG Tamil Nadu and govt are identifying epicentre of outbreak and screening of the identified hotbeds have already started. IAG is also meeting with advising agencies to not violate the rules of lockdown and work within the permission granted. Message of staff security is also being spread.
- IAG Rajasthan is working very closely with govt and health department in ensuring that maximum measure is taken to contain the cases. A teleconference was done with district administration on basic planning and intervention amidst lockdown.
- IAG West Bengal is coordinating with Govt via its volunteers in distribution of relief materials.
- IAG UP in collaboration with UPSDMA and OXFAM India has started training of volunteers, Dry Ration distribution and Miking with moving vehicle for awareness on 4 preventive methods.

### C. Key decisions and suggestions:

- A wide range of stigma and discrimination is taking place in wake of this pandemic. Civil society organisations must together focus on ensuring social protection of the most vulnerable and marginalised. Preparedness for the same should already be in process.
- Social fabric at community level must be approached differently with current situation, which is unlike other emergencies.



- Specific audiences must be consulted for messages and capacity building, keeping social inclusion concept in mind.
- “Do not harm” and “Leave No one behind” approach must be taken ahead by CSOs. The message should be re-emphasised and forwarded to all stakeholders.
- Motivate workforce is needed to provide psycho- socio support. NIMHANS have already approved a plan wherein health workers or any other section of the society which needs support can connect with them. A trained pool of psychiatrist is already assembled across states.
- Credible gaps in govt schmes and functioning must be identified and highlighted to build pressure on govt authorities and at the same time ensuring complete support to them.
- Gender differences of COVID 19 impact must be assessed with the help of CSOs. Govt must take a differentiated approach in tackling situation must be advocated and encouraged.
- Communication needs of different population segment is not being addressed currently. CSOs must engage with faith leaders of faith based organisations to tackle this issue and streamline communication strategy.
- Fake social media post must be contained as it is perpetuating communal poison in minds of people. This pandemic is getting a communal angle and it must be contained with the efforts of CSOs.
- Psycho-socio support materials will be handed to Sphere India for further dissemination in IAGs groups.
- A designated focal point in each state must be appointed for regular updates and intervention. All states which are missed in this meeting must be approached.
- State IAGs must designate a district focal point and a formal announcement of the same should be made.
- Mobilisation and capacity building of all volunteer is essential by all state IAGs.

### List of participants

Sr. No.	Participnats name	Organization
1	Dr. Bhanu Mall	UP IAG Chair from PGVS
2	Pankaj Anand	Oxfam India
3	Mrinal Gohain	Chairperson, IAG Assam (from Action Aid)
4	Sanjay Pandey Satya	Convener, Bihar IAG
5	Vijaylakshmi Arora	CRS
6	Aloke Ghosh	Convener, IAG - West Bengal from CASA
7	Jeevan Kennady	DSSS (Sphere India Focal Point – Tripura)
8	Yangchen Tongden Lepcha	State Coordinator, IAG Sikkim from Helping Hands Sikkim
9	Chenithung Humtsoe	Executive Committee member, IAG Nagaland
10	Banku Bihari	Unicef India ( Bihar)
11	Debojit Chakrobarty	State Coordinator, IAG West Bengal
12	Mr. Dilip	Youth Red Cross Karnataka (Sphere Focal Point)
13	Dr Ajil Abdullah	IAG Kerala
14	Kusum G	IAG Uttrakhand
15	Jagriti Roy	ACTED India
16	Rushab Himani	Unicef India (Rajasthan)
17	Mozart	PHIA Foundation ( CA)
18	Vinod Menon	Senior Advisor, Sphere India cum Founding member NDMA
19	Mr. Abhilash, K,	Plan India (Sphere Focal Point- Andhra Pradesh and Telangana )
21	Joseph Sahayam	CASA, Tamil Nadu
22	Kirti Mishra	Vice Chairperson, IAG-Odisha from CRS
23	Kyra Marwaha	THD Foundtaion
24	Lalrama	Young Mizo Association (Sphere India Focal Point – Mizoram )
25	Manoranjan	State Coordinator, IAG- Odisha
26	Neeta Hardikar	IAG Jharkhand
27	Mahesh Kamble	TISS, Mumbai (Sphere Focal Point – Maharashtra)



28	Milan	IGSSS, Karnataka
29	Dr. Prabir Chhaterjee	Convener, IAG -Chhattisgarh
30	Rajan	ADRA
31	Santaram Nanda	Childfund
32	Shivraj Sharma	UNICEF India , Madhya Pradesh
33	Susanta Sahoo	
34	Subir Kumar	Convener, IAG Jharkhand
35	Vivek Virendra Singh	Unicef India ( Odisha)
36	Biju Lucklose	Convener, IAG Manipur from DSSS Imphal
37	Kirit	State Coordinator, IAG Gujarat from UNNATI
38	O P Bhatia	Convener, Himachal Pradesh IAG (from Red Cross Mandi, HP)
39	Akhilesh Bakshi	
40	Arundati Sridhar	WaterAid India
41	Ghanshyam Mishra	Bihar IAG
42	Sarabjit Sahota	UNICEF India
43	Vikrant Mahajan	Sphere India
44	Eilia	Sphere India
45	Saikhom Kennedy	Sphere India
46	Naveelah	Sphere India