



MINUTES OF MEETING | HEALTH SECTOR TASK GROUP |

1ST of April,2020

The meeting for Health sector task group was organised by Sphere India through zoom interface from 2-3 pm on 1st of April to form an action plan for Health sector for COVID 19 response and planning. The task group was formed based on combined Health and WASH sector meeting held on 24th March 2020. List of members in the task group is attached in Annex 1

KEY DISCUSSIONS

1. Requirement was raised for a coordination mechanism between government and CSOs essentially looking on non – medical roles along with a need of comprehensive plan from government side to provide clearer picture to CSOs.
2. There is a need of CSOs grouping, pro-active planning and approach to government at state level so as to be effective in handling moderate to severe cases.
3. DFY suggested making quarantine centres at community level and hospitals to be used only for isolation and treatment, otherwise hospitals can become hotspot for the virus spread.
4. In terms of managing the needs of people in quarantine, a single large place may be better than multiple clusters scattered in different locations.
5. Concern was raised regarding the shortage of PPE, medical equipment available at the moment and even the available kits don't meet standards given by the government. It was discussed that low quality kits can do more harm. It is important to get good kits.
6. For proper mobilisation of relief materials, logistics movement the need of curfew passes was discussed.
7. It was suggested to train volunteers, upgrade facilities and procure PPEs to make community be prepared for worst scenarios keeping in view next 3-6 months.
8. Members urged CSOs having experience of handling disasters to be ready with rehabilitation plans for the future conditions that can prevail.
9. It was suggested to get enrol more volunteers and train them rather than enrolling trained personnel so as to reduce pressure on medical staff, practitioners.
10. Keeping in view rural areas it was advised to provide awareness, training towards personal hygiene and other non-pharmaceutical solutions and educating them to respond adequately during emergencies.
11. Concern was raised regarding coordination and pulling up resources along with state government.
12. WVI has more than 3000 volunteers and will be happy to train other volunteers also if mobilised through Sphere
13. A catalog document informing about various medicines, equipments for COVID 19 preparedness was shared.
14. A role for CSOs in raising funds for supplies for health care was seen.
15. Good quality PPE suppliers ask for bulk order. CSOs can combine demand and bulk purchase through network such as Sphere.
16. CSR should help with building quarantine centres for health staff.



17. In rural areas where testing facilities are not available, we should educate them about hand hygiene, universal precautions. If symptoms are mild, and age is less, we should simply ask them to quarantine.
18. Problem for lack of mobility and volunteers stranded at various part discussed, sphere to create a resource matrix and all should be allowed to use each other's resources.
19. Further it was decided to conduct a meeting on regular basis to provide a clear picture, action plan to Health and WASH sector groups [combined] for COVID 19 response and preparedness.
20. A whatsapp group for the health task group to be created.

KEY ACTIONS for CSOs

1. Managing community-based isolation facility for non-serious cases may be managed by Civil society after due training.
2. CSOs can play a role in ensuring security of quarantined cases.
3. Awareness about hand hygiene and universal precautions.
4. CSOs can support in making arrangement for food and WASH facilities
5. CSOs can follow up and track home quarantine patients.
6. Training of health care workers.
7. CSOs should be a part of the planning teams at local and central level. This discussion needs to take place asap.
8. NGO hospitals can be asked to upgrade themselves for testing/ quarantine for non-serious cases
9. Sphere India to facilitate by developing a matrix of volunteers spread geographically, and all should be allowed to use each other's resources.

ANNEX 1- PARTICIPANTS ON CALL

NAME	ORGANISATION	MOBILE NUMBER
Dr Carel Joseph	WVI	8297802138
Dr Sunil Gokavi	Health Expert	9818196594
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Dr Anurag Mishra	MAMC	9899797734
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