

MINUTES OF SKYPE MEETING CALL
STATES IAG COVENORS AND INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IAC)
SKYPE INTERFACE COORDINATION MEETING CALL ON COVID 19
18th OF MARCH, 2020 | 3-4 PM

Proceeding

The meeting was called to discuss the preparedness and response to COVID-19 in India attended by Sphere India IAC members and IAG Conveners and local leaders across India on the 18th of March, 2020 via Skype.

Agenda:

- A brief and debrief updates from state IAG Conveners
- To discuss and plan a way forward to fight Covid-19

List of members participated is attached as annex 1. The key discussions and decisions points are as below:

Key Discussions and suggestions:

- Districts IAGs in Kerala are working closely in association with disaster management authorities at state and district administration. IAG is coordinating with the volunteers in different districts to keep a check at the cases. IAG Calicut is also providing ambulance service apart from 108 ambulance services available in the state.
- IAG in Kerala is also planning to develop a **Coronavirus Management App** to reduce the burden of call centres in the state. It will be developed in 4 to 5 days.
- IAG- West Bengal (WB) with active support of Unicef India have organized state level on the "Corona Virus Prevention, updates, Risk Communication and FAQs "on 13th March at Unicef office, Kolkata.
- State IAG West Bengal reported that adequate hand wash practices are being adopted at organization level and also carried out to the community level as awareness measures. Also doing the same through social networking platforms.
- IAG –WB is planning further District and Regional Level Orientation of Members (based on the situation against COVID 19) on Hand Wash and Preparedness.
- IAG Thrissur had a meeting with District Collector on 17th March 2020 and had taken decision to impart help from IAG members for locally producing hand sanitisers in discussion with drugs and narcotics department completely free of cost and increasing the availability of cloth mask reusable, to start washing facilities in public places etc.
- IAG Ernakulam has coordinated to facilitate volunteers at Ernakulam North railway Station and Vyttila Hub along with the police department and supplying masks and hand sanitizers.
- IAG West Bengal updated that members across the state (23 districts) conducting general awareness on COVID - 19 (household level). More than 110 NGOs and CBOs are now active in this process. They are creating awareness at their respective working areas.
- IAG Wayanad reported that IEC materials are being prepared in German, French and Spanish and also in ethnic language. More than 10000 masks are being prepared with the help of volunteers.
- There is a Gift box campaign that is distributing reading books to people who are in quarantine. 150 books distributed by IAG to Gift a Book campaign to quarantine persons.
- Break the Chain – hand wash campaign going on in 260 village areas covered.

- 20000 soaps distributed with help of doctors for you organisation.
- Bihar –IAG has scheduled a Skype Call on 19th March 2020 from 3PM to 5 PM to create awareness to fight against COVID 19.
- IAG Maharashtra - Government of Maharashtra had Implemented section 44 for crowd management i.e. mass gathering. Parks and public places were shut down to reduce public gathering. There is no active plans to manage people in slums in terms of hygiene to fight COVID 19.
- IAG AP and IAG Telengana – Andhra Pradesh has one active case and Telengana has three among this one is cured. Need more methods to share awareness as public gathering (not more than eight) is not allowed where volunteers are challenging for mass awareness. Schools, parks, public places were shut down till March 31.
- Mizoram - People are very much tensed due to fear of COVID 19 spread. Volunteering organisations like Young Mizo Association (YMA) YMCA is making awareness to the public toward mass gathering, social distancing, do’s and don’ts on COVID 19.
- Chhattisgarh IAG meet on 17th March 2020 at UNICEF Office. Next meeting is schedule on 27th March. Currently testing is at AIIMS Raipur. 0 cases so far. Schools closed till 31st March.
- At national level – Sphere India , keeping the “Physical Distancing” norms and keeping the social bridge intact, 07 Regional WhatsApp Group have been created by Sphere India secretariat for awareness generation by cross disseminating IEC material against COVID 19. Mobilization of 405 - 800 Sphere India member local partners across India to be part of this information sharing group is progressing.
Similarly, WhatsApp group for state and district level IAGs conveners of 21 states and local leaders are functioning since 17th of March 2020.
- Sphere India coordination meeting on the current situation of Covid-19 with NDMA, UN agencies and WHO is progressing on how better the civil society organisations can supplement the government effort.
- Sphere India activated its Unified Response Matrix for agencies responding / planning to response to share and update their plan for a joint coordinated response to fight COVID 19 can be accessed at
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aLrzi55mc5el6TXDFRLMekg5KyANuUOrCMseZqn_Uk/edit#gid=0

Key suggestions

- People don’t want to go hospital due to the fear of COVID 19. In certain cases people are hiding the symptoms. This is the challenge faced now a days; how to reduce fear and educate people the facts of COVID 19 is once areas which need to focus and create awareness at community levels.
- Given the various initiatives undertaken across the country, it was suggested to create a platform to share the preparedness and response adopted in the various states so as to share learnings and draw inspirations from. ****WHO WILL DO THIS****
- Sphere India members and IAGs members were urged to get in touch with their local partners, activate coordination with them for COVID-19 response, and update their community focal point contact information with Sphere India at kennedy@sphereindia.org.in (M: +91-8285221559 , WhatsApp no.: +91-9560503346).

Key decisions

- Sphere India Secretariat to share the guidelines for IAG-COVID-19 preparedness and response.

- A thinking group to be formed by IAG members and Sphere India members to assess the impact of COVID-19-related response on the existing programming of the various organizations, and the necessary changes to be brought to the programming so as to be better prepared to respond to such similar situations in future – particularly if COVID-19 progresses to level-3 of alert in India.
- It was collectively decided to activate the URS for COVID-19 by the state IAGs Conveners. Since, Sphere India IAC committee have already activated its Unified Response Matrix for COVID 19, the agencies were urged to continuously update their response and planning the URS through below pasted link in MIS format to combat for a joint coordinated response to fight COVID 19

URS link accessed at

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aLrzi55mc5e16TXDFRLMekg5KyANuUOrCMseZqn_Uk/edit#gid=0

Annex-1 : List of participants

Wasi	CARE India (Chair- IAC)
Ajil Abdulla	IAG Kozhikode , Kerala
Benny Edayath	IAG Wayanad, Kerala
Birabrata Das	IAG West Bengal
Aloke Gosh	IAG West Bengal
Jagriti	ACTED India
Blesson Samuel	World Vision India
Harshan K.Y.	EFICOR
Abhilash K	Plan India (IAG AP and IAG Telengana)
Mahesh Kamble	IAG Maharashtra
Mona	CARE India
Debojyoti	IAG West Bengal
Paul Thomas	IAG Ernakulam, Kerala
Prabir Chatterjee	Chhattisgarh IAG
Priyanka Parmer	Islamic Relief India
Rajan Bhattacharjee	PHAI (CA)
Sanjay Pandey	Bihar IAG
Vijeesh P	KSDMA – Sphere India
Vijayalakshmi Arora	CRS
Jittu Thomas	Kerala
Andrio Naskar	Oxfam India
B. Lalchhanzova	Mizoram
Meghna Goyal	Save the Children India
Milian Manday	IGSSS
Bharath Govind G S	IAG, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Eilia Jafar	Sphere India
Vikrant Mahajan	Sphere India
Saikhom Kennedy	Sphere India