



World Vision
India

NGOs and Covid response

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Context

- Prime Minister announced the nationwide lockdown on March 24th for 21 days, affecting the entire 1.3 billion population of India.
- PM set up 11 empowered committees task force to handle covid-19. NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant-led the empowered committee for private sector, NGOs and international organisations.
- PM and cabinet ministers call for support to NGOs which was also visible through government circulars from NDMA, Niti Aayog, MHA, MOFHW
- Amitabh Kant, CEO of NITI Aayog, sent out a circular requesting FCRA NGOs to “aid and supplement the efforts of the State and local administration”
- India had 3.17 million registered nonprofits in 2011 according to a report by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI). Survey says around 80% NGOs responded to the pandemic.
- Beginning 1 June the Government has started unlocking the country. As on date there are over 5,30,000 confirmed cases, 16,123 deaths
- 40 million migrant workers out of work and without a means to livelihood, a large labor force in the informal sector survives on daily wages.



NGOs response towards covid-19

- NGOs stepped up efforts and were able to organize quickly and work with local governments to respond to the disease & the consequent socio-economic impact .
- Many organizations have reprogrammed & repurposed their human and financial resources for the emergency response work and recovery
- Regular development programmes came to a halt due to critical needs that emerged from covid 19. Few programs planned previously became irrelevant
- NGOs complemented the efforts of government, unique efforts taken to address stigma and discrimination, provision of health care supplies, screening symptomatic
- NGOs prioritized initiatives for most vulnerable populations especially migrant informal workers without any social security cover or access to covid entitlements.
- Promoting preventive measures, Health systems strengthening and restoration of livelihoods top priority for next 12 months
- NGOs adapted the situation by creating virtual platforms for providing care, awareness, education & other innovative mechanisms. Honourable SC, Niti Aayog, Government departments praised the work of NGOs



Challenges for NGOs and Covid -19

- Challenges in continuation of planned regular programming in the context of covid -19
- Significant fall in incomes of NGOs due to cuts in funding from donors, individuals and corporates vis-a vis huge need & pressure from communities
- Restricted funding to NGOs as (CSR) funds channelized to PM CARES fund for covid response (CSR funds expected to drop 30% to 60%)
- Large cut in poverty alleviation programmes (30% to 50%), staff, & volunteers
- New CSR Laws proposed which will make it difficult for NGOs to access funds from Corporates...
- NGOs played critical roles in early stages of COVID-19 response, challenge to sustain strategic engagement for coproducing with communities for early livelihood recovery.
- Under-representation of NGOs in media & negative publicity during pre-covid times



Way forward

- Government should create a conducive environment for NGOs by provision of incentives, tax-cuts and supportive regulatory laws
- Strategic collaboration & lobbying with government key for strengthening NGO governance mechanisms.
- NGOs should formulate actionable, feasible, contingency plans
- Level of need Versus gap is only increasing with multiple disasters- Creation of new models with greater impact key including technology solutions is key for multi-hazard response
- Build Internal capacities: Varied systems, skills, expertise is needed in post covid scenario
- New opportunities for fund raising especially with focus on individual donations to humanitarian response
- Leverage strengths of small grass-root based organizations to monitor and support government covid entitlements and highlight gaps through evidence based advocacy.



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