



Minutes of Meeting of Chhattisgarh IAG

5th of May, 2020 at 11 am

(Zoom meeting call)

A. Background

The meeting was called to discuss the preparedness and response to COVID-19 by the member organizations of IAG Chhattisgarh on the 5th of May 2020 via Zoom. The agenda of the meeting was as follows:

1. Updates from IAG members on COVID 19 response and preparedness
 - Mapping of all organization responding to COVID 19 in respective state districts and village level.
2. Discussion on planning for COVID 19 Academy training for volunteers and CBOs - state specific.
 - list of IAG members designated as focal points for each district; Nominated list of trainers from each state
3. Key issues and way forward

B. Key discussions:

- It was shared that the upcoming heat-wave will exacerbate challenges currently faced in COVID-response, and further render the vulnerable population more vulnerable.
- It was noted with concern that GO-CSO coordination is weak at the State-level and with the SDMA, and CSOs have addressed a letter to the CMO to request for a state-level coordination mechanism. Ms. Neerja was requested by members to advocate for a better coordination mechanism at the State-level.
- Members shared that there is lack of data available regarding vulnerable population, as well as discrepancy in the data being shared currently, especially in terms of migrant workers. Therefore it was urged that this occasion of repatriation of migrant workers be leveraged to collect data at the district and panchayat level.
- Members shared that implementing of UNICEF's model of pre-birth waiting rooms has shown to be effective in ensuring institutional child-birth during lockdown period.
- Migrant workers are reportedly facing issues in reaching district headquarters to board buses for their native villages due to communication gap between transporting authorities and police department.
- It was noted that while there are pockets which haven't been able to receive food over the past 15-20 days, some relief camps have been set up within the aspirational districts and process is ongoing to identify families left out of PDS-schemes. Similarly, it was noted that while prices for dry ration has gone up, the market price for perishable items has drastically fallen and thereby affecting marginal farmers. Therefore, the need for unconditional cash support has been increasingly felt.
- Migrant workers and families are increasingly facing stigma and discrimination on returning to their villages, and government needs to enhance their measures to dissipate the tension. Therefore, while the practise is not currently followed in Chhattisgarh, members have emphasized that the government shouldn't publicize the names of COVID patients, as it further leads to stigma and discrimination as has been reported in other states. Members highlighted the need to develop messaging directed at PRI-representatives, including in local languages, so as to address stigma and discrimination.
- In terms of gaps in the state-sponsored transportation, it was noted that the service is only offered to occupants of relief shelters, and the same services aren't made for other stranded people, notably the transgender community, and therefore this gap needs to be addressed at the earliest.
- Members highlighted the importance of ensuring local availability and procurement of food items when developing food baskets, and given malnutrition levels in Chhattisgarh, urged that food basket also focus specifically on nutrition, and include micro-nutrient and nutrition supplements; it was also asked to think about how the funds received through the Aspirational Districts Programme be better utilized for improving food and nutrition security.
- Members urged to increase the number of COVID-19 Academy sessions in Hindi, while also gradually increasing the number of courses in languages local to Chhattisgarh.
- Members have urged to increase the membership of Chhattisgarh IAG, while specifically focusing on districts which are not represented by the current members of the IAG.



C. Key decisions and suggestions:

- UNICEF to disseminate the rapid needs assessment report undertaken in Chhattisgarh along with partners from SHRC, WVI, Oxfam and other local partners (Action Point Completed), the guidelines for relief camps for migrant workers, humanitarian cores document.
- Members are urged to share contact details of faith leaders active in Chhattisgarh level so as to facilitate state-level activities through the Sphere India Interfaith Humanitarian Alliance.
- Members have agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss and develop state/region-level food basket – preferably in presence of WFP, WHH and CFNS presence, and were urged to undertake district-wise rapid assessment to understand locally available and preferred food and nutrition items, so as to share the information during the meeting.
- Mr. Devidas to share more information on the district-wise food baskets already in place.
- Organizations to nominate district-level focal points so as to identify PRI-representatives; Sphere India in collaboration with Chhattisgarh IAG to develop and facilitate COVID-19 Academy session specifically directed at training PRI-representatives, NSS volunteers in Chhattisgarh, possibly with representatives from State-level government.

List of participants

Participation in Chhattisgarh in IAG Meeting		
Sr. No.	Attendee	Organization
1.	Dr. Prabir Chatterjee	SHRC
2.	Neeraja	Planning Commission, Aspirational Districts
3.	Vishal	UNICEF India
4.	Bal Paritosh	UNICEF India
5.	Namita	UNDP
6.	Devidas	Samarthan
7.	Anand Shukla	Oxfam India
8.	Punita	SHRC
9.	Paritosh	Sphere India