Deadly Coronavirus thrashes India

PROJECT SUMMARY

The newly discovered infectious disease COVID 19 originated in the Chinese city of Wuhan in Hubei province, on December 31st, 2019. It has now reached 85 countries and territories, in the process, it has infected more than 800,000 people. On March 11th, the World Health Organization (WHO) upgraded the status of COVID-19 outbreak from an epidemic to a pandemic. The deadly virus has killed more than 38,749 people globally and United States remains the worst-hit country in the world with more than 164,359 cases.

India has 1251 cases of the virus so far and the death toll has surged to 32. Deaths have been recorded from various parts of the country including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi, Punjab, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Not just the illness and deaths, the virus has also led to a nationwide lockdown and has become the biggest threat to India's economy and its financial market. It has extensively affected the marginalized communities due to the loss of livelihood and the lack of food, shelter, health supplies, and other basic needs. At this point, Adequate awareness, better medical facilities and supply of medical equipment and essential goods have evolved to be the best courses of action to protect the health and well-being of the population.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

The Indian Government is facing an extraordinary challenge to protect over a billion people, densely packed- particularly in states like Maharashtra, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Delhi. The lockdown has put thousands of people out of work, the community of migrant workers have been the worst-hit as they remain stranded due to the local and domestic transport services like buses and railways being disrupted. Many of these workers are prone to high rates of hunger and starvation because they have no means to earn their daily wages, as the national economic activity has been stagnant. Additionally, the supply of essential goods has dwindled down because the state borders have been closed. It has led to inflation; fear of shortages and thousands of homeless people are in need of protection. Construction projects, taxi services, housekeeping and other informal sector employment have come to a sudden halt. Thousands of workers are in a state of starvation and have been cornered into living in cramped conditions without regular access to clean water, food and basic sanitation. There are major concerns over the country's overstretched health infrastructure as the country's testing capacity is limited to a handful of labs, hence seriously challenging the process of virus detection. Additionally, it is a fact that India lacks the manpower (considering the sheer inadequacy in the number of doctors) and the lack of sound hospital infrastructure also poses serious threat when it comes to the curative part of this pandemic.

HOW WILL THIS PROJECT SOLVE THE PROBLEM?

We aspire to provide temporary shelters, free food, low cost masks, sanitisers and cash transfers to the poor and vulnerable populations, and health insurance for healthcare workers during the crises. Necessary steps will be taken to ensure that everyone has access to food and medical care, and that the poor and marginalized are not mistreated.

Apart from this, we propose to provide cost-effective thermal scanning devices, technologies for sanitization of large areas like electrostatic spray as well as AI based solutions for contactless entry, rapid diagnostic kits and portable oxygenators to monitor and control the spread of the new coronavirus.

POTENTIAL LONG-TERM IMPACT

The support provided to affected people will encourage them to regain their normal lives. Health check-ups will be conducted on a timely basis to ensure good health of people. Better accommodation facilities for people will be explored and necessary equipment like face mask and sanitisers will be distributed periodically.







