#

# Save The Children India

# Responding to Covid19 health emergency

**About Save The Children India**

Save The Children India is a non-profit organisation that envisions India as a Child-Friendly Nation. It is committed to preventing exploitation and all other forms of discrimination of vulnerable women and children, and empowering them to lead a life of dignity, self-respect, and independence.

There are three core verticals in the organisation - disability, education and anti-trafficking. The disability programme includes a school for the hearing impaired and a school for the mentally disabled as well as an early intervention for those with hearing impairment, called Dhvani.

The education programme includes work on Early Childhood Education through a Balwadi programme and improved learning for children in Primary School through remedial programmes.

The Anti Trafficking vertical works on Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Policy. In urban pockets the Prevention programme includes skilling as a strategy and in rural pockets; the focus is on a Safe Village campaign that involves multiple stakeholders.

Save The Children India is responding to the current crises of Spread Novel Corona Virus. We are reaching out to urban poor families who are largely daily wage earners and are hit unexpectedly with the crises. Loss of daily wages have put them to a greater risk of poverty, hunger and health crises. The organisation also developed strategy to continue provide support to the Families of children with special needs, women and children who are orphans, vulnerable, victims of violence and staying in Institutions. We are committed to continue provide them with uninterrupted services.

**Our Interventions in Response to Covid19**

In this testing time, we are committed not to leave anyone behind and help most vulnerable communities stay afloat, prevent & manage the spread of novel coronavirus. Save The Children India is intervening in its individual capacity as well as partnering with consortium formed along with other social organisation like ours to have collective response to the current health emergency in Maharashtra. To fight against Coronavirus spread in India, Save The Children India is appealing to donate money which will be used to provide groceries and grain of daily needs, hygiene supplies and financial assistance for health and other critical needs to the communities Save The Children India operates in.

The Interventions are as below:

1. **Essential supply of grains and groceries**

Save The Children India operates in several parts of Maharashtra and provides educational interventions with children from marginalised communities attending schools run by Municipal corporations. The organisation plans to provide essential supply of grains and groceries for next few months as we anticipate that the current crises will increase unemployment and the families would needs support for next few months until they find new job or alternate source of income.

1. **Need based Medical supplies.**

Save The Children India is intending to provide support for essential medical supplies like , masks, Sanitisers, soaps, sanitary napkins and other hygiene products. Going forward it would also require more sanitising material to clean community and common places like schools. Save The Children India is currently engaging stakeholders to ensure that the children with special needs especially those with hearing impairment and cochlear implanted have steady supply of battering for the hearing aids and spare part replacement. Save The Children India is cognisant of the fact that if children are not able to avail this in tine then it will have a regressing impact on the speaking abilities of the children.

1. **Direct cash Transfers**

Save The Children India plans to reach out to over 250 families of children with special needs who stay in acute poverty and their parents are labours and daily wage earners. It plans to provide them with immediate relief with direct cash transfers that would replace the wage lost and help them to have needs met.

Save The Children India is conscious of the needs of its direct beneficiaries i.e. women and children victims of sexual violence and children with special needs from marginalized community. Save The Children India is planning to provide direct cash to its women beneficiaries (rehabilitated victims of Sex Trafficking) of its livelihood programm who has started jobs or had initiated enterprise to break the cycle of poverty. This current crises has resulted in a loss of regular income and has increased their vulnerability many folds.

1. **Long term Interventions through Behavioural change communication:**

The current crises have made it evident that the global community including those have been considered advanced are not prepared to handle health epidemics. Save The Children India plans to crease series of awareness toolkits that can help children and communities differentiate between various infections and its spreads. The behavioural scientists will be involved to develop methods of data delivery and sessions will be conducted with children and youth adopting behavioural change communication methods to be able to adopts hygiene practises in their daily lives and be better resilient to such emergencies in future.