

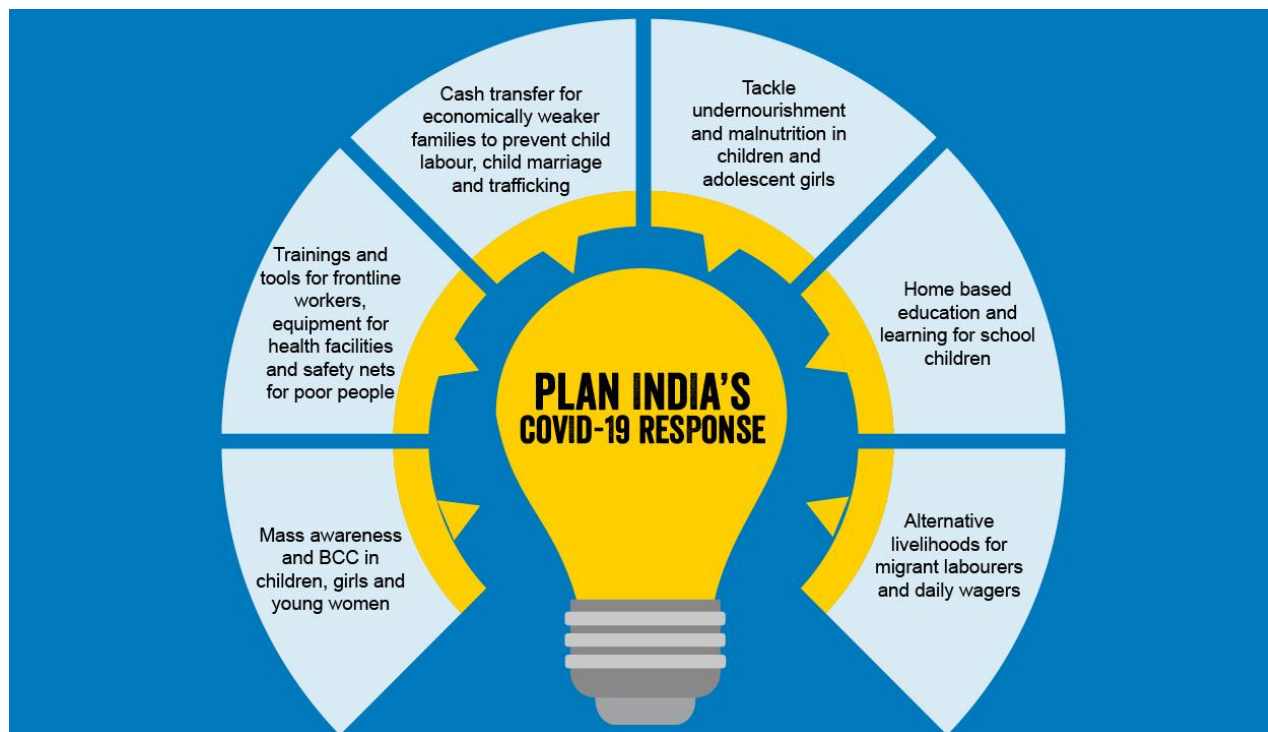
PLAN INDIA IN ACTION ON COVID-19

Hundreds of thousands of people, particularly children, girls and young women, are facing untold hardships because of the crisis and the numbers are likely to grow. Plan India stands firm on its resolve to deliver on its purpose and mission, and to realise the humanitarian imperative. It will work in close coordination with the larger efforts of the government, other civil society organisations, corporates, donors, and the Global Federation of Plan International.

The goal is to **provide gender sensitive public health and humanitarian assistance** to the **most vulnerable families** so that the impact of the crises on **children, girls and young women** is minimized and mitigated. In a health emergency, the normal modes of working are disrupted, hence Plan India and its NGO partners will devise new and innovative ways of maintaining connect and outreach to the affected families, children and young people.

While the COVID-19 crises is evolving, Plan India's rapid needs assessment puts the focus of its public health and humanitarian response on the following objectives:

1. To support frontline health workers with tools, knowledge and trainings they need to continue to serve the communities and its people to overcome the effects of COVID-19.
2. To promote mass awareness on COVID-19 and its prevention strategies using online information sharing and behavior change communications tools and platforms.
3. To strengthen community support systems that enable poor families to access the government safety nets and manage the socio-economic disruptions by the crises.
4. To strengthen the government's public health infrastructure thus enhancing its ability to deliver quality healthcare services to poor and vulnerable families residing in resource-poor and hard to reach locations.
5. To overcome the under-nourishment in children, adolescents and pregnant/lactating mothers due to the disruptions in mid-day meals and take home rations (THR) by supporting poor families with micronutrient rich and energy dense food packs.
6. To influence the education system and support school management committees (SMC) of government schools with technical assistance to start home-based learning for children.
7. To support migrant families, daily wage earners and agricultural labourers with alternate livelihoods and income generation schemes and prevent them from falling into destitution.
8. To support economically weaker families to come out of debts incurred during the lockdown period through unconditional cash transfers thus preventing them from resorting to coping strategies of child labour, child trafficking and child marriage.



IMPLEMENTATION IN PHASES

Plan India's Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 crises is proposed in two phases:

- Phase I:** During the period of government imposed lockdown, which restricts staff movement, prevents any community/field activities by Plan India and its partners and closure of office. As per the extant notification, these restrictions apply till 14th April, 2020.
- Phase II:** After the lockdown restrictions are removed by the government and when Plan India staff and its partners are allowed free movement in the communities and offices reopen.

The COVID-19 emergency necessitates humanitarian response at three levels –

- Mitigate the Public Health challenges** through:
 - Mass awareness and sensitisation in children, adolescents, young people to prevent them from acquiring the coronavirus infection – develop audio and video by youth and children to promote mass awareness and behaviour change actions.
 - Provide health workers with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits to protect them from the virus and enable them to continue with health service delivery.
 - Support healthcare facilities with the equipment and medicines they need to deliver healthcare services to coronavirus positive patients.
 - Explore providing rapid testing kits to public and private facilities to support early screening and testing of suspected coronavirus cases.
- Mitigate the basic needs of poor and destitute** through:

- a. Nutrition support to children, girls and young women in daily wage earner families and destitute families, particularly during the lockdown period.
- b. Shelter, nutrition and basic needs of migrant labour families who have lost their jobs due to the lockdown and had to return to their home villages.
- c. Support children to continue with their education and learning during the period of lockdown and till such time school reopens through digital learning tools.

3. Mitigating the medium and long-term social and economic impacts through:

- a. Prevent gender based violence at home and in public spaces due to the disruption of protective mechanisms and safety nets.
- b. Prevent child malnutrition and under-nutrition in adolescent girls and pregnant/lactating mothers resulting from the disruptions in food and nutrition schemes for poor and marginalised families.
- c. Prevent child labour, child marriage and trafficking in children and girls in Plan India communities and beyond.
- d. Support to rural and urban poor families with alternative livelihoods to cope with the economic distress caused due to COVID- 19 crises.

Goal: To provide gender sensitive public health and humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable families so that the impact of the crises on children, girls and young women is minimised and mitigated.

THEMATIC PRIORITIES



Health and Hygiene

Public Health Priorities

- Awareness and sensitisation
- PPE for frontline workers
- Infrastructure for public health facilities
- Rapid testing kits (international sourcing)



Nutrition and Education

Basic Needs of Poor People

- Nutrition support for migrant families
- Cash support for child sponsorship and most vulnerable families
- Digital learning for children in govt. schools
- Livelihoods and skill development for young women from poor families



Child Protection



Economic Empowerment

Social and Economic Impacts

- Prevention of child malnutrition
- Prevention of child marriage and gender based violence
- Prevention of child labour
- Prevention of child trafficking