

COVID-19 Response- Prayas

Presently, run by 800+ professionals, Prayas directly serves day to day nearly 40,000 beneficiaries, carrying out intensive care outreach programs for the children, youth and women through community based centres in 9 states/ UTs across the nation with direct intervention for the children, youth and women in the need of care and protection through Community Skilling Centres, 38 Shelters, Homes, Helplines for children/women, Crisis Intervention Centres etc. During the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, Prayas, with its active team of about 400 employees directly deployed on the field, is serving about 10,000 individuals everyday which include children, homeless, daily wage labourers, migrant workers, people stranded in Delhi due to lockdown, etc.

While on one hand, the outbreak of COVID-19 has put the entire population at a major health risk, the marginalised sections of our population, i.e. homeless, daily wage workers, migrant workers, children etc. face a grim reality of losing their livelihoods as well as the continuous struggle for survival. In these extremely critical times, Prayas teams are actively rendering direct services to the most deserving and needy from the remote Islands of Andamans to Lohit and Namsai districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Emergency Services Currently Operational

Delhi

- **Providing food at Shelter Homes:**

Prayas is currently running 18 Shelters in Delhi, including 4 Open Shelters for Children, where it is providing food to about 3000-5000 children, homeless/daily wage workers every day and we served more than 61000 people till today. The beneficiaries also include hundreds of migrants and people stranded in Delhi due to the on-going nationwide lock down.



- **Supporting Vulnerable Communities:**

Prayas is constantly responding to needs of vulnerable communities in Delhi, mostly comprising daily wage labourers and migrant workers who have been rendered



jobless. The teams are currently supplying rations to communities in Sangam Vihar, Tigri, Anand Parbat, Bawana, Jahangirpuri, Badli, Govindpuri, Kalkaji, Kirti Nagar, Navjeevan Camp, Bengali Camp etc. and making them aware about the necessary precautions to be taken while maintaining norms related to social distancing.



- **Child Protection Services:**

Through its 02 Children Homes in Jahangirpuri and Tughlakabad and an Observation Home in Delhi Gate, Prayas is ensuring care and protection of children residing in these CCIs. The CCIs are complying with the recent directions by Supreme Court relating to promoting positive hygiene behaviours, using hand sanitizers, practising social distancing, disinfecting CCIs regularly, etc.



Prayas operates 03 Childline (1098 helpline) in Delhi through its Centres at New Delhi Railway Station, Children's Home Janhagirpuri and Pootkhurd. The helpline services are functional and the Childline Team is ready to respond to any emergency.

- **Prayas Health Services:**

A team of dedicated doctors is conducting regular health check-ups at all Child Care Institutions and Shelters in Delhi. The PHS Centre at Kirti Nagar is functional and responding to emergent needs of the community.

- **Prayas Jan Sikshan Sansthan:**

Trainers at Jan Sikshan Sansthan, Wazirpur, are involved in production of masks for distribution in the communities.



Bihar

- **Child Protection Services:**

Three Children Homes in Samastipur, Purnea and Bettiah are ensuring care and protection of resident children.

Childline (1098) services are operational in Samastipur and Raxaul to respond to any emergency.

- **NRC-Supaul:**

The Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) at Supaul is taking care of SAM children as well as assisting the health workers in the hospital towards tackling the COVID-19 disaster.

Arunachal Pradesh

- **Prayas Health Services:**

Through its Community Health Centre at Wakro, One PHC Centre in Medho, three sub centres and two quarantine centres at Parshuram Kund and Medho in Lohit district, Prayas has quickly developed its capacity to deal with any cases of coronavirus or any other emergency.



The Centres are well equipped to provide referral services for

symptomatic cases of COVID-19. The quarantine centres developed have a capacity to house 200 patients at a time.

The team is currently conducting door to door awareness and clinical testing programs in the communities at Wakro, Tillai, Medho, Kathan, Manthi and Karhe.



Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- **Child Protection Services:**

Childline (1098) services are functional in Andaman to respond to any emergency.

- **Assistance to Police Personnel:**

Prayas is assisting police officials in South Andaman District by providing them masks which were locally manufactured by Prayas team.



Policy Response: Engagement with NITI Aayog

Govt of India created a High -level Committee for Engagement of Private Sector, International Organisations, CSOs/ NGOs and other Development Partners, under the Chairmanship of Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog to review and strategize the engagement and contribution to mitigate the COVID19 outbreak in India. Prayas participated in the First Meeting of the \ Committee to interact with the Private Sector, Development Partners and International Organisations through Video Conferencing on March 30 2020, as Member Coordinator, NITI-CSO Standing Committee, NITI Aayog. The following points suggested by Mr Amod K Kanth, GS, Prayas were adopted by NITI Aayog:



- Issuing suitable directions to States and District Magistrates to partner with Civil Society Organisations and make use of their services.
- Issuing curfew passes to volunteers and frontline workers of NGOs/ CSOs to work with community and institutions
- The local administration can take steps to ensure that distribution of food supplies and other emergency provisions are streamlined and overlaps do not happen.

CEO, NITI Aayog requested the CSOs and development partners to work on the following interventions:

- To create awareness about prevention, hygiene, social distancing, isolation, and combating stigma.
- To supplement the government efforts to provide shelter to homeless, daily wage workers, and urban poor families.
- To extend support for distribution of PPE and protective provisions – sanitizers, soaps, masks, gloves etc. for community workers and volunteers.
- To assist the government in identifying hotspots and deputing volunteers and care givers to deliver services to the elderly, persons with disabilities, children, transgender persons, and other vulnerable groups
- CEO also stated that CSO's working in a district should collaborate so that there is no duplication of work and NGO's themselves could appoint one NGO as a nodal NGO to coordinate with the District Administration
