

SRSP's Humanitarian Response COVID-19

3rd April 2020

To assist government efforts and encounter the outbreak of COVID-19 in KP, SRSP has activated its Humanitarian wing. This is being done with minimum staff and resources at present. Based on our previous experiences and available expertise, SRSP has mobilized its existing pool of staff, emphasized coordination with relevant departments, and started preliminary need assessment and strategy development for effective and efficient response in coordination with KP health department.

Partnerships and Resources Mobilization: As part of its contingency planning and preparedness, SRSP had signed Contingency agreement/PCA with UNICEF in WASH in 2018 effective for 5 years to respond any unforeseen emergency situation on humanitarian basis, which has now activated for 7 high risk districts. Similar discussions are underway with different partners. Apart from external resource mobilization, SRSP has also mobilized its own resources to fund immediate response to the basic preventive needs at present.

Coordination Mechanism with Government: Regular meetings are being held with Health Department KP for prioritization of districts, needs and ease in implementation. In this regard, Directorate of General Health Services has already issued a letter to district health offices to support SRSP responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. Further, regular coordination with PDMA is also being held for the NOCs and facilitate the access to the targeted sites.

SRSP is currently working on Preventive Response Strategy emphasizing awareness among mass communities. **Communication Strategy** has been developed specifically for COVID-19 response with targeted outreach of over 100,000 people through SMS, visuals, radio messages, verbal communication, Large banners display, mosque speakers etc. SRSP is already in touch with Local Support Organizations and Community Organizations and is planning to mobilize its existing local social capital; LSO, VOs and COs for information dissemination and creating awareness in their concern communities in KP including Merged Districts. Further under **"Do No Harm Approach"** SRSP avoids pamphlets, brochures since soft awareness messages are emphasized. Key messages are being delivered in soft and verbal communication keeping in view safety protocols in mind and avoid gatherings and exchange of awareness materials in hard.

Our Response: In response to the wake up of COVID-19 outbreak, SRSP is mobilizing funds and discussion with different donor agencies are being held as per needs coming from KP government and health units through directorate of health. However, some fund has already been committed and response has been commenced in well-coordinated manner.

1. UNICEF WASH Contingency: SRSP in partnership with UNICEF is undertaking WASH related interventions to facilitate 20 specified COVID-19 Isolation centers and High Dependency Units (HDUs) in 7 prioritized districts identified in consultation with health department and UNICEF which includes Peshawar, Mardan, DIKhan, Mansehra, Buner, Karak and Kurram. Three districts including Peshawar, Kurram and Mardan are prioritized for the immediate support needed in health isolation units/hospitals. So far, we have **assessed 4 hospitals** in Peshawar; KTH, LRH, HMC and Police Service Hospital Peshawar and safety gears handed over including 1,000 face masks, 864 soaps, 20 cleaning kits and gloves, 160 chlorine bottles for disinfection, 20 pairs of long shoe covers and goggles, 24 bottles of toilet cleaners, and COVID-19 Awareness Raising Banners. Further; the following activities were also undertaken;

- Fumigation spray in Services Hospital
- Toilet cleaning in all the four hospitals
- Latrine repairs initiated in Services Hospital
- Installation of Handwashing Stations initiated

2. Partnership with UNDP: SRSP in partnership with UNDP has launched awareness campaigns in the 3 newly merged districts; Kurram, North Waziristan & South Waziristan. Banners comprised of preventive techniques developed. SRSP is also facilitating district administration & district health offices in displaying those banners at public places. So far **162 large size banners** have been developed, delivered and displaced in the 3 districts with district administration. The activity is expected to reach more than **16,200 families**.

3. Partnership with RSPN: SRSP is implementing a health focused project IHSS (USAID funding through JSI and RSPN) in 4 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Swat, Mohmand, Charsadda & Lakki Marwat. SRSP will be engaging the organized social capital in creating awareness on COVID-19 along with routine resumption of activities for health awareness and distribution of soaps amongst communities. SRSP is consulting the District Health Offices in project target districts to ascertain their feedback on initiating project activities.

4. Partnership with EU and German Government through KfW: In five Merged Districts, SRSP is implementing the EU funded Aid to Uprooted People in Pakistan and the German Government funded Reintegration and Rehabilitation of TDPs in MDs. Both initiatives are financed through KfW. SRSP has organized significant social capital in the districts under the two projects. SRSP is considering a wider information dissemination initiative on COVID-19 preventive measures and importance of social distancing for communities including religious and local leaders, youth etc., utilizing social capital organized under the two projects. So far, total **need-based social mobilization sessions** have been

Quick Overview of Progress

- Total 162 Banners distributed and placed at public sites reaching over 16,000 families in awareness.
- 4 major Hospitals in Peshawar with COVID-19 isolation wards were assessed for WASH needs and hygiene kits distributed.
- 3 awareness session conducted with total 130 participants, attended by AC Khyber as well.
- Meetings with District Administration of 7 Merged Districts (MDs) took place for needs assessment in hospitals/BHUs with COVID-19 isolation units.

conducted in Khyber; Landi Kotal, Jamrud and Bara. More than **130 community elders, youth and stakeholders** from government departments attended these sessions keeping safety measures and protocols in place. Assistant Commissioner also attended the session and delivered the messages.

- 5. Support from SRSP:** SRSP has also stepped forward to support the cause through its own resources. We are maintaining a close coordination with District Administrations and KP health department in 7 Merged Districts to identify pressing needs. There is high demand for PPEs include surgical Gloves, medial/N95 masks, Hand Sanitizers, Disinfection spray, Dettol, Anti-viral suits, Soaps etc.



