

# SRSP's Humanitarian Response COVID-19

4<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) is a non-government and not-for-profit organization that was set-up in 1989 to replicate the Rural Support Programme approach from north in the northwestern areas of Pakistan. We deliver development and humanitarian aid across the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province including the Merged Districts. Our humanitarian programme was initiated to support the government in rebuilding earthquake affected districts after the 2005 Earthquake. The programme then continued to play an important role in the 2010 floods and the TDP crisis.

In the current COVID-19 Crisis, SRSP has activated its humanitarian efforts. The efforts are slowly taking a momentum. While, our previous experience of responding to humanitarian initiatives has helped us organize the current response, we remain mindful that the nature of this crisis is very different and requires special attention and care to ensure minimum risk for those involved and those targeted as beneficiaries of the interventions.

**A brief on our humanitarian response in the fight against COVID-19 to support the Government of Pakistan is presented below;**

## 1) Coordination Mechanism with Government

SRSP maintain regular coordination with the Department of Health, KP for prioritization of districts, needs and identifying quick solutions. 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.

## 2) Partnerships and Resources Mobilization

### 2.1 Emergency Response to COVID-19 in partnership with UNICEF

SRSP and UNICEF have activated their Contingency Agreement to respond to the current crisis in 7 priority districts of the government. These include Peshawar, Mardan, DIKhan, Mansehra, Buner, Karak and Kurram where the project will focus on WASH related interventions in 20 specified COVID-19 Isolation centers and High Dependency Units (HDUs). Three districts including Peshawar, Kurram and Mardan are prioritized for the immediate support needed in health isolation units/hospitals. So far, we have;

#### Quick Overview of Progress

- Total 162 Banners distributed and placed at public sites reaching over 16,000 families in awareness.
- 6 major Hospitals in Peshawar with COVID-19 isolation wards were assessed for WASH needs and hygiene kits distributed.
- Total 1,720 people got awareness on protection measures from COVID-19 in hospitals
- 5 awareness session conducted with total 202 participants in Khyber and North Waziristan
- 2,572 CRPs and community members were reached in COVID-19 awareness and protection measures in 4 districts under RSPN-IHSS project.

- 1) Assessed needs of 06 Hospitals, that is, KTH, LRH, HMC and Police Service Hospital in District Peshawar and 02 in District Kurram
- 2) Other details include;

1	# of Hospitals Reached	6
2	# of Total Beneficiaries Reached/Facilitated in WASH	2,535
3	# of Standees Displayed	8
4	# of Banners Displayed	4
5	# of Individuals go awareness in hospitals	1,720
7	# of Soaps Distributed	1,304
8	# of Individuals facilitated for Handwashing with Soap	545
9	# of Individuals provided access to Clean Latrines	245
10	Disinfectant Liquid provided (liters)	120
11	# of PPE Kits provided for Janitorial Staff	20

## 2.2 Partnership with UNDP

SRSP in partnership with UNDP has launched awareness campaigns in the 3 Merged Districts; Kurram, North Waziristan & South Waziristan. So far **162 large size banners** have been developed, delivered and displaced in the 3 districts in collaboration with the respective district administrations. The activity is expected to reach more than **16,200 families**.

## 2.3 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 has started engaging the organized social capital in routine activities under the project. However, the organized social capital is facilitating awareness raising on COVID-19. Over 2,000 Community Resource Persons (CRPs) were trained under the project. They have been given voice messages on preventive measures and social distancing. The CRPs are promoting awareness in their communities, along with their routine activities pertaining to basic health and hygiene and MNCH awareness raising. So far 2,572 CRPs and community members have been reached out with information on COVID-19 awareness and protection measures.

## 2.4 SRSP's COVID-19 Response in Merged Districts

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 **5 awareness sessions** have been conducted in Khyber and North Waziristan; whereas more than **204 community elders, youth and stakeholders** from government departments attended these sessions keeping safety measures and protocols in place. A total of 31 such sessions are planned to reach over 1,200 individuals.

## 2.5 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.



