

Care implications of COVID-19 on street- connected children

7th July, 2020



Welcome

- This webinar is being recorded and the recording will be made available publicly.
- Please feel free to introduce yourself in the chat.
- You can ask questions using the Q & A at any time and also upvote and comment on the questions of other attendees.
- We will be using polls at several times during the webinar. Please respond while the webinar is in progress.
- Those accessing the webinar from their internet browser will not be able to see polls but are encouraged to respond in the chat.



Program

- Introduction of speakers
- Brief presentations from panelists
- Moderated panel discussion
- Questions from attendees submitted via Q & A

Speakers

Facilitator

- **Jessica Clark**,
Senior Network and
Campaigns Officer,
CSC

Moderator

- **Lizet Vlamings**,
Head of Advocacy
and Research, CSC

Panelists

- **Vaibhav Sharma**, Director of Safe
Society India
- **Isabel Crowley**, CEO of
Juconi Mexico
- **Shermin Moledina**, Practice
Development & Training Adviser,
Railway Children Africa, Tanzania





SAFE SOCIETY 

CARE IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 ON STREET CONNECTED CHILDREN

SAFE SOCIETY, INDIA

Safe Society works in the eastern area of Uttar Pradesh in India, focusing on improving the socio-economic standards of the most underprivileged communities, with a particular focus on street children.

STATUS OF STREET CONNECTED CHILDREN DURING COVID-19

Children Faced A lot of Problems during this COVID pandemic

- No income because of Lockdown
- Because of daily wage they faced a lot of problems in getting Food
- Closure of All Public places caused a lot of problems of Safe Spaces
- Children faced a lot of Police brutality because they are just walking here and there in the lack of specific place for stay during this Lockdown
- No access of Toilet soaps and Sanitizer to ensure safety of themselves
- No cash for their daily needs
- No any Medical facility available for any emergency
- Because of scattered location to provide them relief was not an easy task
- No recharge in their phones so no source of Specific and true information as well the connectivity with each other
- Children who are in live-in Relationship with their partners are forced to come out from their landlord's house because of rent amount was not paid
- The Girls were forced to sexual compromise to get the food and shelter supports



Beaten by Police person while going to get the meal during this lockdown

ACTIONS TAKEN BY SAFE SOCIETY INDIA

POLICY LEVEL INTERVENTION

- Raised the issue in front of State Commission for Protection of Child Rights in Uttar-Pradesh, India by the written way
- Issue raised with State women and Child Welfare Department, Labor Department and UNICEF UP office
- Advocacy efforts done at grass roots level (district level) to provide food and shelter to these children
- Letter wrote to Honorable Prime Minister of India with highlighting the problems of Street Connected Children in India
- Collected Multi stakeholders at One Platform and discussed about the situation of these children to develop the probable action points over Zoom App
- Amplified the Children's Voice by themselves in front of Government responsible stakeholders over Zoom app
- Broadcasting of Various Awareness messages regarding COVID with our Community Radio Wing, children were the part of this activity

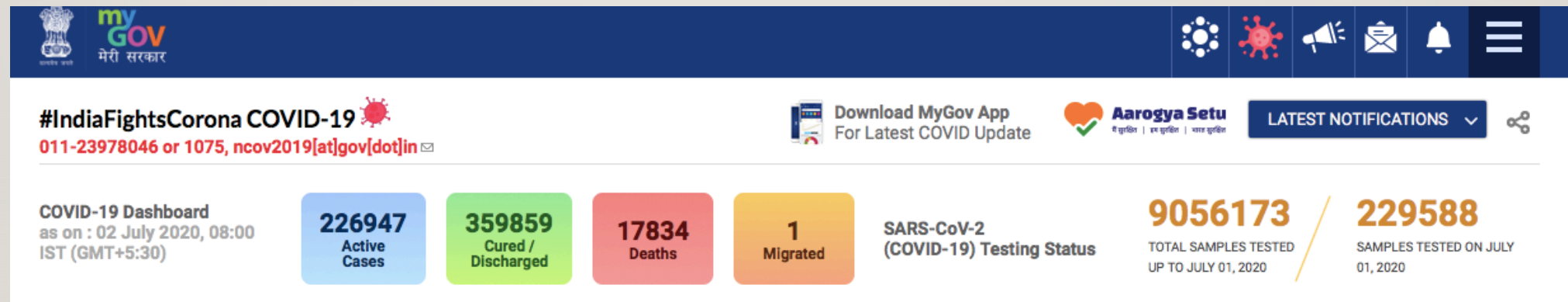
ACTIONS TAKEN

RELIEF ACTIONS

- Provided 15,000 packets of cooked meal to street connected children
- Provided 2 Month ration expenses to 500 Street connected families
- Emergency Cash Support provided
- Emergency Medical / medicine support provided
- Supporting to rebuilt their alternate livelihoods as per their agency
- Counselling support to street connected children
- Art Based Therapy to the Needy Children
- Convergence with Government schemes to get benefit
- Started a dedicated Radio Show with Street Connected Children to express their views and amplify it



NATIONAL STATUS OF COVID-19 CASES IN INDIA



Photos of Relief Action

Street Connected Families



PHOTOS OF ACTIONS





THANK YOU



CHALLENGES FACED BY STREET CHILDREN FACING THE COVID-19

Isabel María Crowley, CEO
July 7, 2020

STREET CHILDREN CONTEXT



SOME CAUSES

- ❖ Impossibility of accessing education
- ❖ Poverty
- ❖ Tradition
- ❖ Demand for child labor

CHARACTERISTICS

1. The majority are families with multiple problems and single parents where the mother is the head of the household.
2. Families with several children and in many cases from different parents.
3. They are dedicated to informal work as a strategy to support their family expenses.
4. Their homes are located in areas of the urban periphery and in many cases do not have basic services.
5. Parents with low level of education, dedicated to drug or alcohol consumption

CHALLENGES FOR CHILDREN DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC



- ❖ **Mexico population:** 127.09 Million
- ❖ **Accumulated confirmed cases:** 256,848
- ❖ **Accumulated Deaths:** 30,639

+++

- ❖ The lack of access to education is exacerbated
 - 44% of households have a computer (including students and teachers), of which 7% do not have internet because they cannot afford it
- ❖ Situations of domestic violence have increased due to confinement
- ❖ The protection of children and adolescents is delegated to sectors such as education, health, justice and the social sector

WHAT TO DO AS ORGANISATIONS?



1. Make changes in the way we work.
2. Finding families where they are.
3. Invest in supporting families so they can connect with their families elsewhere.
4. Support family health situations
5. It is essential that mothers and fathers have support structures to improve the quality of relationships between them and their daughters and sons, as a fundamental preventive measure.
6. What is done for children will be sustainable when the key adults in their lives are part of their positive present.
7. An eco-systemic approach is required:
 - Provide
 - Protect
 - Promote participation

JUCONI'S ACTIVITIES DURING COVID-19



- ❖ JUCONI is partially operating with of families and children of the Program and clients and allies of the Institute and Advocacy via telephone and/or online.
- ❖ Type of aid that was granted to families to face the contingency:
 - Therapeutic support sustained by phone
 - Food pantries
 - Recreational activities
 - School support activities
 - Reading books by phone
 - Video resources for families:



Care Implications of COVID-19 on Street Connected Children

Presentation for Better Care Network and
Consortium for Street Children Webinar

7 July 2020

Railway Children Africa

- Railway Children Africa (RCA) is a subsidiary of Railway Children UK
- Work in Tanzania & Kenya with children and youth living and working on the street
- Presentation sharing work in Tanzania

RCA Three-Step Agenda

1. Meeting the immediate needs of children and youth living and working on the streets
2. Challenging Community perceptions
3. Advocating with Government

Tanzania

- East Africa; Popn 59,734,218*
- 63% of population rural
- Median Age in Tanzania is 18 years
- Pre-COVID poverty rate declined but actual number of people in poverty high due to high population growth
- World bank's forecast economic growth slow sharply in 2020 to 2.5% from 6.9% in 2019

Tanzania and COVID-19

- 16th March 2020 – the first reported case was declared
- Schools shut 17th March 2020; people urged to avoid large gatherings
- 509 confirmed cases reported; 21 deaths
- Stopped receiving data 29th April 2020;
- Early June 2020, the President declared Tanzania is corona free

What did RCA do to respond?

- Street connected children and youth most marginalized;
Lack of access to services
- Vital to continue to provide services and protection during COVID-19
- Immediately advocated with Government for service provision to continue & other than drop-in centers closing in some cities, we were able to continue
- Coordination meetings

RCA's Response

- Risk assessments as part of safeguarding
- Guidelines developed for service delivery during COVID-19
- Staff provided with PPE
- Children and families provided with masks, soap and washing facilities
- Community champions helped to supply hygiene materials & referrals to children/youth

RCA's Response

- Adapted case management to providing telephone support & followed up families with reunified children – purchased phones for some families
- Spoke to children, not just caregivers
- Food support provided to families
- Home visits continued for most vulnerable – high risk

RCA's Response

- Advocated with Government for safe removal as we preempted round ups – managed to do this in 4 of the cities but 2 of the cities, Government went ahead with round ups – now in the process of reviewing this with Government to reflect on the outcome as most children that were forced by Government to go home, have returned.

RCA's Response

- Meetings with duty bearers have now paid off as there appears to be willingness to follow case management procedures to return children home where possible; however challenge remains to balance Government requirement to remove children quickly and the time it takes when follow processes that safeguard children


The situation now

- Service provision continues while taking precautions to minimize COVID transmission;
- Continue to advocate with Government so that if children are to be removed from streets – done safely
- Not graduating families for now even if they were ready pre-COVID –continue to support & monitor


Asante
Thank you




Panel Discussion




Question 1: How has quarantine / isolation impacted street-connected children? Are there examples of children being put into detention / quarantine centres and institutions? What is the situation like in those centres? Are drop-in centres becoming more permanent by default?



Question 2: Has the pandemic driven more children onto the streets and are these children coming from similar backgrounds and situations or are there differences between those children and those who were living/working on the streets pre-Covid-19? What are the key challenges these children face?



Question 3: How are NGOs approaching family reunification and follow-up work to ensure children are in a safe environment? Share practical examples of this.



Question 4: How are NGOs engaging with government and influencing them in addressing the needs of street-connected children? Share practical examples of this.



Q & A

Thank you for joining



We will be sending you a link to the webinar recording and slides in a follow-up email shortly. If you have questions, comments or recommendations for future webinar topics, please send them to:

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BCN: contact@bettercarenetwork.org