

Indo-German Programme On Universal Health Coverage (IGUHC) COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness

Combatting the COVID-19 Pandemic via the Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme



Leveraging IGUHC's network and expertise...

Since the beginning of 2020, healthcare systems worldwide have been struggling with unprecedented challenges and severe additional workload due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, severely affecting their efforts towards achieving Universal Health Coverage.

As of today, India has the second highest total number of COVID-19 cases and the third highest number of COVID-19 deaths worldwide¹. Especially the 'second COVID-19 wave' in March-July 2021 has had devastating effects, overwhelming already stretched healthcare facilities, leading to critical deficiencies in essential medical supplies and increased preventable deaths particularly in the young populations². The pandemic thus further exacerbated challenges faced by India's healthcare infrastructure.

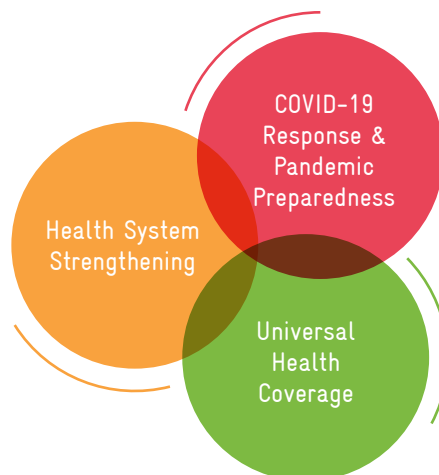
...to support India's COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness

IGUHC provides policy advice and implementation support in the areas of

UHC and convergence of social security programmes, thereby strengthening the Indian healthcare system in the long term. The existing expertise of IGUHC and its established networks was effectively and quickly leveraged to support India's COVID-19 response and pandemic preparedness.

Programme Objective

To attenuate the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on India's healthcare system and strengthen the structural capacity for pandemic response and preparedness mechanisms in India.



>2000

Biomedical equipment worth 2.5 million euro supplied to laboratories and hospitals



16

laboratories upscaled



>182.000

COVID-19 tests financed



Multiple IT- Pandemic Monitoring Units set up



Call Centres and National Help Line supported

1. World Health Organization. WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard. Retrieved 16/02/2022 from: <https://covid19.who.int/table/>
2. Asrani P, Eapen MS, Hassan MI, Sohal SS. Implications of the second wave of COVID-19 in India. *Lancet Respir Med.* 2021;9(9):e93-e94. doi:10.1016/S2213-2600(21)00312-X

IGUHC's approach

At National level, IGUHC...

1

Provides strategic support by taking an advisory role on improving India's overall healthcare system

- Accelerated the hospital empanelment under the PM-JAY health insurance scheme
- Designed additional COVID-19-related health service packages for inclusion under PM-JAY
- Emergency empanelment of laboratories to strengthen government's COVID-19 screening and testing capacity
- Drafted a strategy to be better prepared for future pandemic situations in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Supported the National Health Authority in increasing and improving the quality and scale of the existing National Help Line for patients having COVID symptoms

2

Facilitates COVID-19 Research to support evidence-based pandemic response

- Assisted in collecting data from more than 100,000 families related to health seeking behaviour of persons before and during the lockdown
- Partnered with the John Hopkins University to investigate success factors for pandemic responsiveness and the interlinkages with UHC
- Collaborated with the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, to capture best practices on and solutions for future pandemic preparedness of the industrial sector

At State level, IGUHC...

3

Strengthens healthcare infrastructure

- Supplied more than 500 oxygen concentrators and bio-medical equipment
- Upgraded a paediatric intensive care unit to create special provision for children, in Uttar Pradesh, one of the most populous states in India
- Assisted in upscaling 16 public and private laboratories (seven in Assam and nine in Bihar)
- Increased testing and treatment capacities and financed more than 182.000 COVID-19 tests
- Developing a district-wise health communication model focusing on vaccine information, hesitancy, equity, scientific updates, and overall health-related behaviour change for various Indian states
- Developing resources for combating mental health related issues such as stress, anxiety, anger, frustration, insomnia, low mood, etc. in children due to the Covid-19 pandemic in India

4

Provides technical support for pandemic monitoring and response

by setting up an IT Cell for Quality Monitoring and Surveillance related activities in the State health department of Uttar Pradesh. Also trains staff in the usage of the monitoring software.

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