



Mumbai Smiles Foundation emergency actions related to COVID-19

In order to be faithful to our Mission, Vision, Values and ethical belief, protecting, above all, the communities we work with, **Mumbai Smiles Foundation** has increased its measures and actions to help prevent the further spread of COVID-19 among the most weak sectors of our city.

Logistic measures and partnership with authorities:

Mumbai Smiles Foundation has offered all its preschools and vehicles to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) for possible emergencies and other operations related to the COVID-19

In a series of emails shared yesterday with several officials of different BMC wards, **Mumbai Smiles Foundation** has offered its 26 preschools – empty for the last few days - in different areas of the city, along with vehicles and logistic infrastructure, to the municipal corporation for any type of use required during these days.

Community sustent

- **“Social distance friendly” distribution of rice, lentils and other basic hygiene material to community families**

Considering some of the families were having the meal their kids received in our preschools as the only meal for their kids, we are working in partnership with the women's self help groups (SHG's) who generally supply the nutrition component to our centers. The distribution will be done through the SHG's with 2 basic objectives:

- 1) *Respecting the #stayathome mandate and not putting our staff in risk, sometimes living far away, to any kind of exposure or transmission to others related to COVID-19.*

- 2) *Promoting livelihoods in a very difficult time where their economies start being affected.*

- Constant follow up of beneficiaries

Teachers and field coordinators have strengthened their follow up system in order to have a constant and close monitoring of any update among families of beneficiaries.

- Health related information

Beneficiaries will receive constant updates on medical facilities near by (facilities or doctors with partnerships with MSF) so any first screening can be done, doctors and telephones. These medical protocols will always follow the instructions and recommendations made by the Ministry of Health.

Community Awareness

- Awareness voice messages

With a series of recorded messages about the fake information circulating about measures to be taken or not, we will give the proper information to the communities - always verified with official sources - in order to avoid rumors and superstitions that could lead to bad practices in terms of prevention.

- Awareness graphic messages

We are presently preparing different graphic material - prevention measures, tips to stay mentally healthy during quarantine, etc - in English, Hindi and Marathi, to be distributed via telephone or/and email among stakeholders, partners and communities.

Financial and HR related measures

Since we are finalizing our budgets for 2020-21, and in order to sustain the basic projects in spite of the financial crisis that is starting to come (especially in Spain, where our sister organization, Sonrisas de Bombay, bring an important percentage of funds) we have to take some measures in order to reduce them, putting on hold some interventions planned for this year until we find a solid confirmation of funds for those specific programs.

All staff and consultants in India will not receive, for the moment, the salary increases discussed with them a few weeks ago so our basic interventions can prevail above all despite the financial crisis due to this epidemic.

All staff in our sister organization in Spain, Sonrisas de Bombay, have also accepted, unanimously, to reduce their salaries.

Mumbai Smiles Foundation is very proud to count on such a devoted team, who never hesitated in taking such measures in order to protect the main focus of our organization: the beneficiaries and the necessary interventions to keep on taking care of them.

All of our staff is having, these days, different messages and graphic material given to them to create more awareness about staying at home these days and other safety measures in order to avoid spreading the virus.

Management updates on the situation are constant and distributed among the team, so everyone can have and share the same amount of rigorous data, Government issued digital material or any other information always verified with official sources.

Mumbai, March 26th 2020