

# COVID-19 RESPONSE REPORT

AUGUST 2021

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS



**1,200** oxygen concentrators  
**400,000** surgical masks  
**60,000** N95 masks  
**39,000** coverall PPEs delivered



**2.2 million** people reached through a social media campaign promoting COVID-19 vaccine and COVID Appropriate Behaviour



**2 million** adolescents and young persons, students, teachers and health functionaries in Madhya Pradesh reached with COVID-19 vaccination messages through WhatsApp groups and YouTube

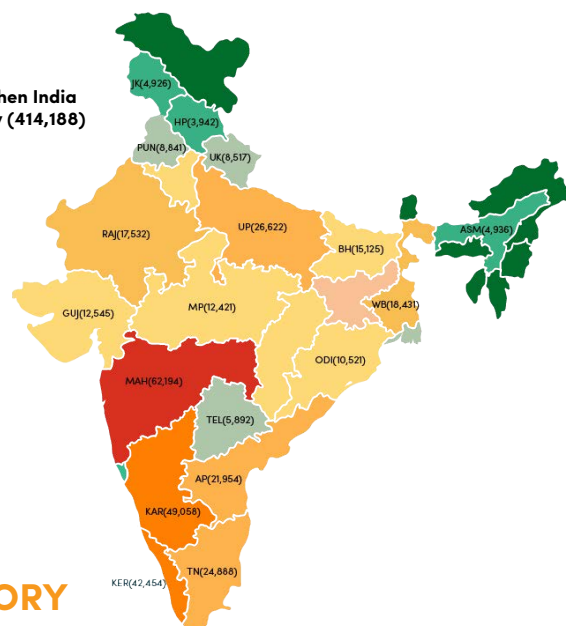


More than **464,000** community members in seven tribal districts and in the urban slums of Bhubaneswar (Odisha) reached with information on COVID Appropriate Behaviour and vaccination through campaigns and radio shows



More than **121,000** callers reached with messages related to COVID-19 on the missed-called based edutainment channel *Naubat Baja* in Rajasthan

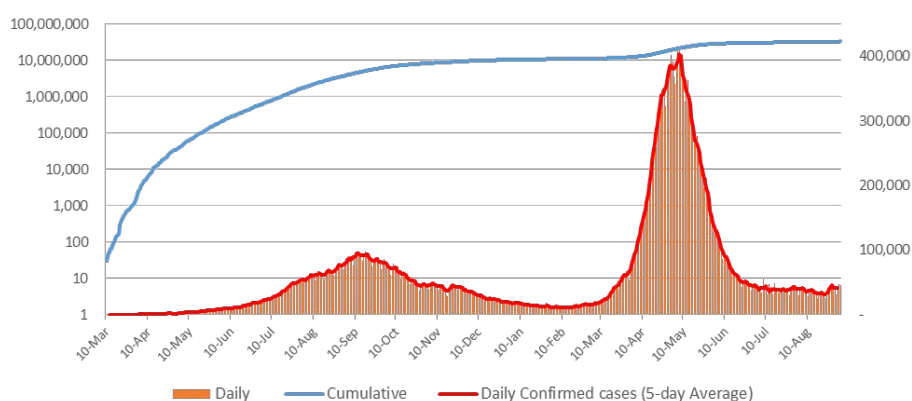
New cases on 7th May, 2021 - When India Recorded Highest Cases in a Day (414,188)



## PANDEMIC TRAJECTORY

The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic hit India hard. During April-May in 2021 - the daily new cases were four times higher than the previous wave witnessed in September 2020. The peak of the second wave was reached in a much shorter time, and witnessed a sudden and steep rise in daily new cases during a few weeks in the months of April - May 2021, putting extraordinary stress on health systems. Until August, about 32.8 million cases were recorded in the country with 438,560 people losing their lives. A single day peak of new cases was recorded on 7 May 2021 (414,188 cases) with 50% cases from five states in the South and West. The second wave started declining in June as daily new cases came down steadily. However, fears remain of a third wave as around 40,000 new cases are being reported each day. With over 677 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in the country by the end of August, around 12% of the population have been fully vaccinated, and 39% has received at least one dose.

Daily and Cumulative Numbers - Log Scale, India, (March 2020 - August 2021)



# UNFPA INDIA IS SUPPORTING THREE PILLARS OF THE UN FRAMEWORK FOR IMMEDIATE SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO COVID-19

## Pillar 1: HEALTH FIRST

### Protecting health services and systems during the crisis

#### Maintaining critical reproductive health services

- 2,250 faculty members from medical colleges across India were oriented on COVID-19 clinical management, vaccination and strengthening maternal health services on issues of pregnancy and neonatal health management during COVID-19 through an [online webinar series](#), organised in partnership with the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh
- Supported the Government of Odisha in re-issuing guidelines for continuation of essential Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child Health + Adolescents (RMNCH+A) services during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Facilitated strengthening of RMNCH+A services in 11 aspirational and 4 priority districts in Odisha, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in planning, facility assessments, supportive supervision visits, capacity building, *Laqshya* certification, data analysis and reviews
- Around 90% of health facilities in these districts reported no stock-out of any family planning products in the last three months
- *Laqshya* certification was obtained for the District Hospitals of Gajapati (Odisha), Jaisalmer and Karauli (Rajasthan) and the process of certification has been initiated for secondary level institutions in the districts of Udaipur and Baran
- Supervision of Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHND) sessions were supported in five aspirational districts in Odisha. 325 VHNDs observed in Gajapati and Rayagada districts where Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) reside, resulting in services to approximately 1,827 pregnant women, 1,878 post natal care, 2,663 adolescents and around 15,000 children between 0-6 years
- 96 Medical Officers in three aspirational districts of Odisha were trained on integrated sexual and reproductive health services using e-modules, and 895 ASHAs were oriented on COVID Appropriate Behaviour and the importance of family planning services in three aspirational districts of Rajasthan
- 234 officials of State Nursing Councils sensitized on Nurse Practitioners in Midwifery (NPM) Programme, and 1,171 nurses were oriented virtually
- 1,457 women accessed sexual and reproductive health (SRH) counselling at the Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTC) and antiretroviral therapy (ART) centres in Gujarat
- Around 5,349 persons accessed short videos through 75 WhatsApp groups, and 399 printed fact sheets in Gujarati were distributed to Outreach Workers (ORWs), Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Medical Officers of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) / Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Integrated Counseling and Testing Centres (ICTC) / Anti-retroviral therapy (ART) centres
- 1,228 people living with HIVs (PLHIVs) and High Risk Groups (HRG) reached with SRH products and messages, and 347 PLHIVs received home delivery of antiretroviral medication



## Technical support for programme implementation and in ensuring access to SRH services and information

- Delivery services for COVID-19 positive pregnant women facilitated in the First Referral Units (FRUs) in three aspirational districts of Odisha
- Technical support provided for the capacity building of 158 District Quality Assurance Committee (DQAC) members on infection prevention practices in 33 districts of Rajasthan
- Community mobilization and technological intervention (WeCare App) in family planning and maternal health services was launched for advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights of young Dalits in Sheikhpura district (identified as an aspirational district by the Government of India) of Bihar
- An application called Prasav Watch was rolled out in 75 facilities across 7 districts in Rajasthan for monitoring intrapartum practices in partnership with the health department and other development partners. UNFPA provided tablets and oriented labour rooms in-charge on data entry and monitoring on a real-time basis
- UNFPA supported tele counselling services for eligible couples opting for injectables in Rajasthan
- 54 *Vikas Mitras* – frontline workers under the *Mahadalit Vikas Mission* – were trained on family planning and maternal health components in Bihar

## Support on vaccine logistics and cold chain management



- In five aspirational districts of Odisha, UNFPA supported the health department for the following:
  - Micro planning of distribution of vaccines, review of progress of vaccination at the district and block levels
  - For installation of new Iced Lined Refrigerators (ILRs), and storage of vaccines in different blocks through monitoring visits
  - Supporting supervision of cold chain facilities for monitoring temperature and for smooth supply of vaccines
  - Joint monitoring with the district health team to COVID-19 vaccination centres
- In six aspirational and priority districts in Rajasthan, UNFPA supported with:
  - Preparation of vaccine sites
  - Planning, distribution and data analysis related to vaccines
  - Joint monitoring of vaccination sites along with district officials
  - Motivating ANMs and ASHAs to address vaccine hesitancy
  - Distribution of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) Kits to manage adverse reactions arising due to COVID-19 vaccination in the district of Jaisalmer

## Pillar 2: PROTECTING PEOPLE

### Social protection and basic services

#### Secure sustained learning for adolescents

- 4,799 teachers were oriented on various components of life skills curriculum under the School Health Programme in Rajasthan. In addition, 79 counsellors were trained virtually through four sessions on mental health and overall counselling especially during COVID-19
- In Bihar, UNFPA supported virtual orientations for 83 state resource persons and 2,279 principals under the School Health Programme, and 106 resource persons and trainers on the Adolescence Education Program (AEP) under the Madarsa Project
- In Odisha, around 2,600 peer educators from 1,150 schools were trained on different themes pertaining to life skills including COVID-19 safety protocols, COVID appropriate behaviour, vaccination, and stigma and discrimination
- 1,600 Headmasters/Principals and around 9,200 School Management Committee members from 1,700 tribal residential schools in Odisha were oriented on the importance of life skills, COVID Appropriate Behaviour, COVID-19 safety protocols, vaccination, and stigma and discrimination
- In Odisha, UNFPA supported the Department of Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) Development in telephonic counselling of adolescents, especially girls, by trained matrons to address vulnerabilities faced by students in tribal residential schools stuck at home due to the pandemic
- In Rajasthan, 1,923 out-of-school adolescent girls have been sensitised through the Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) on COVID appropriate behaviour and information on adolescent related issues
- 9,436 teachers, 512 peer educators of the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) programme and 65 ASHAs were oriented on COVID appropriate behaviour and adolescent health services in Rajasthan

## Address gender-based violence (GBV)

- UNFPA facilitated the development of a state action plan by the Department of Women and Child Development in Rajasthan to address violence against girls
- 200 newly recruited *Sarpanches* (village heads) were oriented on COVID-19, social issues, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) as part of the regular Government training programme in Rajasthan
- Around 1,500 field functionaries of One Stop Centres (OSCs), Women's Help Line, Shelter Homes, *Swadhar Greh* (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances) were oriented on COVID-19, stigma and discrimination, home isolation and COVID-19 vaccination
- 365 staff and counsellors of OSCs and Family Counselling Centres from Odisha, Maharashtra and Rajasthan were trained on mental health and psychosocial support for women facing distress in the context of COVID-19
- 184 Judicial Officers were sensitised on the Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2013, as part of ongoing programmes on gender and law at the Karnataka Judicial Academy
- 121 Medical Officers from the District and Sub-District hospitals in Maharashtra were trained on a three-day programme on medico-legal care for survivors of sexual violence
- 59 Supervisors and 12 Protection Officers of the Directorate of Women Empowerment in Rajasthan were oriented on gender related issues, legislations, and programmes

**CHILD MARRIAGE**  
EARLY MARRIAGES PREVENT GIRLS FROM FULFILLING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

**WHAT IS CHILD MARRIAGE?**  
Child marriage refers to the solemnization of marriage of a person before the legal age (girls below 18, boys below 21). It is a punishable offence.

**WHO CAN BE PENALISED?**  
Under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

- A male adult above 18 years marrying a child
- Whoever performs, conducts, or abets child marriage
- Parent, guardian, any member of an organization/association having charge of a child who may be pressurizing, promoting or permitting child marriage
- Anyone who has knowledge of child marriage but does not take measures to prevent the marriage

**WHAT IS THE PUNISHMENT?**

- Rigorous imprisonment up to 2 years and shall be liable to a fine up to Rs. 1 lakh
- Child marriage is a cognizable and non-bailable offence

**WHERE TO REPORT?**

- Child Helpline -1098
- Police -100
- Women Helpline -181: WhatsApp -7205006039
- Child Marriage Prohibition Officer / CDPO
- District Child Protection Officer
- Odisha State Commission for Women -8763543013 (WhatsApp)

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND MISSION SHAKTI, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

For further details : <http://wcdodisha.gov.in/>

- 400 Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) personnel were oriented on their role in addressing gender-based violence along with COVID Appropriate Behaviour
- A scoping study was undertaken in three high migration prone blocks of Sheikhpura district (Bihar) to assess Gender-Based Vulnerability in Migration, including experiences of violence against women and girls
- With UNFPA support, the Department of Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti, the Government of Odisha developed a communication package addressing discrimination and violence faced by girls and women in their lifetime, which was widely circulated to all districts, One Stop Centres and disseminated through social media platforms
- 16 news articles on the gendered impact of COVID-19 have been written by media fellows

## Reaching the most vulnerable

- Community mobilization sessions regarding health hygiene were conducted in 50 slums of Bihar in partnership with the Patna Municipal Corporation (PMC). 200 sanitation workers were trained as change agents on community action for community development including basic services, and social issues centric to their slums in Patna
- 160 Safai Karamcharis (sanitation workers) of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation were trained on sexual reproductive health issues and general health conditions. Interface programmes with the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) were organised to sensitize and link them with health services
- 140 auto drivers as change agents were trained to address gender-based violence and in promoting safe mobility, especially for women in Bhubaneswar

## Pillar 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

### Inclusive social dialogue

- 3,000 young people from vulnerable communities (slums and tribal areas) in Odisha were trained as change agents in the fight against COVID-19. The topics included citizenship, preventing gender-based violence, COVID Appropriate Behaviour, vaccination, stigma, and discrimination related to COVID-19
- Nearly 1,568 persons in 50 slums of Patna were mobilized for COVID-19 vaccination through door-to-door and community awareness campaigns
- 228 peer leaders undertook door-to-door awareness campaigns, distribution of face masks, sanitizers and dry ration, mobilization for COVID-19 testing and vaccination
- Nearly 4,000 young people and community members from tribal districts and Bhubaneswar's slum area in Odisha were sensitized on COVID Appropriate Behaviour and COVID-19 vaccination through trainings and door-to-door and community awareness campaigns
- 933 community members including Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) members were sensitised on COVID Appropriate Behaviour and gender issues in the Sawai Madhopur district in Rajasthan. 1,015 *Saathins* were also oriented on COVID Appropriate Behaviour and on gender /adolescent issues



- UNFPA is collaborating with four community-based, two faith-based and 26 youth-based organizations to serve and enhance the health and well-being of adolescents and young people, which aims to reach out to around 3.86 million adolescents and young people in community settings and in educational institutions in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Odisha
- 1,018 youth volunteers from NYKS and Indian Red Cross Society in Odisha were trained on different aspects of COVID-19 including vaccination, COVID Appropriate Behaviour and the role of volunteers in addressing the challenges as a result of COVID-19

## MEDIA COVERAGE



### ● COVID-19 Response - Second Wave in India - Ongoing

- The UNFPA Representative spoke on prioritising reproductive health and rights of women and girls during COVID-19 on national television news channel NDTV 24/7
- UNFPA is supporting the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's (MoHFW) campaigns to promote the COVID-19 vaccine and COVID Appropriate Behaviour
- 6 Short Bursts Messages in Hindi on COVID-19 vaccine and related topics were conceptualized and executed in partnership with All India Radio (AIR) and broadcast across 13 states in India

– 11 short videos on COVID-19 vaccine and COVID Appropriate Behaviour were disseminated across social media channels with a reach of more than 2.2 million views

### ● International Women's Day - March 8

- UNFPA and its partner Population First organised an online event on the occasion of International Women's Day (IWD) - '[Leadership Mantras to Achieve an Equal world post COVID-19: A tete-a-tete between leaders and leaders in the making](#)'
- UNFPA conceptualised and executed a social media campaign for International Women's Day (IWD) 2021 on the theme '[Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world](#)'. The campaign generated a reach of more than 130k impressions
- Supported by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in India, UNFPA conceptualized and led the execution of a [joint video](#) featuring the Heads of Agencies from 14 UN agencies in India for IWD 2021

### ● Menstrual Hygiene Day - May 28

- A [Joint Op-ed](#) by the UNFPA India Representative and Water Aid India's Chief Executive was published on Menstrual Hygiene Day on the topic of 'Prioritising menstrual hygiene and health management during emergencies'

### ● Mission Reportage - Jaisalmer - April 7 to 10

- The UNFPA India Representative went on a mission to assess UNFPA's interventions in the Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan, specifically on the quality of maternal health and access to family planning services during COVID-19. A report titled '[Jaisalmer -Advancing Health and Choices](#)' in the form of a photo essay was published with human interest stories. The report was covered by the [local press](#) and by [UN News Hindi](#)

### ● World Population Day - July 11

- An Op-ed by the UNFPA India Representative titled '[Challenging Negative Social Norms](#)' was published in 'The Hindu' underscoring the theme of World Population Day 2021, 'Rights and Choices are the Answer: Whether baby boom or bust, the solutions lie in prioritizing the reproductive health and rights of all people'
- The UNFPA India Representative participated as a panelist at a [virtual discussion](#) hosted by Population Foundation of India on the theme 'Addressing women's and girls' needs for sexual and reproductive health and family planning services in India during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond'

### ● International Youth Day - Aug 12

- UNFPA published a [webstory](#) featuring young change champions on the theme 'Celebrating Youth Innovation and Resilience through the COVID-19 Crisis'
- UNFPA participated in a [joint virtual event](#) organised by UN India and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MOYAS) on Youth Innovation during COVID-19. The event featured a change champion under UNFPA and Rural Electrification Corporation's (REC) Samridhi Project

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