



Training of trainers: COVID-19-integrated response

The COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest challenge present today. It has disproportionately impacted people and communities that already experience barriers in access to basic resources. In order to provide a helping hand, Development Alternatives and OXFAM collaborated to jointly conduct a webinar for training. This webinar was focused on training people and providing them awareness regarding COVID-19. The webinar also focused on important preventative measures to ensure that they and their communities are safe. The webinar was attended by 75+ participants which include village leaders, front line workers, trainers, mobilisers and several centre managers.

The main objective was to ensure that CSOs, and the staff and partners of Oxfam who are responsible for the delivery and implementation of various developmental programmes in India, have a nuanced understanding of the impacts of COVID-19. This will enable them to integrate other factors into their response such as mainstreaming gender, Emergency, Food Security and Vulnerable Livelihoods (EFSVL), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL), and Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVL)

The webinar was conducted by Cyril Wendey Maano (OXFAM), Poonam Mishra (OXFAM), and coordinated by Bharti Kapoor (DA). Different strategies were formed for the various issues discussed in the training modules, to enable the participants to combat COVID-19 effectively at the community level.

Under the community-centered public health promotion and water, sanitation theme, there is an urgent need to increase and ensure adequate and safe access to water and sanitation facilities at the community level. Several tailor-made and local solutions were shared in the webinar to equip the participants with knowledge and know-how. Moreover, the training also focused on the communities' perception of the disease, and the response which should involve social media, radio programming, and other such interactive solutions.

COVID-19 has also created negative impacts for women, especially in the informal sector. The webinar focused on various gender issues such as Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and lack of sexual and reproductive health support. The role of men in sharing the household responsibilities and burden of care, especially during the pandemic was also discussed. Additionally, the webinar also focused on the measures required for the promotion of women's meaningful participation in humanitarian decision making, including provisions for childcare, transport, and safety.

The strategies for sensitisation also highlighted the importance of Advocacy and Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL). The training focused on community-based protection and how the local government can be approached to provide support. Furthermore, the role of Self Help Groups (SHGs) was also highlighted in the webinar as they often play an important role in delivering facilities to the communities at large. The trainees were trained in how to advocate priority protection issues identified through monitoring and protection analysis, and collaborate with other national and international protection actors at the local, national, and global level.

The webinar concluded with a round of questions and answers, followed by a summary of the discussion and training. This initiative was aligned to provide maximum support to the vulnerable communities. DA along with its partners is committed and looks forward to more such training and sensitization initiatives in the fight against COVID- 19.