

Impact of COVID-19 Crisis on the Lives of Children in India



Panel Discussion
with the

17 November

INDIA'S SHARE OF THE GLOBAL BURDEN

NEONATAL MORTALITY



590,000
NEONATAL DEATHS
PER YEAR

ACCOUNTING TO

23%
OF THE GLOBAL BURDEN

UNDER 5 MORTALITY



960,000
CHILDREN UNDER 5
DIE PER YEAR

ACCOUNTING TO

17%
OF THE GLOBAL BURDEN

STUNTING



**40.7
MILLION**
UNDER-5 CHILDREN
ARE STUNTED

ACCOUNTING TO

27%
OF THE GLOBAL BURDEN

HOUSEHOLD TOILETS



**25
MILLION**
PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE
HOUSEHOLD TOILETS

ACCOUNTING TO

<5%
OF THE GLOBAL BURDEN

COVID-19 changed life e

In India it triggered a negative reaction hurting the most dis

□ Economic condition of people , self-reporting as 'bad' in August / September is still high, increasing from 17 % in pre-lockdown period to 53%

□ Who are economically vulnerable (bad), vis-à-vis pre-lockdown) NOW

- About half of the casual workers
- 62 % Female headed families;
- 64 % of the home Returnee

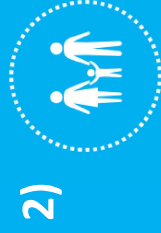


COVID-19 is a Child Rights Crisis

What we have achieved – our reach!



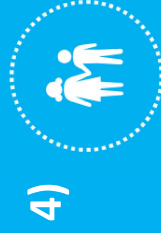
660 million
children and their families reached
with COVID specific message



3.6 million
people across India reached with
critical WASH supplies



2.5 million
healthcare workers trained in Infection
Prevention and Control



44.4 million
children with education initiatives



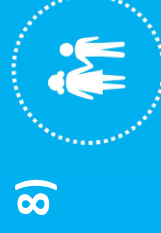
19.7 million
children and women receive
healthcare



61.8 million
people have been engaged
that facilitate two-way commu



Over 333,000 children
and their caregivers have been
psychosocial support as a re
support



102,400 children
(6-59 months) have been admi
treatment of SAM

Learning crisis

**Over 290 Million
Children
out of school**

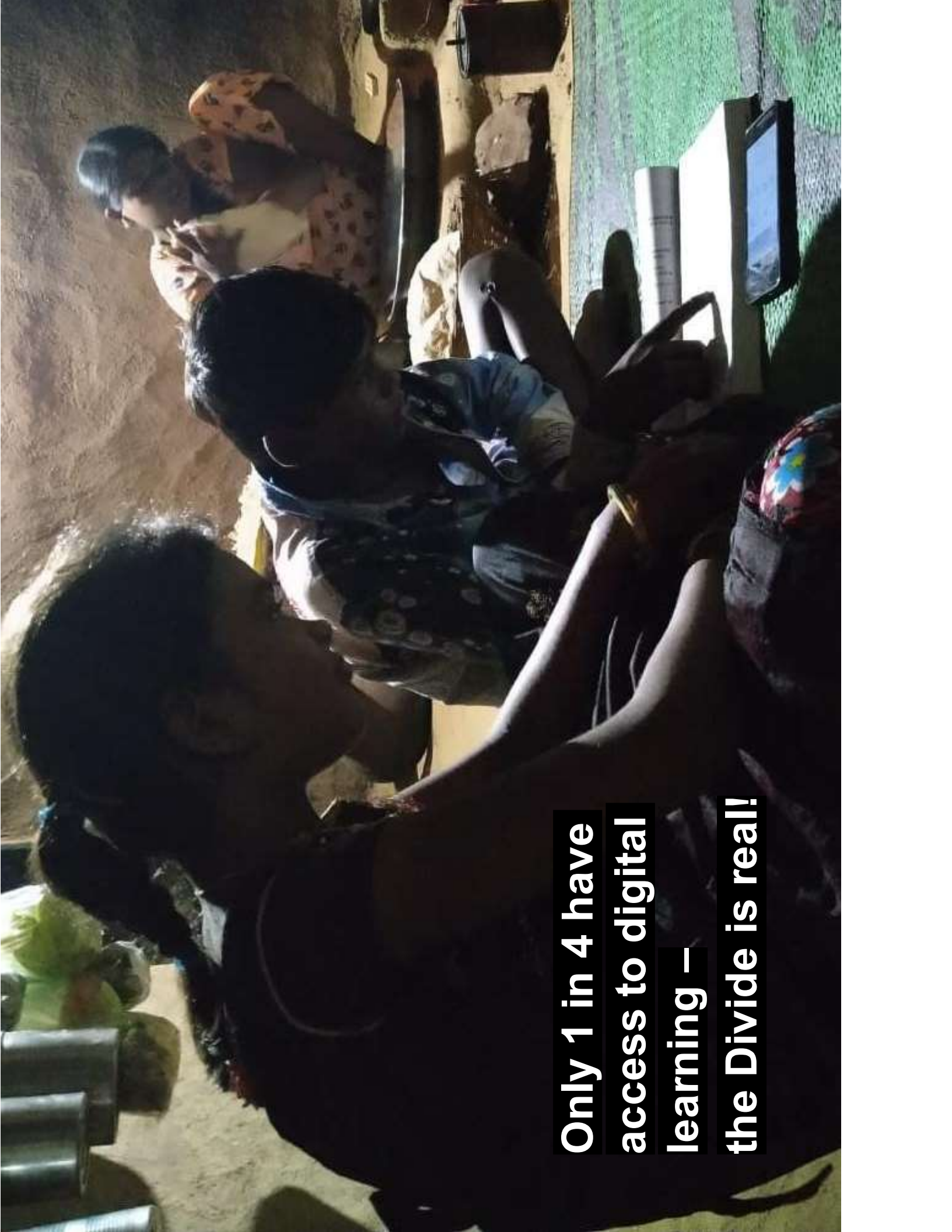


**Sending their children into labour is a way of coping
many families..**



*The school closed down.
to study with a link they had
but we ran out of phone credit.
There are lessons on TV
we don't have a TV. Our
and father lost their jobs
COVID-19."*

Ra

A photograph showing a woman in a black shirt in the foreground, pointing her right index finger towards a smartphone lying on a table. The phone's screen displays a landscape image. In the background, another person is seated at the same table, looking down at something in their hands. The table also holds a white box and some papers. The scene is dimly lit, with a strong light source from the left creating shadows.

**Only 1 in 4 have
access to digital
learning –
the Divide is real!**

CBM Findings: Education & Learning

Q: Will you send your child back to school when it reopens after the COVID pandemic?

Mode of Home study

- Overall, **about one in every 4 mothers reported**, they were not sure about their child going back to school after pandemic
- In urban districts, '**do not know**' response is high (27%), vis-à-vis rural (11%)
- Around **40 percent** mothers stated, children are using smart phone
- **28 % mothers reported**, they are helping their children studying;

**COVID-19 has
exacerbated
pandemics of
violence and
poverty
in India**

Child P



Fan
resc
neg
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child
mar
inst

A spike in child marriage

Child marriage is cheaper and easier during COVID-19

"My parent's financial situation became tough due to COVID-19, so they decided to get me married. I was forced but I didn't want to get married. I wanted to study,"

- Nikita
16-year old
Bhopal, India





**Building systems,
referral
mechanisms and
changing social
norms
to Protect Children**

120,000 front line workers
functioning in
child protection

333,000 children
reached with psychosocial
support

Through CHILD
Protection
million calls of
distress assistance

2.6 million adolescents
reached with information
on prevention

486,000 children in
alternative care supported

418,614 children supported
through kinship care

280,000 children
impacted through
improvement in standards of
care in institutions

Scale up of
Care programs
States than
Project Lion



- The CBM is done for monitoring purposes vulnerability and information prevention, to get an idea of the situation of children in the families.
- From a purposely selected samples in 12 districts across the states. These are NOT representative data

Community Based Monitoring to Assess Impact of COVID-19 pandemic On Socio-economic Condition of vulnerable population

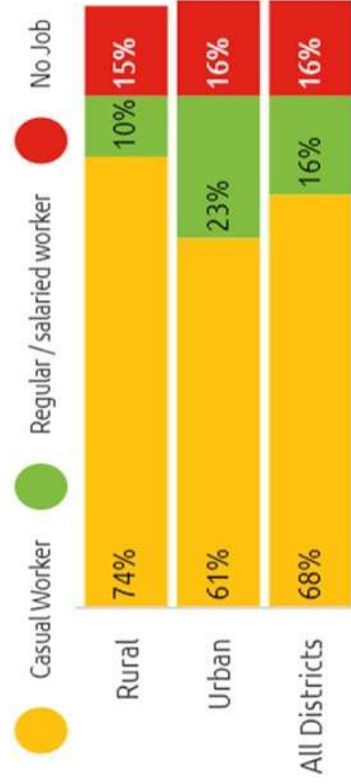
Some Key Trends – Directly and Indirectly Affecting Children

Community Based Monitoring (CBM) – Design & Coverage (wave-2)

- A cohort based longitudinal design – thus wave-2 ‘s communities, families are largely same , making it possible to see the trends (change) over time;
- In 7 states – spread in 300 communities, across 12 districts; 6 rural and 6 urban
 - Supported by 15 CSOs, enlisting 300 community volunteers, responsible for data collection – 80 % live in rural communities;
 - Covers little more than 5700 families, including 17 % families headed by a female member plus more returnees

Vulnerabilities captured in the sample

Composition of sample (Wave-2)



Main Response

- Main earner
- Pregnant women
- Lactating women
- Selected families
- Mother within one year
- Mother within 9 years
- Mother within 5 years

Key Findings from the CBM (August/Sept, 20

- Results show that while economic situation of the families under study remain challenging, selected government services have improved compared with the results of Wave-1 in June/July period
- Approximately three-quarters (74%) of the main wage earners in families reported that their **income is now lower than pre-lockdown**.
- In urban areas just 64 per cent wage earners stated that their **family had enough food for the week**. In rural areas the situation was considerably better at 79 per cent.
- About two-thirds who received cash assistance pointed out that the **assistance is not adequate** for meeting costs of food and other household requirements.
- About 75 per cent of respondents mentioned that the family has a **debt burden** due to pandemic, nearly half of these stated that they had to sell their personal belongings.
- Out of those who were aware of the government's cash assistance scheme, **about a third** of the received cash assistance - more families in rural areas received cash (rural 39 per cent and urban 39 per cent).
- **Cash assistance not adequate**: About two-thirds (65 per cent) who received cash assistance pointed out that the assistance is not adequate for meeting costs of food and other household requirements.
- **Debt due to lockdown**: About 75 per cent of wage earners mentioned that their family has a debt due to pandemic, and of this, close to half stated that they had to sell their personal belongings, more in rural areas than in urban areas.

Continuation of CAB – the Key Behaviour

- Practicing COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviours is no longer a choice, but an imperative.
- With the lockdowns ending, and even after we have a vaccine, focus on sustaining the practice of the 3 CAB behaviours- wear mask, keep 6 feet and wash hands with soap frequently and as needed.
- Essential for resumption of essential services and building back trust such as immunization and primary health care. Parents' trust must be restored, allied for bringing children back for vaccination.
- Hand hygiene is a key condition for schools to re-open and operate safely. Reopening of schools includes access to hand hygiene, clean drinking water, safe sanitation. Training of teachers, staff and students in CAB is essential.
- Sustaining the CAB needs a whole of society approach and engagement. Campaigns such as the Jan Andolan with the message from the leader of the country are important as they can mobilize and influence millions.