

Virtual Training Program on
Educational, Health care and Nutritional Needs of
Children during Disasters- Focusing on COVID-19



Background

Evidence tells us that a range of health and protection risks arise from a global pandemic, school closures and attempted distancing measures. Issues vary across settings, reflecting the nature of the pandemic, other crisis situations present, resourcing, extent of enforced isolation measures, and family or household structure. Children and their families are experiencing closures of childcare and limited or no access to healthcare and other essential services in response to the pandemic. Children have been adversely affected by COVID-19 and related lockdowns, social distancing measures etc. Caregivers too are struggling hard to meet physical, emotional, social, and cognitive needs of children. COVID-19 has placed unprecedented strain on healthcare and food systems. Children are not the face of this pandemic. But they risk being among its biggest victims. While they have thankfully been largely spared from the direct health effects of COVID-19 - at least to date – the crisis is having a profound effect on their wellbeing.



United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that every child have the right to adequate food, water, shelter and education. Every year, malnutrition contributes to 3.5 million preventable deaths of children under the age of five. Disasters, whether they be sudden-onset or chronic long-term events, have massive impact on food security, disease and nutritional status of at-risk groups, especially children, pregnant and lactating mothers.

At a time when climate change is projected to increase the risk of hunger and undernutrition over the next few decades to severely impact development progress, it is increasingly imperative that greater support is put behind initiatives to protect the nutritional status of children and mothers to allow for faster recovery, resilience and development.

As World Hunger Day approaches on May 28th, it is a timely reminder of the need to reduce food insecurity experienced by children and ensure they are provided with sufficient nutrients to develop and fully tackle the scourge of malnutrition globally.



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OBJECTIVES

While this is a crisis, it can also be seen as a window for providing critical health education, and promoting the health and wellbeing of families and children now and in the future. Objectives of the training would be to understand:

- Basic information on COVID-19 and emerging issues related to children's wellbeing.
- Disrupted access to food & nutrition and promoting healthy lifestyle and diet during home learning.
- Adverse impact of closures, social distancing and lockdowns on children's' education and how to address them.

Target Audience

- 1.) Training to be conducted on **18th September 2020** the target audience will be POs, CDPOs and all District and Block level POSHAN Abhiyan staff, Women and Child Development Department, Government of Gujarat