COVID-19 IN INDIA: MUSINGS ON RESEARCH AND EVALUATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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STATE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN INDIA

Source: https://www.covid19india.org/deepdive

Source: https://ourworldindata.org/
WHAT’S KEEPING ME UP AT NIGHT?

How can research and evaluation have impact in the context of a dynamic, evolving pandemic?  

How do we foster learning and adaptation of technical support to strengthen health systems?
WHY WORRY ABOUT IMPACT?

• We are facing an **unprecedented, highly dynamic situation** and information is essential to guide the response.
• We are **accountable** for producing high quality research and for impact beyond the research domain.
• Now more than ever before, we must **measure the impact of research**: are there changes in society, economy, or environment that have been influenced by research?
WHAT IS DRIVING IMPACT?

For impact to occur, robust and relevant insights must be generated and mobilized to those who can use those insights to catalyze change.

- **Robustness**: Given the need for speed, are we jeopardizing the quality of research?
- **Ethics**: Gathering data in times of crises is very challenging and raises many ethical issues and dilemmas. Are we spending sufficient time identifying and addressing them?
- **Demand**: Is there demand for evidence? Are we actively nurturing demand?
- **Relevance**: How are we adding to the knowledge base? Are data and evidence amenable to solutioning?
- **Communication**: Policy and program decisionmakers are facing a deluge of possibly relevant information, and often look for prescriptive advice (what will work in a specific context when implemented in a specific way?). Do we understand their needs and frame evidence in a way that helps decision-making?
- **Timeliness**: There is a real need for speed, how do we cope?
HOW ARE WE RESPONDING?

CORE Net - The India COVID-19 Research Network is an effort to build a community of practice to foster exchange and collaboration among research organizations gathering information on issues relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic in India.

Maximize Impact
To get relevant, synthesized evidence and insights in a timely and coordinated manner to key stakeholders

Bringing Ethics and Equity
To evolve ethical research practices, with a focus on the most vulnerable populations.

Use & User Focus
To surface evidence priorities & synthesize and share research findings with key stakeholders.

Reducing Noise, Strengthening Communication
To streamline research efforts & speak in a voice that harnesses the power of the collective.
## HOW ARE WE RESPONDING?

### An Overarching Learning Agenda

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<th>Key Questions</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>KQ 1</td>
<td>What are the <em>impacts of COVID-19 on households’</em> socio-economic and health status?</td>
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<td>KQ 2</td>
<td>How has <em>access to and utilization of RMNCH, Nutrition and TB/NTD services (including primary health care)</em> been affected? What are the drivers of demand and utilization of healthcare services (e.g., fear, lack of transportation, etc.)?</td>
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<td>KQ 3</td>
<td>How has COVID-19 <em>differentially impacted vulnerable individuals</em> and households (including those who fall in intersections of multiple categories of social and health risks) and affected health inequities?</td>
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<td>KQ 4</td>
<td>How have <em>communities and community platforms/networks</em> been affected? What kinds of community responses and adaptations have emerged? What new forms of community engagement and behavior change interventions have been tried?</td>
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<td>KQ 5</td>
<td>What have been the <em>gendered impacts of COVID-19</em> – at the community and household level (e.g., women’s experience of GBV, mobility, etc.) as well as within the health system (e.g., impacts on FLWs)?</td>
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<td>KQ 6</td>
<td>How have the <em>Workforce, Commodities and Information pillars</em> of the health system fared in the context of COVID-19? What challenges (e.g., capacity gaps), adaptations and innovations have emerged?</td>
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<td>KQ 7</td>
<td>How has <em>provision (supply) and quality of RMNCH, Nutrition and TB/NTD services</em> been affected during the time of crisis? What are the drivers of service disruption and what are the strategies/adaptations used to restore services? What minimal set of interventions are needed to meet RMNCHN, ID needs?</td>
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<td>KQ 8</td>
<td>What have we learned about the <em>interconnectedness of health and other systems</em> – community, disaster management, sanitation, etc.? What essential systems (including structures and processes) need to be in place to respond to future situations?</td>
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## FOUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Humility:** Are we open to questioning, being reflexive, being challenged?

**Partnership:** Are we proactively seeking out and investing in collaboration, complementarity and synergy?

**Transparency:** Are data *Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Re-useable?*

**Equity:** Are our resources and attention meaningfully directed toward mitigating adverse impacts on the most disadvantaged?