UBS

Caring for the vulnerable

Ensuring healthcare access for the poor during the COVID second wave, India

The current surge of COVID-19 infections in India is overrunning the health system. Interventions to care for COVID patients outside of hospitals and facilitate access to essential health services are needed urgently to avoid additional illness and death.

The problem

Hospitals are overwhelmed with the number of patients and are running out of beds, equipment and medicines. In addition to this, COVID positive patients from poor communities cannot isolate or quarantine at home because they typically live in smaller houses with a shared bathroom. With health systems overwhelmed, access to medical advice also is limited.

The partner

Swasti works with the most poor and marginalized communities in India, partnering them to make health and well-being a reality. It has over 17 years of experience in empowering people and communities by providing access to quality healthcare.

The philanthropic solution

Swasti uses a combination of people's homes or community institutions and tech-enabled solutions to provide care to the most vulnerable. Specifically Swasti is implementing the following:

1) *Community Care Centers* for those who are symptomatic or COVID-19 positive, but are not in need of critical care and are unable to isolate at home. These centers will be set up within communities and will be equipped with COVID home/community care kits for symptom monitoring and oxygen support.

2) *Home Quarantine Kits* for those who are symptomatic or COVID-19 positive, but are not in need of critical care and are able to isolate. These kits will provide necessary medicines, equipment (thermometers and pulse oximeters) and home based care guides in vernacular languages.

3) *Phone-based care* for support like a regular helpline. This helpline will bridge the gap in the first level of care through a nurse-led primary healthcare model, conducting phone triage and follow-up and maintaining continuity of care for patients.

The evidence

Swasti already is conducting 600 phone consultations a month.

The impact

Providing care and support to 10,000 vulnerable people, including 50-80 COVID positive patients per cluster per month.

Location	Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi, Indore, Karnataka, Gurgaon and Rehti
Target group	Poor and marginalized communities
Partner(s)	n/a
Co-sponsors	n/a
Grant total	USD 600,000
SDG(s)	3
Duration	Six months
Program ID	51379

Source: xxx (Source)

1 footnotes (Footnotes)