Administrative Data Gaps in India and Implications for Fight against COVID-19 and Future Pandemics

Administrative data can be a rich and inexpensive source of information for fighting COVID-19 and future pandemics, especially when data from different sources is combined (e.g. mobile signal data and incidence of disease). In developing countries like India, there are challenges to accessing and using admin data.

To fight COVID-19 and reopen, all countries need:

- Robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity to collect & evaluate quality data.
- To make informed decisions about socio-economic and health policies based on evidence.
- To monitor progress on their policies ensuring that the poorest and most vulnerable are not left behind.

CLEAR South Asia is helping India build its administrative data capacities.

CLEAR South Asia will support the Indian government to make better use of data for COVID-19 policy and program decision-making by providing:

- Customized capacity-building and awareness-raising sessions on how to use administrative and digital data (e.g cell-phone and GIS data) to make informed decisions.
- Advisory services and support for planning, collection, and analysis of COVID-19 relevant data for decision-making and impact evaluations

Need for global coordination to close the M&E gap to fight COVID-19 and future pandemics.

- Global gaps in the capacity to monitor and evaluate data leaves many countries more vulnerable to COVID-19.
- India is building its data capacity as a central tool in the fight against COVID-19 and to support reopening.
- CLEAR South Asia is supporting states in India build their data capacities.
- Global coordination is needed to address M&E gaps so that all countries have the capacity to combat COVID-19 with data.