COVID-19 has been apocalyptic; it has levelled the world powerfully and tragically - bringing all social and economic activities to a standstill with transformative consequences. In more than 188 countries over 1.6 billion children are out of school (UNESCO April 6 2020) as all education facilities were the first to shut down to ensure social distancing and protection. An emergency of such an epic scale has led to an equally unprecedented disruption within local, national and global systems of production, workflows, movement and education. Our organization, Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) which has been well honed in emergency response programs since 2005 has triggered profoundly transformational actions as required by COVID-19.

Institutionally we shut down offices across the country to work from home, ensuring the safety of our colleagues across the country; we are today connected with more care and intensity of communication with each other and who we serve in diverse and distant program locations.

Programmatically we were able to prepare a week earlier to the lock down by requesting all program teams to map out the geographies and communication channels of our children, parents/caregivers, teachers from the local areas, community workers/activists, field teams and counterparts in government. Armed with information about cell phones-and critical links closest to children and parents became our first frontline of action.

Saluting our Governments and Parliamentarian Leaders who rose to the Call For Action from Sindh to Centre to KP, Punjab, and Balochistan -acting with responsibility, coherence and proactive actions. They continue to do so in these very complex and rapidly changing scenarios; we at ITA have keenly aligned our work with their systems of information and response. We reached out to our Government counterparts nationally and provincially to align our contributions.

ASER 2019 household survey reaching out to 105,000 rural and urban households generated important information on ICTs/digital technology access (http://aserpakistan.org/document/2020/4/ICTs_in_Households_ASER_2019_Indicators.pdf)

We made this available to many publicly and through social media to ascertain the evidence on what will work best – as a blend of various assets on distance communication available in our HHs across Pakistan.

RISE to Action request made by ITA to our powerful associations working on digital inclusive learning solutions: the ILM Association http://blog.ilmassociation.com/covidresponse/; our CLF Resource Partners and the People’s Action for Learning (PAL) Network.
(https://palnetwork.org/) to contribute to Global Public Goods and they did so generously with high quality engagement for equity sensitive hyper and hybrid technology based solutions for COVID-19.

The Young Teams at ITA working in programs, digital learning and research began to roll out an amazingly eclectic response suite for children, adolescents, teachers, youth, parents and communities of practice within social distancing norms. Thus was born the #CoronaSaviours/Muhafiz Campaign as a COVID-19 Response These include:

The Links are here at

- Academics/Learning/Assessment
  - ASER Tools Inclusive PSL -Urdu https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12on9QVVZe4&t=978s
  - ASER Tools Inclusive PSL-English https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBUjeWYJBRM

- Creativity and Healing that support learning with care
  
  Storytelling: http://itacec.org/Storytelling

  Online Book Club: https://chat.whatsapp.com/Etkw1QLbxMOIGQzof8

  Art Therapy : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eYBl5xJ3cQ&feature=youtu.be

- Prevention and Protection
  
  Corona Saviours http://itacec.org/CoronaSaviours
  Protection Films/Theatre/Life Skills/Financial Literacy http://itacec.org/a3g/partnership_soc_films.html
  Early Child Marriages: https://youtu.be/Anz3q5tP340

Philanthropy Begins at Home: Each and every ITA employee across the country gave their one - two days salary for the COVID-19 Food, Health & Livelihood Support Fund – We Walked the Talk! A committee for disbursals has been formed and will be linked to the District Disaster Management Authority and Provincial DMAs to ensure transparency of outreach and coverage as Government has launched a massive Social Safety Net EHSAS Food-Income Stabilization Program [https://insafimdad.punjab.gov.pk/].

Thank You to ALL Our Sponsors (Donors/Industry/Philanthropists) who support ITA’s programs who have reached out separately and collectively acknowledging our dedication, innovations and outreach during the Pandemic.

Stay Safe & Let’s Rise to Our Extraordinary Capabilities as the World Changes Absolutely with Excellence, Integrity and Passion to survive; Nothing less...

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Baela Raza Jamil
CEO ITA and All Our Extra Ordinary Teams
April 6, 2020