THE FIRST MILLION
Priority Vaccination for a Million Most Vulnerable and Marginalized Indians

THE NEED FOR SUCH A CAMPAIGN
Vaccination is the only line of defence against the spread and virulence of the resurgent Covid 19 wave. With India's federal government expanding vaccination eligibility to all age groups above the age of 18 years, the demand for vaccines will soon outstrip supply, given India's population load, leaving the most vulnerable groups at the margins. A strategy to secure priority access of vaccines for the vulnerable groups is imperative, to arrest the spread of the virus.

WHO WILL BENEFIT?
In consultation with Government, NGOs, civil societies and other stakeholders. AIF has identified the following groups as most vulnerable and in need of immediate intervention.

- Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)
- Migrant Workers including Street Vendor
- Sex Workers
- Women working in unorganized sector
- Primitive Tribal Groups and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

CHALLENGES FACED BY VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

**AWARENESS**
- Lack of awareness about benefits or urgent need of being vaccinated
- Negative attitudes and myths towards vaccines and an uncertainty or unwillingness to receive vaccinations
- No information about available Vaccination slots on a real time basis

**ACCESS**
- Technological access: lack of access to internet, phone or technical know-how to register on government apps and procure a slot for vaccination
- Educational access: Lack of Official/identity documents and basic reading/writing abilities to book slots
- Physical: Lack to access to vaccine camps or vaccine centres, especially for tribal population and for underserved women in unorganized sector

**AFFORDABILITY**
- Affordability of the vaccine: The cost of vaccination is not affordable for all vulnerable communities owing to their low- and uncertain-income levels.
- Inability to have early/priority access to the vaccine: Shortage in supply of vaccine against the huge demand may further push the vulnerable communities to the background
AIF’S INTERVENTION
Given the challenges, AIF’s vaccination campaign will inform and impact the priority access for vulnerable groups through the following interventions.

1. IDENTIFICATION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS
   - PWDs, Sex workers, Migrant workers, Primitive tribal groups and women working in unorganized sector

2. STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS
   - Tie-ups with Government, Vaccine Manufacturers, Private hospitals, and aggregators from the identified vulnerable groups like, National Association for the Blind, National Association for the Deaf, NASVI among others to mobilize priority access

3. NATIONAL AWARENESS AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE CAMPAIGN
   - Awareness about the various kinds of vaccines available
   - Motivational Tele Counselling of families of PwD’s who are unwilling to get their wards vaccinated
   - IVRS – Inbound and outbound calls and Audio messages
   - Leveraging media such as Print and Radio to build consensus

4. FACILITATING REGISTRATIONS, PRIORITY VACCINATION SLOTS AND RESOLVING MULTIPLE ACCESS ISSUES
   - Help in the registration process: AIF will facilitate registration on Arogya Setu and Co-win apps and assist the vulnerable communities to access these platforms, and register after taking their informed consent
   - Active Advocacy with Governments to Prioritize the Vulnerable Communities
     - Declaring days that will be specifically dedicated to PwD related vaccination
     - Certain quota of vaccines for the PwD to create priority access
     - Advocate to waive registration or approve walk in registrations for certain sections, to enable ease of access
   - Vaccination Camp: Vaccination camps to be organized in different parts of the country based on the need of the target populations
   - Facilitating Accessibility of Vaccination Centres for PwD
     - More centres to be made accessible from a perspective of having ramps and other accessibility facilities
     - Working with State government and facilitating camps for the PwD at more accessible locations such as NAB Centres, NGO Centres, RWA’s etc.
     - Mobile Vaccination Centres to ensure vaccination near home
   - Providing Transportation Access through partners such as Uber/Ola etc. - This will include disability sensitization of the drivers.

5. PERSONALISED SUPPORT THROUGH FOLLOW-UPS AND HELP LINE
   - Creating a helpline support to provide information related to vaccine, vaccination drive as well as tracking and follow up for the second shot.