Delhi Violence, February 2020

On 23rd of February 2020, violence broke out in the North East region of Delhi which scaled over time.

Section 144 of CrPC has been imposed on 10 locations in North East Delhi. As a result of the violence, 23 deaths have been registered so far, including the death of a police officer, with over 250 injured, including women and minors.

The Chief Minister of Delhi has requested the Union Home Minister for military intervention to restore law and order. The Prime Minister have also appealed for peace and calm and have emphasized the need to restore normalcy at the earliest.

Victims of violence have reported impediments in accessing emergency healthcare, due to blockades. A two-judge bench of Delhi High Court ordered DCP East to ensure safe passage of the injured patients in AI Hind Hospital to GTB and other hospitals.

Damage to property, especially shops, street-vendors and religious sites has been noted. Issues of violence against women have also been reported.

Source: Various media sources

Appeal for Peace, Harmony and Coordinated Action

Sphere India is a National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India. The membership of 72 organisations include key nodal organizations from UN, INGOs, NGO Networks, National NGOs, CSR and Academic Institutions. 20 state level Inter Agency Groups and 405 local organizations are associate members. Sphere India Inter-Agency Coordination Program led by members coordinates collective efforts for preparedness, response and recovery to ensure timely and effective response to emergency situations complementing Government efforts.

Emerging Needs: Poor and vulnerable segments of the society are severely affected and will need definite humanitarian assistance with Health, WASH, Protection, Shelter and livelihoods support to bring normalcy in their lives.

Expression of Solidarity: Sphere India Members expresses solidarity with the people affected in Delhi violence. As a coalition of humanitarian agencies in India, we will continue to explore ways in which the humanitarian sector and civil society groups can compliment the efforts of the Government and assist the affected population to fulfill their right to life with dignity and right to protection. As a humanitarian collective, we advocate to:

Government:
To take immediate adequate measures to restore law and order, protect people and their rights.

Humanitarian Agencies:
To cooperate with Government efforts in restoring peace and law and order and follow ‘do no harm approach’.

To supplement and complement Government effort to provide assistance to the affected people as guided by Sphere Minimum Standards and Red Cross/NGO code of conduct.

Coordinating Agencies
To analyze overall humanitarian need emerging due to complex nature of crisis. Develop gender, age, children, disability and other vulnerable groups specific disaggregated data and information.

Coordinate with law enforcing agencies to ensure remedies, build trust and restore peace.

Initiate inter communal harmony and peace processes

Donors (Institutional, Corporate, Individuals):
To provide resources to address the needs emerging due to crisis.

Citizens:
To contribute to de-escalation of violence, especially by practicing restraint and sharing only verified information on social media.

On behalf of Sphere India Members, Vikrant Mahajan, CEO, Sphere India

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Disclaimer: Sphere India makes every effort to verify the information contained in its Situation Reports. As the ground situation changes rapidly in emergency situations, users should check with concerned agencies before making any decisions based on the information provided in this report.