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Press Note:

UNICEF to partner with Indian Red Cross Society AP State Branch for COVID-19 response and recovery

- UNICEF writes to AP Governor to formalize the tie up
- AP Governor welcomes the initiative and seeks timely implementation of the programme

Vijayawada, May 06: In a letter addressed to AP Governor Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan, Mr. Meital Rusdia, Chief of Field Office of UNICEF, representing AP, Karnataka and Telangana, sought the approval of the Governor and President of the AP State Branch of Indian Red Cross Society, to partner with IRCS AP State Branch, for COVID-19 response and recovery programme.

As part of the programme, UNICEF will organize a series of capacity enhancement programmes for the Red Cross volunteers to strengthen the preparedness of schools in respect of child protection and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) activities, reaching out to the children in Anganwadi Centres for immunization and programmes of District Woman welfare and Child Development, communication of Health awareness, sharing of IEC/ICT messages to the communities etc.

The programme will have a special focus on community engagement for practicing WASH behavior, respiratory etiquette, social distancing for COVID-19. Psycho-social care for the benefit of frontline workers and COVID-19 impacted individuals and families will also be dealt with as part

of the capacity enhancement of programme of volunteers of AP State Branch of IRCS.

Sri Mukesh Kumar Meena, Secretary to Governor conveyed to the Chief of UNICEF Field Office, the appreciation of the Governor Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan, for the proactive initiative of the UNICEF Field Office at Hyderabad and that the communication received from the Chief of UNICEF Field Office was forwarded to Dr. A. Sridhar Reddy, Chairman and Sri A.K. Parida, General Secretary of AP State Branch of Indian Red Cross Society, to formalise the initiative and prepare a road map for implementation of the programme.

The Governor felt that the initiative of the UNICEF is a sign of collaborative effort to fight against the menace of COVID-19 and will be useful to effectively deal with the after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor desired that the joint initiative between UNICEF and IRCS AP State Branch, is consolidated and the capacity enhancement programme is implemented in a time-bound manner.