

28 April 2021



Hon. Boris Johnson
Presidency of the G7
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Jonathan Black
G7 Sherpa
Cabinet Office
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RE: COVID-19 OXYGEN CRISIS – ROLE OF THE G7

On behalf of civil society for the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator), motivated by the current oxygen crisis in India, Brazil and surging oxygen needs in Turkey, Argentina, Ukraine and many other low- and middle-income countries, we are writing to request urgent action to tackle mass deaths due to oxygen deprivation.

Six major companies producing oxygen are based in G7 countries, notably Linde Group (UK), Air Liquide (France), Messer Group (Germany), Air Products (USA), SOL Group (Italy), and TNSC (Japan). We urge the G7 through your Presidency to mobilise these companies immediately to deploy urgent supplies to India in an act of global solidarity, and then to help other countries at risk of oxygen shortages procure the supplies they need.

In addition to this, we are deeply concerned that logistical barriers are preventing the entry of essential medical equipment such as liquid oxygen, oxygen plants, and concentrators into some of the most affected states (Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala), and we call upon the G7 to engage in urgent international coordination meetings to solve these logistical issues.

We are hearing from civil society in India that there is also a severe shortage of skilled personnel to tend to patients during this unprecedented surge in cases and oxygen shortages. We have seen examples of skilled personnel participating in missions to support countries struggling with overload, and call upon the G7 to facilitate not just the supply of essential oxygen supplies, but also make an offer to the Indian government of essential manpower that can help reduce deaths in the immediate term.

Following a successful mobilisation to help India avert more deaths from lack of access to oxygen, we call upon the G7 to focus on the next set of countries at risk of oxygen shortages to prevent a repeat of the tragedy unfolding in India.

In addition, the G7 and other donors need to mobilize resources to help meet the estimated \$5.665 billion annual cost of oxygen for COVID-19 treatment in LMICs.

Your urgent action on this will prevent tens of thousands of premature deaths.

We appreciate your urgent action and await your response to this letter.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fifa A Rahman'.

Dr Fifa A Rahman
Permanent Civil Society Representative for the ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council
Affiliated to Health Poverty Action (UK)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Ngola O'witi'.

Peter Ngola O'witi
Community Representative to the ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council
Wote Youth Development Projects (Kenya)

CC to: Indra Mani Pandey
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Co-signed by:

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Individuals	