

JANVIKAS
IDEAL CSJ & IST

1st JUNE, 2020

Combating
COVID-19
PANDEMIC



RESPONSE MECHANISM &
SUPPORT TO THE VULNERABLE

OUR RESPONSE MECHANISM

The lockdown imposed on March 25 to break the chain of corona virus transmission has debilitated the lives of estimated 120 million^[1] migrant labourers and daily wagers across India. This lockdown has delivered a deadly punch to these people who live hand to mouth. The migrant labourers in Ahmedabad also found it difficult to survive as they lost their daily wages because of the lockdown. The inability to make ends meet, fear of the unknown and the bleak implementation of the Shramik trains led to a mass exodus of migrant workers. Scores of migrant workers have been traversing a long distance on foot to reach their hometowns.

Janvikas along with its associates - Institute for Transformation Studies (IST) and Institute for Development Education and Learning - Centre for Social Justice (IDEAL-CSJ) responded immediately after the lockdown was affected, primarily in the states of Gujarat, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Delhi, helping in every way they can - from distributing rations to families in slums to providing meals through community kitchen to the migrants. Cash transfer was also initiated to few most vulnerable families. Janvikas and its associates have coordinated with District collector of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar to supply dry food packets to the migrants for their journey to hometown on train.



On humanitarian grounds, Janvikas along with its associates provided food packets, necessary medicines and footwear to these migrants who walked all the way to their hometowns. Center for Social Justice (CSJ) continues its efforts on providing information as well as legal services to avail entitlements.

- 45804 individuals benefitted through immediate relief (Food, Ration, and hygiene kits) in the state of Gujarat and Delhi
- 42540 migrants benefitted through immediate relief (food packets)
- 416 individuals benefitted through cash transfer.
- 6428 individuals availed legal support related to immediate relief of food supply, shelter, compensation and DLSA activation.
- 10000 messages sent on welfare schemes, entitlements through technological interventions.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RELIEF WORK

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION



Janvikas[2] has been working since 1987 with marginalized and poor communities to build a **just, democratic** and **secular society**, by facilitating and creating change agents and leaders in these communities. Janvikas works in 11 districts of Gujarat and so far, has incubated 18 community based organizations, developed 1425 community leaders to reach out to the most vulnerable families.

Centre for Social Justice[3] (referred as CSJ herein thereafter) focuses on providing legal aid and services to the most vulnerable through its 14 law centres responding to 3000 cases/claims annually in the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Institute for Studies and Transformation[4] (referred as IST herein thereafter) has been working with a vision to bring sustainable changes in lives of marginalized communities by way of policy advocacy and range of community empowerment programmes. IST works in 8 blocks located within 4 districts of Gujarat and 4 areas in Ahmedabad city.

[2] www.janvikas.in

[3] <https://www.centreforsocialjustice.net/>

[4] <https://www.istahmedabad.org/>

REACH OF ORGANISATION'S COVID RELIEF WORK



DELHI

300 individuals - Immediate Relief (Ration kits)



GUJARAT

37255 individuals - Immediate Relief (Ration & Hygiene kits)

42450 individuals - Food to migrants

416- Immediate Relief Cash Transfer

1600- Training & Capacity Building.

809 PPE kits -Safai karamcharis & Health Workers

3120- Legal Service Support



JHARKHAND

512 Individuals -Support to migrants

518 Individuals - Legal Service Support



CHHATTISGARH

1852 Individuals - Legal service Support

1438 - Support to migrants

841 - DLSA Activated

10000 messages - Technological Intervention

5 - Disinfection and Sanitization Tunnels

PDS (Public Distribution System) Activated, and Supported Migrants

OUR RESPONSES IN DETAIL

Kind of Response	Activity Details	Our Response/ Impact
<p>Relief (Food Supply : Dry Ration & Hygiene Kits)</p> 	<p>A kit with wheat flour, rice, pulses, sugar, tea, spices, soaps, sanitary pads which could last during the lockdown period was prepared. The food supply was procured in bulk for Ahmedabad city whereas in other location it was procured locally and the kits prepared.</p>	<p>7511 kits distributed. 37,555 individuals in districts of Gujarat which includes Ahmedabad, Petlad, Khambhat, Himmatnagar, Panchmahal, Kheda, Nakhatrana in Kutch, Jambusar, Vadodara, as well as in Delhi. These supplies were arranged in coordination with various like-minded Community Based Organisations (CBO) and NGOs like Aatapi, Sahaj and Muslim Women Forum.</p>
<p>Relief (Dry Food Packets for migrants leaving by trains)</p> 	<p>Food Packets prepared and supplied to Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar District Collectors-for distribution to the migrants travelling by trains to Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Bihar.</p>	<p>14040 dry food packets supplied to migrants leaving by train from Ahmedabad. 20000 biscuit packets were supplied to migrants leaving by train from Gandhinagar to their home towns.</p>
<p>Relief (Food Packets for migrants on foot)</p> 	<p>Food packets prepared and distributed to migrants who were travelling to their home towns.</p>	<p>2500 food packets along with water, medicine and foot wear provided to migrants who walked on foot to their home towns on Gujarat- Rajasthan corridor. Route Gandhinagar to Ratanpur, Rajasthan</p>
<p>Relief (Hot meals / Food Packets)</p> 	<p>Food Packets prepared and distributed with the help of local donors and community engagement. Police as well as local community/youth groups voluntarily contributed towards the food packets for the needy.</p>	<p>5749 daily wagers reached out in Ahmedabad and surrounding areas of Ahmedabad with the support of local donors and community engagement.</p>

Relief (Loose Ration)

Loose Ration provided to the migrant colonies near Thaltej, Ahmedabad.

900 migrant workers were provided loose ration at Thaltej, Ahmedabad.

Relief (Food through Community kitchens)



Self-managed community kitchens started in Zone-5 of Ahmedabad city- covering areas like Gomtipur and Saraspur with high influx of migrant population to provide hygienic meals twice a day. This kitchen is being managed by migrant workers themselves right through the supply of ration and vegetables and cooking meals.

In addition to that, an existing community kitchen at Gota, Ahmedabad was provided with loose ration to provide meals for migrants.

Total **5100** migrants benefitted:

(a) 12 kitchens were operational and fed 4500 migrant workers with hygienic meals twice a day in Zone-5 of Ahmedabad

(b) The community kitchen at Gota, Ahmedabad fed 600 migrants

Relief (Cash Transfers)

Provided support in form of cash transfer to most vulnerable communities in 2 to 3 installments.

Total: **416** Individuals received benefits

Rs. 7,000/ each- received by 61 households in Ahmedabad

Rs. 1000/- each received by 16 families for purchasing ration in Sabarkantha district.

Rs. 3000 each received by 31 young girls and boys who were trained and placed by Janvikas but have lost jobs owing to COVID crisis.

Relief (**Personal Protective Equipment**)

Safety gears for our waste warriors

Safai karamcharis & Health Workers of Government offices



Safai karamcharis provided with safety gears like masks, sanitizers, etc, along with ration kits to minimize containment of COVID-19.

Kit consisting of Protection suit, mask, face shield and reusable gloves were distributed to the health workers

500 Safai karamcharis equipped with Personal Protective Equipment in Ahmedabad.

2500 individuals benefitted as ration was provided to them.

309 Health workers of Government Health Dept. equipped with Personal Protective Equipment kit.

Total: 809 individuals benefitted

Smart Disinfection and Sanitization tunnels



With an aim to limit the containment of COVID-19, smart disinfection and sanitization tunnels have been procured to be installed in localities, largely with communities where it works.

5 smart disinfection and sanitization tunnels procured and installed for mass sanitization in communities to limit the containment of COVID-19.

Locations: (Ahmedabad - Vejalpur, Vatwa, Mirzapur, Nani Devti) and Rajasthan -Banswara)

Translation and reach of Entitlements - Awareness

An exhaustive list of entitlements /circular that was announced by the Government of India for combating COVID-19 is compiled in Hindi, Gujarati and English to serve as a ready reckoner by paralegal/volunteers. A toolkit for monitoring these entitlements has been prepared in Hindi, English and Gujarati.

Volunteers and paralegals used entitlement awareness toolkits to support affected people to help them avail the welfare schemes floated by the Government.

Technological Intervention

Voice messages disseminated to community regarding various entitlements through technological collaboration.

10000 individuals reached through 20 voice messages in collaboration with Awaz-De.

Community Radio

Supported local police for using sound recording facility from our community radio 'Nazaria' for broadcasting educational messages.

300000 people reached through educational messages broadcasted through Community Radio 'Nazaria' by Ahmedabad Police in the city.

Training & Capacity Building

An online training of the paralegal /volunteers of IDEAL - CSJas well as other organisations have been organized to build their capacities to support the community on accessing the schemes / entitlements.

600 paralegals / volunteers trained on accessing the schemes/ entitlements through toolkit.

An online training of the community leaders across Gujarat conducted to develop competency on the preventive measures, hygiene, social distancing, combating stigma in communities and psycho-social care required for COVID-19 by collaborating with Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH) Gandhinagar and IIT, Kharagpur.

The online training for 1600 community leaders is in progress for building the capacity of community leaders for undertaking preventive measures to combat COVID-19.

<p>Legal Services Support</p>	<p>Disaster Victim Legal Services Scheme activated for creating evidence for future advocacy for its future functionality. Efforts have also been undertaken to identify people eligible for various entitlements and removing systemic blocks in implementation.</p>	<p>1342 victims supported through DLSA.</p> <p>More than 2490 victims supported on issues related to immediate relief of food supply, shelter and compensation.</p>
<p>Government Engagement</p>	<p>Activated the Public Distribution System-PDS, Mid-day Meal and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) through state, city and local Government engagement.</p> <p>Advocacy avenues were explored at top level with Secretariats, Civil Supply, police for curfew passes for movement, etc. Engaged with District Collectors of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar for the relief work for migrants related to COVID-19.</p>	<p>Activation of these essential services has helped people to avail essential commodities.</p> <p>Coordinating for supplying dry food packets to the migrants leaving for their hometown by trains.</p>
<p>Support to Migrants (Legal support)</p>	<p>Tracking migrants through our volunteer teams based in our areas of operation.</p>	<p>1966 migrants supported</p>
<p>Collaboration with organizations and funders</p>	<p>Partnership explored with other like-minded organizations to meet food supply needs of around 10,000 families with ration kits who have lost livelihoods.</p> <p>Donors like Omidyar, Oxfam, APPI, HCL Foundation, H. T. Parekh Foundation, Indostar, GiveIndia, and many more as well as individual donors and US foundation explored.</p>	<p>Supported and helped the organizations to provide and facilitate relief work reach to the people in crisis.</p>

CASE STUDIES

WORKERS GET THEIR SALARIES THROUGH APPEAL



Syntex company has its operation in the coastal taluka of Rajula in Amreli district, Gujarat. Almost 3000 workers who worked were not paid their wages. These workers contacted the CSJ's Amreli office for intervention. A representation was made to the collector. This issue also received media attention. The HR Manager of Syntex informed CSJ representatives that they did not have money to pay for the wages of these workers. This news being widely circulated by media, reached an official at British High Commission Office who influenced local officials to take up this issue of industrial labour. As a result, 40% of their salaries were released. Efforts continue to release the remaining amount.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

unleashing a new hope

The national lockdown has affected the migrant workers adversely. One such case is of Saddam and Mukesh who are migrant workers from the state of Bihar and work at a cloth market in Ahmedabad. The sudden lockdown on 25th March stranded them. No work means no pay. Initially their employers supported them with ration and later on they stopped responding too, which resulted in both of them stranded just like thousands of other migrant workers like them.

Understanding their plight, Janvikas and its associates started 12 community kitchens in areas with influx of migrant population. These kitchens were designed to be operated by these people themselves, wherein they contributed in procuring ration and vegetables, cutting and cooking based on their expertise.

This entire initiative was supported by DCP of Zone -5, Ahmedabad. People like Saddam and Mukesh became community leaders and overlooked the entire operation of the community kitchen. Understanding this good service to the society, many good Samaritans offered their support. This kitchen was initiated to feed the hungry but it became a social service movement. It assured food to 4500 migrant workers twice a day, as also made the community aware of the migrants' hardship. This awareness resulted in the house owners waiving rents and supporting the community kitchen with loose ration and other commodities and doctors volunteering to offer their services. The people at large were also made aware of welfare schemes. With extended lockdown and as uncertainty looms on all fronts and difficulty to survive in Ahmedabad, these migrants expressed their desire to head home. Arrangements are being made. So, hoping that Saddam and Mukesh and thousands like them will soon head back home and reunite with their families.



CHALLENGES FACED BY OUR GROUND LEADERS DURING RELIEF OPERATIONS

While the relief measures are active on ground, there are lots of challenges our front line workers face. With the increasing number of COVID cases, angst and livelihood insecurity, which are stated as below:

- Difficulty to reach to the most vulnerable with restrictions on movement and in getting permits to reach out to them.
- In spite of preventive measures taken by staff and volunteers from COVID-19, four of our frontline workers became victims of this deadly virus COVID-19 but have eventually recovered.
- Ensuring safe transit of migrants.
- Counseling and convincing the migrants to wait for transportation rather than traversing on foot.

OUR NEXT STEPS LIFE & SECURITY ADMIST DISTANCING & COVID-19

As India lifts a major chunk of lockdown restrictions from 1st June in non-containment zone Central Government's bid is to gradually unlock the country and revive its economy. Though the pandemic is still raging in the country, the large population of working class and labourers of the country will return to their workplace. The norms of social distancing will have to be ensured to limit the containment of Corona virus for economic progress. But everyday survival, when work is likely to be scarce and food insecurity rife, will take precedence over the niceties of new social etiquette.

Janvikas aims to develop a resilient community and so its efforts continue on training community leaders on developing an understanding on the preventive measures, hygiene, social distancing, combating stigma in communities and psycho-social care required for COVID-19 by collaborating with Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH) Gandhinagar. Equipped with this training, the community leaders will aim at sensitizing and train the community on combating with COVID-19. Post lockdown, Janvikas intends to help the small scale vendors who have no means to comeback. We intend to help them with a small capital fund to help them to revive their business and in turn support the economy. In addition to this, Janvikas aims to adopt sustainable approach in its existing intervention and threat preparedness to become an integral part of all programmes for larger good of vulnerable communities to mitigate risks and become resilient during such crisis.

DETAILS OF MEDIA COVERAGE

NATIONAL COVERGARE

1. English.gujaratexclusive.in - coverage on Apr 22, 2020
NGO, Police join hands to start cluster kitchens for migrants
<https://english.gujaratexclusive.in/ngo-police-join-hands-to-start-cluster-kitchens-for-migrants/>
2. Counterview - coverage on Apr 22, 2020
Ahmedabad NGO-aided self-run Dignity Kitchens feeding thousands of migrants
<https://www.counterview.net/2020/04/ngo-supported-self-run-dignity-kitchens.html?m=1>
3. Times of India - coverage on NGO serves meals to 5k migrants
4. Counterview - published on 16 May, 2020
Migrants walking on highway feel brunt of policy that depends on economic progress alone.
<https://counterview.org/2020/05/16/migrants-walking-on-highway-feel-brunt-of-policy-that-depends-on-economic-progress-alone/>

INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE

1. Article published in DesiTalk in New York - Page 22
Public Charitable Trust Janvikas Helping Migrant Labour IN Gujarat Displaced by COVID -19
2. Newindiatimes.com - published on May 11, 2020
Public Charitable Trust Janvikas Helping Migrant Labour In Gujarat Displaced by COVID-19
<https://www.newsindiatimes.com/public-charitable-trust-janvikas-helping-migrant-laborers-in-gujarat-displaced-by-covid-19/>

WEBINAR

On the Front lines with Gagan Sethi
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxzZLldr434&feature=youtu.be>

english.gujaratexclusive.in

Gujarat Exclusive > Gujarat > NGO, police join hands to start cluster kitchens for migrants

NGO, police join hands to start cluster kitchens for migrants

By Exclusive Author - April 22, 2020 220 0



NGO serves meals to 5k migrants

TIME NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: As the COVID-19 pandemic rages around, a city-based non-government organization (NGO) has been providing meals to nearly 5,000 migrants every day.

The Institute of Social Studies and Transformation (IST), an initiative of city-based NGO Janvikas, is working in close co-ordination with deputy commissioner of police, Zone 5, to provide food to migrants twice a day through 15 self-run kitchens, a media statement said. Since the nationwide lockdown began on March 24, there have been several reports of panic and insecurity among migrant labourers



working in several sectors as well as casual and contract workers. This is also true of Ahmedabad and its hinterland.

Many migrant workers belonging to distant states such as UP, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal have been stuck at their worksites.

In the last three weeks, several local NCOs have been distributing food packets to feed these workers by raising funds through local contributions. Besides this, community kitchens were initiated.

The team and volunteers of IST have been supplying food in localities such as Gomtipur, Rakhial and Saraspur, where many of these migrant workers are located. "Our team conducted a mapping exercise to identify the number of workers in various clusters. So far, we have mapped some 5,000 workers and helped them get connected to nearby community groups to access daily food packs," the statement said. "During this period, we have been able to successfully link them all to one community group or another."

We deeply appreciate the love, trust and support we have received in the communities we work with. It is in these times of adversity, the true test of support and authenticity is assured. We respect and celebrate our frontline workers and leaders, who inculcate, assure and confirm this trust and our relationship with vulnerable communities.

THANK YOU