



The Coronavirus Pandemic and State Response in India

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The global coronavirus pandemic has created an unprecedented situation across the world with states struggling to treat infected persons and contain the spread of the virus, which has no known cure as yet. As with every crisis, the already marginalized, excluded, and discriminated individuals, groups, and communities are most vulnerable and suffer disproportionately – both in terms of their heightened risk and in terms of their inability to cope with preventive measures such as complete lockdowns and quarantining.

While curtailing public mobility and taking other adequate precautionary measures are critical to controlling the spread of the pandemic, the sudden nationwide 21-day lockdown announced by the Government of India on 24 March came as a shock to many. After almost two weeks of implementation, the lockdown has taken a huge toll on the country's informal sector workers, who comprise over 90 per cent of the country's workforce and include homeless persons, migrant workers, and agricultural labourers, who were left unemployed overnight without housing, food, and the means to return home. This has led to a series of other acute crises in the country – of hunger, of inadequate shelters, of overcrowding in shelters and at food distribution points heightening risk of infection spread, and of masses of people walking to their villages from large cities across India – without food, water, transport, and any form of state assistance. On 28 March, all state governments were ordered to seal borders and stop migrants from returning home. The central government further asked states to provide free shelter and food to all stranded migrant workers and their families.

In response to the nationwide lockdown, several state governments have announced relief measures ranging from the provision of free rations, cooked food for the urban poor, home delivery of children's mid-day meals, advance pension payments, and temporary shelters and relief camps for the homeless and migrants.

On 26 March, the Government of India announced a Rs 1.7 lakh crore (Rs 1.7 trillion or USD 22.6 billion) relief package for the nation, including the provision of free rice/wheat and pulses for three months to beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System. The measures do not suggest cash transfers or unemployment benefits for the majority of those employed in the informal economy, the daily wage workers, who are most severely hit by the lockdown.

Protecting the health of the most marginalized should also include measures to address the structural inequalities and entrenched poverty in the country, where millions live in grossly inadequate conditions – in overcrowded settlements, in underserviced homeless shelters, and on the streets, without access to adequate housing and essential services such as water – both deemed as essential prerequisites for protection from COVID-19.

Though the scale and impacts of this pandemic are unprecedented, it has exposed major gaps in our social protection systems, including with regard to access to social security, adequate housing, and healthcare, and thus holds valuable lessons for moving forward.

On 13 March 2020, Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN), through a [press release](#), had called for urgent measures to be taken to protect the most vulnerable, especially homeless persons and others living without adequate housing, from COVID-19 and preventive measures.

Given the exacerbation of the national situation, including in light of the recent lockdown, Housing and Land Rights Network would like to emphasize the following recommendations:

1. **A national moratorium on evictions and home demolitions**, for any reason including ostensible ‘public purpose’ projects, across all states of the country, for at least the next six months. People should also not be evicted on account of their inability to pay rent/mortgage on their home loans. States should assist the urban and rural poor with rental vouchers, where required, to reduce the financial burden on them.
2. **Increase in the number of shelters and provision of adequate emergency housing** for homeless persons in vacant government buildings, community/marriage halls, schools, and hotels with adequate space and services, including water, sanitation, and clean bedding, across the country.
3. **Special facilities for stranded migrant workers** who have not been able to return home on account of the lockdown, including adequate temporary housing, sufficient food and water, and access to adequate healthcare. Shelters must provide adequate space for distancing. **Safe and secure transportation services** should be provided, as required, with coordination across states to ensure that those who need to go home can do so safely, without any risk to their health and lives. In this regard, army vehicles could be used to transport stranded and vulnerable individuals and groups.
4. **Free ration/food grains and cooking supplies to residents of informal settlements and to homeless families** living on the streets in all cities as well as to the **rural poor** who are not registered under state schemes and do not have access to food, as a result of the lockdown. Ration should be provided to all those who require it, irrespective of whether they have ration cards under the Public Distribution System. Procedures for receiving food should be simplified and should be inclusive. All food distribution centres must ensure adequate space and distancing between people. Free cloth masks and sanitizer facilities must be made available at these centres. In addition, people who need to reach these food centres should be provided with passes and their movement must not be curtailed on account of the lockdown, as this could have adverse effects on their health, including the very real threat of starvation. Police officials need to be sensitized to ensure that there is no violence against the urban or rural poor while trying to access food and shelter.
5. **Adequate and free water supply** in all settlements and homeless clusters, through additional government water tankers. Hand washing and drinking water stations could be set up at key points, as has been done in other countries.
6. **Increase in the number of community toilets** with adequate sanitation facilities across the country; access should be free for the poor.
7. **Improved access to healthcare for the urban and rural poor**, including through regular visits of mobile health vans in all settlements and homeless clusters, with the availability of free medicines and testing facilities, especially during the lockdown. There is an urgent need for Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers to visit shelters and low-income settlements to address health concerns of pregnant women and to ensure timely immunization of infants and children.

8. **Free packed meals for homeless persons who are destitute, older, pregnant, unwell, have disabilities, and are living with mental illness.**
9. Distribution of **free milk to homeless children and children living in settlements/relief camps**, as they face an acute threat of malnourishment. States that are not supplying mid-day meals/rations/reimbursement of costs at homes of school-going children should do so immediately.
10. **Guidelines, special facilities, and provision of nutritious food for homeless children/children in street situations** living on their own, including protection from violence.
11. **Protocols and facilities for isolation and quarantining of homeless people, migrant workers, and those living without adequate housing across the country.** Comprehensive and sensitive guidelines for quarantining of migrant workers should be developed and conveyed to all district and village-level officials, to ensure that they are treated with respect and do not face discrimination. Adequate quarantining facilities should be set up across the country, including in villages, to ensure that no one is forced to sleep in the open/prevented from entering villages. Adequate information on the coronavirus pandemic, precautionary measures, and isolation protocols also needs to be provided to all in local languages and through various mediums.
12. **Distribution of soap, sanitizers, disinfectants, and masks** in informal settlements, homeless shelters, and areas where homeless people live.

Some of these measures have been included in state government relief plans. Courts in Bombay and Allahabad have called for temporary bans on evictions, while the Madras and Karnataka High Courts have asked for relief measures for the marginalized, such as free cooked meals, distribution of food packets, and improved shelter facilities. Metropolitan cities including Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, and Chennai have taken measures to accommodate homeless persons and migrants who have been stranded by the lockdown. We commend states that are providing free meals to the urban poor and have announced other measures to protect homeless persons and daily wage workers, and hope that others will follow soon.

Given the acute magnitude of this health crisis and the threat of national hunger and deprivation that could result from the lockdown, HLRN calls on the Government of India, at all levels, to ensure the adoption of a **human rights approach** in its response to the coronavirus pandemic, as emphasized by the [United Nations](#) (UN) Secretary General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and various other UN human rights mechanisms. This requires prioritizing the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable, and ensuring that all human rights are respected and protected in all state interventions related to this pandemic. State response to COVID-19 cannot, under any circumstances, justify the violation of human rights, including the right to privacy.

In an attempt to promote the sharing of positive practices in these challenging times, Housing and Land Rights Network has compiled this document of relief measures pronounced by various state governments and the central government in India. While appreciating such measures, we urge the central and state governments to ensure that they are implemented adequately and in a manner that ensures non-discrimination, gender equality, and respect for human rights. All vulnerable and marginalized groups must be able to access and benefit from these provisions, including those facing historic and widespread discrimination such as Scheduled Castes/Dalits, indigenous and tribal communities, transgender persons, and sexual and religious minorities. The government, at all levels, should use the COVID-19 pandemic to develop durable solutions aimed at ensuring that everyone in the country has access to adequate housing, food, water, healthcare, and social security.

We hope this document will help strengthen the development of a more coordinated and robust human rights response to this pandemic that has threatened the world in unprecedented ways. It is only through solidarity, humanity, compassion, and an emphasis on human rights that we can find a way out together.



Relief Measures Announced by States in India to Assist Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups During the COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic and Lockdown

Compilation by Housing and Land Rights Network: 7 April 2020

| STATE | PROVISIONS |
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| Andhra Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelter to be provided to all homeless persons, 'beggars,' and migrant workers. Adequate provisions to be made for food, cleanliness, and hygiene in shelter premises. Free ration and Rs 1,000 to be paid to families living below the poverty line (BPL). Ration to be made available at the doorsteps of 'white ration card' holders by 31 March 2020. One kilogramme of <i>toor daal</i> (pulse) to be provided free of cost by 4 April 2020. Daily wage earners to be paid Rs 1,000 to address challenges faced due to loss of livelihoods. |
| Arunachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelters for all homeless persons and migrant workers, along with adequate food. Cash relief of Rs 2,000 per month to be provided to all construction workers in the state for two months (April and May). |
| Assam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free rice to be provided to 58 lakh (5.8 million) BPL families for the month of April. One-time financial assistance of Rs 1,000 to all households with no ration cards/non-beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act 2013 (NFSA). Mid-day meals to be provided to 40 lakh (4 million) students at their homes. A one-time payment of Rs 1,000 to be made to 278,000 construction workers. |
| Bihar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Emergency Relief Centres" to be set up in Patna and other urban areas in the state where labourers will be provided with shelter and food. For migrant workers from Bihar who are unable to return home, arrangements will be made to assist them. Rs 100 crore (1 billion) to be allocated for the same from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. One month's free ration and Rs 1,000 to be paid through direct benefit transfer (DBT) to all ration card holders. Three month's advance pension to be deposited directly to beneficiaries under existing pension schemes for older persons, persons with disabilities, and widows. Scholarships to students of government schools (Classes 1 to 12) by 31 March 2020. A payment of Rs 1,000 to be made to each of the registered 13 lakh (1.3 million) construction workers in the state. |
| Chhattisgarh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Temporary Relief Camps" to be set up for homeless and migrant workers, with adequate provisions for food, water, and other facilities. Rice, salt, and sugar to be distributed in April and May to all ration card holders through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Priority to be given to <i>Antyodaya Anna Yojana</i> and <i>Annapurna</i> card holders. |

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| Chhattisgarh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-day meals, consisting of dry ration, including <i>daal</i> (pulses) and rice, to be provided to children for 40 days. Primary school students to be given 4 kilogrammes of rice and 800 grams of <i>daal</i> and Higher Secondary school students to be given 6 kilogrammes of rice and 1,200 grams of <i>daal</i>. • To ensure food security of “moderate and severely malnourished children between the age of 3 and 6 years” who avail of <i>anganwadi</i>/Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, ‘take-home’ 750 grams of ration to be home delivered. • Essential commodities, including lentils, rice, and vegetables to be distributed to indigenous peoples/tribals/<i>adivasis</i> in a few districts in the state. • Food packets to be distributed to destitute and homeless persons by the district administration. |
| Delhi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More homeless shelters to be set up across the city. • Free lunch and dinner to be provided at all homeless shelters and other ‘hunger relief centres’ – total of 2,000 distribution points set up across Delhi to provide food to over 650,000 people. • Free ration, with more than 50 per cent increase in quantity, to be provided to over 7.2 million people (18 lakh families) across Delhi, including those without ration cards. • ‘Hunger helpline’ set up for all districts of Delhi. • Meals to be delivered to homes of children enrolled under the <i>anganwadi</i>/ICDS scheme. • Doubling of pension provided under schemes of the Government of Delhi. These include the Old Age Assistance, Financial Assistance to Persons with Special Needs, and the Delhi Pension Scheme to Women in Distress (Widows, Divorced, Separated, Destitute, Abandoned Women). • Pensions of Rs 4,000–5,000 to be paid to 8.5 lakh (850,000) beneficiaries by 7 April 2020. • Rs 5,000 grant to be made to all construction workers. |
| Goa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State government to move all homeless persons to shelters. • ‘Shelter homes’ to be set up for migrant workers in each <i>taluk</i> in the state, with provisions for adequate food. • All families, including <i>Antyodaya Anna Yojana</i> and Priority Households to be connected with NFSA and to be given additional 5 kilogrammes per person, per month free of cost, for three months, from April to June 2020. • Food helpline to be set up to ensure homeless persons in the city have access to food. |
| Gujarat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free ration, including food grains to be provided for 60 lakh (6 million) families consisting of 3.25 crore (32.5 million) people, from 1 April 2020. • Each person to get 3.5 kilogrammes of wheat and 1.5 kilogrammes of rice. Each family to get 1 kilogramme of sugar, <i>daal</i>, and salt. • Food grains to be distributed to homeless and destitute persons in the state under the <i>Anna Brahman Yojana</i> from 4 April 2020. • Cost of cooking mid-day meals to be paid to families of children of primary schools closed due to the coronavirus lockdown. • ‘Take Home Ration’ to be provided to children under the age of six, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers till the end of the lockdown (14 April 2020). • ‘Vadil Vandana’ programme to provide free meals to older persons living alone in metropolitan cities of the state. • Advance pension for April to be paid through DBT to 13.66 lakh (1.36 million) beneficiaries in the state. |
| Haryana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relief camps (467) with a capacity of 70,000 people set up for migrant workers and homeless persons, with provision of adequate food and other facilities. • Dry rations to be distributed to beneficiaries of Anganwadi Centres at their doorsteps. • Rations for the month of April to be provided free of cost to all BPL families. • Yellow and pink ration card holders to be given 2 litres of mustard oil, 1 kilogramme of sugar, 1 kilogramme of pulses, and 10 kilogrammes of wheat per member; khaki ration card holders to be given 10 kilogrammes of wheat per member and 1 kilogramme of pulses. |

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| Haryana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry rations to be given to all government school children and those enrolled in <i>anganwadis</i> for the period that schools and <i>anganwadis</i> stay closed. • Packed ration to be distributed to poor persons or migrant workers who do not have ration cards. • Rs 1,000 per week to be disbursed to families who have land holdings of less than 5 acres and annual income of less than Rs 180,00, and are not covered under any government scheme or getting any financial assistance under any other category. • A Haryana Corona Relief Fund to be set up to mitigate hardships of those affected by the spread of COVID-19. • A sum of Rs 4,500 per month to be provided, on a weekly basis beginning March 30, to all those registered with the Haryana Board of Construction Workers but not registered under the <i>Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samriddhi</i> (Chief Minister's Family Welfare) scheme. The sum will be credited directly to people's bank accounts. • Special financial assistance to be provided to BPL and low-income groups like daily wagers, labourers, street vendors, and construction workers. • Counsellors or community group leaders to counsel migrants living in relief camps. |
| Himachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelters with adequate provisions for food to be set up for the poor, needy, and migrant workers. • Ration, including flour and rice, for two months to be given to targeted PDS/ration card holders. • Rs 160.2 crore (1.6 billion), as first quarter pension, to be released to social security pension holders in the first week of April. Rs 3,000, as first quarter pension, to be provided within a fortnight to about 534,000 social security pension holders, including about 125,000 widows and disabled persons. • Rs 2,000 to be provided, as a one-time relief, to about 105,000 workers registered with the Building and Construction Workers' Board. • A Rs 500-crore (5 billion) relief package to be provided to the poor and needy, and Rs 30 crore (300 million) to be provided to construction workers, who are likely to face financial troubles due to the coronavirus outbreak and lockdown. |
| Jammu and Kashmir | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free dry ration to be provided to the "poor" till the national lockdown is lifted. • Rs 1,000 each to be provided to 3.5 lakh (350,000) construction workers registered with the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board for purchase of ration. • Relief, including in the form of wages, to be provided to 2.26 lakh (226,000) workers under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation scheme. |
| Jharkhand | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All poor and homeless persons to be taken to state-run shelters across the state, with arrangements to be made for the provision of adequate food. • Community kitchens/<i>khichdi/daal bhaat</i> (meal of rice, lentils, and vegetables) kitchens to be set up across the state to provide meals to the poor. • Subsidized ration, for two months, to be provided in advance to all ration card holders. • Ten kilogrammes of rice at 1 rupee per kilogramme to be provided to 690,000 families with pending applications for ration cards. |
| Karnataka | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community halls, wedding halls, and boarding schools to be used to accommodate homeless persons and migrant workers in the state. • Two months social security payments and ration to all "poor families" to be paid in advance. • 'Food helpline' set up to address issues of food security among homeless persons, migrant workers, and daily wage labourers. • All students in government and aided schools in the state to receive food grains till the end of the lockdown. • An amount of Rs 1,000 each to be paid to 21 lakh (2.1 million) construction workers in the state. • Loans amounting to Rs 13,200 crore (132 billion) provided to street vendors under the <i>Badavara Bandhu</i> (Welfare for the Poor) scheme waived. |

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| Kerala | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relief camps to be set up: 4,603 relief camps for 144,145 migrant workers; 35 camps opened for 1,545 homeless and destitute people. Food, masks, soaps, sanitizer to be made available at all relief camps. Community kitchens to be set up in every Panchayat across the state. Ten kilogrammes of free ration to be distributed to all families (below and above the poverty line); Rs 100 crore (1 billion) to be set aside for the purpose. Delivery of mid-day meals to children at home. 1,000 low-cost hotels, providing food at Rs 20, to be opened across the state in April 2020. Rs 1,000 to be given to all BPL and <i>Antyodaya Anna Yojana</i> families, who do not receive social security pension, and to 48,454 state-run lottery sellers, who are mostly differently-abled people/persons with disabilities. Special arrangements to provide essential items to indigenous peoples/tribals/<i>adivasis</i> in a few districts in the state. Social security pension of Rs 1,320 crore (13.2 billion), which was to be given in April, to be distributed in March. Rs 1,000 to be given to all BPL and <i>Antyodaya Anna Yojana</i> families, who do not receive social security pension. Loans worth Rs 2,000 crore (20 billion) to be made available to needy families through the all-women's network 'Kudumbashree' during the months of April and May. A 24-hour Call Centre to be established at the Labour Commissionerate to address requests/complaints related to migrant workers. |
| Madhya Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One month free ration to be provided to all BPL families. Food packets to be provided for daily wage workers. Rs 2,000 to be provided to each Scheduled Tribe family in the state, including Saharia, Baiga, and Bharia families. An advance amount of Rs 1,200, for two months, to be provided to all beneficiaries of Social Security Pensions for Senior Citizens, Widows, and Persons with Disabilities. A one-time payment of Rs 1,000 to be provided to all labourers in the state through the State Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board. |
| Maharashtra | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeless persons and migrant workers to be provided shelter and food in community halls, marriage halls, and schools: 262 relief camps already set up across the state for migrant workers and homeless persons. One month free ration to be provided. In addition to ration provided under the 'Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana' (Prime Minister's Welfare Scheme for the Poor), 5 kilogrammes of ration to be provided for all <i>Antyodaya Anna Yojana</i> and Priority Households in the state. 201 canteens set up across the state under the 'Shiv Bhojan' scheme to serve subsidized meals at Rs 5 for the urban poor for three months (till June 2020). Cash amount to be deposited in the account of students in lieu of mid-day meal. The Maharashtra Labour Commissioner has advised Worker Boards and Labour Departments to issue advisories to employers/owners within their jurisdiction to ensure workers, contractual or casual, are not terminated and wages are not reduced. |
| Meghalaya | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 1,000 per week to be paid to workers registered with the Meghalaya Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, from 30 March 2020 to 12 April 2020, on submission of required documents. Financial assistance to adult daily wage earners (who are not entitled under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) and other schemes/categories). |
| Mizoram | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelter and food to be provided to all migrant workers. |

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| Odisha | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two free cooked meals/food packets to be distributed to the urban homeless. • Dry rations to be given to students of Classes I to VIII of government and government-aided schools for the next 90 days. Primary students (Classes I to V) to be provided 3 kilogrammes of rice per month and upper primary students (Classes VI to VIII) to be given 4.5 kilogrammes of rice per month, through Fair Price Shops/PDS outlets. • Five kilogrammes of rice at 1 rupee a kilogramme to be provided to 500,000 additional poor and deprived people. • Take Home Ration (THR) in the form of <i>chhatua</i> (dry roasted and powdered cereal), <i>ladoos</i> and other food, for the month to be provided to children (6 months to 3 years) and pregnant and nursing women, in their households, by <i>anganwadi</i> workers and helpers. • Dry ration, in lieu of morning snacks/hot cooked meals for the month to be provided to pre-school children (3 to 6 years) at their homes. Eggs, as per entitlement, to be distributed to beneficiaries, on a weekly basis, at the household level. • Provision of food for needy in rural areas at Rs 60 per adult per day and Rs 45 per child per day. • Advance ration for three months to be distributed between 1 April and 15 May 2020. • Distribution of old-age pension for four months (April to July) in advance, to ensure availability of cash. • A Rs 2,200 crore (22 billion) package announced to help the poor and needy, including 940 crore (9.4 billion) to be disbursed to all PDS beneficiaries in the form of Rs 1,000 each. • Rs 1,500 to be given to 22 lakh (2.2 million) construction workers in the state at a cost of Rs 330 crore (3.3 billion). • Rs 3, 000 to be disbursed to 65,000 registered street vendors. |
| Punjab | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free food, shelter, and medicines to be provided to the poor. Rs 20 crore (200 million) sanctioned from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for free food and medicines for those in need. • Mid-day meal food grains to be delivered, in sealed packets, to beneficiaries at their homes along with cooking costs (primary students to be given 100 grams of wheat and rice and Rs 4.48 as cooking cost per day, and upper primary students to be given 150 grams of food grains and Rs 6.71 as cooking cost per day). • Pensions amounting to Rs 150 crore (1.5 billion) to be disbursed to all eligible beneficiaries. • Registered construction workers to be paid Rs 3,000 each. • Payments of electricity, water, and sewerage bills to be deferred, as a means to reduce the economic burden on families. |
| Rajasthan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free food packets to be provided for two months to those who live in urban areas, and are not on the NFSA list, from 1 April. This includes street vendors, daily workers, the urban poor, and other needy people. • Free wheat to be provided for two months to families connected with NFSA. • Pensions under all social security schemes to be paid by the first week of April. • Cash assistance of Rs 1,000 each to be given to 36 lakh (3.6 million) BPL/<i>Antyodaya Anna Yojana</i> families covered as well as to 25 lakh (2.5 million) construction workers and registered street vendors not covered by social security schemes. • A core group to visit deprived and poor sections of society to check on their needs during the lockdown period. |
| Tamil Nadu | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community halls to be used as shelters for homeless persons and migrants. • Shelter premises to be disinfected regularly to ensure cleanliness. • Rs 1,000 and free ration, including rice, <i>daal</i>, cooking oil, and sugar to be provided to all PDS/ration card holders in the state. • Rs 1,000 and 15 kilogrammes of rice, 1 kilogramme of dal, and 1 litre of cooking oil to be provided to construction workers and auto rickshaw drivers, who are members of the Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board. • 15 kilogrammes of rice, 1 kilogramme of <i>daal</i>, and 1 litre of cooking oil to be provided to migrant |

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| Tamil Nadu | <p>workers and their families in the state who are unable to return to their homes on account of the lockdown, sealing of inter-state borders, and suspension of public transportation facilities, after identification and verification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food to be supplied through ‘Amma Canteens.’ • Common kitchens to be set up to cook and distribute food to the destitute. • Special provisions to be made for older persons dependent on food in <i>anganwadis</i>; arrangements to be made to distribute food to them at their homes. • Advance ‘Maintenance Allowance’ payment of Rs 1,500 to be given to all ‘differently-abled’ beneficiaries in the state for two months. • A relief package of Rs 3,280 crore (32.8 billion) to be provided to those engaged in the informal sector, including construction workers, daily wage labourers, agricultural labourers, auto rickshaw drivers, and, older persons, amongst others. |
| Telangana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary shelter to be provided to the homeless and migrant workers. • All BPL families to be provided 12 kilogrammes of rice free of cost, immediately. • Cash assistance of Rs 1,500 to be provided to each family towards purchase of other food items. • Children and pregnant women/lactating mothers to be provided ‘Take Home Ration’ till 31 March 2020. • Migrants to be provided with a financial assistance of Rs 500 and 12 kilogrammes of rice/wheat flour. |
| Tripura | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A relief package of Rs 233 crore (2.33 billion) announced to address needs of the poor. • Cooked food packets to be distributed to homeless persons in the state twice a day. • Free ration consisting of rice, soya bean, eggs, mustard oil, spices, potatoes, and onions, amongst other items, to be provided to 1,500 urban homeless and destitute people for seven days (from 2 April 2020). • Free ration for one month to be provided to 5.79 lakh (579,000) BPL families and 1.09 lakh (109,000) families under the <i>Antyodaya Anna Yojana</i>; also includes 50,000 people living just above the poverty line (APL). <i>Antyodaya Anna Yojana</i> beneficiaries to get 35 kilogrammes of rice. • 200,000 APL families and 25 lakh (2.5 million) BPL and Priority Household category families to also be provided free ration at a cost of Rs 7.22 crore (72.2 million). • Primary and secondary school students to be given ‘take-home food’ under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, and pregnant and lactating mothers to also be provided with free food. • One-time financial assistance of Rs 1,000 to be provided to each of the 4,600 homeless people across the state. • One-time financial assistance of Rs 500 to be provided to 92,892 poor indigenous families living in 12 “aspiration blocks” across the state. • An amount of Rs 1,000 to be paid to 40,000 construction workers per month, for the next three months through DBT. |
| Uttarakhand | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 1,000 to be paid to each registered labourer. |
| Uttar Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelters to be set up for migrant workers from other states, across all districts, with provisions for adequate food. • Food to be made available to the urban and rural poor. Free ration to be provided to BPL ration card holders. • Families of 1.65 crore (16.5 million) <i>Antyodaya Anna Yojana</i> workers, workers bearing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) cards as well as construction workers and small wage earners to be given one month's stock of free food grains. Food grains to be provided by about 80,000 PDS stores will include 20 kilogrammes of wheat and 15 kilogrammes of rice. • Old Age, Disability, and Widow Pension to be paid for two months to 83 lakh (8.3 million) beneficiaries. • 35 lakh (3.5 million) labourers to be paid Rs 1,000 each as financial aid, to address loss of |

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| | livelihoods. These include 15 lakh (1.5 million) daily wage labourers, including rickshaw-pullers, hand-cart pullers, and 20.37 lakh (2 million) construction workers in the state. |
| West Bengal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty-seven shelters with arrangement for food, to be opened in Kolkata to accommodate all homeless, poor, needy, and stranded migrant workers. • Five kilogrammes of rice/wheat to be provided free of cost to 8 crore (80 million) people till September 2020. • Packets of 2 kilogrammes of rice and 2 kilogrammes of potatoes to be provided to the homes of children enrolled under the Integrated Child Development Services/<i>anganwadi</i> scheme. • One-time payment of Rs 1,000 to labourers in the unorganized sector. |

Measures Announced by the Central Government at the National Level

- **26 March 2020:** The Government of India announced the 'Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana' (Prime Minister's Welfare Scheme for the Poor) with a budget of Rs 1.75 lakh crore (Rs 1.75 trillion or USD 22.6 billion), including food and cash transfer to address the concerns of 80 crore (800 million) "poor, migrant workers, and those who need help." The scheme includes the following measures:
 - Free 5 kilogrammes wheat/rice along with one kilogramme of pulses for the next three months to be provided to the "poor and needy", in addition to the ration received by them under the National Food Security Act.
 - A one-time ex-gratia payment of Rs 1,000 to be made to 3 crore (30 million) widows, pensioners, and persons with disabilities.
 - An ex-gratia payment of Rs 500 per month, for three months, to be made to about 20 crore (200 million) women who have Jan Dhan bank accounts.
 - Free Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders to be provided to 8.3 crore (83 million) BPL families across the country for the next three months.
 - An advance payment of Rs 2,000 to be made to 7.3 crore (73 million) farmers across India in April 2020.
- **24 March 2020:** The Ministry of Labour and Employment issued an advisory to states and Union Territories across India to transfer funds (Rs 52,000 crore or Rs 520 billion) into the accounts of about 3.5 crore (35 million) registered construction workers through the Direct Benefit Transfer mode from cess fund. The fund is collected by Labour Welfare Boards under Building and Other Construction Workers' Cess Act.
- **26 March 2020:** The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment directed Municipal Corporations across 10 cities, including Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Indore, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, and Patna to open 'Feeding Centres' for beggars till 15 April 2020.
- **28 March 2020:** The Ministry of Home Affairs directed all states and Union Territories to take immediate steps to provide adequate support, including shelter and food to migrant workers, including agricultural workers, industrial workers, and other workers employed in the unorganized sector. In addition, the Ministry of Home Affairs directed all states and Union Territories to explore options, including relief shelters identified in disaster management plans, to provide shelter to homeless persons and migrant labourers immediately. Adequate facilities are to be provided, including 'drinking water, sanitation, common kitchens, storage' in all shelters.
- **28 March 2020:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs directed all states and Union Territories to provide three meals a day to all homeless persons living in shelters constructed under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (SUH-NULM). Cleanliness, personal hygiene, provision of sanitizers, hand wash facilities, and masks to be ensured and maintained in the shelters.
- **28 March 2020:** The Ministry of Home Affairs directed all States and Union Territories to set up "Relief Camps" along highways for all migrant workers returning to their domicile state during the period of the

lockdown (till 14 April 2020). Provisions to be made to ensure social distancing, quarantine facilities to be set up if needed, and adequate health care, including medical check-ups to be conducted in these camps.

- **1 April 2020:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare directed all states and Union Territories to provide adequate medical facilities in “Relief Camps”/shelter homes in addition to providing food, clean drinking water, and sanitation facilities. As a means to ensure “strong social protection”, trained counsellors and/or community leaders belonging to all faiths could also be directed to these camps and shelters to address “immediate, psychosocial issues, anxiety and fears” of all persons residing in the camps.

*Note: This is a working document that is focusing on relief measures specifically related to shelter/housing, food, and support for migrant workers. It will be updated regularly, as and when more relief measures are announced. This compilation is dated **7 April 2020**.*

Other Compilations of Relief Measures and Government Notifications Related to COVID-19:

- 1) **PRS Legislative Research**
<https://prsindia.org/covid-19/notifications>
- 2) **COVID-19 Database India**
<https://covid-india.in/>
- 3) **Dvara Research**
<https://www.dvara.com/research/resources/notes/interventions-of-states-in-response-to-covid-19-outbreak/>
- 4) **BehanBox**
<http://covid19indiaresponse.behanbox.com/#>
- 5) **Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS), in collaboration with others**
<https://covid19socialsecurity.wordpress.com/government-orders/>
- 6) **Centre for Social Justice**
<https://centreforsocialjustice.net>

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