

# MUSLIM WOMEN'S FORUM COVID 19 RESPONSE



## STATUS REPORT

### DELHI

The COVID-19 pandemic has gripped the entire world and the situation in Delhi is no different. For the people and families in North East Delhi, who were affected by the violence that ensued on 23 February 2020 and went on till 26 February 2020, their vulnerability is further heightened. Even before they could recover from their financial and economic losses due to the violence that claimed 53 lives and left more than 200 people grievously injured & thousands displaced from their homes in the wake of the vandalism and arson that engulfed houses and shops in more than 20 areas in North East Delhi, they are now dealing with COVID-19.

Muslim Women's Forum in its effort to reach out to these riot-affected people in Kardampuri, Maujpur, Mustafabad, Shiv Vihar, Jafrabad and Bhagirathi Vihar as well as migrant workers and daily wagers in different parts of Delhi who were facing food crisis because of the lockdown since 25 March 2020 was appealing to different groups and individuals to come out in support of the people in crisis. MWF supported different individuals and their families, as well as students in difficult situation from diverse community by providing rations that was estimated to last them at least 2 weeks for a family size of 7. In the first two weeks since the lockdown, MWF provided relief aid in these areas through community volunteers.

During our visit to the riot affected areas in the beginning of March 2020, we have come across some volunteers who are working to help the survivors and their families. They identified local ration shops that can provide ration to these families in packets:

1. Those migrant workers who could not go back to their villages and are stuck in this area without work and therefore are at risk of starvation.
2. Daily wagers in this area, live in rented houses and depend on only their daily incomes for two meals a day.
3. Families that suffered because of the violence either due to death of a family member or due to serious injuries were unable to make an income for more than a month.
4. A number of families, who fled from the area to their villages during the riot in anticipation of police atrocities, have also been unable to make a living.

Since the complete lockdown has been enforced and period extended due to the pandemic, operations have been affected to a significant degree. A different action plan to deliver food/ ration to people in

**270 FAMILIES  
SUPPORTED  
50 + INDIVIDUALS**

**DIVERSE  
COMMUNITY  
SUPPORTED**

**DONATIONS RAISED  
TILL DATE  
RS. 3,43,100**

need has been effectuated involving close collaboration with local grocery shops while keeping physical distancing measures in perspective.

Our packet includes rice, atta, cooking oil, dal, alu, salt, sugar, haldi powder, mirch powder, tea, bathing soap, washing soap, toothpaste, sanitary pad etc, however due to non-availability of some items in some areas, the items contain varies.

Due to the difficulty in getting e-pass by our team, we heavily rely on the local volunteers who have been very active in building support with the people in need. They know the houses of the most affected people. They have identified local ration shop that can provide ration to them in packets. Payments are made directly to the local shopkeepers and sometimes to volunteers towards expenses of buying provisions. From here, volunteers distribute the rations or the beneficiaries collect it from the shop.

In the meantime, the heart- wrenching sight of migrant workers, with women and children, with bags on their heads, walking down the long road to their villages, without food and shelter and reports of their plights and conditions continue to haunt us from all sides. During our effort to reach out to families in need in Mustafabad and nearby areas, we saw from Kardampuri and Kabir Nagar area, tenants, mostly informal sector workers with their families continuously leaving the area on foot.

**On 24 May 2020, two member team from MWF went back to Shiv Vihar to find out what had happened to the people who had fled from this place during the riot. This was one day before Eid. Many have now taken shelter in Mustafabad area. We saw many had come back to look at their houses. Although they may not be able to celebrate Eid here this year, for them, to come and tidy the place before Eid was important. However, mostly everything they had was reduced to ashes. With tears in their eyes, they showed us the remains of their home, broken doors and windows, and with it their broken hearts.**

**Mustafabad, Bhagirathi Vihar, Loni  
155 Families supported**

**Jamia Nagar + Sukhdev Vihar  
14 Families supported  
46 Individuals**

Sanjay, along with other 12 migrant workers from Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and UP have no place to go during this lockdown. They are construction workers, who were let go with a four hours of sudden notice. They took a shelter at a mosque in Jamia Nagar. Local volunteers in Jamia Nagar areas supported them for the past 3 weeks before MWF got to know their plights. Arrangements was made to provide rations to these migrant workers for 10 days as requested by the local volunteers.



Many more migrant workers in Beesfota, Batla House, mostly rickshawpullers, vegetable sellers who took shelter in public area are also provided with 2 weeks rations.



MWF also reached out to few students from Jamia Millia Islamia who are in difficult situation as the University hostel remain closed and are unable to get help from their home due to lockdown.

### ***Jharsa Village, Sector 39, Gurugram, Haryana:***

In a slum cluster of migrant workers, MWF supported 25 Families with 2 weeks rations. The local volunteers in Gurugram distributed the ration with the help of the Police.

### ***Jaitpur Extension 40 Families supported***

Jaitpur Extension area located along the bank of Yamuna river is inhabited primarily by migrant population from UP and Bihar. These people are either daily wage earners like construction workers, tailors, some drive auto or taxis and some have their own small business or workshops. In normal times they could earn from 8 to 12 thousand Rupees in a month. The extended lockdown due to COVID 19 crises has forced these people to be locked in their homes and have pushed them out of their livelihood. Although govt is making promises but yet they are not able to reach out to migrant workers who don't have Ration cards in Delhi/NCR. MWF supported widows and some physically challenged individuals and their families with a 2 weeks rations. Farida Khan and volunteers from Pechan and Anhad identified the people in need of this ration.



### ***Transportation support for Migrant workers from Tamil Nadu to Assam:***

On 22nd May 2020 it came to our attention that a group of 18 migrant labourers from Tamil Nadu were on their way home to Assam on cycles. They cycled approximately 1000 kms till Berhampur in Odisha, from where the district administration aided their way till Balugaon (83 kms). MWF supported their transportation from Odisha to West Bengal state border, which was at least 320 kms. From West Bengal another volunteer group will be supporting their travels.



## Report from Assam

Besides Delhi, MWF Fellows (community leaders) in Barpeta and Tezpur (Assam) are reaching out to the most vulnerable people; daily wagers, and migrant workers, widows/single mothers, domestic workers, senior citizen etc.

Rations were distributed to over 3000 people in town area and 300 families in the village area under the supervision of Aman Biradari, an organisation working in these areas. Covering the areas of Janta Balkhuri village, Garemary Pather, Karantara, Rahampur, Kotoha, and Goplam.

Apart from creating awareness about Covid-19 and providing relief kits, they spread awareness about the one time entitlement of Rs. 1000 announced by Govt. of Assam for the vulnerable people who do not have ration card or those who are not covered under National Food Security Act. For those eligible for this entitlement, he/she can approach the village President who is provided with the list of eligible people by Govt. In addition to creating awareness about this entitlement in their village, Fellows also provide guidance and helped people with necessary follow up.

Fellows also supported Aman Biradari in their door to door approach and coordination over the phone with the people in need. They distributed essential items to individuals and families while still maintaining social distancing.

**40 more families have been selected in Barpeta, Assam to be supported by MWF Fellows.**

*Nazma, Asma, Hosniara, Kulsuma, Hameda distributing rations in Barpeta and Tezpur in Assam*



## Report from Chhatarpur, MP

In Chhatarpur, MWF Fellows, Rajiya and Rehana undertook a door to door survey to find out the condition and status of the people during this lockdown and helped identify vulnerable people and families. This was done under the supervision of Chhatarpur Mahila Jagriti Manch. Obtaining passes for travel, they were able to help identify the most vulnerable people; people with disabilities, senior citizens, orphans and widows with no support.

They distribute rations and relief kit to vulnerable families in two phases. In the first phase they provided relief kit to 118 families containing rice, atta, pulses, sugar, salt, cooking oil, turmeric & coriander powder, soaps etc.

In the second phase, they supported 115 families. In addition to the above items distributed in the first phase, they included hand sanitiser, mask and milk powder for infants.

In addition to providing relief aid, they create awareness regarding Covid 19, symptoms and precautions to people in the village and remote areas. They disseminate information regarding government schemes and benefit to tackle Covid 19.

They identified 30 families who don't have ration card and submitted the list to the SDM. They also track and follow up the delivery schemes and services provided by the state government. This resulted in a substantial increase in the ration quantity which was provided to the card holders in the month of April.

They also helped ration cardholders whose thumb impression did not match with the POS machine and were turned away by the supplier. However, with their intervention, these people were given their ration entitlement.

*Rajiya, Rehana and Afsar Jahan distributing rations with Chhatarpur Mahila Jagriti Manch team.*



### GRATITUDE

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**"Yehi hai ibadat yehi deen o imaan  
Ke kaam aaye duniya mein insaan ke insaan".**

**- Altaf Husain Hali**