

MUSLIM WOMEN'S FORUM RESPONSE TO COVID-19



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 recently affected by the riots, 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 Delhi, they are now dealing with COVID-19. Muslim Women's Forum, together with Janvikas is reaching out to these riot-affected people in Kardampuri, Maujpur, Mustafabad, Shiv Vihar and Bhagarithi Vihar as well as migrants, organised and unorganised labourers and students in difficult situations in different parts of Delhi, who are facing food crisis because of the lockdown.

In this unusual situation the vulnerability of the families affected by the riot is further heightened. MWF appeal to individuals and groups to extend solidarity and contribute to supporting these families received a lot of support from different people and groups. Since 25 March 2020, MWF have been able to raise Rs. 2,33,000/- towards the cause. This has been extremely heart-warming. The resources mobilized has provided relief to 142 families, 30 migrant workers, 5 students.

A big thank you to all of you who have helped raise resources. Our work would not have been possible without the dedicated resource support. **We are grateful to the Canadian Council for Indian Muslims. We thank Farook Majeed, Naila Saeed, Zafar Shamim, Shamim Mazhar, Gaurav Veda, Rakesh Ranjan, Akhum David, Zonunmawii, Isabella, Harjyot for their generosity. To our volunteers, Mohd Zahid Saifi and his team, we are thankful for their dedication in reaching out to the people in need.**

Besides Delhi, MWF Fellows (community leaders) in Barpeta and Tezpur (Assam), Chhatarpur (MP), Koraon (UP) are reaching out to poor labourers, migrant workers and other vulnerable people in their own areas with the support of our CSOs' partners working in these areas.

In Delhi, MWF have come across some volunteers who are active in helping survivors and families of the riot affected areas in North East Delhi. The volunteers identified local ration shops that can provide ration to them in packets. Through these local volunteers, we are getting regular updates and we have been able to reach out to:

1. Those migrant workers who could not go back to their villages and now 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 due to the pandemic, operations have been affected to a significant degree. A different action plan to deliver food/ ration to these households has been effectuated involving close collaboration with local grocery shops keeping physical distancing measures in perspective. Due to the difficulty in getting e-pass by our team, we heavily rely on the local volunteers.

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

While we are writing this update, 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, continue to linger with us. From Kardampuri and Kabir Nagar area also, tenants, mostly informal sector workers with their families, are continuously leaving the area on foot. MWF will continue to reach out to the distressed people.

Ongoing work includes preparation to send out more rations to atleast 40 more families in Loni area, migrant workers in Batla House.

MWF need your support and encouragement for our volunteers.



Nazma distributing relief aid in Barpeta



Asma distributing relief aid in Tezpur



Distributing relief aid in Mustafabad, Delhi

Rajiya and Rehana distributing relief aid in Chhatarpur district, MP