

## Three Million Meals Campaign

### Solidarity Feeding by Karwan e Mohabbat for India's Dispossessed

#### Daily Report 24 April 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic has emerged not only as a health crisis but also a looming humanitarian and economic disaster. In India, the countrywide lockdown, announced with barely 4 hours' notice, left millions of daily wage labourers and working-class people stranded without access to work, home or food.

#### Relief Efforts

The relief work involves delivering standardized dry ration kits to stranded migrants, homeless persons, disabled persons, families, cooked meals and cash transfer to most vulnerable households or ration shops in places which are cut off. Our network of volunteers are working in **Delhi NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana and Karnataka.**

*Karwan e Mohabbat and team are proud to report that we have crossed the 3 million meals mark. In fact, the grand total of meals (cooked and ration kits) distributed as of 24 April 2020 by us is 33,80,857.*

#### Relief Report as of 17 April 2020

State/City	Number of Meals* Total	Number of Meals Added from 17 April to 24 April
Delhi	9,57,700	4,56,200
Jharkhand	2,48,900	90,900
Bihar	1,00,000	99,107
Haryana	2,10,000	1,54,000
Uttar Pradesh	5,43,900	2,15,400
Rajasthan	6,50,000	6,00,790
Telangana	21,721	18,371
Assam	1,97,300	1,62,300
Kashmir	34,500	34,500
Gujarat	3,75,000	N/A
Mangalore	39,000	N/A

\*Figure for meals inclusive of cooked meals and dry ration kits distributed, wherein 1 dry ration kit = 2 meals a day for a family of 5 members for a stipulated number of days. The number of days varies across states.

In Maharashtra, we are also providing financial assistance to distressed families. As of April 20, 2020, we have made payments of **Rs. 60980 to 348 people** across Mumbai city and the districts of Thane, Raigad, Satara, Palghar, and Wardha.

To survivors of hate crimes across India, with whom Karwan e Mohabbat has worked closely in the past, we have provided financial assistance. As of 16 April 2020, we have cumulatively transferred **Rs. 1,21,000 to 52 families** affected by hate crimes in Haryana, Jharkhand, Bihar, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

#### Vignettes from the Field

In Patna, Bihar the team met Rajkumar, an elderly homeless man. He works as a ragpicker and begging. Being homeless, he is dependent on the government sources of food. But he

cannot eat the cooked meal which is distributed by the state government during lockdown. The reason for this is that his teeth are broken and he cannot chew on the puri-sabji. He asks for sattu instead, which he can chew. Rajkumar told the Karwan e Mohabbat team that if the lockdown continues in this way, he fears he would die of hunger.

Anil is from Khagaul and also lives in Patna city. He is also homeless, and eats the food that is thrown by people. He has to make do with this. During the lockdown, as restaurants and dhabas are closed, he cannot even eat leftovers from there. Sometimes a truck-driver shares his food with Anil, which works. But this too is not a regular source of food for him. The Karwan e Mohabbat team continues to provide meals to Anil and those like him who are abandoned by the State and living off the streets in Patna.



Ration distribution in the *bastis* of Jaipur. The people living in this area belong predominantly to lower castes, Adivasi or Muslim communities. Their work includes ragpicking, selling vegetables, daily wage labour or playing drums on the street. In these slums, the government have not provided them access to clean drinking water, drainage and toilets, nor food. There are young children living in the *bastis*. When the residents try to step out to find work or food, they are beaten by the police with sticks.

In Maharashtra, the Karwan e Mohabbat team found that the authorities take queries from the people about need for food, but do not deliver the food. Though the BMC has created a helpline stating that essentials will be delivered in 5-10 days, they are not fulfilling their promises. In such situations, volunteers are helping. But the people facing hunger continue to be distressed as State support does not reach them on time.





Ration Kits Transported to Remote Communities in Assam



Ration kits distributed to elderly disabled persons in Assam