

❖ Special Initiative to help Migrant Labour

MFT Initiative to help Migrant Labour

The sudden, unplanned lockdown brought unimaginable misery and suffering to millions of migrant workers who suddenly found themselves without jobs, food or dignity. Visuals of migrants walking in peak summer shook the nation's conscious. Mahavir Foundation Trust (MFT) launched a special initiative to extend help to migrant workers and their families, with a dedicated teams of members and volunteers and with camps set up at Golden Chokdi, Sama Mamlatdar's office and Sama Sports Complex.

- Over fifteen days, more than four thousand migrants and families were given full or partial train fare / cash assistance, with special focus on families, pregnant ladies and widows and old ladies etc
- Complete help was extended for registration - a difficult task for many migrants and their families
- Thousands of others were sent to MP, Rajasthan etc with transport arranged by MFT
- Of course, food, water, chappals etc were provided as needed, to a very large number who were walking / passing through highways

Once home, a large number of migrants have been calling the dedicated team members as well as MFT to express gratitude and shower praise. As one of them put it, their faith in humanity was restored!

The dedicated team of volunteers is elated and blessed that they could uphold MFT motto of Love All - Serve All

Here are a few daily reports of actions undertaken:

❖ “Migrant labour activities undertaken on Saturday, 16th May 2020”

Here are a few snippets of help being rendered to the desperate migrant labour by MFT members and volunteers. The snippets are just indicative of the wide range of actions on Saturday 16th May.





1. मध्य प्रदेश बॉर्डर... दाहोद के आगे। 4 ecco में बिठाकर M P जानेवाले श्रमिकों को भेजा गया
2. मोहन और पृथवेश नामक दो श्रमिक वापी से इंदौर जा रहे हैं। पृथवेश नामक श्रमिक का पैर टूटा हुआ है। आते वक्त रात को रास्ते में दो दिन पहले अंकलेश्वर के पास गिर गया था। दोनों तीन दिन से भूखे थे चप्पल भी टूट गए। उनको खाना खिलाया। और बिस्किट, पानी, नमकीन, और 1000/- खर्च के लिए दिए। आज ecco में बिठाकर उसका किराया दे कर बॉर्डर तक भेजा
3. पादरा के आगे जबूसर रोड से काफी लोग चलते आ रहे थे। सभी १८ मजदूरों को 100 - 100 रूपया दिया और ६ मजदूरों के पास कुछ भी न था इसलिए 200 रूपया दिया और ३ दिन से चल रहे थे U.P. जानेके लिए!!*
4. Food and water etc to a large number. Also, chappals and shoes
5. कल रात्रि 10:00 बजे गोल्डन चौकड़ी पर अपना सेवा कार्य चल रहा था तब एक भाई दयनीय परिस्थिति में अपने परिवार के 4 सदस्यों के साथ टूटी फूटी सायकल पर अपने गन्तव्य की ओर जा रहे थे। मेले कुचले व साधारण कपड़ों में बड़ा परेशान था, खेर. यहाँ रोड पर सुकून तो किसी को नहीं है। ना सेवा देने वालों को... और ना ही सेवा लेने वालों को.
सबसे बड़ी भयावह विवशता ये थी कि इस परिवार का सबसे छोटा सभ्य महज आज 15 दिनका हुआ था। दूसरा सभ्य 12 महिना का था। एक महिला अपनी प्रसूति के ग्यारहवें दिन ही अपने दोनों बच्चों के साथ, पति को आगे कर सिलवासा से अपने गंतव्य स्थान जो मध्यप्रदेश स्थित है वहां जाने के लिए एक टूटी सी सायकिल के सहारे निकल पड़े। जहाँ ये परिवार रहता था वहां कोई काम अब रहा नहीं, आर्थिक परिस्थिति भी काफी खराब थी। तो क्या करता वह... अपनी जीवन की जमा राशि जो परिवार के रूप में ही बची थी उसी को समेटे पैदल ही निकल पड़ा। रास्ते में दो नन्ही सी जान परेशान न हो इसलिए वो रात में ही चलता रहा। उसकी पत्नी इस हालात में भी बच्चे को हाथों में उठाकर चलते जाने के लिए मजबूर थी।
चलते चलते आज चार दिन हो गए थे।
उस वक्त अपनी वॉरियर्स टीम की नज़र पड़ी और उसे सहानुभूति के साथ अपनेपन का अहसास कराते हुए उससे सब जानकारी इकठ्ठा की। बाद में उनको खाना खिलाया, साथ में आगे की यात्रा के लिए बिस्किट्स, केले, पानी बोतल, नमकीन पैकेट्स दिए और मध्यप्रदेश जाने वाली एक लोरी में उसे चढ़ाकर उसे 1500/- रुपये भी दिए। और वो टूटी फूटी साइकिल जो शायद उसके परिवार को अपने घर तक पहुंचाने का आधार रही थी उसे भी साथ में ट्रक में चढ़ा दी थी... क्योंकि सफर अभी अधूरा था।

❖ “Migrant labour activities undertaken on Sunday, 17th May 2020”

Here are a few snippets of help being rendered to the desperate migrant labour by MFT members and volunteers. The snippets are just indicative of the wide range of actions on Sunday 17th May.



- Our core team consisting of Kamlesh, Sandip and Ronak and assisted by Balvinder Tomar and Nirav as well as other volunteers has set up a base camp at Golden Chokdi through which most of the migrant labour and their families pass. The camp is set on a construction site that is currently closed.
- The camp allows the labour and their families to have a breather and take some much-needed rest
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner are being served by MFT with extensive help from Kasturbanagar residents, Gurudwara people as well as Sugam Hotel and Restaurant. In addition, other needs like chappals etc are being met
- Over 145 workers and family members were sent to MP border through proper transport and financial assistance. This has been facilitated by Gautam Bhai and his uncle who run a transport company
- Eleven labour were sent to Udaipur by bus. In addition, a 70-year-old labourer who had walked all the way from Ahmedabad was also sent. He had developed sore feet and had no money. Adequate cash was given to him for all likely expenditure up to his village

- Over 150 people wanting to go to UP and Bihar have been persuaded to stay at the site until trains are scheduled. They are all being registered with Sama Mamlatdar's office and should be able to take a train on Tuesday
- Just for reference, brief messages from one of the team members are attached in the original.

This is only a brief summary of the wide range of support being extended by the very dedicated MFT team and the various associated mentioned above. The team is typically there throughout the day and until almost midnight! Hats off to them! The blessings that they are receiving from the people being helped bring tears to their eyes!

In spite of everything that has gone wrong, these people bring hope that Humanity is indeed alive! Power to them!

❖ “Migrant labour activities undertaken on Monday, 18th May 2020”

Here are a few snippets of help being rendered to the desperate migrant labour by MFT members and volunteers. The snippets are just indicative of the wide range of actions on Monday 18th May.



Migrant Labour Initiative – indicative highlights of help extended by MFT team on Monday

- ❖ Our core team consisting of Kamlesh, Sandip and Ronak and assisted by Balvinder Tomar and Nirav as well as other volunteers have continued their outstanding work at the base camp at Golden Chokdi through which most of the migrant labour and their families pass.
- ❖ The camp allows the labour and their families to have a breather and take some much-needed rest. A total of about 500 persons were served breakfast, lunch and dinner. All of this was fully arranged by MFT team
- ❖ Information was received about a train for Bihar for workers from rural areas. Immediately, help was extended to 137 workers and even their medical check-up was organized at the base camp. All of them were then transported to the station directly to facilitate hassle-free movement. Extensive help was received from the police. Full payment for the tickets was done for the very poor while partial financial help was given to others as needed
- ❖ Over 65 workers and family members were sent to MP border through proper transport and financial assistance.
- ❖ Ten labour were sent to Udaipur and Nathdwara by bus. Another eight labourers were sent to Rajkot and the entire expenditure was met by MFT
- ❖ Over 300 people wanting to go to Jharkhand and Bihar have been registered with Mamlatdar's office for the trains leaving on Tuesday. Requisite financial assistance will be given today when complete help for their journey is planned at Sama Mamlatdar's office
- ❖ Just for reference, brief messages from one of the team members are attached in the original.
- ❖ This is only a brief summary of the wide range of support being extended by the very dedicated MFT team. Dedication of the large team of members and volunteers really needs to be seen to be believed. It is their hard work and dedication that makes it possible for MFT / MI, Vadodara to do whatever we are able to do to relieve misery.

❖ “Migrant labour activities undertaken on Tuesday, 19th May 2020”

Migrant Labour Initiative – indicative highlights of continued efforts to extend help to migrant labour and families by MFT team on **Tuesday, May 19th, 2020**



- Our core team consisting of Kamlesh, Sandip and Ronak and assisted by other volunteers have continued their outstanding work at the base camp at Golden Chokdi through which most of the migrant labour and their families pass.
- The camp has become a focal point of various efforts focused on helping the migrants and their families and recognized as such by even the police and other administration officials. Only breakfast and food packets were distributed on Tuesday in light of some unrest witnessed there earlier.
- There was an unfortunate incident of a CNG bus carrying labour from Jharkhand catching fire. Fortunately, everyone had a providential escape. However, all the 23 labours lost all their belongings including the baggage, clothing and money. Necessary Clothes and other facilities were provided, their tickets for train to Jharkhand were arranged and additional cash assistance was given to each one of them. Please see the messages below as well as photographs.
- There was another train for Prayagraj and while the tickets were paid for by the UP Government, food Packets, bananas etc were given to all persons. Additional cash assistance was given to a majority of these workers with much higher assistance being given to six pregnant ladies.
- Police and administration have started using MFT volunteers for providing special assistance wherever needed. PSI, Mr Gajera called Ronak to inform about seventy labourers who were stuck at Darjipura for two days. Transport was arranged, breakfast was served and all of them were registered for the train to Bihar.
- A number of other labourers were sent to Rajasthan, Dahod, Devgarh Baria and Bhavnagar.
- A number of workers from Chhatisgarh were stuck near Harni. This included seven young children. Breakfast and food packets were arranged and

transportation for MP was also organized. Confirmation of their having reached destination was subsequently received.

- Some relevant messages and photos are attached.
- Once again, Salute to the very compassionate and efficient, hardworking Team!

❖ Messages from the team

- जारखंड के श्रमिक जिनके साथ कल हादसा हुआ था उन को ट्रेन में बिठाने गये और वहाँ पर कपड़े पॉलीथिन बेग, पहुँचाए गए
- बिहार के मुजफ्फरनगर उतरते ही आज सुबह अनिलजी वर्मा नामक श्रमिक ने pic भेजा है और फाउंडेशन के प्रति, खिलाने, और बिहार भेजने के लिए आभार माना है।
- आज रोज P.S.I. गजेरा साहब ने बताया की 70 से ज्यादा मजदुर दर्जीपुरा गांव के आगे 2 दिन से रहते है!
- अपनी तरफ से तुरत टेम्पा गाड़ी रखकर सारे को मामलतदार ऑफिस रखा और नास्ता की वयवस्था की गई और सारे को बिहार जाने के लिए रजिस्ट्रेशन किया!
- आज ८ को राजस्थान भेजा गया
 - ७ दाहोद, 5 देवगढ़ बारिया, और ६ लोग को भाव नगर भेजा गया!!
 - कितने सारे का कॉल था और बहुत खुश हे सभी आशीर्वाद दे रहे थे!!
 - 2-3 दिन से हरनी के पास छतीसगढ़ के बड़े 22 और ७ बहुत ही छोटे बच्चे थे आज मालूम हुवा तुरत नास्ता और फूड पैकेट वयवस्था की गई!! और ४ बजे तोमर भाई ने M.P. की गाड़ी में भेज दिया और घर भी पहुंच गए

❖ “Migrant labour activities undertaken on Tuesday, 20th May 2020”

Migrant Labour Initiative – indicative highlights of continued efforts to extend help to migrant labour and families by MFT team - **Wednesday, May 20th, 2020**





**महावीर फाउंडेशन ट्रस्ट का धन्यवाद
व आभार जताते हुए श्रमिक**



- Two trains left for Bihar - one for Muzaffarpur and the other for Satna. Thirteen very poor persons were provided with full ticket and thirty-nine others were given partial assistance
- There were two trains also for UP – Shahjahanpur and Aligarh. As the tickets are paid for by UP Government, cash assistance was given as needed
- Additionally, lunch, bananas, biscuits and water etc were provided
- Those helped included seven pregnant ladies as well as a 72-year widow who had not received her pension for the last three months. She was given enough money for the gas cylinder as also for her day-to-day expenses
- Mamlatdar's office staff is extremely helpful in ensuring that all those needing help are identified and helped by MFT
- Currently, there is no arrangement for workers from MP. A large number of them were moved to MP with transport arranged and paid for by MFT
- Thirty-two labourers were seen at Kapurai Chokdi, on their way to Bihar from Ankleshwar. Financial assistance as needed was given and they were also taken to Sama Mamlatdar's office and registered there
- Six labourers were sent to Punjab, 6 to Rajasthan and 12 to Devgarh Baria. Most of them called back to confirm safe arrival
- A number of labourers from Bihar had no food and dinner was served to them at 9.30 pm

Once again, Salute to the very compassionate and efficient, hardworking Team!

❖ “Migrant labour activities undertaken on Thursday, 21st May 2020”

Migrant Labour Initiative – with each passing day, the effort continues to gather steam. Here are indicative highlights for **Thursday, May 21st, 2020**





- One train left for Patna, Bihar. Though the quota for Sama was 200, only 143 persons made it because of some miscommunication. All of them were very poor brick kiln workers and their families
- Twenty-one very poor persons were provided with full ticket and the remaining were given partial assistance. Additional cash assistance was given to those who had very little money left with them
- There were two trains for UP – Gorakhpur and Gonda. As the tickets are paid for by UP Government, cash assistance was given as needed, particularly because a large number were again brick kiln workers and their families
- Gorakhpur train had 260 passengers while Gonda train had 300 passengers. This included families with children, many pregnant women as well as many single women. While cash assistance was given to almost all of them, much higher cash assistance was given to families with children, pregnant women and single women
- Additionally, lunch, bananas, biscuits etc were provided. Drinking water jugs, as well as over 500 butter milk pouches from Baroda Dairy, were also distributed. The lady police officer, Ms Tomar specially sent her vehicle with two police staff to bring buttermilk from Makarpura
- Mamlatdar's office staff is extremely helpful in ensuring that all those needing help are identified and helped by MFT. The experience with Mamlatdar, his office staff as well as the police officers and staff have been a high point of this effort. Their sensitivity and compassion needs to be really appreciated by one and all
- Currently, there is no arrangement for workers from MP, Rajasthan and from within Gujarat. A large number of them were moved to their destinations with transport arranged and paid for by MFT

Once again, Salute to the very compassionate and efficient, hardworking team! The blessings continue to come through a large number of calls and messages from migrant labour and their families, once they reach home safely. This is indeed gratifying and adds to the spirit and determination of the team. Of course, the callers continue to express their sincere appreciation for Mahavir Foundation Trust as well.


❖ “Migrant labour activities undertaken from Friday 22nd May to Monday 25th May, 2020”

Migrant Labour Initiative – activities undertaken during the long weekend (Friday, May 22nd to Monday, May 25th, 2020): The pace was a bit slow during these days for a number of reasons – holidays including Eid, cancellation of trains and fewer trains on account of lack of availability of bogeys and long delays in return of trains from UP and Bihar. Here are the key highlights:



- While the effort to send migrant labour to MP continued, most other migrants from other states at Golden Chokdi were being convinced to wait for trains and were taken to Sama Mamlatdar's office and were registered there
- A number of workers in the train to Mau (UP) on Friday were given requisite cash assistance. Twelve persons waiting to go to Bihar were also accommodated in this train
- Because of a limited number of migrants from Himachal and North East, trains are only being arranged from Ahmedabad. For migrants from these states, workers being taken by buses to Ahmedabad were extended necessary help. Train tickets for all these states are being borne by respective states so only direct cash assistance as needed was provided
- In the train going to Kasganj, assistance was given to 210 workers including some women and elderly
- A large number of workers were camping near SSG Hospital and all necessary assistance in terms of food and water etc was arranged and is being continued on a regular basis. This help is indeed being extended to any and all workers requiring it
- A family wanting to go to Gorakhpur was at SSG as the lady had just delivered a baby. All necessary assistance (including cash assistance) was provided
- The team has been receiving a large number of calls from UP, Bihar, Orissa, Punjab etc and all the workers and the families have been very effusive in their praise for the help rendered. In a couple of cases, even village heads and Block Pramukhs have called to express gratitude to team members as also to MFT.
- They have also been sending videos and detailed reports on train journey, checks at the arriving station and quarantine related issues. In most cases, they are being very responsible and literally opting to stay outside the village on their own – to ensure that they do not spread infection. A lot of them now really feel part of the extended MFT family, mainly because of the love, affection and care showered on them by MFT volunteers!
- Some messages as forwarded by the Team members are reproduced below. Some photos are also attached

Sample Messages

- ❖ उत्तर प्रदेश पहुँचकर बालचन्द नामक श्रमिक का फोन था। सकुशल पहुँच कर घर तक पहुँचाने के लिए उनके पिताजी और गाँव के प्रधान सेवक ने अपने गाँव के 6 बंदों इस मुसीबत में सहायता कर उसकी खाने पीने की व्यवस्था और, आर्थिक सहायता कर ट्रेन में बिठाने के लिए महावीर फाउंडेशन ट्रस्ट और वोलेंटियर के प्रति अपना विशेष आभार व्यक्त किया।
- ❖ उसने बताया कि गाँव में जाकर वो लोग खुद ही गाव के बाहर ही एक जगह पे 7 दिनों के लिए कोरे नटिन हुए है। उनके परिवार वाले उनसे मिलने आये थे। वी लोग दूर से ही उनसे मिले। उनका रेलवेस्टेशन उतरने के बाद प्रशासन के द्वारा मेडिकल कर सर्टिफिकेट भी दिया है। फिर भी वो अलग रहना पसंद किया है। गाँववाले घर से खाना और जरूरी सामान दे जाते है।
- ❖ बिहार से कॉल था बहुत ही खुश थे और सभी ने वीडियो कॉल पे बात किया बहुत खुश होकर संस्था को खूब खूब धन्यवाद बोल रहे थे!
- ❖ पंजाब से हर्पित का कॉल था महावीर फाउंडेशन ट्रस्ट को खूब खूब अभिन्दन बोल रहा था
- ❖ कल रात्रि के 3 बजे रामपाल और उसके 30 साथी बिहार के मोतिहारी जिले के अपने गाँव पहुच गए है। उन्हें 14 दिनों के लिए गाँव की शाला में रखा है। उन्होंने महावीर फाउंडेशन ट्रस्ट का सविशेष आभार माना है।
- ❖ Hi sir hm Date 23 ko ghar pahunch gay hay or j sb apki meharbani ay sir apne jo hamare lye kya hm kbhi nhi bhoor sakte thainks sir apka bahut bahut dhanyawad bhagwan apko or apki fmly ko hamesha khush rakhe 
- ❖ यु.पी. से मेसेज था!! पूरा ग्रुप बहुत खुश होकर कॉल किया था और मेसेज भी किया!!

❖ “Migrant labour activities undertaken on Thursday 26th May, 2020”

Migrant Labour Initiative – activities undertaken on Tuesday, May 26th, 2020:

There have been very few trains for migrant labour from Baroda for a variety of reasons. However, the effort to extend relief has continued and the details are as under:



- A major focus area is now near SSG Hospital / Narmada bhavan as a large number of workers and their families are camping there in the open, waiting for the trains as also for their turn.
- A group of twenty persons has been stuck there, wanting to go to Aligarh in UP. They were slowly running out of whatever money they had. The team found out that there was a train from Surat on the 28th. They were provided substantial financial assistance and were provided a transport to Surat.
- The group included a new-born child and special assistance for him was given. Sadly, all of them including the new-born were camping in the open in such severe heat. The gratitude had to be seen to be believed.
- Then there was another group of twelve persons from Chhattisgarh which was stuck here for last 12 days. Financial assistance was provided and they were sent to Golden Chokdi from where a transport to MP border was arranged.
- All these people were also helped with general assistance and ration kits were also provided to ensure support for the next few days.

- There was a group of workers from Botad that was feeling totally lost for the last two days. Necessary support and guidance were provided.
- As mentioned above, a large number of workers are still camping near SSG Hospital and all necessary assistance in terms of food and water etc is being continued on a regular basis. This help is indeed being extended to any and all workers requiring it.

Migrant Labour Support continues – with increased sensitivity, public pressure, observations from High Courts and Supreme Court, resumption of trains and buses etc, the pain of migrant labour is partly being addressed with many more getting home (though there are issues with that as well). However, our dedicated team continues to come across highly stressed families in and around Baroda. Here is a glimpse of some of the recent actions:



- We had mentioned a group of people from a brick kiln near Savli. Though our team convinced the owner to take them back and help them, they were keen to return to UP. They were put in train by Sandip. Please see his message below.
- A group of 11 labour (with four children and a pregnant lady) were abandoned near Sussen Circle while on their way home to Nandurbar in Maharashtra. Necessary help was immediately provided and transport arranged by Ronak and Dhara. Again, please see the message in original, given below.
- There was another heart-rending story of a large family of 25 persons from Patan that was stuck in Baroda. Their relatives here were themselves under tremendous economic hardship and were unable to help. The group included an eight-month pregnant woman and a number of children. They were forced to spend a couple of days on the roadside,

without food! Again, the team immediately swung into action and provided immediate relief and is now arranging for their travel. A story done by the local news media – Our Vadodara – is attached below (though in Gujarati). Also, some photos are attached.

We plan to continue the work on need basis and our dedicated team actively pursues all such cases. Some media people and some administrative people automatically contact our team whenever they come across such distressed families.

We also continue to receive financial and other support from a large number of concerned citizens and our well-wishers! Our grateful acknowledgement for their support and encouragement!

Message from Sandip

सावली के पास वाले गाँव ईटो के भट्टे पर काम करने वाले श्रमिकों का जत्था तीन दिन पहले नर्मदभावन आया था वो 12 से 14 श्रमिक और 5 बच्चों को कल रात्री 10:30 बजे की ट्रेन से UP भेजा है। वे सभी बहोत खुश थे। सबका धन्यवाद माना।

Message from Ronak

वासद रोड के पास फाजलपुर चौकड़ी वाले 11 श्रमिक 4 बच्चे लेकर नदूबार जाने के लिए निकले थे लेकिन बिच में (सुसेन सर्कल पे) छोड़ दिया!
मुझे धारा ने बताया की उसमे से एक लेडीज प्रेजेंट है,मैंने तुरत रोकड़ हेल्प किया,नास्ता करने के बाद सूरत जाने के लिए व्यवस्था किया!!

Story by Our Vadodara

યુ.પી જવાની આશા લઈ પાટણથી ગર્ભવતિ મહિલા સહીત આખું પરિવાર વડોદરા પહોંચ્યું અને સબંધીએ આસરો ન આપ્યો, જાણો પછી શું થયું

<https://ourvadodara.com/our-vadodara-gujarati-news-website-u-p-based-family-came-to-vadodara-from-patan-including-a-pregnant-women-and-kids-makarpura-gidc-incident-help-from-youth-vadodara/>