



Press Release – 8th August 2020

Social and private sector comes together to support 10 million+ migrant workers through Migrants Resilience Collaborative (MRC)

Aimed towards support safety, security and mobility of migrant workers and their families in 100 districts and cities across India

Jan Sahas, a non-profit organisation along with strategic partners- Global Development Incubator and EdelGive Foundation today announced the commencement of the Migrants Resilience Collaborative (MRC): a grassroots-led multi-stakeholder collaborative of nonprofit, philanthropic, and private sector actors focused on ensuring dignity, safety, security, and mobility for vulnerable migrant families across India. The Collaborative will be India's largest grassroots-led collaborative, and a largest non-governmental initiative dedicated for protection and welfare of migrant workers and their families.

Our country witnessed the vulnerability and disenfranchisement of millions of migrant workers and their families during the nationwide COVID lockdown. We all saw the heartrending pictures, exposing realities of the marginalized. COVID aggravated challenges faced by these communities. Civil society, philanthropy, and private sector came together to facilitate relief. MRC is preparing for the long road to economic recovery and the possibility of multiple waves of COVID by creating a safety net that prevents families from repeatedly falling back into poverty, ensure safe and stable livelihoods to provide a pathway out of poverty and ensure basic rights and dignity of workers.

The MRC has an ambitious goal to reach out to over 10 million+ migrant workers and their families in 100 districts and cities pan India over the next 5 years. **This collaborative will establish a partnership with civil society, private partners, government institution and workers associations to work together in ensuring the dignity of millions of citizens.** Committed towards delivering social security entitlement, providing access to responsible recruitment and strengthening tracking, worker protections, welfare and redressal, the Steering Committee comprising of some of India's leading philanthropists and leaders with deep experience across sectors like **Vidya Shah**, CEO, EdelGive Foundation, **Rati Forbes**, Director, Forbes Marshall Group, **Anu Aga**, Former Chairperson, Thermax Limited, **Arun Maira**, Former Member, Planning Commission of India, **Kumar Gera**, Chairman, Gera Developments Pvt. Ltd, **Ashif Shaikh**, Co-Founder, Jan Sahas and **Lalita Vadia**, Former migrant worker will lead and guide MRC's strategy.

'While the civil society, philanthropies, private and Govt sector coalesced to provide immediate relief to the migrant community, there is a crying need to transition from relief to focusing on the core needs of migrant workers to build medium to long-term resilience as the country prepares for the long road to economic recovery and the possibility of multiple waves of COVID. MRC is an endeavour to address these needs.' - **Ashif Shaikh, Co-Founder, Jan Sahas.**

'In the wake of the on-going pandemic, it has become critical to address the long road of recovery and resilience we foresee, particularly for communities such as migrant workers that are most vulnerable to such calamities. Through the Migrant Resilience Collaborative, we hope to enable access to entitlements and responsible recruitment for our migrant workers, alongside strengthening initiatives towards their welfare and protection. At EdelGive Foundation, we are committed to supporting the collaborative and urge others to join us in our mission to support this community further.' – **Vidya Shah, CEO, EdelGive Foundation.**

'Economists consider workers as commodities in 'labour markets'---to be bought and sold for a price. And employers sadly treat them only as resources—to be used and discarded when not required. This must change because workers are human beings with citizens' rights in society.' - **Arun Maira (Former Member Planning Commission)**

In last few months, Jan Sahas has facilitated relief for >1 million families across 19 states, working with 40+ CBOs and 40+ donors; contributed >1 million of the 4 million worker connects for Govt's skill mapping initiative and facilitated BOCW registration for >58,000 workers.

For further information, please visit - <http://www.JanSahas.org/mrc>

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