**Extracts from MUKTI Alliance’s suggestions sent to CM, CS, ACS-UD, BBMP Commissioner, etc. on setting up of Ward Disaster Management Cells and their roles and responsibilities**

1. **Setting up Disaster Management Cells (DMCs) at Ward level:**There are definite legal provisions and guidelines on the involvement of the local bodies at the grassroots to ensure the Government benefits reach the needy migrants and homeless.The National Disaster Management Act (NDMA) puts the responsibility of delivering services in times of disaster on local bodies. We note that the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka has been issuing detailed orders in the PIL WP 6435/2020 on the measures that need to be taken by BBMP to provide shelter, food and medicines, etc., to migrant workers and the homeless in Bengaluru during the Corona pandemic. The success of the State of Kerala in controlling the epidemic and in meeting the needs of the citizens/workers is being attributed by experts to the mobilization and involvement of its vibrant local bodies at grassroots level. This model of functioning has proven to be effective and can be replicated in our State for effective results.

**We sincerely request you to direct BBMP to set up these Disaster Management Cells in every Ward immediately as per Section 6(8) of the Ward Committee Rules and enable elected corporators, ward committee members and others in the DMCs to take leadership to identify the migrants and homeless in their wards and meet their needs.**

**2. Responsibilities of the DMCs in meeting food and other needs:**

       **A GO should be issued  by the Urban Development Department immediately giving the composition of the DMCs and their responsibilities as already done for the Panchayat Raj Institutions (Circular dated 27th March 2020)**.  Representation should be given to the ward committee secretary, revenue inspector, anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, head-teachers of schools, medical officer of PHC,  and to CSOs/NGOs working in the area in the Disaster Management/ Mitigation Cell formed at each ward level.

       The DMCs should create a ward-level data-base of guest (migrant) workers and the homeless by enumerating them in the next 15 days through household surveys. This institutional and statutory mechanism at the ward level taking on this responsibility will enable BBMP to provide convincing data to the Hon’ble High Court.

       A helpline (WhatsApp) should be set up at ward level to which citizens/migrants can inform about their needs for food, rations, medicines, etc.

       The DMC can deliver at the door-step of the homeless and migrant workers, who have either stayed back or are at construction sites or stranded on highways, universal allocation of ration kits to last a period of 1 month including 10 Kg rice/wheat flour/ragi flour, 1.5 Kg pulses, 1Kg cooking oil (per person per month), plus jaggery, masala powders, soap**,** including sanitary napkins to women, irrespective of whether they have ration cards or not.

       The DMCs can coordinate the delivery of rations to anganwadi children and midday meal rations to school children at their houses

       The DMCs should ensure availability of cooked meals twice daily at least till the end of May. Kitchens for cooked food can be set up at schools, anganwadis, Indira Canteens, shelter homes, stadiums, school grounds, etc.

       The prices of vegetables, fruits, eggs, meat can be reduced and delivered through Hopcoms. Street vendors can be assigned to particular streets to deliver fruits and vegetables.

       Mobile health clinics should be made available at every zone where the guest workers (migrants) are living.

Hence we need to reorient the grassroots governments on a war footing in ULBs to take up these roles.

**Organisations in MUKTI Alliance**

CIVIC Bangalore

Global Concerns India (GCI)

International Justice Mission (IJM)

Indian Social Institute

MAARGA

Shantha Jeeva Jyothi (SJJ)

Training, Editorial & Development Services (TEDS)