

# A Crisis of Hunger

A ground report on the repercussions of COVID-19 related lockdown on Delhi's vulnerable populations

(One-pager, full report available)

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The lock-down in response to COVID-19 has created an unprecedented food crisis in Delhi, leaving daily wage workers highly vulnerable. The situation is particularly critical in violence affected areas in north-east Delhi, where displaced households are returning to damaged homes and seeking housing in hostile conditions. This report draws on conversations with civil society organisations with deep networks on ground to highlight lacunae in Delhi government's recently announced relief measures, and point to possible solutions.

## Homeless shelters as food distribution facilities

Problems	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lockdown-related mass unemployment is pushing large numbers of the working poor towards shelters in search of food.</li><li>• Delhi's shelters do not have the capacity to cater to the rising demand for food, nor are they spatially distributed to cover all parts of the city</li><li>• The Shelter Management Agencies (SMAs) are facing a dual, supply and demand side crunch</li><li>• Distribution of food is hampered by restriction on supply of raw materials and harassment of social workers, and support is inadequate.</li><li>• Sub-contracted SMAs are required to stock food, masks, soaps and sanitizers themselves, for which they are not provided funds upfront.</li><li>• Large crowds at shelters are making the poor susceptible to disease overall, not just Covid-19.</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Open community kitchens across the city, beyond the shelter network, in partnership with religious, non-profit, private sector organisations with expertise</li><li>2. Deploy unused capacities in underutilised shelters, set up temporary shelters to house migrant workers 'trapped' inside the city</li><li>3. Facilitate movement of food supply vehicles</li><li>4. Notify quarantine facilities, deploy preventive measures and direct disease control measures in line with protocols of Delhi Health Department</li></ol>

## Direct transfers to registered construction worker

Problems	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only a fourth of estimated construction workers in the city are registered</li><li>• Defunct construction workers welfare board</li><li>• Many non-construction workers left out of its ambit</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Expedite the constitution of the board</li><li>2. Set up a CM relief fund to channelise individual and CSR donations to feeding the hungry</li></ol>

## Enhanced PDS, doorstep ICDS benefits

Problems	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Measures will leave out many including migrants</li><li>• PDS shops are closed in many locations, no alternate mechanism for distribution</li><li>• No door-to-door distribution of midday meals despite Ministry of WCD advise</li><li>• Patchy delivery of special foods and supplements for pregnant and lactating mothers and children under 6</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Implement universal and on-demand PDS</li><li>2. Implement doorstep delivery of midday meals</li></ol>