

## Ensuring Food Security and Emergency Relief in Karnataka

(Prepared with inputs from Prof Ramakumar R, TISS; Sasikanth Sendhil, former IAS officer; Dr.Sylvia Karpagam, Public Health Professional, Adv Clifton D'ROzario, former Advisor to Supreme Court Commissioners on Food Security, ; Anivar Arvind, Researcher; Prof Rajendran Narayanan, APU;)

### Food Security

Should be achieved by ensuring **universal delivery** of uncooked food, distribution of cooked food. Both approaches are required.

- Several people are homeless / have no kitchen and cannot use food packets. For these people, cooked food like in Delhi must be given through Indira canteen, night shelters and Anganwadis. It must be made available free, 3 times a day and centres should be widely publicised
- Free Food packets (with rice/wheat/ragi, dal, eggs, jaggery, cooking oil, free cooking gas, salt, masala powder, immunity building foods etc.) have to be delivered bi-weekly. Announce delivery schedule before hand to avoid confusion. Key challenge is to cover migrants who have no ration card who may or may not have any local ID. Another challenge is to reduce contact. Delivery options listed in table below
- We should not worry about people taking twice. We will be giving so much free food and to all, that there will be no black market
- Collaborate with local volunteers/CSOs to ensure that no family is left out. Particular focus on elderly living alone, orphan children, children living on the streets, widows, disabled, bed ridden etc.

### Models for uncooked food(rations) delivery

Model	Location	Who will do it	Advantages	Disadvantages
Door Delivery with photo of delivery and marking on house (like census) delivered to every resident	Each and every home, legal or illegal, slums, sheds, etc	ULBs with Food and civil supplies Dept. with assistance of local CSO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migrant workers also covered</li> <li>• People do not have to go; every house reached</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff have to travel a lot</li> <li>• Local issues may happen</li> </ul>
Deliver at PDS shop to anyone who comes and asks, without asking for ration or ID Card.	Fair Price Shop and Anganwadis	Food and Civil Societies Dept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing infrastructure can be leveraged.</li> <li>• Workers don't have to travel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can become a site of crowding</li> <li>• People without any form of ID /without ration card may be denied ration</li> </ul>
Deliver packets at Indira Canteen shop to anyone who comes and asks, without asking for ID Card.	Indira canteen in each ward	BBMP and Food and Civil Societies Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space is big so social distancing (queues with 1 metre gap can be maintained)</li> <li>• Open space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India canteen staff not used to this job</li> <li>• People without any form of ID /without ration card may be denied ration</li> </ul>

If none of these are possible, we will have to do targeted delivery, but that will leave lakhs of people out of the loop. Targeted delivery will be as follows –

- Urban and Rural local bodies can be directed to prepare and distribute same food packets to the permanent/daily-wage/contract staff on their rolls. Construction companies should undertake this responsibility and distribute food packets to their workers. Similar arrangements can be made in each sector and with the Associations of managements of garment workers etc. But it will be impossible to reach out to self-employed people in this approach - domestic workers, street vendors, many migrant workers etc. **TARGETTED DELIVERY IS NOT A RECOMMENDED APPROACH**

## Ensuring emergency relief grant for the months of April and May 2020

An emergency relief grant for the next 2 months (Rs. 14,000/- at Rs. 7,000/- per month per household) must be disbursed now. Key challenges – 1) Many migrant workers have no form of identification 2) Reduce contact 3) Ensure women and children have access to income.

### Models for delivering emergency relief

Model	Location	Who will do it	Advantages	Disadvantages
Go Door –to Door, collect bank account number with passbook proof and money deposited later (with marking on house like census)	Each and every home, legal or illegal, slums, sheds etc	ULBs with Food and civil society department with assistance of local CSO , Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migrant workers also covered</li> <li>• People do not have to go</li> <li>• Every house reached</li> <li>• No exchange of cash</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Govt Staff have to travel a lot and get into contact</li> <li>• All marginalized are not banked</li> <li>• What will people do if money not deposited</li> </ul>
Door Delivery of cash/cheque with photo of delivery and marking on house (like census)	Each and every home, legal or illegal, slums, sheds etc	ULBs with Food and civil society department with assistance of local CSO and Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migrant workers also covered</li> <li>• People do not have to go anywhere</li> <li>• Every house reached</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff have to travel a lot</li> <li>• Local issues may happen with counting of cash.</li> <li>• Lot of contact.</li> <li>• If cheque is given banks need to be open, all may not have bank account</li> </ul>
Deliver cash/cheque at PDS shop on basis of any form of ID card. <b>Put indelible ink</b> on both husband and wife	Fair Price Shop	Food and Civil Societies Dept ; BBMP; Finance; Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing infrastructure can be leveraged</li> <li>• Govt staff don't have to travel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can become a site of crowding</li> <li>• People without any form of ID /without ration card may be denied income</li> </ul>
Deliver cash/cheque at Indira Canteen shop to anyone who seek, on the basis of some local ID and put indelible ink	Indira canteen in each ward	BBMP and Food and Civil Societies Department ; Finance; Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space is big so social distancing (queues with 1 metre gap can be maintained)</li> <li>• Open space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India canteen staff not used to this job</li> <li>• People without any form of ID may be denied</li> </ul>

### How much will this cost the state government?

Karnataka Population is 6 crores. Assuming each family to be 4 members, it makes roughly 1.5 crore households. At a cost of 14,000 per household, this will cost 21,000 crores. To put it in perspective, it is less than half the cost of the Bangalore Metro. Additionally, we can ask middle class and rich to opt out of it, like they did for gas subsidy. Then it will cost much lesser