CEO NITI Aayog call to NGOs/VOs/CSOs to support initiatives to combat COVID-19

Dear Madam / Sir,

Please see the attached Letters from CEO, NITI Aayog and Adviser (Voluntary Action Cell) requesting CSOs / NGOs to work to combat COVID-19, on war-foot and help the helpless and people in distress. We appreciate if you could kindly contact the State / District Nodal Officers to partner with Government to mitigate the outbreak of COVID-19 and problems out of it.
Dear Friend,

I take this opportunity to thank your organization for joining the Government of India in this combat against COVID-19 with commitment and dedication. At this critical juncture, it is necessary for us to take a whole-of-India approach. Stakeholders with immense expertise like you need to come together and channelize efforts to fight this threat together. Your tremendous experience and expertise in understanding the pulse at the grassroots will be of great help to our country now. There is nobody better placed than you to work closely with communities, spread awareness in the areas of prevention, protection, and fighting stigma. Your networks can do our nation a great service by preparing our communities, especially the rural population, in putting together the most efficient response mechanism against this pandemic. I am positive that the capabilities, expertise and resources of your organization will be a game changer at this moment by complementing the State and Central Government systems. In these emergent times the fight against this pandemic cannot be fought without the active support and collaboration of your organization.

The Government of India has constituted a Committee comprising of myself, Dr. Vijayaraghavan, PSA; Mr. Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA; Mr. Sandeep Mohan Bhatnagar, Member, CBIC; Mr. Anil Malik, AS, MHA; Mr. Gopal Baglay, JS, PMO; Ms. Tina Soni, DS, Cabinet Secretariat; Ms. Aishvarya Singh, DS, PMO.

We have greatly benefitted from our preliminary discussions with some partners from Civil Society Organisations. Based on today’s interactions, we strongly believe that CSOs have a pivotal role in joining forces with the local district and state administration in several critical areas. Also, CSO’s working in a district must collaborate with each other so that there is no duplication of work and could themselves appoint one CSO as the nodal to coordinate with the District Administration.

A primary area where you may like to focus is the movement of migrant labourers. The Government has taken several measures so that their livelihoods are protected. At this juncture, I request you to coordinate your efforts and work closely with the district administrations and state governments so that measures of care, shelter, food and social distancing go hand in hand and they are fully taken care of in their present location. It is our responsibility that no one goes without shelter and food.

Contd..
Some of the most important areas where the CSOs can aid and supplement the efforts of the State and local administration are:

1. To assist and support the local administration in setting up community kitchens particularly for migrants and homeless population working in urban areas.
2. To supplement the government efforts to provide shelter to homeless, daily wage workers, and urban poor families.
3. To create awareness about prevention, hygiene, social distancing, isolation, and combating stigma.
4. To extend support for distribution of PPE and protective provisions – sanitizers, soaps, masks, gloves etc. for community workers and volunteers.
5. To support the State governments and local administration in filling gaps in routine delivery of public health care, and promoting hygiene measures.
6. To assist the local administration in identifying hotspots and deputing volunteers and care givers to deliver services to the elderly, persons with disabilities, children, transgender persons, and other vulnerable groups.
7. Partner with State and local governments in enlisting volunteers from among individuals and communities.
8. To develop communications strategy in different vernaculars whereby they become active partners in creating awareness at the community level so that COVID-19 spread is tightly controlled and false information fully countered.
9. To partner with State and local governments in promoting social and behaviour change.
10. By ensuring that there is no stigma and discrimination against COVID-19 patients. This would require extension and mass communication.

Our team in NITI Aayog is committed to working in close collaboration with CSOs working at the grassroots and with the vulnerable communities. I am optimistic that with your zeal and commitment, we will emerge victorious in the fight against COVID-19. I thank once again, your whole hearted participation in this critical nation building exercise, which has direct bearing on the social and economic fabric of our great country.

With warm regards,

All Civil Society Organisations

Yours sincerely,

(Amitabh Kant)
DO No. AI/Misc 2020-Admin-II

Dated: 08-04-2020

Dear Friend,

This is in continuation of DO letter from CEO, NITI Aayog vide letter dated 30-03-2020 (copy attached) addressed to all Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) registered on NGO Darpan Portal to actively contribute to address the problems of outbreak of COVID-19. CEO, NITI Aayog has also requested Chief Secretaries vide his DO Letter dated 31-03-2020 (copy attached) of all the States/UTs to advise District Collectors to mobilize all the CSOs at the field level with the request to:

- Designate a District level nodal officer to coordinate with local NGOs;
- The Nodal Officer should maintain a list of all credible NGOs, there are of functioning (health, education, child rights, etc.) and contact details of their heads;
- A Nodal / Mother NGO for each district, or groups of Districts should also be identified, for coordinating with the District Nodal Officer;
- The District Nodal Officer and Nodal / Mother NGO should identify areas (both sectoral and geographical) for the various NGOs in the District. Overlapping of areas and function in one area have to be fully avoided.
- It may also be considered if all NGOs can be advised to have common / uniform menus for food distribution.

2. Accordingly you are requested to contact concerned District Collectors to coordinate your efforts to fight against COVID-19.

Warm regards & best wishes,

Yours sincerely

(M.C. Jauhari)

All Civil Society Organisations
With Kind regards:-

Amitabh Kant
Chief Executive Officer

31st March, 2020

I am enclosing a copy of the letter addressed to all the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)/NGOs who are registered on the Government of India NGO Darpan portal for providing support and collaboration to State and local administration. We believe that CSOs/NGOs have a pivotal role in joining forces with the local district and state administration in several critical areas in supplementing the government efforts. You may like to forward this letter to District Collectors to mobilise all the CSOs at the field level with the request:

a. Designate a district level Nodal Officer to coordinate with local NGOs;
b. The Nodal Officer should maintain a list of all credible NGOs, their area of functioning (health, education, child rights etc) and contact details of their heads;
c. A Nodal/Mother NGO for each district, or groups of districts, should also be identified, for coordinating with the district Nodal Officer;
d. The District Nodal Officer and Nodal/Mother NGO should identify areas (both sectoral and geographical) for the various NGOs in the district. Overlapping of areas and functions in one area have to be fully avoided.
e. It may also be considered if all NGOs can be advised to have common/uniform menus for food distribution.

I am also enclosing a copy of the Pune Platform for COVID#19 Response. This is a unique initiative where the government and civil society have come together to provide assistance to the government in procurement, critical hospital supplies, mid/long term planning, logistics/coordination support to local hospitals, and telemedicine. They have assigned nodal responsibilities to leading citizens. You may like to consider similar initiative at the district level.

Yours sincerely,

Amitabh Kant
Dr. Muniraju, S.B
Deputy Adviser
Government of India
NITI Aayog,
(National Institution fo.inr Transforming India Aayog)
(SJE, Tribal Affairs & Minorities Division)
Email: mraju.sb@gov.in

Please do not reply to this email, for all your replies / queries please email to Dr. Muniraju, Dy. Adviser, NITI
mraju[dot]sb[at]gov[dot]in
D.O. No. II/21022/36(0069)/2020-FCRA-II

Dated: 01.04.2020

Dear Friend,

As you are aware that increasing spread of Covid-19 has become the most critical public health emergency all over the world. Government of India is leading efforts to contain and manage this pandemic in collaboration with State Governments, UT Administrations, Civil Society Organisations and all other stakeholders including citizens of the country.

In exercise of the powers conferred on it under The Disaster Management Act, 2005, Government of India has constituted an Empowered Group to Coordinate with Private Sector, NGOs and International Organisations for COVID Response Related Activities. This Group is headed by Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI AAYOG. The undersigned being a member of this Group has been designated as the Nodal Officer for NGOs registered under the FCRA 2010 to mobilise their support for Covid-19 related activities.

It is understood that your association has been making valuable contributions to benefit society in many ways and in the event of outbreak of this pandemic, your outreach and assistance in society may complement Government’s endeavours.

In this regard, the following are some of the important areas where you can aid and supplement the efforts of Government and local administration:-

1. Supporting the local administration in setting up community kitchens particularly for migrants and homeless population.

Contd...
2. Supplementing government efforts to provide shelter to homeless, daily wage workers and poor families without jobs.

3. Extending support for distribution of PPE and protective provisions like sanitizers, soaps, masks, gloves etc. for health & community workers and volunteers.

4. Assisting the local administration in identifying hotspots and deputing volunteers and care givers to deliver services to the elderly, persons with disabilities, children, transgender persons, and other vulnerable groups.

5. Creating awareness about crucial aspects like prevention, hygiene, social distancing and isolation, and combating stigma.

6. Partnering with State and local governments in promoting social and behavioural changes.

7. If your Association/NGO has a large building in the form of, say, a hospital or a school campus or any other large space, the same may be offered as temporary / make-shift Covid hospital or quarantine centre.

8. Associations / NGOs have a special role to play in awareness generation regarding COVID-19 especially in vernacular languages. The Association/NGOs working in different areas of country may take up special awareness programme for COVID-19 and also extend full assistance by making available their establishments, facilities and services of their staff & followers to fight this pandemic.

For the above and any other related activities, you may contact the local Deputy Commissioner / District Magistrate / District Collector and the Chief Medical / Health Officer of the District to offer your support. If your activities are spread across several districts, then you may also get in touch with the Chief Secretary or Health Secretary of the state. The office of the undersigned can also be contacted for any consultation or clarification on email IDs jsf@mha.gov.in or dirfcr@mha@gov.in

Contd...
I am also enclosing a reporting format which may kindly be filled up by you and e-mailed as soon as possible preferably by April 9, 2020.

I thank you for your wholehearted participation in this nation-building exercise which has a direct bearing on the future of our country.

With sincere regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Anil Malik)

To

The Chief Functionaries of all FCRA Association as per the List and e-mail addresses
Note: Kindly send a scanned copy of this performa typed in English up to 9th April, 2020 on the e-mail address: pmf@pmf.org.in.

1. Name of Chief Functionary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>FCA number of NGO along with its name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| 3 | Signature of Chief Functionary and date |

2. Kind of NGO addressed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4</th>
<th>Tasks performed by volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

3. Para 3 of the letter (Please refer to meeting/gatherings distributed, material & equipments purchased and detailed purchase plan)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5</th>
<th>Date of support/activities (in weeks)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6</th>
<th>Support provided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7</th>
<th>Details of Problems Faced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8</th>
<th>Any suggestion/solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

PERFORMA FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE
Dear Colleague,

The Hon’ble Supreme Court of India while disposing the Writ Petitions No. 468/2020 & 469/2020 in public interest for redressal of grievances of migrant labourers in different parts of country has given the following directions -

i) The migrant workers in Relief camps/shelter homes should be provided adequate medical facilities besides proper arrangements for food, clean drinking water and sanitation.

ii) The trained counsellor and/or community group leaders belonging to all faiths will visit the relief camps/shelter homes and deal with any consternation that the migrants might be going through. This shall be done in all the relief camps/shelter homes wherever migrants are located in the country. A detailed guidelines to deal with psychosocial issues among migrants has been placed on the website of the Ministry at the link https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/RevisedPsychosocialissuesofmigrantsCOVID19.pdf

iii) The anxiety and fear of the migrants should be understood by the Police and other authorities and they should deal with the migrants in a humane manner.

iv) The State Governments/Union Territories should endeavour to engage volunteers along with the police to supervise the welfare activities of the migrants and all concerned to appreciate the trepidation of the poor men, women and children and treat them with kindness.

2. All states are accordingly requested to take necessary action and submit a compliance report to the directions of the Hon’ble Supreme Court.

Yours sincerely,

(Preeti Sudan)

Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs.

Copy to: Shri A.K. Bhalla, Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, South Block, New Delhi-110001.