

## Main issues and building blocks of a COVID-19 and migration response

Many of the ideas and suggestions summarized below, come from discussions within SDC Migration & Development and other projects implemented in a number of countries (e.g. Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar) but also from colleagues working in Asia, Africa or South America on humanitarian issues.

Most common global responses (social assistance, social insurance and labor market interventions)<sup>1</sup>:

- Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional) most widely used
- Utility/financial obligation support (waiver/subsidy)
- In-kind food/voucher schemes
- School feeding
- Universal one-off cash
- Childcare support
- Cash for Work
- Social pensions

### WHAT can Helvetas do?

- to contribute to necessary awareness raising for the slowdown of the spread of infection
- to safeguard development achievements to the extent possible
- to support local communities' recovery through mechanisms allowing them to absorb the shocks and to build their resilience
- Support returnees and migrants in camps
- Support refugees and irregular migrants
- Work on remittance issues
- Support migrants who are unable to go back to their previous workplaces abroad

### Who can we work with?

- Existing partners in COO and COD
- Governments including consular missions
- Working directly with CBOs (where we have existing partnerships)
- Work with specialized partners

### Periods:

- ⇒ Ongoing crisis: Situation in and COD and COO
- ⇒ Lock-down immediately after crisis
- ⇒ Post-crisis situation in COD and COO

### EMERGING issues on COVID and Labor Migration:

	Ongoing crisis	Lock-down & immediately after crisis	Post-crisis situation	COD	COO

<sup>1</sup> See this blog: [living document](#)

Lack of health-related knowledge and information on during COVID-19 for migrants and families	x	x	x	x	x
Lack of information on the whereabouts of migrants during COVID-19 for families	x	x	x		x
Repatriation					x
Irregular migrants: who is assisting them?				x	x
Quarantined migrants – food, water and hygienic conditions		x		x	x
Health issues of migrants	x	x	x	x	x
Increased GBV in camps and during lock down	x	x	x	x	
(Continued) payment of wages by employers	x	x	x	x	x
Consular services overwhelmed by demand				x	
Remittances: transfer issues	x	x	x	x	x
Social and economic reintegration					x
Unclear legal situation for prospective labor migrants and returnees			x		x
Redefinition of the outlook for labor migrants – reduced demand?			x		x
Stranded returnees coming back without means or perspectives			x		x
Increased unemployment in COO			x		x
Stigmatization of returnees	x	x	x	x	x
Complaints handling and HR issues upon return for labor migration offices					x
Insurance issues of returnees			x		x

### Possible COVID 19 responses within M&D Programmes

#### In the context of Labor Migration projects:

	Ongoing crisis	Lock-down & immediately after crisis	Post-crisis situation	COD	COO
Coordination and Collaboration with Local Administration on C-19 issues					x
Awareness raising on do's and don'ts during COVID-19	x	x	x	x	x
Identify and address irregular migrants	x	x	x	x	
Awareness raising via episodes on a specific Youtube channel e.g.: ( <i>Social Distance, Aid</i>	x	x	x		x

<i>provisions, Distribution and Participation, Hygiene, Belief-Faith, Responses to Women, Children, and Elderly Citizen, Production – Agriculture)</i>					
Work on stigmatization	x	x			x
Create safe spaces to report migrants and returnees' potential C19 contamination	x	x		x	x
Access to testing or support for those who develop symptoms while in quarantine or back with families	x	x	x	x	x
Phone follow up to the returnee migrants		x	x		x
Access quarantined people for assistances; or if impossible: focus on delivery of food,		x		x	x
Material support (hand sanitizer, soaps, mask etc.) and space support for quarantine to those local governments where people recently came from foreign employment	x	x		x	x
Assess the legal situation of those with signed contracts but unable to leave			x		x
Psychosocial counselling to the family about the CoVID- 19 - after the quarantine or in case of infection			x		x
"Hotline" /facebook page for currently in-service migrant workers to ask their urgent questions. Answer provided by the partner and where necessary in liaising with the relevant authorities	x	x	x	x	x
Fighting stigmatization of migrant workers/ returnees / family members > sensitize the community in a positive way about migrant workers; as well as debunk the myths around COVID19	x	x	x		x
Cash for livelihoods a) family members left behind who now do not receive remittances anymore; b) COVID19 positive migrant workers' family; c) women returnees, d) other vulnerable households (do no harm)	x	x	x		x
Support vulnerable families with a link to migration (aspirant migrant who could not leave, family left behind who does not receive remittances anymore, returnees who had to come back because of the crisis) with income generation activities and possible grants (using the in BGD well-tested "graduation approach")			x		x
Longer term engagement to mitigate the impacts incl. advocacy at national or also regional level with employers (through partners such as MFA); alternative job placement for those who could not leave, etc.			x	x	x
Analyze legal and economic situation with regards to the future modalities of Labor Migration			x		x

**In the context refugee projects:**

	Ongoing crisis	Lock-down & immediately after crisis	Post-crisis situation	COD	COO
Cash for Livelihoods. Once the effects of COVID 19 are felt in the communities especially the most vulnerable will have specific demands for either food, medicine, medical care, funeral services or other immediate needs: Focus on the families with sick people and migrants/refugees at home with a fair coverage of disadvantaged groups, e.g. because of gender, age or ethnicity is assured through the existing wealth rankings and the ERC	x	x		x	x
Youtube channel e.g.: (Social Distance, Aid provisions, Distribution and Participation, Hygiene, Belief-Faith, Responses to Women, Children, and Elderly Citizen, Production – Agriculture)	x	x	x		x
Work on stigmatization	x	x		x	x
Psychosocial counselling to the family about the CoVID- 19 - after the quarantine or in case of infection		x	x		x
Distribute awareness material via: Community Health Clinic, Pharmacy, Grocery Shop, Engaging Law Enforcement Authorities	x	x			
Awareness raising on do's and don'ts during COVID-19; e.g. Radio jingle in local language about the dos and don'ts regarding corona virus.	x	x			x
Create safe spaces to report migrants and returnees' potential C19 contamination	x	x	x		x
Look at alternative means of income and design a skill projects with market study			x		x
Access quarantined people for assistances; or if impossible: focus on delivery of food, soap, water	x	x		x	x
Material support (hand sanitizer, soaps, mask etc.) and space support for quarantine to those local governments where people recently came from foreign employment	x	x			x
Assess the possibilities of skills projects as alternatives to movemnts need to be considered			x	x	x