

Networking Meeting of MAIN in Mumbai



MAIN (Migrant Assistance and Information Network) organised a sharing meeting to get to know about various organisations, NGOs, individuals working with the migrant workers in the unorganised sector in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The objective was to introduce MAIN, which has been initiated as a national level network working with distress migrants, and invite suggestions from the participants on developing it further with their support and collaboration.

Representing MAIN, on behalf of the Conference Development Office, New Delhi, Anil Kumar, Manager, Programme Partnership and Strategic Knowledge Management, explained in detail the MAIN model, its vision, mission and objectives, and how the network would operate to serve the critical needs of the migrants who are in distress. He shared how MAIN is different from similar networks working for migrant and unorganised sector workers despite the commitments and some commonalities in action, and the importance of collaboration and partnership for MAIN.

He added that MAIN is different as it is a network exclusively for migrant workers, who are in distress. He further shared how MAIN has envisaged a national-level helpline proposed to be operational in 12 States across India providing assistance to distress migrants in emergencies like accidents, other critical medical care, wage-related issues, threats, physical assaults, etc.

Although MAIN is not meant for providing educational aid or providing temporary shelter in cities, its partner NGO could initiate and manage their own development programmes and projects. Concluding the presentation, it was shared that MAIN needs to collaborate and network with NGOs, institutes and individuals, and it would engage with potential partners in Mumbai, as in other cities.

While appreciating the initiative of MAIN, representatives of various NGOs in the meeting suggested to begin with collaborating with government departments, especially on registration of domestic workers, construction workers, etc. They also suggested to focus on domestic workers and construction workers initially, and to reach out to other categories of migrant workers subsequently.

Rajesh Parmar, State Coordinator of MAIN, welcomed the participants. Representatives of various organisations, policy researchers and activists representing Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), YUVA, Pehchan Homeless Collective, India Labour Line, Habitat and Livelihood Welfare Association, Institute for Research and Action, Working People's Charter (WPC), Centre for Promoting Democracy (CPD), Kamgar Surakshan Samman Sangh, Ghar Bachao Ghar Banao Andolan, etc. attended the meeting held at Vinayalaya, Andheri East, Mumbai, on 7 December.