

1. Who are you?

We are a collective of students from the United States of America, United Kingdom, and India. We are fundraising for relief efforts on the ground to support communities in need during the devastating second wave of COVID-19 in India.

2. Who are you supporting?

We are currently supporting The Migrant Workers Solidarity Network, Mehram Kashmir, The Moitri Sanjog Society, and Tedhi Lakeer. Check our [Instagram](#) posts for more information on these initiatives and their work!

3. What do they do?

The Migrant Workers Solidarity Network has been undertaking relief efforts amongst daily wage migrant workers in different villages of central and northern India, including Delhi-National Capital Region. They provide ration, pay for medical and transport bills and also run a national helpline for migrant workers.

Mehram Kashmir was set up to uplift and empower women in Kashmir against gender-based violence. They are now calling for donations to buy medical supplies for families in Kashmir affected by the second wave of COVID-19.

Moitri Sanjog is a collective of transgender people, gender non-conforming people, and sex workers in Cooch Behar who collectively fight against the discrimination and violence inflicted upon them. They are buying masks, sanitizer, dettol(soap), vitamins and medicines for the community to ensure basic healthcare needs are met to keep them safe from COVID-19 and provide a support network.

The Tedhi Lakeer foundation serves rural communities in Nagda, Madhya Pradesh. They are in urgent need of funds for supplies. The organization has started a COVID-19 emergency relief fund to provide ration kits to families who have lost their work and have run out of basic food supplies in Nagda.

4. Why have you chosen these groups?

We have tried to focus on initiatives that support marginalised groups that do not receive as much attention or coverage. Donors, especially those outside India, end up contributing to larger and widely-publicized organizations.

5. Are these relief efforts registered?

MoitriSanjog is registered under the West Bengal Society Registration Act, 1961. Tedhi Lakeer Foundation has been registered under the Madhya Pradesh Society Registration Act, 1973. Mehran Kashmir is a certified trust. MWSN is a network of voluntary activists.

6. Are these relief efforts run by organisations certified under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act?

They are not registered under the FCRA. The FCRA doesn't apply to MWSN since it is a network of volunteers and not an NGO.

7. I am paying from a non-Indian bank, how is my money being used for these initiatives if they aren't registered with the FCRA?

Most of the foreign contributions will be going to the Migrant Worker Solidarity Network as the FCRA doesn't apply to them. Since the FCRA bill prevents direct donations from non-Indian banks, we will be buying supplies that the other NGOs need. We will be purchasing directly from certified vendors with GST (Goods and Service Tax) registrations.

8. I am paying from an Indian bank, does my donation come under the FCRA?

No, your donations do not fall under the FCRA and will be sent to these initiatives directly.

9. Why have you chosen Milaap ?

Milaap is an online crowdfunding platform that enables anyone across India to raise funds for healthcare, education, sports, disaster relief, and other causes. The platform charges no fees for COVID fundraising and provides ease of access to those donating via various online payment methods. (see question 15 for inquiries about payment methods)

10. Where can I find out more about how Milaap works?

<https://faq.milaap.org/#/dashboard/faqs>

11. Are you making any money from this?

No, none of the organisers of this fundraiser are making money from this campaign.

We are committed to make sure there is utmost transparency by publicly providing the breakdown of how the donations are being used, and providing vendor bills on request. (See question 26 for inquiries about transparency)

12. How much of the money reaches the people working on the ground?

Since the amount we are collecting through milaap does not meet the taxation benchmark in India, none of the money will be reduced due to taxes. There is a “payment gateway fee” that varies between [0-2% for INR donations and 3% for foreign donations](#). This depends on the type of payment (netbanking, card, cheque) chosen by the donor. Milaap does not take a cut, and neither do we. All the money collected will go towards the relief effort. Apart from any gateway fee, every dollar you donate reaches these initiatives.

13. Where can I find out more about these initiatives? Do they have websites or other social media?

Migrant Workers Solidarity Network: [Website](#), [Facebook](#)

Tedhi Lakeer: [Website](#), [Instagram](#)

Mehram Kashmir: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)

Moitri Sanjog: [Website](#), [Instagram](#)

14. Why can't I just give the money directly to these initiatives, why must I go through you?

You certainly can! Our aim is to connect donors with these calls for funds and provide support through fundraising and spreading awareness. The links to their donation appeals are available on their website and their social media pages (see question 13). We are forming this fundraiser for the international community who might not be able to independently find avenues to donate to people working to alleviate the crisis.

15. How can I donate?

Donate on our Milaap fundraiser here:

<https://milaap.org/fundraisers/support-families-in-india-hit-by-the-pandemic>

We also accept payments on Venmo (@Pari-Bishen) and on Paypal (paypal.me/sascovidr).

16. What methods of payments do you accept?

Milaap accepts payments through a wide variety of online platforms, including debit/credit cards, bank transfers, and UPI payments. We also accept payments on Venmo (@Pari-Bishen) and on Paypal (paypal.me/sascovidr).

17. Can I contribute to a single fundraiser multiple times?

Of course, yes!

18. Are these methods safe?

Milaap provides a platform for people to raise funds for medical and social causes. Milaap has various measures set in place to ensure the authenticity of fundraiser campaigns. A campaign organizer is notified each time a donation is made on his/her campaign. Donors are notified about the progress of the fundraiser through periodical updates on the beneficiary or on the activity/project for which funds are being raised.

Funds raised are transferred to the beneficiary of the respective fundraiser campaign after a detailed verification process. Verification includes the collection and verification of Identification proofs, bills, etc. Funds are transferred only after the verification is completed.

19. What are the methods of keeping the donor information safe?

Milaap allows for anonymous donors. We do not disclose information about donors that donate through other platforms.

20. Can one donate in kind?

We cannot facilitate this exchange. However if you want to do so we encourage you to contact these initiatives directly. The details of contact are given in the links provided in question 13.

21. How much should I donate?

This is absolutely up to you. Any contribution, small or big, will go a long way in buying equipment, medicines, and will help communities give their loved ones a fighting chance to survive.

22. What currencies do you accept donations in?

We accept donations in all currencies on Milaap.

23. Can I choose where exactly my money goes?

No. Milaap does not allow the donor to choose within a single fundraiser. If you have a preference for a certain initiative, please get in touch with them directly.

24. How does my money reach the relief efforts?

The money will be used to reach the relief efforts through two channels:

- a. Donations in foreign currency will be used to purchase supplies in the areas in which the non profit is situated. Receipts with GST numbers of the vendors will be provided on request.
- b. Donations in INR collected through Milaap and funds raised on platforms other than Milaap will be transferred directly to the initiatives for their expenses.

We will share the breakdown of the expenses as we receive them. You should note that given the nature of the crisis, the requirements for resources and funds are constantly changing.

25. How can you ensure transparency?

We have selected these initiatives after careful research, consideration and thorough communication. We will share updates through our social media accounts. Please feel free to reach out to us for receipts of supplies we directly buy from vendors.

26. Are my donations tax deductible?

Unfortunately, we are **unable** to provide any tax benefits through this fundraiser as we are not an NGO but a collective of students responding to an urgent situation. You cannot file for deductions under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, India or exemptions for any other countries.

27. How can I help further?

You can help us greatly by spreading the word and helping us reach our goal. If you want to help volunteer, please sign up through this [google form](#).

28. How do I reach you if I have questions?

Contact us on any of our social media pages ([Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#)) or email us at sastudentsforcovidrelief@gmail.com.

THESE FAQs ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND WE WILL BE UPDATING IT GOING FORWARD.