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# Can there be State Government-led collaboratives to shed light on urgently needed solutions for migrant workers?

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The pandemic has highlighted the poor state of India's 80-130 million migrant workers, who make up the informal workforce, powering high-growth sectors such as construction, manufacturing and urban services in India. The second COVID wave has been a particularly sobering reality check. It has shown the complex nature of this issue and the deep, multi-stakeholder resolve needed to secure a paradigm shift in the livelihoods and living conditions of migrant labour. *The recent resurgence of COVID and resultant curfews have once again impacted migrant workers as they bear the brunt of the socio-economic fallout of the pandemic with devastating consequences.*

Recognising the critical role that state governments' have in shaping an improved livelihood contract for migrant workers and better living conditions in their place of work, ON India is keen to identify and support meaningful state government led collaborations along with CSOs/development sector players. We believe that innovative lighthouse projects championed by enterprising state governments with strong potential for scale and impact can enable a paradigm shift in the lives of the migrant workforce.

While there is no intended geographical focus, *we are keen on supporting interventions in key source states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and key destination states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Delhi.* Through such a collaboration, we intend to showcase data-backed practices in migration policy design and implementation, identify technological solutions to address some of these challenges and build a repository of evidence-based narratives and solutions.