

[← Back](#)

# Building Sustainable & Scalable Migration Practises: Why We Invested in Safe & Responsible Migration Initiative

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The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant humanitarian crisis brought migration to the fore in the Indian policy and development discourse. It made visible the significant role of migrant workers in our cities and economy and also made visible the multiple vulnerabilities they experienced. It became obvious that a robust society and economy would need significant focus on improving the safety nets and living conditions of low-income migrants, especially those crossing state borders.

Given the complexity of the task, it meant collaboration between source and destination states was crucial and would need the support of multi-stakeholder coalitions involving the government, researchers, CSOs' and the private sector. This was our primary motivation as part of our [ReSolve Migration](#) initiative to support multi-stakeholder collaborations, comprising of initiatives led by innovative and dynamic state government entrepreneurs — with the support of well-established partners including CSOs', social enterprises, and academic institutions.

In early 2021, we had articulated this need in a blog that can be found [here](#).

*"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."*

With the support of NITI Aayog in championing such migration focussed coalitions, we are supporting the first such initiative in the state of Jharkhand, which has nearly 27% tribal population and low human development indicators. This state also experiences one of the highest outflows of working-age population in the country. Between March-July 2020, nearly a million migrant workers returned to the state, laying bare