



RESPONSE DURING LOCKDOWN

STATUS REPORT

IDEAL-CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



2020

ABOUT CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

A woman in a green sari is seen from behind, carrying a large, colorful bundle on her head. The bundle appears to be a large sack or bag, possibly containing goods or supplies. In the background, there is a banner with text in Hindi, including the word 'आज' (Aaj) and 'कल' (Kal), suggesting a social or community event. The overall scene is outdoors, possibly in a market or a public square.

WHAT?

Established in 1993, IDEAL - Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) is a socio-legal organisation fighting for the rights of the marginalised and the vulnerable, principally in the sphere of access to justice.

WHERE?

Directly, through its law centres in 4 states

- Gujarat
- Chhattisgarh
- Jharkhand
- Madhya Pradesh

Through partner organisations in 8 states

HOW?

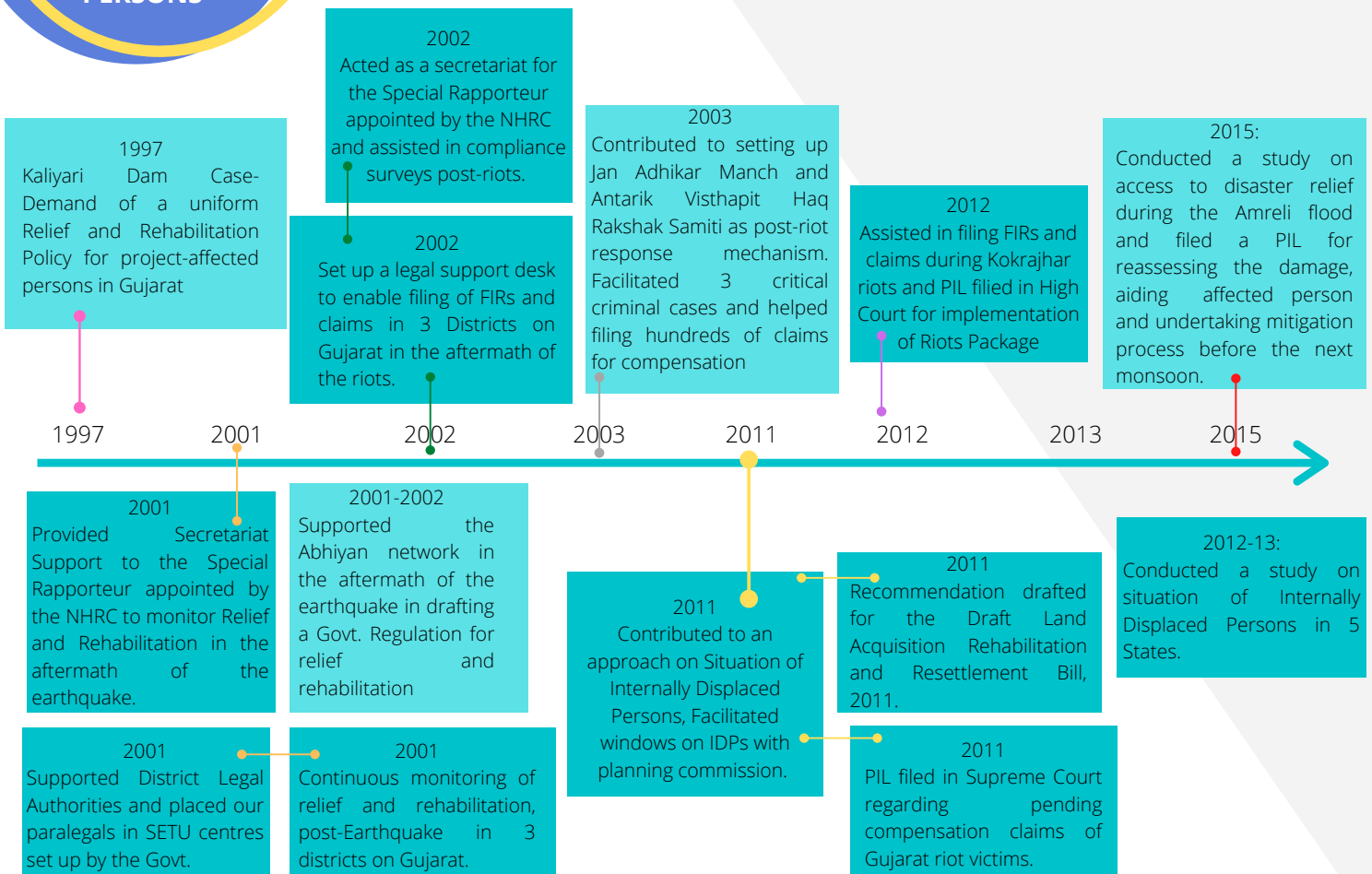
Over the last 25 years CSJ has evolved as a pioneer in the field of access to justice. The contribution of CSJ in the field of Access to Justice has been at several levels

- Demonstrating a community legal resource [lawyers and paralegals] based institutional model.
- Multi-pronged approach that intertwines multiple strategies, constituencies, approaches and applies Human Rights Based approach to the justice sector.
- Pedagogy in legal training.
- Institutional structures and systems that facilitate effective functioning for optimum results.
- A village to policy approach on access to justice.

OUR WORK WITH DISASTER AFFECTED AND DISPLACED PERSONS

CSJ has always responded with a human rights based perspective during disasters like the 2000 earthquake (Gujarat), 2002 Riots (Gujarat), 2012 riots and floods (Assam) and 2015 floods (Gujarat).

OUR WORK WITH DISASTER AFFECTED AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

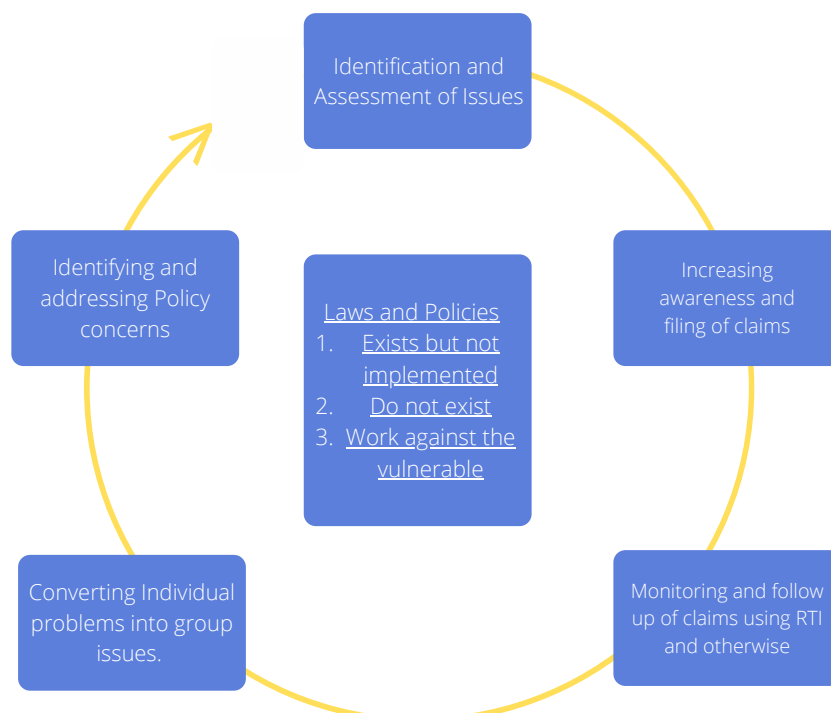


CSJ'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID 19 LOCKDOWN

On 25 March 2020, the Central Government announced a complete lockdown of the country to control the spread of the Novel Corona Virus or COVID-19. This has meant shutdown of all economic activity and transport for the lockdown period. For a country like India, where 94% of the workforce is engaged in the informal economy, with a significant percentage engaged in interstate migrant labor, the lockdown has put millions at risk. Thousands of migrant laborers were stranded across the country with no means of livelihood or a way to return home, many of them had even started walking back to their villages on foot. Many other groups such as daily wage workers, domestic workers, sanitation workers and farmers have also lost their source of livelihood.

CSJ decided to continue its existing multi-pronged action research methodology known as the Entitlement Availability (EA) Circle. The EA Circle Methodology consists of the following components

- Identification of issues
- Raising awareness
- Monitoring/facilitating rights / entitlements
- Advocating for policy change



IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES

WHAT WE DID

CSJ, through its field teams, collaboration with other NGOs and village volunteers, conducted a needs assessment in South Gujarat (Adivasi areas), Amreli and Bhavnagar (coastal belt), North Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Engagement with the community led to identification of problems being faced by people due to the lockdown and challenges in implementation of various entitlements announced by the Government from time to time. These were frequently fed to various stake holders as demands. Issues identified were both generic and area specific. Additionally, a number of emerging vulnerabilities directly caused by the lockdown were also identified.

CSJ has also made common state wide recommendations to the Gujarat and Chhattisgarh Governments, with particular focus on Adivasi and coastal communities.

OUR IMPACT



Gujarat State Legal Services Authority asked all their DLSAs to implement **Disaster Management Scheme** after CSJ intervention.



Surat Collector has distributed food under the **Food Basket Scheme** to stranded laborers after CSJ's intervention. This is an achievement as Food Basket Scheme has rarely been implemented.



Government authorities are providing phone numbers of local CSJ Law Centres to stranded laborers in need of food and shelter.



CSJ Trainee Lawyers from Jharkhand appointed as relief work committee member.



NITI Aayog has reached out to CSJ to contact nodal officer and collaborate with the government.



Committee formed to inquire into irregularities in PDS system on complaint by CSJ Trainee Lawyer in Aravali, Gujarat.



In some areas, cash under various schemes is being distributed to beneficiaries by post offices and banks. This is something CSJ has included in its various demand letters.

INCREASING AWARENESS

WHAT WE DID

Crores of rupees have been allocated by the State and Central Governments to provide assistance to communities affected by the COVID Lockdown but vulnerable groups often remain unaware. This is what CSJ did:



Simplified and translated the COVID 19 related schemes/policies into local languages (Hindi and Gujarati).



Created a mobile data base with the help of CSJ team members and volunteers.



Widely circulated the schemes/policies in the form of SMS with the help of the organization named Awwaz.De, a mobile solution.



Compiled all relevant schemes/policies and widely circulated the same in various Whatsapp groups.



CSJ team is also using creative methods like converting schemes into songs, sharing it through apps like 'My Talking Tom' (available [here](#)).



Built capacities of field volunteers (associated with CSJ and other organisations) to understand and monitor COVID 19 schemes.



Circulated phone numbers of relevant officials District Legal Services Authority Member Secretaries, Mamlatdar (Revenue Official), Nodal Officers, helplines etc.



Criminal action by police against miscreants spreading hate messages online.



INCREASING AWARENESS

OUR IMPACT



35 SMS messages have been developed and circulated to more than **25000** people across the country.



NGOs have started approaching CSJ for assistance.



We have trained **700** volunteers (CSJ staff, village volunteers and members of more than **40** NGOs) to use the toolkit prepared by us to monitor entitlements announced post lockdown. We are on track to train **1000** volunteers.



CSJ is included in Ajeevika Bureau's list of organisations providing relief to migrant workers in Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand.



MONITORING AND FACILITATING CLAIMS

WHAT WE DID

While State and Central governments have announced a number of policy measures, the response on the ground seems ad hoc and negligent. With the aim of helping civil society organisations monitor State response / track implementation of various schemes, while simultaneously facilitating the entitlements of beneficiaries, CSJ has developed a toolkit. The toolkit contains a targeted set of action steps, questionnaires and monitoring tools for all relevant Central Schemes and State schemes of Gujarat and Chhattisgarh.

CSJ has additionally developed a tracking system for people who directly approach CSJ for any kind of assistance. This sheet is being filled on daily basis and necessary action or collaboration is accordingly decided.

CSJ has also reviewed and analysed all schemes/policies announced by State and Central governments and has submitted its recommendations for effective changes.



MONITORING AND FACILITATING CLAIMS

OUR IMPACT



Facilitation of Travel:

- Coordinated and arranged travel for more than **15,000** migrants to reach their home town.



Facilitation of Food and Relief:

- Coordinated and arranged food/ration for more than **3,000** people.
- **1000** fishermen stuck at sea (Veraval, Mangrol, Jhafrabad and Porbandar) were linked to boat owners and Fisheries Department for provision of food and medicines.
- Ration and wages provided to a family from Bihar stuck in Mundra, Gujarat on CSJ's engagement with the Mamlatdar.
- CSJ Chhattisgarh team members arranged food and shelter **40** people, including **2** pregnant women, stuck in Ranitalab, Chandidongri National Highway, Chhattisgarh.
- Distributed **500** sanitary napkins and **700** Clothing pieces for women in shelter homes and quarantine centers.
- Provided food and shelter for **30** labors of Jharkhand, stuck in Bharuch, we were also successful in securing their 30 day's pay.
- Along with food and shelter, separate toilets were arranged for **22** female and **40** male workers of MP stuck in Bharuch with the help of DLSA.



Facilitation of Village people

- CSJ Law Centers have reached out to more than 9000 villagers in Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and have been helping them avail benefits of Central and State schemes. They have been provided ration, safe space to stay, benefits of government schemes like Jan Dhan Yojna, Widow pension, etc. and compensation/ salaries from owners.
- 10% salary of **3000** laborers of Sintex Company, Rajula was released on CSJ's intervention (engagement with factory owner and collector).
- Distributed seed kits for next sowing season and storage containers to **120** farmers before rainy season in Chhattisgarh in collaboration with Astha Samiti, Kawardha.

WAY FORWARD



CSJ has developed a tracking system to support more number of migrants in availing their entitlements.



Facilitation and follow-up of entitlements of migrant labourers, women, children, dalits, adivasis and other vulnerable group.



We are discussing a course on 'Disaster Management' with various colleges like GNLU, APU, ILMU.

RESOURCES

Recommendations:

- **Gujarat:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/107WKO430GaAL6tloaK0xjC0mUazL0Hh?usp=sharing>

- **Coastal Areas:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WzneVoDTVOn34V44U1UM52E1I7tC3xUL/view?usp=sharing>

- **Tribal Areas:**

<https://www.centreforsocialjustice.net/covid19/Comprehensive%20Recommendations%20to%20Tribal%20Dept.pdf>

- **Chhattisgarh:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1htdMfRLGgrw8I4qaRPtCJWoNq64OOU4w?usp=sharing>

Talking Tom:

https://drive.google.com/openid=1_Zf3MkrMCXZBhxy8mFF1xLi6wqCY8Ako

Tool kit:

<https://drive.google.com/openid=1BV8VgxWrMR7cGWqyN2iUDLB7wlu19kp3>



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We would also like to thank members of:

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Kawardha; Nanga Baiga;
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me Vikas Samvad Society;
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Thank you for working tirelessly with us.
We would be delighted to collaborate
again in future.





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