

Washing away fear

Madhu Gharti, a seasonal migrant worker frequenting Indian cities to earn and provide for his family of four, often crosses the border through Krishnanagar Ground Crossing Point (GCP). He travelled back and forth even during COVID-19 pandemic.

Madhu fondly recollects his latest experience of traveling through the GCP. As he arrived at the health desk, he found that the staffs were more welcoming and courteous, antigen tests were being offered for free, and the GCP had good WASH facilities.

Madhu found functioning hand-washing stations and drinking water facility with water cooling and filtration system. He shares, "I think migrants need these services more than any other people. We come from a long journey and having to drink safe water means a lot to us".

Madhu inquires if the GCP would also have restrooms as they are essential. He adds that promoting the habit of washing hands at the point of entry alone is a big step towards curbing transmission of water-borne diseases and COVID- among migrants. He observes that the hand washing stations are a reminder for migrants to maintain the habit of washing hands with soap and water,".

Establishment of WASH station and gender and disability friendly toilets at the GCP has been a major improvement at the GCP contributing to safe migration. "These facilities were not there before. It is comforting to know that now we can reduce our risks of transmitting diseases. I am excited to share the latest improvements at the GCP with my friends," Madhu says as he ends the conversation.