



COVID 19: 3rd Response Report
Updated information from 17 partners experience
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Manusher Jonno Foundation
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“Peace is not just the absence of war. Many women under lockdown for #COVID19 face violence where they should be safest: in their own homes. Today I appeal for peace in homes around the world. I urge all governments to put women’s safety first as they respond to the pandemic.” [UN Secretary-General April 2020](#)

COVID 19 is not only serious public health outbreak it is a big human rights crisis and threatens human rights all over the world. The impact of corona virus shocks and stresses on national economies will impact on health expenditures, labour and productivity losses and will effect human, physical and financial capital formation. At the same time, it is also true that most of the time gender perspective are overlooked during natural disaster, public health emergencies, reproductive health needs and conflict situation or any other emergency. Women, girls and other vulnerable/marginalized socially excluded women experience discrimination, inequalities and exploitation differently than men. Other than that, they are more vulnerable to sexual violence/abuse and torture.

Situation Report COVID 19 as of April 12, 2020

<u>Bangladesh status Mar 7-April 12¹</u>	<u>Partners working area 1-12 April 2020²</u>
No of infected cases 621	No of infected cases: 45
No. of cases recovered 39	No. of cases recovered: 00
No. of active cases 548	No. of quarantine: 49,764
No of deaths 34	No of deaths: 00

WHO has declared the recent COVID-2019 outbreak as “Pandemic” as of 11/03/2020. Bangladesh is following multisectoral action plan for COVID 19³ along with National Preparedness and Response action plan for COVID 19⁴. Government, NGOs, voluntary organizations, individuals, Army are actively doing awareness, distributing food packages, hygiene materials in limited scale in terms of population and requirements. MJF Partners are maintaining good coordination with local administration and local government.

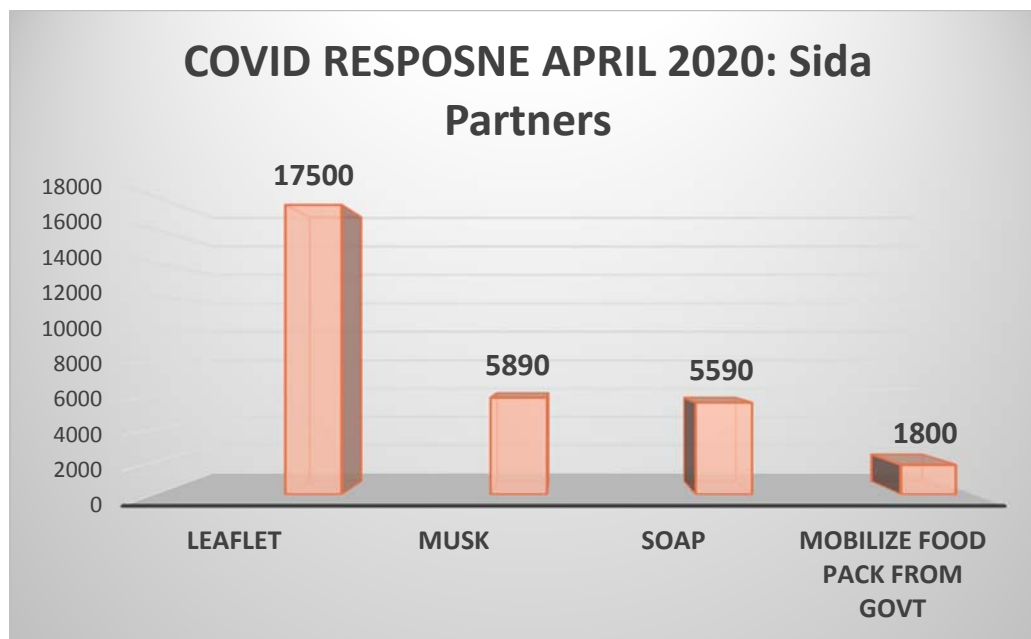
¹ www.corona.gov.bd

² Information received from 17 partners, Manusher Jonno Foundation

³ <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/searo/bangladesh/covid-19-who-bangladesh-situation-reports/who-ban-covid-19-sitrep-07.pdf?s>

⁴ https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/nprp_covid-19_v6_18032020.pdf

Awareness /information and Food Support: Partners working area



MJF received information from 6 partners, who were actively involved on COVID 19 response. All support is coordinated by District Commissioner office. Food package mainly contains 10kg rice, oil 1 lit, potato 1 kg, salt 1kg, pulse 1 kg, onion 1kg, etc. Partners are mostly participating in awareness related activities like, leaflet distribution, use community radio, miking at union level and hanging 110 festoons (small banner with COVID prevention information). Partners also involve govt. food distribution process and helped/influenced government for proper distribution. Partners have also planned food distribution to 27% beneficiary from partners unspent activity budget.

Gender based Violence against Women and Girls

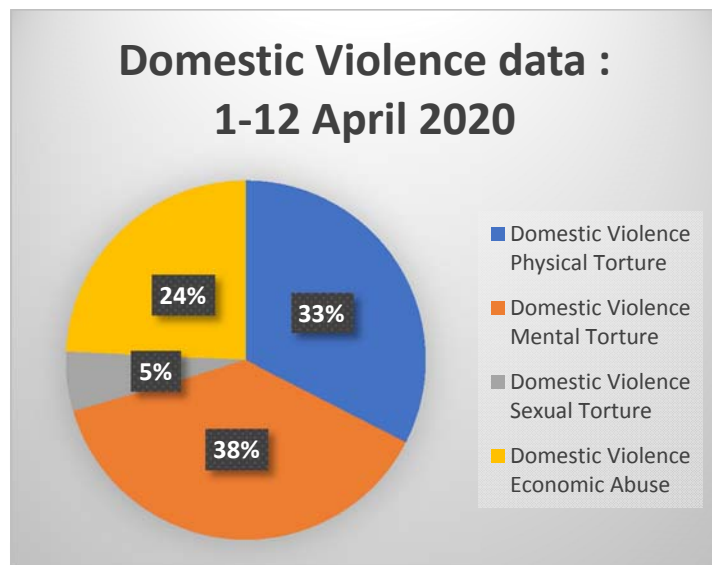
The gendered impacts of COVID-19 are already apparent. Most of health support staff are female. Every day they put their lives on the line caring for those infected by this pandemic. Traditionally women's work, including care work, is amongst the most precarious. Even in the regular life women do three times more unpaid care work at home than men. With the virus spreading, women's care load has significantly increased as schools are closed, and elderly family members become ill. It is also revealed in care study that "COVID 19 could disproportionately affect women and girls in a number of ways including adverse impacts to their education, food security and nutrition, health, livelihoods, and protection"⁵.

Partners urges that all COVID response should be comprehensive and cross sectoral, and address both lifesaving, immediate needs, and promote long-term resilience through livelihood,

⁵ world/care-rapid-gender-analysis-covid-19-pacific-region-26-march-2020-version-1

including adolescent girls' priority. Prevention and protection need, particularly those rooted in harmful gender norms, should also be prioritized in the first wave of response.

Domestic violence⁶ trend has been increasing, as reported by partners. Generally, most of the cases women feel insecure to complain, as all family members are at home and they might be followed or heard during conversation, so, they keep silent. It is very difficult for grassroots women leaders and project staff to keep close contact with them. Project staff, women leaders, social support group leaders are passing difficult time and doing counselling over phone.



Total 169 domestic violence case has been reported during 1-12 April 20 from 11 villages.

The highest number of domestic violence cases has been reported in sadar upazila, Shirajgang.

No VAW incidence reported from CHT

Suggested to call hotline 999 or 109

Child Marriage: Need Action to Stop

We thought it is too early to say that girl children are at risk as potential child bride. But already we are getting reports from partners that child marriage incidences are happening. Actually, many complex factors that drive child marriage in stable environments are exacerbated in emergency settings. COVID pandemic situation includes challenges like loss of household income, higher risk of VAW, lack of access to schooling, going out for play, overall community structure breakdown. It is also very important to give priority on how adolescent girls, particularly those at risk of marriage or already married girls will be affected in the short- and longer-term. Plan International research shows that, in crisis settings, girls live in fear of violence and are not only concerned about the constant presence of armed men, but also about gender-based violence (GBV) within families⁷.

Other than that school closures will also have long-term impacts on girls' futures – particularly for poorer and more remote families – if they are unable to return after prolonged absence, as education may become unaffordable due to economic distress or due to girls being married or becoming pregnant.

⁶ <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/human-rights/news/domestic-violence-during-the-time-corona-1888192>

⁷ Plan International, Adolescent girls in Crisis: Experiences of risk and resilience across three humanitarian settings, 2020.

Manusher Jonno Foundation strongly feels, there should be psychosocial support, sexual and reproductive health services for all girls under 18. COVID-19 responses must therefore be informed by strong analysis of gender inequalities and informed by sex- and age-disaggregated data, as far as possible. Lockdown situation at home settings may increase risk of sexual exploitation, abuse and child marriage. Partners received information from grassroots women and community leaders regarding child marriages issues as follows. Project staffs are maintaining constant close communication with community and targeted households over phone.



Information received from Charghat Upazila, Rajshahi; Sadar Upazila, Jhinaidah, Ulipur Upazila, Kurigram and Sadar Upazila, Shirajganj district.

Prevented: 11 cases of Child Marriages by grassroots women leaders

Challenges: Increase inequalities

COVID 19 pandemic affects everyone, all are busy to prevent and protect corona virus spreading, which emerged as public health outbreaks. But it will come out soon with rise of extreme global inequalities. Silently COVID impact is going to hit directly at SDG achievement. Because achieving Sustainable Development Goals targets and indicators now will be a in big challenge, it is not only the problem for Bangladesh rather it is now a global challenge. Because COVID-19 has re confirmed the difficulties we are encountering in the 21st century does not respect borders. This pandemic threatens to create devastating social, economic, and political crises.

This 3rd response report tries to analyze inequality through SDG goals. It is true that COVID 19 is affecting all of SDGs goal.

SDG goals	COVID Impact
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Loss of income, job, leading vulnerable segments of society and families to all below poverty line. increase extreme poverty.
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Food production and distribution disrupted, hunger, production loss increases, nutrition declined
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Devastating effect on health outcomes,

SDG goals	COVID Impact
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	All education institutions are closed, remote learning less effective and not accessible for most of the student
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Women's economic gains at risk and increased levels of violence against women. Child marriage increased, Women account for majority of health and social care workers who are more exposed to COVID 19.
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Supply disruptions and inadequate access to clean water hinder access to clean handwashing facilities, one of the most important COVID 19 prevention measures
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Supply and personal shortages are leading to disrupted access to electricity, further weaken health system response and capacity
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Economic activities suspended, lower income, less work time, unemployment for certain occupations
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	As a whole inequality increased, all other goals contribute to lead inequality
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Population living in slums face higher risk of exposure to COVID 19 due to high population density and poor sanitation conditions
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Reduced commitment to climate action, but less environmental footprint due to less production and transportation
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Conflicts prevent effective measures for fighting COVID 19, those in conflict areas are most at risk of suffering devastating loss from COVID 19.
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	Aggravate backlash against globalization, but also highlight the importance of international cooperation on public health

COVID19 have indirect impact on other goals 9, 12, 14, 15.

Next plan: 6400 household has been selected for food package distribution by May 2020. Planning for next six priority and household selection process is going on. Next report will be prepared on 30 April 2020.

Daily news paper highlights:

- Protect your areas from outsiders - Says PM www.thedailystar.net
- Coronavirus spreads to 75 areas in Dhaka www.thedailystar.net
- COVID-19 spreads to 35 districts in Bangladesh <https://www.newagebd.net/>
- Coronavirus is guiding us towards some sort of innovation www.thedailystar.net
- Young, working-age people most infected in Bangladesh <https://www.newagebd.net/>
- Coronavirus: 7 including policeman test positive in Chattogram <https://en.prothomalo.com/>
- Walton starts making goggles, face shield for doctors, medical staff www.thedailystar.net
- Korean model; DGHS will run the tests www.thedailystar.net