

Country Overview

Lock-down measures are likely to continue until 16 May, although the government is looking to ease restrictions gradually. Nearly 1,000 readymade garments factories resumed on a small scale as of 26 April, and mosques reopened 7 May. The government declared that shops and markets will be reopened before Eid-ul-Fitr (23 May) so that trading can continue during the month of Ramadan. With the number confirmed COVID-19 cases increasing daily, there are concerns that this may increase community transmission.

Gaps and Challenges

Some 4,249 Bangladeshi women faced domestic violence in April during the nationwide shutdown induced by COVID-19, according to a survey conducted by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF). A total of 17,203 women in 27 districts were interviewed by phone. Of those surveyed, 1,672 women say they experienced first-time violent incidents. MJF did not analyse whether domestic violence has increased or decreased in the survey areas during the lockdown. According to a new UNFPA report, the economic and physical disruptions caused by the disease could have vast consequences for the rights and health of women and girls globally.

World Vision is reaching children by mobile phone to provide mental health and psycho-social support for violence, abuse, sexual exploitation and child marriage.

Protection workers report that psychosocial support is critically needed, but they are frustrated at being unable to provide face-to-face counselling during lockdown.



“I am really happy. I can’t wait to get home and open the sack to see everything.”

—Hygiene kit recipient, Asmaul, 7,
a World Vision registered child

Lessons Learned, Best Practices and Innovations

World Vision is registering beneficiaries using Last Mile Mobile Solution (LMMS), an innovative technology solution designed to strengthen efficiency, effectiveness and accountability in humanitarian service delivery.

We are working in close collaboration with the UN and are active members of the Child Protection cluster and the Health Response Humanitarian Coordination Task Team.

Advocacy

World Vision is endorsing a recent UN statement calling on States to assist boats full of vulnerable women, men and children adrift in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. Hundreds of people—predominantly Rohingya refugees—have been stuck at sea for weeks, unable to come ashore, and without access to urgently needed food, water and medical assistance. The UN calls on “States in the region to uphold the commitments of the 2016 Bali Declaration, as well as ASEAN pledges, to protect the most vulnerable and to leave no one behind. Not doing so may jeopardize thousands of lives of smuggled or trafficked persons, including the hundreds of Rohingya currently at sea.”

Number of Cases (as of 6 May 2020)

11,719 cases, 186 deaths and 1,780 recoveries officially reported (Population: 165 million).

Source: Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, Bangladesh



COVID-19 Emergency Response | Highlights



1.3 million

beneficiaries reached to date



616,466

children reached



USD 10 million

targeted budget

OBJECTIVE 1: Promote preventative measures to stop or slow COVID-19 spread



768,767

people reached with prevention hygiene information (total).



30,690

handwashing supplies (soap, detergent) distributed (this period).



1,023

people received prevention materials (hand sanitizer, soap, masks) (this period).



1,282

faith leaders engaged in disseminating prevention information (total).



573

information/education materials printed, distributed (this period).

OBJECTIVE 2: Support health systems and workers



778

community health workers trained, supported to provide services (total).

OBJECTIVE 3: Provide children and families with multi-sector support



57,529

people (children, families) reached with prevention information (total).



USD 2.8 million

total amount of cash/vouchers distributed (total).



87,236

individuals receiving cash disbursements/vouchers (total).



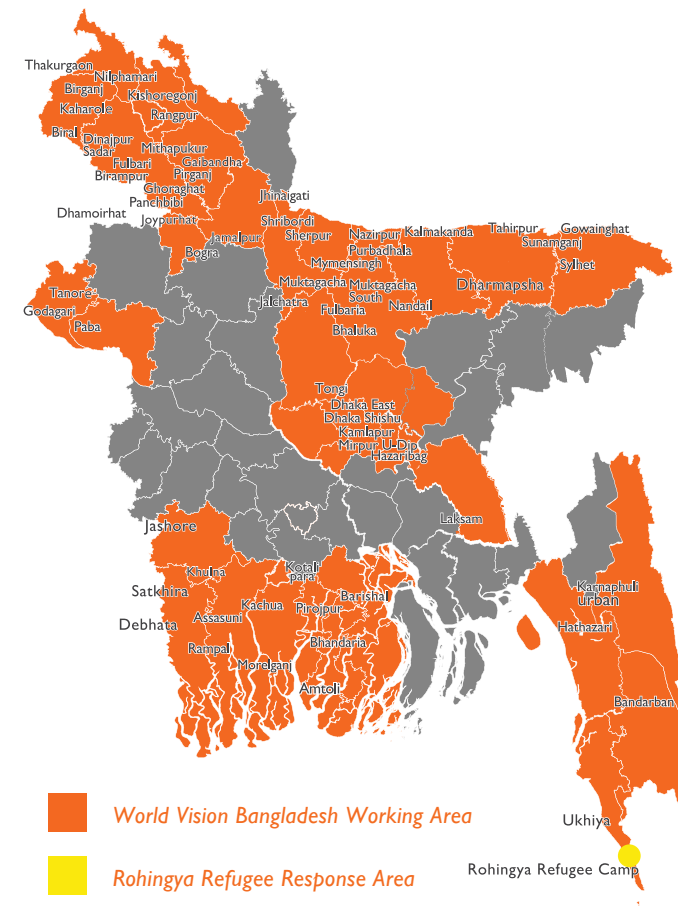
1,801

people supported with food security assistance (this period).



115,232

children supported with child protection programming (total).





Area Programmes



Building COVID-19 economic resilience: Khaleda and her family are among 15,000 households who are surviving the COVID-19 economic fallout, thanks to income-generating skills they gained through World Vision's Ultra-Poor Graduation programme. In 2018, these families were trained on agricultural production, livestock rearing and homestead gardening. They also received a heifer and vegetable seeds. Today, those investments are paying off. "My husband lost his job, but we can meet our children's daily nutritional needs and earn a living from our livestock and vegetable garden," says Khaleda who lives in the Paba Area Programme, funded by World Vision Taiwan.



Hygiene kits: On 7 May, World Vision distributed hygiene kits to 70 households in Paba sub-district (40), Rajshahi and Shribordhi districts (10) and Purbadha (20) sub-district in Mymensingh district in the presence of local government representatives. The kits contained bath soap (10 pieces), washing powder (1 kg.) bleaching powder (1 kg.), gloves (50), masks (50), sanitary napkin packets (5) and a mug.

Rohingya Refugee Response/ Cox's Bazar Special Zone



Steps successful so far at stopping COVID-19: The Rohingya refugee camp—a sprawling, makeshift city of 860,000 people—is being held up by the government as a model of good prevention practices to the rest of the country due to aid groups' early efforts. However, the extreme congestion of the camp, with 40,000 people per sq km, makes social distancing difficult or impossible in many cases.



World Vision has issued stringent prevention measures, exceeding even strict government protocols, in order to protect our 300 field workers and the refugees we serve. For instance, staff members must self-quarantine for 15 days if a family member returns home from another region. These regulations help ensure maximum government and local community acceptance, as well as continued humanitarian access to the camps.

Nobo Jatra—New Beginning USAID's Development Food Security Activity



Monthly cash transfers (via mobile phone e-wallets) continued to 4,579 pregnant and lactating women and 830 Ultra-Poor Graduation programme participants. Families use cash transfers to buy vegetables, fish, meat and eggs so they can eat nutritious meals and stay as healthy as possible.



Mobile phone voice messages on COVID-19 awareness, including information on reducing the risk of gender-based violence, were delivered to women, men, the elderly and local government representatives.



595 water management committees installed handwashing devices and disinfected water facilities. These communities now have access to safe drinking water while maintaining recommended health and hygiene practices.



To help local market systems function, farmers were supported to sell fruit and vegetables to buyers through collection points at local markets.

For more information, contact

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