Number of Cases (as of 22 July 2020)
213,254 cases, 2,751 deaths and 117,204 recoveries officially reported. (Population: 165 million)

Source: Directorate General of Health Services, Bangladesh

Country Overview

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) will allow all public transport, except goods transporters, to run during the upcoming Muslim Eid-ul-Azha festival (31 July-2 August). Cattle markets will be allowed to operate in specifically designated areas. The demand for animals to sacrifice is predicted to be low as the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the economy hard. Farmers have already started selling their cattle at low prices to meat traders out of fear of incurring losses.

As of 23 July, COVID-19 negative certificates from government-authorized testing centres will be required by airline passengers leaving Bangladesh. Since the GoB introduced a COVID-19 testing fee (minimum USD2.36), the rate of testing has decreased significantly. The GoB approved the final or phase-3 human trial of a COVID-19 vaccine by a Chinese firm. The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh has submitted a research protocol, seeking to conduct the study.

I am happy that today we will be able to eat full plate of rice.
— Naznin, age 8

Lessons Learned, Best Practices and Innovations

Start Fund, UK Aid awarded World Vision a GBP100,000-grant to address the hygiene and livelihood needs of children and families affected by monsoon floods since 27 June and those further at risk of more flooding in Jamalpur district.

World Vision is making sure that community members, including children, have opportunities to share feedback and complaints about the assistance they receive during our COVID-19 emergency response. During the first 90 days of the response, 856 people provided feedback through different preferred community channels, such as mobile phone, help desks, face-to-face with staff/volunteers and feedback boxes. All the feedback is reviewed, recorded and responded to by World Vision staff within a timeline agreed upon with the community.

According to the post-distribution monitoring survey, 94 percent of the 2,618 respondents mentioned that they are fully satisfied with World Vision’s service. Criteria included beneficiary selection, distribution process, product quality and quantity, and accessibility to distribution centres.

Gaps and Challenges

As of 18 July, a third of Bangladesh is under water after heavy rains caused continued flooding—predicted to be the worst in a decade. With the country is already struggling to curb the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the flood is causing new challenges. More than 7 million people are at risk from monsoon flooding in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, according to the Needs Assessment Working Group.

Amid the pandemic World Vision opened all of its area programme and project offices in different parts of the country on a limited scale ensuring staff’s safety and security.

Advocacy

Members of World Vision’s children and youth forums are using technology creatively during the COVID-19 crisis. They recently organized webinars during which they submitted petitions to government institutions asking that budget be allocated for children’s welfare. Members of Parliament appreciated this initiative to avoid face-to-face meetings that can increase the risk of spreading COVID-19. They listened to the young advocates, concurred with them and pledged to work for children’s welfare.
COVID-19 Emergency Response | Highlights

- **2.05 million** beneficiaries reached
- **775,405** children reached
- **150,000** registered children
- **USD 10 million** targeted budget

**OBJECTIVE 1: Promote preventative measures to stop or slow COVID-19 spread.**
- **1,273,499** comprehensive hygiene kits distributed.
- **1,238,390** people reached with prevention hygiene information.
- **85,373** people received prevention materials (hand sanitizer, soap, masks).
- **62,937** handwashing supplies (soap, buckets) distributed.
- **2,458** medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment in health facilities.
- **808** community health workers trained to provide community-based services.
- **756** health facilities assisted, including hospital, clinics.
- **1,235** community-level public handwashing stations established.
- **1,455** faith leaders engaged in disseminating prevention information.

**OBJECTIVE 2: Support health systems and workers.**
- **976,182** face masks distributed to health facilities, health workers, caregivers.
- **2,235** community-level public handwashing stations established.
- **1,455** faith leaders engaged in disseminating prevention information.
- **15,271** people supported with food security assistance.
- **3,445** frontline actors trained on child protection programming.

**OBJECTIVE 3: Provide children and families with multi-sector support.**
- **159,949** individuals receiving cash disbursements/vouchers.
- **USD 12,420,868** total amount of cash/vouchers distributed.
- **151,242** people (children, families) reached with prevention information.
- **123,879** children supported with child protection programming.
- **756** health facilities assisted, including hospital, clinics.
- **552** disinfectant kits distributed to health facilities.
- **159,949** individuals receiving cash disbursements/vouchers.
- **USD 12,420,868** total amount of cash/vouchers distributed.
- **151,242** people (children, families) reached with prevention information.
- **123,879** children supported with child protection programming.

**Note:** Cumulative totals to date unless otherwise noted.
A reported 95 percent of household livelihood activities in World Vision operational areas have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to World Vision’s recent report, COVID-19: Rapid Impact Assessment Bangladesh. To support the most vulnerable families, World Vision provided 159,949 people with one-time cash assistance of USD12.4 million.

“Being a parent, we feel the worst when we cannot provide our children with adequate food at least three times a day,” says Jesmin Begum, 30, a mother of two living in Laksam district. When her husband became jobless due to the lockdown, the family went door-to-door asking for help, but failed. “When we received the cash support from World Vision, our lives got back to normal again,” says Jesmin. “We bought food for our children, and my husband bought tools to repair three-wheelers (small vehicles) with the money. Now we can afford our living costs as he is earning some money from the repair business.”

World Vision is one of five NGOs working on the Rohingya humanitarian crisis to share a USD3 million grant from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to help address the most pressing health, water, sanitation and hygiene needs in the COVID-19 response. This significant, innovative contribution forms part of a USD25 million global allocation from CERF to support front-line NGO responses outlined in the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19.

For more information, contact:
Sagor Marandy, COVID-19 Emergency Response Director
World Vision Bangladesh, sagor_marandy@wvi.org

Fredrick Christopher, Response Director
Rohingya Refugee Response / Cox’s Bazar Special Zone, fredrick_christopher@wvi.org

Editor: Juliet Mondol
juliet_mondol@wvi.org

Designer: Falguni Mazumder
falguni_mazumder@wvi.org

Chandan Z. Gomes, Interim National Director
World Vision Bangladesh, chandan_z_gomes@wvi.org

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

A COVID-19 impact assessment of Nobo Jatra’s direct participants found that the top three needs for households are food consumption, livelihoods and healthcare.

To accelerate private sector engagement to revive livelihoods, Nobo Jatra has partnered with Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) Limited—one of the largest pharmaceutical businesses in Bangladesh. ACI will provide health and hygiene messaging, and sell products to families through village agents, who will also be trained in business skills. By transitioning to new partnership models that are rooted in private sector and local engagement, Nobo Jatra is supporting communities to earn incomes and stay healthy.