

COMPLETED COVID-19 RESEARCH PROJECTS:

1. Psychological Stress among the Pregnant Women and Mothers of Infants during COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh

Contributors:

- Nasrin Akter, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Raiful Alam, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Selina Amin, Head of Midwifery Education Programmes and Project Director;
- Hasna Hena Sara, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Delufa Tuz Jerin, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Zahidul Quayyum, Professor and Co-Director Research, Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Prianka Sultana Hema, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Salma Akter Urme, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Objective:

The study aimed to identify the prevalence of psychological stress among pregnant women and mothers of infant. The study was conducted where there was no known information about the mental health impact, psychological burden/stress of COVID-19 pandemic on pregnant women and mothers with infants and was especially relevant to the uncertainty surrounding an outbreak of such unparalleled magnitude.

2. Bangladesh Health System's Response to COVID-19 during First Nine Weeks: A Rapid Study on the Key Building Blocks

Contributors:

- Ayesha Ahmed,
- Prianka Sultana Hema, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Baby Naznin, Senior Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Zahidul Quayyum, Professor and Co-Director Research, Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Md. Moynur Rahman, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Farzana Tamanna Ummey Shaon, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Objective:

The study attempted was taken to document and elucidate Bangladesh's health system responses to the surge of the COVID-19 since its outbreak. The study mainly focuses on the responses in terms of service delivery, health workforce and governance with limited coverage on other building blocks of the health system.

3. Gender based perception and differentials of COVID-19: Findings from Rapid Survey

Contributors:

- Amina Amin, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Md. Uzzal Chowdhury, Senior Statistician, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Md Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Objective:

The rapid survey aimed to understand the gender based perceptions among different population groups and differentials between their perspectives on the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Re-visiting the Front-Line Health Workers' (FLWs) attending suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients in Bangladesh: how far has the situation improved in a month since the last survey?

Contributors:

- Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Mir Raihanul Islam, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Bushra Zarin Islam, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Md. Zakir Hossain Pinto, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Dr Zarin Tasnim, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Samiun Nazrin Bente Kamal Tune, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Objective:

The issues raised in the study were quantity and appropriate quality of PPEs supplied, trainings on COVID-19 and use of PPE, measures to ease mental health of the FLWs etc.

5. Livelihood, Food Security and Well-being of Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Contributors:

- Adepto Intisar Ahmed, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Irin Akhter, Deputy Project Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Amina Amin, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Haisom Aftab Even, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Sudipta Das Gupta, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;

- Md Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Md. Tareq Hasan, Field Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Bankim Madhu, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Arifa Bente Mohosin, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Objective:

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has initiated many interventions and programs (e.g. Mass aid services), however, whether persons with disabilities are benefiting from these services still remains to be explored. To better understand the life conditions of persons with disabilities during COVID-19, this rapid qualitative research assessment focused on the dimensions of livelihood, wellbeing and food security of persons with disabilities across 6 sites of Bangladesh.

6. Stigma, Shame and COVID-19: “They won’t even touch the money we touched”

Contributors:

- Nahela Nowshin, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Shahana Siddiqui, Adjunct Faculty, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Objective:

The research study aimed to explore how the national discourse around COVID-19 had given rise to stigmatizing behaviors in Bangladesh. This study looked into where stigmatization behaviors emerged and how the behaviors transpired in everyday life, especially against those who were either perceived to be were COVID-19 positive.

7. Immunization Backlog: The Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Child Vaccination in Bangladesh using Household Surveys

Contributors:

- Nahela Nowshin, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Shahana Siddiqui, Adjunct Faculty, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Objective:

Through this study, in May 2020, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University surveyed women who gave birth between June 2019 and February 2020 to understand the possible effects of COVID-19 on the uptake of prescribed vaccines.

8. Awareness and Knowledge about COVID-19 During the Early Onslaught of the Pandemic

Contributor:

- Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Objective:

A rapid survey to understand people's awareness and knowledge on awareness and knowledge about COVID-19 during the early onslaught of the pandemic.

9. COVID-19 Rapid Survey: Loss of Mental Well-being at the Time of COVID-19 Pandemic

Contributor:

- Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Objective:

The COVID-19 and its outbreak in Bangladesh has taken a huge toll from both public health and economic points of view. Bangladesh has a large informal sector and a large fraction of its population depends on short-term earnings such as daily wage. The health system also has limitations. Only about 3% of total national income is spent on health, placing it one of the lowest in the region. As a result, the citizens of the country are likely to feel extra mental health duress and face loss of psychological well-being. In this brief, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University has carried out this rapid survey.

10. COVID-19 Rapid Survey: Developing Appropriate Health Messaging for Urban and Rural Populations

Contributors:

- Ishrat Jahan, Research Associate; BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Objective:

The rapid survey focused on understanding the possible effects of the pandemic on several aspects of a household or family such as consumption, income, health beliefs, practices, preventions and coping strategies, psychological well-being, and gender. This brief, however, focuses only on the socio-cultural understandings of health, as shared by respondents.

11. Impact of COVID-19: Lived Experiences of the Urban Poor in Slums during the Shutdown

Contributors:

- Bachera Akter, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Nadia Farnaz Wafa Alam, Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;

- Samiha Ali,
- Md. Abdul Awal, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Farzana Manzoor, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Md. Imran Hossain Mithu, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Ateeb Ahmad Parray, Visiting Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Objective:

The research delved into many aspects of the slum dwellers' lived experiences. This brief of the research focused on issues related to local health beliefs, practices and stigma, impact on mental and emotional health, impact on mental and emotional health, impact on their economic and social life, and residents coping mechanisms.

12. On the Fringes: Impact of the COVID-19 Shutdown on Hijras Daily Personal, Social and Economic Lives

Contributors:

- Tasfiah Jalil, Senior Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Maruf Rahman, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Mostafizur Tamal, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Objective:

The aim of the research was to understand the health, social and economic impacts of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) shutdown on the lives of poor and marginalized hijra population in Bangladesh.

13. Rapid Research: Front Line Health Workers' (FLWs) Perceptions and Opinions on their Personal Safety while Attending Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Patients in Bangladesh

Contributors:

- Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Mir Raihanul Islam, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Dr. Bushra Zarin Islam, Director, CoE-HS&UHC, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Md. Zakir Hossain Pinto, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Dr Zarin Tasnim, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Samiun Nazrin Bente Kamal Tune, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Objective:

The survey was done to elicit the perceptions of the FLWs regarding personal safety against contracting the infection when attending suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patients. Besides their opinions on the problem of shortage and recommendations on how to resolve it so that the misunderstanding before the media/policy makers/ people is mitigated and their morale is boosted to serve the humanity.

14. Rapid COVID-19 Survey: Pins and needles at the time of a pandemic: Learning from the RMG workers through a rapid survey

Contributors:

- Amina Amin, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Farzana Misha, Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Atonu Rabbani, Associate Scientist, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Objective:

BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University had undertaken a series of researches to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected different populations and one particular group of people this rapid survey addressed was RMG workers. A major research activity included a rapid survey where the school reached out to respondents from different surveys that the school carried out in the past.

ON-GOING COVID-19 RESEARCH PROJECTS:

1. Evaluation of a Comprehensive COVID-19 Response Through Community Mobilization and Strengthening Community Clinics in Bangladesh

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Focal/Coordinator:

- Animesh Talukder, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Implemented by: Center of Excellence for Science of Implementation & Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

Timeline: December 2020 – Ongoing

Methodology: Mixed method

Objective:

This study is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of a community-based comprehensive COVID-19 response project in Bangladesh by analyzing the trend of COVID-19 test positive cases, the trend of MNCH service availability and utilization, and the trend of knowledge, perception, attitude, and practice concerning COVID-19 in the study areas. Additionally, this study aims to explore the feasibility and the bottlenecks of the implementation process. The findings derived from this study are expected to help BRAC HNPP to tailor their current intervention for possible scale-up of the project in future.

Donor: BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP)

Partner: BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP)

Grant Amount: BDT 14,655,206

2. Amplifying Resilient Communities to Facilitate a Deeper Understanding of How Vulnerable Populations Respond to and Recover from a Crisis, such as COVID-19

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Focal/Coordinator:

- Humayra Binte Anwar, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Implemented by: Center of Excellence for Science of Implementation & Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

Timeline: October 2020 – July 2021

Methodology: Mixed-method

Objective:

To provide a deeper understanding of how vulnerable populations interact with healthcare systems during and after the COVID-19 crisis in Bangladesh. These findings aim to inform the rebuilding of better health systems.

Donor: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Partner:

- Ipsos MORI (UK)
- Quicksand Design Studio (India)

Grant Amount: USD 2,063,864

3. Evaluation of a community-based comprehensive COVID-19 response pilot project in Kapasia, Gazipur

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Focal/Coordinator:

- Muhammed Nazmul Islam, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Animesh Talukder, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Implemented by: Center of Excellence for Science of Implementation & Scale-Up (CoE-SISU)

Timeline: September 2020 – Ongoing

Methodology: Mixed Method

Objective:

This study is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot project by analyzing the trend of COVID-19 test positive cases and the difference in their knowledge and perception about COVID-19 in the study area. Additionally, this study aims to explore the feasibility and the bottlenecks of the implementation process. The findings derived from this study are expected to help BRAC HNPP to tailor their current intervention for possible scale-up of the project in future.

Donor: BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP)

Partner: BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP)

Grant Amount: BDT 2,730,000

4. The Impact of COVID-19 on the social, economic and psychological well-being of the Sex-Workers in Bangladesh

PI and Co-PI:

- Maruf Rahman, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Maimuna Zahra Fariha, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Natalie Maren Chen, Research Intern, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Coordinator:

- Maruf Rahman, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Implemented by: Center of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Timeline: September 2020 – October 2020

Objective:

To understand the economic, mental, and physical health burdens imposed female sex workers by the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. Specific Objective:

- To document how the COVID-19 pandemic has diminished the economic opportunities for sex workers, and how the SW community has changed their behavior in response to economic burdens;
- To explore the knowledge, attitudes and response to COVID-19 precautions by female sex workers;
- To identify the factors associated with or which contribute to strained mental and physical health of the workers in the challenging contours of the pandemic; and
- To understand the current support networks, and what means of future interventions would be most effective and necessary.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: CREA India

Partner: CREA India

Donor: BRAC

5. Evaluation of BRAC-CDC Collaboration on Community Surveillance and Response in selected areas of Gazipur

PI: Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

AKM Mazharul Islam, Adjunct Professor, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Coordinator: Bushra Zarin Islam, Senior Research Associate

Timeline: August 2020 - December 2020

Objective:

To explore the extent targeted communities effectively adopt essential precautionary measures and health commodities necessary for prevention and management of COVID-19.

Methodology: Mixed method

Donor: US-CDC

Partner: BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP)

Grant Amount: BDT 410,000

6. Managing Impact of COVID-19 in Rohingya Refugee Camps and Host Communities with Culturally Appropriate Technological Solutions

PI: Md Tanvir Hasan, Associate Professor, and Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Co-PI:

- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;

Co- Investigators:

- Bachera Akter, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Dr. Nusrat Homaira, Research Fellow of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) of Australia, Visiting faculty, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Coordinator:

- Adrita Kaiser, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Implemented by: Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)

Timeline: August 2020 - January 2023

Objectives:

- Undertaking an audit of functioning services to which people of Rohingya and host communities can be referred and establishing clear referral protocols so that service providers are aware and prepared for a potential increased demand on services;

- Contextually adapting Dimagi's Contact tracing app, identifying high risk areas within camps and surrounding host communities and ensure community-based monitoring surveillance in place to minimize transmission of COVID-19;
- Contextually adapting Dimagi's CommCare MNCH App for COVID-19 and assessing its effectiveness in improving SRH and MNCH outcomes in the refugee camps and in host communities;
- Building capacities of BRAC CHW midwives and CHWs (Shasthya Kormis) through in-person and online training (conducted by Dimagi staff) and with support from local BRAC programme staff, enabling them apply digital apps for minimizing risks of transmission and facilitate in mitigating the medium- and longer-term impacts of COVID-19 in the Rohingya refugee camps and in host communities through ensuring SRH and MNCH services;
- Exploring the benefits (if there is any) of Dimagi's CommCare MNCH App in improving management information system and gaining efficiency in the overall management of SRH including MNCH services of BRAC health programme in Cox's Bazar

Methodology: Mixed method research

Donor: International Development Research Center (IDRC)

Partners:

- BRAC Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme (HCMP)
- Dimagi

Grant Amount: BDT 19,776,420

7. Skills Demand Analysis of Healthcare Services in Bangladesh, 2020

PI: Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Co-PI:

- Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Coordinator:

- Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: July 2020 – September 2020

Objective:

- To explore the types of health care services in demand among the urban population outside formal health sector (e.g., home-based, palliative, disability, elderly care services) considering the post Covid-19 scenario;
- To assess the new employment opportunities at hospitals (public and private both) and organizations (e.g. NGOs, training institutions, private organisations) for allied health professionals/para-professionals/technicians who can support the mainstream health care providers in delivery of services at the facilities; also explore the demand for such cadres for home-based services;

- To identify the current authority certifying the above cadres and explore probable authority that would certify these new and emerging cadres;
- To explore the availability of trainers for the existing, new and emerging training courses at institution level;
- To explore the current requirements including education level to be eligible to apply for the existing courses, and assess what may be the future requirements for new and emerging training courses;
- To explore the organizations that are likely to expand their businesses in the health care sector in urban settings and beyond COVID-19

Methodology: Cross-sectional, Quantitative and Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Skills Development Programme (SDP)

Partner: BRAC Skills Development Programme (SDP)

Grant Amount: BDT 1,250,000

8. Gender and COVID-19

PI:

- Professor Kelley Lee, Canada Research Chair Tier 1, Simon Fraser University
- Julia Smith, University Research Associate, Simon Fraser University

Co-PI:

- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Coordinator:

- Selima Sara Kabir, Assistant Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: July 2020 - July 2021

Objective:

Our project brings together academics from around the world, we conduct real time gender analysis to identify and document the gendered dynamics of COVID-19 and gaps in preparedness and response.

Methodology: Mixed Methods Study (Quantitative Survey + Qualitative IDIs and KIIs) to mapping and analyse sex disaggregated data on COVID-19 infections and mortality; and conducting gender-based analysis of policy responses in order to improve national and global responses through policy analysis and key informant interviews.

Donor: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Grant Amount: USD 102,149 (Year 1)

9. Life in the Times of Coronavirus: A Gendered Perspective

PI: Shahana Siddiqui, Programme Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Co-PI:

- Farzana Misha, Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: July 2020 - December 2020.

Objectives:

- To capture and curate the life stories and experiences of men and women in both rural and urban Bangladesh during the times of the novel coronavirus global pandemic;
- To understand the gendered nature of the pandemic;
- To look at both health and socio-economic aspects and how they affect men and women either differently or similarly during this crisis situation.

Methodology: Qualitative

Partners:

- Center for Gender, Sexual, Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR), BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Manusher Jonno Foundation's (MJF),
- Share-Net International.

10. Effect and challenges of introducing referral transportation system project on utilization of comprehensive SRHR health services during Covid-19 pandemic in Rohingya population: An implementation research on fidelity and coverage

PI: Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Focal: Mritika Barua, Senior Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: July 2020- October 2020

Objective:

To assess the barriers and the facilitators of utilizing referral transportation systems on the utilization of comprehensive Maternal health related services by mothers in Rohingya camps.

Methodology: Exploratory Mixed method

Donor: UNFPA

Partner: UNFPA

Grant Amount: USD 18,500

11. Exploring the perception of caregivers' engagement about Pashe Achi telecommunication model

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Co-PI:

- Atiya Rahman, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Researchers:

- Nazrana Khaled, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Raafat Hasan, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Mahmuda Sarkar, Qualitative Data Manager

Timeline: June- December 2020

Objective:

The global epidemic-COVID-19 has severely affected education along with life and livelihood. BRAC Institute of Education and Development (IED) initiated a Telecommunication platform named 'Pashe Achi' as an alternative communication approach during COVID-19 situation for learning of children and for supporting mothers. We are conducting qualitative research to explore the perspectives of caregivers including mothers and fathers regarding telecommunication services provided through the platform of Pashe Achi during COVID-19 period.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (IED)

Partner: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (IED)

Grant amount: USD 52,000

12. Perceptions of Frontline Workers on Psychosocial Training

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Co-PI:

- Atiya Rahman, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Researchers:

- Nazrana Khaled, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Mahmuda Sarkar, Qualitative Data Manager, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: May-December 2020

Objectives:

- To understand the perception of frontline workers about the training on psychosocial aid;
- To understand frontline worker's perceptions and knowledge about content of training on psychosocial aid;
- To know the motivating factors and the challenges in implementing the knowledge gained during psychosocial aid training in telecommunication service delivery

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (IED)

Partner: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (IED)

Grant Amount: USD 52,000

13. A Process Documentation of the National Approach to Preventing COVID-19 Infections in Bangladesh

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Co PI:

- Humayra Binte Anwar, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Dr Mowtushi Matin, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Dr Yameen Mazumder, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Coordinator:

- Humayra Binte Anwar, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,

Timeline: May 2020 - Ongoing

Objective:

The general objective of the process documentation is to capture the preventive health measures undertaken by the Government of Bangladesh in COVID-19 response.

Methodology: Desk review, KII

Donor: Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh.

Partner: Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh.

14. The Impact of COVID-19 on the Psychosocial Wellbeing of the Sexually Marginalized Community in Bangladesh

Researchers:

- Maruf Rahman, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: May 2020 - June 2020

Objectives:

- To explore COVID-19 impact on the psycho-social well-being of the sexually marginalized individuals in the Bangladeshi society and identify their coping mechanism;
- To understand the challenges faced due to lock down and the long term impact of the pandemic on the platforms/organizations and ongoing rights movements that are working for the sexually marginalized communities in Bangladesh.

Methodology: A rapid qualitative study will be conducted on 20 members from the sexually marginalized community who are living in Bangladesh. Telephone interviews will be done to collect information.

15. COVID-19 Shutdown: A New Threat to The Personal, Social and Economic Wellbeing of Dalit Community

Timeline: May 2020 - July 2020

Researchers:

- Mostafizur Rahman, Assistant Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Tasfiyah Jalil, Senior Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Objectives:

In the light of coronavirus situation, the objective of the study is to investigate:

- The state of their physical and mental health;
- Impact on their economic aspect of life;
- Their coping mechanism in this time of crisis, and;
- Their overall lifestyle as a marginalised community

Methodology: A qualitative approach was used for this study and interviews were conducted over the telephone.

Donor: CREA, India

Partner: CREA, India

16. Exploring Opportunities to Improve Health Outcomes and Enable better Health Systems Delivery through Mobile Money: Impact of COVID-19

Timeline: May 2020- Ongoing

Researchers:

- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Farzana Misha, Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Selima Sara Kabir, Assistant Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Ishrat Jahan, Research Associate; BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Objective:

Given the nature of the crisis resulting in enforced “social distancing” measures, the pressure on the poor is immense with larger looming concerns of survival. During crises such as these, liquidity becomes an increasing source of concern – particularly if the quarantining of bank notes receives serious consideration to curb transmission of the virus. A possible alternative in such a scenario is the availability of Mobile Financial Services (MFS) who are well placed to serve millions of registered clients throughout the country including formal and informal workers, businesses and service industries. This research comprising of rapid survey and case studies will examine ways in which mobile financial services can impact on the user health seeking behavior and outcomes.

Methodology: Mixed Method study. The Qualitative phase has been completed, Quantitative will begin.

Donor: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Partner: Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Grant Amount: USD 100,000

17. COVID-19 mitigation Study among Migrant Workers in Singapore

Researchers:

- Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,

- Ishrat Jahan, Research Associate; BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Aisha Siddika (BRAC University)
- in partnership with Zoe Hildon(lead/partner investigator),
- May O Lwin,
- Gwen Lai Chan,
- Jermev Lim (National University Singapore)

Timeline: May 2020 - August 2020

Objective:

In this unprecedented time of global pandemic of COVID-19, each country across the world has taken both public health and medical care measure to protect the populations from the deadly disease. In Singapore, despite taking stringent measures, the case load of COVID-19 is very high among the migrant workers but with very low case fatality rate. This study led by Saw Swee Hock School Public Health (SSHSPH), National University Singapore seeks to better understand ways to communicate and engage to reduce COVID-19 transmission through community mitigation, while maintaining social cohesion. BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University will partner with SSHSPH in the qualitative assessment of study along with other partners.

Methodology: This is a multicomponent qualitative study using discourse analysis that focuses on knowledge configuration and identifies interpretive schemes or frames which helps in the classification of phenomena. In-depth interviews will be conducted among migrant workers to understand knowledge and risk perceptions and coping mechanisms to improve communication messaging and enhance social cohesion and community empowerment.

Donor and Partner:

- HealthServe,
- BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- SSHSPH, National University Singapore.

18. What Works to Continue Maternal and Neonatal Healthcare Services during COVID-19 Pandemic by MANOSHI Programme in Urban Slums Of Bangladesh?: A Case Study

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Co-PI:

- Saira Parveen Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: May 2020 - August 2020.

Objective:

Despite an unprecedented shutdown of normal life due to COVID-19 pandemic, the BRAC Maternity Centers (BMCs) under BRAC MANOSHI programme are working in the urban slums of the City Corporations and providing their regular maternity service. Therefore, it is urgent to understand the factors that are working in both the MMWs and beneficiaries to provide and receive the services at BMCs and quality of care given by the service providers during this corona disease pandemic for prioritizing implementation of need-based intervention by MANOSHI programme.

Methodology: Qualitative

19. Tele Counselling Interventions during COVID-19 Situation in Bangladesh: A Process Documentation

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Co-PI: Mrinmoy Samadder, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Other Researchers:

- Nicholas Turzo Mandol, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Nazrana Khaled, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Raafat Hasan, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Nosin Nahian, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: May 2020 - December 2020

Objective:

The COVID-19 pandemic has a huge effect on mental health which leads to psychological stress and fear of disease. In Bangladesh, people barely have any access or space to express their vulnerable mental condition and get support and empathy from any platform. Based on this context, BRAC IED along with PHWC and Kaan Pete Roi initiated Tele Counselling platform 'Moner Jotno Mobile E' for the people of Bangladesh is ensuring to provide psychological support so that the callers can overcome their frustration and anxiety. BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University to conduct a process documentation to illustrate the tele counselling programme operations and its current performance during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Methodology: We will use qualitative methods and techniques for this process documentation study. Key informant interview (KII) and in-depth interview (IDI) are the main tools for conducting the research. Besides, we will participate as an observer and learner in different training sessions organized by BIED for operating their tele counseling programme hosted on online platforms.

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (IED)

Partner: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (IED)

20. “Pashe Achi” Telecommunication Model during COVID-19: A Process Documentation

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Co-PI:

- Atiya Rahman, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Coordinator:

- Mrinmoy Samadder, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Other Researchers:

- Raafat Hasan, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Mahmuda Sarkar, Qualitative Data Manager
- Nicholas Turzo Mandol, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Nazrana Khaled, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: June 2020 - December 2020

Objectives:

- Document the overall development of Pashe Achi tele-communication model over time by exploring the overall process and activities of this tele communication platform;
- Identify the overall challenges and lessons learned throughout the process of implementation.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (IED)

Partner: BRAC Institute of Educational Development (IED)

Grant Amount: USD 52,000

21. COVID-19: Knowledge, Perceptions, and Experience of Lives and Livelihood and Mental Health of Rohingya Refugees in Camps of Bangladesh

PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Co-PI:

- Saira Parveen Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Coordinator:

- Saira Parveen Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: April 2020 – June 2020

Objectives:

To understand knowledge and perceptions of Rohingya populations about Corona disease and their lived experience shaping up their lifestyle, livelihood and mental state in the changing environment of COVID-19 response in camps.

Methodology: Qualitative

Donor: BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

22. BRAC COVID-19 Response Process Documentation Research

PI: Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Co-PI: Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: April 2020 - August 2020

Objective: To document BRAC's innovative response to COVID-19 pandemic.

Methodology: Qualitative KIIs and IDIs with BRAC Staff.

23. Understanding Knowledge and Awareness on COVID-19 (Corona Disease) and its Impact on Livelihoods and Life of Rohingya Refugee Camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Researchers:

- Saira Parveen Jolly, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Mahmuda Akhtar Sarkar, Qualitative Data Manager, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: April 2020 - May 2020

Objective:

In response to the present threat of COVID-19, the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and its partners took several initiatives to address the impending health crisis among the Rohingya refugees in camps of Cox's Bazar. This study is aimed to understand the knowledge and awareness of the Rohingya population on the Covid-19 disease and changes transpiring in their livelihood and lives.

Methodology: We conducted a rapid qualitative study using case study approaches during April 2020. We conducted telephone interviews.

24. Mental and Emotional Health and Well-Being of University Students

Researchers:

- Kuhel Islam, Senior Coordinator (2019-June 2020), BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Sameen Nasar,
- Rituja Shome, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: April 2020 – July 2020

Objective:

More than 20% of Bangladesh's population lies between the ages of 10 and 19 years, and around 30% belong to the age group between 15-24 years. Among students aged 13-17, 4% of boys and 6% of girls consider attempting suicide due to depression². With all educational institutions shut under the current COVID-19 environment, the mental and emotional well-being of university going students' risk being further negatively amplified. To address this issue, the School in partnership with Imperial College, UK will be carrying out a needs assessment to better understand the emotional and mental effects brought on by the onslaught of the pandemic on University students, and the support required to tend to their concerns.

Methodology: Semi-Structured telephone interviews, both qualitative and quantitative questions were asked to students.

Donor: Imperial College London, UK

Partner: Imperial College London, UK

25. COVID-19: Knowledge, Practices and Impact in South-Asia (Bangladesh Component)

Researchers:

- Malay Kanti Mridha, Professor and Director (Centre for Non-Communicable Disease), BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Professor Malabika Sarker, Associate Dean, and Director, CoE-SISU, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Abu Ahmed Shamim, Associate Scientist, CNCND, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Abu Abdullah Mohammad Hanif, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University Hanif,
- Mehedi Hasan, Senior Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Fahmida Akter, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Md. Mokbul Hossain, Analyst (Statistics), BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,

- Nushrat Jahan Urmey, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- International- John C Chambers,
- Franco Sassi,
- Sujeet Jha,
- Anuradhani Kasturiratne,
- Anjana Ranjit Mohan,
- Ian Goon,
- Kusuma Dian,
- Ananya Gupta

Timeline: April 2020 - June 2020

Objectives:

- To determine the prevalence of flu-like symptoms;
- To assess the knowledge and practices related to the prevention and control of COVID-19;
- To determine the health, economic and social impact of COVID-19 associated measures e.g., lock-down, social distancing etc.

Methodology: Cross-sectional survey using quantitative approach. Data are being collected from all the divisions of Bangladesh.

Partners:

- Imperial College London, UK
- BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Donor: National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), UK

26. A Quick Assessment of Knowledge, Perceptions, Barriers and Enablers, and Experiences of the Frontline Health Workers (FLWs) Vis-à-vis COVID-19 Epidemic Management in Bangladesh

Researchers:

- Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Bushra Zarin Islam, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Mir Raihanul Islam, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Samiun Nazrin Bente Kamal Tune, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Dr Zarin Tasnim, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Md. Zakir Hossain Pinto, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Dr Nahitun Naher, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: March 2020- May 2020

Objectives:

From WHO's declaration of a Global Public Health Emergency in January 2020 to identification of the first case in the country in early March 2020, neither the MoHFW nor the political establishment was found to rise to the occasion and provide the necessary stewardship for coordinated response to contain the outbreak. Uncertainty about the roles and responsibilities of the different agencies of the MoHFW and the government at large and there was lack of coordination among them which baffle any description. It then entered the community transmission phase when experts were expecting a surge in the number of the patients and a catastrophic scenario for the poorly prepared health systems. In this scenario, it is important to look at the conditions of the health workers who are at the frontline of the fight against COVID-19. This quick assessment is being done to elicit the knowledge, perceptions, barriers and enablers, and lived social experiences by the FLWs vis-à-vis management of COVID-19 epidemic currently sweeping the country.

Methodology: This time-bond study of cross-sectional design by mixed method approach is currently being conducted.

Donor: Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW)

27. Adapting with the Context: 'One BRAC' Story in COVID-19 Response in Bangladesh

Researchers:

- Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Dr Fouzia Khanam, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Nazrana Khaled, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University
- Ishrat Jahan, Research Associate; BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Selima Sara Kabir, Assistant Research Coordinator, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: March 2020 - May 2020

Objectives:

BRAC's COVID-19 response has a three-pronged approach which will be followed by long term livelihood support work for the economically affected families:

- Protection of Staff & Community;
- Communication and mass awareness;
- New Partnerships for Prevention, Detection, & Response.

BRAC's overarching focus for the COVID-19 response in Bangladesh is to prevent community-level outbreak as much as possible in the coming days by mobilizing over 90,000 field staff and community health volunteers to reach millions of households. In public health emergencies, we often do not prioritize documentation of the rapid response processes undertaken by large organizations like BRAC that have played a critical role in the history of the country

Methodology: Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and In-depth Interviews (IDIs) were used with chosen participants. Themes included BRAC's overall response to the crisis as well as the particular functional area's responses.

Partner: BRAC

28. COVID-19 Impact on Urban Slums and Low Income Settlements: Education, Psychosocial Well Being and coping

Researchers:

- Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean and Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Maheen Sultan, Acting Head and Senior Fellow of Practice, BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD);
- Farhana Alam, Assistant Director, CGSRHR, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Samira Ahmed Raha, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Alvira Farheen Ria,
- Md. Sajib Rana, Research Assistant, BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University;
- Saklain Al Mamun (BIGD),
- Prantik Roy, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Taslima Aktar (BIGD),
- Mehedi Hasan Anik (BIGD),

Timeline: March 2020 – Ongoing

Objectives:

- To understand the impact of Covid-19 and state sanctioned lockdown on lives and education of adolescents living in urban slums and low income settlements;
- To identify the factors affecting psychosocial wellbeing of adolescents and to explore their coping strategies during the pandemic.

Methodology: Qualitative research methods via phone interviews.

Donor: Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Programme, Overseas Development Institute (GAGE ODI)

Partners:

- BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University
- BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University.

29. COVID-19 Impact in Bangladesh: Transmission Dynamics, Health System, Preparedness and Financing by Districts

Researchers:

- Malay Kanti Mridha, Professor and Director (Centre for Non-communicable Disease), BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,

- Rina Rani Paul, Consultant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Mehedi Hasan, Senior Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Abu Abdullah Mohammad Hanif, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Md. Mokbul Hossain, Analyst (Statistics), BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Zahidul Quayyum, Professor and Co-Director Research, Co-Director, CUEH, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Dipak K Mitra,
- Alain B LAbrique

Objective:

- To report how COVID-19 cases will evolve in different districts of Bangladesh and what will be the district specific health care needs, resource requirements and its estimated cost, and mortality;
- To prevent and control COVID-19, and plan for efficient mobilization and allocation of resources in Bangladesh.

Methodology: Mathematical modelling for the 64 districts of Bangladesh

Partners:

- BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University,
- Department of Public Health, North South University,
- Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University
- Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW)

30. Survey on Consumer Awareness of Nutrition, Food Safety

Researchers:

- Dr Nepal C Dey, Adjunct Professor, BRAC University;
- Professor Kaosar Afsana, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Malay Kanti Mridha, Professor and Director (Centre for Non-communicable Disease), BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Abu Ahmed Shamim, Associate Scientist, CNCND, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Md. Abdul Awal, Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Mahmood Parvez, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Mir Raihanul Islam, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Fahmida Akter, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Timeline: January 2020 – December 2020

Objectives:

- To assess the knowledge of basic nutrition, cooking best practices, food safety and hygiene principles of a sample of the country that will be representative of different:
 - o Districts of the country as well as nationally
 - o Age groups and stages of the life cycle

- Gender
- Socio economic groups
- To compare knowledge levels to a simple assessment of people's dietary practices, nutritional behavior and status, and overall health;
- To identify factors associated with different levels of knowledge and awareness;
- Changes of hygiene behavior due to COVID-19 in different settings of Bangladesh

Methodology: A cross sectional study design will be followed to conduct the study.

Donor: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Partner: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

31. Media Surveillance on Coronavirus

Researchers:

- Professor Syed Masud Ahmed, Director, CoE-HS&UHC, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Samiun Nazrin Bente Kamal Tune, Senior Research Associate, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Md. Zakir Hossain Pinto, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Mehedi Hasan, Senior Lecturer, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University;
- Nasir Uddin, Research Assistant, BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University.

Implemented by: Center of Excellence for Health System and Universal Health Coverage (CoE-HS&UHC), BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Timeline: January, 2020- ongoing

Objectives:

- To document the messages and meanings spread by the print and visual media at the national level in Bangladesh through a selective and ordered collection of news reports, articles and videos;
- To document the reactions and opinions of the populations to media coverage through the collection of online readers' comments to these articles and reports.

Methodology: Four researchers are collecting and reviewing reports, articles, op-ed etc. from newspapers, talk shows/Programmes on COVID-19, and selecting websites from Alexa. The extracted data will be summarized, thematically analyzed and will be redacted as a report.

Donor: BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University

Partner: BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University