

2ND ROUND OF FOOD AND INCOME SECURITY ASSESSMENT

BRAC International has completed the second round of its rapid assessment on **Food and Income Security**. This assessment sheds light on food and income related challenges communities are facing during the COVID-19 outbreak. [The first round](#) of interviews was conducted on April 1, 2020, covering 1,019 respondents from 8 BI countries, the scope of this assessment was expanded in the 2nd round by covering 9 BI countries of operations with a total number of 2,475 respondents. Overall, 61% of the respondents are BRAC International programme participants and the rest are volunteers. 20% of the survey respondents come from female-headed households.

The findings of the 2nd round show the COVID-19 has a negative impact on income across all BI countries, small businesses, casual workers/day labourers, and agriculture/livestock producers are among the most affected. The rate of being affected by loss of income has also increased from week 1 to week 3 across all the countries samples were drawn from. The impact on food security in the Philippines and Liberia is worse than the other countries, where more than 70% respondents reported that they had reduced food consumption significantly. The impact on food security is not only because of loss of income, it is also caused by market closures or movement restrictions that are in place to prevent the spread of the virus. The findings show that a significant number of people need immediate support to access food, and this ratio of people who require support is increasing and will continue to rise in the coming weeks if the COVID-19 situation persists.

[Click here](#) to read more on the **Food and Income Security Assessment** findings.



Poverty is not just lack of income, it's lack of opportunities, lack of healthcare, lack of education. It's all kinds of deprivation. At BRAC, we directly involve the people we serve and mobilise them in the fight against poverty."

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG
Founder, BRAC
1936 – 2019

Remembering Sir Fazle Hasan Abed
on his 84th Birthday

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO STAND BESIDE PEOPLE IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS



Please **DONATE HERE**

BRAC International will ensure your support reaches those who need it the most

BRAC INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

	REPORTED CASES	DEATHS
This week	9,822	574
Last week	7,720	450
Percentage Increase	27.2%	27.5%

Until this week, Sierra Leone had not joined the list of the BI countries with reported death cases, however, that too has changed with a total number of 4 deaths in the country. On this same day last week, the total reported cases in the BI countries were 7,720 last week, and this week it has risen to 9,822 cases, with an increase of 2,102 cases. The total death toll in the BI countries was 450, and this week it is 574, with an increase of 124 deaths.

OUR RESPONSE



28.8 million

people sensitised and educated
on COVID-19 in the Africa Region

8.5 million

people sensitised and educated
on COVID-19 in the Asia Region



293,860

life-saving information materials
distributed in the Africa Region

559,371

life-saving information materials
distributed in the Asia Region

REDUCING THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS AND HELPING PEOPLE IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS

As the COVID-19 crisis intensifies, governments all around the world are struggling to keep up with the necessary preventive measures. **BRAC Liberia** has been a long term partner of the Government of Liberia, and has worked with the extreme poor and vulnerable groups to alleviate poverty and hunger. Among numerous efforts to curb the spread of the virus, BRAC Liberia has donated several Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) items to the COVID-19 Response Team in Monrovia county; the country team donated 700 cartons of bars of soaps and 351 cartons of powder soaps.



BRAC Philippines in partnership with the Department of Human and Family Development Studies of University of the Philippines–Los Banos, are working on a series of stories for children in the local language related to COVID–19. Through the [ADM Online Learning Platform](#), BRAC Philippines is aiming to raise awareness among children on prevention of the coronavirus. BRAC Philippines uploaded two of the five stories, titled “[Miko’s Mask](#)” and “[One Meter](#)” which talks about the proper use of masks and how to observe physical distancing respectively.



Like most other affected countries, Tanzania also shut down educational institutions nationwide to prevent the spread of the COVID–19. But the lockdown has become an obstruction for all students, including BRAC learners, to stay in touch with their studies. To ensure that students in the Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme and the adolescent girls in the Accelerated Learning Project (ALP) are connected to their teachers and mentors, **BRAC Tanzania** is spearheading the efforts of reaching learners by alternative methods. The use of mobile phones has been instrumental in this intervention. The country team has

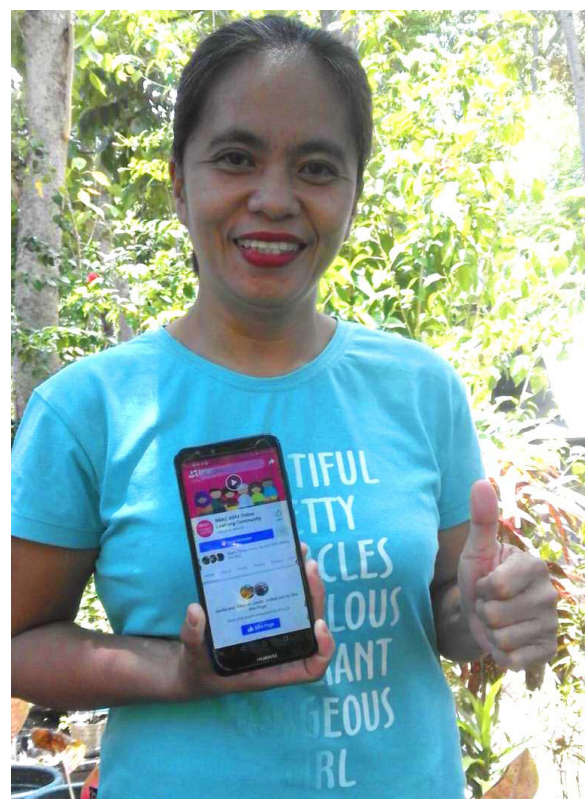
adopted the use of WhatsApp, a messaging application, to ease the connectivity between students and the teachers. The teachers are now able to distribute tasks to the students directly, and the project officers can monitor the progress using the application. Students who don’t have access to smartphones, the options of voice call and direct mobile messaging are always open for them.

BRAC South Sudan has continued with its effort to raise awareness on COVID–19 prevention and protection in the communities, reaching more than 126,492 people through donating 17,636 soap–bars, and distributing 33,215 life–saving information materials. Similarly, **BRAC Sierra Leone**, is continuing their community sensitisation activities through house to house visits, hand washing demonstrations, sending out SMS messages to programme beneficiaries and using motorbikes equipped with megaphones, reaching out to over 1,000,000 people across the country.



STORY OF HOPE AND COURAGE

Marilou Gonzales, a volunteer of BRAC Philippines and a resident of Awang, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, shared that in times of heightened crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, people rely heavily on what they read in social media. According to Marilou, BRAC Philippines initiative on using social media as a platform to raise awareness on COVID-19 is very helpful and timely. She stated that “the COVID-19 information materials posted in BRAC [ADM Online Learning Community](#) page are very useful for people like me who live outside the city, where access to public information is very limited. By clicking and scanning through social media, I was able to learn about the symptoms of this virus, how it is spread, how to prevent it, and most importantly, why it is important to maintain proper hygiene.” She added, “I took the initiative of sharing the things I learned online to my relatives, neighbors and especially to the communities I work with, which have very limited access to information as they are in isolated places of the province. I am thankful for the information I got from the BRAC ADM Online Learning Community.”



BRAC INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY UPDATES

Most of the BI country programmes adjusted their implementation plans and are now assisting the country governments with awareness and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) activities.



BRAC Afghanistan: A number of provinces have instituted measured lockdowns to limit the exposure of residents to COVID-19. These lockdowns include limits on the number of people travelling together and the imposition of curfews. Limitations on inter-city travel have also been implemented. Under the new measures, city entry and exit may only take place between 0600–0800 and 1600–1800. The new directive applies to NGO movements as well.



BRAC Myanmar: In order to curb the spread of COVID-19, Myanmar's Foreign Affairs Ministry announced that the temporary entry restrictions for visitors from all countries will be extended until May 15. All incoming travellers including Myanmar nationals and all diplomats accredited to Myanmar and the United Nations officials working in the country will be placed in quarantine upon their arrival in Myanmar.



BRAC Tanzania has conducted refresher training of trainers for awareness on COVID–19 prevention for its staff and further sensitization initiatives will soon be rolled out to clients and beneficiaries. Additionally, BRAC Tanzania has also printed large amounts of pamphlets to be used for awareness raising initiatives for its microfinance clients and in the communities and is trying to acquire government clearance before they can start distribution.



All of the new cases reported in **Uganda** are imported cases through cargo truck drivers from Kenya and Tanzania. President Museveni is expected to address the country on the way forward next week on 28th April.

Useful links

If you would like to find more detail about the current situation in each country, we recommend the following sources:

[Coronavirus COVID–19 Global Cases tracker](#)

Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University

[A selection of graphics: Tracking the global outbreak](#)

BBC News Website

[Key Economic Policy Responses to COVID19](#)

International Monetary Fund

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