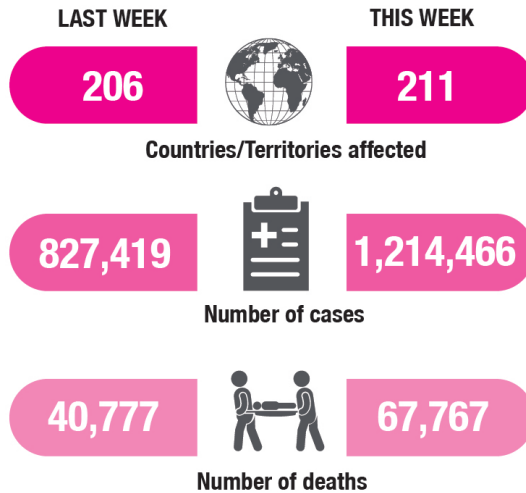


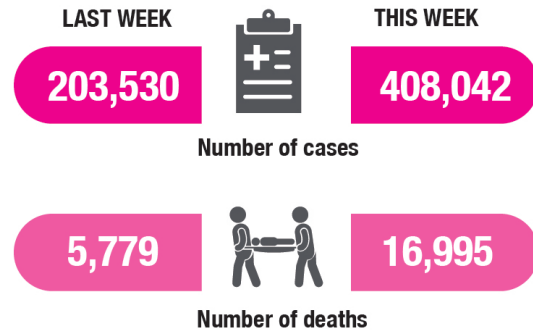
GLOBAL STATISTICS

WORLDWIDE



(Source, World Health Organisation)

IN BRAC COUNTRIES



BRAC'S RESPONSE

Please note, we have updated our Strategic Framework for responding to COVID-19. [You can find the latest version here.](#)

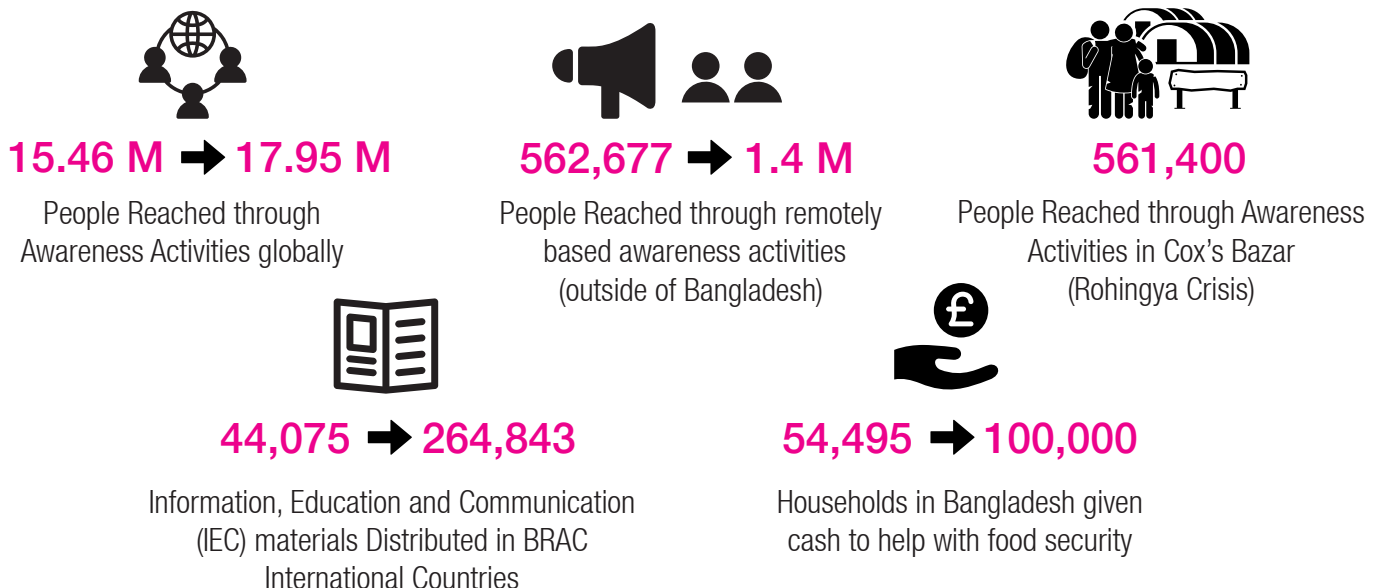
“

We have weathered cyclones, floods, and so much more. Let's not underestimate our own ability to find the best way forward in this crisis, to find the best in ourselves and make sure that we help each other survive this crisis”

Asif Saleh
Executive Director
BRAC Bangladesh



OUR REACH (From last week to this week)





OUR CHALLENGES

Cost of PPE equipment: Last week we identified the cost of protective equipment as a challenge our health workers are facing. It is still our single biggest challenge, with equipment in Afghanistan now costing 10 times as much as it did a month ago. The international community needs to come together and find a way of solving this problem, or millions of health workers across the world will be at risk.

People not reporting symptoms: Participants in Bangladesh are not reporting symptoms of COVID-19 because they fear reprisals. There have been reports of police attending the house of people they suspect have the virus. There is a lack of understanding of the process people go through once they have reported symptoms. BRAC is trying to allay these suspicions through mass market communications.

Further movement restrictions: Our Community Health Workers are finding it nearly impossible to visit patients and have therefore started connecting with them using technology. However, in the Rohingya Camps this is proving very difficult. Not only are they restricted in their movements, the Government has restricted the mobile networks within the camps so it is very difficult to use phones, Skype and other communications channels.

Lockdowns will cause other problems: People across all of our countries of operation are experiencing a loss of income and a significant reduction in food security. As the lockdowns go on for more weeks, this will create humanitarian and human rights based challenges on an enormous scale. The international community will need to mobilise resources to help people in this situation.



OUR RAPID ASSESSMENT ON FOOD AND INCOME SECURITY

BRAC has carried out a [rapid assessment of food and income security](#) in 8 (out of 10) countries outside of Bangladesh where BRAC has been implementing development and humanitarian programmes. The aim of the assessment was to generate a quick overview of the food and income situation of the population served by BRAC, with the emphasis placed on gathering information as quickly as possible.

The research found that the effects on income varied from country to country and was strongly related to government directives. For example in Uganda where the government has declared a complete shutdown, 30% respondents reported a complete loss of income. The vast majority of respondents in all countries reported already experiencing a drop in income by “a little” or “a lot”. The severity of those reductions varied depending on their main source of income. For example those on a salaried income are more likely to have reported “no change” than the households with other income sources.



Gorpu is a lead farmer in the Peace Island Community in Liberia

50% of respondents across all countries reported a reduction in their food consumption by “a little” or “a lot “. This reduction in food consumption was not only due to income loss but also a lack of availability resulting from restrictions put in place by governments in many countries.

Our assessment also indicated that the majority of respondents have enough food stocks to last for a maximum 2 of weeks. The picture was little better for those who produce their own food as they had enough stock for “about a month”.

THE MEGAPHONE BLITZ

Uganda is currently on a strict lockdown due to a presidential decree, making it extremely hard for BRAC staff to travel to our participants individually. Despite this, it is vital that our awareness campaign and social distancing messaging carries on. To achieve this, BRAC has adopted an alternative and more efficient technique to reach out to citizens of Uganda.

The “Megaphone Blitz Campaign” is a partnership between BRAC, the Ministry of Health and Wakiso district Local government. 50 Boda Boda riders will traverse 720 villages, playing a pre-recorded COVID-19 message on megaphones provided by BRAC. They hope to reach over 2.7 Million Ugandans on the immediate outskirts of Kampala.



Boda bodas are one of the commonest means of transport used by members of communities, especially in areas which are not directly covered by the country’s public transport network. 90% of the selected riders have been part of the existing Village Health Team, a government aided platform aimed at providing basic curative care to households which are located far from government health facilities.

IN THE NEWS

An Op-Ed by Asif Saleh: [In Bangladesh, COVID-19 threatens to cause a humanitarian crisis](#)

Only 15% of Bangladeshi workers earn more than \$6 a day. The economic shutdown sparked by COVID-19 threatens millions of livelihoods in the country imminently. But there are reasons for optimism, too - not least the country’s resilience.

[Click here to read more](#)

Asif Saleh also gave an interview on BBC World News.

[Click here to view it.](#)

WHAT OUR PARTICIPANTS SAY



“Refraining from shaking hands to me has been a challenge since it’s a tradition for us as Tanzanians to greet each other with at least a handshake. Also, business nowadays has gone down since less people go to work. We have been warned to refrain from gathering in groups of people, so creating an income is hard.”

Neema Mtela
Temeke, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



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