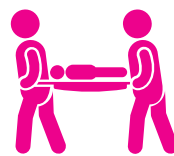


BRAC INTERNATIONAL'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN AFGHANISTAN

With fragile healthcare systems, developing economies, and underlying vulnerabilities, people across the Global South are facing the extreme consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Afghanistan, the coronavirus has claimed 85 lives and infected 2,704 so far. COVID-19 cases are expected to increase rapidly as community transmission escalates, creating grave implications for Afghanistan's economy and people. In order to help combat the growing pandemic, BRAC Afghanistan has continued its multi-pronged public awareness campaigns in 14 provinces of the country. So far, BRAC Afghanistan has reached 8,954,924 people in 14 provinces with community sensitisation and infection and prevention control activities.



2,704 Cases



85 Deaths

BRAC Afghanistan signed an agreement with Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to set up a 20 bed hospital in Lashkargah for COVID-19 treatment and 14 Mobile screening teams. Each team will have an ambulance, one doctor, one nurse and one lab technician to cover the entire province. BRAC Afghanistan's health programme, comprising 108 health facilities in Helmand province, is providing direct support to COVID-19 suspected patients, with a focus on the treatment of symptoms and referral of suspected patients to relevant service hospitals. Also, BRAC Afghanistan has set up three COVID-19 Screening Centres in the province.

BRAC has strategically positioned itself, along with two consortiums of INGOs, to accelerate and scale up Afghanistan's COVID-19 response across 23 provinces. The first consortium is actively engaging with the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide large scale food and cash support to the most vulnerable households, whilst the second consortium, featuring BRAC (lead) and War Child UK, will provide psychosocial support and distance learning for children in Herat province.

To understand the extent to which the lockdown has affected people's livelihoods and has further deteriorated the economic condition of the people, primarily those who are dependent on daily labor, BRAC Afghanistan has completed two rounds of rapid food security assessment in Afghanistan and the results have been shared widely with INGO Forums, donors, UN agencies and government institutions. The assessment confirms the severe impact of COVID-19 on the food and economic situation of people in Afghanistan. BRAC Afghanistan is discussing, with global and national actors, how to ensure critical food and economic support to the most vulnerable people in Afghanistan.



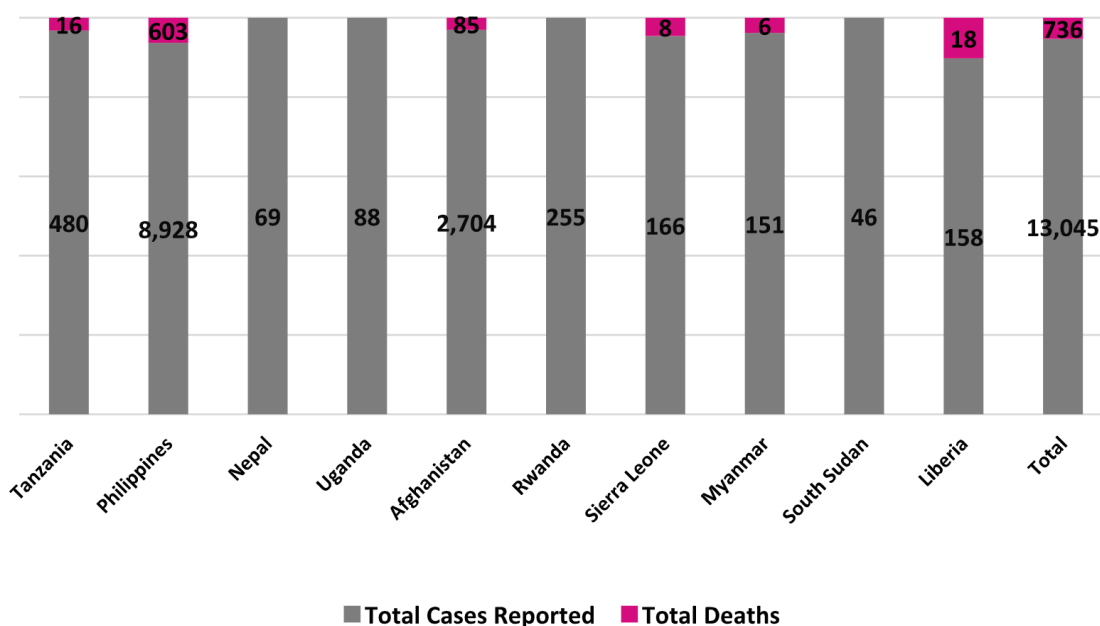
“

COVID-19 brings unprecedented challenges to the people all over the world. Our lives will never be the same. BRAC Tanzania is determined to ensure the impact of this pandemic especially among the vulnerable is mitigated. Together, with the Government and thousands of our frontline staff, supported by our donors and partners, we will fight”.

Fordson Kafweku
Country Director
BRAC Tanzania

CASES AND DEATHS IN THE BRAC INTERNATIONAL COUNTRIES

Total Cases Vs. Total Deaths in the BI Countries



The total cases reported in BRAC International countries as of today is 13,045 and total deaths reported is 736. If we compare the data with the previous week's report, then the total cases reported have escalated by 3,223 cases and the total deaths have risen by 162. This week, the highest number of cases and deaths reported in the Asia Region is in the Philippines. In the African Region, the highest number of cases reported is in Tanzania, with the highest number of deaths being in Liberia.

OUR RESPONSE



29 million

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



295,285

life-saving information materials
distributed in the Africa Region

9 million

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

563,145

life-saving information materials
distributed in the Asia Region

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

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

BRAC South Sudan has reached and sensitised 126,492 people with prevention and protection related messaging against the coronavirus. So far, the country team distributed 17,636 pieces of soap and 33,215 life-saving information materials. BRAC South Sudan has planned to focus on capacity building and community awareness to prevent the spread and transmission of COVID-19 for the next six months within Central Equatoria and East Equatoria states. The capacity building activities will train, support and protect students, teachers and other community members. Furthermore, BRAC South Sudan is working to identify medium to long term social and economic rehabilitation interventions for mitigating the impacts of the virus.



CHALLENGES OF COVID–19 IN THE BRAC INTERNATIONAL COUNTRIES

- **Low testing capacity:** due to lack of testing capacity in the BI countries, many people suffer undetected.
- **Weakened immune systems:** people in the Global South often have immune systems weakened by measles, tuberculosis, malnutrition, Aids or other diseases.
- **Overwhelmed healthcare centres:** death rates are rising as hospitals with low resources are flooded with COVID–19 positive patients.
- **Lack of medical supplies:** Due to limited access to PPE supplies healthcare workers and frontline staff are at risk.
- **Supporting people with disabilities:** The disabled community is one of the worst affected, as many worry they could be on the losing side of a healthcare worker's life–or–death decision.
- **Rising food prices:** food prices are on a steep rise. Many items are not even available for consumption due to interrupted supply chains.
- **Maintaining social distancing:** people living in vulnerable situations are unable to maintain the 2 meters rule.



STORY OF HOPE AND COURAGE

Ever since the coronavirus entered Sierra Leone, the role of Esther Sattu Vandi, mentor of the Youth Empowerment clubs, has changed. “Lessons for the club members were on halt because the government banned gatherings of large groups” said Esther.

BRAC Sierra Leone adjusted their programme operations and trained all teachers and mentors on coronavirus infection, prevention and control.

Esther shared that she is now able to visit households in the communities and educate them on prevention measures including demonstrating proper hand–washing steps. “I am grateful for the training I received from BRAC, it not only protects me from contracting the virus but also I can guide my family and friends” she added.

Esther also uses a smartphone provided by BRAC Sierra Leone, to send COVID–19 messages to club members and friends to raise awareness and promote precautions.

UPDATE ON GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES IN BI COUNTRIES

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.



Liberia: During the Incident Management meeting held on 03 May 2020 the following actions have been proposed by the Liberian Government for their COVID–19 Activities: (1) Provision of technical support to counties to improve case investigation and contact line list 2) Find and move confirmed cases and high risk contacts from communities 3) Mobilise logistics and materials for contact tracing and active case finding 4) Train contact tracers and active case finders in response counties, 5) Deploy 500 mobile phones to contact tracers by next week to improve contact monitoring and 6) Improve quality of contact tracing.



Nepal: The authorities of Gandaki Province have instructed all of its 11 district administrations to ease lockdown restrictions for industries, agro farms and construction projects. The Government is planning to relax lock down by dividing the country into red, yellow and green zones; a directive may be announced next week. In light of the pandemic, the federal, provincial and local government budgets for the new fiscal year will prioritise programmes that generate large-scale employment to account for the loss of jobs and return of migrants.



Philippines: The Government of Philippines barred all passenger flights from 3rd May for one week to contain the spread of the coronavirus and help reduce pressure on quarantine facilities housing thousands of Filipino repatriates, primarily migrant workers. The Philippines introduced curbs on immigration, travel, commerce and public gatherings in mid-March, days after the first case of domestic transmission. Entry to the country is closed to all except repatriated Filipinos.



Rwanda: The Government of Rwanda reviewed existing measures which will be effective from 4 May. New guidelines will take effect and be reviewed after 15 days upon a health assessment. Movements are prohibited from 8 pm to 5 am except with permission. The government has also declared that schools will remain closed until September 2020. Additionally, the borders will still remain closed while motorcycles and bicycles are restricted from carrying passengers. Meeting in public spaces and mass gatherings are also prohibited.



Uganda: The Government of Uganda is conducting an assessment of community based transmission to help guide the upcoming directives for COVID-19 prevention in the country.

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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