

BRAC International Operates In: Uganda, Tanzania, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Rwanda, Afghanistan, Philippines, Myanmar, Nepal

Every day a grim humanitarian picture is taking shape as more new cases are being reported and the number of deaths are increasing across the BRAC International (BI) countries of operations in Asia and Africa regions – The Philippines has the highest number of cases and deaths reported in the Asia Region, whereas Tanzania has the highest number of cases reported in the Africa Region. As of today, there are 11,408 reported cases and 660 confirmed deaths in the BI countries operating in the Africa Region and the Asia Region.



To all the humanitarian and development community: if we fail to respond, inform and educate the poor and vulnerable people that we serve, about the deadliness of the novel coronavirus epidemic and how to prevent it, then we would fail humanity and hence not fit to exist".

*Idrissa Kamara
Country Director
BRAC Liberia*



Total **1,050** cases and **36** deaths reported in the **6** BI Countries in the Africa Region.



Total **10,358** cases and **624** deaths reported in **4** BI Countries 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

OUR RESPONSE



28.9 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



294,460

life-saving information materials distributed in the Africa Region

563,145

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 Philippines has been distributing fliers and posting tarpaulins containing prevention messages on COVID–19 that has reached to 67,124 individuals in the different communities of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and to its neighbouring municipalities and cities. BRAC Philippines has also posted COVID–19 relevant information and awareness messages on the BRAC Philippines online platform that has a total of 5890 engagements as of today.



After regular follow up, on 30 April, **BRAC Tanzania** received authorisation from the Government to conduct awareness sensitisation activities using Government approved materials.

BRAC Uganda is reaching the public through its social media platforms (WhatsApp and Facebook), radio talk shows, adverts, text messages and loudspeaker megaphones. BRAC Uganda has also printed 60,000 IEC material in the form of stickers and posters with messages translated in 3 widely spoken languages. These posters are to be distributed in 5 districts of Uganda, covering a total population of 20 million. In partnership with Wakiso District Local Government, BRAC Uganda recently concluded the Boda Boda Megaphone Blitz Campaign, through which pre–recorded Ministry of Health approved messages were disseminated across 713 villages and reached over

2.3 M people in the immediate outskirts of Kampala. Additionally, Ministry of Health approved COVID–19 messages were translated into Sign Language in order to encourage inclusiveness in the awareness efforts.

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.



CHALLENGES IN THE BI COUNTRIES

- Electric power was drastically cut in 4 Afghan provinces, including Kabul, after armed conflicts destroyed power pylons in the Mir Bacha Kot district of Kabul. The capital often goes dark when power supply lines are destroyed or damaged resulting in operational implications for NGOs.
- BRAC Sierra Leone country team have reported a 300% increase in the price of PPE in addition to a lack of supplies in the country due to panic buying.

UPDATE ON GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES IN BI COUNTRIES



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 Nepal: The government has announced that the nationwide lockdown has been extended till 7 May. Additionally, international and domestic flights are to be halted until 15 May. Based on a report from the Association of International NGOs, some of the direct effects on civil society include an acute shortage of essential medical equipment and goods. Procurement has been a challenge from the beginning of March for both I/NGOs as well as the government.



Rwanda: Rwanda took preventive measures against the pandemic as early as February 2020. Along with implementing countrywide lockdown, which is the most severe form of social distancing, Rwanda also raised awareness on the importance of hand–washing and disinfecting surfaces to prevent the spread of the virus. Although Rwanda has the second highest number of reported cases in the Africa region, as of 29 April, no deaths caused by COVID–19 have been reported in the country which is a testament of the effectiveness of the country’s initiatives. To address the food shortage which is bound to arise due to the lockdown and the subsequent reduced employment, the Rwandan government is providing door–to–door food distributions and are requesting support from organisations in this regard.

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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