

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY POST– LOCKDOWN

The pandemic is having a major impact on people's ability to earn an income and provide food for their family. Both our own rapid assessments and data from other organisations, such as the World Bank who estimate 60 million people will enter extreme poverty by the end of year, have made this clear. Countries who rely on informal businesses have been hit particularly hard. For example in Liberia, where 93% of respondents in our last rapid income and food security assessment indicated their income had either 'reduced a lot' or 'completely stopped.'

Many countries are now transitioning out of lockdown but people have been forced into extreme poverty as a result of their ability to earn an income being taken away from them. This is extremely concerning as it is putting all the progress we have made towards achieving SDG1 at risk.

Our experience and data from the field shows that financial inclusion and livelihood support are going to be the biggest needs at the local level. As a result, we need evidenced, time–bound livelihood interventions that can be scaled up to provide people with the opportunity to earn an income and to build more resilience should there be another public health crisis such as COVID–19.

BRAC will be focusing on *scaling up Ultra–Poor Graduation* programmes through direct implementation and also through Government social protection systems to help people lift themselves out of extreme poverty. We also know that Microfinance has a big role to play in providing people with the cash they need to restart their small businesses and help restart economies.



*As a quick response, we set up an Online Learning Community on social media to reach out to our programme participants and partners and raise awareness on protection against COVID–19. BRAC Philippines remained steadfast in walking and working with the people we serve in this most challenging time."*

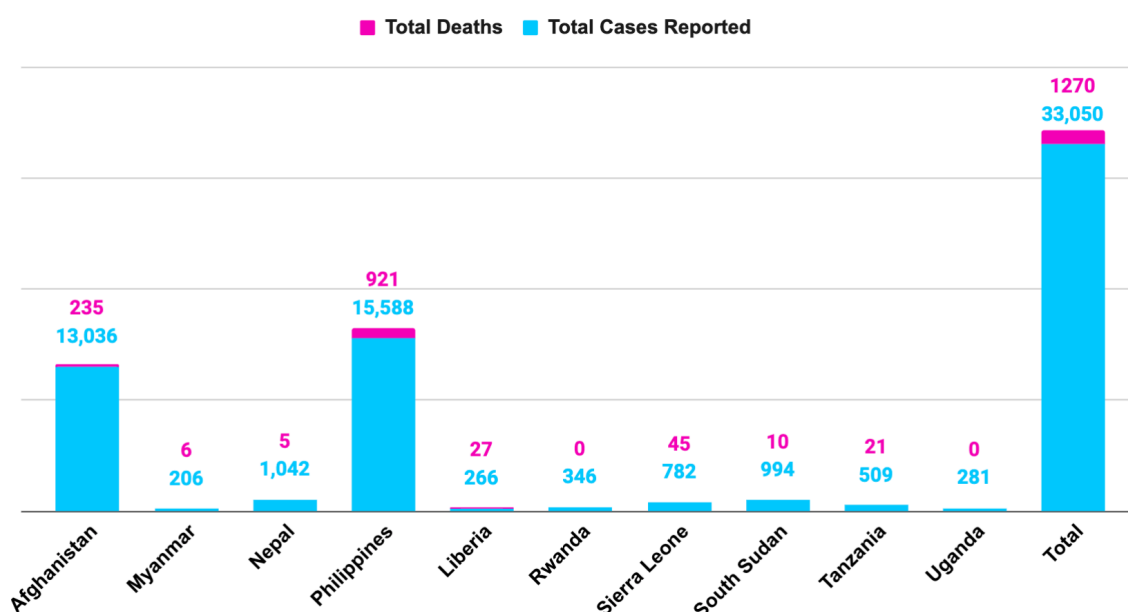
– Efren Lubuguin  
Country Representative  
BRAC Philippines

## OUR SITUATION

The total COVID-19 cases reported in BI countries as of today is 33,050 and the confirmed number of deaths is 1,270 (Source: Johns Hopkins University and Medicine, Coronavirus Resource Center May 28, 2020, 18:41 GMT). 8,856 new cases have been reported this week, as well as 151 new deaths. Rwanda and Uganda still remain countries with no reported deaths.

In Asia, the number of cases reported is almost 9.4 times more than in Africa; death cases are also 11.3 times higher.

### Total Cases Vs. Total Deaths in the BI Countries



The Philippines still remains the country reporting the highest numbers of cases and deaths in the Asia Region. However, in the Africa Region, South Sudan is now reporting the highest number of cases while Sierra Leone is reporting the highest numbers of confirmed deaths. Tanzania has reported no changes since May 8, 2020.

## OUR REACH



**41.8 million**  
people reached and  
sensitised on COVID-19



**906,452**  
life-saving information  
materials distributed



**228,143**  
face masks handed  
over to people in  
vulnerable situations



**93,036**  
bars of soaps distributed  
in multiple communities

## THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON STUDENTS IN LIBERIA

“I am Samuel Tanue and I live with my mother and four siblings in Lofa, Liberia. I am a Grade 6 student at Lazelemai Public School. Because of the coronavirus outbreak in our country, my school has been indefinitely closed. My life has changed drastically because of this and I feel extremely sad. I haven’t seen my friends or played with them since my mother doesn’t let me go out anymore. Everyone in our community tries to stay home due to the lockdown. My mother is the only breadwinner in our family and her small business is not doing well either because of this situation. We are having to cut down on our food costs by eating less everyday to save money. If this keeps going on, we are all going to starve. The coronavirus outbreak has turned our lives upside down and I hope it ends soon.”



## PLAY-BASED LEARNING AS FRONTLINE RESPONSE IN TANZANIA

“Although the pandemic has affected the education system in the country and around the world, our frontline staff of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme, implemented by BRAC Tanzania in Tanga region, have had to be creative to ensure they keep their students engaged and active during this lockdown,” shared Khadija Juma Issa, Play Leader at the ECD Center Kirare, Tanga region.



The programme staff use various ways to stay in touch including home visits and contact via mobile phones to check on the welfare of the little participants.

Khadija stated “Through play children can develop social and cognitive skills, mature emotionally, and gain the self-confidence required to engage in new experiences and environments. It is essential that children are involved in some sort of learning even during this lockdown.”

BRAC Tanzania’s frontline staff have been visiting the children, aged 3–5 years, in order to check on and motivate them. The staff also encourages the parents to engage the little ones with

play-based learning. The children are enjoying the sessions and eagerly participate while the parents appreciate the efforts of the programme staff.

“We miss seeing the children at the centers and we want to see the parents continue to engage them and to play with them so that they are not idle and so that they do not forget all that they have learned thus far,” Khadija Juma Issa noted.

She also added that BRAC Tanzania staff take all necessary precautions against COVID-19 while visiting participants and clients.

## IMPLEMENTING COVID-19 SCREENING SERVICES IN AFGHANISTAN

“A couple of weeks ago, I was on my way to my parents’ house in Lashkargah with my 12-year-old son, when our bus was stopped at Hazarjuft bridge near the District Hospital by a screening team from BRAC Afghanistan led by doctors. They used an infrared device to check the body temperature of all the passengers. The doctor who checked my body temperature advised me to visit the nearest hospital for further investigation. Although I was reluctant to do so at first, I went to the District Hospital to have my symptoms checked. At the hospital, they noted down my health history and informed me how I may have contracted the coronavirus,” shared Mansoorah from Garmsir District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Since Mansoorah did not have much idea on how dangerous and contagious this virus is, the doctor explained everything to her in detail. Upon finding out about its symptoms, Mansoorah informed the BRAC team that her father-in-law had been showing similar symptoms such as coughing, a sore throat and a runny nose. She was advised not to visit her family since she could be potentially putting their lives at risk. A medical team accompanied Mansoorah on her way back home to test her father-in-law.

When BRAC Afghanistan frontline workers visited Mansoorah’s home, they took the opportunity to conduct an awareness raising briefing session in the entire village by using the local mosque’s megaphones. They informed the villagers about the deadly virus and how to prevent it by maintaining proper personal hygiene and physical distancing. In addition, posters and leaflets were distributed to the community people.

Mansoorah and her father-in-law followed all the preventive measures and stayed in home quarantine for 14 days. They stayed in contact with the doctor only to give updates on their health condition. After completing the quarantine period, they both have recovered and are now fine and healthy.





Mansoorah and her neighbours are now better informed about this fatal virus and how to keep safe. Mansoorah voluntarily engages in raising awareness in her community by sharing her story and letting them know about the signs and symptoms of the disease. She is grateful to BRAC Afghanistan's frontline responders team for their imperative and life saving support.

## UPDATE ON GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



**Afghanistan:** The government has decided to partially lift the security restrictions on movement around Kabul City. NGOs, IOs, diplomatic entities, and Government of Afghanistan officials travelling on official purposes will be permitted to travel on all days. Staff members of these entities are allowed to move in Kabul City only with valid ID cards indicating their role and employer.



**Myanmar:** In accordance with guidelines from the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Government has allowed restaurants to resume operations. Additionally, food stalls and tea shops in all townships in regions and states and Nay Pyi Taw, excluding those townships under the stay at home measures, will be allowed to reopen according to the Ministry's instructions.



**Nepal:** The Government of Nepal has announced that domestic and international flights will be halted until 14th June. The Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to seal off all entry points to the Kathmandu Valley in view of the risk of an outbreak in the densely populated city, as people continue to move in and out of the capital.



**Tanzania:** As the number of confirmed cases have decreased over the last few weeks, the Government has announced the re-opening of academic institutions from 1st June. Earlier on, the Government had also announced the decision to resume International flights coming into the country.



**Uganda:** Starting from May 26, there has been a partial lifting of the lockdown as private cars have been allowed on the road starting with other guidelines still in place. Educational institutions are also expected to re-open soon.

We are grateful for the extraordinary courage and commitment shown by frontline workers responding to the COVID–19 pandemic.

**Thank you for working tirelessly to save lives**



**Drawn by:**  
**Luck Desire Kayondo**  
12 years old, Primary 7  
Victorious Primary School  
Kampala, Uganda

### 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

[BRAC's Global Response Portal](#)

How BRAC International responding to COVID–19

## BRAC INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

Dr. Muhammad Musa  
Executive Director  
BRAC International  
E:musa.m@brac.net

Sajedul Hasan  
BI COVID-19 Management  
Team Leader  
E:sajedul.hasan@brac.net

Ruth Okowa  
Director, Africa Region  
BRAC International  
E:ruth.okowa@brac.net

M Anwar Hossain  
Director, Asia Region  
BRAC International  
E:hossain.anwar@brac.net

Musharrat Bidita  
Communications Lead  
BI COVID-19 Team  
E:musharrat.ab@brac.net