

RESULTS FROM OUR THIRD RAPID FOOD AND INCOME SECURITY ASSESSMENT

BRAC International completed the third round of its rapid food and income security assessment on June 16th. [The full report can be accessed here.](#) We have completed previous rounds of the Assessment at the [beginning](#) and [end](#) of April.

BRAC has been conducting periodic assessments in countries where we are implementing development and humanitarian programmes. The objective of this assessment is to understand the impact of COVID–19 on the food and income security situation of the population served by BRAC International. For the third round of assessments, over 3,000 interviews were conducted by phone using a brief structured questionnaire, the largest sample size used so far. During the latest assessment, we were able to gather data from South Sudan for the first time.

Some key findings from the third round of assessment are:

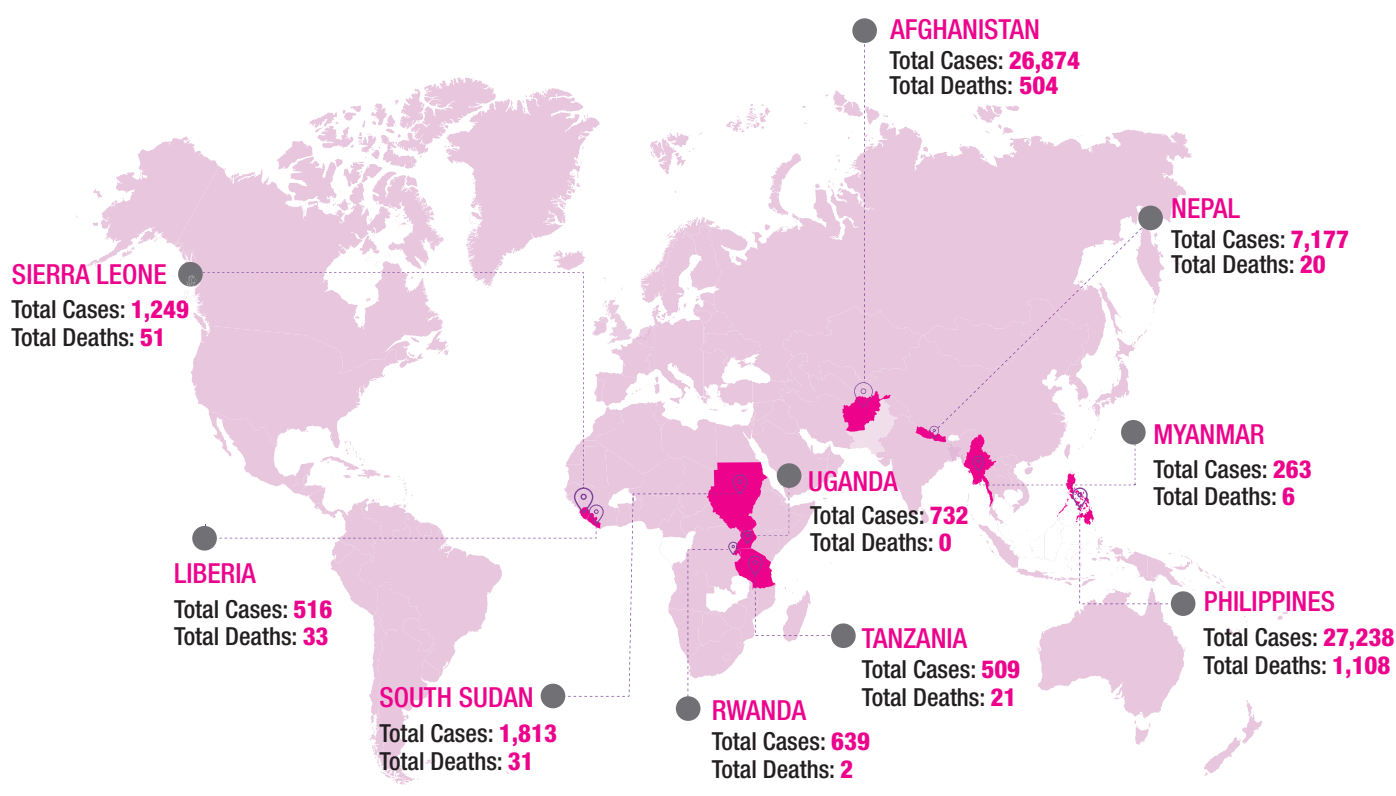
- More than 40% of respondents reported that their food consumption had reduced “a lot”. The situation is particularly worrying in Sierra Leone where the rate increased from 38% in the first round to 63% in the third round.
- Over 90% of households can only meet their food needs for a week or less. It is slightly more positive in other countries like Rwanda, where 30% reported a large reduction in food consumption in June compared to 75% in April.
- Female–headed households are, on average, more likely to be vulnerable to hunger with less secured access to food than male–headed households.
- A substantial portion of the households reported facing a large reduction in their regular income.
- Income being completely stopped, however, has been reported by fewer respondents in early June in all countries compared to what we found in mid–April.
- There are relatively sharper declines in the percentage of households reporting income being completely stopped in Uganda and Rwanda, which adopted strong restrictions and recently started relaxing some of those measures.

- Overall, households relying on business and casual work are more severely affected by the economic slowdown and the effects are persisting despite lockdown measures gradually being lifted.

TREND IN COVID-19 SITUATION IN THE BRAC INTERNATIONAL COUNTRIES OF OPERATIONS

This week, the COVID-19 cases and deaths reported amongst the 10 BRAC International countries show a more rapid upward trend; the total cases reported as of today is 67,010 and the total confirmed deaths is 1,776. The number of new cases reported is 11,811 and the number of new deaths is 200. Uganda still remains the only BRAC International country of operation with no confirmed deaths so far. The Philippines continues to remain the country reporting the highest numbers of cases and deaths amongst all the BRAC International countries of operation. Rwanda and Myanmar have shown no changes in the number of deaths over the last two weeks.

TOTAL CASES VS. TOTAL DEATHS IN THE BRAC INTERNATIONAL COUNTRIES



The number of reported cases in the four BRAC International countries of operation in the Asia region is 61,552 which is over 11 times more than the six countries where we work in Africa, where the total number of cases is 5,458. There have been 1,638 deaths in Asia compared to 138 in Africa, meaning that death cases in the Asia region are almost 12% higher than in Africa. Amongst the BRAC International countries of operations in the Africa region, South Sudan has shown the highest number of cases, Sierra Leone reported the highest numbers of deaths, and Tanzania has still reported no changes since May 8, 2020.

OUR REACH



42.6 million

people reached and sensitised on COVID-19



1 million

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

MICROFINANCE IN MYANMAR – STANDING WITH CLIENTS DURING TIMES OF CRISIS

Daw Yee Yee Mon lives in Kan Yoe village, Taungoo, Myanmar. She is 50 years old and lives a happy and peaceful life with her family of six. The main source of income for her family is from Daw Yee's tailoring business; and she was afraid that COVID-19 might not just affect them physically, but financially as well.

Daw Yee is a Microfinance group loan member who has been taking loans from the BRAC Taungoo North Branch.

“I received vital information about the Coronavirus and how to protect ourselves from BRAC Myanmar teams visiting our communities; they provided us with leaflets and explained to us what it says”, shared Daw Yee.

She also added, “I was concerned about paying my loan instalments as I was having a hard time running my business and managing an income due to the impact of COVID-19. However, BRAC Myanmar informed me that all instalments were postponed for the next two months and that there was no need to pay any extra interest for the postponement. I really appreciate what BRAC is doing for all of us during this crisis. The postponement helped me greatly, and I am now ready to pay off my remaining instalments, and even take up a new loan when BRAC resumes operations.”

BRAC Myanmar has since resumed operations and many of our clients like Daw Yee Yee Mon can prosper once again from the initiatives of the Microfinance programme.



INNOVATIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES IN TANZANIA

BRAC Tanzania and C–SEMA, in partnership with the Government of Tanzania, have joined hands to provide support in Early Childhood Development (ECD) through a national helpline in the following way:

- Leveraging the existing national Child help line, BRAC Tanzania is establishing a National ECD Helpline (call centre) to support nurturing care of children aged 0–8 years.
- Providing support to parents (who would call in) in terms of positive parenting, early learning for children and mental health support.
- Developing relevant resource materials and training resource persons for the helpline.



The ECD helpline would also provide support to parents/caregivers/communities in terms of information on children's health and nutrition, COVID–19 related awareness and information on family support required for children.

As we reflect on the International Day for the African Child, which took place on the 16th June, it's important that we all remember the importance of finding ways like this to continue supporting and creating opportunities for children and young people during this COVID–19 pandemic.

“MY LOVE FOR BRAC ENCOURAGED FELLOW STAFF TO WEAR FACEMASKS”

Hilary Mugarura joined BRAC Uganda in January 2018 and is currently the Project Supervisor of the Reading Glasses for Improved Livelihood (GIL) project.

“I am very strict about following precautionary measures regarding COVID–19. It is my duty to protect myself and keep the people around me safe. Since I go outside for work and other errands whilst my family stays home,” said Hilary.



“When I read guidelines and directives provided by the Government of Uganda that every citizen must wear a facemask while going out in public, I contacted a friend of mine and asked her to make a mask for me with the BRAC logo embedded on it. My love for BRAC gave me the idea to associate

the organisation with yet another social cause. My colleagues at the office loved the mask I wore the next day, and are now inclined to buy the same mask as mine. I always believe in bringing out the positives in any negative situation,” said Hilary.

Hilary Mugarura has inspired most of the staff members at BRAC Uganda country office to wear a BRAC branded facemask. “I believe if one loves how the mask looks, then they will definitely wear it and, in essence, will protect everyone from the virus,” commented Hilary.

BRAC Uganda has distributed over 10,000 masks to the staff and beneficiaries during the fight against COVID–19.

UPDATE ON GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



Afghanistan: On Saturday June 13th the MoPh officially allowed private hospitals/ laboratories to conduct COVID–19 tests by inaugurating a testing lab in a private hospital in Kabul. Now at least two health facilities are providing COVID–19 testing facilities to the public. These facilities are City Laboratories and Blossom hospital in Kabul city who will be charging \$100 per test.



Myanmar: The Ministry of Education in Myanmar will allow private schools to add classrooms so they can comply with the government’s guidelines on social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID–19. The ministry has scheduled schools to reopen on July 21, beginning with high schools and followed by primary and middle schools two weeks later. Schools will be immediately closed down if positive COVID–19 cases are detected after reopening next month.



Nepal: The government has eased the lockdown from the 15th June. Under the odd–even rule, vehicles with odd number plates are allowed to ply the road only on odd days of the Nepali calendar, and those with even number plates on even days but within the same district. Business houses, shops and malls will gradually be in operation in the next phase. Public transport, schools and colleges have yet not been resumed and will be considered after the results from the preliminary phases.



Philippines: During a televised meeting on 15th June, the President of Philippines approved a recommendation to lock down Cebu city once again and retain quarantine restrictions in metropolitan Manila for two more weeks in light of the alarming increase in COVID–19 cases.



Tanzania: On 16th of June, after three months of closure due to the COVID–19 outbreak, the government of Tanzania announced that schools will reopen on June 29th. Additionally, it was also announced that of the 25 regions which had COVID–19 cases, 16 regions are now infection free.



COVID-19 threatens to hit children and families living in poverty the hardest - but we can't leave anyone behind. BRAC International will ensure that every child has a chance at a healthy, productive future.

#DayOfTheAfricanChild

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

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