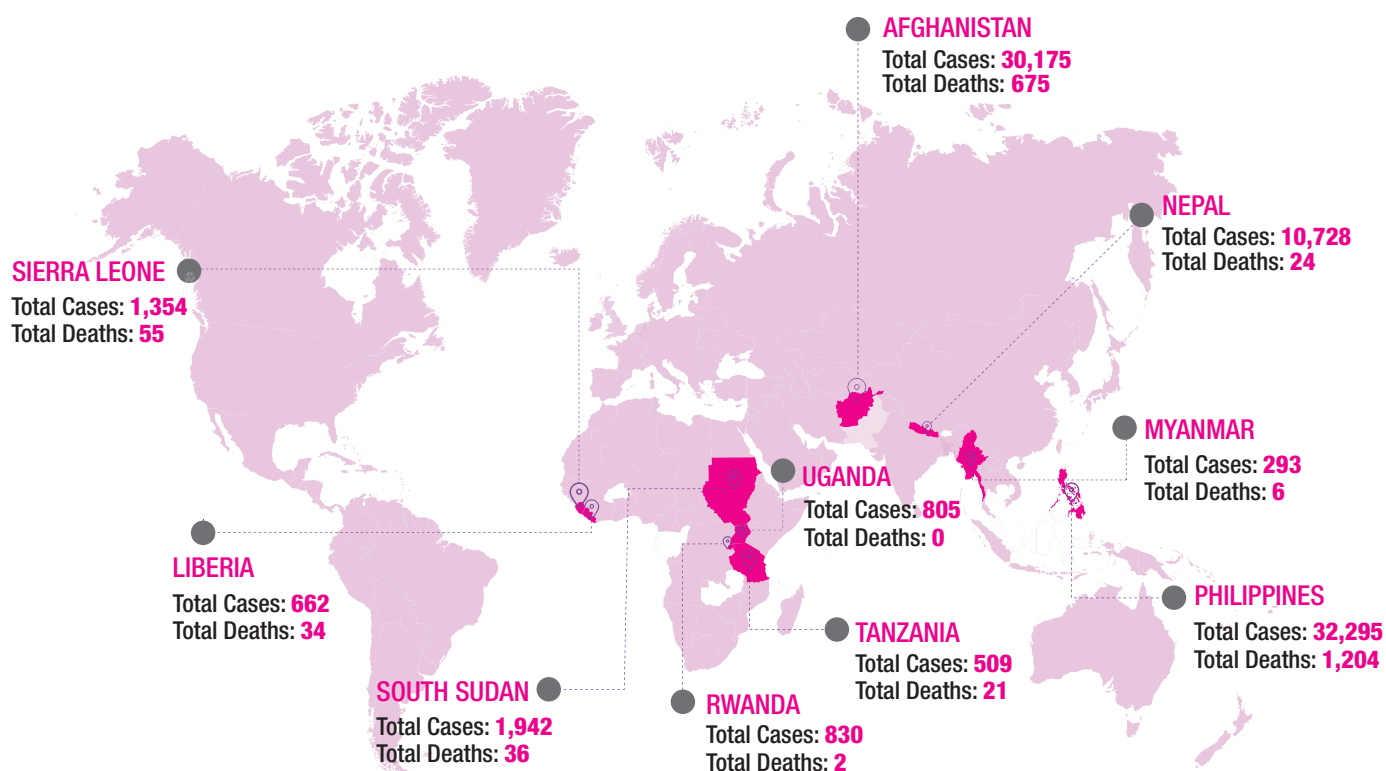


COVID-19 TRENDS IN BRAC INTERNATIONAL COUNTRIES OF OPERATIONS

The COVID-19 cases and deaths reported amongst the 10 BRAC International countries this week are as follows ; the total cases reported as of today is 79,593 and the total confirmed deaths is 2,057. The number of new cases reported is 12,583 and the number of new deaths is 281. 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, closely followed by Afghanistan. Rwanda, Myanmar, Sierra Leone and Liberia have not reported any new deaths this week.

TOTAL CASES VS. TOTAL DEATHS IN THE BRAC INTERNATIONAL COUNTRIES

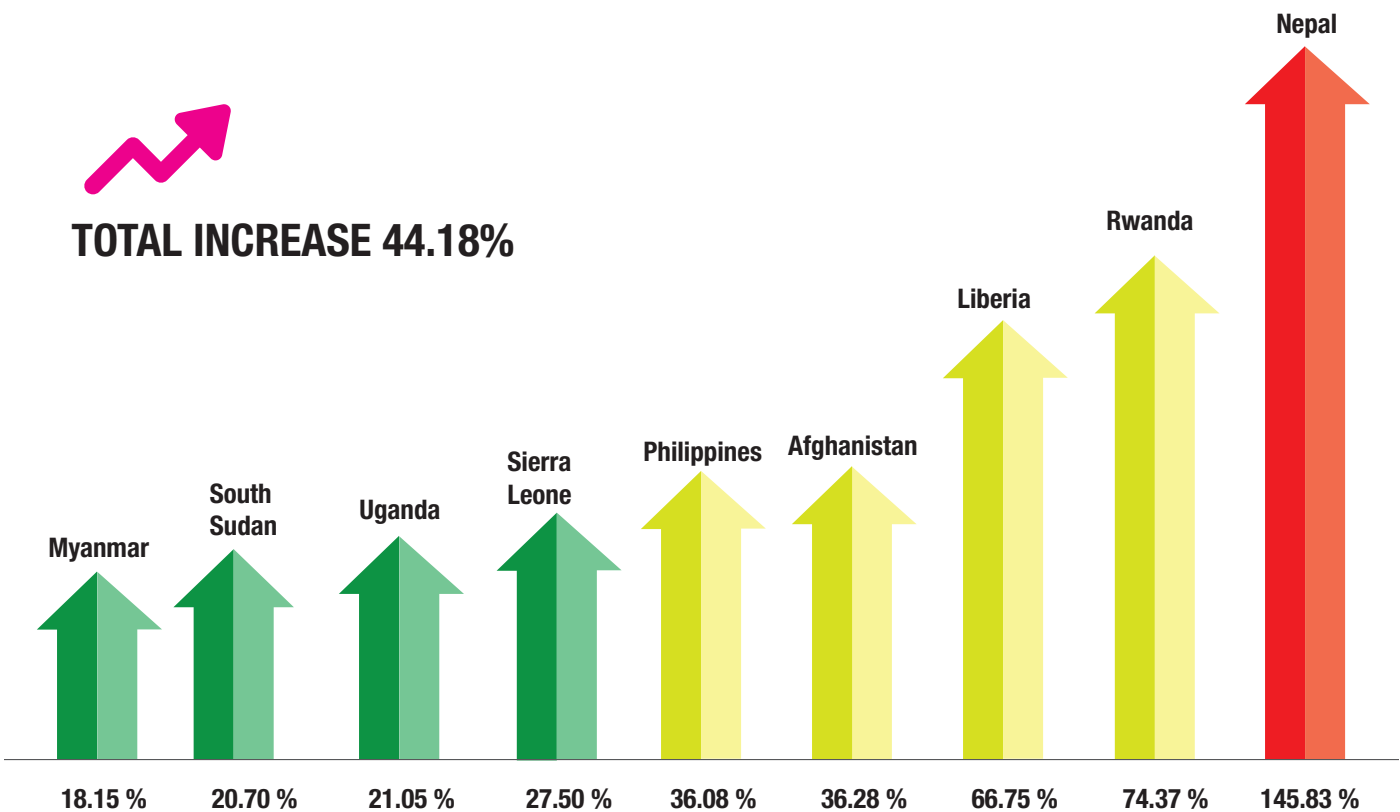


Amongst the BRAC International countries of operations in the Asia Region, Nepal shows the highest rate of new cases and deaths being reported. In the Africa region, South Sudan has shown the highest number of cases, Sierra Leone reported the highest numbers of deaths, and Tanzania has still reported no changes since May 8, 2020.

(Source: Johns Hopkins University and Medicine, Coronavirus Resource Center. Updated at 6/25/2020, 12:35:09 PM)

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF COVID–19 CASES AMONGST BI COUNTRIES ACROSS 15 DAYS

Across a period of 15 days, 9 BI countries of operation continued to experience an increase in the percentage of confirmed cases. From June 11 to June 25, amongst all of the BI countries of operation, Myanmar had experienced only a 15% increase whereas Nepal experienced an alarming increase of 145% in reported cases.



Note: No change in confirmed cases for Tanzania in one month

BRAC UGANDA REFUGEE RESPONSE: AIMING A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD FOR EVERYBODY

BRAC Uganda has been conducting COVID–19 awareness and sensitisation activities within the refugee settlements of Kiryandongo Rhino, Arua district. These activities include door to door sensitisation using megaphones and passing out pamphlets regarding the virus. These methods of spreading awareness were concentrated where there were large gatherings of people. For example, at water points, food distribution points, markets, and trading centers. BRAC Uganda also utilised other unique methods of spreading awareness. They sent bulk text messages to people and used megaphones on motorbikes to spread mass awareness in rural areas. The lifesaving information that was being spread answered some basic questions about the coronavirus. It stated what coronavirus actually was, the symptoms of the virus, how to prevent it, and what to do if one has any of these symptoms.



There are unfortunately many challenges that BRAC Uganda has had to deal with in terms of the actual implementation of these activities during the COVID–19 outbreak. The lockdown has affected the availability of transport, making it hard for BRAC Uganda staff to achieve ends in addition to the concerns of limited protective gear for the volunteers involved in the sensitisation and awareness implementation.

The project activities for BRAC Uganda have been allowed to resume, as long as the directives of the World Health Organization (WHO) are put into place. After consultation with the District Health Office, approximately 1100 people were sensitised through various means. 104 community volunteers in addition to BRAC Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme staff members were involved.



BRAC AFGHANISTAN STRIVING TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES IN NEED

Shir Mohammad is 60 years old and has 3 wives and 17 Children – 7 sons and 11 daughters. They are now living in Camp–e–Mukhtar, Helmand Province, Afghanistan. When the war intensified, his house was destroyed, and all of his assets and capital were burned and damaged. As a result his financial situation completely changed. They were then

displaced from their home in the Songin District and went to Lashkargah Camp—e—Mukhtar. When they arrived at Camp—e—Mukhtar, the family became ill. Fortunately, the BRAC Afghanistan Mobile Health team made regular visits and Shir Mohammad's family, as well as many others, have received the following services:

- Emergency health services and medication.
- Health related Counseling.
- Psychosocial counseling and support.
- Health education especially in regards to COVID—19.
- Provision of antenatal care (ANC) services to pregnant women.
- Provision of postnatal care (PNC) services to postpartum women and neonatal care (NNC) for newborns
- Vaccination of children, covering all basic vaccines including Bacillus Calmette—Guerin, Polio, pentavalent, measles and etc.
- Integrated Management of the Communicable Infections (IMCI) for children under five years of age.
- Referral of complicated and high—risk pregnancies to BRAC related health facilities.

Shir Mohammad stated that he really appreciates the BRAC team for their “hard—work, and am grateful for all their projects in Afghanistan at the moment. BRAC has had a very positive impact on my life, and I appreciate their help from the bottom of my heart.”

BRAC SIERRA LEONE PROMOTING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

As we continue fighting against the spread of the Coronavirus, BRAC Sierra Leone has kept up its efforts to contribute to economic rehabilitation. Through means of the Sustainable Cassava Commercialization through Entrepreneurial Strengthening Support (SUCCESS), BRAC Sierra Leone has distributed cassava cuttings and farming tools comprising of cutlasses, hoes, gardening lines and tapes to 39 smallholder farming groups in Kenema, Pujehun and Kailahun to improve the cassava value chain in the country. Funded by the European Union, the overall objective is to contribute to a collaborative and economically viable cassava value chain in Sierra Leone that promotes economic, social and environmentally sustainable growth and creates jobs and markets for cassava value chain actors.



THREE WAYS FINANCIAL INCLUSION CAN BUILD ECONOMIC RESILIENCE IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

As the COVID-19 crisis takes a massive economic toll, financial inclusion will be critical to helping the poor recover. Microfinance institutions should work in tandem with businesses to build community resilience and boost economic growth.

Our UK Chief Executive, Lewis Temple, writes for Business Fights Poverty on the importance of financial inclusion in recovering from the many impacts of COVID-19 and the role that the business community can play in making it happen.

[Read more](#)

UPDATE ON GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



Myanmar: The Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) under the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry will provide farmers nationwide the loan of K 50,000 per acre from the Special COVID-19 Relief Loan. The Government plans to reopen high schools on July 21, followed by middle schools and primary schools two weeks later. Nearly 70 percent out of over 400 hotels in Mandalay region will reopen upon completion of the inspection process.



Nepal: The government of Nepal has announced new protocols on the lockdown restrictions and as per the new modality of lockdown relaxation, private vehicles can operate under the odd-even number system in 73 districts, except Sarlahi, Rautahat, Kapilvastu and Dailekh districts, from 5 am to 10 pm. The government has restricted the movement of people and vehicles from 10 pm to 5 am to control the spread, as part of its strategy to gradually ease the lockdown in different stages.



Liberia On 22 June 2020; the President of Liberia made a new proclamation; he extended the State of Emergency (SoE) to 21 July 2020 considering increases in COVID-19 infections and deaths in the country. This extension will provide the opportunity for the Government to re-examine its response strategy to the COVID-19 pandemic and thereby better secure and protect the people and residents of the Republic of Liberia against this dreadful scourge. All measures that were put in place on 05 Jun 2020 will remain the same, except that all people are now required to be indoors by 6.00 pm instead of 9.00 PM.

Sierra Leone: On 23 June, the President of Sierra Leone eased COVID–19 lockdown restrictions that were imposed to curb the spread of the virus. President Julius Maada Bio said the country has seen high recovery and discharge rates, lower infection rates, and proportionally lower death rates.

He had declared that the curfew is now adjusted to the period between 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. He announced the lifting of the ban on inter–district travel starting on Wednesday, 24th June. He also mentioned that once all measures are in place, commercial flights will resume soon. Additionally, the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary School, in consultation with stakeholders, has developed comprehensive health and safety guidelines for teachers, pupils, and communities for the purpose of providing a safe environment for students who are taking public examinations.

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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