

Number of Cases (as of 5 August 2020)

246,674 cases, 3,267 deaths and 141,750 recoveries officially reported. (Population: 165 million)

Source: Directorate General of Health Services, Bangladesh

Country Overview

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) extended restrictions on public movement until 31 August, including a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew. Wearing a mask while outside is mandatory, as well as maintaining social distance and following other health guidelines. Offices are allowed to open, providing guidelines are followed. Shops must be equipped with temperature scanners, handwashing facilities and hand sanitizers. Educational institutions will remain close till further notice.

The government is focusing on restoring regular health services and treatment. To ensure regular health care services, mental health services and better information flow, 10 new monitoring committees have been formed until further notice.

Gaps and Challenges

Since June 2020, Bangladesh has experienced one of the most prolonged monsoon floods in decades. In the flood-affected areas, World Vision operates 18 long-term development programs and grant-funded projects, where an estimated 4.5 million people are at risk. The safety and well-being of over 36,000 children who are directly engaged in our programmes is a major concern.

World Vision started new Area Programmes (APs) in five sub-districts this year. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the APs struggled to complete planning, community engagement and community summits. Plans are in place to complete these activities within the extended timeline through a customised approach.



““I breastfeed my child because I know it will help her to be immune to coronavirus.””

— Purobi Rani, age 28.

Lessons Learned, Best Practices and Innovations

World Vision and Start Fund, UK Aid recently reached 1,556 flood-affected vulnerable families with cash and hygiene kits support. A total of 131 families with a person with a disability received an additional 1,000 BDT cash grant. Staff from World Vision and our partner organisation, Unnayan Sangha, travelled to the remotest areas of Jamalpur district to support the most affected people as quickly as possible. To ensure accountability and transparency, local government officials were engaged in the beneficiary list validation and distributions. Social distancing and health guidelines were maintained during the distributions, and COVID-19 prevention messages disseminated via posters and leaflets.

Advocacy

A reported 34.7 percent of parents surveyed physically punish their children as a form of discipline; 80 percent of children surveyed reported being unhappy at home during COVID-19 lockdowns, according to World Vision's recent report, [COVID-19: Rapid Impact Assessment Bangladesh](#).

To create awareness and influence policymakers about child rights, the Joining Forces Bangladesh NGO network, of which World Vision is a member, initiated a series of virtual talk shows on Facebook entitled “Child Rights Now: Reality During COVID-19.” World Vision conducted a live Facebook session featuring experts on psychosocial and mental health. Members of our child and youth forums participated.

Sixty World Vision frontline staff members were trained recently on psychosocial mental health first aid, equipping them to identify and report any kind of child abuse and neglect, and provide support as required.

COVID-19 Emergency Response | Highlights



2.14 million
beneficiaries reached



776,903
children reached



150,000
registered children



USD 15 million
spent for the response

Note: Cumulative totals to date unless otherwise noted.

OBJECTIVE 1: Promote preventative measures to stop or slow COVID-19 spread.



1,326,985
people reached with prevention hygiene information.



1,274,852
comprehensive hygiene kits distributed.



85,401
people received prevention materials (hand sanitizer, soap, masks).



62,651
handwashing supplies (soap, buckets) distributed.



2,235
community-level public handwashing stations established.



1,455
faith leaders engaged in disseminating prevention information.

OBJECTIVE 2: Support health systems and workers.



977,932
face masks distributed, including to health facilities, health workers and caregivers.



2,458
medical personnel provided with personal protective equipment in health facilities.



808
community health workers trained to provide community-based services.



767
health facilities assisted, including hospital, clinics.



552
disinfectant kits distributed to health facilities.

OBJECTIVE 3: Provide children and families with multi-sector support.



162,242
individuals receiving cash disbursements/ vouchers.



USD 13,260,386
total amount of cash/vouchers distributed.



151,483
people (children, families) reached with prevention information.



123,879
children supported with child protection programming.



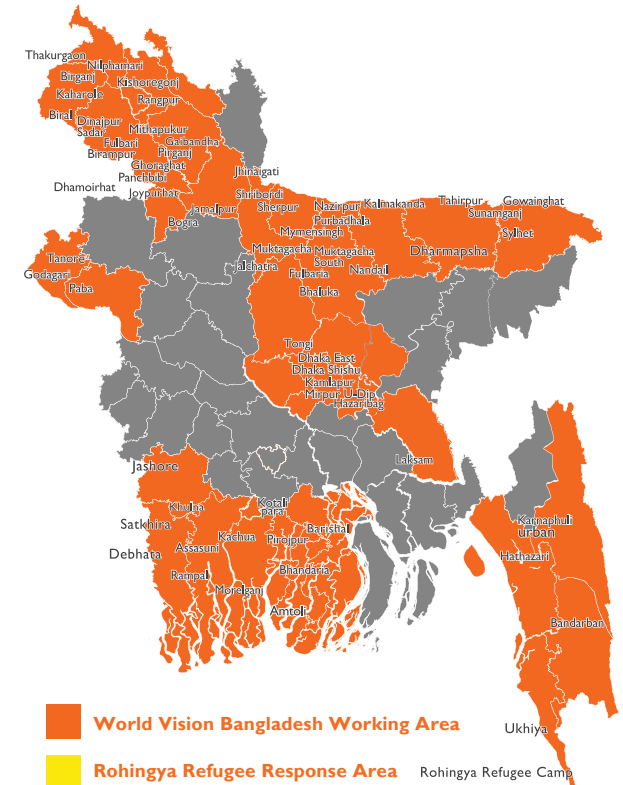
17,622
educational materials provided to support remote learning



15,271
people supported with food security assistance.



3,445
frontline actors trained on child protection programming.





“That night when my mother suddenly told me to get ready for my marriage, I fainted out of shock.” –Shoshi (not her real name), age 13.

Area Programmes

Child marriage incidents have increased by 1.8 percent in the midst of COVID-19, according to World Vision’s recent report, COVID-19: Rapid Impact Assessment Bangladesh. A reported 70 child marriages occurred in our operational areas between from March to July. Loss of income, school closures and lack of security are pushing marginalized parents to marry off their children before age 18.

During the COVID-19 crisis, faith leaders are helping to protect children from abuse, neglect and violence, including child marriage.

“I have noticed that child marriage has increased significantly during this pandemic,” says Safayet Hossain, 45, the imam of a local mosque in Bagerhat, who attended a recent World Vision training on child protection. “I have stopped a few such incidents and explained to the parents that child marriage is not religiously justifiable, and is illegal in our country. Child marriage destroys children’s potential lives, so everyone should refrain from giving children in marriage.”



World Breastfeeding Week: Exclusive breastfeeding gives infants a healthy start.

Rohingya Refugee Response/ Cox’s Bazar Special Zone

COVID-19 threatens to roll back gains on nutrition in the Rohingya community as access to food supplies, income and diverse diets becomes more limited. During World Breastfeeding Week (1-7 August), World Vision and other Nutrition Sector members are calling for action to scale up nutrition interventions.

Even before the pandemic, over 40 percent of Rohingya households did not eat frequently enough and lacked food diversity. A reported 11 percent of Rohingya children under age 5 suffer from acute malnutrition that threatens their development, growth and even survival.




Progress on reducing malnutrition has been made since the refugee crisis began in 2017. However, COVID-19 comprises the fragile gains made over the past three years.

Breastfeeding helps build children’s immunity and leads to healthy growth and development. World Vision promotes exclusive breastfeeding at its three malnutrition prevention and treatment centres where 745 children on average each day come to receive monthly supplementary food support.



Hanifa, a savings group leader, received a loan that helped her restart her grocery business.

Nobo Jatra—New Beginning USAID’s Development Food Security Activity

-  12,864 poor and extremely poor households received multi-purpose cash grants.
-  10,000 households and 1,115 community health service points received sanitation kits
-  44,208 participants continue to receive biweekly messages on COVID-19 and gender-based violence prevention.
-  2,622 pregnant and lactating women and 38 ultra poor graduation programme participants received cash support through mobile money transfer to help families to have nutritious, balanced diets, especially as household incomes are reduced due to COVID-19.
-  Village savings and lending associations (VSLA) supported by Nobo Jatra are playing a critical role in reviving local economies in southwest Bangladesh. Women are taking loans to cover immediate household needs and to invest in livelihoods damaged or lost by the double impact of COVID-19 and Cyclone Amphan. Nobo Jatra has partnered with Dream Save to pilot a digital financial app with 100 VSLA to help improve performance and efficiency.

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