

Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

1. More tests are being carried out, but the number of tests still does not provide an accurate picture of the total number of infections. Additionally, the screening process for testing remains quite limited, leaving out anyone who is in the early onset stage of the disease. Stigma and misconceptions about the disease and quarantine measures are also continuing to deter people from reporting symptoms. It is important now to get community data to detect emerging hot spots and have a wider array of test options for people around the country.

2. We are in the 14th day of economic shutdown. Large areas in the cities and hotspots continue to be under lockdown, with the police as well as individuals and organisations enforcing the rules. People living in rural areas are shopping at local markets, which have reduced hours and increased hygiene measures, while people living in urban areas are increasingly reliant on delivery services. People who were already living in vulnerable situations, including women, children and people with disabilities continue to disproportionately suffer.

3. A more rigorous lockdown has been imposed in Narayanganj, a confirmed virus hotspot. Hundreds of people took to the streets to protest and demand relief after the lockdown was imposed. The district had a total of 59 confirmed cases and six deaths as of 9 April 2020. Multiple other areas, including areas of Dhaka, have also been locked down.

4. BRAC conducted a rapid perception survey to understand the general level of awareness among 2,675 participants and clients of with low incomes about COVID-19, and the economic impact on their livelihood. No strict sampling frame was used for the survey. Questionnaires were collected by BRAC staff across all 64 districts of Bangladesh between March 31 to 5 April 2020. The key findings are in the report attached.

5. Working in close coordination with the government and community-level organisations, BRAC has now provided 87,863 families with BDT 1,500 (USD 18). This support has focused on people who were already living in vulnerable situations, and have been affected particularly hard by the shutdowns; workers in the informal sector still living in urban areas, people living in ultra-poverty in the host communities surrounding the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, and people living in the most remote areas of Bangladesh. We will increase this coverage through the funds raised in the current appeal.

BRAC is prioritising those who are most vulnerable - the elderly, pregnant or lactating mothers, people with disabilities, women-headed households, people living in ultra-poverty and those who did not receive support from any other sources.

6. We have launched a [one-stop data portal with a map of urban slums](#) across Bangladesh to improve coordination across relief efforts between individuals and organisations, reduce duplication in distribution and maximise resources.

Please see details on the current situation and our work in the [attached situation report](#).

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