

Economic Impact of COVID-19 and Way forward for Bangladesh

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Study details



2,317 respondents



Rural: 68%



Urban: 32%



Female: 63.5%



Male: 36.5%



Districts covered: 64
2 upazilas from each district



Female-headed households: 19%

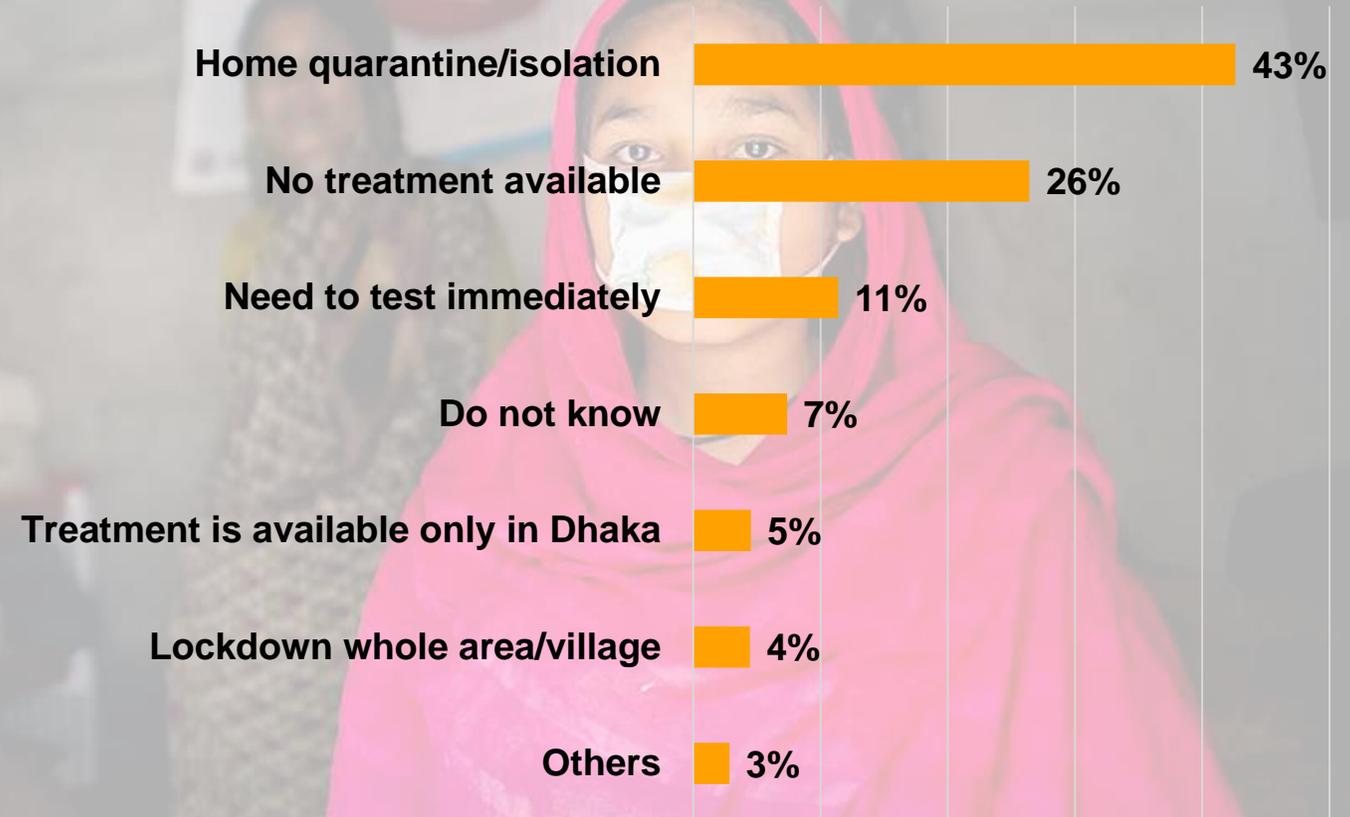


Survey data collection: 9-13
May 2020

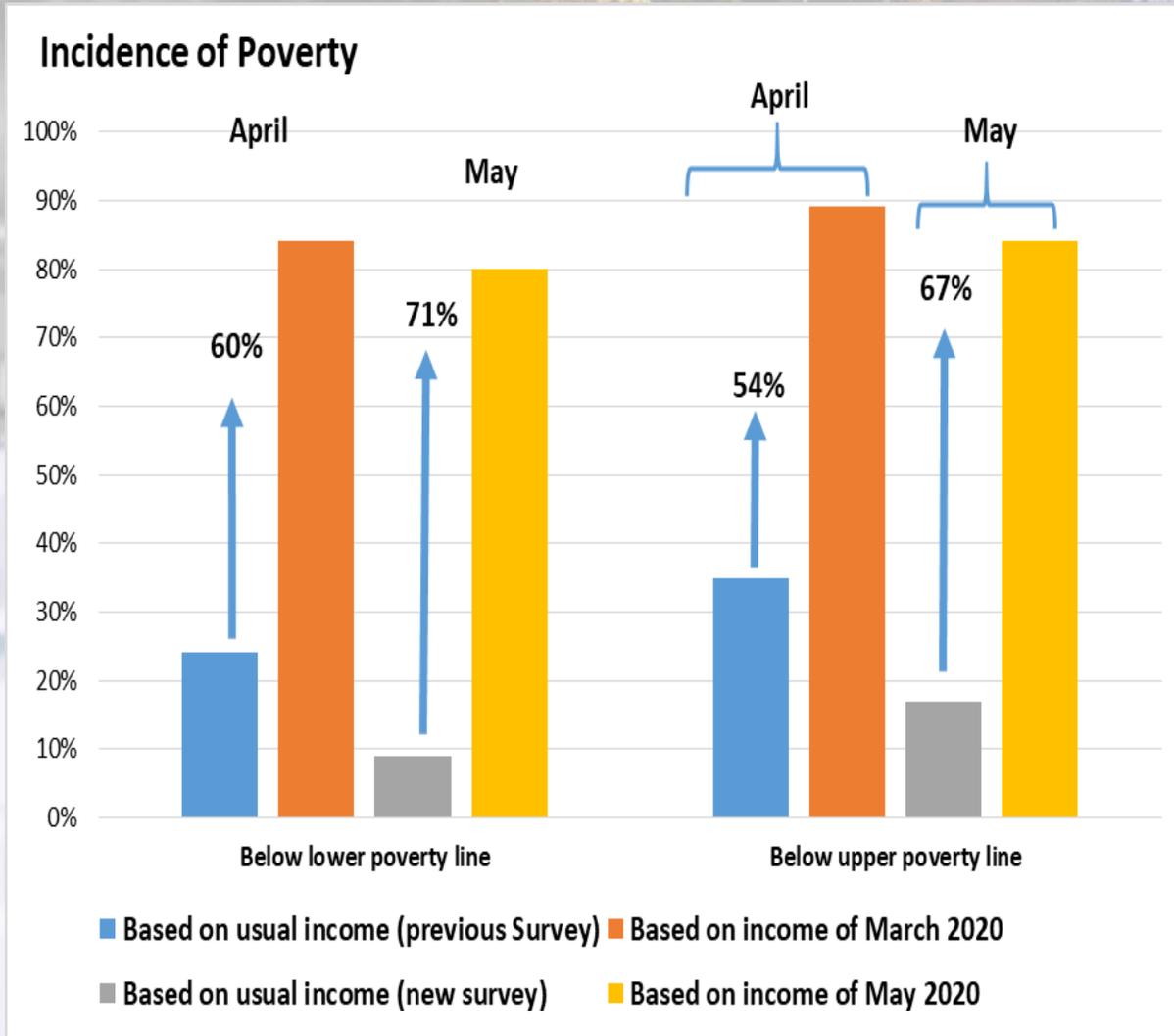
COVID19 awareness improved but misconception prevails

- Knowledge on virus prevention measures improved from 64% to 76%
- 78% respondents express self-assurance of not being infected or having less chance
- 79% respondents think there is a chance of massive infection in Rohingya camps
- 37% respondents think district level government hospitals can provide adequate treatment to coronavirus

Perception on Treatment



Impact on income and the rise of “new poor”

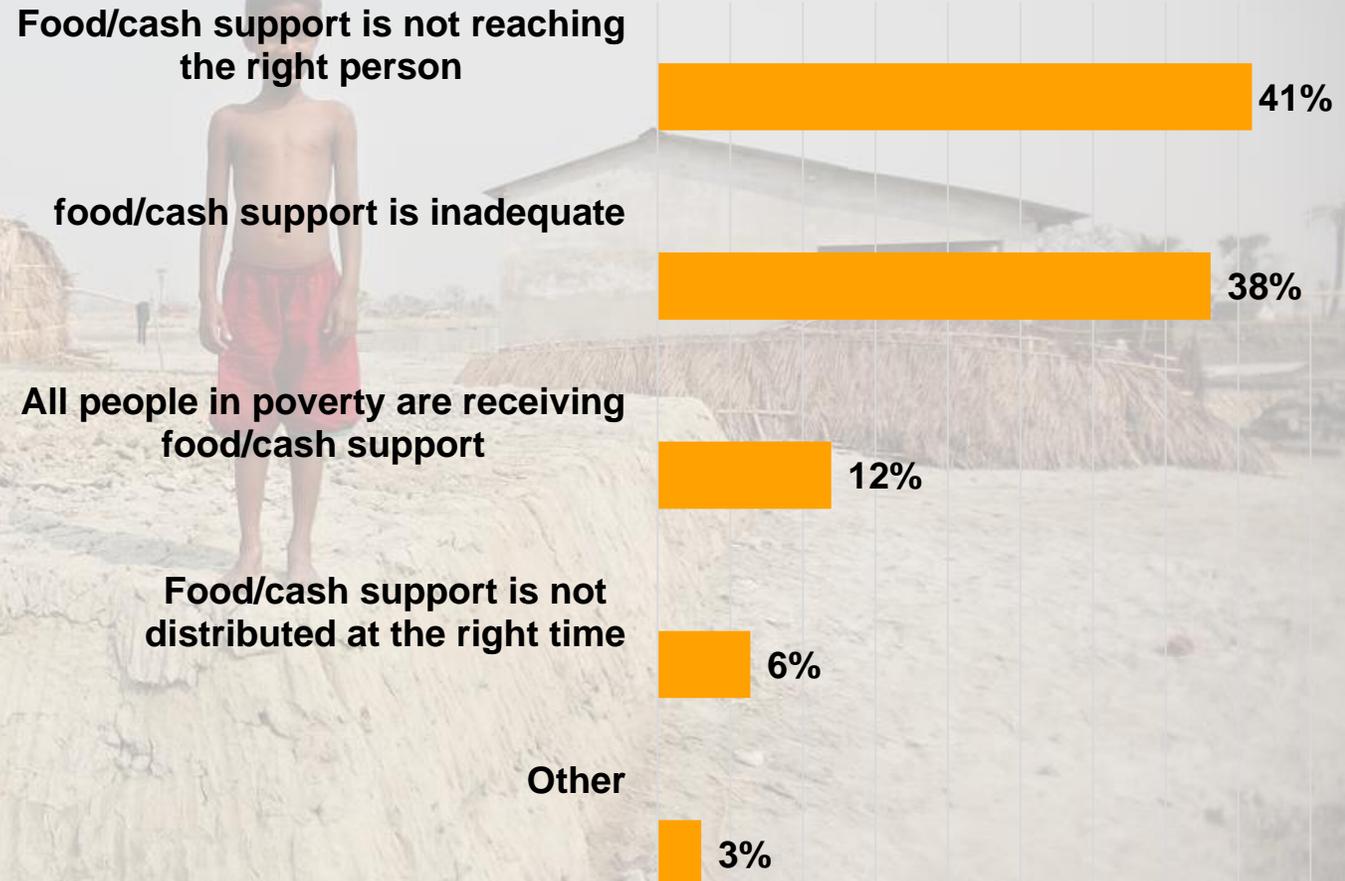


- 95% households experienced income loss
- Average household income reduced to 76% in 2 months of pandemic
- 51% households' income reduced to almost zero
- 28% respondents turned into economically inactive
- 62% wage earners experienced job loss
- 3% households did not have any food, 16% had only 1-3 days' food, 22% households have 30 or more days' food

Is humanitarian assistance reaching the right hands?

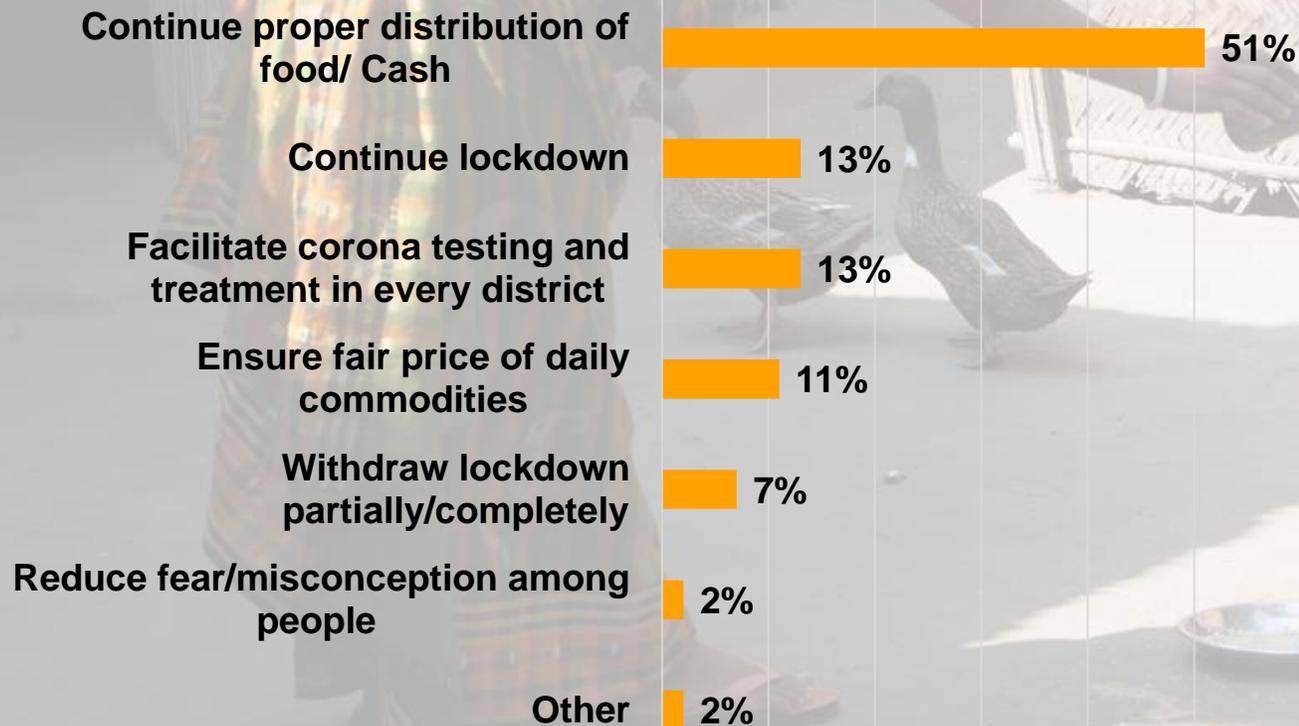
- 63% respondents opines government measures are adequate or somewhat adequate
- 91% respondents rated role of police and law enforcement agency as good or very good
- Only 14% households received food/cash assistance (11% in rural, 21% in urban)
- 69% households in need received no form of assistance
- 6% non-poor received food/cash assistance
- 22% of social safety net beneficiaries faced disruption of getting payments

Perception about government assistance



Road to survival...

Expectations from the government



- 19% households will not be able to continue to bear living expenses for more than seven days
- 26% households do not know how they would cope with the situation
- One-fourth households would depend on savings/selling assets
- 19% respondents expressed their hope that government (or other charities) will extend support

The economic distress has a gender face

- **Female-headed households experienced 80% income loss, while male-headed households experienced 75%**
- **Income of 57% of female-headed households reduced to almost zero, compared to 49% of male-headed counterparts**
- **Need for food/cash support or humanitarian assistance is greater in female-headed households (90%)**
- **72% women reportedly received no government support, compared to men (62%)**
- **21% female-headed households reported their inability to manage living expenses beyond a week, compared to male-headed households (18%)**
- **30% female-headed households do not know how to come out of the crisis in future, compared to 25% of male-headed households who feel the same**

Violence against women

- 11% respondents reported a higher incidence of VAW during this period
- 58% respondents who reported increased VAW incidence opined that this increase is due to the poverty intensified by the pandemic

Policy recommendations

1. Particular focus should be given to households with greater vulnerability, such as women-headed households
2. Ensure increased awareness and compliance of health safety rules
3. Use a 'pro-poor' lens to review and implement the recovery and rehabilitation plans, and ensure stimulus packages or incentives reaching the right hands
4. Continue to provide support to the daily wage earners for at least three more months to recover from the setback
5. Ensure transparency in delivery mechanisms of food/cash support and stimulus packages; public-private partnership (PPP) can be adopted, such as cash transfer through mobile banking
6. Engage NGOs and CBOs to ensure right targeting of beneficiaries and establish a grievance redress mechanism; a database of the recipients can be developed and made open to avoid duplication
7. Introduce more aggressive cash transfer schemes and provide incentives using blanket coverage in most poor and affected districts
8. Create new job schemes and engage them in food distribution/cash transfer and management during and post-COVID recovery phases



Thank you