



COVID-19 pandemic and the situation of informal sector workers of Bangladesh



Impact of pandemic on informal sector workers

The study made an attempt to understand the changing dimension of the pandemic impact on the lives of the vulnerable informal sector workers and suggest for socio-economic recovery.

METHODOLOGY



We conducted telephone based surveys in **two** phases with workers from **18** informal sectors.



Phase 1

Month **July-August**

Respondents **2,035**

Male **1,042**

Female **993**

Phase 2

Month **September**

Respondents **770**

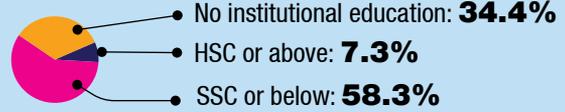
Male **384**

Female **386**

Area



Education



KEY FINDINGS

Vulnerabilities increased



Income reduced by **61%**.



Purchasing power and food expenditure reduced by **10%**.



50% borrowed money to survive.



Mental health of **96%** workers deteriorated.



Financial tensions resulted in family stress for **62%** workers.



Only **43%** received any government or private support.

KEY FINDINGS

Income opportunities collapsed



57% workers could not go for work due to mobility restrictions.



52% became completely unemployed—more female workers (**58%**) than male (**48%**).



47% workers received either no or partial payment.

Situation improved a little during August



Income improved by **28%** in August compared to June.



86% resumed working.



63% resumed their previous position with less payment.

Support requirements changed with time



Cash grant

July–August

81%

September

74%



Work opportunity

32%

18%



Credit at easy terms

24%

14%



More than half of the workers think their income is still suffering due to the virus.



MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS



Develop a national database for informal sector workers to reach the most vulnerable during any emergency.



Bring the informal sectors under certain regulations to ensure their labor rights.



Involve the MFIs more prominently in the efforts of recovering the informal workers from the economic shock induced by the pandemic.