



Urban Food Assistance enters 2nd phase

BRAC and WFP, with the support from USAID, concluded a 10 month-long digital cash aid for 7,500 selected households in Sattola and Kallyanpur low-income communities under Dhaka North City Corporation. The households received Tk 3,000 (USD 35) and awareness messages about balanced diet and nutrition during this time as a long-term support.

In Sattola, participants also received 25% cashback while purchasing BDT 3,000 (USD 35) worth food items, and in Kallyanpur, 37.5% cashback while purchasing BDT 2,000 (USD 24) worth food items. Earlier, 37,907 COVID positive patients with mild and severe COVID-19 symptoms have received nutrition food baskets at their doorsteps for three consecutive months.

This food assistance in April extended to Duyaripara and Bhashantek low income communities to provide 3,267 participants with special needs (people with disabilities; elderly people; widows; and pregnant and lactating women, eligible for government's social safety net). For the second phase, Embassy of Sweden, Dhaka extended financial support to continue this food assistance service til January 2022.

Sattola fire survivors receive emergency aid

Things went well in Sattola before a sudden fire engulfed around 500 shanties' 720 households on 7 June, 2021.

To support the affected households, the next day BRAC's urban development programme provided essential packages with kitchen utensils to them. In addition, 20 pregnant and lactating mothers received BDT 1,000 (USD 12) each in cash. Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Md Atiqul Islam and higher officials of the programme were present during the relief distribution.

On 9 June, USAID also joined the response activities and jointly with UDP distributed 2,700 kg of biscuits to the affected households.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller, WFP Country Director Richard Ragan, Councillor of Ward 20 Md Nasir, BRAC Executive Director Asif Saleh, BRAC Director Dr Md Liakath Ali, and Associate Director Mohammed Abdus Salam were present among others.

Young minds pitch idea for street vendor management

A team of 15 young minds got together on 9 June in Dhaka to formulate a better street vending policy under the BRAC-DNCC Sustainable Street Vendor Management project.

It aims to advocate for proper street vending management in Dhaka and support the government formulate a policy with the youth's inputs.

Maqsd Hashem, Chief Town Planner, Dhaka North City Corporation; Dr Md Liakath Ali, Director, Climate Change Programme and Urban Development Programme, BRAC and Mohammed Abdus Salam, Associate Director, BRAC Urban Development Programme were present in the session.



Young people share innovative ideas



Relir Bagan A safe, common space developed by the locals

Relir Bagan Community in Khulna City Corporation is now a safe living space for people displaced by climate change impacts. Khulna, a coastal district in Bangladesh, frequently deals with cyclones, storms, floods and water-salinity. Due to these natural disasters, people move out of their ancestral lands and need to relocate to other informal settlements, where basic amenities are inadequate.

Relir Bagan is one such community. BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP) started working there in 2019. For an integrated and planned outcome, the community people prepared a community map themselves by identifying the design and placements for roads, tube-well points, water bodies, houses, open spaces, etc. They also prepared a Community Action Plan (CAP) to ensure effective usage of the open space for women and children.

UDP provided technical support to sketch out a play zone for children during the community mapping. This play zone can be used both as a common space for women to hold their daily activities and a safe recreational garden for the children and the community people.

The community people, Khulna City Corporation and BRAC together worked for developing this safe space. The community people, including women, participated as mason in building their dream community in a cost-effective way, after attending construction workshops arranged by the UDP team.

Relir Bagan is now a relaxing space for the community people to take a small break from their busy lives. Multi-stakeholder engagement in developing this place has given them a new safe neighbourhood.

Making city clean & green through Ludo

To promote the concept of green and clean city, behavioral change of urban dwellers is a prerequisite, which can be ensured through raising awareness.

Most of the urban inhabitants in Bangladesh are unaware about the impact of their day-to-day activities on the environment degradation, such as discarding plastic bags, littering roads, cutting trees, blowing horns loudly etc.

So in preparation to build awareness about turning the city green and clean, the UDP Khulna team designed an "Awareness building Ludo" game and distributed it among young groups of low income communities. In any society young people are drivers of normative or behavioral change.

By playing this game, youths would learn dos and don'ts for urban life to make it habitable.





Mosquitocide sprayed in LIC to contain Dengue menace

5,598 people receive healthcare

With the rising number of dengue patients, Integrated Rehabilitation Programme for Health Services (IRP Health) deployed 30 temporary workers to destroy mosquito breeding sources by cleaning, spraying and fogging in the project areas. The community health workers have also been raising awareness on preventive measures, symptoms and treatment.

In response to scarcity of primary healthcare services for people living in urban informal settlements in marginalised situations, IRP Health is providing outpatient (OPD) services through three Urban Health Care and Diagnostic Centres (UHC&DC) at Mirpur, Mohammadpur and Saidpur, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting from January this year, so far 5,598 community people have received OPD services and 1,063 people received eye care services from these centers.

Programme Organisers are raising health awareness and working to establish a referral linkage between the community and tertiary level hospitals through preliminary screening. 169 patients have been referred from UHC&DC to public and private hospitals.

In this quarter, 40,000 stickers, 60,000 posters, 40,000 leaflets were distributed in the project areas among the community people to raise awareness on health and hygiene practices for containing COVID-19.

30 capacity building workshops for Community Development Organisers (CDO) and 20 youth group focused campaigns were also arranged. The project is now facilitating COVID-19 vaccine registration for the project participants.

Strengthening WASH facilities for people living in urban informal settlements

A baseline survey in June 2021 revealed that community people are suffering due to poor health, water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in UDP's working areas in Mirpur, Mohammadpur and Saidpur. The survey was conducted in collaboration with James P. Grant School of Public Health.

To provide community people with safe water and improved sanitation facilities, in partnership with Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and local government institutes, the Integrated Rehabilitation Programme for WASH Services (IRP WASH) constructed 5 community toilets, renovated 40 existing toilets, constructed 18 bathing stations and installed 5 water points there.

Amid the surge of COVID-19 infection rate and subsequent lockdown, IRP WASH has also distributed 21,000 awareness stickers and leaflets, installed 36 message boards and organised different colourful campaigns to create awareness on health and hygiene behaviour and promote hand washing practises among the community people.

In this quarter, capacity building training sessions on WASH were arranged in all 51 Community Development Organization (CDOs). Community people were equipped with knowledge to execute the Community Action Plan (CAP). UDP also organised an advocacy workshop with the newly elected Mayor Rafika Akter Jahan and councillors of Saidpur municipality on 6 May 2021.

In addition, World Environment Day was celebrated on 5 June, 2021 with a colorful rally marching the major roads and streets of the community, where 400 people from local councils and communities participated.



ERMG-IED co-creates home-based daycare model

In partnership with the Institute of Educational Development, UDP has co-created a daycare model to explore the feasibility of establishing home-based daycare facilities in RMG workers' living communities.

The design is such that working mothers can drop their children in a house with a babysitter who usually takes care of five-seven kids together for an affordable fee. Through a day-long orientation programme in Tongi, project staff equipped 15 daycare facility providers on various child development techniques, child psychology, play-based pedagogy and toys for their facilities.

Three One Stop Service Centers (OSSC) of the ERMG project are also running simultaneously to improve the wellbeing of RMG workers and community people. The project team has also been actively engaging and advocating to different sector actors to ensure smooth operation of the project activities. MoUs with 24 RMG factories were renewed during this time as a part of service delivery collaboration continuation.

Research and Advocacy

Meanwhile, a study titled "Need Assessment of the Laid off RMG Workers/ Employees in Savar, Tongi and Gazipur during COVID-19" was conducted by the UDP team to explore the status of lay off RMG workers and



employees to understand their needs and vulnerabilities due to the job loss. In partnership with LightCastle, the ERMG project conducted the "Effectiveness Study and Business Case ERMG Project" that explored different findings and crafted appropriate business strategies and business models for sustainability.

BRAC UDP has joined ILO led better work Bangladesh initiative to reduce gender-based violence at workplaces. Besides, a meeting was held on 27 April with DANA fintech Ltd and ERMG management team members to share digital financial dealing methodology through using software in future.

BRAC-DNCC coordination meeting held

BRAC UDP and DNCC arranged the half yearly coordination meeting virtually on 2 April, 2021. DNCC CEO Selim Reza was present as the chief guest, while UDP Director Dr. Md. Liakath Ali, Associate Director Mohammed Abdus Salam and regional BRAC staff were present. UDP informed DNCC about different ongoing activities of the programme to combat COVID-19's impact in DNCC's jurisprudence.



UDP works for waste workers' wellbeing in Dhaka city



An elderly woman receives primary healthcare at a health camp held recently

UDP in partnership with the Coca Cola Foundation is working with the waste collectors of 13 low-income communities under Dhaka North and South city corporations to develop a model for their safe life and livelihood. Five community service centres (CSCs) have been established at Korail, Kallyanpur, Bhashantek, Shahidnagar, and Dhalpur and over 20 men and women waste collectors have been provided with awareness sessions on safety and health hygiene in these centres.

From April to June 2021 quarter, waste collectors of these areas have also participated in 11 community level orientation sessions and 13 Community Action Plan (CAP) meetings. 20 waste collectors' primary groups and 20 waste collectors' children groups have also been formed in the working areas. Further, the project participants received 7,000 masks, 7,000 hand-sanitizer bottles and 30,000 soap bars to maintain proper hygiene.

In 10 health camps, around 1,600 community people received free medical checkup and medicines. To facilitate hand wash and hygiene practice, construction of 5 WASH blocks is currently undergoing.

ARISE works for protecting people from COVID-19

ARISE Responsive Fund is providing services to marginalised and overlooked urban dwellers in Shyampur under Dhaka North City Corporation, Bazekazla under Rajshahi City Corporation and Greenland under Khulna City Corporation to ensure that their basic health and hygiene needs are met and maintained. With the rising cases of COVID-19, 25,000 reusable masks in these communities have also been provided.

Through the primary group and CDO meetings, community people have been equipped with the knowledge to practice health hygiene protocols and regulations. More than 200 community people in Shyampur received free health checkup and medicines through health campaigns in June. UDP under the project also provided technical support to 227 people in vaccine registration at the government's site.



Low-income community people get the opportunity of handwashing regularly

COVID-19 Prevent, Protect and Prevail

Being a frontline organisation, BRAC UDP in April to June quarter has continued diverse activities to contain COVID-19 across the 20 working cities with the support of local government, community people, donar agencies

37,000 hygiene products distributed
 29,461 people provided with primary healthcare
 13,000 reusable masks distributed
 10,850 HH receive cash aid
 10,500 leaflets, sticker, poster distributed
 1,000 people registered for vaccination

Advocacy and Communication Campaign on COVID-19 launched



A project participant receives hygiene kit in Chattogram

An Advocacy and Communication Campaign on COVID-19 has been initiated in Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) and Gazipur City Corporation (GCC) areas in collaboration with International Labour Organisation (ILO). In Chattogram, CCC mayor Md. Rezaul Karim inaugurated the inception meeting.

To accelerate the project activities staff recruitment and orientation have been completed. PGO and CDO members have also been oriented through several training sessions and meetings. In addition, during this quarter, 20 hygiene products, 3500 reusable masks, 18,000 leaflets, stickers and posters were distributed among the target people.

22,000 community people in the two cities were also sensitised on COVID-19 related information through courtyard sessions, tea stall meetings, audio-miking, video shows, SMS, Voice SMS and household visits.

Food system summit dialogue held

COVID-19 has revealed the presence of inequities and fragilities of the food systems in Bangladesh. In a virtual Food System Summit Dialogue held on 1 June, 2021, BRAC, Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia, Food and Agriculture Organization, Bangladesh, Dhaka North and South City Corporation emphasised the importance of setting up a model in Dhaka to ensure safe and secured food availability for consumers and to raise awareness among food vendors on food safety.

Md Atiqul Islam, Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation expressed interest to jointly work with NGOs to

set up this model in Dhaka during the session.

Dr Md. Liakath Ali, Director, Climate Change Programme, BRAC and BRAC International, and Urban Development Programme, BRAC emphasised on the importance of good governance of street food vending regulations and the involvement of regulatory bodies like the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions and Consumers Association for ensuring food safety.

Referring to BRAC's support to low-income communities with vegetable seeds during the

pandemic, he also mentioned that urban agriculture can be a good option for ensuring food security for the people living in urban informal settlements.

Ahead of the UN Food Systems Summit of September 2021, this dialogue initiated the discussion on building a sustainable urban food system in Dhaka city. Multiple BRAC programmes (Urban Development, Ultra-Poor Graduation, Gender Justice and Diversity, BRAC Dairy and Food Project), government and community-based organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders participated in the event.



Food Systems Summit Dialogue
Multi-stakeholder Food Dialogue, Envisioning a
Sustainable Urban Food System, Dhaka City
June 1st 2021 | Dhaka, Bangladesh



Rima stitches her own fortune

Rima runs the wheel of a sewing machine to run her family. She earns between BDT 5,000- 7,000 through it every month and supports her husband in managing their family of four.

Rima used to assist others in sewing for a daily wage of BDT 100 before. With her husband's limited earnings from his job as a garments factory worker, they struggled to meet family expenditure at Shahidnagar, a low-income community under Dhaka South City Corporation where they live.

In 2019, a UDP staff learnt her struggle and enlisted Rima for receiving livelihood support. With the



money, Rima bought her sewing machine and now earns more, independently.

With improved earnings, she can now afford to spend more for better nutrition, education, and clothing for her family.

Like Rima, BRAC in the years work as a catalyst to make people's own fortune overcoming many hurdles.

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