



## Situation Report of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Shariatpur and Madaripur District

Date: April 08, 2020

### General information

Particulars/Description	District	Up-ziala	Union and Municipality	Number of people
• How many people have entered your area of operation from countries outside Bangladesh since January 2020	Shariatpur	6	71	2838
	Madaripur	4	65	2600
• Has there been any deaths resulting from COVID-19 reported in your area? If yes, please specify	Shariatpur	6	71	3
	Madaripur	4	65	4*

Shariatpur and Madaripur districts are two major labour exporting areas of Bangladesh. Shariatpur and Madaripur are one of the most vulnerable area of the country for COVID-19 outbreak since there are a high number of people who have come from Italy in these districts. That is why, we have been passing alarming and dangerous situation and day by day it is rapidly deteriorating. Our neighboring Up-ziala Shaibchar in Madaripur district is the first lockdown area of Bangladesh. 1090 people in Shariatpur district and 1740 people in Madaripur district have been staying in home-quarantine, institutional quarantine and isolated. On the other hand, 414 contagion people in Shariatpur district and 848 contagion people in Madaripur district have finished their quarantine from March 01, 2020 to till now (most of the affected people are returnee migrants from EU countries and their family members). 3937 migrants people have returned from abroad in February 18 to March 18 in Shariatpur district. There are no diagnosis facilities in our project area. 2 affected people in Shariatpur district and 18 affected people is going Dhaka for better treatment. But huge number of service seekers is waiting for coronavirus test/diagnosis. 58 blood samples of Shariatpur district and 82 blood samples of Madaripur district is waiting for test/result of coronavirus in **Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), Dhaka** in this week. **Already there are 35 affected people under treatment in Madaripur district. Besides, 3 affected people in Schibchar Up-ziala of Madaripur district and 3 affected people in Naria Up-ziala and 1 affected people in Shariatpur Sadar Up-zila of Shariatpur district have died with COVID-19/COVID-19 symptoms.**

The spreading the coronavirus pandemic in project area has already affected by the poor people, distress women and children and increased their poverty. SODEP is adapting its response to the health crisis. SODEP's goal is to stand by the side of vulnerable individuals and poor people and people with disabilities. SODEP is fully prepared to assist the Local Administration in it's fight against coronavirus. Our staffs and volunteers are adapting their ongoing projects to protect community people from the coronavirus. **We, SODEP have been creating social awareness by the guideline of World Health Organisation (WHO) (What is coronavirus? How does COVID-19 spread? When you will suspect? How to keep yourself safe? How long is the incubation period and etc?) maintaining social distance and personal safety and security.**

Economic activities, production and cultivation process is rapidly going to be full shut-down. That is why poor people, distress women and children and especially people with disabilities have been getting worse situation and they have been facing mainly food insecurity and insufficient health services. So, within a short time it will make an unexpected massive disaster. The fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic is having profound impact on society and the economy, and it will also influence and shape organized local and regional crime and illicit markets.

Local Administration have been trying to solve the problems like: health services and necessary food assistance for needy people. But this initiatives are not sufficient.

We are following the pandemic situation and monitoring it regularly by our 7 branch/project offices with the assistance of local Civil Societies, CBO's, electric and print media, community people, local Administration and Local Health Department. We will publish situation report by half weekly basis. It will contribute to our next planning and strategy.



### Priorities of response

- **Enforcing home quarantine**

The returnee migrants who were asked to be home quarantined but they already been exposed to the people, resulting 57% of cases being locally transmitted and with WHO's current findings that infected individuals may be a symptomatic (not showing any symptoms) this can have an alarming multiplier effect in communities.

- **Protecting vulnerable population**

COVID-19 is especially harmful to two categories of individuals those above 60, and those who have a previous history of comorbidities. From the two cases of infected individuals over 60 years of age, both have already died from the infection.

- **Need for PPE in medical facilities**

The personal protective equipment (PPE) items have to be supplied at all districts instead of centralizing supplies at only two hospitals; Moreover, PPE has to be discarded after exposure to infected individuals this means supply will quickly run short when hospitals are overwhelmed.

- **Awareness and motivation of medical staffs**

A few reports have been covered in newspapers (The Daily Star) where nurses have refused to go near suspected patients of COVID-19; However, this may have resulted from the unavailability of PPE.

- **Livelihood of House Holds with low income**

Cases in newspaper are emerging where low income earners such as rickshaw pullers, day laborers and small shop owners are facing increased financial burden to get household necessities., as their incomes are variable and dependent on other people's needs which are subject to decrease significantly as a result of home quarantining or lockdown. Due to being unable to get out of the house, the working people are facing the worst crisis. Food crisis has started in many poor families. It is not clear how long the situation will continue like this. If the situation continues like this, there will surely be humanitarian catastrophe including food crisis.

### Local response

- Government authority imposed home quarantines for specific individuals, who are especially returnees from abroad.
- Loan installment repayment have been halted until 30 April in Shariatpur and Madaripur.
- Shibchar Up-ziala of Madaripur district is in officially lockdown from March 19, 2020.
- All kinds of business centers have been closed in Shariatpur and Madaripur district except food and medicine stores.
- In Madaripur and Shariatpur district, the Additional beds are made available at district and Up-ziala offices and institutional quarantine has been set up.
- The Madaripur district administration provided 30 kgs of rice to 3000 thousand families.

### Our initiatives

- SODEP has increased our staffs awareness on COVID-19 prevention and control through official circular.
- Awareness session are taking in the community.
- IEC materials developed (leaflets).
- Awareness raising through personal mail, web page circulation and facebook page.
- Hand wash and hand sanitizer distributed among the staffs and vulnerable community.
- SODEP also organized public transports disinfection campaign at Shariatpur town.

### Recommendation

In the meantime, food assistance for poor families with including COVID-19 protective equipment is an emergency needed in this area immediately.