

**A Quarterly Newsletter**

# TOGETHER

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*Photo: A Community Action Team (CAT) Member disinfectant spraying on the public bus.*

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**M Mainuddin Mainul**  
Country Director  
Good Neighbors Bangladesh

Greetings from Good Neighbors Bangladesh to our distinguished donors, stakeholders, civil society organizations, government, and all colleagues.

We are very happy to publish our 2nd quarter newsletter. This quarter was particularly important for us during this lockdown period. In this newsletter, we tried to describe some major activities in short.

Especially in rural areas, many families faced terrible problems due to lockdown especially those who are daily labor. Our team always works for them and they find out this group in our working areas for delivering 'emergency food support'.

As we all know there is no vaccine to overcome COVID-19, therefore our team is trying to raise awareness on COVID-19 as well as raising awareness on the flood. We tried to deliver some awareness messages through online and offline communications. We disseminated flood forecast messages and took initiatives to decrease damages and losses during the disaster.

I appreciate and are grateful to all of our colleagues, partners, stakeholders, donors, and well-wishers for their support during this pandemic.

## **GNB to the devastated families due to coronavirus with the token of love**



*Community Action Team (CAT) Members are delivering emergency food to the families those who stay away, Birganj CDP*

When people around the world are in misery and hardship situations due to the Corona pandemic, Good Neighbors Bangladesh (GNB) has stood by the helpless people through food and hygiene items to 14 CDP areas in 9 districts.

In this work, we have formed a **Community Action Team (CAT)** with the participation of people from different professions from the community to take effective steps. This team visit house to house for collecting information and making a list of real helpless people. They purchase food items and hygiene items by analyzing the market prices, although this task was not easy at all during this lockdown. They packaged gift items and provide tokens to the beneficiaries for distribution to maintain safety and social distance.

During this distribution period, we try to ensure everyone's safety as well as staff, community action team members, and beneficiaries. The principle of our work was **"Protection first, Actions Next-Senior takes care of the juniors"**. To emphasize the principle, we ensure personal protective equipment for all action team members as they have to move frequently.

Maintaining physical distance we have distributed emergency support as a token of love among 6,602 families. Most of them, our community action team ensured distribution by the door to door, to reduce the risk of coronavirus.

After getting the emergency food support most of the beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the GNB. As per the statement of Asiya Khatun (40), Ghatail, Tangail "I am very thankful to the GNB for their support. Our family condition is not so good; due to lockdown for coronavirus, we can't lead our life as usual and can't go outside from home for work. So no work, no money, and family economic condition are also very bad. During this pandemic situation by COVID-19, our days are going through a lot of hardship. GNB comes to us when it is really needed for us."

We will continue such types of support to the devastated families due to coronavirus. We are planning to provide emergency food support phase 2 & hospital equipment related to COVID-19, and COVID-19 sample collection booths soon.

## COVID-19 Relief Activities-1



৳ 4,778,388  
Total Expense



৳ 4,478,388  
GNB own fund



৳ 300,000  
Local Donation



6,602  
Families received  
food and sanitation  
items as gifts



9 Districts  
8 Upazilas  
covered



Preparation for the emergency food distribution,  
Ghatail CDP, May 2020



A beneficiary convey her gratitude to GNB for the support,  
Ghatail CDP/May 2020



## Activities in Picture



A group of beneficiaries and Community Action Team members [distributed among 500 families, total cost: 362,000/- tk by Ghatail CDP]



Community Action Team members handed over emergency food support to a beneficiary [distributed among 700 families, total cost 506,800/- tk by Shakhipur CDP]



Beneficiaries go back to their house after getting emergency support [distributed among 600 families, total cost 432,940/- tk by Birganj CDP]



A Community Action Team member handing over emergency food support to a beneficiary [distribute among 800, total cost 579,200/- tk by Sirajganj CDP]



Community Action Team members showing love sign with emergency food [distributed among 500 families, total cost 362,000/- tk by Pirganj CDP]



A group of beneficiaries and Community Action Team members [distributed among 300 families, total cost 217,200/- tk by Nalka CDP]



## Activities in Picture



A group of Community Action Team members with emergency food before the distribution [distributed among 200 families, total cost: 144,800/- tk by Kalai CDP]



A Community Action Team member handing over emergency food to a beneficiary [distributed among 450 families, total cost: 325,800/- tk by Dohar CDP]



A group of beneficiaries with emergency food [distributed among 592 families, total cost: 428,608/- tk by Gulshan CDP]



A group of beneficiaries and Community Action Team during the emergency food distribution [distributed among 580 families, total cost: 419,920/- tk by Mirpur CDP]



Community Action Team members handing over emergency food to a beneficiary [distributed among 250 families, total cost: 181,000/- tk by Nilphamari CDP]



A Community Action Team member handing over emergency food to a beneficiary [distributed among 330 families, total cost: 238,920/- tk by Meherpur CDP]



## Activities in Picture



*Community Action Team members handing over emergency food to a beneficiary [distributed among 400 families, total cost: 289,600/- tk by Bochaganj CDP]*



*A group of beneficiaries with emergency food [distributed among 400 families, total cost: 289,600/- tk by Moulvibazar CDP]*



*Some of the beneficiaries listening what to do and what not to do for stay away from coronavirus from our Doctor, Birganj CDP*



*Community Action Team members are going out for raising awareness on COVID-19 and distributing Emergency Food Support to the vulnerable families, Sirajganj CDP*



*Some members of Community Action Team, Gulshan CDP*



*A Community Action Team member informing about the COVID-19 for raising awareness during the emergency food distribution, Pirganj CDP*

## Community Response

**UNO of Birganj Upazila**



*Mr. Md. Yeamin Hossen  
UNO of Birganj Upazila*

The pandemic situation of COVID-19 happens in Bangladesh after the month of March 2020. As far as I know, GNB has been building awareness among the community people of its working areas before the pandemic situation occurs in Bangladesh. GNB takes the immediate initiative to provide food and hygiene support to extremely poor families and who lost their job and face food crises for their survival during the pandemic.

They have formed the Community Action Team (CAT) by the community people for providing sufficient care and support to its working area's community people especially underprivileged families.

They have distributed 1st phase emergency relief and 600 jobless and poor community people received this service. I have attended during the date of distribution.

I am very happy to attend those special emergency relief distribution program, I know about this organization and have seen before that this organization did a lot for the community people. They have done a lot of development work in Birganj.

I'm very much grateful to GNB and its authority for special support in this COVID-19 crisis. This kind of supports is very much-needed for the people of the community at this time.

I'm always trying to attend this kind of activity of GNB's and try to support them. I believe that GNB will continue to support the poor community in the COVID-19 crisis.

**UP Chairman of Kusumhati Union Parishad, Dohar**

A great initiative has taken by GNB during this crisis period named 'token of love distribution' among the vulnerable group who have lost their job due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a representative of this Union, I am so proud of their great intervention.

As a token of love, they have distributed emergency food and hygiene item among 450 needy families. The most important thing is, they are working for raising awareness of COVID-19. Which is very necessary for all to stay safe.

Not only this pandemic but also during every crisis period they respond first for the community well-being. I appreciate their hard work and dedication. Hope they will continue such types of social work for the community people.



*Mr. Md. Amzad Hossen Azad  
UP Chairman, Kusumhati, Dohar*



## Community Response

### A Beneficiary of Nilphamari CDP



*Mst. Anju Begum (40)*  
*A beneficiary of Nilphamari CDP*

This year the whole world suffers from COVID-19 and it's an effect on our daily life. Especially those who work as daily labor or low-income group like me.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, I was managed my family as usual but due to the lockdown, there is no work. No work means no money. So now it is very tough to bear my family expenses.

In this situation GNB stands beside us with their token of love, I know GNB always tries to do that when we face any difficulties. This time also no exception. I am very happy and grateful to them because they thought about us and provide us emergency food support during emergency time.

### A Community Action Team member of Mirpur CDP

The world has come to a standstill in this pandemic time. Many people have lost their jobs and reduced living standards. We GNB volunteers are working at the field level from the beginning of this pandemic.

I have worked in the field from the beginning to raise awareness on COVID-19 and participated in a special camp named "Community Based Corona Virus Preventive Action" organized by GNB after then we have worked for providing emergency food support.



*Md. Karim Ahamed*  
*A Community Action Team Member of Mirpur CDP*

Through the campaign, with other volunteers, I have conducted temporary handwashing activities, distributed leaflets, and sprayed disinfectants on public transport to make people aware.

As a member of the "Community Action Team," I have to conduct a survey for selecting the beneficiary for providing emergency support by GNB. During the time I have realized the poor people how much affected economically. So I think we all should come forward to recover this situation.

I am very happy to be a member of the Community Action Team. GNB always encouraged me to do good things for the community. I am grateful to the GNB to be a part of this organization.



## Community Response

*A field staff comment on how we complete the Emergency Relief Program 1*



*Mr. Raymond Quiah manager of Pirganj CDP handing over emergency food to a beneficiary*

COVID-19 has hit all countries & all sectors. It is very difficult to find a county or a sector which is not affected by COVID-19. Due to COVID-19 crisis, worldwide economic growth has fallen down. The GDP of Bangladesh has also fallen down badly.

Pirganj CDP is situated in the Northern part of Bangladesh under Rangpur Division, Thakurgaon district. Most of the people are here living under the poverty line. Their consciousness is not at a satisfactory level. To protect the people from the pandemic of COVID-19, Pirganj CDP arranged a huge number of awareness sessions in the community. Before getting the first case of COVID-19 positive in Bangladesh, we have arranged an awareness session for all sector's leaders of the community.

Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer and Senior Consultant of Gynae Department facilitated the awareness session. During assembly time of school, all core staff of Pirganj CDP went to different schools & took a session on COVID-19. For creating mass awareness, we have distributed leaflets & installed bill-board in different public places.

When Bangladesh Government declared general leave, all the mills-factories, private offices, institutions, hotels & restaurants, and even government offices almost closed in this pandemic situation of COVID-19. A huge number of people became jobless. They came back at home and day labors of the community could not go out for earning. That was a terrible situation in the community. Respecting govt.'s decision, we were at home during lockdown time.

Though we were at home, we were worried about the distress people of the community. Then we have planned how can we assist them in the crisis time. We negotiated with the UNO office and started our support in the community. 1st phase we supported 500 families from our fund. Through our relief programs, we supported food items, hygiene kits, to the community people.

When people were suffering from any disaster, we raised our helping hand for them. During the flood, when people lost their house, we supported more than one hundred houses in the Upazila besides food, health & hygienes kits supports. During the cold wave, we supported a blanket every year. Now in the COVID-19 pandemic situation, though we have the risk of life, we could not stay at home. We came out from home and stay beside our distress people of the community.

During lockdown situations, we faced lots of challenges like purchasing relief items, maintaining social distance during relief work, beneficiary selection, wearing PPE & other protective measures during hot temperature. We overcome all challenges. Community Action Team members & all responsible officials of the Government cooperate with us. We followed all safety measures properly. It is good to say that no one is infected from COVID-19 of our team and also our beneficiaries.

I am very happy to get the chance to work for this vulnerable group during this pandemic situation. Thanks all for supporting us.

**- Raymond Quiah, CDP Manager, Pirganj CDP**

## WFP-GNB BRAZH Project/Kurigram

*An initiative to decrease damages and losses during the disaster*



*A beneficiary of  
WFP-GNB BRAZH Project*

Forecast based financing (FbF) is a program that enables access to humanitarian funding for early action based on in-depth forecast information and risk analysis. The goal of FbF is to anticipate disasters, prevent their impact, if possible, and reduce human suffering and losses.

Based on flood forecast UNWFP provided FbF support through the 'GNB Building Resilience to Achieve Zero Hunger (BRAZH)' project for the targeted beneficiaries. Under the project total of 2,551 beneficiaries received support and Each beneficiary received Taka. 4,500/- through mobile bKash account.

The support ensured their food security during the disaster period and decrease the damages and losses. This support assisted to all targeted beneficiaries taking effective preparedness, shifting to a safe place, and fill up the food crisis during the disaster period. Forecast based financing to support efficient relief mechanism and strengthen the social protection program that will enable risk preparedness and risk reduction.



*Some beneficiaries of  
WFP-GNB BRAZH Project/Kurigram*

### *Flood forecast message dissemination*

Through Building Resilience to Achieve Zero Hunger Project flood forecast 5/10 days' message disseminated by project volunteer. Volunteer received conducive materials from union disaster management committee for being well equipped. Volunteer groups received messages from project office and also ffwc website and they started the disseminated flood forecast message as per plan.

They hired boat for char areas and usually used mega phone for loud speaker. In some cases, they also hired miky/large speaker for dissemination the message largely. Volunteer tried to cover the whole targeted areas for message dissemination. They helped the flood affected community people in the char areas to shift the safe places.

Considering the flood bulleting we started the disseminated flood forecast message second time in our targeted areas. Two times in this year flood forecast messages disseminated in the working areas. A flood warning message developed by radio chilhari and disseminated the message by mike in the both areas.



*Volunteers disseminate the message/Kurigram*



## UNICEF-GNB RER Project/Cox's Bazar

### Positive Parenting



*Awareness raising on positive parenting*

Rohingya Emergency Response Project conducted positive parenting sessions with the parents and adolescent's, through maintaining social distance we visit door to door in camp-14, 15, & 16. Aim to empower community people and trying to raise awareness on positive parenting during COVID-19 along with other work.

### No Mask & No Service and Hand washing demonstration

Rohingya Emergency Responses (RER) Project disseminating the message "No Mask; No Service" in the camp level as per Bangladesh Government & local government instruction, start to implementing all activities with the slogan and empowering the community leaders and adolescents to spread out the message in the community.

RER Project started to introduce how they can wash hands through the Hand Washing Demonstration session in the community.



*Demonstration on Hand Washing*



*Demonstration what we have to do during coughing*

## KOICA-GNB CHW Project/Bochaganj

### Emergency Food Support to 924 community people

KOICA-GNB CHW project has ensured emergency food support to 924 community people in 3 unions under Bochaganj Upazila, Dinajpur. The main objective of the event is to stand beside the poor people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each beneficiary got rice, pulse, oil, and salt as emergency support.



## KOICA-GNB CHW Project/Bochaganj

*Personal protection equipment distribution  
in Upazila health complex, Bochaganj*

During this COVID-19 pandemic situation, health personnel is working from the front line and GNB always congratulates these front line workers. Our GNB-KOICA CHW Project, Bochaganj has distributed 142 pcs PPE, 108 boxes surgical mask, 56 box Hand Gloves, and 234 pcs Hand Sanitizer to the Upazila Health Complex, Bochaganj for smoothly working on maternal neonatal child health service at the community level. During the distribution program Manager of the GNB-KOICA CHW project handed over the items to UHFPO of Bochaganj Upazila Health Complex.



*Hygiene materials handing over to UHFPO by GNB-KOICA CHW Project*

*24/SDC & SBA accommodation construction completed in Bochaganj*

KOICA-GNB CHW project has completed 24/7 Safe Delivery Center & SBA accommodation construction in June 2020 in the premise of Ishania & Nafanagar UH&FWC of Bochaganj.

These two 24/7 SDC will be equipped with proper medical equipment & medicine and the project's skilled midwife will provide MNCH service 24 hours with UH&FWC health staff. Through this health facility, 46,885 community people will be benefited directly & indirectly for better maternal neonatal child health (MNCH) service.



*24/SDC & SBA accommodation construction*

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