



TMSS has been responding rapidly and robustly to slow down the spread of COVID-19 in the community, since the threat emerged in Bangladesh in March 2020. Focusing mainly on COVID-19, this issue sheds some lights on the activities and initiatives taken by TMSS Grand Health Sector, TMSS HEM Sector and the organization as a whole to combat this pandemic. TMSS has been playing a direct and indirect role as a partner in various government activities as well as its own initiatives to response during this pandemic situation. A large workforce of TMSS spread across the country is assisting the local administration in implementing the steps of the government and is always ready to provide assistance. I would like to thank TMSS International Desk (TID) for taking such time worthy initiative. Deputy Executive Director-2, Chief of HEM Sector of TMSS and all other related personnel also deserve the acknowledgement for their valuable inputs to shape the newsletter better.

- Prof Dr. Hosne Ara Begum
(Ashoka Fellow & PHF, AKS)

Founder Executive Director, TMSS

TMSS Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic



COVID-19 Patient under treatment at TMSS Medical College and Rafatullah Community Hospital, Bogura, Bangladesh

Situation Overview

The panic of Corona Virus infection is grappling the world day by day. Since 31 December 2019 and as of 31 July 2020, 17,064,064 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) have been reported, including 668073 deaths.

(Source: WHO COVID-19 dashboard).

The virus was confirmed to have spread to Bangladesh in March 2020. Infections remained low until the end of March but saw a steep rise in April. In the week ending on 11 April, new cases in Bangladesh grew by 1,155 percent, the highest in Asia, ahead of Indonesia, with 186 percent. Since then the situation seems rising upward. As of 31 July 2020, 237661 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Bangladesh, including 3,111 deaths

(Source: Bangladesh Covid-19 Update by IEDCR).

TMSS & COVID-19

During this pandemic difficult time Prof. Dr. Hosne Ara Begum, the Founding Executive Director of TMSS, a charismatic and committed force change maker for the poor, has been working together with local authorities and communities tirelessly to support millions of people across all 64 districts of Bangladesh. Since the crisis was declared on 26 March, 2020 TMSS is providing food and medical care to alleviate the suffering of the poorest people to the best of its ability. The organization keeps in touch with its family members on a regular basis. TMSS has taken a bunch of initiatives for the welfare of the members and the community people.

TMSS stands by the vulnerable people during COVID-19



TMSS has been carrying out humanitarian service during COVID-19 crisis by inaugurated 'Manobota Store' (Humanitarian store for relief distribution) at its foundation office premises and providing various food items daily to the distressed people at free of cost.

TMSS has distributed food package to 43,998 families, 5 lac 10 thousand masks, 9.5 lac soaps, 5 thousand hand sanitizer, 8 lac leaflets developed on Covid-19 awareness. Starting from 1st April 2020 to till now, TMSS has been providing food packages to 100 vulnerable families daily and raising awareness on COVID-19. TMSS executives and staffs have been working tirelessly since the beginning of the pandemic to stand by the people under the direction of Executive Director Pro. Dr. Hosne Ara Begum.



Distribution of Food packages



Seeds distributing activities among the farmers in Bogura



Distribution of drinking water and soft drinks



Relief distribution by TMSS Tengra branch

TMSS is firmly fulfilling its responsibilities towards the society

TMSS staffs have been raising public awareness by distributing leaflets and announcing in the surrounding area. Also, under the microfinance program, TMSS has been keeping a close contact with the families concerned from each branch over the phone and explaining them the strategies to stay safe. All TMSS personnel have been alerted to ensure safe social distance and they are implementing it in the community so that community transmission of corona does not occur rapidly. The organization is also seriously practicing corona virus etiquette internally in its all offices and institutions. The employees are being provided with online counseling services and in other ways so that they stay safe from corona. Hand washing equipment has been placed at the entrance of the office for training on hand washing techniques in



Hand washing arrangement for common people



Mask and Leaflet Distribution



PPE Production by TMSS



Disinfection work on roads of Bogura

each of our offices and washing points have been kept effective at the gates of every office and installation. Disinfection work is going on regular basis in different roads and communities by sprinkling of bleaching powder mixed water on the advice of Civil Surgeon Bogura by trunk lorries. In April 2020 TMSS donated a percentage of their salary to the Relief Fund set up by Honourable Prime Minister. So far TMSS has distributed hand sanitizer, soap, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including over 2 million masks to healthcare workers, produced and supplied more than 50,000 PPE kits to the Department of Health of Bangladesh, Office of Deputy Commissioners, Bangladesh Police and Social Welfare offices etc, and has been an active organiser in the provision of awareness related to COVID-19 at grass-roots level across the country including supporting local authorities in community policing for monitoring home quarantine, isolation and social distancing rules.



Awareness building by installing board on wall around



Awareness Building and Social Engagement of TMSS staffs during COVID-19 situation



Awareness Building and Social Engagement of TMSS staffs during COVID-19 situation




Awareness Building and Social Engagement of TMSS staffs during COVID-19 situation

COVID-19 and TMSS Grand Health Sector (TGHS)

Under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Hosne-Ara Begum, Executive Director and Rtn. Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman, Deputy Executive Director-2, TMSS Grand Health Sector (TGHS) has started corona prevention and control activities as a part of quick responses to the current pandemic situation. Awareness campaign on Covid-19 to prevent unexpected deaths and large-scale community transmission started from March 2020 and has distributed 1,000,000 printed leaflets, handbill, poster, sticker etc. within the communities. Alongside mass awareness built on importance of social distancing, home quarantine, wearing mask, washing hands and benefits of practicing good health and hygiene among 475,000 group members through its 96-field level sub-centers across the country. Beside those efforts, TMSS Medical College and Rafatullah Community Hospital in Bogura, in coordination with the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) are



Awareness Building Campaign by THS

স্বাস্থ্যবিধি মেনে চলুন  সুস্থ থাকুন

‘প্রতিরোধ নিরাময়ের চেয়ে উত্তম’
করোনাভাইরাস প্রতিরোধে করণীয়

করোনাভাইরাস কিভাবে ছড়ায়

- করোনাভাইরাস মানুষের ত্বকমুখে সজেক্ষ পাঠায়
- মুখের বাতাসের Air Droplet এর মাধ্যমে
- আক্রান্ত ব্যক্তির হাঁচি-কাশির মাধ্যমে বা তাদের সংস্পর্শে আসলে

করোনাভাইরাসের লক্ষণ

- জ্বর (৯৯ ডিগ্রির বেশি)
- তকনো কাশি
- খালসক
- রাশি
- কারো কারো শরীর ব্যথা, সর্দি এবং সর্পিতে নাক বন্ধ হওয়া, পলা প্যাথা এবং ডায়েরিয়া হতে পারে।

করোনাভাইরাস সংক্রমণের ঝুঁকি রোধে করণীয়

১ প্রতিদিন ২ এবং পূজামুখের ভাবে সাবান পানি অথবা এ্যালকোহল সমৃদ্ধ হ্যান্ডস্যান দিয়ে কম পক্ষে ২০ সেকেন্ড যাবৎ হাত পরিষ্কার করুন।

২ যেখানে সেখানে কফ ও থুতু ফেলবেন না। হাত দিয়ে নাক, মুখ ও চোখ স্পর্শ থেকে বিরত থাকুন।

৩ হাঁচি-কাশির সময় টিস্যু অথবা কাপড় দিয়ে বা বাহুর ডোঁচের নাক-মুখ ঢেকে ফেলুন। ব্যবহৃত টিস্যু ঢাকনা মুক্ত ময়দার পায়ে ফেলুন ও হাত পরিষ্কার করুন।

৪ করোনাভাইরাসের সংক্রমণের ভীতি মনের মধ্যে বাড়তি চাপ, হতাশাবোধ হলে পড়া এবং আত্মকৃত হওয়া থেকে বিরত থাকুন।

৫ যতদূর সম্ভব ব্যক্তিগত পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্ন বজায় থাকা এবং বাহিরে বের হওয়ার সময় অবশ্যই মাস্ক ব্যবহার করুন।

৬ শরীরের রোগ প্রতিরোধ ক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধির জন্য পুষ্টিকর খাবার গ্রহণ করুন।

৭ একে অপরের নিকট থেকে কমপক্ষে ৩ ফুট দূরত্ব বজায় রাখুন।

৮ প্রতিদিন ২ শারীরিক ব্যায়াম করে শরীর কে সুস্থ রাখুন।

বায়ুভিত্তিক থাকুন

নিজেকে আলাদা রাখুন

জন সমাগম এড়িয়ে চলুন

টিএমএসএস হেলথ কেয়ার সেন্টার (টিএইচসিসি), গ্রাউ হেলথ সেন্টার, টিএমএসএস

Leaflet for Community Awareness on Corona Prevention



Awareness Building Campaign by THS

making a unique contribution to the country's mainstream health sector by providing treatment to corona patients. TMSS formed a Medical Mobile



Home Care Service by TMSS Mobile Medical Team

Team to facilitate and provide door to door medical treatment and advices in remote areas including to COVID -19 suspected patients; a dedicated ICU and COVID-19 Unit has been set up at the 1000 bed Rafatullah Community Hospital (RCH) in Bogura, a 200 bed isolation centre at Shajahanpur Upazilla of Bogura district, a 150 bed isolation centre in Bogura Sadar Upazilla and 20 bed isolation unit at Ulta Bhaban. TGHS has provided orientation/ training to its 144-field based health worker force (medical assistants/ paramedics & health workers) on corona prevention & control and also developed a pool of 352 trained medical professionals (69 doctors, 147 nurses, 18 technologists & 118 support service staff) at 750 Beds TMSS Medical College and Rafatullah Community Hospital (TMC&RCH) dedicated for Covid-19 treatment and management.



Providing training and motivational speech to TMSS front liner to fight against COVID-19

TGHS has established IT supported 4 institutional quarantine centers including 1 for own medical staff dedicated for Covid-19 management, Wi-Fi facility equipped 2 Covid-19 suspected ward (male-1 & female-1), 4 Covid-19 positive ward (male-2 & female-2) and 2 Covid-19 recovery ward (male-1 & female-1) including 10 Bed ICU with 2 ventilators in its TMC&RCH hospital, Bogura where 160 beds dedicated for Covid-19 patients.



Part of Isolation Center under TMC&RCH



ICU of TMC&RCH



COVID-19 Ward of TMC&RCH

Furthermore, a RT-PCR lab system has been inaugurated for testing Covid-19 patients in its TMC&RCH hospital on 30 May 2020 upon receipt of GoB approval in collaboration with the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), Bangladesh. Since then providing treatment to Covid-19 patients has been resumed. CBC, CPK, D-dimer all tests are being carried out regularly to detect Covid-19 cases. Until 20 July 2020, the health personnel of TGHS have performed 5733 Covid-19 tests, out of which 2138 (37%) positive cases were found. At the same time, 460 admitted Covid-19 patients received treatment (including uninterrupted oxygen therapy, ICU service and ventilation) from this hospital.



RT-PCR Lab of TMC&RCH

An integrated Triage System (physical, manpower, logistics, etc.) is in action at TMC & RCH hospital to ensure separate entry & exit, separate OPD for patients with fever, cough, sore throat etc. The hospital is also demarked as green, yellow and red zone as well as COVID and Non-COVID zone with hotline service to increase access to patients. However, the other services of TMC & RCH are open for 24/7 as usual.



Separate Entrance & Exit of Hospital



Covid & Non Covid Zone Demarcation (Red, Yellow & Green) at Hospital



Patient examine at OPD

TMSS HEM Sector Responding to COVID-19

In the Covid-19 situation, TMSS has taken multifaceted initiatives for the families related to TMSS and local community to prevent the spread of Corona virus infection. In order to mitigate pandemic risk/effects and accelerate the urban-rural economy, TMSS Health, Education and Micro finance (HEM) Sector has been engaged through 872 Branch Offices and working relentlessly for members, borrower, and the community people to deliver important messages, distributing essential health care items, food aid, seed, agricultural instruments and encouraging them to prevent this critical situation. It continues the following ongoing activities-

- ▶ Regular communication with borrower, member, and local authority through mobile phone or digital platform.
- ▶ Providing hand sanitizer, mask, soap among the members and community people and setting up hand washing basin to ensure health safety.
- ▶ Developing awareness through leaflet, poster, festoon, video documentary, media publicity and hygiene campaign.
- ▶ Providing necessary seeds, fertilizers, and advice to the members and community people for homestead gardening.
- ▶ Cultivating vacant land of TMSS branch offices.
- ▶ Disinfection activities are continuing in TMSS all offices/branch roads and the community area.
- ▶ Under the control of TMSS HEM Sector 100 Sub Clinics are providing regular medical care to the people. The health workers are building awareness among the community people by following government health rules.
- ▶ Regularly announcing through mike in the infected and non infected areas.

Mahmudpur adolescent club made 'soapy water'

'Soapy water' is a UNICEF recognized low cost safe hand sanitizer. Members of the North 'Mahmudpur Adolescent Club' has made this sanitizer and distributed among the marginalized people in order to prevent COVID-19. TMSS HEM Sector is implementing 'Adolescent Club' project with the assistance of PKSF. In the Northern part of Bangladesh, 3134 adolescents are educating in their respective area's community people about COVID-19 through 105 adolescent clubs. To make this sanitizer 1.5 liters water, 4 tea spoons detergent and a bottle will be needed. After washing hands with soapy water, one should wash hands with clean water.



Adolescent club members are making Soapy Water



Hand wash instruments set up in Voatmari Branch, Lalmonirhat

TMSS stands by the distressed people during this COVID-19 situation with its topmost capacity. To assist more to vulnerable community of Bangladesh during Covid-19, TMSS has launched a donation box naming <https://donation-tmss.org> by which international elites, individuals and funding agencies can contribute to mitigate the crisis of affected people.



It was a cherished desire for all of us to publish TMSS newsletter on regular basis. We are really grateful to the Executive Director of TMSS Prof. Dr. Hosne Ara Begum for her consent and it is indeed an immense pleasure to let you know that TMSS International Desk (TID) has taken an initiative to publish newsletter focusing different activities of the organization. The COVID-19 in Bangladesh is part of the worldwide pandemic of corona virus disease. The virus was confirmed to have spread to Bangladesh in March 2020 and the country is facing significant challenges in combating COVID-19. TMSS as one of the largest NGOs in Bangladesh has been responding enormously to combat this pandemic. The current issue hence is going to shed lights on TMSS activities to combat this pandemic situation. I would like to express my heartiest gratitude to all especially Deputy Executive Director -2, Rtn. Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman, PhD for his valuable feedback to make it well-shaped. Chief of Hem Sector Md. Sohrab Ali Khan deserves a special thanks for his support as well. I must acknowledge the efforts of TID team especially Md. Tariqul Islam, SZM, TID for his efforts to make it happen. TMSS newsletter will be published on quarterly basis through which the various activities/programs of TMSS will be acknowledged by the national and international stakeholders. We do expect a cordial cooperation from concerned all in this regard.

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