

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO COVID – 19

SIL
Bangladesh
helps
communities
achieve
their
development
goals
while
retaining
their
Ethno
linguistic
identities.

The whole world has been shaken by coronavirus and people are struggling to survive. In developed countries citizens are depending on their governments to support them during this long period. In Bangladesh many people find it hard to feed their families one meal a day, including those from indigenous communities who may already live under the poverty line.

Lathea Rita Kujur lives in a village called Pachapara in Northern Bangladesh. There are 6 people in her family and her husband is unemployed right now due to Covid 19. They are suffering from a shortage of food and have not received any relief or aid from NGOs or from the Government. The family are living mainly on boiled potatoes. Lathea said, 'I am afraid that if the situation goes on like this we will be in big trouble. I cannot imagine how long my children will survive without food. I guess after a few days there will be no option but to go out begging for food'. She also added that they might need to go to the local government officials for support and she doesn't know what will happen if they are denied it.

Shimon Murnu, lives in Goyarpur village, also in Northern Bangladesh. There are four members in his family. The younger son is in Class 9 and the elder son has finished studying. They usually work as day laborers in other people's crop fields. They also make and sell bamboo products. However, in the pandemic it is not possible for them to work in the fields. To sell bamboo products they need to walk from village to village, which they cannot do under the lockdown. As a result, their sources of income have been completely cut off. The elder son received some wheat as relief and they used this to make bread to eat once a day. At other times of day, they eat if they get food from others but if they do not they go hungry. In March, they got 1500 Taka (around 18 dollars) from BRAC (an NGO) which they have already used up on daily living costs.

These are the stories of just two families but there are thousands more who are suffering like this. In this context SIL Bangladesh and its employees started working on a Resilience Program in May 2020. SIL aimed to arrange food for 15 days for families in very challenging situations.



...SPECIAL COMMENTS

People were very pleased to get a small amount of support from SIL Bangladesh. It was like a blessing from GOD. Now we can live on it for a few days. Thanks to SIL from my heart.

... SNAPSHOTS ...
WHAT'S PLANNED FOR THIS
MONTH

For more information on **topics mentioned in this newsletter**,
please go to .

http: <http://www.silbangladesh.org/>

July 2020: Humanitarian work with Mahle
and Kurux community.

July 2020: Virtual Orientation with the staff
on vehicle usage.

SIL BANGLADESH
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HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO COVID—19 Cont'd

People were very pleased to get a small amount of support from SIL Bangladesh. One recipient said, 'My name is Josna Koda and I live in Jhalpukur, Rajshahi. I am physically disabled. I lost both my legs in an accident a few years ago. I live on the support of my well-wishers. There are nine people in my family. Since coronavirus all my help has been cut off and my family members' income sources as well. We were in great crisis. One day the brothers from SIL Bangladesh came and give me 1200 taka [around 14 dollars]. It was a great help to me. I pray and bless them from my heart - also those who sent this money for us'. Another recipient from Sherpur said, "I am Abiram Koch and there are five people in my family. We are day labourers. During COVID-19 we lost our jobs. After a few days our food stocks ran out. We borrowed some from neighbours. This had nearly run out when the brothers from SIL came and gave us 1200 taka. It was like a blessing from GOD. Now we can live on it for a few days. Thanks to SIL from my heart."

We hope we will see an end to this situation soon.

Written By: Shanta Maria D' Costa.

