1. COVID-19 Situation Overview

### Globally Distribution of COVID-19 Cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% of Global Cases</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>5.22%</td>
<td>221,344 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>5.26%</td>
<td>223,060 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>6.34%</td>
<td>268,143 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>5.19%</td>
<td>219,814 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>4.19%</td>
<td>177,423 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>4.06%</td>
<td>172,295 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>3.86%</td>
<td>163,510 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>3.30%</td>
<td>139,771 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>2.58%</td>
<td>109,286 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>1.96%</td>
<td>82,918 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1.67%</td>
<td>70,768 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>1.65%</td>
<td>69,907 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>1.26%</td>
<td>53,449 cases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The global coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic has already affected 212 countries and territories. While a few countries already started easing their lockdown situation, many countries started facing enormous challenges to provide proper healthcare to a large number of affected patients. Similarly, the counting of newly affected and deceased have been increasing rapidly in Bangladesh.
2. **Actions Taken from Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS):**

**Key Figures at a Glance:**

- **163,800**
  Number of 500ml drinking water bottle distributed among selected COVID-19 dedicated hospitals, test and response centers and major operational points at Dhaka, Barishal, Chattogram, Sylhet and Khulna.

- **1,702,844**
  People received life-saving awareness messages on COVID-19 through social media. (as of 09 May 2020)

- **2,923**
  Countrywide 263 Hospitals has been sprayed disinfectants for 2923 times throughout the country.

- **23,913**
  Packets of Iftar / cooked food provided by 20 branch offices of BDRCS during Ramadan.

- **281,484**
  Soaps as primary hygiene support provided to 10,620 beneficiaries at camp settlements in Cox’s Bazar through Myanmar Refugee Relief Operation.

- **1622**
  Individuals reached with Psychosocial Services where 251 callers have been provided with Psychological First Aid (PFA) through PSS Call Center.
Key Actions Taken to Date:

- An Emergency Coordination Meeting of BDRCS governance and senior management took place on 04 May 2020 and a Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Coordination Meeting (teleconference) on COVID-19 response took place on 30 April 2020.

- As of 04 May 2020, BDRCS volunteers visited 263 Hospitals to carry out disinfectant spraying a total 2923 times.

- 55 MCH centres working on Anti Natal Care (ANC), Normal Delivery, and Post Natal Care (PNC) while Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) is currently suspended due to unavailability of logistics. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be provided shortly.

- Two different sessions on caring for volunteers were organized for 26 volunteers who are involved in COVID-19 response where they had physical and relaxation exercises. It was a platform to share experiences and feelings with peers.

- BDRCS taking initiatives to provide service to thalassemia patients (blood transfusion) 5 days a week. In addition, blood collection to be increased using mobile vehicle, SMS, print media announcement, press releases.

- Based on a request from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, BDRCS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to make Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital as a full fledged COVID-19 dedicated treatment center.

- BDRCS shared its willingness to participate for a global fundraising campaign of IFRC with Coca-Cola.

- In addition to COVID-19 response, long-term programs and disaster risk management projects working to raise awareness among the inhabitants of concern locations through community organizers and volunteers.

- BDRCS with support from Unilever Bangladesh has been providing disinfection spraying kits, water purification kit, capacity building training for staffs and establishing handwashing station at all 64 DC offices to carry out disinfectant spraying at all districts.

- BDRCS with support from Coca-Cola, distributed 163,800pcs bottles containing 500ml drinking water to selected COVID-19 dedicated hospitals, research/response centers and major operational points at Dhaka city including Dhaka Metropolitan and Dhaka District Police.

- Except Shariatpur unit, all 67 units of BDRCS completed distributing food parcels allocated through first phase procurement.
- Momentarily, disinfectant spraying are postponed at all branch offices. It may be resumed with an updated plan.
- 20 branch offices of BDRCS provided Iftar/cooked food to 23913 person so far.

**Restoring Family Links**
- With support from ICRC, Distribution of 8550 bottles of alcohol-based hand sanitizers to the country’s 68 prisons. In addition, 100 bottles of the hand sanitizer were delivered directly to the Prison Directorate to enhance their infection prevention and control measures.

**Community Engagement and Accountability**
- The COVID-19 hotline of BDRCS addressed 108 calls within March to April 2020. Mostly these calls were concerning food support/relief, disinfection, health and psychosocial support, and different other types.

**Psychosocial Support Call Center**
- 251 callers have been provided with Psychological First Aid (PFA) through PSS Call Center;
- Trained 194 staff and volunteers on Psychosocial Support;
- 1622 individuals reached with PSS Services.
- All these calls were mostly concerning (a) traumatized about their physical health such as cough, runny nose, fever and body pain/medical and fear/worry related, (b) Frustration, panic and loneliness among isolated or quarantined, and (c) family crisis during this period.

**Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)**
- From 12 May, BDRCS PGI team along with ICRC and IFRC will be organising joint webinar on Preventing and Responding to Sexual and Gender Based Violence during COVID-19 on regular basis for its staff and volunteers.
- Disseminating PGI related awareness messages to all staff and mass people through social media.

**Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP):**
- Batteries of the Megaphones have been provided to the concern districts to implement early warning awareness campaign in concern areas in collaboration with the American Red Cross.
- Volunteers with the help of local administration, identified the address of the people who had recently come from abroad and hoisted a red flag over their houses.
- Developed customized/Combined messages on proper use of hand sanitizer, shelter and patient management procedure and how to deal with cyclone during Covid-19.
- 24000 CPP volunteers actively participated in the Early Warning dissemination program along with Army, BGB, Police forces and assisted local admin during lockdown.
- CPP volunteers assisted local administration in Relief distribution process.
Population Movement Operation (PMO) in Cox’s Bazar:

- PMO-BDRCS started the recruitment process of necessary personnel for the field hospital and isolation facility being established in order to making it fully functional.

- WASH and hygiene promotion activities are consistently being carried out at all 34 camps. Currently 6000 volunteers are being mobilized for this purpose. Drinking water distribution points of BDRCS are still functioning and the concerned team is aware of potential drying-up wells or scarcity of drinking water in camps.

- 7 information booths are functional to provide risk communication to the camp inhabitants.

- BDRCS with support from RCRC Partners and Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) reached 65,734 people through implementation of preparedness and response activities related to COVID-19.

- BDRCS distributed 11,100 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to RCRC staff, volunteers & CPP volunteers.

- A total of 606 BDRCS community volunteers and CPP camp volunteers were mobilized this week.

- BDRCS is preparing 80 integrated isolation beds for the treatment of COVID-19 patients, where 30 are ready to use Camp 2E.

Myanmar Refugee Relief Operation (MRRO) at Cox’s Bazar:

- MRRO successfully disinfected and distributed LPG cylinders to 13,137 beneficiaries.

- As part of basic hygiene, MRRO distributed 281,484 soaps to 10,620 beneficiaries.

- 17,855 beneficiaries from guest community are provided with rope, wire, iron peg and white kit bag as Pre-Monsoon Kit.

- Continuous disinfection of 11 Distribution Points is being carried out everyday. In addition, all beneficiaries entering inside the distribution points are checked temperature through Infrared Thermometers.

3. Actions Taken from International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC):

- IFRC Country Office (CO) team is supporting the Bangladesh RC in finalizing its domestic emergency plan of action for COVID-19.

- IFRC CO also ensuring the necessary cash flow for BDRCS for its unhindered service delivery. IFRC has transferred BDT 42.8 million (CHF 500,000) to BDRCS for the smooth running of its COVID-19 operation.

- Requests for medical equipment for Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College & Hospital (HFRCMCH) and PPE for doctors, nurses, staff & volunteers of BDRCS amounting BDT 12.8 mil (CHF 150,000) placed to IFRC Regional Office.

- Cyclone Early Action Protocol (EAP) is being revised to address the constraints posed by COVID-19.

- IFRC CO is coordinating with Need Assessment Working Group (NAWG), Gender cluster and Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT), Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) and different clusters regarding the ongoing COVID-19 response.

Photo 5: BDRCS volunteers at MRRO disinfecting distribution points.
4. Actions Taken from International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):

- After confirmation of COVID-19 negative test result, the Bangladeshi mental imbalanced lady stuck in the no man’s land of Khargrachari at the border with India was handed-over to BDRCS RFL team on Monday 04 May by BGB. She was transferred to Kurigram, where she was reunited with her family members in front of the management of the BDRCS unit and the UNO at the Upazilla Office. A post-reunification visit will be organized in one month to assess the reintegration of the lady.

- Bengali translation of the General Guidance for the Management of the Dead by the ICRC Forensic Unit has been completed – ready to share with the relevant interlocutors.

- On 05 May 2020, 75 dead body bags were donated to the Buddhist Religious Welfare Organization, designated by the Ministry of Religious Welfare to manage the dead bodies of Buddhist communities in Dhaka and Chattogram city as well as Cox’s Bazar and CHT.

5. Responses from the Government of Bangladesh (GoB):

❖ Hotline Numbers for COVID-19 Services:

333 (National Helpline) | 16263 (Sasthyo Batayon) | 10655 (IEDCR) | 096-116-77777 (Emergency Doctor Teleservice).

❖ For DGHS provided latest information on COVID-19 situation in Bangladesh, please visit: http://covid19tracker.gov.bd/ | https://corona.gov.bd/

❖ For COVID-19 situation update from Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR): https://www.iedcr.gov.bd/

Photo 6: Jail authority checking individuals temperature following SoP for avoiding risk of COVID-19.

Photo 7: Feni Unit of BDRCS provided disinfection materials and water purification kits at DC office.

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