

File form: 0538-24 - Final report for the Eagle Foundation – October 2020

Essential medical supplies and equipment in response to the Coronavirus outbreak in Chuadanga and Meherpur, Bangladesh

Date grant accepted: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 (GBP 20,000)

## BACKGROUND

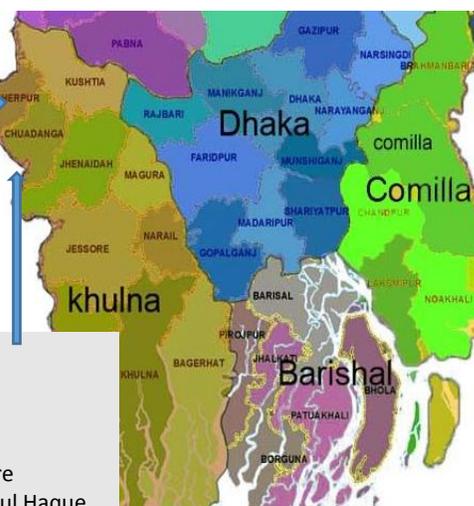
In 2020, the world changed abruptly as the Coronavirus pandemic swept across the globe. As is so often the case when a sudden economic and social crisis takes place, it is the poorest and most vulnerable in society who suffer the greatest hardship. Thanks to the generous and timely support from Fondation Eagle, our partners in Bangladesh were able to mobilise quickly to support people affected by Coronavirus or acutely impoverished by the strict lockdowns in the two rural Districts of Chuadanga and Meherpur in West Bangladesh. With your generous grant, we ensured that doctors, nurses and health workers on the frontline were adequately protected and equipped for the perilous job they faced. We also ensured the most vulnerable families were provided with emergency food parcels to mitigate the harmful effects of malnutrition caused by the enforced lockdown.

### Meherpur

Population: 655,392  
 Literacy rate: 46.27%  
 Main industry: Agriculture  
 Hospital: IMPACT Jibon Mela

### Chuadanga

Population: 1,129,015  
 Literacy rate: of 44.15%  
 Main industry: Agriculture  
 Hospital: IMPACT Masudul Haque Memorial Community Health Centre (IMCHC)



## Coronavirus in Bangladesh - Timeline of events

- WHO declares the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic on March 11<sup>th</sup>
- The virus was officially confirmed to have spread to Bangladesh in early March 2020
- The Bangladeshi Government declared lockdown throughout the nation on 23rd March
- Infections remained low until the end of March but saw a steep rise in April
- Hundreds of thousands of garment workers and city workers returned to their villages and towns following factory closures in April
- On 6th May, cases were confirmed in all districts across the country
- In June, WHO confirmed Bangladesh to be the second most affected country in South Asia, after India

Bangladesh is a densely populated country of approximately 170 million people, where resources and access to health facilities are limited. According to a survey carried out by the Brac Institute for Governance and Development and the Power and Participation Research Centre, between February and April the number of households able to eat three meals a day fell by 24 per cent in rural areas.

Our trusted partner, IMPACT Foundation Bangladesh (IFB) has been working in the communities of Chuadanga and Meherpur since 1993, taking action to prevent and treat needless disability in some of the poorest and most remote parts of Bangladesh. IFB has always been dedicated to supporting the most vulnerable in the community by providing healthcare and outreach services, during the pandemic they worked tirelessly to keep their hospital doors open, to continue to provide treatment for those who needed it. Their excellent reputation and knowledge of the communities healthcare needs along with their close relationship with community members, through IMPACT Mothers' Clubs enabled the team to identify the most vulnerable amongst the community, ensuring your support was used where it was needed the most.

## Activities

In March 2020, the Bangladeshi government requested that we ready our hospital wards as isolation units. Your generous grant was sent directly to our partners to ensure that the highest possible hygiene and protective measures were put in place for the safety of both patients and IMPACT's frontline healthworkers. Your support provided the isolation units in Chuadanga and Meherpur with essential items as personal protection equipment, cleaning products, and essential medicines to relieve coronavirus symptoms.

As a grassroots organisation IFB was able to identify the families most at risk of malnutrition as a direct result of the lockdown and the generous grant from Fondation Eagle was used to provide emergency food parcels to families in Chuadanga and Meherpur. Families with a disabled member were prioritised as well as those headed by a female member. The emergency food parcels included rice, potatoes, pulses, onions, salt, sugar, oil, vermicelli and soap. Thanks to your support, 250 food parcels were distributed, benefitting approximately 1,250 men, women and children.



## Real life IMPACT

### Nargis Khatun

41-year-old Nargis Khatun lives in the village of Madarhuda, Alamdanga, Chuadanga. Nargis has three daughters and a newborn son. Her eldest daughter is married, whilst the two younger daughters are studying in school. When she was



expecting her fourth child, she sustained an injury to the right eye and lost vision. She began to suffer from severe headaches and pain in her right eye. As Nargis was pregnant, she had to rely on the help of others, which restricted her movement. As is often the case, disability still carries a great deal of stigma in rural parts of Bangladesh and Nargis's mother in law and relatives told her that it was punishment for getting pregnant at a later stage of life. She requested several times for her husband to take her to a doctor but her husband refused, as he was fearful of the coronavirus situation at the hospital. During the lockdown, Nargis gave birth to a healthy baby boy at home. Nargis told our medical team that it was difficult for her to take care of an infant with her low vision, especially at night, and felt a lot of guilt.

In June, a member of the IMPACT Outreach Team visited her village to distribute emergency food parcels to some of her neighbours. When the IMPACT officer noticed Nargis' visual disability she informed her of the treatment she would receive free of charge at IMPACT's hospital in Chuadanga town and reassured the family of the safety and hygiene measures the hospital had undertaken. The following day, Nargis went straight to IMPACT's hospital accompanied by her husband. She was examined promptly and her right eye was operated on the next day.

When the bandage was removed, she felt afraid to open her eyes; the surgeon encouraged her to open her eyes slowly and try to see. When Nargis opened her eyes, she dramatically cried out and expressed "I can see! I can also see my baby boy clearly, what else do I need!"

Before leaving the hospital, she thanked all the members of IMPACT family.

## Expenditure

| <i>Isolation ward setup and maintenance in Chuadanga and Meherpur</i> | <i>Unit</i> | <i>Budget</i> | <i>Expenditure</i> |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Personal Protection Equipment   | 300 sets    | 6250          | 6250               |
| Mask & Gloves   | 300 sets    | 250           | 250                |
| Hand Sanitiser  | 180 bottles | 356           | 356                |
| Liquid Soap   | 180 sets    | 150           | 150                |
| Cleaning Materials for floor cleaning                                 | 3 Months    | 313           | 313                |

|  |             |               |                |
|--|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| Mop and other cleaning equipment   | 3<br>Months | 94            | 94             |
| Emergency medicine   | 90<br>Days  | 7500          | 7000           |
| <b>Sub Total</b>   |             | <b>14,913</b> | <b>14,413</b>  |
| <b>Supply of Basic Food package for 250 families (aproximately 1,250 people)</b> |             |               |                |
| Cost of rice (1kg per day x 30 days)   |             | 4,063         | 4063           |
| Cost of potato   |             | 377           | 377            |
| Cost of Dal (pulse)  |             | 677           | 677            |
| Cost of oil  |             | 300           | 300            |
| Cost of soap for hand wash   |             | 187           | 187            |
| Sub Total  |             | 5,604         | 5,604          |
| <b>Grand total</b>   |             |               | <b>£20,017</b> |

## Thank you

We are so grateful for your generous support during this unprecedented and challenging time. Thanks to your generosity, our partner in Bangladesh has been able to safely support people affected by Coronavirus or acutely impoverished by the enforced lockdowns in the two rural Districts of Chuadanga and Meherpur in West Bangladesh. Thank you.