

RAPID NEED ASSESSMENT



Effects of COVID-19 on RE-ARRANGE participants at Cox's Bazar Sadar, Teknaf and Ukhiya Upazila

Assesed by: RE-ARRANGE Team

Rapid Economic and Asset Recovery for the Rohingya refugee
Affected community linked with Nutrition and Gender Equity

April 2020



USAID
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List of Acronyms/Abbreviation

| Acronyms | Expansion |
|-----------------|---|
| ACF | Action Contre la Faim (Action Against Hunger) |
| RNA | Rapid Need Assessment |
| COVID-19 | Corona Virus Disease-19 |
| HKI | Helen Keller International |
| HH | Households |
| BDT | Bangladeshi Taka |
| rCSI | Reduced Coping Strategy Index |
| HDDS | Households Dietary Diversity Score |
| FSL | Food Security and Livelihoods |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Reduction |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Program |
| NGO | Non-Government Organization |
| INGO | International Non-Government Organization |
| PIO | Project Implementation Officer |
| UNO | Upazila Nirbahi Officer |
| CFW | Cash for Work |
| UCG | Unconditional Cash Grants |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

Section 1: Key Findings

In the assessment, it is clearly understood that the worst situation is prevailing amongst the poor and very poor households. Daily wage earners (agricultural and non-agricultural daily labourers, rickshaw/van pullers, small vendors, hotel/restaurant workers, domestic workers and others who rushed to get home before the start of the government declared general holidays on 26 March 2020. Considering the deteriorating situation, the general holiday was extended up to April 25, 2020. The unofficial lockdown has become as a curse for the most vulnerable families whose situation was like “a day without work is a day without food”.

Considering the Rapid Need Assessment (RNA) findings, only 6% of them received assistance either general food or cash after COVID-19 started. Government provided general food assistance and cash. 68% of recipients received **only rice** (10-20kg/HHs) with the remaining 32% receiving food packages containing Rice: 3-20kg, Pulse: 1-1.5kg, Oil:1-1.25 litre. Only **0.46% received cash** amounting US\$5.88/HHs.

Below are the key findings of RNA:

1. Due to effect of COVID-19 it was found that 99.62% participants ranked demand on food is the first priority and 87.79% participants ranked need of cash as their second priority. 49.24% respondents expressed concern about their employment opportunity.
2. Due to the COVID-19 situation, 91% of the sample participants lost their work or job and 73% of HHs are facing food insecurity in their family.
3. Among the respondents, 98% of them have access to corona virus-prevention-related information from 12 different sources.
4. 89% of participants know basic protective measures against COVID-19 but only 36% of participants are aware not to touch their nose and mouth without proper handwashing and 49% of respondents are aware about Social Distancing.
5. 83% sample participants did not attain any types of corona virus related awareness program information.
6. It was found in the study that 94% of the respondents depend on a single income source from 15 different options meaning that rest 6% respondents have alternative livelihood options.
7. 98% of respondent's primary livelihoods are affected due to COVID-19 effects.
8. The COVID-19 situation significantly affects low income peoples earning. The assessment found that on an average 39% of income has been reduced per HHs during the last 30 days with the average income earned per HHs being \$45.28 USD. If the situation does not change the next 30 day's income will be reduced 81% with the average income earning prediction being \$12.32 USD/HHs
9. Only 25% of the respondents use their savings for meeting their daily family needs. However, 75% have no savings and 84% are meeting their basic food needs by credit basis. 60% and 10% respectively have taken loans from formal and informal financial sources and 8% of HHs respondents have sold their valuable assets to meet their family food and other essential commodity.
10. 25% of the participants have no stock of rice and 65% of the respondents have less than one-week supply of rice. 62%, 56% and 64% respectively have less than one-week stock respectively of potato, pulse and oil.
11. The average coping strategy index (rCSI) score is 30, which indicates a higher level of food insecurity. The survey indicates that the surveyed participants are already experiencing a severe type of coping strategy.

12. Average HDDS among the surveyed households found 4.92, which indicates medium dietary diversity. Only in 10.31% of surveyed households was found good HDDS (6+ food groups), 54.41% of surveyed households HDDS found medium (4.5 - 6 food groups) and 35.50% of households HDDS found low (below 4.5 food groups).
13. A total of 96% of respondents said that the market is affected by reducing number of buyers and sellers.
14. 94% sample respondents informed that they didn't get any external assistance such as rice, potatoes, oil, onion or pulse after the coronavirus situation began. Average food quantity was 9-kg. Recipients told that the food assistance meets 4 day's family requirement.
15. Only 23% of respondents observed that limited local transport is available.

Section 2: Major Recommendations for Response

The 100% sample participants reported that they are dependent on daily basis earnings. Among them, over 75% are unskilled daily wage earner with the remaining being semiskilled daily earner. At present there is no scope to earn or make at least US\$4.12 a day by working from home. The government has declared a general vacation until April 25, 2020 and encouraging all to stay at home and maintain social distance. Most of the cities are on lockdown and COVID-19 is spreading rapidly across the country. As such, there is a limited scope of earning for the poorest segment of the population particularly living in rural areas. Therefore, food security and livelihoods assistance would be very crucial to ensure their survivability. Recommendations include:

To provide appropriate response to the COVID-19 affected RE-ARRANGE project participants the following recommendations are made based on the findings of Rapid Need Assessment study.

1. Multi-Purpose Cash Grants (MPCG) to be provided to RE-ARRANGE project participants in order to enable them purchasing food and other essential commodities from the markets. A total of 32 days' equivalent wage money to be provided to the selected participants to cover lean period unemployment gap.
2. Preference to be given for convenience of purchasing nutritious food and non-food items for children under five.
3. Basic food (rice, oil, pulse, salt) assistance may also be considered to the participants as an emergency measure.
4. Project should immediately provide support to grow quick growing vegetables such as spinach, kangkong, Orange flesh sweet potato, red amaranth to meet household's nutritional needs as a means of sustainable transition.
5. Awareness program to be taken following WHO and GOB approved content and guideline of COVID-19 which may include leaflet, poster, flip chart distribution, awareness campaign, animated video development and display and mike announcement.
6. Hygiene kits for example soap, hand-washing stations, disinfectant powder to be distributed to selected participants giving preference to pregnant and lactating women.

Section 3: Introduction

3.1) Background

Cox's Bazar Sadar Upazila, Ukhiya Upazila and Teknaf Upazila are among the 50 most socially deprived Upazilas in Bangladesh where the government social safety nets are inadequately allocated. The situation has been exacerbated by the arrival of large numbers of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar during the most recent influx in 2017. Due to the Rohingya influx, lower income host communities' livelihoods are facing challenges for resulting in the need of emergency assistance to the host communities. Strengthening the livelihood and healthcare of families of the host communities is multifaceted and challenging in this coastal area which is prone to natural disasters, including cyclones, landslides and floods.

As part of a response to the food insecurity situation, the USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) under its Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) awarded an activity entitled, "Rapid Economic and Asset Recovery for the Rohingya Affected community linked with Nutrition and Gender Equity (RE-ARRANGE)" to the consortium of ACF, HKI and Shushilan in October 2019. The overall goal of RE-ARRANGE is to stimulate rapid economic recovery through cash transfers to improve food and nutrition security of vulnerable households in the rural and urban communities around the Rohingya refugee camps and settlements in Cox's Bazar. When the time came to provide assistance for the targeted participants to address the lean period of unemployment by providing cash through CFW the COVID-19 situation stuck the entire planned activities.

Since the first case of COVID-19 registered on March 8, Bangladesh has seen as of April 11, 2020 482 affected and 30 deaths. Local transmission is observed around the country. So the trends of spread is now unpredictable. In order to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Bangladesh has issued 'Stay Home' directives shutting down productive and commercial activities from 26 March through April 11th in 1st and 2nd phase declaration. It was further extended up to April 25, 2020.

Cox's Bazar District is one of the country's poorest and most vulnerable, with a total Bangladeshi population of 2,650,000. Additionally, the District Administration of Cox's Bazar predicts that more than 700,000 people in Cox's Bazar District will be immediately jobless due to the 'Stay at Home' directive. This loss of livelihoods coupled with a decrease in access to the local market has disrupted activities and resulted in extra support needs for food security. Considering the situation RE-ARRANGE management decided to conduct a study on Rapid Need Assessment (RNA) to know the targeted participant's food security situation. As per decision the RNA related activities started as of April 1, 2020.

3.2) Objective of the Assessment

The objective of this Rapid Need Assessment is to understand the effects of COVID-19 and identify an appropriate response mechanism under humanitarian assistance of FFP for RE-ARRANGE project participants in terms of food security, employment opportunities and income.

3.3) Scope and Limitation

Based on the currently lockdown, movement restriction, limitations of transport etc. it was decided to collect RNA data through telephone interview from the project sampled participants. Similarly, Key Informant Interview (KII) also conducted with Upazila Chairperson/vice chairperson, UP Chairpersons, Ward members/ counselor and UNO or PIO using telephone. Due to COVID situation and government declaration of general leave most of the staffs were de-located from the project intervention areas. For this reason it was not possible to facilitate orientation of the assessment physically. So the training was conducted by using telephone and social media (Facebook Messenger).

Though there are many limitations for the study but the study helps to get real scenario of RE-ARRANGE project participants during outbreak of COVID-19. The study also may help to make decision and align project activities in a realistic way.

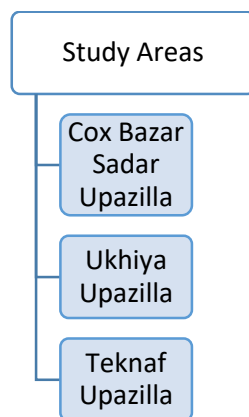
Section 4: Assessment Methodology

4.1) Study Approach

The study titled ‘Rapid Need Assessment (COVID-19)’ has evaluated the present situation of the participants (Both CFW & UCG) of the RE-ARRANGE project to understand better about the real scenario and coping strategies of the project participant regarding COVID-19. To measure or to analyze the situation the study designed and deployed a **mixed method approach** using both **quantitative** and **qualitative** research techniques. The quantitative survey used structured/semi-structured questionnaires and the qualitative part of the study used checklists among a representative sample for the study. Considering the present situation in Cox’s Bazar both qualitative and quantitative information has been collected using telephone interview from the project participants and local representatives in the RE-ARRANGE project implementation areas.

4.2) Rapid Need Assessment Study Area

The assessment study administered in the catchment areas of ‘RE-ARRANGE’ project. Therefore, the selected study areas as follows where the project is being implemented:



The RNA has covered 46 wards under six unions and two Municipalities (pourashava) in Teknaf, Ukhiya and Cox’s Bazar Sadar Upazila. All three Upazila are adjacent to one another. The furthest Upazila is Teknaf which is 70 km far from Cox’s Bazar district. The other Upazila Ukhiya is within 25 km of the district town.



4.3) Sample Size Calculate and Distribution

To collect quantitative data, a representative sample size was determined and ensured proportionate distribution of the sample across the intervention area. The sample size determined and distributed in such a way that sufficiently represents 3 mentioned Upazillas and overall project participants. There are two approaches for determining sample size for assessment purposes. The first approach is to calculate the representative sample size and measure the overall population through raosoft sample size calculator which is more commonly used in different studies. The second approach, is to distribute sample size proportionately into different study areas and select participants through randomization.

Considering the study is intended to have statistically significant and comparable sets of results for the program, the sample size needs to be sufficiently representative for the participants of RE-ARRANGE project and reflect a confidence level considered appropriate for the situation. To collect information the sample size for the assessment has been calculated considering the project population 6550 (Total number of CFW & UCG Participants), 5 % error of margin and 90% confidence level. After calculation

representative sampling a total of 260 samples have drawn from 6550 participants. Which is rounded to 260 depending on completed data collection.

The sample distribution as follows:

Table-1: Sample size distribution as per Upazilla

| Upazilla | Sample |
|-----------------|------------|
| Cox Bazar Sadar | 170 |
| Ukhiya | 24 |
| Teknaf | 66 |
| Total | 260 |

Another factor is ward wise sample distribution and participant selection for the assessment. RE-ARRANGE project has 46 ward in three representative Upazillas. So, proportionate sample size distribution is followed to cover all 46 wards as well as participant from each ward is selected through using randomization formula in excel.

4.4) Key informant Interview

The other hand, the study followed qualitative approach to know overall situation regarding COVID-19 in Cox Bazar District from local representatives and administrative units. To collect information, detail Key Informant Interview (KII) checklist/guideline has developed collected data form 22 personnel. The targeted personnel for KII are- UNO/PIO, Upazila Chairperson/Upazila Vice Chair Person, Pourashava Mayor/panel Mayor, Union Parishad Chairman and ward member/counselor (please see details in annexure-3).

4.5): Timeline of the Assessment

The whole assessment completed within a very limited time line which follows below table:

| Timeline for Rapid Need Assessment | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Activities | April | | | | May |
| | 1st week | 2nd week | 3rd week | 4th week | 1st week |
| Questionnaire Development | | | | | |
| ODK preparation | | | | | |
| Training providation | | | | | |
| Data Collection | | | | | |
| Data Analysis | | | | | |
| Report Generation | | | | | |

Section 5: Assessment Findings

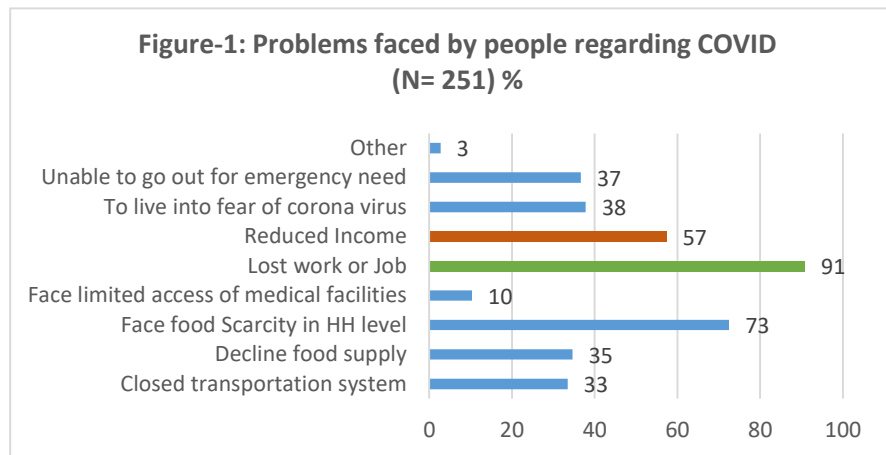
5.1) Overview of household interviewed

| Table. 2: Diversity of sample participants | | | <p>Among the participants, 37.4% are female and 62.6% are male.</p> <p>87.4% are from CFW participants and 12.6% are from UCG participants.</p> <p>29.39% are female headed and 70.61% are male headed family.</p> <p>The average family size (4.73) is little less then district average family size.</p> |
|--|-----------|------------|--|
| Type | Frequency | Percentage | |
| Female | 98 | 37.4 | |
| Male | 164 | 62.6 | |
| CFW | 229 | 87.4 | |
| UCG | 33 | 12.6 | |
| Female headed | 77 | 29.39 | |
| Male headed | 185 | 70.61 | |

5.2) Problem facing due to COVID-19

In Rapid Need Assessment, it was found that 96% (N=251) participants are facing problem by the COVID-19 situation. Of them 91% participants reported that they have lost their work or job and 73% HHs are facing severe food scarcity in their family. On the other hand, 57% reported their reduced trend of income, Total 38% also response that they are living in fear of coronavirus diseases and 37% reported that they are unable to go out to meet their emergency need.

A large portion of the respondents also reported declining trend of food availability as well as limited transportation which was disrupting their normal way of life. (Figure: 1)

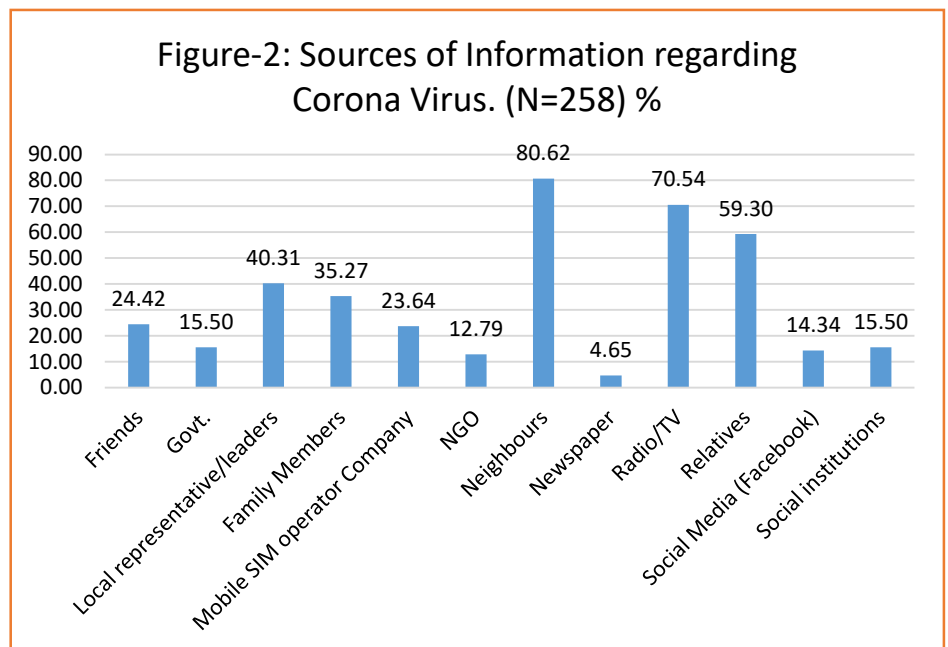


5.3) Access to COVID 19 information

A total 98% (N=258) respondents reported that they have access to coronavirus diseases related information from 12 sources. Among them 80% response that they were informed about COVID-19 from their neighbors, 70% mentioned that they have known it from radio and television, 59% responded that they have known it from relatives and 40% participants know from their local leaders.

Family members, mobile companies, friends are also played significant role in disseminating COVID

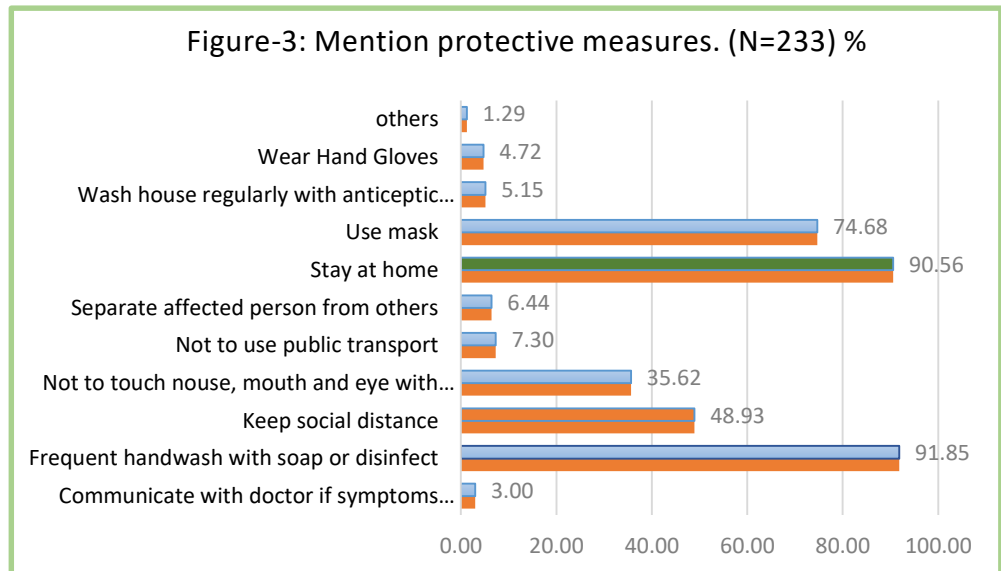
awareness messages. They also reported 40.31% of the respondents got COVID-19 information from local representatives and leaders. (Figure:2)



5.4) Awareness on protective measures against the Corona Virus

Altogether 89% (N=233) participants said that they know basic protective measures against COVID-19 and rest 11% participants do not know the precautionary measures to protect COVID-19 transmission.

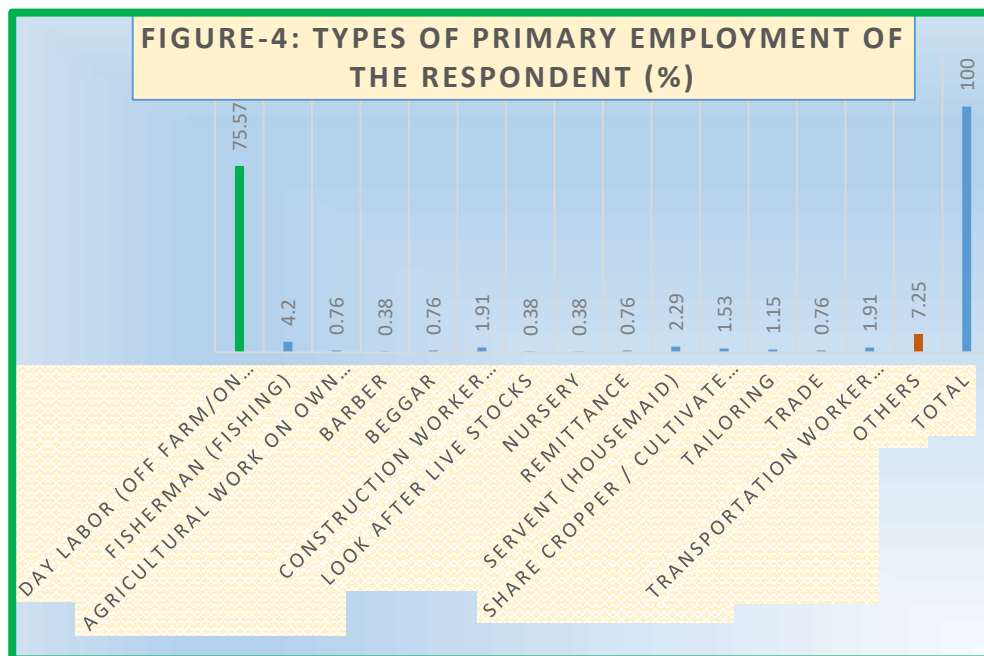
Among themselves, 91.85% participants said that frequent hand washing is very effective measure to protect from COVID-19, total 90.56% participants said that stay at home and 74.68% said using mask is also effective measure against COVID. 48.93% of participants said that it is need to keep social distance.



35.62% participants said to touching nose and mouth is prohibited. (Figure:3). It may be mentioned here that 83.59% sample participants did not attain any types of corona virus related awareness program.

5.5) Impact of Covid-19 on beneficiary's Employment

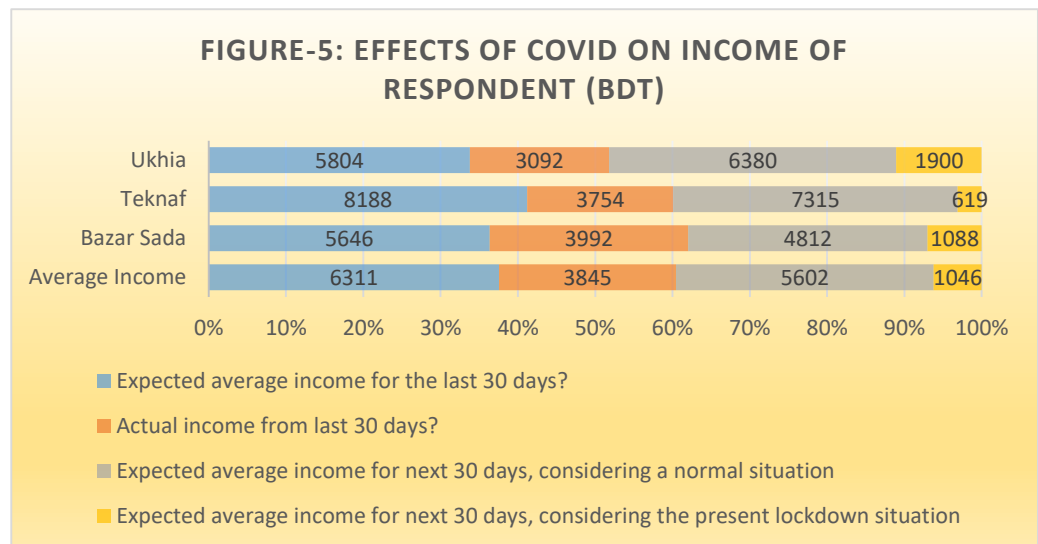
In the assessment, it has observed that 94% of respondents have no alternative livelihoods. As the area is disaster prone, people are always in risks of food insecurity.



More than two thirds (75.57%) of the respondents are daily laborers, only 7.25% are engaged with agriculture productivity and remaining are engaged with different semi skill to skill based occupation. So during this COVID-19 situation the day laborers are almost unemployed. (Figure:4)

5.6) Effects of COVID-19 on Income

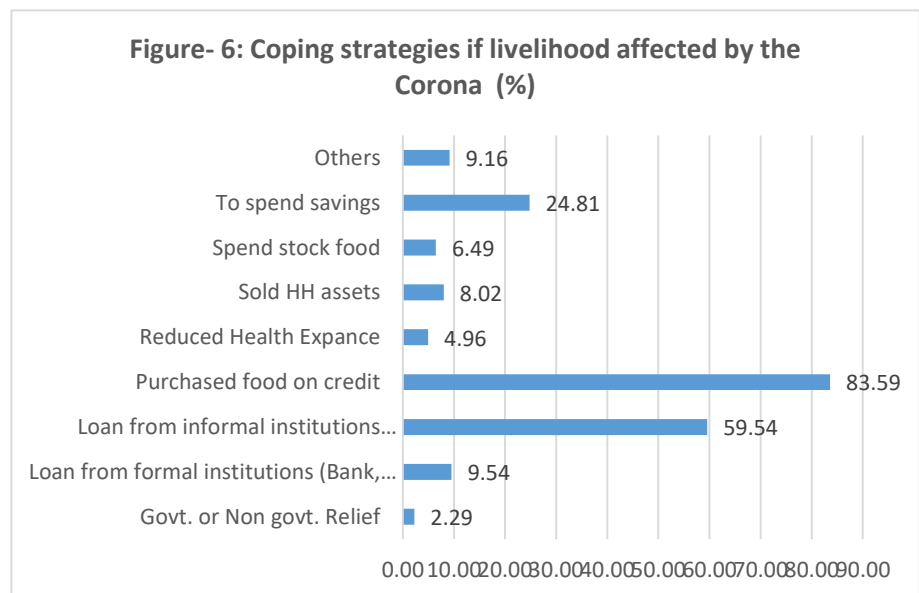
COVID-19 situation significantly affected on participants' income. The assessment found that the average expected income of the respondent for past 30 day's was 74.33 USD but actual income was 45.28 USD (39.08% income reduced than actual).



On the other hand, respondents were reported that their expected income for next 30 days will be 65.98 USD if situation remain normal but if lockdown continue then expected income will be 12.32 USD (Total 81.33% income will reduce then expected). Rate of exchange 1 USD= 80 BDT. (Figure:5)

5.7) Coping strategies if livelihood affected by COVID-19

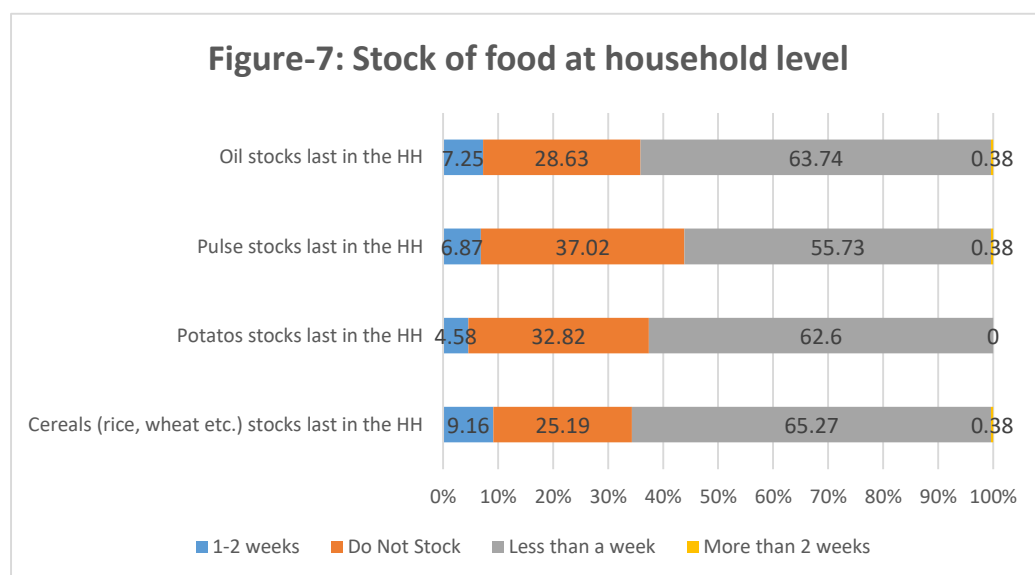
Total 75.29% respondent reported that they have no savings to tackle this situation. Again 83.59% of the total respondent responded that they are buying food on credit, 59.54% and 9.54% respectively taken loan from formal and informal financial sources. By this time 8.02% sold their assets to meet basic family need, especially to overcome food insecurity. Interestingly 6.49% are meeting their current needs by using stocked food. On the other hand 4.96% also reported that they have reduced their health expenses but only 2.29% of the respondent are depending on relief. No other NGOs/INGOs are providing food or cash as COVID response to reduce participants' food insecurity. (Figure: 6)



5.8) Stock of Staple Food at household level

Considering four major basic food items figure-7 shows that only 0.38% of participants have stock of rice, pulse and oils stock for more than two week. And 65.27%, 32.82%, 37.02% and 28.63% reported that they have stock of rice/wheat, potato, pulse and Oil respectively for less than one week.

Similarly 25.19%, 28.63%, 37.02% and 32.82% HHs have no stock of Oil, Pulse and Potato's respectively. And 9.16%, 4.58%, 6.87% and 7.25% respondent told that they have 1-2 week's stock of all four food items. The overall situation of general food stocks are very insufficient. (Figure:7)



5.9) Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

The Coping Strategies Index (CSI) is a tool that measures what people do when they cannot access enough food. Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) was employed to understand the different behaviors related to food consumption as a coping strategy with food shortage induced from inadequate income of access related problems. It provide a quick, current status indicator of the extent of food insecurity.

For reduced coping strategy index households were asked how often they used a set of five short-term food based coping strategies in situations in which they did not have enough food, or money to buy food, during the one-week period prior to interview. The information is combined into the CSI which is a score assigned to a household that represents the frequency and severity (each of the five strategies is assigned a standard weight based on its severity) of coping strategies employed. Household CSI scores are then determined by multiplying the frequency in the past week each strategy was employed by its corresponding severity weight, and then summing together the totals.

The analysis of these behaviors helps understanding the food insecurity situation. It helps to understand the level of food insecurity among the targeted beneficiaries' households. The higher the Coping Strategy Index (CSI) score indicates a higher level of food insecurity and vice versa. Below thresholds level was used for analyzing households reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI):

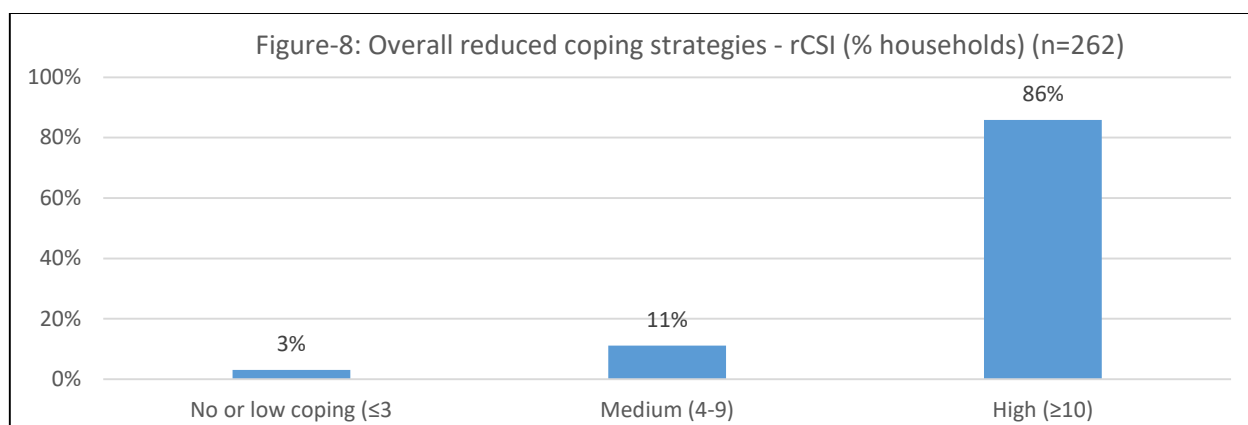
Table-1: Thresholds level for household *Coping Strategy Index (CSI)*

| <i>Level of Coping</i> | <i>Thresholds (rCSI score)</i> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Low or no coping | ≤ 3 |
| Medium coping | 4 to 9 |
| High coping | ≥ 10 |

Source: Guiding note: WFP VAM unit, Afghanistan 2012

Average coping strategy index (rCSI) score is 29.55 that indicates a higher level of food insecurity. All of the surveyed households mentioned about multiple type of strategies to cope with the lockdown like situation due to covid-19 issues. Below graph shows the status of coping by the surveyed households:

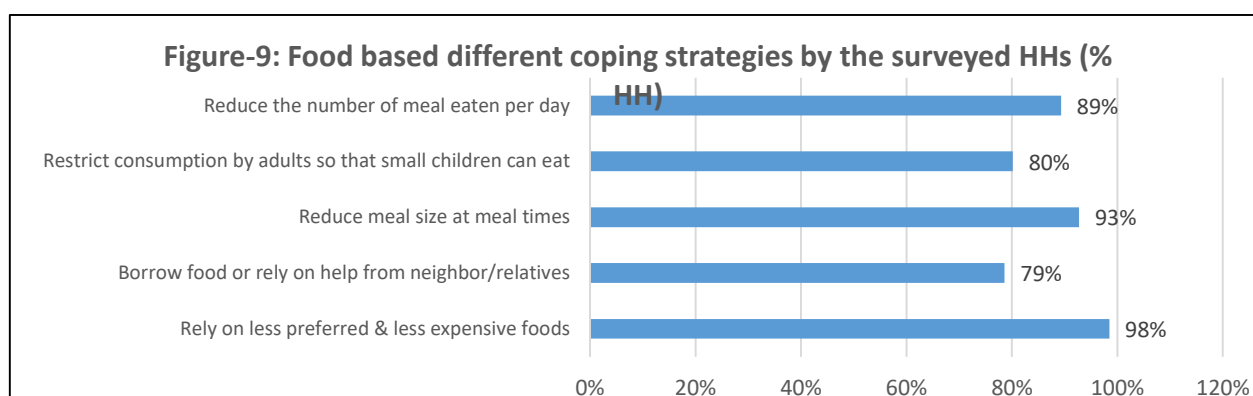
Figure-8: Overall reduced coping strategies for HH:



RNA revealed that most of the households (86%) are relying on high level of coping whereas only 11% and 3% respectively said about medium coping and no or low coping. This situation indicates very severe level of food insecurity among the project population. Relying on multiple type of coping for longer period will lead them towards chronic food insecurity.

5.10) Strategies undertaken by the surveyed households

All of the surveyed households mentioned about different types of strategies to cope with the situation. The below graph shows coping strategies undertaken by the surveyed households.



As identified above, 98% of the surveyed households were identified as taking less preferred or less expensive food. Also, 93% have taken reduced meal size at mealtime and 89% reduced the number of meals eaten per day. More strikingly, 80% of households reported that adults' members of the HH are restricting consumption so that small children can eat. Moreover, 79% of the households borrowed food or relied on help from neighbor/relatives. The survey indicates that, participants already coping with severe type of strategies (Figure 9).

5.11) Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

Due to the shorter recall time, it can provide a clear picture of the variety of foods consumed at the household level. Household dietary diversity consists of 12 food groups.

Household dietary diversity - the number of different food groups consumed over a given reference period (in the assessment have implied 24 hours recall) - is an attractive proxy indicator for the following reasons.

- A more diversified diet is highly correlated with such factors as caloric and protein adequacy, percentage of protein from animal sources (high quality protein), and household income. Even in very poor households, increased food expenditure resulting from additional income is associated with increased quantity and quality of the diet.

- Questions on dietary diversity asked at the household or individual level, made it possible to examine food security at the household and intra-household levels.

- HDDS is to better reflect a quality diet, the number of different food groups consumed is calculated, rather

than the number of different foods consumed. Knowing that households consume, for example, an average of four different food groups implies that their diets offer some diversity in both macro- and micronutrients. This is a more meaningful indicator than knowing that households consume four different foods, which might all be cereals. The following set of 12 food groups is used to calculate the HDDS:

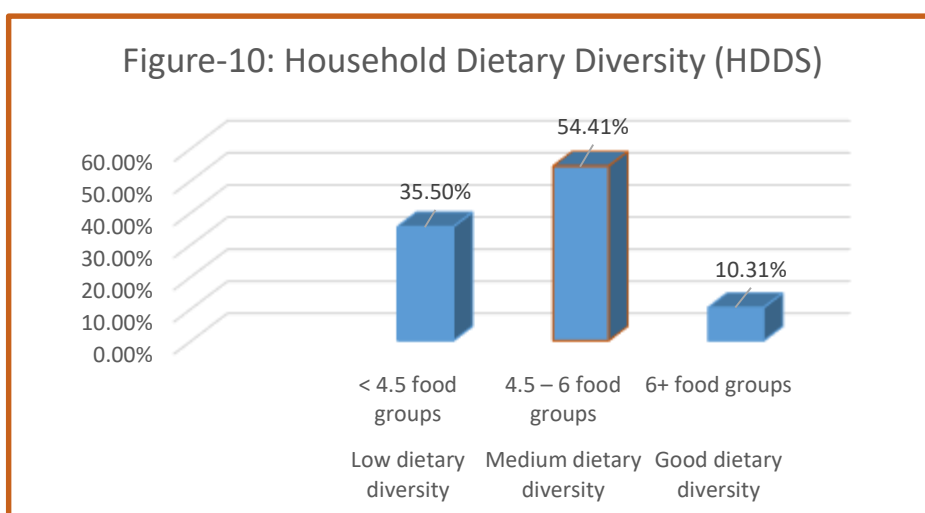


Table-2 food groups for assessing HDDS

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Cereals | G. Fish and seafood |
| B. Root and tubers | H. Pulses/legumes/nuts |
| C. Vegetables | I. Milk and milk products |
| D. Fruits | J. Oil/fats |
| E. Meat, poultry | K. Sugar/honey |
| F. Eggs | L. Spices |

Table-3: International Food Policy Research Institute, February 2014 for HDDS threshold level

| Household Dietary Diversity (HDDS) | HDDS Thresholds |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Low dietary diversity | < 4.5 food groups |
| Medium dietary diversity | 4.5 – 6 food groups |
| Good dietary diversity | 6+ food groups |

Average HDDS among the surveyed households find 4.92, which indicate the medium dietary diversity. Only 10.31% surveyed households HDDS found good i.e. 6+ food groups, 54.41% surveyed households HDDS found medium i.e. within 4.5 - 6 food groups and 35.50% households HDDS found low i.e. below 4.5 food groups.

5.12) Effect of basic food items

The study finds that there is no fluctuation on basic food items during the assessment and each food item are available in the market. The table shows average price of basic food items during the assessment:

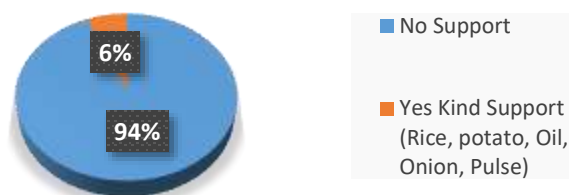
Table-4: Average price of basic food items during the survey time

| Food Item | Average Price (USD)-Per Kg |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Coarse Rice (per Kg) | 0.48 |
| Potato (per Kg) | 0.35 |
| Pulse (per Kg) | 0.97 |
| Oil (per Kg) | 1.21 |

5.13) External assistance received after COVID-19 outbreak

Total 94% of the respondents didn't get any external assistance like rice, potato, oil, onion or pulse after COVID-19 outbreak. Rest 6% have received external assistance from UP and local elites. Average food quantity was 8.71kg. Recipients told that the food assistance meets only 4 day's family requirement.

Figure-11: Received any external assistance in the past two weeks? %



5.14) Logistical Information

Due to the government declaration of restricted transport movement, local transport is very rare. Only 23.28% respondent told that limited local transport is available.

Table-5: Availability of road transport facilities

| Response | Cox's Bazar Sadar | Teknaf | Ukhiya | Total |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| No | 74.12 | 74.63 | 100 | 76.72 |
| Yes | 25.88 | 25.37 | 0 | 23.28 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

5.15) Availability of mobile network

99.62% of the sample respondent areas have rabi network. Grameen phone also covers of 72% of assessment area. Banglalink in Teknaf area have wider coverage. Alternatively, in Teknaf Upazila 72.46% sample participants informed that Banglalink network is strong there.

Table.6: Accessible mobile network (N=262) (Multiple Response)

| Available Mobile Network | Frequency of Response | Percent of responses |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Banglalink | 69 | 26% |
| GP | 188 | 72% |
| Robi | 261 | 100% |
| Teletalk | 8 | 3% |
| Total | 526 | 100 |

5.16) Availabilities of mobile power recharge facilities

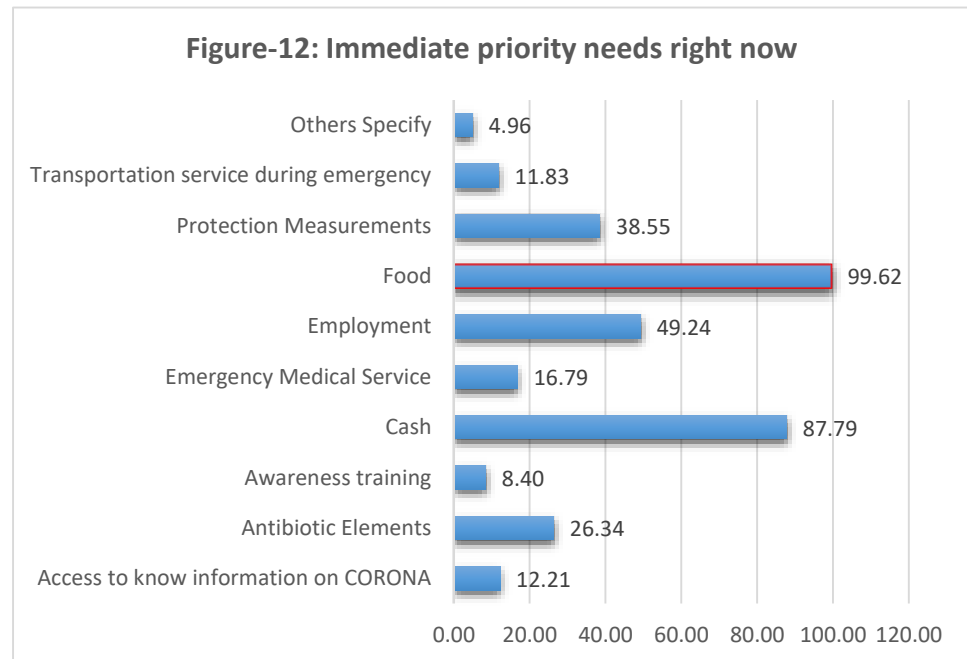
Among the sample, respondent 94.27% have mobile power recharge facilities. Respondents of Ukhiya have 100% mobile recharge facilities. Cox's Bazar Sadar and Teknaf Upazila respondents have 98.24% and 94.27% respectively, so mobile power recharge would not a concern because of available facilities.

Table-7: Do people have access to power to charge their mobile phones (for communication and in case of mobile money)?

| Response | Cox's B.. | Teknaf | Ukhiya | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| No | 1.76 | 17.91 | 0 | 5.73 |
| Yes | 98.24 | 82.09 | 100 | 94.27 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

5.17) Priority Needs

Considering the COVID-19 situation the respondent given their needs depending on their own perception. According to the assessment it's clear that the participants are suffering from lack of food and worried to face upcoming probable food crisis. 99.62% participants ranked demand on food as their first priority. While 87.79% participants ranked need of cash as their 2nd in the priority list. This is because besides general food, they have other essential commodity needs for which they need money. The local markets have available food items as well other essential commodities by their own choice. Considering the situation 49.24% respondents expressed their concern about employment opportunity.



Section 6: Conclusion:

The REARRANGE project under Food For Peace Program of USAID was designed to provide immediate (Rapid) support to a particular number of already vulnerable population of Bangladeshi community living in Cox's Bazar district, suffering from a sequence of cyclones, Rohingya influx, rising food insecurity, malnutrition, underserved and most excluded. They mostly depends on daily wages whereas, their employment opportunity has a sharp declining tendency.

Due to recent COVID outbreak, REARRANGE participants like people everywhere are out of work, income has stopped. If large scale physical distancing is required, if they absolutely must stay home, we must find ways to mitigate the economic shock that will bring the participants in to serious food insecurity.

To assess their current situation the present need assessment was carried out.

According to the overall findings of RNA, food insecurity of poor families who rely on wage labor is significant and immediate action is needed in order to protect them from detrimental coping strategies. On-going safety net program run by government is severely limited in terms of coverage as well as amount of support. REARRANGE project participants are the most vulnerable group in their community. Their situation is like "a day without work is a day without food for their family members". They are in dire need of humanitarian assistance for their survival.

The findings of the study clearly suggests to provide emergency unconditional cash grants to ensure food security and other emergency needs. The project has clear mandate and preparations for cash transfer. Mobile money transfer agents are active in the village and could deliver emergency money to participants households safely.

Annex

Annex 1: Study Questionnaire

IMPACTS OF CORONA CRISIS IN FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT HOUSEHOLD INTERVIEW

Date:

Name of the Enumerator: Designation:.....

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project participants ID: Sex:
(Male/Female/Others)

No. of people in HH:

Category of household head : Male headed / Female headed

Is he or she: elderly /PWDs /PLW/Widow(weave)/chronically sick),

Mobile number: Name of Union:

COVID-19 Information access

1. Do people in your home have any problem with the Corona virus

YES/NO [Put ✓ mark]

If yes, please mention the major problems

a)

b)

c)

d)

2. Do you have access to COVID 19 information? What are the sources of information if no, why?)

YES/NO [Put ✓ mark]

3. Do you know the basic protective measures against the Corona Virus?

YES/NO [Put ✓ mark]

If yes, please mention three protective measures

a)

b)

c)

4. Have you received any discussion session, orientation or awareness on Corona Virus?

5. YES/NO [Put ✓ mark]

If yes, please mention the name of agency/person

a)

b)

6. Do you think that you need to know clearly about Corona Virus?

YES /NO [Put ✓ mark]

LIVELIHOODS & INCOME

7. Means of primary and secondary income for the HH :

| Name of livelihoods | Is your livelihoods affected by Corona Crisis? (Yes/No) | If yes, then how? |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|
| Primary | | |
| Secondary | | |

8. Income (Avg)

| | |
|--|---|
| What was your expected average income of the last 30 days? (BDT) | What is your actual income from last 30 days? (BDT) |
| | |
| Expected average income from the next 30 days considering normal situation (BDT) | Expected average income from the next 30 days, considering the present lockdown situation (BDT) |
| | |

COPING STRATEGY

9. Consumption based reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

| Reduced Coping Strategy Index (Consumption based coping) In the past 7 days, did you or any household member: | (Possible answer) | (Please put tick /✓ mark) |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Rely on less preferred & less expensive foods? | Never | |
| | < 1day | |
| | 1-2 days | |
| | 3-6 days | |
| | 7 days | |
| 2. Borrow food or rely on help from neighbour/relatives? | Never | |
| | < 1day | |
| | 1-2 days | |
| | 3-6 days | |
| | 7 days | |
| 3. Reduce meal size at meal times? | Never | |
| | < 1day | |
| | 1-2 days | |
| | 3-6 days | |
| | 7 days | |
| 4. Restrict consumption by adults so that small children can eat? | Never | |

| Reduced Coping Strategy Index (Consumption based coping) <i>In the past 7 days, did you or any household member:</i> | (Possible answer) | (Please put tick /✓ mark) |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|
| | < 1day | |
| | 1-2 days | |
| | 3-6 days | |
| | 7 days | |
| 5. Reduce the number of meal eaten per day? | Never | |
| | < 1day | |
| | 1-2 days | |
| | 3-6 days | |
| | 7 days | |

10. Livelihoods coping If the major income earners' livelihood affected by the Corona Issue, what coping strategies are you practicing- Mention maximum 2 strategies?

[Examples: spending savings; purchased food on credit; borrowed money; sold household assets; reducing health expenses, etc.]

Strategy 1:

Strategy 2:

DIETARY DIVERSITY

11. HDDS

| Food groups | Did you consume it yesterday? [Yes = 1; No = 0] |
|--|---|
| 1. Starchy foods – (Rice , wheat , muri , maize, | |
| 2. Tubers - (Potatoes , Sweet potatoes , | |
| 3. Vegetables | |
| 4. Meat - | |
| 5. Fish/Dry fish | |
| 6. Eggs | |
| 7. Fruits | |
| 8. Pulses & Legumes (any type of dal) | |
| 9. Milk | |
| 10. Oil | |
| 11. Sugar | |
| 12. Condiments | |

12. On average, how long will food stocks last in the households (Please put tick)?

| Cereals | Potato | Pulses | Oils |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Less than a week (Kg) | Less than a week (Kg) | Less than a week (Kg) | Less than a week (Kg) |
| 1-2 weeks | 1-2 weeks | 1-2 weeks | 1-2 weeks |
| More than 2 weeks | More than 2 weeks | More than 2 weeks | More than 2 weeks |

- a) What accesses does the affected population have to staple food commodities? Own production
- b) Market
- c) Relief and aid
- d) No access
- e) Others (specify)

13. QUICK MARKET ANALYSIS

| Food item availability | Current price | Accessibility for suppliers & buyers |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Coarse Rice | | |
| Potato | | |
| Pulses | | |
| Oils | | |

EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE (4Ws)

14. Have you received any external assistance in the past two weeks?

15. YES /NO [Put ✓ mark]

| Type of support (FSL –in kind, Protective materials, cash, etc.) | When? | By who (Organization Name) | Quantity /amount | How long does it serve? |
|---|-------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

PRIORITY NEEDS

What are your immediate priority needs right now?

- a)
- b)
- c)

16. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

- a) Is the road currently accessible by vehicles?
- b) Is mobile network currently accessible in your area? If yes, which network/mobile operator?
- c) Do people have access to power to charge their mobile phones (for communication and in case of mobile money)?

Thank you for your response and time!

Annex 2: Study Checklist

**IMPACTS OF CORONA CRISIS IN
FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT**
 KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW (KII)

Date:Name of the Enumerator:
 Designation:

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of informant:Designation:

Department:Upazila:UnionWard:

General Situation due to COVIC-19

Any positive COVID-19 case identified so far in your area (Upazila/Union/Ward)? If yes, How many cases and what's the present condition? **YES**/NO (bv).[Put ✓ mark]

YES

17. Did people in your area (Upazila/Union/Ward) have facing problem with the Corona virus

YES/NO (bv).[Put ✓ mark]

If yes, please mention the major problems

e)

f)

g)

h)

18. What % of the people of your assigned areas have access to COVID 19 information?

19. What are the initiative taken to ensure COVID-19 related information dissemination/protection equipment distribution? **YES**/NO (bv).[Put ✓ mark]

YES ?

a)

b)

20. So far any extreme steps (lockdown, Isolation, ICU etc) taken in the area? If yes what are those?

a.

b.

LIVELIHOODS & INCOME

What are the number/percentage of lower income (poor/extreme poor) people in your area (Upazila/Union/Ward)?

21. How covid-19 affected lower income peoples (poor/extreme poor) livelihoods and Income?

a.

b.

c.

22. If the major income of lower income peoples (Poor and extreme poor) livelihood affected by the Corona Issue, what types of assistance provisioned for their survivability? **YES**
 /NO (bv).[Put ✓ mark]

YES

Assistance 1 -----

Assistance 2 -----

Assistance 3 -----

23. How many families received that assistance?

Food.CashOthers).....

24. Quantity/amount per family: Food: Rice.kg. Pulse.kg Potato.kg, Oil. ...
.litre. Cash25. Who have provided the assistance (government/private sector/individual)?.....
.....26. If the situation become unchanged what are the plan to support those poor/extreme poor families for
their survivability?27. Do you think that to tackle the situation besides government other national-international
organizations/private sector needs to assist those people?

d) If yes, what type of assistance needed as urgent basis? -----

e) -----

Thank you for your response and time!**Annex 3:Ward & Union Wise Sample Distribution**

| Upazila | Union | Ward | Total Participant | Representative Sample |
|----------------------|---------------|------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Ukhiya | Haldia Palang | 1 | 170 | 7 |
| | | 3 | 163 | 6 |
| | Ratnapalong | 5 | 136 | 5 |
| | | 6 | 120 | 5 |
| | | 8 | 23 | 1 |
| Cox's Bazar Sadar | Jhilwanja | 1 | 226 | 9 |
| | | 2 | 98 | 4 |
| | | 3 | 168 | 7 |
| | | 4 | 89 | 4 |
| | | 5 | 107 | 4 |
| | | 6 | 123 | 5 |
| | | 7 | 75 | 3 |
| | | 8 | 160 | 6 |
| | | 9 | 99 | 4 |
| | Khurushkul | 1 | 201 | 8 |
| | | 2 | 222 | 9 |
| | | 3 | 82 | 3 |
| | | 4 | 125 | 5 |
| | | 5 | 140 | 6 |
| | | 6 | 208 | 8 |
| | | 7 | 68 | 3 |

| Upazila | Union | Ward | Total Participant | Representative Sample |
|----------------|--------------------------|------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| | | 8 | 77 | 3 |
| | | 9 | 136 | 5 |
| | Municipality | 1 | 562 | 22 |
| | | 6 | 118 | 5 |
| | Patali Machhuakhali | 1 | 76 | 3 |
| | | 2 | 118 | 5 |
| | | 3 | 156 | 6 |
| | | 4 | 127 | 5 |
| | | 5 | 94 | 4 |
| | | 6 | 138 | 5 |
| | | 7 | 260 | 10 |
| | | 8 | 101 | 4 |
| | | 9 | 135 | 5 |
| Teknaf Upazila | Teknaf Pouroshova | 1 | 121 | 5 |
| | | 3 | 20 | 1 |
| | | 4 | 24 | 1 |
| | | 6 | 45 | 2 |
| | | 7 | 205 | 8 |
| | | 8 | 22 | 1 |
| | | 9 | 118 | 5 |
| | Teknaf Sadar | 2 | 297 | 12 |
| | | 3 | 278 | 11 |
| | | 4 | 231 | 9 |
| | | 8 | 178 | 7 |
| | | 9 | 110 | 4 |
| 3-Upazila | 6 Union and 2 Pouroshava | | 6550 | 260 |

Annex 4: List of Key Informant Interview (KII):

| Key Informant Interview | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| SL # | Upazila Name | Name of staff | Total Target |
| 1 | Cox's Bazar Upazila | Upazila Chairman/Vice Chairman | 1 |
| | | PIO | 1 |
| | | Mayor or panel Mayor | 1 |
| | | Union Chairperson | 3 |
| | | Ward member | 3 |
| | | Pouroshava ward counselor | 1 |
| 2 | Ukhiya Upazila | Upazila Chairman/Vice Chairman | 1 |

| Key Informant Interview | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| SL # | Upazila Name | Name of staff | Total Target |
| | | PIO | 1 |
| | | Union Chairperson | 2 |
| | | Ward member | 2 |
| 3 | Teknaf Upazila | Upazila Chairman/Vice Chairman | 1 |
| | | UNO/PIO | 1 |
| | | Mayor or panel Mayor | 1 |
| | | Union Chairperson | 1 |
| | | Ward member | 1 |
| | | Pouroshava ward counselor | 1 |
| Grand Total = | | | 22 |

Annex: 5 Effect of COVID-19 crisis on food security and livelihoods rapid needs assessment

HOUSEHOLD INTERVIEW

Objective of the study

The objective of this Rapid Need Assessment is to understand the effects of COVID-19 and identify a appropriate response mechanism under humanitarian assistance of FFP for RE-ARRANGE project participants in terms of food security, employment opportunities and income.

Tools for the Rapid Needs Assessment:

Interview over mobile phone using a questionnaire checklist

*Please interview only the project participants

(Please receive interviewee's consent before you start the interview)

Informed Consent:

My name isI am working with on behalf of ACF, HKI, Shushilan working on humanitarian response and development in this area, we are assessing the situation in relation to the Corona Virus Emergency issue. We would like to ask you some questions about the impact of the Corona Crisis here. Your participation is voluntary and you can choose not to answer all of the questions. We hope you will agree to participate because your views are important as we try to understand how the Corona crisis has been affecting the people life and livelihood here. Please feel free to ask us any questions about the assessment.]

Consent statement: YES / NO [Put √ mark]

Annex 6: Staff wise Rapid Need Assessment (RNA)

| SL # | Upazila Name | Union Name | Name of staff | Total Target | Achieve 05.40.2020 | Achieve 06.40.2020 | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|----|
| 1 | Cox's Bazar Upazila | Patali Machuakhali Union | Abu Raihan Md. Mustaque | 10 | 3 | 7 | |
| | | | Provat Biwas | 8 | 3 | 5 | |
| | | | Hira Mony Akter | 9 | 3 | 6 | |
| | | | Md. Abdus Salam | 10 | 2 | 8 | |
| | | | Naimul Islam | 4 | 1 | 3 | |
| | | | Mainul Hasan | 6 | 2 | 4 | |
| | | Patali Machuakhali Union Total = 6 | | | 47 | 14 | 33 |
| | | Khurushkul Union | Md. Mokhlesur Rahman | 12 | 5 | 7 | |
| | | | Masudur Rahman | 13 | 6 | 7 | |
| | | | Chitta Ranjan Sardar | 12 | 7 | 5 | |
| | | | Md. Rejaul Karim | 13 | 4 | 9 | |
| | | Khurushkul Union Total = 4 | | | 50 | 22 | 28 |
| | | Cox's Bazar Municipality | Abeda Sultana | 27 | 21 | 6 | |
| | | Cox's Bazar Municipality Total = 1 | | | 27 | 21 | 6 |
| | | Jhilwanja Union | Munim Hossain | 11 | 6 | 5 | |
| | | | Md. Touhidul Haque | 6 | 4 | 2 | |
| | | | Md. Moklachur Rahman | 4 | 4 | 0 | |
| | | | Md. Subahan Ali | 8 | 4 | 4 | |
| | | | Md. Asekul Haque | 10 | 10 | 0 | |
| | | | Tanzina Akther Rupa | 5 | 3 | 2 | |
| | | | Sulata Rani Addoy | 5 | 2 | 3 | |
| | | Jhilwanja Union Total = 7 | | | 49 | 33 | 16 |
| Cox's Bazar Upazila Total = | | | 173 | 90 | 83 | | |
| 2 | Ukhiya Upazila | Ratnapalong Union | Mhahashiya leza | 4 | 4 | 0 | |
| | | | Joyanta Kumar | 5 | 3 | 2 | |
| | | | Mst. Mortoza Banu | 2 | 0 | 2 | |
| | | Ratnapalong Union Total = 3 | | | 11 | 7 | 4 |
| | | Holdiapalong Union | Kanai Das | 3 | 0 | 3 | |
| | | | Md. Mostaqur Rahman | 7 | 3 | 4 | |
| | | | Md. Sohel Hossain | 3 | 0 | 3 | |
| | | Holdiapalong Union Total = 3 | | | 13 | 3 | 10 |
| Ukhiya Upazila Total = | | | 24 | 10 | 14 | | |
| 3 | Teknaf Upazila | Teknaf Powroshaba | Md. Saiful Islam | 14 | 8 | 6 | |
| | | | Shefa Uddin | 5 | 0 | 5 | |
| | | | Anam Mohammed Sharif | 5 | 0 | 5 | |
| | | Powroshaba Total = 3 | | | 24 | 8 | 16 |
| | | Teknaf Sader Union | Md. Abdul Fattah | 9 | 3 | 6 | |
| | | | Quazi Nazrul Karim | 11 | 3 | 8 | |
| | | | Afsana Mimi | 10 | 4 | 6 | |
| | | | Zobair Uddin | 8 | 2 | 6 | |
| | | | Nur Kamal | 5 | 3 | 2 | |
| Sadar Union Total = 5 | | | 43 | 15 | 28 | | |

| SL # | Upazila Name | Union Name | Name of staff | Total Target | Achieve 05.40.2020 | Achieve 06.40.2020 |
|------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Teknaf Upazila Total = | | | | 67 | 23 | 44 |
| Grand Total = | 8 | | Staff = 32 | 264 | 123 | 141 |