SHOUHARDO III shoulders on to fight COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic was confirmed to have spread to Bangladesh since March 2020. Since the first case was reported on 8 March, more than 7500 positive cases with 168 deaths were confirmed by 30 April 2020. In SHOUHARDO III working areas, more than 300 (4% of total affection) COVID-19 positive cases and four deaths were confirmed in Haor regions under Hobiganj, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, and Sumanganj.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, SHOUHARDO III cooperated and collaborated with the Government. Along with mass awareness-raising campaign SHOUHARDO planned to construct 88 handwashing points at the local healthcare facilities, including the Upazila Health Complex, Upazila Health and Family Welfare Center, Community Clinics, and one Blood Collection in working areas of Haor region. The program will also distribute BDT 12000 (USD 142) to about 6785 participants from the vulnerable households as cash transfer within July.

Moreover, considering the COVID-19 pandemic SHOUHARDO team is distributing food rations to 2220 extreme poor participants at their doors instead of distribution from one place. It’s been done in order to maintain social distance and avoid gatherings to protect participants from coronavirus.

Pahela Baishakh at the time of Coronavirus

April, 14 is celebrated all over Bangladesh as Pahela Baishakh, the first day of summer and the Bengali New Year. The nationwide lock down imposed by the government due to COVID-19 has stopped all regular activities, including any kind of gatherings or celebrations.

"We are unable to go outside, any movement is restricted, any type of gathering is not allowed, therefore, we could not gather up during Pohela Baishakh. We regularly celebrate the Bangla New Year. In the past years we bought new dresses in the eve of Pohela Baishakh, gathered at the village celebration point, ate traditional food and had fun all day. This year was sad as we had to stay inside our homes”.
- Antor, Benni Bandh village under Dakhin Bordal union of Tahirpur, Sunamganj

COVID-19 affects Harvesting in the Hoar areas

Coronavirus caused COVID-19 has impacted the harvesting and the overall agricultural works quite negatively. Nationwide lockdown has caused a serious reduction in available labor force and as a results farmers are suffering greatly.

On the other hand, some, especially wage labor, became afraid of getting in touch with people with coronavirus and affected as well, however, they had to go out to manage the necessary income to survive. Likely, some who leased small piece of land they started to think what will they take/consume after completion the food grains they produced; while monetary crises are becoming broaden day by day.

"We are forced to pay more wage to the labors for working in our fields. As, all the industries had been closed, people who were doing jobs as well as living in distant places like Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur and so on, came back to our villages and now have no money. As they have no other income sources they are charging more money for harvesting.” -Imam Hossain, a farmer from Khalishazuri, Uttar Sreepur, Tahirpur, Sunamganj