

## DISASTER MANAGEMENT, RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Bangladesh is a region of natural disasters. Natural disasters occur here in all most all of the six seasons. Cyclone, tidal surges, heavy rainfall, flooding, droughts, severe cold spells, river erosion, and fires occur in all over the year. At this time, people face too much problems. Poor people suffer a lot. Sometimes their crops, houses and property were fully destroyed so that they have to compel to sell fixed assets in order to survive. The program works to protect people from such natural disasters. During the financial year 2020-2021, the people of Bangladesh like all over the world were faced to disaster of COVID-19. Due to the pandemic of Corona virus the people of the country suffer a lot. PROSHIKA has worked for the people during the pandemic period in a large scale. The activities which implemented under this program are: distribution of blankets among the cold-stricken people, composing, recording and *miking* of recorded songs to make people aware of the effects of Covid-19. During this disastrous period PROSHIKA has also helped through distributing masks, sanitizers, soaps, bleaching powders, organized health camps and free vaccination cards to group members and members of the community to stay healthy and safe.



### **Creating awareness for Protection from COVID -19**

PROSHIKA: A Centre for Human Development) one of the largest NGOs of Bangladesh, has been started the project of 'Creating Awareness for Protection from COVID-19' by its own funds and it is started from March, 2020 and Still now it is continued. PROSHIKA has undertaken some practical initiative in consultation with the Government and the local government. And in order to implement these five-member committees were formed at the central level of PROSHIKA and five-member committees at almost all the working areas of PROSHIKA at local level. The members of the central level or the head office are the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executives and two other senior directors. The Chief Executive of PROSHIKA is the head of all these committees. The local level members are the senior officials of PROSHIKA's local command area and they are being assisted by all PROSHIKA workers in those areas.

Bangladesh recently experienced a COVID-19 second wave, resulting in the highest number of new cases and deaths in a single day. Lack of availability of protective equipment, crowded living situations and workspaces, inadequate information on the proper use of protective measures, inadequate hand washing and sanitation facilities, and negative influences on family/friends were identified as barriers to COVID-19 preventive practices. This Project can aid policymakers in developing tailored COVID-19 risk communications and mitigation strategies to help prevent future waves of the pandemic.

In order to reduce the severity of COVID-19, a wide-ranging awareness program is needed with the participation of government agencies as well as non-governmental organizations to inform the general people about the severity of the outbreak and their role and responsibilities. For these reasons, PROSHIKA has taken the project of 'Creating Awareness for Protection from COVID1-19.

The project has been selected for the purpose of implementation for 2.20 million people in all the working areas of PROSHIKA in the whole of Bangladesh. The areas specially are:- Dhaka, Barishal, Nilfamari, Chattogram, Gaibanda, Rajshahi, Greater Faridpur, and Munshigonj districts. PROSHIKA has allocated a budget of around Tk. 26 lakh for this project and about Tk. 20 lakh has already been spent for the project.

Almost all the people of the project area of PROSHIKA exposed to various COVID-19 awareness by PROSHIKA's campaigns including information, (via electronic, print, and social media) in the community by counseling through backyard meetings maintaining social distance, distributing of leaflets, giving clothes, miking, getting related information from its workers. People shared their need for more information on specific areas related to COVID-19. PROSHIKA distributed free essentials including masks, hand sanitizers, hand-washes, soaps and rice, pulses, oil, onions, clothes, blankets, etc. among the people of its project so that they can overcome the hard times of COVID-19 as well as stop taking interest on loans given to them at that time. The people have become aware of this horror and effective awareness has been created among them. As a result, they are more aware than ever of wearing masks and adhering to other hygiene rules.

**Table 14: Area-wise numerical data on the distribution of health related materials:**

| Name area  | Name and number of materials |             |
|--|------------------------------|-------------|
|  | Blanket                      | Mask        |
| <i>Nilphamari</i>                                  | 50                           | 100         |
| <i>Domar</i>                                       | 100                          | 1050        |
| <i>Chilahati</i>                                   | 50                           | 600         |
| <i>Gaibanda</i>                                    | 200                          | 400         |
| <i>Fulchari</i>                                    | 200                          | 200         |
| <i>Palashbari</i>                                  | 05                           | 15          |
| <i>Chattagram (Pahartali, Sagorika, Akbarshah)</i> | 500                          | 5000        |
| To give <i>Gaibanda</i> DC office                  | 50                           | -           |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>1155</b>                  | <b>7365</b> |

**Table 15: A total of money spent and the benefited people:**

| Description   | Money spent Tk. | Benefited people       |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|
| Mask, Soap, Sanitizer, bleaching powder, etc.   | 7,46,850.00     | 1,30,000.00            |
| Distributing blankets among the cold victims  | 2,89,000.00     | 1155                   |
| Providing financial assistance to the families whose house was burnt down in the fire | 3,570.00        | 1 ( <i>Banshkhal</i> ) |