

# SAJIDA FOUNDATION IN THE FRONT LINE TO TACKLE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Covid-19 Bulletin  
3rd Edition  
30th April, 2020

 **SAJIDA**  
FOUNDATION

## A Note from CEO

The COVID-19 pandemic is wrecking havoc in the lives of daily wage earners, operation of small businesses and the wider economy of Bangladesh. With the number of COVID-19 positive patients nearing the 10,000 mark, the Government of Bangladesh has decided to extend the lockdown till May 15, 2020 to protect its citizens.

We, at SAJIDA Foundation, have been doubling up on our efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic that has gripped the entire country. Right from the onset, SAJIDA has dedicated the focus of all its resources; including two hospitals, social enterprises, 300 branch offices and 3,600 staff; to help tackle this pandemic. Our hospitals in Narayanganj and Keraniganj have been treating COVID-19 positive and general patients relentlessly. We have also introduced remote consultation tools to overcome the lockdown challenges.

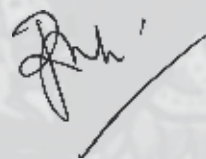
While taking stock of the situation, we have noted that residents in many areas across Bangladesh do not have access to COVID-19 treatment centres. The question, which then arises is, how we can serve such communities without further burdening our limited healthcare infrastructure. SAJIDA community centric architects will soon deploy a community-based solution to address this issue.

We are also seeing a rise in infection rate amongst frontline healthcare professionals. It is of utmost importance to ensure necessary protection to this working segment. As part of the solution, SAJIDA will introduce a compensation scheme for healthcare professionals across Bangladesh who have been affected by COVID-19.

Lastly, we have explored how to stimulate the rural economy in conjunction with our food and hygiene package distribution programs. One model which we are currently scaling up involves purchasing agriculture produce from rural farmers and then redistributing it to the vulnerable population.

Like all stakeholders, we are continuously evolving and adapting our work to address ground realities. We, at SAJIDA, recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a united action in response and we thank our partners for their continuous support.

Until next time!



Zahida Fizza Kabir

# Overview of SAJIDA Foundation's COVID-19 Interventions

## Areas served

**26** Districts

## Total population served

**2,178,895**

## Frontline healthcare services

**61** COVID-19 patients treated through SAJIDA's dedicated isolation centre in Narayanganj.

**9,464** general patients treated through SAJIDA's hospital in Keraniganj.

**136** samples collected from suspected COVID-19 patients.

**16,600** Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Sets distributed.

**70** medical personnel have received training from DGHS.

## Remote healthcare services

**736** mental health tele-consultation provided.

**6,600** participants in mental health Facebook Live sessions.

**793** general medical consultation provided through SAJIDA 24/7 doctor hotline.

**9,911** users have accessed SAJIDA's messenger chatbot and symptom checker to get preliminary diagnosis.

## Community awareness

**380,546** individuals made aware on health and hygiene practices through different mediums.

**688,534** individuals made aware on COVID-19 through phone calls.

## Protection mechanisms

**470** portable handwashing devices installed

**916,940** people using handwashing devices

**300** waste bins delivered to RMG factories

## Food and hygiene packages

**153,656** individuals

**38,414** households received food and hygiene packages

## Market linkage facilitation

**1,331** farmers and consumers connected with forward market to receive fair prices

(Updated on April 30, 2020)

## Frontline Health Support to Covid-19 Patients through Isolation & ICU Centre

SAJIDA Foundation has converted its 50-bed Narayanganj hospital into a COVID-19 dedicated Isolation and ICU centre under an MOU with the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). The hospital is equipped with a four-bed ICU unit including ventilators, two dialysis machines with central oxygen line and, a dedicated pool of 90 frontline medical and support staff.

Till date, a total of 61 patients have been admitted to the centre through DGHS referral. Of the 61 patients, 54 patients were found COVID-19 positive. Amongst the confirmed 54 cases, 41 are male and 13 are female. The distribution of patients across different age groups has been relatively the same. The six patients who have unfortunately passed away are mostly above the age of 60 with various comorbidities. Currently, 29 patients are undergoing treatment while 25 patients have been discharged after receiving treatment.



*“It is a huge challenge. I remain isolated at home from my family members. However, sacrifices need to be made during such times and I am proud to serve at the centre. “*

*Muhammad Ubaydullah, Manager, SAJIDA COVID-19 Isolation & ICU Centre*

*“I was diagnosed with COVID-19 on the 4th of April and immediately got admitted to SAJIDA’s Isolation Centre. On the 27th of April, my follow-up test was negative. I am grateful to SAJIDA for setting up this facility to treat patients like us and am thankful to their doctors, nurses and other staff who put their lives at risk to save mine.”*

*Anonymous COVID-19 patient*

## Uninterrupted Support to Regular Patients from Keraniganj Hospital

SAJIDA’s hospital in Keraniganj is one of the few institutions which has continued to serve general patients during this challenging time. Frontline professionals have been equipped with PPEs and extensive disinfection processes are being followed at the hospital premises. Additionally, SAJIDA is sharing its laboratory technician with the Government’s Keraniganj Health & Family Welfare Complex to support sample collection.

### Number of Patients Served since 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

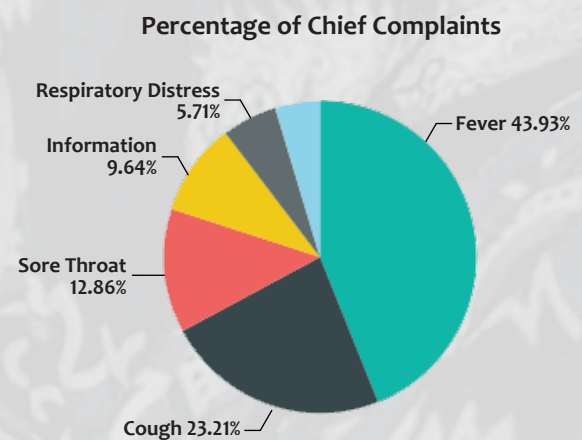
No. of indoor patients	No. of OPD patients	Diagnostic tests	No. of surgeries	Total
975	3,519	4,783	187	9,464

*“My wife went into labour on the 24th of April. The hospital which we were taking service from during the pregnancy period was shut down because of the COVID-19 crisis. Based on a referral, I took my wife to SAJIDA’s hospital. My wife and new-born baby are now safe and doing well. SAJIDA Hospital was a blessing for us and I hope it continues to provide 24x7 medical services during this pandemic.”*

*Md. Mohsin, father of a new-born baby*

## 24/7 Doctor Consultation Hotline

The popularity of remote doctor consultation has understandably risen during the COVID-19 crisis. GoB’s medical consultation numbers have been stretched due to massive increase in call volume. To cater to information seekers remotely, SAJIDA has also set up a 24/7 health information hotline number with a pool of nine registered doctors. These doctors are providing consultation on general health queries and refer complex cases to specialized institutions. A total of 338 consultations have been provided in the past two weeks.



## Emergency Food and Hygiene Package Distribution



SAJIDA Foundation has distributed food and hygiene packages to over 150,000 individuals in the last two months. A special focus was put on minority communities including the Bihari’s in Mirpur and Sayedpur, Nomad’s in Keraniganj and Chandpur, the transgender community, tribal population of Netrokona and Rajshahi, and sex workers of Daulatdia, Rajbari.

*“SAJIDA Foundation’s initiatives have really benefitted the residents of Chandpur Municipality. I am also pleased to hear SAJIDA’s plan to provide food and hygiene allowance to the ultra-poor population using mobile financial services, while educating our residents about hygiene practices through installation of handwashing stations.”*

*Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Honourable Mayor of Chandpur Municipality*

## A Story from the Field



*Khodeja is a single mother who has constantly fought to provide for her three children. She supports her family through her business: buying and selling of recycled goods. Her business is now in tatters because of the lack of economic activity due to the COVID-19 crisis. SAJIDA Foundation with support from IDLC came forward to support her family with a package of food and daily essentials.*

*We thank IDLC. Financing Happiness for coming forward to help thousands like Khodeja.*

## Helping Farmers in Supply Chain

Since the beginning of the lockdown, ultra-poor farmers & dairymen have struggled to sell their products to forward market actors. On the other hand, the consumers are also facing difficulty in purchasing these essentials due to a lack of access to local markets. To address this situation, the agriculture unit of SAJIDA has deployed a market facilitation initiative. During the last few weeks 1,331 farmers have sold their quality produce to interested clients.

## Disinfection Initiatives in Slums

SAJIDA piloted the use of contactless paddle-based handwash devices in two slums located in Dhaka South City Corporation. The devices have proven to be popular amongst residents and easy to maintain. Over the next few weeks, 28 such devices will be setup in other slum areas.



*“The devices installed by SAJIDA have been extremely well received by residents. These residents have taken on the responsibility of maintaining these devices on their own. Our model is now being replicated by other organizations in different areas.”*

*Faruk Hossain, a branch Manager of Microfinance program, SAJIDA Foundation*

Additionally, SAJIDA has appointed volunteers who are continuously disinfecting five slums three times a day by spraying disinfectants. Twenty additional slums will be brought under the disinfection initiative in the coming weeks.

## Initiatives Taken by SAJIDA's Social Enterprises

### Home & Community Care

Home and Community Care Ltd (HCCL) team has continued to provide caregiving services to its elderly client base. HCCL caregivers are now staying at their clients' residence 24/7 due to the lockdown. HCCL is frequently arranging tele-training sessions to enhance the technical capacity of its caregivers.

*“Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, I am working while staying at the client's home 24/7. My family does not live here in Dhaka but I have been getting the empathetic family-like support for the last one month while working here. My HCCL family ensures my physical and mental wellbeing through tele-training and regular calls.”*

*Beauty Rani Dash, a caregiver of Home and Community Care team*



### Psychological Health and Wellness Clinic

PHWC has provided 191 on-call and video mental health counselling sessions to individuals in the past two weeks. PHWC's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) which was launched to counsel and educate employees of different organizations, has provided services to six organizations: HSBC, Danish Refugee Council, Terres Des Hommes, Cathay Pacific, Plan International Bangladesh and Delivery Hero. Moner Jotno, a national platform with hotline numbers, has been launched through collaboration with BRAC and Kaan Pete Roi.

Currently, it has 5 counsellors for PHWC on ROTA and 25 calls have been received in the past two weeks. It has also conducted a webinar for the staff of UNICEF and, online sessions for the students and faculty members of IUB.

Dr. Ashique Selim, the lead Psychiatrist and Managing Director PHWC, is hosting a series of Facebook live discussions on mental health during the COVID-19 crisis. The sessions take place every Sunday evening and have been viewed by 6,600 people so far.

## Inner Circle

Inner Circle, which provides service for special children, has been arranging video therapy sessions. Till now total 152 hours of video sessions have been conducted by the therapists. The team has also introduced a new online based intake assessment session for new enrolments.



*“The idea of conducting virtual session with special students was quite new to me as I have always conducted face-to-face sessions. Before starting sessions, our management team helped me adjust to the current challenge. On my first virtual session, the smiling face of my student on the computer screen gave me confidence. Throughout the sessions, I could observe my students’ work, behaviour and know about their daily activities. The parents are also participating, practicing and asking questions now. I provide them different guidelines on managing behaviour along with necessary instructions. I am also teaching parents how to play with kids. My quarantine is less boring now because of these virtual sessions.”*

*Ms. Tanvina, Behavior Therapist, Inner Circle*

## Donation to Honourable Pm’s Fund

The staffs of SAJIDA have donated their salary of 1 day to Honourable Prime Minister’s COVID-19 fund through PKSF in the month of April.

## Collaboration with Kan Pete Roi

SAJIDA Foundation along with Kan Pete Roi have started a collaboration on immediate emotional support over the phone to those distressed, isolated or have suicidal tendency. The hotline has supported around 193 people through phone calls till date.





## We are Thankful to Our Noble Covid-19 Response Partners



And to the Thousands of Donors  
Who Stepped Up in this Hour of Need



## Come Forward and Make a Difference

SAJIDA family is grateful for your thoughtful and generous contribution in these adverse times.

Your contribution has made it possible for us to serve vulnerable population across the country. There is, however, more work which needs to be done. We encourage you to visit the following link and see how you can make a Difference:

<https://www.sajidafoundation.org/donate-now/>

