SAJIDA FOUNDATION AND RENATA LTD.
TEAM UP TO TACKLE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Covid-19 Bulletin
2nd Edition
18th April, 2020

26 Districts covered
1,494,434 Total Population Reached

Patients Served: 1914
General Hospital: (Keraniganj Hospital)
Served :31
Isolation Centre with ICU
(Narayanganj Hospital) with DGHS

13,168 PPE Sets Distributed
455 24/7 Doctor Hotline

370,207 Health and Hygiene awareness
387,027 Reached through Phone calls

461 Hand Washing Devices installed
584,327 Using Hand Washing Devices

14,813 Received Food and Hygiene Package
94 Mental Health Tele-counselling

2900 Mental Health FB Live Sessions
300 Waste Bins Delivered to RMG Factories

9544 Users Reached via Messenger Chabot
70 Medical Staff trained by DGHS
SAJIDA Foundation is one of the first philanthropic organizations that has converted its Narayanganj hospital into a COVID-19 dedicated Isolation and ICU centre. The centre has been operating in partnership with the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). It is fully equipped with four ICU units including ventilators, a dialysis unit and a dedicated pool of 59 frontline medical staff. The centre is now in full operation and two more ICU beds are being prepared for patient usage. From 15th April 2020, 31 Patients have been admitted to the centre through DGHS referral. Out of 31 patients, 26 patients were found COVID-19 positive and are still undergoing treatment, while remaining patients have been discharged. The centre is expected to serve more patients as the rate of infection in Bangladesh is increasing at a high rate. Amongst the confirmed 26 cases, 21 are male and 5 are female. With regards to age groups of the patients, 33% are between 30-39 years of age, 24% are 40-49 years old, 15% are 20-29 years of age. The majority of the patients have presented fever and sore throat as primary. The primary symptom while 2 patients are in a critical comorbid condition (DM, HTN).

Amidst lack of coordination and sudden panic created amongst healthcare professionals due the unprecedented crisis, the Keraniganj SAJIDA Hospital has continued to execute its routine services. We have seen a significant number of private healthcare facilities have partially or shut down their services despite having sufficient capacities, yet our Keraniganj hospital has ensured that its services remain uninterrupted in this time of crisis. SAJIDA has ensured Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) to its healthcare system right from the beginning. SAJIDA has provided its healthcare staff essential support and services such as disinfecting processes of which have been boosted and prioritized. Since 26 March, SAJIDA Hospital, Keraniganj has provided 1,701 healthcare related services to its patients. This number includes outpatient services, laboratory investigations, pharmacy services, etc. 183 patients have been admitted and 30 surgical operations have been conducted during this period. The SAJIDA hospital team has committed to provide uninterrupted services in this period of time.
“I have been working with SAJIDA Hospital Narayanganj for the past three years as a medical officer. When SAJIDA decided to transform the hospital into a COVID-19 Isolation plus ICU Centre and ordered me to be in-charge, it was a huge honour. It provided me the opportunity to serve my country and its people by playing a significant role in this ongoing humanitarian response. Initially, my family members were a little hesitant but I was able to convince them that it was vital for me to take on this role. Currently, I am engaged not only in patient management, managing the duty roster of medical staff and I am reporting assignments outside the scheduled work. I strongly believe that the SAJIDA, government and people of our country will recognise the work me and my fellow frontline health workers are doing in this time of emergency.”

Dr. Yusa Ibna Nakib
Clinical In-charge
SAJIDA COVID-19 Isolation & ICU Centre

“I have a six month pregnant wife at home and still have been fulfilling my duties as a doctor at SAJIDA Hospital's Emergency department to the best of my abilities. Despite my family's concern for my well-being, I have still decided to come forward to aid my people putting aside my own personal worries for my unborn child. I have been working at the Emergency Department at SAJIDA Hospital for the last three years and have decided to put my profession first during this global pandemic, because my duty as a doctor comes before everything else.”

Dr. Tanujit Banik Emergency Medical Officer
“Majeda and I are part of the cleaning staff and have been working at our hospital to support the COVID patients. Our landlords and neighbours have been telling us to not go out or leave our houses. They even ordered that if we keep working at the hospital, we won’t be allowed to enter our own neighbourhood. Finally, with the aid of our hospital manager Mr. Ubaydullah, we went to the police to seek help. The police were able to make the local people understand that Majeda and I were doing our duty and helping people in these dire times.”

Sonia Akter Majeda and Ruma Begum  
Cleaning Staff

“Operating a Covid-19 centre is the most difficult job that I have ever experienced in my entire life-time. It feels as if I am working on a battlefield. It’s very difficult for me to express the challenging extent of the current situation in words. I am praying for all of my beloved colleagues of both our hospitals to be safe. Please pray for our frontline fighters and patients.”

Dr. Tariqul Islam, Director, Hospitals

To address the crisis of the shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for frontline healthcare professionals, SAJIDA has distributed 13,168 full sets of PPEs to hospitals and health institutions in partnership with DGHS.

**HEALTH INFORMATION HOTLINE**

With the number of Covid-19 cases on the rise, visiting hospitals for regular health needs is not recommended. This has led government health hotlines being under immense pressure. SAJIDA has set up a 24/7 health Information hotline number consisting of a pool of 9 registered doctors. A total of 455 consultations have been provided through this call centre and only 28 cases (6%) have been referred to different institutions. We have ensured health and safety of our own healthcare workers working in the Isolation and ICU centre in Narayanganj, Keraniganj hospital and to SAJIDAs field office workers who are tirelessly working for food and hygiene pack distribution.
SAJIDA Foundation has distributed food and hygiene packages to 14,813 Households targeting primarily daily wage earners in both rural and urban areas of the country. The initiative is supported by our generous partners and donors. Each package containing 5kg rice, 2kg potato, 1kg lentil, ½ litre edible oil, ½kg salt and 2 soap bars; is enough to feed a 4 member family for a week. This will be converted into bi-weekly distribution with increased quantities along cash transfers.

HELPING FARMERS IN SUPPLY CHAIN
SAJIDA has aided 50 ultra poor rural farmers in marketing their vegetables in the market. We emphasized the need for fair pricing of their produce and assisted them in times where there is a broken supply chain due to lockdown. This initiative will be further expanded.

SHELTER SUPPORT
The Foundation is providing shelter and food support to approximately 200 pavement dwellers and vulnerable street children in its Sadarghat Social Service Centre under DSCC. A surveillance team is also continuously monitoring night streets to find vulnerable people who require support and help.
COOKED MEAL DISTRIBUTION
SAJIDA extended the food security program to 459 street children with cooked meals in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) areas through its Pavement Dwellers Centres.

COMMUNITY AND STAFF AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES
Due to the strenuous work of SAJIDA’s field officers, the organization has reached around 3,70,207 people throughout 26 districts through the distribution of leaflets and banners as well as by providing door-to-door consultation on preventive measures against COVID-19 until it was feasible.

AWARENESS THROUGH PHONE CALLS
The call centre executives and field officers of SAJIDA have reached out to a total of 387,027 people through phone calls. These phone calls provide information on hygiene, home quarantine, care for the elderly and high risk population in Bangladesh. Our volunteers and field-staffs are also collecting COVID-19 symptom related data from underprivileged communities, keeping track of this data in an internal database and ensuring support where it is needed or linking them with the government support system.
"I am a resident of platform #: 07 of Kamalapur Railway station with my husband and 9 year old child. My husband has been put under immense pressure during this time due to the lack of work and I myself as a housemaid am the only means to provide a livelihood for my family. As the coronavirus situation got worse around late March, I could no longer continue to work as everyone refused to allow housemaids into their homes. I was extremely troubled not being able to manage food for my family. That’s when, SAJIDA Foundation workers came to my rescue providing us with the food and hygiene packages."

Khodeza Begum,
A beneficiary of Maniknagar Pavement Dweller Centre

SAJIDA Foundation along with Renata Ltd., Vertex Chambers, and Apinion BD has developed a messenger chatbot. The objective is to connect people to authentic news links and help them understand their symptoms of COVID-19 through a system checker. The ChatBot enables people to find guidelines from credible sources on the do’s and don’ts on how to prevent being infected and infecting others, how to get connected to different emergency services, and take part in public polls among other various functions described below. Doctors and others interested can also sign up as volunteers to work with SAJIDA through this ChatBot. To date, the application has 8,970 users and 574 people have signed up as volunteers.
SAJIDA has classified its working areas according to danger zones declared by the IEDCR. Regular communication is being made to the staff through SMS and Phone calls by the HR team and respective program teams. As soon as any symptoms appear, the staff are immediately isolated. Those who are still at station and quarantined, are continuously monitored by the hotline doctors and provided with all kinds of support from the program team. SAJIDA has also committed to bear all medical expenses related to the treatment of the pandemic for its staffs. Till 15 April, a total of 42 staffs were quarantined and under close observation. In line with the Govt., SAJIDA has also issued a notice to its staffs to work from home till 25 April 2020. The field staffs are instructed to not to leave their work station to prevent them from infection exposure. Their food and other necessary commodities are being borne by the organization. However, the organization encourages its staff to move immediately to their families in case of any familial emergencies with proper safety measures.

A guideline on routine disinfecting measures of the offices and their dormitories’ have also been reinforced in all SAJIDA sites.
SAJIDA’s Home and Community Care team has been focusing on elderly/high risk group in the Bangladeshi population. Caregivers are now residing in clients homes 24/7 under the lockdown situation. In emergency cases, safe transportation such as SAJIDA ambulance and clients vehicles are being provided for their travel, as they are now not allowed to use any means of public transport. Caregivers are being trained over phone calls, WhatsApp group sessions, being provided with training materials distributed among them through both online and physical mediums. Live-video based training sessions are being arranged but it is still a work in progress. To motivate the active caregivers who are working during this COVID-19 crisis intensively, SAJIDA is providing 50% incentives on their monthly compensations. The team is always in touch with the clients and caregivers to ensure their safety and security during these challenging times.

PHWC has provided 85 on-call and video counselling sessions to its clients thus far. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) has provided support to 5 organizations HSBC, Danish Refugee Council, Terres Des Hommes, Cathay Pacific and Delivery Hero.

Moner Jotno is a national platform with hotline numbers, through collaboration with BRAC and Kaan Pete Roi, the platform is in its final stages of initiation as final trials are being done before its formal launch. Currently, it has 5 counsellors on ROTA and 4 calls have been received in the last week. Dr. Ashique Selim, the lead Psychiatrist and Managing Director of the company, is hosting a series of online discussions on Mental Health during the COVID-19 crisis. Sessions will be weekly covering a range of topics and will be followed by Q and A sessions.
Inner Circle has been operating in this situation under following strategies:

- Virtual OT workshop for clients with international specialist Guo Hua.
- Trainings and case discussions for therapists by Case Managers.
- Researching different modes of tele therapy and virtual therapy for adoption in this pandemic condition.
- Meeting with CogniAble (an online service provider based in India) to integrate their software with its services to offer online Advance Behavioural Therapy (ABA) training to parents and make existing virtual therapy more robust.

Donate

SAJIDA FOUNATION IS VERY GRATNFDUL FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL AND GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION IN THESE AVERSE TIMES. YOUR CONTRIBUTION HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY FOOD AND SUPPLIES TO THE VULNERABLE POPULATION ACROSS BANGLADESH. WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

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