



Provision of Emergency Handwashing Service to Help Poor Slum Dwellers in Bangladesh Fight Against Covid-19:

Final Report

Bangladesh-Sakhipur



28th June, 2021

Executive Summary

There is an ongoing pandemic of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Bangladesh which was first notified on 8th March 2020. In order to mitigate the adverse effects of this pandemic in Sakhipur Municipality, a COVID-19 response plan as a part of emergency response to this pandemic was developed by BASA Foundation in collaboration with Sakhipur municipality and with technical support from WaterAid Bangladesh.

During this project period, main focus was given to - the maintenance of 28 hand washing devices, supplying detergent powder for hand washing at all handwashing device, arranging of one-to-one counselling, taking session & miking about the importance of maintaining hygiene to fight against Covid-19. We have also distributed 1033 hygiene kit package to the adolescent girls to improve their menstrual hygiene during this critical period.

In addition, hygiene kit package was distributed among adolescent girls which was another important intervention of this project. In this Covid-19 days, many girls from low-income community, who were using sanitary napkins in their menstrual days, went back to again for using cloth pads due to lack of money for purchasing sanitary pads. Considering the fact, a package of hygiene kit (including 6 sanitary napkin packets, soaps and others hygiene materials) is distributed among 1033 poor adolescent girls from 9 wards of municipality to ensure a healthy way of living in their menstrual days.

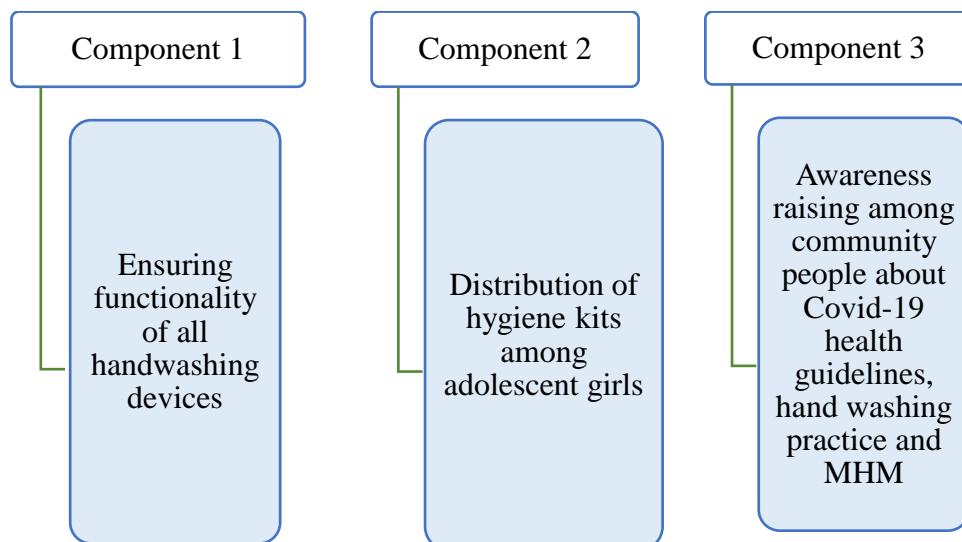
At the end of the project, a sharing meeting was arranged with the authority to share the performance of the project with stakeholders and identify the way forward of its operation and maintenance with local government institutions and other agencies. Recognising this Covid-19 project as one of the most successful projects currently running in Sakhipur, local government and other govt. officials like Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Assistant Commissioner (land), Upazilla Chairman & Ward Councilors of Sakhipur Municipality have highly appreciated the project activities and assured us about continuing these activities afterwards for fighting against Covid-19 and ensuring a healthy environment for all the communities of Sakhipur municipality.

Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1 Background

With the recommendation of WHO’s emergency committee, COVID-19 was declared as a public health emergency of international concern on January 30th, 2020. By March 11th 2020, WHO declared the virus a pandemic - the first coronavirus to be declared as such. Like other countries in the world, Bangladesh recorded its first COVID-19 cases in early March 2020, and since then cases have continued to increase exponentially. In order to mitigate the adverse effects of this pandemic in Sakhipur Municipality, a COVID-19 response plan as a part of emergency response to this pandemic was developed by BASA Foundation in collaboration with Sakhipur municipality and with technical support from WaterAid Bangladesh.

The first phase of this project started from April 2020 and lasted till September 2020. The project ended up initially establishing 28 handwashing devices and distributing hygiene kits among 4552 households from low-income community in Sakhipur municipality. Following this, the second phase was designed to run from January 2021 to June 2021. As before, the main goal of this project was to ensure that the risk of corona virus remains low among the target communities through increased access to handwashing facilities, enough supply of soap and practice of hand washing. However, under this project, the following components were given importance-



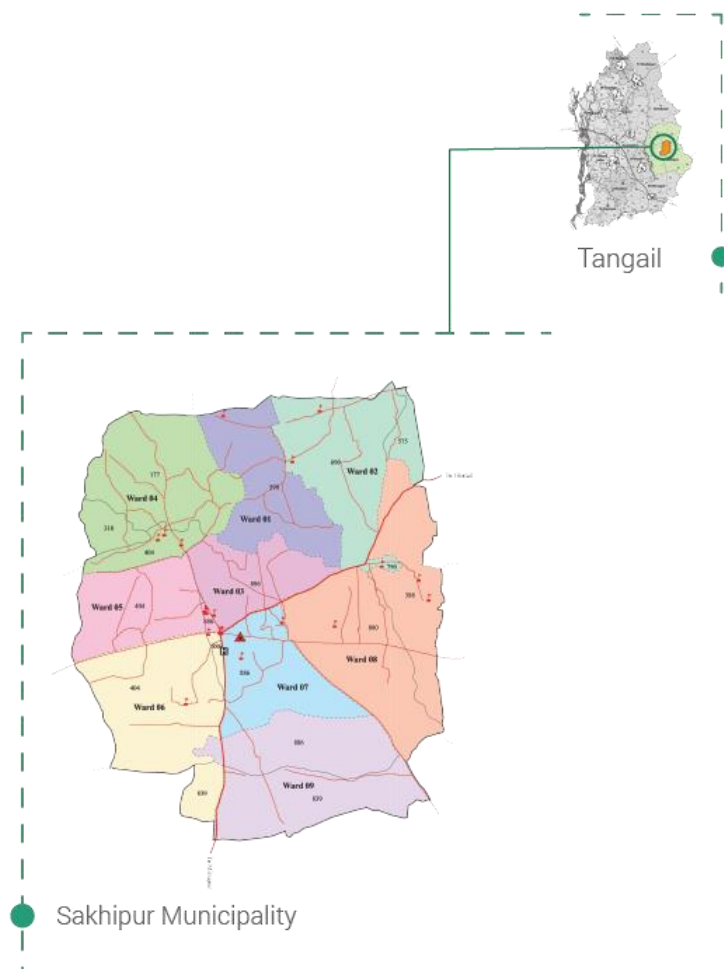
1.2 Objectives of the project

The overall objective of the project is to reduce the adverse impact of Covid-19 situation on low-income community people of Sakhipur municipality. The specific objectives of the assignment are as follows:

- Access to handwashing facilities and ensure 28 HWD remains functional.
- Total 1033 adolescent girls will get a hygiene kit throughout the period.
- Target communities will be aware and motivated to follow the instructions.

1.3 Study Area

Sakhipur, the second biggest upazila of Tangail Zila in respect of area, came into existence in 1976 as a thana and was upgraded to upazila in 1983 having one municipality. Sakhipur became a Pourashava (municipality) in October 2000. It has an annual income of 6 million Bangladeshi Taka (BDT) over the last three years which makes it an ‘A’ category pourashava. It is located in the north-central part of Bangladesh. Sakhipur municipality consists of 9 wards and 18 mahallas covering an area of 13.77 square kilometers. It has a population of approximately 30,028 with a density of around 2,611 people / km².



1.4 Project Summary

Project Name	Provision of Emergency Handwashing Service to Help Poor Slum Dwellers in Bangladesh Fight Against Covid-19
Total Budget	BDT 16,00,000
Implemented By	BASA Foundation
Financial and Technical Support By	WaterAid Bangladesh
Goal of the Project	Risk of corona Virus remain low among the target communities through increased access to handwashing facilities, enough supply of soap and practice of hand washing.
Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure access to 28 functional handwashing facilities for community. • To distribute hygiene kit package to 1033 adolescent girls. • To motivate target communities to follow Covid-19 related health instructions.
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation, maintenance and sustainability support for already installed 28 hand washing facilities. • Slum dwellers have been received awareness messages through distribution of 20 communication materials (large size message board) • 1033 adolescent girls in slums received hygiene kits. • 27 slum dwellers, waste and sanitation workers have been registered for Covid-19 vaccination through the project support. • Setting up 8 mobile hand washing facilities in different public locations covering 74 people. • 1 coordination meeting with local authorities have been organized.
Project Duration	January-June, 2021

1.5 Timeframe of Project Activities

Activity	January				February				March				April				May				June				
	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	
Preparation of PIP and budget	■	■																							
Contract signing among BASA Foundation and WaterAid Bangladesh			■																						
Staff Recruitment and orientation				■	■																				
Selection and orientation of Volunteer						■																			
Installment of large size message board at each handwashing demonstration places							■	■	■	■	■	■													
Operation, maintenance and sustainability support for installed 28 hand washing facilities.						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Identification of adolescent girls							■	■	■	■															
Procurement of hygiene kits									■	■	■	■													
Distribution of hygiene kits among adolescent girls																		■	■	■	■	■	■		

Chapter 2. Analysis of Results

2.1 Result 1: Access to handwashing facilities and ensuring functionality of 28 HWD

In the first phase of Covid-19 response project, 28 handwashing devices were installed in different locations of Sakhipur Municipality. After the completion of first phase on September, 2020, due to lack of proper maintenance these hand washing devices are sometimes found to be malfunctional. Under the second phase of this project, much importance was given to the operation, maintenance and sustainability support for already installed 28 hand washing facilities. A total of 21,300 community people has been benefitted through the service of these hand washing devices among which 10620 are male and 10680 are female.

SL No	Device Location	Total Population	Male	Female
1	Rakibnagar Abashon	200	95	105
2	Gas Chaurasta	500	225	275
3	Municipality	500	240	260
4	Thana Mosque	1500	720	780
5	Mondir Para	700	336	364
6	Boicher More	500	245	255
7	Uttara/Kanar more	600	288	312
8	Captain More	500	240	260
9	Jailkhana mor	800	384	416
10	Sakhipur Health Complex	1500	720	780
11	Upazila Gate	2500	1200	1300
12	Mojib College	500	240	260
13	Hospital gate	300	144	156
14	Khan Market	500	240	260
15	Mukter Fowara	1000	480	520
16	Pilot School	400	192	208
17	Sabeder Chala	200	96	104
18	In front of godown	300	144	156
19	SDS More	300	165	135
20	Bigganagar	400	223	177
21	Puratan Pouroshova	500	240	260
22	Sakhipur Kacha Bazar	2000	960	1040
23	Zayeda Market	300	144	156
24	Registry Office	2000	1250	750
25	Mujib College More	300	144	156

26	CNG Station	1000	525	475
27	Life Care	500	260	240
28	Surjo Tarun	1000	480	520
Total		21300	10620	10680

Along with these hand washing devices, slum dwellers have been received awareness messages through distribution of 20 communication materials (large size message board). These message board describe the proper and hygienic way of washing hands to prevent being affected by corona virus. These message board were installed on top of the hand washing devices.



Figure: Message Board for increasing awareness among community

2.2 Result 2: Distribution of hygiene kits among adolescent girls

According to World Health Organization, a person aged 10–19 years is considered as an adolescent. The transition period between the childhood and adulthood is called adolescence which is marked with the growth and development of the child. During this period, physical, psychological, and biological development of the child occurs. It is recognized as a special period in a girl’s life cycle which requires special attention. Menarche is an important biological milestone in a woman’s life as it marks the onset of the reproductive phase of her life. The average age at menarche is mostly consistent across the populations that is, between 12 and 13 years of age. Unfortunately, due to lack of knowledge on menstruation preparedness and management or due to shyness and embarrassment the situation becomes worse for girls. Menstruation is a natural process but it is still a taboo in our society as it is considered unclean and dirty.

The preference of sanitary protection material is based on personal choice, cultural acceptability, economic status, and availability in local market. In rural areas, the most

preferred absorbents are reusable cloth pads which is very harmful to health. Moreover, in this Covid-19 days, many girls from low-income community, who were using sanitary napkins in their menstrual days, went back to again for using cloth pads due to lack of money for purchasing sanitary pads. Considering the fact, a package of hygiene kit (including 6 sanitary napkin packets, soaps and others hygiene materials) is distributed among poor adolescent girls to ensure a healthy way of living in their menstrual days.

Distributing hygiene kits among adolescent girls was the most important intervention of the project. Under the project, hygiene kits were distributed among 1033 adolescent girls from 9 wards of the Municipality.

SL No	Area	Number of adolescent girls received hygiene kit
1	Ward Number 1	76
2	Ward Number 2	83
3	Ward Number 3	79
4	Ward Number 4	107
5	Ward Number 5	152
6	Ward Number 6	130
7	Ward Number 7	140
8	Ward Number 8	128
9	Ward Number 9	138
Total		1033

2.3 Result 3: Raising awareness among target communities to follow Covid-19 related health instructions

Now-a-days, as the number of Covid-19 cases climbs, all countries across the world have adopted a variety of restrictions to try to curb the spread and ‘flatten the curve’ to prevent health care systems from being overwhelmed. Under the Covid-19 project, effective health information campaigns have played an important role in raising public awareness and encouraging preventive and health-promoting behavior. The campaigns, which includes community-based awareness raising session, counselling & miking, have helped dispel misinformation while promoting health recommendations and medical guidelines. This

awareness raising and promotion of preventive behaviors sessions, which reached 21300 people, were based on standardized messages developed by the WaterAid Bangladesh, BASA Foundation & Sakhipur Municipality according to the WHO guidelines.

This involved a total of 2 staff and 3 community-based volunteers trained in COVID-19 preparedness, awareness raising and response. Local people from Sakhipur are gradually being encouraged to wash hands frequently, use antiseptics to clean household items, wear masks in public places, avoid meeting people with colds and coughs, observe physical distance, avoid crowded places, and stay home as much as possible.

Hand washing is one of the simplest and most effective means of preventing the spread of flu and other infectious diseases. While conducting awareness raising sessions, washing hands frequently and properly were given most importance.

When should you wash hands?

- Wash your hands before: handling food, eating or drinking, smoking, brushing teeth, engaging in any activity that involves hand-to-mouth contact.
- Wash your hands after using the toilet, coughing or sneezing into hands, engaging in any activity that may have contaminated hands.
- Wash your hands frequently throughout the day even if you think they don't need to be washed.

How should you wash your hands?

- Wet hands with water.
- Apply a generous amount of soap and lather hands well.
- Rub hands together for 20 seconds, paying special attention to the areas between fingers and under nails.
- Rinse hands thoroughly with water. Dry hands with a towel.

Besides creating awareness among community people about washing hands, maintaining distance and following other health issues, people have been made aware of vaccination against Covid-19. 27 slum dwellers, waste and sanitation workers have been registered for Covid-19 vaccination through the project support.

2.4 Result 4: Installment of Tipitap

Along with the hand washing devices, 8 tipitap have been installed under this project in different locations of Sakhipur for ensuring hygiene in the community. Community Location of Tipitap are explained below-

SL No	Location	Ward No	No of User
1	Gandina Para	7	15
2	Moddho Para	7	12
3	Moythar Chala	5	10
4	Jamtola	5	7
5	Gojarchala	9	6
6	Kalidas Road	7	10
7	Sakhipur Moddho Para	7	8
8	Gandina Para	7	6

Chapter 3. External Relations

3.1 Government Relations and Stakeholder Engagement

There was a significant improvement in relations with the local government during the project period. The officials from municipality and Upazila parishad started approaching the programme frequently to better understand the project approach. Recognising this Covid-19 project as one of the most successful project currently running in Sakhipur, local government and other govt. officials like Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Assistant Commissioner (land), Upazilla Chairman & Ward Councilors of Sakhipur Municipality have highly appreciated the project activities requested BASA Foundation and WaterAid Bangladesh to again come up with these types of projects.

Significant improvement in communication, information exchange, and overall relation with the government were observed after holding an inauguration program for hygiene kit distribution and after that organizing a meeting named “sharing with authorities”. This meeting objective was to share the performance of the project with stakeholders and identify the way forward of its operation and maintenance with local government institutions and other agencies.

Chapter 4. Challenges and Risks

4.1 Situation Analysis

During the period of Covid-19 response project, the political situation of the was calm and non-eventful. The local Government is running its business free from any political opposition from other political parties. There were extensive political campaigns at the beginning of this project period due to the local government election but it did not have any significant impact on project activities.

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 for the second time, Sakhipur municipality declared lock down for few days. Volunteers could not conduct awareness raising sessions at that time. Later they managed to achieve the target putting more time and efforts.

4.2 Intervention Related Challenges

- All the hand washing devices were installed in public domain. At times, some fitting materials of device or cleaning materials would have been stolen.
- Getting running water all through the day from the community was a challenge of the project.
- One of our major activities- distribution of hygiene kits, was started late due to lock down throughout the whole country.

Chapter 5. Lessons Learned and Way Forward

5.1 Lessons Learned

- Coordination, collaboration and partnerships are key.
- Stay at Home- Public health is everyone's Responsibility.
- Wash hands frequently at least for 20 seconds.
- More action & investment in menstrual health & hygiene.

5.2 Way Forward

- Local communities should come forward to ensure the continual flow of running water.
- Commissioners from each ward can nominate representatives or volunteers for the maintenance of hand washing devices installed in his area.

- Municipality can come forward to ensure the sustainability of the operations like-regular maintenance of hand washing devices, raising awareness among community people about MHM and Covid-19 issues.

Chapter 6. Case Study/Life Story

6.1 MHM- A story of a disable girl

With the initiatives taken by the “BASA-Covid 19 Project” in the year of 2021 (Janary-June,) hygiene kits were provided to adolescent girls at Sakhipur municipality area. A girl named “Nasrin”, living at the ‘Moytachala’ area in Ward no 5 of Sakhipur municipality, was one of the adolescent girls from the list who cannot talk properly. Her age is 16 years old. By born, she has a problem with her voice. Nasrin’s father health condition is not good. He has been suffering from paralysis for 3 years. Her mother works at others home for their family’s financial support. So, it is quite impossible for them to buy and use sanitary napkin regularly.

*“Me and my daughter never used sanitary napkin before. After attending this event, I know about the use of sanitary napkin and get 6 packets of it for my daughter from BASA-Covid-19 project”. I have shared my knowledge with my disable girl, **Nasrin**, who has problem with her voice. I think, my daughter will be able to lead a healthy life from now on. I wish every girl or women could have change their MHM practice like us for developing a healthy and safe menstrual period”*

– *said by **Laila** (mother of Nasrin)*

Mrs. Laila again mentioned that Shetu (Volunteer) went to her and listed her daughter’s name on the adolescent list & told her about the menstrual health of adolescent and women. After knowing the importance of menstrual hygiene, Laila along with her daughter Nasrin want to change their practice for developing a healthy and safe menstrual period.



6.2 Hand Washing Device- View changing story

In front of Godawn, a handwashing device was installed in the first phase of Covid-19 response project. In the beginning of second phase of this project, this device was active but the water drainage system was found in poor condition. There was no one responsible found who would clean and take care of the hand washing device regularly.

After the starting of this project, the problem related to water drainage system was identified and later it was repaired immediately. To repair the drainage system, we were in need of a 90 feet long pipe which would go underground. But we were not getting permission from the landowner to dig the soil. With the help of the ward councilor, our project staffs and volunteers explained to the landowner for several times and finally he was convinced. Then we were able to repair the drainage system successfully. In such a context, one of the community people impulsively took initiative to plaster the floor of the device. Currently about 300 people use the device daily.

