COVID 19 and DSK response

Phase 1
Since early March, DSK started to alert its staff about COVID 19. About 300,000 leaflets were distributed through DSK branches and project offices targeting grassroots poor population with whom DSK has been engaged for long.

Besides, posters one pictorial and another one with text were hung in all DSK offices to alert staff and target community visiting the office to remain alert about the pandemic of COVID 19. DSK alerted all its staff to follow social distancing.

Besides, DSK distributed Hygiene materials especially Soap to target beneficiaries in Khulna, Dhaka, Chittagong and in Cox’s Bazar districts.

Besides, face masks were distributed to all staff of DSK across the organization. Apart from that DSK provided cash support to youth volunteers, who started producing hand sanitizers as part of their voluntary activity and their accountability towards the poor population.

Phase 2
DSK is now implementing awareness-raising and Hygiene Kit and Bleaching powder distribution project in Khulna City Corporation (3, 5, 17, 18 wards) and Sharonkhola of Bagerhat district. This project is supported by Start Fund Bangladesh. This will reach 200,000 populations.
DSK has launched a Livelihood support activity to reach 2000 poor and extreme poor HHs in slums and low-income areas of Dhaka. Each HH will receive Tk 1500 to cover their basic expense for the next two weeks at this time of dire need. DSK has allotted a fund of BDT 2.2 million and staff of DSK has donated one-day salary to support poor and extremely poor people living in Dhaka City slums to support their livelihood needs. Altogether this is a pot of 3.0 million.

**DSK Hospital and Maternity Homes**

All DSK Hospitals and Health care centres are working without interruption. Isolation beds are there in these places and Doctors and Nurses are given necessary PPE to be able to continue their consultation for regular patients and if required also to extend their support to COVID 19 patients.

**DSK Appeal**

DSK is also seeking further funding for its target beneficiaries especially people who live on daily income and because of the current COVID 19 health restrictions, they are not able to continue their livelihood activities.

**For the above DSK is appealing to individuals, independent private organizations, INGOs and donors** to extend their support to most vulnerable in Bangladesh at this time of dreadful need.