

# COVID-19

## GNWP Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and Appeal

April 2020

### Country Update

# Bangladesh

As of April 13, 2020, Bangladesh has reported 316 cases of COVID-19 within the borders and among them are 34 confirmed death cases[1]. The Bangladeshi Consulate in New York City told GNWP staff that it is now a requirement for all visa applications to submit a medical certificate which proves that they have been tested negative for COVID-19.

In Cox's Bazar, on March 25, 2020, the Bangladeshi Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner suspended all but essential activities in the overpopulated refugee camps to protect[2]. In addition, access to information has been restricted to the refugee's camps because the government have cut off access to telecommunication and internet[3]. Ongoing services including health, nutrition, protection, reception for new arrivals, food distribution, and education have been stopped to prevent the spread of COVID-19 amongst the 900,000 refugees who do not have the luxury of social distancing or good hygiene [4]. In light of the situation, GNWP's planned mission to Bangladesh to implement capacity building and economic empowerment inception workshops had to be postponed. Due to the restrictions within the refugee camps and the national lockdown, the Bangladeshi Young Women for Peace and Leadership (YWPL) members cannot continue providing functional and contextual literacy and numeracy classes for Rohingya refugee and host community women and girls.

[1] "Bangladesh Must Ramp Up COVID-19 Action to Protect Its People, Revive Economy." World Bank, 12 Apr. 2020, [www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/12/bangladesh-must-act-now-to-lesser-covid-19-health-impacts](http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/12/bangladesh-must-act-now-to-lesser-covid-19-health-impacts). Accessed on 14 April 2020.

[2] Elena Pavlovska, "Bangladesh limits Rohingya camp activities amid COVID-19 concerns", New Europe, 26 March 2020. Available at: <https://www.neweurope.eu/article/bangladesh-limits-rohingya-camp-activities-amid-covid-19-concerns/>. Accessed on 1 April 2020.

[3] "Bangladesh Must Ramp Up COVID-19 Action to Protect Its People, Revive Economy." World Bank, 12 Apr. 2020, [www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/12/bangladesh-must-act-now-to-lesser-covid-19-health-impacts](http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/12/bangladesh-must-act-now-to-lesser-covid-19-health-impacts). Accessed on 14 April 2020.

[4] The New Humanitarian, "Coronavirus and aid: What we're watching", 26 March 2020. Available at: <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2020/03/26/coronavirus-humanitarian-aid-response#Africa>. Accessed on 1 April 2020.