

COVID-19

IMPACT ON SERVICES AND FOOD SECURITY

BANGLADESH

Since the onset of COVID-19, Bangladesh has experienced many losses in the health system. The workforce and supplies have diminished, as has demand for and access to services. Health providers have experienced high infection rates and loss of life among doctors and front-line workers (FLWs) and competing demands between COVID-related needs and maintaining routine services. The result is an overworked health force feeling fear of the disease, stress, and anxiety, and suffering from depression, as well as stigma from the community. This study is a follow up to an on-going quasi-experimental trial, which was on-going in urban Dhaka in eight NGO health facilities to assess the impact of strengthening delivery of urban nutrition interventions. Using existing contacts of health providers, pregnant women, and mothers from the February 2020 baseline survey provided the opportunity to assess the impact of COVID-19 on services and food security.

EVALUATION DESIGN

Longitudinal quantitative survey

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What frontline and/or local management adaptations were made in health and nutrition service delivery?
- How did COVID-19 affect households' utilization of health and nutrition services, nutrition practices, household food security, and other socioeconomic aspects such as livelihoods?
- What adaptations took place that have the potential to strengthen delivery and uptake of essential health and nutrition interventions in the context of COVID-19 and beyond?

OUTCOMES

1. Impact of COVID-19 on:
 - Food security
 - IYCF practices
 - Other aspects of life—e.g., employment
 - Service provision and use
2. Coping strategies during COVID-19
 - In households
 - In provision and use of services (adaptions made)

TIMELINE

March – September 2020

METHODS

- Phone survey in September 2020 with health providers and beneficiaries utilizing pre-existing contacts from the urban nutrition intervention study
- Recall data of services provided and received during the lockdown period, March-May 2020 and after restrictions started to be lifted in phases in September 2020 from health providers and mothers