

Fight against novel coronavirus



Valerie A. Taylor, Founder, CRP

Message from the Founder of CRP

CRP's response to the COVID 19 pandemic would seem to be the same response as is required from everyone around the world. This revolves around the importance of staying at home, where appropriate for patients, staff members and students, according to the Government of Bangladesh's directives. For everyone, the importance of careful hand washing with soap and water that should last for at least 20 seconds, performed several times a day, is highlighted. Social distancing is required whether one is at CRP or at home. This demands that people stay at least one meter distance from each other when meeting and avoid shaking hands and congregating. Face masks are advised to be worn when going outside. These are some of the regular rules for limiting the spread of the virus to be followed by everyone.

As the situation has affected many people connected with CRP by the loss of jobs, CRP's donors have been supporting many persons with disabilities by providing bags of dry food that have been distributed to those who are struggling to feed themselves and their families. There have also been costs involved in purchasing the necessary Personal Protective Equipment for staff directly treating patients. CRP in general will suffer from the loss of income from the very reduced numbers of out-patients and students whose training schools have had to close in accordance with the Government's instructions. These have been extended a few times over these last months of March and April.

Hopefully with many places under lock down and therefore greatly reduced numbers of vehicles on the roads, road traffic accidents will have proportionally reduced also.



Therapists providing service to the in-patients with PPE

Today everything has fallen short to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic as it is true to say that you cannot fight an invisible enemy. The only way to be safe is to maintain social distancing, stay clean and stay home if you have no emergency. In this situation the whole country is under lockdown from 26th March 2020 to till date and the number of infected and deceased are increasing rapidly all over the world . The economy is falling down and the worst sufferers are the people who lead a day to day life. As a non-profit organization working specially for the persons with disabilities, Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) has taken different measures to help out its beneficiaries. This special newsletter is an open note to all its donors, staff, trustees, patients, partners, volunteers and beneficiaries to acknowledge their contribution. Measures taken by different departments are described below.

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Administration

CRP's administration department is ensuring disinfection of the vehicles and people entering the premises and also supplying soaps, hand washes and hand sanitizers in set places so that people can wash their hands time to time. For safeguarding the health and medical professionals the department could arrange 335 PPE and 4,440 facial masks with the help of donors, partners and CRP IGA unit. The administration dept. is going to reorganize the seating arrangement within the premises to ensure social distancing when the lockdown is over.

Medical

CRP is following the Government order of keeping its services limited in this situation to avoid gathering of people resulting in less risk of infection. Only the inpatients service is running full with utmost protection to the medical and health professionals and the core staff at Savar and Mirpur are on duty for smooth operation. The patients staying inside CRP along with their carers are locked within the hospital premises to prevent the infection. The basic supplies are provided by CRP authority to minimize going outside. No visitors from outside are allowed to come inside without proper screening and being disinfected.

Assistive Devices Technology

The Prosthetics and Orthotics Department of CRP-Chittagong, A. K. Khan Centre has made a face shield with the most minimal cost. CRP-Savar's Supportive Seating Unit followed their footsteps and producing the same face shields for the staff at Savar.

Rehabilitation Wing

CRP's Rehabilitation Wing has managed to disburse 5100 BDT to each of the 70 players with disabilities (22 female and 48 males) who play for CRP inclusive sports with the support of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) amounting BDT 3, 57,700.

Micro Economic Project of Rehabilitation Wing has followed up to 50 beneficiaries (PWDs) to find out their current well-being and family status over phone. 60 people with spinal cord injury and their family members received counseling services over phone.



Food, sanitizers and disinfectants distribution

Program and Information Technology

CRP's Program division with the help of IT department has started telemedicine services through social media platforms such as whatsapp and facebook messenger from 10 am to 4 pm. The offered services are on Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy. The patients can avail the services by calling to 01730059561 (whatsapp & bKash) or connecting to: <https://www.facebook.com/CRP.org/> after paying 20 taka registration fee to the bKash number and sending the money receipt message either to whatsapp number or to facebook messenger.

Other Satellite Centres

All satellite centres of CRP are following the same guidelines as the headquarter CRP-Savar. CRP-Mirpur has already purchased one infrared thermometer for screening the entries to the centre. All centres will provide dry food packages to the persons with disabilities in need in their area. CRP-Ganakbari's sewing operators and trainees are producing hand-made facial masks and PPE.

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335 PPE
and 4,440
facial masks arranged

1889 persons
with disabilities
received dry food items

70 players
with disabilities received
economic support from ICRC

Meetings and Coordination

For better coordination and smooth operation online meetings (Like Zoom) are held on a regular basis.

In preparation to the after effects of this emergency situation CRP is looking for more helps regarding the supports for poor persons with disabilities, arranging PPE for all staff members, maintaining social distance among all staff and patients and increase the cleanliness attempts. CRP believes that, the donors, partners, trustees and volunteers will be right beside it in this pandemic situation.

Projects

Bangladesh NGO Foundation has donated 2 lac taka in response to this emergency situation. 50 poor people with disabilities received dry food items, Patients and visitors received masks, hand sanitizers and other safety items, disinfectants to the drivers, PPE to health professionals.

DFID funded and Manusher Jonno Foundation supported HEAR project implemented by CRP has distributed dry food packages to 1000 persons with disabilities in the project areas, raised awareness through leaflet and announcement in 20 upazila, distributed personal hygiene materials (masks, gloves and soaps) to 2000 people in 20 upazila, distributed hand sanitizer and disinfectants to 50 staff with disabilities of CRP and provided PPE to 7 field staff of the project.

Donation

Along with the PPE and economic support from different donors, CRP is also receiving Zakat donation through online. CRP provides treatment and rehabilitation support to the poor patients with disabilities through this Zakat fund.

BHPI

CRP's educational institution, Bangladesh Health Professions Institute has been running all classes of BSc and Masters Level online.

Friends of CRP

American Friends of CRP has sent 10,000 USD (8,39,500 BDT) to provide dry food packages to the poor persons with disabilities in this pandemic situation. With this amount a total of 839 beneficiaries of CRP received dry food items throughout the country.



For Donation, Zakat & Membership
Please contact:

Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP)
Donor Liaison Officer, Cell: 01713 016 587, 01730 059 611, Phone: 02-7745464-5
E-mail: fundraising@crp-bangladesh.org/frd@crp-bangladesh.org

Send your Zakat to:
Account name: CRP Zakat Fund
Account number: STD# 36000409, National Bank, Savar Branch, Dhaka
bKash: 01730 059 611