



A Quick Assessment of Knowledge, Perceptions, Barriers and Enablers, and Experiences of the Frontline Health Workers (FLWs) Vis-à-vis COVID-19 Epidemic Management in Bangladesh

Timeline: March 2020- May 2020

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Brief Overview: From WHO's declaration of Covid-19 as a Global Public Health Emergency in January 2020 to identification of first case in the country in early March 2020, Bangladesh got a valuable lead time of around 5 to 7 weeks to prepare the people and the health systems for the outbreak. However, neither the MoHFW nor the political establishment was found to rise to the

occasion and provide the necessary stewardship for coordinated response to contain the outbreak. Uncertainty about the roles and responsibilities of the different agencies of the MoHFW and the government at large and there was lack of coordination among them which baffle any description. It has now entered the community transmission phase when experts are expecting a surge in the number of the patients and a catastrophic scenario for the poorly prepared health systems.

In this this scenario, it is important to look at the conditions of the health workers who are at the frontline of fight against COVID-19. This quick assessment is being done to elicit the knowledge, perceptions, barriers and enablers, and lived social experiences by the FLWs vis-à-vis management of COVID-19 epidemic currently sweeping the country.

Methodology: This time-bond study of cross sectional design by mixed method approach is currently being conducted.

Donor: Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW)