



COVID-19 Emergency Response Update (August 2020)

The British Asian Trust has worked closely with our local partners to adapt and deliver impactful programmes in the face of the COVID crisis. We have sought new resources to address the rising need for emergency relief in South Asia. In April 2020, with the support of HRH The Prince of Wales, we launched the British Asian Trust's COVID-19 Emergency Appeal. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, this appeal has so far raised more than £850,000. Our emergency response is protecting South Asia's most vulnerable from hunger, illness, exploitation, and abuse. Although lockdown has started to ease across the world, the pandemic is still causing havoc for millions of people across South Asia. Marginalised communities are facing extreme conditions with millions of families facing starvation and homelessness.

Pakistan

With over 267,428 confirmed cases and 5677 deaths since March, the number of people with COVID-19 could reach **up to 1.2 million in Pakistan** this summer. Particularly vulnerable are those in low income areas, now without jobs and unable to implement any social distancing measures given dense living conditions. So far, we have ensured the **sustenance of 2,800 individuals** through cash transfers and ration packages to over 570 families. We have supported **85 micro-entrepreneurs with emergency loans** and purchased crucial **lifesaving medical equipment** for a COVID-19 ward hospital.

India

Globally, India has one of the highest numbers of COVID infections, as well as daily growth in cases. Cities are seeing an unprecedented rise in mass migration of labourers back to rural areas, driven by loss of incomes and desperation to avoid starvation and disease. Through the distribution of vital food rations and cash support, as well as information on how to stay safe and healthy, we are **saving thousands of**

lives everyday among vulnerable communities across **Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Imphal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Telangana, and Jharkhand**. With the funds raised through the appeal, we are aiming to reach over **100,000 individuals**.

Bangladesh

With 210,525 people confirmed to have contracted the disease and the continuing rise in the infection rate, Bangladesh is quickly becoming a **global hotspot for COVID-19**. Beyond health, the loss of livelihoods and loved ones, stress and isolation mean the pandemic is exacerbating the bulging mental health crisis in the country. Furthermore, the temporary closure of schools is gravely disrupting children's learning. Like elsewhere, all immediate and long-term effects are being felt most harshly by marginalised communities. We are supporting the country's testing efforts by funding **three COVID-19 testing kiosks**, enhancing the **mental wellbeing of 55,000 vulnerable individuals** and **tele-educating 3,500 marginalised children**.

Stories from the Ground



Safia has met life's challenges with much grace. Since the passing of her husband ten years ago, she has channelled her passion for embroidery into creating a livelihood. A believer in lifting others around her, Safia also provides training to women in her community. However, disruption in the usual flow of market orders amidst the pandemic is affecting this community-minded entrepreneur's micro business significantly. Today Safia is struggling to sustain her family and was even unable to get her two very unwell children tested for COVID. Instead, she relied on prayers and herbal medication prepared at home. A cash transfer to Safia through our emergency response in Pakistan is keeping her family afloat. The funds have helped Safia support her son, an out of work rickshaw puller, and her ill daughter in urgent need of medical care. She was able to replace her granddaughter's torn shoes and buy Rooh Afza (a staple drink for to break the Islamic fast) and other food essential for Ramadan.

"I'm crying to the Almighty—praying for the world, for everyone's wellbeing and health. Fellow brothers and sisters, I am praying for you, so please pray for me too. God willing, we will come out of this together." -Safia Bibi, unemployed artisan worker in Bawalpur

Our Interventions at a Glance

Pakistan	India	Bangladesh
<p>Ration packages 750 individuals and 150 families sustained</p> <p>Emergency loans 85 micro entrepreneurs supported through interest free loans</p> <p>Cash transfers 2,145 individuals and 429 families supported through cash transfers</p> <p>Medical provisions 45 multi para monitors purchased for a COVID ward in Karachi</p>	<p>Ration packages 102,000 individuals and 20,400 families to be sustained across 10 states</p> <p>50 vulnerable children in homeless shelters sustained</p>	<p>Medical provisions 1,100 individuals to be served through 3 testing kiosks</p> <p>60 frontline workers and their families are receiving psychosocial support</p> <p>40,000 individuals being reached through mental health awareness campaign</p> <p>Education 3,500 children are continuing primary schooling through tele-education</p>

How You Can Help

We are deeply thankful to our supporters who have contributed generosity to minimise the devastating health and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic on the poorest in South Asia. **It costs £100 to rescue 4 families from the brink of hunger and meet their basic needs for a month. So please do consider supporting this appeal.**

Our Track Record

The British Asian Trust is a leading diaspora organisation that leverages the power of the South Asian community to address poverty and inequality in the region. **Founded in 2007 by HRH The Prince of Wales and a group of British Asian business leaders**, our approach focuses on developing strategic, sustainable and scalable solutions to critical challenges in education, livelihoods, anti-trafficking and mental health, and leveraging the power of our highly influential Board and advisors to drive social change. BAT has over a decade of experience delivering complex, multi-stakeholder programmes, which **have impacted over 4 million people from vulnerable communities in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.**