

## Recommendation for distributions in light of COVID-19

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

To minimize potential spread of COVID-19 in the camps, partners conducting any distribution of NFIs, shelter materials and LPG, general food assistance (GFA) – both in-kind and e-voucher, soap and WASH related items (i.e. hygiene kits, water purification tablets etc.) are advised to adopt the measures described below.

**These measures are temporary and are subject to change if specific policies are issued by the government and / or upon further recommendations by the Health Sector in regards to this matter.**

### Plan for distribution:

- Whenever possible continue to provide delivery service to the households that were already benefiting from delivery support. For example the families that have older persons without accompanying family members, families where the only member that could attend distribution (male aged between 18-60 years) was identified as person with disability or serious medical condition.
- Communicate with the families: not to send family members that have fever, cough and have difficulty breathing to distributions. Those family members are advised to seek help of Community Health Workers for advice and medical care or approach a health facility directly.
- Request families where the person who would attend the distributions is having fever, cough and difficulty breathing to inform representative of your organization. Advise them to seek help of Community Health Workers for advice and medical care or approach a health facility directly. Arrange delivery support to that household.
- Share the messages developed by Civil Surgeon, Health Sector, WASH Sector and CWC WG, as well as the messages developed by WASH Sector (links below)

### Prepare the distribution site:

- Whenever possible try to organize distributions in smaller batches. The number of persons in the distribution site at any given time can be determined by the size and arrangement of distribution site, following the minimum distance of at least 3 feet (1 meter) between people. Consider informing beneficiaries what time of the day will the distribution take place and request them to come at that time.
- Organize multiple queue lines taking into consideration people will be at least 3 feet (1 meter) distance from one another. Mark the distance on the railing or the floor with tape, paint or other objects. Make sure 3 feet (1 meter) distance is clearly demarcated.
- Provide hand washing stations at the distribution site:
  - Ensure that hand washing stations are present next to entrance and exit points as well as the latrines
  - If the facility includes breastfeeding area, hand washing station should also be in the proximity of it
  - In the areas where staff members and volunteers are working (verification desk, material collection area...)
- Display IEC Materials communicating messages developed by Civil Surgeon, Health Sector, WASH Sector and CWC WG (attached)
- Orient staff members, delivery support and volunteers working in distribution sites and providing delivery service to the households
- Ensure that staff members and volunteers showing symptoms are not carrying out distributions and are referred to seek health advice from their Community Health Worker/the medical facility.

- Inform staff members, delivery support and volunteers not to come to distribution sites if they are ill.

#### During distribution:

- Encourage everyone to keep at least 3 feet (1 meter) distance between one another (supported by markings on the railings or / and floor)
- If persons are showing signs of infection, advise them to seek health advice from their Community Health Worker/the medical facility.
- Collect their data and provide delivery support to their shelter.
- Ensure sufficient water and soap are available at the handwashing stations.
- Frequently disinfect the surfaces<sup>1</sup> (desk tops, phones, key boards, railings, benches, POS machines, fingerprint authentication machines...)
- Staff and volunteers are not advised to wear PPE at this stage, but they are requested to follow general preventative measures such as hand washing, cough etiquette and not coming to work if sick.

#### After the distribution:

- Disinfect all surfaces (desk tops, phones, key boards, railings, benches, POS machines, fingerprint authentication machines ...)
- Replenish water and soap (for the next distribution)
- Dispose of all the garbage

#### **For more information, please see the following documents:**

- Health Focal Points list and contacts area available at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/bangladesh/document/health-sector-monsoon-situation-report>
- World Health Organization Advice on the use of masks in the community, during home care and in health care settings in the context of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak, 29 January 2020, [https://www.who.int/publications-detail/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-outbreak](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-outbreak)
- World Health Organization and UNICEF, 3 March 2020 Water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management for the COVID-19 virus: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/water-sanitation-hygiene-and-waste-management-for-covid-19>
- World Health Organization, 13 March 2020, Getting your workplace ready for COVID-19: <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/getting-workplace-ready-for-covid-19.pdf>
- The Sphere standards and the Coronavirus response, 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020: <https://spherestandards.org/coronavirus/>
- COVID-19 Key Messages – prevention, mitigation and response; Civil Surgeon, Health Sector, WASH Sector, CWC Working Group, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020:
  - For Rohingya Community ONLY: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E-mBV285Q3fsP5AfwGDxeomBVb1t5Ubr/view?usp=sharing>
  - For Bangladeshi Host Community ONLY: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VnrY1gs9alNc3rFfSfmLtfdnYTzyiMQ3/view?usp=sharing>

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<sup>1</sup> Information on how to disinfect surfaces is available at: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/water-sanitation-hygiene-and-waste-management-for-covid-19> (pg: 6, nb.: Sodium hypochlorite is also known as bleach)