



Sungi Development Foundation

RAPID NEED ASSESSMENT REPORT

Sungi Development Foundation

Head Office: Al-Asghar Plaza, Jinnah Avenue, Blue area, Islamabad Ph. 051-227134-43

Regional Office: Dehri Road, Shimla Hills Abbottabad. Ph. 0992-865085 & 83

info@sungi.org www.sungi.org

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1. Executive Summary

This need assessment has been taken place with the support of larger stakeholders especially district government, social welfare departments, local partner organizations, citizen groups, transgender groups at the district level. Further, the data has been triangulate with the BISP data (recently known as EHSAS program. Several consultations have been conducted with the officials of district government officials and church organization as well to reconfirm the number of affected families from different disadvantage groups.

Our analysis concludes that following are the most disadvantage groups who are victims of multiple layers of discrimination and would be hard to be accessed by through relief interventions.

Although a large population is affected due to lockdown and COVID 19, there are certain groups of people who are more affected than others and their ability to access their livelihood is extremely compromised. As most of these groups are already substantially excluded (either neglected or discriminated) from the mainstream development and livelihood opportunities, the COVID 19 has multiplied their vulnerabilities. Sungi collected data and analysis reflects that these groups include; **women headed households; minorities; people with special needs; daily wagers; and transgender.**

Women Headed households who are deprived of their male partner are considered to be the most vulnerable as they have limited access to the relief items due to socio-cultural constraints. They are rarely counted in the process as well. The COVID 19 has further deprived them with the small income they females head used to make either by doing domestic work or having some small income activity at home. The collected data shows there are large number of women headed families who are affected in the wake of COVID19 and have not yet been covered by any program. An analysis was made with the BISP data available with the district government for cash transfer by the government and also with Sungi shows that many of these families are not adequately covered through the program interventions.

Transgender are stigmatized and discriminated widely due to their sexual representation. They generally live out of fear and even deprived of their basic human rights. Despite some good initiatives, they have been socially secluded and poorly treated by public at large. Ongoing preventive measures have restricted social gatherings and cultural events affecting their livelihood. There are hundreds of transgender, who require urgent financial support.

COVID19 has badly affected livelihood of people with special needs. **People with Disabilities (PWDs)** having small enterprises, if any, are shut leaving them without an income and at the risk of hunger and malnutrition. These impacts could be mitigated if tailor-made actions and effective measures are taken by key stakeholders. Sungi is consistently advocating with governments to put in-place effective measures to reach-out. They are also likely to be more exposed to COVID19 as they face challenges in adopting basic preventive measures like hand washing, keep social distancing, isolating due to their dependence on others and having limited access to already stressed health services.

Minority groups are yet another most affected group that has been widely excluded from the process of relief. Since the minority groups are engage in petty nature of jobs including day

laborer, sanitary work or other domestic jobs, they have been severely impact by the lockdown and closure of businesses in the districts. They have also not been preferred by the district government or other organizations such as Al-khidmat (a Muslim faith-based charity group) for relief assistance. The situation has put such faith-based minority families highly at risk of malnutrition and hunger.

2. Methodology

Sungi Development Foundation (SDF) with long standing relationship with the relevant district government and citizen groups have conducted focus groups discussions and Key Informant Interview across the three districts to collect the information and compile this assessment report. Two teams comprising (1 male and 1 female) were organized to conduct the FGDs and KII. Details checklists were developed and each interview and FGDs are recorded properly for reference and record.

The following table reflects the extent of efforts made in this regard.

Respondents	Haripur		Mansehra		Abbottabad	
	KII	FDGs	KII	FDGs	KII	FDGs
District Government Officials	2		2		2	
Social Welfare Officers	1		1		1	
Transgender	8		8	1	8	1
Minority Groups	8	1	8	1	8	1
Community FGDs (Mixed)	8	2	8	2	8	2
Disables (Mix.)	8	1	8	1	8	1

3. Background on the Emergency/Crises

3.1 Humanitarian emergency/crisis

Presently, the world is challenged with Covid19 (Corona Virus) pandemic. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared pandemic on March 11, 2020 and urged all countries to take preventive measures since there is no effective vaccine is available to cure. Currently there are more than 1.4 million confirmed cases of Covid19 in about 200 countries while the total deaths had exceeded 125,000. The virus has halted social and economic activities around the world resulting into global slowdown and making hundreds of thousands people jobless and effecting their livelihoods. Pakistan, amongst others, is also affected with regular growth in numbers of infected people across the country. Further, poor health facilities and weak economic conditions make Pakistan even more vulnerable.

3.2 Extent of geographical Areas Assessed

Having extended borders with China, Afghanistan and Iran, Pakistan is challenged to control spread of COVID19. In order to do so, provincial and federal governments have imposed partial lockdown in several cities across the country under the National Action Plan for COVID19. As the governments are adopting extreme measures to control the spread of the Virus, already challenging economic situation is further worsening. Resultantly, huge numbers of population particularly daily wagers and informal workforce have lost their livelihood and are at the verge of extreme hunger and absolute poverty. Moreover, poor knowledge, awareness and unhygienic conditions add further to the vulnerabilities of the people.



Likewise, other district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Hazara division is also affected due to current crisis. The lock-down in these districts also has worst effects on the citizens of these districts not only by increasing their vulnerability but its psychological impacts on the people as well. The situation is worsening day by day.

According to the official data the numbers of cases reported in these districts are alarming. Around 42 quarantine centers, having a capacity of 1441 rooms and 14 halls, have been established in all eight districts of Hazara division to cope with COVID19. Out of these 16 quarantine centers have been established in Haripur, with 258 rooms, 15 centers in Abbottabad with 867 rooms and 8 halls, 11 in Mansehra with 182 rooms.



Due to current scenario the daily wagers of all walks of life are suffering with trauma, because on one side authorities are not allowing them to go out and on other hand they are struggling for their livelihood. The category of people observed are most

	Haripur	Abbottabad	Mansehra
Total Cases	149	229	364
Recoveries	9	21	42
Active Cases	20	63	80
Deaths	0	5	3
Suspected	64	71	59
Quarantine facilities	16	15	11

affected are Daily wagers, shop keepers including tailors, barbers, public transport operators, cloth shops and their staff, workshops, general stores, beauty parlors, hotels, tent services and their workers.

District/Tehsils	Union Council	# of Villages (VC's)	Total HHs (#)	Affected HH (#)	Percentage affected HHs (as compare to total HHs)	Affected Population (#)
Haripur (HRP+Ghazi+Khanpur)	45	180	167,171 HH	12600	8 %	75,600
Abbottabad (Abbottabad+ Havalian)	51	209	205,063 HH	11495	6 %	74,717
Mansehra (Mansehra+ Ogai+ Balakot)	59	194	222,351 HH	13500	6 %	94,500
Total	155	583	594,585 HH	37,595	6.3 %	244,817

4. Assessment Findings (Multi-Sectoral)

The assessment has been conducted for the food security and level of deprivation among the communities in term of reaching out to relief items (Food). Although the particular assessment is not limited to the disadvantage groups only, it is concluded that the highlighted groups are the most disadvantage groups besides other who are at the verge of extreme poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Amongst others the food security sector is the only which is highly affected due to the loss of livelihood opportunities and consistent lockdown by the respective governments at the district and provincial level.

Food Security: Although a large population is affected due to lockdown and COVID 19, there are certain groups of people who are more affected than others and their ability to access their livelihood is extremely compromised. As most of these groups are already substantially excluded (either neglected or discriminated) from the mainstream development and livelihood opportunities, the COVID 19 has multiplied their vulnerabilities. Sungi collected data and analysis reflects that these groups include; **women headed households; minorities; people with special needs; daily wagers; and transgender.**

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or having some small income activity at home. The collected data shows there are large number of women headed families who are affected in the wake of COVID19 and have not yet been covered by any program. An analysis was made with the BISP data available with the district government for cash transfer by the government and also with Sungi shows that many of these families are not adequately covered through the program interventions.

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5. Response Capacities in Target Areas (Resources & Coordination)

5.1 Assessments, local capacities and activities already undertaken/underway

During the assessment, it is noted that the government has already started its response through one of the poverty alleviation programs. Under the program, selected beneficiaries are getting cash support from the government to fulfill their essential needs. One religious charity organization is also distributing small food packages. However, it is largely considered that tis support is subjective to Muslims families only. Other than this, no major organization is working in the district particularly to address food security issues.

5.2 Humanitarian Access and Operational coordination

Sungi is been responding to the needs of some of the communities at the ground by providing food packages to the people in need in collaboration with the relevant district governments. In this regard, Sungi is consistently holding district level NGO meeting to avoid duplication of effort and collective action. Despite there not many actors at this point of time who are engage in relief efforts, Sungi is taking lead in bringing philanthropists, district government sand other charity organization at the same page.



Currently, the district governments are center of coordination and Sungi closely coordinating and consistently sharing data with the district government. Major relief efforts that have been taken place by Sungi so far have been conducted with the support of district governments, who provided logistics support for that as well. It is expected the district governments shall keep on taking lead and all the response activities shall be taken under one umbrella.

District governments are in processes of developing a central mechanism in this regard. Food security Cluster has been activated, however, not much has been achieved due to non-clarity by the part of provincial and federal governments.

6. Critical constraints Identified

Apparently, there are no major hurdles in undertaking the work so far. Further, the government has also removed the restriction on working of the NGOs at the district level, which were in place for couple of years. Further, Sungi has also signed MoUs with the district governments and social welfare departments which are good to facilitate our work.

7. Priority Needs for Assistance

Identified Needs/Problem	Priority Ranking (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd ...)	Remarks/Justification
Cash Transfer Food Security/	1st	<p>This is the primary need at this point to time to ensure that communities get enough money to fulfill their basic needs at the time of lockdown and COVID19 crisis.</p> <p>The particular sector has been thoroughly assessed in the light of responses coming from the communities. A major reflection is the communities'</p>

		<p>inability to continue their livelihood as usual. For instance, transgender who ear by performing through cultural events and social gatherings are in dire need as such gatherings have been banned by the respective governments.</p> <p>Many domestic workers particularly women have been forced to take leave from their jobs due to COVID 19 spread without any pay.</p>
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8. Conclusion and Recommendations

It is concluded ensuring availability of the food is the top priority of the communities at this point of time. Despite the fact that many communities are affected at this point of time due to the lose of their livelihood sources, some of them are more disadvantaged and deprived than others. It is primarily due to their social positioning and social exclusion from the processes of development.

Although a large population is affected due to lockdown and COVID 19, there are certain groups of people who are more affected than others and their ability to access their livelihood is extremely compromised. As most of these groups are already substantially excluded (either neglected or discriminated) from the mainstream development and livelihood opportunities, the COVID 19 has multiplied their vulnerabilities. Sungi collected data and analysis reflects that these groups include; **women headed households; minorities; people with special needs; daily wagers; and transgender.**

9. Annex