

# Project completion report CARE-Austria COVID -19 Vaccine Initiative project

**Reporting period: July – December, 2022** 





Report prepared by:

**CARE Bangladesh** 

**December 20, 2022** 

#### **Project goal and objectives**

**Goal :** Increase awareness and uptake of COVID-19 vaccine among urban and rural marginalized population by strengthening the vaccine deployment system and community engagement in Bangladesh.

**Specific Objective :** Increase access to COVID-19 vaccination and reduce misconceptions and taboos related to vaccination by marginalized population in proposed geographical areas.

#### Objective:

- 1. Strengthen the capacity of frontline health workers to improve the quality of the vaccine deployment system.
- 2. Increase knowledge on vaccine registration and community engagement to disseminate correct information, thus reducing stigma and misconceptions around vaccination.
- 3. Ensure PPE and safety materials for frontline health workers and volunteers at vaccination centres.
- 4. Increase the functionality of Vaccination Working Groups and coordination among relevant platforms at the national and sub-national levels.

#### **Project location:**

09 sub-districts of Khulna district.

**Target population:** Daily wage earners (rickshaw pullers, transportation workers, market vendors), garment factory workers, slum dwellers, and other vulnerable segments of population.



#### **Key achievements**

- In this reporting period project team facilitated online vaccine registration support to **39,672** marginalized people of which **58%** were female by engaging community platforms like community support group, local government, religious leader, civil society and front line government health workers.
- Provide facilitation support to **43,801** registered people for taking vaccine through follow-up, counselling and accompany support to go to the vaccination canter.
- A total 301 Health Education sessions were conducted by the project staff at community level to
  increase knowledge on vaccine registration and disseminate correct information to reduce taboos
  and misconceptions around vaccination. Total 3,141 community people participated in the session
  where 73% were female.
- Project team visited total **16,513** households in the reporting period and reach **53,157** people for creating awareness on prevention of COVID-19 and motivate for vaccination.
- A set of Information, Education and Communication materials (poster and leaflet) were distributed in the communities to increase knowledge on COVID-19 and vaccination.
- Facilitate to arrange project progress sharing meeting at Deputy Commissioners office with relevant government officials.

#### **Budget status**

Total Budget: \$1,25,140

#### WHOM HAVE WE SUPPORTED?

Activity	Population reached			
Community Mobilization interventions:		Male	Female	Total
Facilitate # of people for on line registration for COVID-19 Vaccination		16,815	22,857	39,672
Provide facilitation support to registered people for taking vaccine		20,381	23,420	43,801
Conduct # House hold visit for promoting vaccine awareness	16,513 visit	35,980	17,195	53,175
Facilitate # of Health Education session at community level for creating awareness on COVID-19	301 session	858	2283	3141
Total		74,034	65,755	1,39,789

#### **REPORT OVERVIEW:**

With funding support from CARE Austria, CARE Bangladesh started COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative project since July 2021 with an objective to support government's initiative of COVID-19 vaccination. Project was designed to support government ask to support vaccine registration in some low performing areas. In this reporting period, CARE Bangladesh made some significant work progress against its plan what we are going to share with this report as per activities identified under each objectives along with major challenges and lessons learned.

As the major achievements of this reporting period were highlighted above and in next step along with the interventions started resuming to reach the impact population directly with promotional activity through community mobilization including household level visit, facilitating online registration, follow up support with health education sessions are detailed with process, reach numbers immediate outputs/outcome. CARE is closely working with health department of Khulna for COVID-19 response and vaccination activities to save lives and promote fast and fair allocation of vaccines for the most marginalized populations.

However, for better comprehension, all the executions of the reporting period are segmented and specified under each objective to reach the goal incorporating key challenges and lessons learned.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED ACTIVITIES DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD:**

Background: Several risk factors associated with vaccine hesitancy and rejection have been

reported across different segment of population focusing on vaccine acceptance; these comprise sociodemographic factors (age, gender, marital status, employment status, income), cost, access to services, safety and effectiveness, level of health literacy, and trust in government, health care systems, and mass media. In facilitation of the critical situation of vaccination uptake, CARE Austria COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative project has undertaken а comprehensive community mobilization interventions



using existing community health system and its platforms community support system, local government along with technical support toon line registration for the marginalized who do not have access to digital system both in rural and urban areas.

### Activities executed during the reporting period

Increase awareness on the prevention of COVID -19 through distributing information, education and commination materials:

A bunch of IEC materials distributed like leaflet, poster in the communities with different people.





These IEC materials encourage individuals with diverse social roles and functions to resort to positive coping strategies while experiencing restrictions posed by COVID-19, promotes practice of daily self-care, and simultaneously calls on to be supportive to others regardless of required physical distancing. Moreover, IECs include specific psychosocial considerations aimed at sensitization of general public with regards to stigma and discrimination towards persons infected with COVID-19.

#### **Facilitate Online Vaccine Registration:**

Compulsory app-based registration system is developed by government of Bangladesh known as

www.surokkha.gov.bd through which willing individuals from priority list categories will register their interest in vaccination against COVID-19. The vaccines are distributed primarily through tertiary healthcare centres like district hospitals, Upazila health complexes (1st referral centre at primary healthcare level) and also mass vaccination campaign from grassroots level expanded program on immunization. COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative is contributing to increase of vaccination coverage ofnine upazila of



Khulna district through facilitating online registration. So project Facilitators did continuous online registration of the project's targeted area's people. Normally they do online registration at household level, Community Clinic, UH&FWC, Union Parishad (local government), youth club and spot registration at UHC (upazilla health complex) in this reporting period project staff facilitated 39,672 people to registration out of which 22,857 were female.

Below table shows the upazila wise vaccine registration support information by the project:

SL	Name of Upazilla	Support for vaccine registration			
JL		Female	Male	Total	
1	Khulna Sadar	964	2179	3143	
2	Fultala	1195	980	2175	
3	Digholia	3146	2490	5636	
4	Rupsha	2173	1381	3554	
5	Terokhada	1412	747	2159	
6	Batiaghata	2859	2697	5556	
7	Dacope	2206	1349	3555	
8	Dumuria	2361	2362	4723	
9	Paikgasa	2985	2121	5106	
10	Koyra	2341	1724	4065	
Total		22857	16815	39672	

#### **Household Visit:**

Project's facilitators conducted household visit effectively according to project's guideline in the targeted community. The main objective of household visit is to promote the awareness among the family members about basic concept of COVID-19, reduce misconception, importance of vaccine registración, vaccination and prevention. And also conducted spot online vaccine registración and follow-up to take vaccine to the registered people.

During household visit, at first project's team members take permission from household head or right person then they share the objective of household visit. During this visit project staff





demonstrated proper handwashing session with the information on social distancing, mask use to prevent COVID-19. After receiving the informations, most of the community people appreciated the works and showed their gratitude for the support provided by the project. A total 16,513 household were visited by CARE Facilitator in this reporting period.

Upazila wise household visit information

SL	Upazila	House hold visit				
JL (	Орагна	# of Visit	Female	Male	Total	
1	Khulna Sadar	609	468	299	767	
2	Fultala	731	252	854	1106	
3	Digholia	1296	1699	2195	3894	
4	Rupsha	2252	3392	4591	7983	
5	Terokhada	659	346	723	1069	
6	Batiaghata	2431	2431	5103	7534	
7	Dacope	1602	1147	1862	3009	
8	Dumuria	1722	3017	3961	6978	
9	Paikgasa	2629	2338	3889	6227	
10	Koyra	2582	2105	12503	14608	
	Total	16513	17195	35980	53175	

#### Provide Follow up support to the registered people for Vaccination:

Another strategic activity undertaken by CARE Austria COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative is to facilitate the follow up Support to the registered people for vaccination which is to increase vaccination coverage in project targeted areas; still now country's people are less aware about COVID-19. That's why, many people completed vaccine registration but they are not going to vaccination canter to take vaccine. Project team members tried to send them to take vaccine through facilitation support. Total 43,801 people were given follow up support by the project facilitators in this reporting period.



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Upazila wise information of facilitation support for vaccination

SL	Upazilla	Follow up support for vaccination				
		Female	Male	Total		
1	Khulna Sadar	1215	964	2179		
2	Fultala	1235	915	2150		
3	Digholia	2878	3565	6443		
4	Rupsha	1506	1381	2887		
5	Terokhada	1950	1341	3291		
6	Batiaghata	3029	2725	5754		
7	Dacope	2342	1524	3866		
8	Dumuria	3690	3123	6813		
9	Paikgasa	3287	2948	6235		
10	Koyra	2288	1895	4183		
	Total	23420	20381	43801		

#### **Conduct Health Education Session:**

Project facilitators under COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative Project conduct the health education session

with community people on COVID-19 regularly at community level to promote the awareness among the male and female about basic concept of COVID-19, to reduce misconception, to explain the importance of vaccine registración, vaccination and COVID-19 prevention. Each facilitator facilitates at least one session in a day; every group contains 7-8 participants. Union Facilitator sit with the participants at a pre-fix particular place for this session. 301 Health



education sessions were facilitated in this reporting period using SBCC materials as per government's and WHO's guidelines.

Upazila wise held education session information are given below

SL	SL Upazilla No of		Health Education Session at Community Level			
		Session	Female	Male	Total	
1	Sadar	0	0	0	0	
2	Fultala	17	151	33	184	
3	Digholia	37	285	79	364	
4	Rupsha	46	309	74	383	
5	Terokhada	17	133	150	283	
6	Batiaghata	49	389	151	540	
7	Dacope	21	129	32	161	
8	Dumuria	45	437	139	576	

9	Paikgasa	39	207	106	313
10	Koyra	30	243	94	337
	Total	301	2283	858	3141

#### Volunteers support to the vaccination centre and Mass vaccination Campaign:

Total 32 volunteers under COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative Project, are deployed for providing supports to the vaccine centres at Upazila Health Complex level; i.e. people come to Upazila Health Complex to take vaccine, volunteers assist them to take vaccine. They do their works through maintaining the line considering the social distance and ensure wearing mask, downloading vaccine card and record keeping of basic information (i.e. name, registration number, vaccine name and others). They also send SMS with



necessary information about vaccine centre and next date and follow up through phone for next doze. Also they take the elderly, sick and disabled people to the vaccine centre and need based spot online vaccine registration.

#### Frontline Health workers monthly Meeting at Sub-District Level:

Frontline health workers meeting is a regular activity of government health system at sub district

level with the objective to share the project's update, problems and next plan at the meeting and solve against problems. Participants of the meeting were all Health Assistant (HA), Assistant Health Inspector (AHI), Health Inspector (HI), MT-EPI, Statistician, Sanitary Inspector (SI), MODC, UH&FPO and CARE's Union Facilitator working at 9 sub-districts in Khulna under COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative project.



In those meetings CARE's staffs regularly

participated and shared updated information of the project and its next plan including project monthly update, next activity plan and challenges of sub district level in the meeting.

#### Decision taken by UH&FPO:

- Upazilla Health and Family Planning officer (UH&FPO) took decision that CARE will attend at the Health Assistant monthly meeting regularly and will share monthly update.
- Upazila Health Department and CARE will jointly work on awareness on COVID-19, Online registration and increasing of vaccination at field level.

#### **Community Health Care Provider (CHCP) Monthly Meeting at Sub-District Level:**

The Community Health Care Provider (CHCP)'s monthly meeting is also a regular activity by government health system. Project's staffs attended those meeting at sub-district level to share the project update, challenges and next plan with the CHCPs as well as to provide them necessary technical support to solve existing problem/challenges to increase the vaccination coverage and awareness on COVID-19 in the communities. All Community Health Care Providers (CHCPs) of Upazila, Assistant Health



Inspector (AHI), Health Inspector (HI), MT-EPI, CARE representatives shared the project monthly update and next plan in the meeting.

#### **Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC) Bi-Monthly Meeting:**

The Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC) bi-monthly meetings is held at the Union

Parishad (UP) (lowest tier of local government). To share the project update, problems, challenges and next plan at the UDCC bi-monthly meeting and solve the problems and challenges. UP Chairman, UP Member, UP Female member, 1<sup>st</sup> line supervisors of health and family planning department, Livestock, Agriculture, Fisheries, NGO, selected civil society and other relevant participants were present in the meeting. CARE representatives presented the project update and next plan in the meeting.



#### **Decision taken:**

 UP chairman requested all participants of different departments including UP member and Union Secretary to support to the CARE staffs at field level to increase the vaccine coverage.

In this reporting period we have participated in 26 UDCC bi- monthly meetings in nine upazilas/sub districts of Khulna district.

#### **Monthly Coordination Meeting at sub-district Level:**

This is a regular monthly gathering of multi-sectoral personnel chaired by sub-district level administration (UNO) at UNO Office. Besides representatives from different government

department such as Health (UH&FPO), Social welfare, Women Affairs, Youth Development, Secondary Education, Primary education, Agriculture some local journalists, representatives from Islamic Foundation and different NGO's also attend this meeting. Representatives of COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative project attended this meeting at all sub-districts in every month to ensure effective engagement of the above-



mentioned stakeholders to make the project activities more effective.

#### **District level Monthly Health coordination meeting:**

The district monthly health coordination meeting is held in the conference room of Civil Surgeon

Office, Khulna. Project Manager, COVID-19 vaccine initiative project, attended every meetings during this reporting period. This meeting was chaired by the district Civil Surgeon. Among other participants Deputy Civil Surgeon (DCS), Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer (UH&FPO) of 9 sub-districts, all HI, SI, MT-EPI and other district level relevant government health officials and NGO representatives attend the meeting. As the decision making personnel of the health



department attends the meeting from district and sub-district level, we attended the meeting to ensure necessary coordination and support from the health department at district and sub-district level.

# Support government to prepare the daily district COVID-19 MIS report within the health system:

In a district monthly health coordination meeting Civil Surgeon, Khulna requested the representatives of CARE Bangladesh to provide technical support to prepare the COVID-19 daily MIS report. Representatives of CARE accepted the proposal and since then CARE has been assisting to prepare the MIS COVID-19 report of Khulna district. It is a daily task of Civil Surgeon Office, Khulna District.



#### Visit of Government Officials to observe CARE activities in field level:

Civil Surgeon of Khulna, District EPI Superintendent of Khulna, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of different sub districts, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officers (UH&FPO), visited the activities





of COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative Project as a part

of monitoring and supervision. They visited the online vaccine registration booth at community level, special camp for vaccination and mass vaccination campaign. They appreciated contribution of CARE Bangladesh as well as the tremendous efforts of CARE's staffs.

#### **District Coordination Meeting:**

As a part of maintaining coordination with different stakeholder the project team participated in

the district level coordination meeting to share project update and to seek support from all level of stakeholders. The meeting played effective role for engaging multi sectoral people for example Deputy Commissioner, Civil Surgeon, Deputy Director-Family Planning as well as representatives from different district level government departments such as Education, Agriculture, Livestock, Social Welfare, Youth Development, Women Affairs, representatives from different NGOs and print



and electronic media. This meeting held at Deputy Commissioners Office chaired by the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Khulna. So, as a useful multi-sectoral platform project's representative participated in this meeting to ensure meaningful engagement with different stakeholders in order to achieve the goal and objectives of the project more effectively and efficiently.

#### Community support groups meeting held:

Total 1209 community support groups were mobilized for effective health education session,

raising public awareness among community people as they get vaccinated. Also to aware community people by the Imam of the mosque about COVID-19 activities, increase online registration and inspire people to get vaccinated and arranging hand washing session to reduce the risk of COVID-19.



# Project progress sharing and review meeting at district level

The project progress sharing and review meeting was held on September 08, 2022 at the conference room of Deputy Commissioners office, Khulna. A total 55 participants attended in the meeting where 15 were female.

Participants category of the meeting:

- Deputy Director, Local Government, Khulna
- District Civil Surgeon, Khulna
- Additional Superintend of Police, Khulna district
- Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer (UH&FPO) of nine upazila
- Medical Officer-CS office, Senior Health Education Officer, District EPI Superintendent,
   Statistician, Health Inspector- In-charge, Medical Technologist-EPI and Health Inspectors.

The meeting was chaired by the Honourable Deputy Commissioner, Khulna district

#### Objectives of the meeting was:

- To share the project progress, challenge, lesson learns and best practices.
- To share the overall achievement of covid-19 vaccine initiative Project.

Dr. Sheikh Sadia Monwara-Medical Officer, Civil Surgeon office facilitated the meeting, she introduced all the participants in the meeting. Md. Moniruzzaman Talukder, Deputy Commissioner, Khulna, inaugurated the meeting and also welcome all participants for attending the meeting. He also thanked to CARE Bangladesh for arranging this project progress review meeting.

In his opening remarks, Honourable Deputy Commissioner said that," To manage the pandemic all countries of the world along with America face very critical situation but the very talented

management of our government,
Bangladesh become successfully managed
the pandemic. Even our vaccination
achievement is higher than the target set
by WHO and Khulna becomes top level
district on country wide achievement. I
know how CARE Bangladesh support to
health department regarding the create
mass awareness and vaccination program
at all Upazila in Khulna district. I appreciate
from my heart for their support, hard work



and I hope they will continue their support in Khulna district".

S.M Rezaul Islam, Advisor-PPHS, CARE Bangladesh presented project progress through PowerPoint presentation.

#### **Reflection Upazila Health Manager:**

Dr. Md. Suzat Ahmed, Civil Surgeon, Khulna take the facilitation role to engage all UH&FPO for sharing their expression on implementation of CARE Bangladesh COVID-19 vaccine initiative project at Upazila level.

- Dr. Sudip Bala, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, Koyra, Khulna said, "We worked in team approach and try our level best to manage the pendamic within a small number of staff. CARE provided volunteer to Upazila Health Complex (UHC) for support vaccination activities which is very helpful for us. I am very happy for their support at UHC and community level.
- Dr. Nitish Guldar, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, Paikgacha said, "we got outstanding support from CARE staff, the visited almost every household, conduct health education session, provide online vaccine registration support to the people and provide three volunteer at Upazila Health Complex, I am very grateful to CARE for their support".
- Dr. Jeshmin, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer. Fultola said, "To achieve the target for vaccination CARE staff support us by household visit and provide facilitation support to bring people from community to Upazila Health Complex for vaccination, they also provided volunteer support at UHC which help us a lot to manage vaccination centre.:
- Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, Terokhada said, "CARE staff cordially supported us to ensure vaccination among people lives in hard to reach area, I hope CARE will continue their support."

- Md. Mizanur Rahman, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, Batiagata said, "CARE staff support us for online vaccine registration, vaccination campaign, create mass awareness through household visit and conducting health education session at community level".
- Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, Digholia said that, "A number of people was not completed their online registration on the other hand some are not interested for vaccination, here CARE staff provided their outstanding support for online registration and vaccination, I thanked to CARE Bangladesh."
- Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, Rupsha said, "At the very beginning we
  faced challenged due to shortage of manpower then we got two Union Facilitator and
  three volunteer support from CARE Bangladesh, who provide online vaccine registration
  support, aware community people on COVID -19 and Vacination through household visit,
  support people to come to UHC for vaccination, I am very grateful to CARE for their
  support."
- Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, Dacope said "CARE Bangladesh COVID-19 vaccine initiative project support us for community mobilization, online registration and create community awareness by providing Union Facilitator and volunteer".

#### **Speech of the Guest:**

Yousuf Ali, Deputy Director Local Government said, "At the beginning COVID-19 was unknown for the whole world, the world was getting worsen within a very short time but Bangladesh government handle and manage this critical situation very carefully. Only few number of development organizations support government for management of COVID -19 and community awareness. We see that CARE Bangladesh supported Khulna district administration and health department by providing logistic, and manpower to create community awareness and support people for vaccination. I think it is appreciable and good job. I provide my sincere thanks to CARE and hope to continue their support".

**Tapos Kumar Paul, Additional SP, Khulna** "Bangladesh Police of Khulna always support health department during lockdown and manage crowed during mass vaccination campaign. I am very happy to hear that CARE works well to support health department to manage COVID-19".

**Dr. Suzat Ahmed,** Civil Surgeon, Khulna concluded the meeting, in his closing remarks he said, "In the beginning of COVID -19 the pandemic situation was very worst, people was unaware, CARE Bangladesh COVID-19 vaccine initiative projects played and outstanding role to aware people on COVID -19, reduce misconception on vaccination, provide online vaccine registration support through household visit and established vaccine registration booth at community. They also provided volunteer in each upazila health complex and district hospital. I provide my thanks to CARE Bangladesh for their support and also arranging an excellent event today".

#### **Learning sharing workshop for project staff**

Learning sharing workshop for project staff was organized to create a forum where project staffs can share project progress, learning, major challenges and discuss on how to overcome challenges that are emerging during field implementation. The workshop was organized during 19-21 September, 2022 at Muzaffor garden, Sathkira. All staff under COVID -19 vaccine initiative project participated in the residential workshop.

#### Objective of the workshop were

- Sharing overall progress of the project
- Unit wise progress sharing including key achievement, major challenges and opportunities.
- To share the project, lesson learn and best practices.

Project Manager, COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative Project, CARE Bangladesh, presents activity wise project update up to September, 2022. He also presents the performance of volunteers toward achieving the goal of this project

In the workshop the participants were divided in to three groups and assign group work on three issues. The objective of this assignment was to improve conceptual clarity of project staff on their task, the issues were:



- 1. **Support people for online vaccine registration**: why, how they did it, who support them to do this, what challenges they faced to do this and how they overcome those challenges?
- 2. **Support people for vaccination**: why, what support they provide, with whose cooperation, challenge faced and way to overcome?
- 3. **Conduct health education session at community level**: why, how, who and what types of support they get, what are the challenges and how they overcome those?

The group leader presents their group work result among participants through poster presentation, following are the result of the group work:

**Support people for online vaccine registration:** why, how they did it, who support them to do this, what challenges they faced to do this and how they overcome those challenges?

#### Why online vaccine registration?

• To ensure COVID -19 vaccination among marginalized population.

#### How the online vaccine registration program done?

- Through household visit
- Establishment vaccine registration booth at community
- Spot registration at mass vaccination campaigning.
- Registration at health education session.

#### Who support and cooperate?

- During monthly health coordination meeting Upazila Health and Family Planning officer advised all frontline health workers to give their support to CARE staff for doing online vaccine registration.
- Health Assistant (HA), Community Health Care Provider (CHCP) and Assistant Health Inspector (AHI) support to do online vaccine registration at EPI center, Community Clinic (CC).
- Local elected bodies, Members of Community Group and Community Support Group, different NGOs help to set up online vaccine registration booth at community level.
- Religious leaders (Imam) gave special speech during weekly prayer and advised people for vaccine registration and vaccination.
- The Education Department (secondary school) allowed CARE staff to establish vaccine registration booth at school and allow their student for vaccine registration.



## Challenges faced for this task:

- Irrational belief and misconceptions around COVID -19 and vaccine
- Poor internet connectivity
- Number of people don't have NID or digital birth registration

#### Way to overcome the challanges:

- Create mass awareness through community mobilization and conducting health education session at community level.
- Completion of online vaccine registration by removing misconceptions and taboos through awareness raising
- Complete online vaccine registration by setting up registration booths in areas where internet connection is better.
- Provide assistance to union parishad to issue digital birth registration certificate.

**Support people for vaccination**: why, what support we provide, who support for this, challenge faced and way to overcome?

#### Why we are supporting people for vaccination?

- Ensure vaccination to the register people.
- To protect the community people from the covid-19

#### What support we provided?

- Collect registration information from the health department and prepare the list. followup support through household visit and phone call.
- Provide individual and family counselling support to get the vaccine.
- Provide accompanying support to the disable and elder people.

#### Have we taken anyone's support for this?

Yes, we received support from different department, groups and individuals i.e.

- Government Health Department: UH&FPO, MO-DC, Health Inspector (HI), Assistant Health Inspector (AHI), Statistician, Medical Technologist-EPI (MTEPI), Health Assistant (HA), Community Health Care Provider (CHCP).
- Local Administration- Upazila Nirbahi Officer.
- Local elected bodies: UP Chairman, Member, female member and secretary.
- Different Group: Community Group, Community Support Group and local youth club.
- Local influential: Religious leader, social leaders.

#### What challenges we faced?

- Misconception around vaccine.
- The vaccination center was quite far from their house.

#### How we overcome the challenges?

- Counselling through household visit
- Advocacy with local health department and established vaccination center Community Clinic.
- Arrange special vaccination camp in remote hard to reach area.

**Conduct health education session at community level**: why, how, who and what types of support they get from others, what are the challenges and how they overcome those?

#### Why we conduct health education session?

- To increase awareness on COVID-19 and vaccination
- To reduce stigma and misconception around vaccination

#### How we conduct health education sessions at community level?

- Identify the most relevant topic
- Prepare a lesson plan
- Select appropriate place and time in consultation with community pepople.
- Inform the selected participants to attend the session
- Start the session on time according to lesson plan and encourage the participants to seat in U shape.
- Make the session more participatory.

#### Have we received anyone's support for this?

Yes, we received support from different department, groups and individuals i.e.

- Government Health Department: Health Inspector (HI), Assistant Health Inspector (AHI), Statistician, Medical Technologist-EPI (MTEPI), Health Assistant (HA), Community Health Care Provider (CHCP).
- Local Administration- Upazila Nirbahi Officer.
- Local elected bodies: UP Chairman, Member, female member and secretary.
- Different Group: Community Group, Community Support Group and local youth club.
- Local influencial: Religious leader, social leaders.

#### What types of support we received?

- Selection of venue and time.
- Follow up participants to ensure their participation.
- Inaugurate the session by UP Members/ CG and CSG Members.

#### What challenges we faced:

- Men's are less interested to attend the session.
- Participants want to get something from the session cash/kind.
- Seasonal interruptions such as rain, rice harvesting etc.

#### How we overcome the challenges?

- Involved UP member, CG and CSG member to increase attendance of men in the session.
- Arrange and conduct sessions jointly with the department of health.

#### **CHALLENGES:**

- Unwillingness to take vaccines due to taboos, misconceptions and side effects.
- Not available NID/Digital Birth Certificate
- Family members are reluctant to give vaccines to elderly people, sick people and disable.
- A number of the people are very busy at daytime with their IGA activities, so it is tough to reach them through house visit.
- Ensure online registration for those who have already been vaccinated without registration in the mass vaccination campaign.
- Still a high prevalence of vaccine refusal and hesitancy was observed in rural people and slum dwellers in Bangladesh due to lack of smartphones with internet access and understanding of how to register on the website.
- Illiteracy of community people (A large number of people has been already registered, but they are not able to read the message from the system containing their schedule for the vaccine).

#### **LESSONS LEARNED:**

- As a result of effective coordination with all departments, the goals and objectives of the project can be easily achieved.
- People may have interest in health education sessions, if we can present them with new thoughts and ideas.
- By using local government reference, it is easier to get access to any educational to accomplish our work.
- Religious leaders, local representatives, local club members can play outstanding role in online registration to get things faster.
- The media may play a responsible role with the vaccine education program and eliminate the social stigma about the vaccination.

# Program visit by local administration





Animesh Biswas, UNO of Koyra visit the student's online vaccine reg.

Hamida Mostafa, Executive Magistrate of DC office visit online registration



Galib Mahamud UNO of Dacope visits the online vaccine registration



Md. Asadujjaman, UNO, Terokhada visits online Vaccine Registration



Momtaj Begum, UNO of Paikgacha visited health education session



Sharif Asif Hasan, UNO Dumuria visits online vaccine registration