

# BANGLADESH COUNTRY REPORT

By

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35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and 56<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting  
Of  
Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania-  
CMAAO

02-03 September 2021  
Online meeting



বাংলাদেশ মেডিক্যাল এসোসিয়েশন (বিএমএ)  
**BANGLADESH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (BMA)**

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## **Preface:**

Bangladesh Medical Association is a very active service oriented organization since its inception on 1956. BMA central executive committee always sworn on through direct vote by all its member in the country. Present Central Executive Committee is headed by Dr. Mustafa Jalal Mohiuddin. There are 67 branches of association round the county. Main motto of the organization is to take care of the dignity of its members, encourage member for exposure to latest health innovation through CME, and ensure security of the working place and to guide Government to ensure suitable health policy for the people round the country.

## **COVID-19 pandemic situation in Bangladesh:**

Bangladesh identified its first COVID-19 case on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and the first death was reported on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020. According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), as of 29 June 2021, there were 904,436 COVID-19 cases confirmed by RT-PCR (Real time polymerase chain reaction), GeneXpert, and Rapid Antigen tests including 14,388 related deaths (Case Fatality Rate 1.59%)<sup>3</sup>. Bangladesh stands among the top 30 countries in the world in terms of total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, and accounts for 0.45% cases of the world, while the country is among the top 40 countries in total death count.

A significant number of physicians and other healthcare professional were infected and died. Till date (as of 06 July 2021) 159 physicians, 5 dental surgeons, 9 Nurses and 11 other health workers died from COVID-19; while (as of 06 July 2021) 2,943 doctors, 2,023 nurses, and 3,306 other healthcare staffs were infected with COVID-19



## **Bangladesh Preparedness and Response Plan (BPRP) for COVID-19:**

Bangladesh is responding to the pandemic following a Preparedness and Response Plan (BPRP). The country is implementing the response activities through committees from the national level down to the upazila level with multi sectoral involvement representing the relevant ministries, the United Nations agencies, national and international organizations including Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and development partners through a pillar-based multi sectoral coordination mechanism. The plan includes mechanisms for developing surge capacity to manage the patients, to sustain essential services and to reduce social impact. The response strategy and actions are continuously reviewed and adjusted as necessary to ensure efficient use of financial and human resources for the effective response to the pandemic, and to be reflective of any new information, operational research advances, good practices internationally and updated recommendations from WHO. Disease surveillance alongside response is an important component for prevention and control of the transmission. The country is screening at points of entry (PoE) and quarantined a large number of persons. The Rapid Response Teams (RRT) from national to upazila level are responding to the outbreak and overseeing quarantine and isolation at home, facilities or community. With established community transmission, high dependence health services along with Intensive Care Units (ICU) facilities are being strengthened. Emphasis are given to prevent hospital acquired infections and protection of the caregiver both at the health care facility, at home and within the community. Emphasis are given also to prevent catastrophic health expenditure with the principle of 'No One is Left Behind' and social and gender inclusion. Strong concerted efforts have been taken for communication and advocacy nationally and locally using all media and means of risk communication and community engagement. In case of quarantine, especially during community-based quarantine, measures are taken to ensure the basic needs of the people are met and the security of people's property is ensured through an active involvement of the law enforcing agency. Sufficient budget allocation along with political commitment from the highest level is of paramount importance for the successful implementation of the plan.

## **National Vaccine Deployment Plan (NVDP):**

The NVDP document aims to present Bangladesh's plans for the deployment, implementation, and monitoring of potential COVID-19 vaccine(s). Due to the current uncertain environment for COVID-19 vaccine development, the document is based upon key assumptions and will likely need to be reviewed and revised over time.

## **Vaccine situation in Bangladesh:**

Oxford/AstraZeneca (COVISHIELD) 2nd dose vaccination has been continuing with remaining balance doses only in very few health facilities in the country. Since the beginning, as of 29 June 2021, a total of 10,107,884 doses of COVISHIELD vaccine were administered, out of which 5,820,015 population received their 1st dose and 4,287,869 completed for their two doses schedule.

Sinopharm vaccine (BIBP) vaccination has been continuing from the selected 67 centers in the whole country. As of 29 June 2021, a total of 55,590 target population received 1st jab and 1329 finished their two doses schedule. The government has decided to expand the centers in another 41 health facilities in Dhaka North and South City Corporations and some of the sites in the different Districts to expedite the consumption of 1.1 million Sinopharm vaccines. Vaccinators and other related health staff of those facilities receive training on 29 and 30 June 2021.

The first run of COVID-19 Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has launched in three government hospitals in Dhaka City Corporation on 21 June. Total 240 target population age >40 years of age

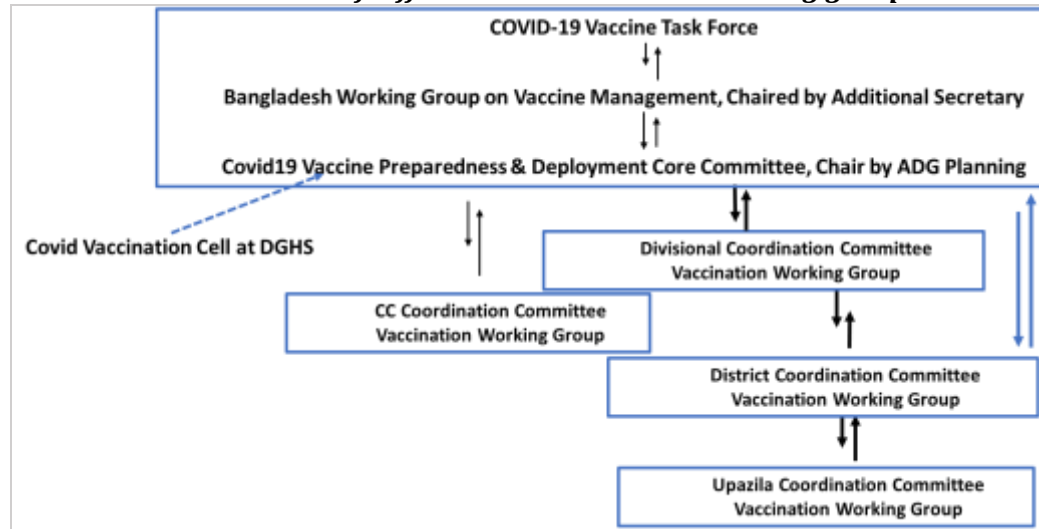
who registered earlier have received their 1<sup>st</sup> jab on that day. Government decided next week for wide inoculation of Pfizer vaccine. However, it is decided the

Pfizer vaccine will be given from the selective health facilities of Dhaka City Corporation to consume 100,620 doses from the COVAX Facility.

## **Vaccination: Planning and coordination:**

The government of Bangladesh has established Planning and Coordination Committees at all levels to facilitate, coordinate and support the development of the COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan, and to oversee the planning, implementation and monitoring of the deployment and introduction of COVID-19 vaccine(s) in the country.

*The overall coordination of different committees and working groups shown below:*



### **Organizational Activities:**

- i) **Publication:** BMA Regularly publishes Medical Journal, Leaflet and Poster for Doctors and General People. Bangladesh Medical Journal is a scientific journal published 3 number per year. It's published in English. Leaflet, poster and other publication for general people in Bangla.
- ii) In COVID-19 situations BMA organised various online zoom meeting with different community for awerness buildup against COVID-19 transmission. Health saftey instrument (i.e. PPE, Face Mask, Hand Sanitizer, Hand, Gloves, etc.) distributed to Doctors, Nurses and other health workers in countrywide. We Contact to Directorate General of Health Services time to time for reduce transmission and vaccination to the general people.
- iii) Expert recomandation by BMA in COVID-19 situations Bangladesh Government newly appointed ten thousand doctors, ten thousand nurses and other health workforce.

### **Social Responsibilities:**

As social responsibilities we are engaged in Free Friday Clinic where poor, distressed and helpless people are getting free Medical services with drugs. We engage ourselves in all national calamites like Flood, Cyclone and Earthquake.

### **Our Commitment:**

Commitment and integrity by all doctors will ensure to overcome COVID-19 pandemic situations under the leadership of Government of the country and good cooperation by BMA.