



## 3rd Interim Report

### CARE-Austria COVID -19 Vaccine Initiative project

REPORTING PERIOD: January – March, 2022



Report Submitted to:

**CARE Austria**

Report Submitted by:

**CARE Bangladesh**

**May 17, 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 :

- Dhaka City (Ward# 22, 27, 32, 40, 50, 53 and 59).
- Gazipur City (Ward# 12, 17, 19, 22 and 37).
- Narayanganj City (Ward# 3).
- 09 sub-districts of Khulna district.

**Duration :** 12 Months (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022)

**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 quarter project team facilitated online vaccine registration support to 74,847 marginalized people of which 52% were female by engaging community platforms like community support group, local government, religious leader, civil society and front line government health workers.
- A total 1775 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 23151 community participated in the session where 73% were female.
- Project team visited total 91349 households in the reporting period 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.
- Project team facilitated to arrange special registration and vaccination camp at three remotest villages with the support of local government a total 1233 hard to reach people were vaccinated from these special camp.
- Local Government and Community Support Group continued their assistance in CARE's promotional work and online registration.
- 100% vaccination coverage ensured in a hard to reach and remotest area (union) in Khulna district with CARE's support.

#### Budget status

Total Budget: **\$602,986**

## WHOM HAVE WE SUPPORTED?

Activity		Total Population reached Jan-Mar 2022			Total population reached till to date		
Community Mobilization interventions:	Number of activity conducted (Jan-Mar 2022)	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Facilitate # of people for on line registration for COVID-19 Vaccination	131819	36062	38785	74847	63095	69922	133017
Provide follow up support to # of registered people for taking vaccine	N/A	62394	63432	125826	86256	93009	179265
Conduct # House hold visit for promoting vaccine awareness	91349	79025	127816	206841	117321	193684	311005
Facilitate # of Health Education session at community level for creating awareness on COVID-19	1775	6316	16835	23151	16654	34771	51425
<b>Total</b>		183797	246868	430665	283326	391386	674712

**Total direct reach in this reporting period Jan-Mar 2022: Total 74847** people completed registration and took at least the first dose of vaccine of which 52% are female.

**Total direct reach till to date: Total 133017** people completed registration and took at least the first dose of vaccine in the implementing areas where 53% are female.

**Total Indirect Reach in this reporting period Jan-Mar 2022: Total 355818** people reached through community mobilization activities like household visit, health education session and follow up activity where 59% are female.

**Total Indirect Reach till to date: Total 541695** people reached through community mobilization activities like household visit, health education session, meaningful attendance in different meeting with government's health department and follow up activity of which 59% are female.

## 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. At the end next steps of the upcoming days are highlighted as well.

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. Besides project inception meetings along with ground works are elaborated for understanding of the process and way forward as well. In addition, CARE is closely working with Dhaka,

Gazipur, Narayanganj and Khulna health departments for COVID-19 response and vaccination activities to save lives and promote fast and fair allocation of vaccines for the most marginalized populations. Moreover, media coverage is also highlighted as part of promotions and advocacy works.

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 socio-demographic 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 a 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 (under each objective) executed during the reporting period: Jan-Mar 2022

**Objective 1: Strengthen the capacity of frontline health workers to improve the quality of the vaccine deployment system.**

### Training on COVID-19 Vaccination for government frontline staff (Health Inspector, Assistant Health Inspector, Health Assistant and Community Health Care Provider)

COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative project developed a curriculum along with a detailed plan to facilitate a formal training to enhance the capacity of first line supervisors of health department at sub-district level in coordination with the district and sub-district level managers of government health department. Though it was targeted to arrange earlier, however due to sudden dramatic increase in COVID-19 infection rate in Bangladesh by the newly introduced variant, Omicron and to comply with the government's restrictions, the training couldn't be arranged physically within this reporting period. But, project staffs tried to provide on the job training to them regularly. A fruitful discussion and group exercise with Civil Surgeon and other district level relevant



health staffs helped the project staffs to develop jointly the curriculum and training plan in the last bi-monthly all staff meeting of the project held on March 29-30, 2022 at Khulna. As per the plan, the targeted number of batches will complete the training within next month, April 2022.

### Support provided to government for cold chain maintenance and health MIS system and enhancing capacity of the frontline health workers

Project staff provided support in the MIS system of COVID-19 vaccination activities of the government, they conducted data entry in the online apps, delivering SMS with vaccination schedule to the vaccine receiver's mobile phone, updating daily

data related to vaccination through the online system.

Another support provided to government health system by the project staff. They maintaining the



conditions of cold chain like storage, transportation and administering the vaccines.

### Bi-Monthly Project Staffs Meeting held

The Bi-Monthly Project Staffs Meeting under COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative project was held at CSS AVA Centre, Khulna on March 29-30, 2022. The main objective of the meeting was to share the project's progress, challenges, lessons learned and best practices and to develop upazila/ward wise quarterly activity plan.

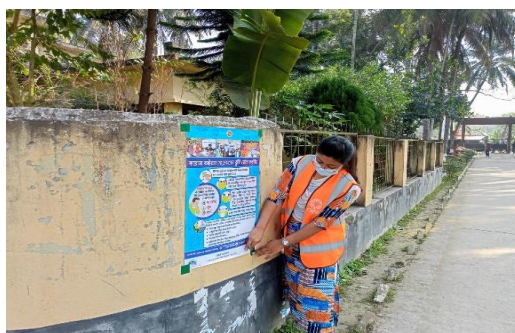


**Objective 2: Increase knowledge on vaccine registration and community engagement to disseminate correct information, thus reducing stigma and misconceptions around vaccination.**

### 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](http://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 of Dhaka city, Gazipur city, Narayanganj city and Khulna district through facilitating online registration. So project Facilitators are doing continuously 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), Club and spot registration at UHC (upazilla health complex) in this reporting period project staff facilitated 74847 people to registration out of which 38785 are women.



### 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 registration, vaccination and prevention. And also conducted spot online vaccine registration 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. More than 91 thousand house hold were visited by CARE Facilitator in this reporting period which is three times more than that of the last quarter.

### **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 unaware about COVID-19. That's why, many people are completed vaccine registration but they are not going to vaccine point to take vaccine. Project team members are trying to send them to take vaccine through facilitation support. More than 28000 people were given follow up support by the project facilitators in this reporting period.



### **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 registration, 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. Nearly 1800 Health education sessions were facilitated in this reporting period using SBCC materials as per government's and WHO's guidelines.



### **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 dose. Also they take the elderly, sick and disabled people to the vaccine centre



and need based spot online vaccine registration. Total 72442 people (Male: 37756 & Female: 34686) were vaccinated by the mass vaccination campaign where CARE's staffs have given support.

#### Special camp for Registration and Vaccination:

COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative organized three special campaigns to increase registration and vaccination coverage in different sub districts under Khulna district. This included identifying gap of online registration and solved issues in discussion with local government, religious leaders, and civil society members as well. Three (03) Vaccination and Registration **Special Camp** registered 580 people and Vaccinated 1233 people so far.



#### Objective 3: Ensure PPE and safety materials for frontline health workers and volunteers at vaccination centres.

Representatives of CARE Bangladesh have handed over total 10000 pieces' mask and 500 pcs Hand Sanitizers to Muhammad Mabub Hasan, Superintendent of Police (SP), Khulna for all Thana of Khulna district. In this quarter, government health department arranged COVID-19 mass vaccination campaign to increase vaccination coverage, where project has supported 200 pieces Hand Sanitizers at the COVID-19 mass vaccination campaign in Khulna district. The relevant stakeholders appreciated CARE Bangladesh for this support with their sincere gratitude and thanks.



#### Objective 4: Increase the functionality of Vaccination Working Groups and coordination among relevant platforms at the national and sub-national levels.

##### 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 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.

**Decisions taken:**

- Upazilla health and family planning officer (UH&FPO) has taken decision that from now 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, Statistician, Sanitary Inspector (SI), MODC, UH&FPO and Union Facilitator were present at the meeting. Agenda of the meeting were previous meeting resolution follow up and approval, online monthly report, discussion on Coovid-19, CARE Project update and next plan and others. 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. At first UP chairman delivered welcome speech and meeting objective and agenda of the meeting and introduce to CARE representatives with all meeting participants. All agendas were discussed and taken decision one by one. 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 quarter we have participated in 19 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:



Basically 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 at 3 meetings during this quarter. This meeting is chaired by 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, project representative attends 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.

Similarly, one UrF (Urban Facilitator) and 1 Volunteer providing support in the MIS system of COVID-19 vaccination activities of the government at Civil Surgeon Office, Gazipur including data entry in the online apps, delivering SMS with vaccination schedule to the vaccine receiver's mobile phone, updating daily data related to vaccination through the online system etc.



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

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

### Community support groups meeting held:

Total 609 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.



## CHALLENGES:

- 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.
- Most of the garments workers and day labourers are unreachable during working hours in week days.
- 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).
- Some factors such as religious principles, superstitions, rumours and fears about COVID-19 vaccine still works in the mind of community people.
- Lack of awareness among people; i.e. most of the people don't use face mask, don't maintain social distance during registration, vaccination and health session.

## LESSONS LEARNED:

- 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.
- In rural areas, community health workers, valued community-leaders, and non-governmental organizations can be utilized to motivate and educate people for vaccination against COVID-19.
- The media may play a responsible role with the vaccine education program and eliminate the social stigma about the vaccination.
- The team has learned how to deal with challenges for accomplishment of works.
- Sharing of information among team members is very much effective for project works.

## NEXT STEPS:

- Project management team will continue the capacity building package for the front line workers to improve their skills in vaccination and centre management as well.
- More Required logistics will be supplied to the front line health workers as the procurement process which is under process.
- A systematic exploration on project efficiency, program quality and effect COVID-19 on the marginalized and vulnerable population is on process.
- More special drive will be planned to cover some isolated land people to reach to them for vaccination with joint planning and support from government.
- Orientation to Multi-Purpose Health Volunteer on COVID 19 registration & vaccination and community awareness.
- Training on Supervision and monitoring for government officials (district and sub district level health managers and officials).

## Case Story-01

### A partnership among the Government, CARE and the Community

#### Government declared 100% vaccination in the remotest union of Khulna district in Bangladesh:

CARE Bangladesh is closely working with government's health department to increase awareness and uptake COVID-19 vaccine among urban and rural marginalized population by strengthening the vaccine deployment system and community engagement in Bangladesh. CARE identified one union in Khulna district named Dakshin Bedkashi for 100% vaccination, where the people are mostly



marginalized, underserved and disadvantaged due to the geographic vulnerabilities. Dakshin Bedkashi Union under Koyra sub district of Khulna is one of the hardest to reach and remotest coastal geographic location with nearly 27566 populations and more than 100 km. away from Khulna district.



Since 2007 this area was shattered by calamitous cyclone Sidr and Ayla within its climate change impact that aggravated health care, agriculture, sanitation, education, communication and all other facilities to a great extent for the people. However, in this union online registration status was only 24% when CARE started intervening with government front line health workers.

CARE identified the gap areas to implement the intervention in the targeted union, then the concerned project staffs collected relevant data and information through door to door visit, engaged MHVs (Multipurpose Health Volunteer of government) in the process effectively. CARE conducted awareness building sessions in the communities, one to one counseling through household visit and listed down all required information of the eligible people for vaccination.

CARE also developed another list for all disabled persons, elderly people and sick people, those are unable to go to the vaccine center without anyone's support and CARE also ensured vaccines for these people through providing necessary support to take them into the vaccination center as well as locating vaccine centers to their doorsteps by effective advocacy with the MOH&FW. CARE also engaged different government institutes like EPI Center, Community Clinics, Union Parishad and educational institutions to set up vaccine center for the conveniences of the community people.

After a series of continuous and concerted efforts for 3 months, Dakshin Bedkashi union has been declared as 100% vaccinated union by the government on February 2022.

## Case Story-02

### "Villagers also get COVID-19 Vaccine by holding the hand of a disabled person"

Christian Para is a village in Chandanimahal village of Senhati union in Dighalia upazila of Khulna district. Most of the people in this neighborhood belong to the Christian community. During conducting home visit here, I went to Mr. Jacob Haldar's house. While introducing myself and saying that I came from CARE Bangladesh's COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative project, Mr. Jacob Haldar said that I have heard a lot about CARE Bangladesh, this organization works very well. He and his family members said that the Corona vaccine is very important and should be taken by everyone. When I asked him if all her family members had been vaccinated against Corona virus, he said, "as a man, I have been vaccinated against Corona virus. The female members of my family have not been vaccinated against Corona virus and have not been vaccinated against Corona virus yet. Because, it is a hassle for a woman to go to a computer shop in the market, it takes a long time and it takes money also".



In reply, I said that if you agree, I can provide free online registration support through CARE Bangladesh to your family members at your home, who have not yet received Corona Vaccine. Then they said it would be better as they don't need to go to the computer shop in the market, they don't need to spend money and they need to waste enough time as well. Then I started to do online registration for his family members one by one at his home. I noticed that another girl was listening to our words. I asked about her to Mr. Jacob Haldar. He said, "Lina Haldar (26) is my daughter. She is disabled by born and unable to walk like a normal person, she can't even go out of the house. That's why, she might not need to take the vaccine". However, when I talked to Lina Haldar, she said, "I'm interested in getting Corona vaccine. Though I can't go out of the house, but I heard of Corona virus from the people in and around the house. I have heard that vaccinated people are less likely to be infected by COVID-19. So I would be very happy, if you could arrange for me to be vaccinated against Corona. And the people around my house in Chandanimahal village, who have not yet been vaccinated against Corona virus, might be interested to get vaccinated as well".

After hearing this, I facilitated the online registration for Lina Haldar using her father's mobile phone. Later I provided further facilitation support to take Lina Haldar to the Dighalia Upazila Health Complex to receive the first and second dose of AstraZeneca vaccine.

As a result, the fear, apprehension and misconceptions about the COVID-19 vaccine among the common people around Linda's house as well as in Chandanimahal village were shattered by her interest and story of vaccination as a disable woman. Thus most of the people of Chandanimahal are now vaccinated against COVID-19.

## Case Story-05

### No more drugs, it's time to work for vaccination

Enamul is a 24 years old boy from a middle-class family was admitted into a reputed university with a strong academic records in both secondary and higher secondary level. In the beginning of his university life, his days were going well with new campus, new environment and new friends. Suddenly there was a dramatic fall in his life. After few days in the university Enamul got associated with a vicious circle who were addicted to drugs. At the beginning of his drugs life, it was very enjoyable to him, he was float in the world of dreams. As the day progress it seemed boring to him, but it was difficult to get out because of the habits and the needs of the body's involvement. This is how the story of Enamul begins.



Once Mahbub Alom, Union Facilitator (UF) introduced himself with Enamul. As a representative of CARE Bangladesh, Mahbub talked to Enamul about the issues of awareness regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and tried to motivate him to get vaccinated. But, Enamul was not agreed to get the vaccine right then. However, during the outbreak of the new variant, Omicron Enamul was tested positive. Then he had to maintain the quarantine to comply with the rules of the university. He couldn't go out from home and he was unable to get drugs at that time. For the first few days he felt very worse. However, after a few days Enamul realized that he should not take any more drugs for a moment's pleasure. Although it was difficult at the beginning, Enamul had slowly come back from death. Now Enamul wants to find the joy of life through reading books and social works. Then UF, Mahbub explained to Enamul about the activities of COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative project. He also provided him some leaflets and posters on awareness building against COVID-19. Then Enamul completed online registration for the vaccine for himself at first and for some of his drug



addicted friends as well and also been vaccinated. Now he is motivated to do a lot of social works to prevent COVID-19. He works in various ways, including raising awareness and encouraging people to get vaccinated and facilitating online registration for others to get the vaccine. Moreover, he says, "there is no joy in drugs rather destroying life! let's try to build a healthier world free of drugs and let's work for the betterment of the country. So, **no more drugs, it's time to work for vaccination and awareness building**".

### Case Story-06

#### A blind person also contributed in vaccination against COVID-19

Md. Bhutto is a temporary resident of Kanapatti area in Narayanganj. He has been living in Narayanganj for a long time. He is a 50 years old blind man. He has a boy child of 9 years of age. He begs from hand to mouth. His life story is very sad. However, his dream is to educate his son. But there is no one by his side in this predicament. And because of his blindness, it is not possible for him to finance for his son's education as he is the only earning person in his family. He uses to spend his life on the streets, or in the terminals under the open sky.

Urban Facilitator (UrF) Md. Imran Nazir talked to him about his good health and vaccination against COVID-19. Bhutto said, "we are in so much trouble, what can we do about good health in the midst of problems! Moreover, a blind person is unable to do online registration for the vaccine. We the blind people don't need the vaccine, rather we will give our vaccines to others". After hearing all these things, Imran explained to him how important it is to stay healthy and safe in this Corona epidemic.

Imran said, "as COVID-19 is a rapidly and easily communicable disease, so anyone can be infected at any time, whether he/she is able/disable. That's why, an unvaccinated person is riskier for all others. So, if you agree, I can help you by providing necessary support to get registered and vaccinated against COVID-19". Then Mr. Bhutto realized and encouraged himself and his family to get vaccinated. Imran (UrF) helped Mr. Bhutto for online registration and vaccination accordingly. Then Imran also motivated him to ensure the vaccine for all other blind persons in the

community. Soon Mr. Bhutto encouraged everyone in their blind

community to be vaccinated in this predicament. With the help of CARE Bangladesh they also had learned how to stay safe in the Corona epidemic. Thus total 20 blind people were registered and vaccinated over the reporting period with the help of the Urban Facilitator and Volunteer. They visited the houses of those blind people and helped them in registration and getting vaccines as well. Now the visually impaired people are very much thankful to CARE Bangladesh and they are

aware about the vaccine and maintaining good health. Interestingly enough, they are now inspiring the people in their community also as a part of awareness building about COVID-19 and vaccines.

