

Moving Stories

Bangladesh

COVID-19 in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is not immune from the grief caused by the pandemic. The government is being called on to care for some of the most marginalised communities, who are going hungry and may die without care.

There are a number of excluded and marginalised communities who need special care at this time of crisis. The disabled, Napit (barber), Dhopa (washer-man), Tati (weaver), Darji (tailor), Hajam (unqualified doctors for circumcision), Kasai (butcher), blacksmiths, and so on are among these affected communities

Of the nearly 100,000 female sex workers in Bangladesh, with only around 4,000 that are based in brothels, which have been quite literally been locked. The situation of 36,593 street-based sex workers, many of them lacking even basic accommodation, is appalling. There are also thousands of sex workers working from residences, 15,960 are hotel-based.

There are an estimated 10,000 Hijras or transgender individuals. Many are extremely vulnerable, and rely streets and bazaars as places to beg and collect alms. A big percentage of them are also sex workers.

Christian Aid works hard to create economic conditions that offer resilient livelihoods for vulnerable people, together with partners in Bangladesh.

This includes offering training and skills in order to diversify income generation, including floating gardens and hanging vegetables in water logged areas, saline tolerant rice, maize and sunflower varieties and duck rearing in 'haor' (wet) areas.

Over 25 000 people have been assisted, so do continue to support *Commitment for Life* as we work in partnership in Bangladesh.

Prayer

Loving God, though we may be separated in body, we are one in spirit; set apart, but drawn together to magnify your name.

Thank you for your grace in Jesus, helping us to live in the fullness of life that you desire for all.

May your will be done on earth as in heaven, helping us to turn from fear; forgive all debt, and set the prisoner free.

In the light of Christ's name, we pray. *AMEN*

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