Concept Note: COVID-19 and its Impact in Baluchistan

Reported by WEB

Welfare & Empowerment Board-WEB, is working from 2016, as a local level organization aim to work for the furtherance of human aid respecting and following the Right based approach in Baluchistan.

Since the inception of 2020 year, a whole world was introduced with dangerous and life-threatening disease cause by virus named a Novel Coronavirus. The COVID-19 virus is a new virus linked to the Severe Acute Respiratory some types of common people of Wuhan, Hubei spreads into more than so quickly in multiple at same time and increase china, after that COVID-19 has been described as a pandemic by the World Health Organization on 12, January 2020.

The virus is transmitted through direct contact with respiratory droplets of an infected person (generated through coughing and sneezing), and touching surfaces contaminated with the virus. The Symptoms of these diseases can include fever, cough and shortness of breath. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia or breathing difficulties. More rarely, the disease can be fatal. Still no specific treatment and vaccine is discovered for this deadly disease, therefor the expert's forces everybody to take safety precautions.

The first case of COVID-19 in Pakistan was highlighted on 15 Feb, 2020, but due to ignorance it multiplies number of contaminated persons in to 4,000 in just seven weeks. This virus was transferred in to Pakistan through Iran, likely transfer is being apprehended due to non-availability of screening equipment and trained staff at Taftan border between both countries Pakistan and Iran.

Geographically the border between Iran and Pakistan is located in Taftan, city of Baluchistan, so virus firstly effect the people of Baluchistan and then further it spread in to other provinces through zaireen. Those zaireen who belongs to Hazra ethnicity, had merged among local people where they start spreading this deadly virus to the others. After realizing severity of this disease by govt, Government announced lock down to
protect other community members. In Quetta city whole area of Hazra town and Marriabad is sealed and completely lock down. The people from Baluchistan are even still on highly risk because the number of infected people can be multiplied in upcoming days due to poor health facilities and very low availability of protection material such as mask, gloves and sanitizer. People are not taking care and going outside for searching jobs, to hunt donors, to meet their other expenses like medicine for diabetic, cancer, typhoid patients and pay rents etc.

Under current circumstances, where the whole country is fighting against COVID-19, WEB has decided to put its efforts to support and empower those vulnerable & poor segments of society in this crucial time, which are indirectly affected by virus.

Web has planned to support all those individual and families, who are suffering from this pandemic in Hazara town, Marriabad and District bolan (Mach and Dhadar) The process of delivery support in kind of cash/ration to vulnerable segments will take place in to four main steps:

- To ensure transparency in the distribution of ration among deserving persons/families will be done through data collected in assessment conducted by WEB team.

- A philanthropist, funding organization and govt of balochistan will be approach by Web team to collect donation and for sponsorship of this program.

- A package of 7000/ per head/family will be prepared and each package will include 20 KG Flour, 10 KG oil bottle, 1KG bean, 1KG Rice, 1KG Black tea, 5KG sugar and 5KG dry milk further distributed as per data.

- Web will ensure proper handing taking of these food items through proper procedure to be developed.

This Impact Assessment survey is conducted at Quetta city (specifically in Marriabad & Hazra town) and district Bolan (Mach & Dhadar) to highlight impact of COVID-19 on communities by WEB (Welfare & Empowerment Board). WEB organization also developed precautionary flyers and pamphlets in order to sensitize the general public about Covid-19 Corona and try to collect some donations for their support. WEB wants to identify the most badly affected communities or individuals and share the pain of all those vulnerable segments of society, who earn on daily basis to full fill their family needs but unfortunately, they had no choice instead of to put their life’s in danger to feed their families. A volunteer participated in this impact survey to cover at least 200 hundred households and respondents were randomly selected from Hazra community. Some of interviews are mentioned below for your kind knowledge.

1. A 70 years old women said" my husband died few months ago. I had 3 daughters and after my husband’s death I am the only member in home doing a job and earning for
my family." She further says that she used to do job on tuck shop at marriage hall, where she supposed to get 10,000 on monthly basis. She said it was hard to manage all necessities of life in amount she received at tuck shop but when COVID-19 came to Pakistan last month and government announce lock down, all local area shops and business got closed due to which she is no longer able to get some food even. She said that they are waiting for somebody’s who will help her for family survival.

2. Mr. Husain Ali is 80 years old men, who is living in Hazra town. Mr. Husain is used to do labor for construction on daily wages. He has eight family members at home. He and his elder son were doing job to meet family daily needs. He said when this news breakout that some of hazra community members, who were contaminated of corona virus had entered in Pakistan from Iran through taftan border it brings a lot of difficulties and challenges along with them for whole community. The govt seal the area of hazra town and complete lock down within the area to protect and safe other members but 3 weeks of lock down causes the shortage of food items at home. No one is ready to support his family because everyone in community is afraid of virus and neither they allowed to go outside of town to earn and feed his family.

3. A 27 years old Qasim is rikshaw driver at Marriabad. He has 5 sisters and two young brothers at home. His father was died few years ago. Now he is head of his family, he used to drive rikshaw on rent but after this lock down he and his family is suffering from hunger. His mother has also had heart problem she has no medicines available due to which her health is getting worse day by day. She needs proper medication for survival. He shared that due to lockdown in his area he is not allowed to drive his rikshaw. Jobless ness makes his life more difficult.

4. He is a Shopkeeper at Marriabad. He was selling clothes in main market at quetta. He was supporting his family from daily earning from his shop. Now due to lockdown situation in all over the Pakistan he is unable to earn money. According to him he bought some food before lockdown for one month which now end. And
he has no money to purchase more food for his family. His family is not using hand sanitizers because shopkeepers have increased the price the normal prices from Rs.300/- to Rs. 800/- per sanitizer. It’s becoming difficult for us to choose cleaning items or food to survive in this world.

5. Batool is 30 years old and she belongs from Hazara community. While sharing her story with WEB volunteer she said with pain that all those families who came from IRAN last month are humiliated by other members, people bully them which disturbed them a lot. Such attitudes dishearten people and provokes them react in response.

Another assessment survey was conducted in district bolan, Mach and Dhadar to covered 200 household by group of volunteers. The purpose of this assessment was to collect data of those are affected by COVIL-19 in in district bolan. Web had also provided informational sessions with community members regarding pandemics.

Findings of Assessment Survey

The major findings which were identified during the survey are as follows:

1. Lack of all relevant material (Gloves, Mask and sanitizer) and health facilities for coping up with corona virus in District Quetta and Bolan.
2. Paucity of food for coping up with hunger of poor and vulnerable people (daily wages labor) in targeted area.
3. There is need of enough cash to pay their home/shops, rents and get necessary medications.
4. There is huge no of general public under poverty line who deserves to be given ration and food item.
5. Unavailability of blood donation for severe cases of life-threatening diseases (Thalassemia) and emergency situations.
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