

Press release

Dhaka, 31 August 2020. As a platform for civil society, Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) has been implementing research and advocacy activities since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. Following this, a webinar meeting was organized today, 31 August '20, to share experiences on the community engagement of development organizations in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The experiences were presented by Dr. Badiul Alam Majumdar, Country Director, The Hunger Project, Bangladesh; Dr. Morseda Chowdhury, Associated Director, BRAC and Md. Fazlul Haque, Senior Director, SAJIDA Foundation. The webinar was moderated by the convener of Bangladesh Health Watch, Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury. The event was attended by government officials, leaders of development agencies, public health experts, members of the Corona Advisory Committee, academics, journalists, representatives of development partners and members of BHW Working Group.

Speakers at the webinar called on the government, public representatives, non-governmental organizations and NGOs to work together to prevent the pandemic. Emphasizing on the importance of public awareness in dealing with the pandemic, the government was also asked to take effective role in this regard and to provide necessary financial assistance to the appropriate NGOs in this regard to increase public awareness and community engagement. NGOs are also urged to take more effective initiatives in promoting basic health rules for COVID and media personnel to highlight the importance of public participation in corona prevention. The speakers hoped that the various donor agencies would also provide quick and necessary financial assistance to the community engagement projects.